

Diocese of Brentwood

Clergy and Stewards of the Gospel Working Together Evangelise Our Diocese Working Together To Evangelise Our Diocese

FAQs

and

OUTSIDE THE BOX

Working Together To Evangelise Our Diocese

QUESTIONNAIRES

FEEDBACK

DRAFT WORKING PLAN

FEEDBACK

FIRST FORMAL PROPOSAL

FEEDBACK

Our Vision

"Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in Essex and East London"

The Church in Essex and East London working better and differently together to evangelise our diocese; it is a vision of the people of God here and now collaborating to use our various Grace-given gifts to evangelise our diocese to the best of our combined ability with the help of God

Our Objectives

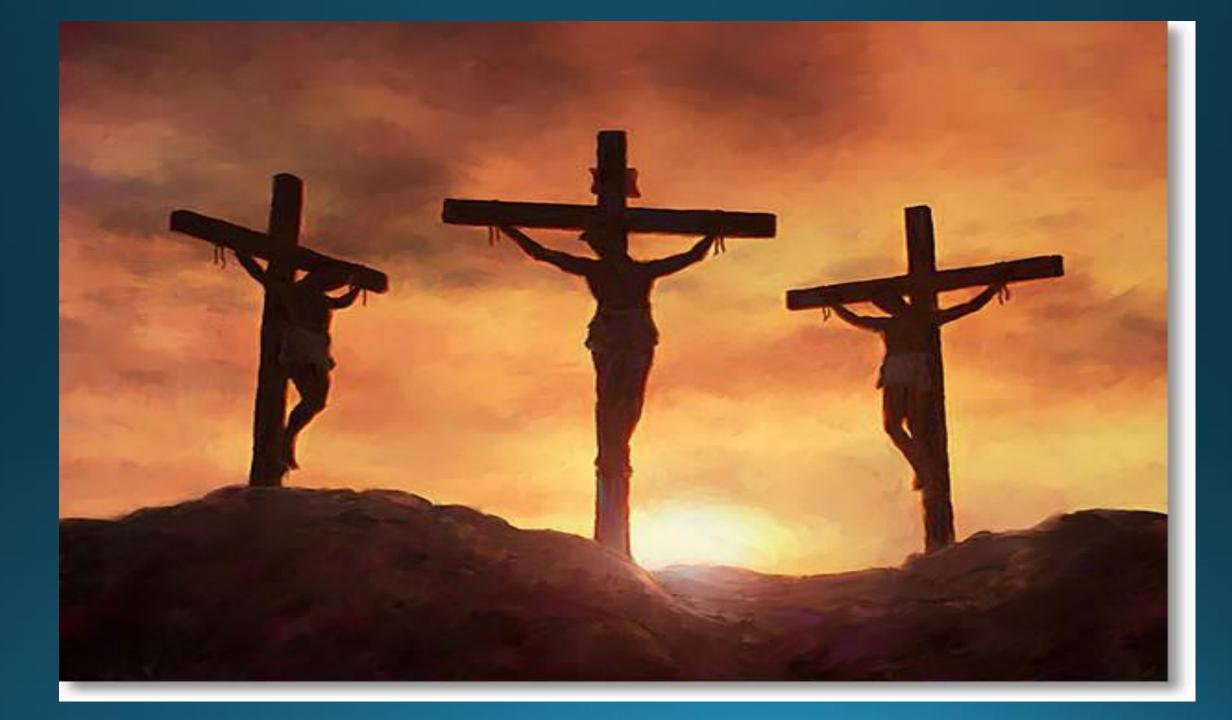
Maximise the opportunities for evangelisation

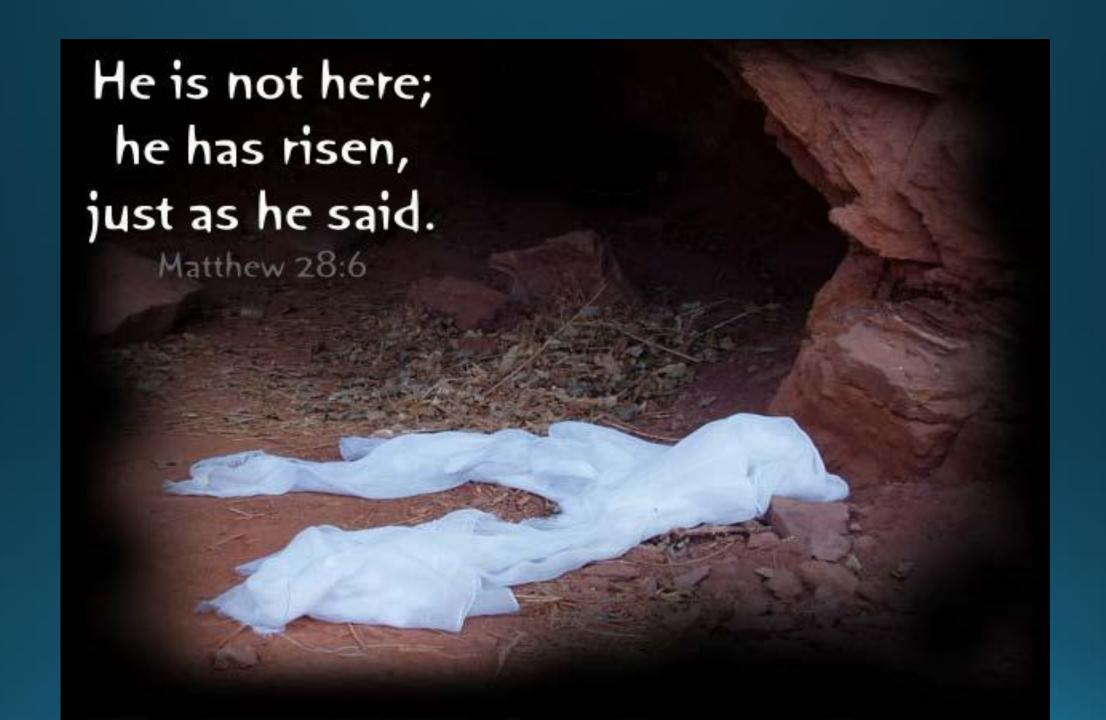
Maximise sacramental provision

Maximise the opportunities for putting faith into action through charitable works









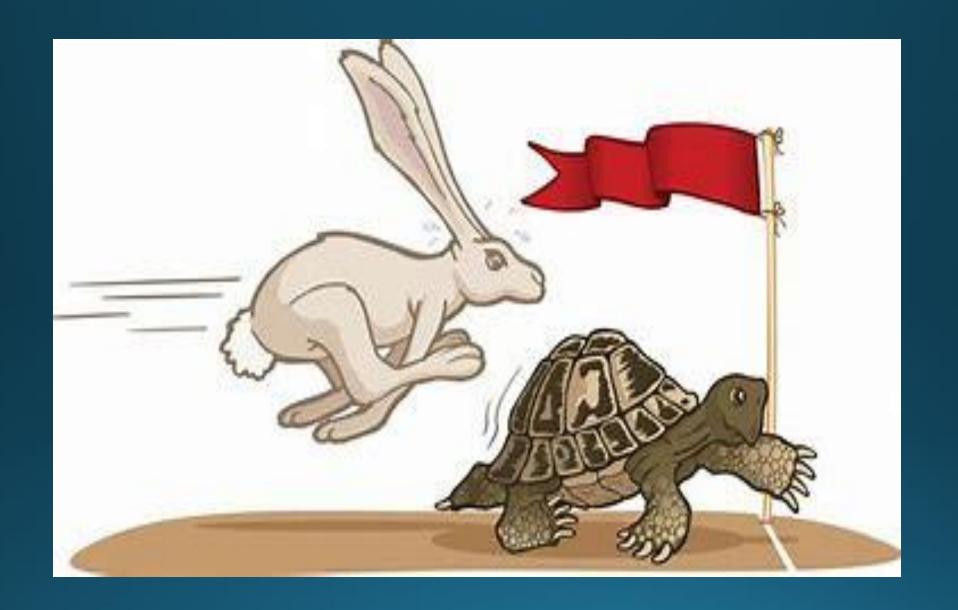
BY BREAKING THE MOULD IT FELT LIKE WE HAD LET THE LIGHT IN AND NEW POSSIBILITIES OPENED UP

- NEW ALTAR SERVER PROGRAMME
- OUTREACH TO NEW HOUSING ESTATE
- PLANS FOR A NEW YOUTH MASS
- ESTABLISHED A SOCIAL COMMITTEE
- ACTIVELY RECRUITED YOUNGER
 VOLUNTEERS TO PARISH WORK

DUNKIRK SPIRIT OR A CHANCE TO BE GENUINELY INNOVATIVE IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

- Treasuring and nurturing what is good
- Building on a rich heritage to meet the challenges of today
- Celebrating the many gifts we have been given
- Being honest about what needs improvement
- Never being complacent
- Make good things better
- Recognising that all of us are the church
- Accepting our responsibility as Christ's body in our diocese

WEALL TRAVEL TOGETHER ON THIS JOURNEY



"the missionary task must remain foremost"... What would happen if we were to take these words seriously? We would realize that missionary outreach is *paradigmatic for all the Church's activity*.

Evangelii Gaudium

OPTIMISM AND ANCHORS

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20). In these verses we see how the risen Christ sent his followers to preach the Gospel in every time and place, so that faith in him might spread to every corner of the earth.

That would be us.....

NINE FAQs

AND ONE EXTRA THOUGHT

ONE

WHY CAN'T WE STAY AS WE ARE? EVERYTHING IS FINE AND THRIVING AS IT IS

IS IT?

BENEDICT XVI CENTRE FOR RELIGION AND SOCIETY
CONTEMPORARY CATHOLICISM IN ENGLAND AND WALES

8.3% CATHOLICS 13.7% RAISED AS CATHOLICS

SIGNIFICANT WORSENING SINCE 1993

Of the 8.3%

- 27.5% attend mass once a week or more (17.1%) 15.6% attend less than that but at least once a month (9.8%)
- 17.8% once a year (13.5%)
- 39.2% never or almost never (59.5%)

One third of those who no longer identify as Catholic are now "Nones"

19% raised as "Nones" but 48.5% of adults identify as "Nones"

TWO

HOW CAN WE COPE WHEN WE HAVE ALL THIS DEVELOPMENT ON OUR DOORSTEP?

2011 to 2017 Population increased by more than 165,000 Mass Attendance Static until 2016 then decline

THREE

WHY SHOULD WE CO-OPERATE WITH THIS PROCESS WHEN THE DIOCESE COULD JUST BRING IN MORE FOREIGN PRIESTS?

The Pontifical Yearbook 2017

No of People per priest in

Europe: 1,595

Asia: 2,185

World wide ratio is 3,091

America: 5,000

Africa: 5,000

Two thirds of Catholics are in the Global South but only one third of our priests.

FOUR

WHY SHOULD WE CO-OPERATE WHEN THIS IS ALL A SHAM AND THE OUTCOME IS A FAIT ACCOMPLI?

FIVE

SURELY WE JUST NEED TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS?

The Pontifical Yearbook 2017

the datum that merits particular attention relates to the progress of priestly vocations. Indeed, the number of seminarians, after reaching a maximum in 2011, has suffered a gradual reduction. The sole exception remains Africa, which does not yet seem to be affected by the crisis in vocations and is confirmed as the geographical area with the greatest potential.

SIX

COULDN'T WE SOLVE EVERYTHING BY ORDAINING MORE MARRIED MEN?

SEVEN

COULDN'T WE SOLVE EVERYTHING BY ORDAINING WOMEN?

EIGHT

WE APPRECIATE THE NEED FOR CHANGE BUT CAN IT HAPPEN SOMEWHERE ELSE PLEASE?

NINE

IS THERE ANY POINT DOING THE RENEWAL BIT WHEN WE HAVE A SHORTAGE OF PRIESTS?

AN EXTRA THOUGHT

WE ARE EXHORTED TO CHANGE BY THE HOLY FATHER

ING OUTSIDE THE BOX

NOT JUST SPREADING WHAT WE HAVE MORE THINLY ACTUALLY DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

A message to take home.....

This process is <u>not</u> about restructuring our parishes This process is about evangelising our Diocese About proclaiming the Good News

Renewal and Restructuring are just how we are trying to do that

