

Diocesan Vision Update

October 2023



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM



Our Vision

‘Our vision is to be a Catholic diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour’

Archbishop Bernard Longley



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Prayer for the Diocesan Vision

Spirit of God,
descend on me this day.
Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me,
the Spirit of hope to inspire me,
the Spirit of love to surround me and
the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path.

Holy Spirit,
I pray for a new outpouring of your grace,
so that I may grow in worship of your name
in love of you in my prayer
and in my actions towards others.

Come Holy Spirit into my life to guide me.
Strengthen and defend me,
so that I may be drawn ever closer to you.
Help me this day and always
to be a channel of grace
in all I say and do
and invite others into relationship with you.

Amen.



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Update

- Feedback from the Synod
- 2023 Deanery Meetings
- Visitations
- Meeting of Deans
- Deaneries and Parishes at different Stages
- Discernment, Planning, Implementation
- Gaining momentum (but need to increase it)



Expectations

2023 – Parish Discernment and Planning

- Decide on parish clusters/mergers
- Parish Reviews complete
- Parish and Deanery Plans in place

2024 +

- Implementation and Action



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Parish Discernment – What does vibrant and joyful full of missionary disciples look like?

- Growth in numbers attending mass?
- Active engagement of parishioners in parish events and volunteering?
- Access to Formation for all age groups?
- Inclusive?
- Strong relationship with schools and increasing attendance of pupils at mass?
- Young People and Families engaged in parish activities ?
- Care for Creation programme?
- Strong Outreach Programme?
- Active and engaged parish council?
- etc.....



Parish Review

- Mass Attendance, No of Masses, Average Attendance
Parish/Deanery Catholic Population
- No of Schools, No of children, % Catholic
- No of Hospitals/hospices/nursing homes, Universities, Prisons etc
- People – Clergy Numbers PP's And Deacons 2023, 2028, 2033
- Parish Employees
- Volunteers - Finance Committee, Safeguarding, H&S, Property, Laity supporting Liturgy and Worship, Formation and Outreach
- Financial and Property review



Deanery Overview of Property

- No of Churches - 32
- No of Presbyteries - 23
- No of Parish Halls - 16
- No of Investment Properties - 21
- No of QI's - completed/outstanding - 16 completed / 12 outstanding (4 others are private owned or shared church)
- Any Properties causing concern due to exceptional repair needs?
- Any properties with restrictive covenants?



Things we 'must do' to deliver the Archbishop's Vision

- Engage and empower parishioners – Co responsibility
- Develop a parish plan for Formation, Evangelisation, Outreach, Liturgy and Worship
- Agree clusters and mergers
- Align mass schedules, chaplaincies and liturgical demands with clergy numbers (today and in 3-5 years time).
- Identify which property to retain and invest in, repurpose or dispose



Things we 'could do'?

- Organise volunteers to work at cluster rather than parish level?
- Create cluster or deanery councils?
- Jointly invest in cluster or deanery support – administrators to manage burden of H&S, Finance, Property?
- Move from clusters to mergers – simplify admin, more effective use of resources?
- Decide which properties to repurpose or sell to reinvest?
- Consider when to move to each cluster having one bank account?
- Parish and School Plan action/engagement plan?



Outcome?

