



Diocese of Brentwood

Clergy
and
Stewards of the Gospel
Working Together
to
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



THE BLUE PLANET





He is not here;
he has risen,
just as he said.

Matthew 28:6



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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

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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

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WE ALL
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

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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.....

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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

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ING OUTSIDE THE BOX

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

A message to take home.....

This process is not 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

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he has risen,
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