



## VISION DOCUMENT: SHAPING OUR FUTURE

e-bulletin

July 2019

Welcome to the July e-bulletin.

### Christian Life and Worship/Formation/Integration/Prayer and Spirituality/ Young People:

Last week I was privileged to be on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Our Diocese is under the patronage of Our Lady of Lourdes and to travel together as a diocese to Lourdes is always a wonderful experience and we hear stories of many vocations that have strong connections with it.

Led by Bishop Alan, the pilgrimage was attended by several priests, deacons, seminarians and parishioners from right across our rich and diverse diocese. Spending several days together with people we may not have previously known is a wonderful way for us to become a more integrated diocese. It is hard to fully express the real beauty of watching our young people assist and care for our assisted pilgrims and the joy that connection brings to both.

The beauty of the liturgies that we shared in was a great credit to everyone concerned but particularly our priests, deacons, seminarians and the musicians. It was a great joy to hear our very newly ordained Deacon (Rev Paschal Uche) and our very recently ordained Priest (Fr Gary Dench) preach and be reminded of the blessing that they represent. The prayers brought to Lourdes from so many of our parishes were offered by those of us who travelled to the shrine. Many prayers for vocations were offered at Lourdes and we continue them now that we are home.

I doubt very much that anyone who goes on this pilgrimage returns unchanged by the experience. As we prayed, talked and worshipped together, I was reminded of the close links between many of our Strands of Renewal. Each is important of itself but when combined and overlapped they become so much more together.

I would like to thank everyone involved and encourage anyone who has not been to consider it for the future.

### Diaconate/Vocations/Leadership:

As the vision for the future of our diocese continues to evolve and develop, a number of parish partnerships have been considering how the role of the deacon might be part of the picture in the future. Ten parishes in the diocese have one or more active permanent deacons, and there are two men in formation for the permanent diaconate. Des Connors became a permanent deacon recently at Stansted.

By kind permission of Canon John McGrath, a study day on the permanent diaconate has been arranged at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, 11 Church Hill, Epping, CM16 4RA on Saturday 14th September 2019 from 9.30 to 1.00 (preceded by Mass in the church at 9.00).

The event is aimed at all those interested in finding out more about the permanent diaconate and the role it might play in the future of our diocese, and at anyone who may feel a sense of calling to this ancient yet very modern ministry in the Church.

Come and find out more – all are welcome. Further info: [alanmair63@gmail.com](mailto:alanmair63@gmail.com)

<http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development>

The Church in Essex and East London

working better and differently to evangelise our diocese



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**Vocations to the Priesthood:** Tonight Bishop Alan will ordain Rev Adrian Gabb-Jones to the priesthood. Please pray for him, for our most recently ordained priest Fr Gary Dench, our most recently ordained Deacon Rev Paschal Uche and for all those training for the priesthood and those discerning their vocation. Please also pray for all our priests and our Bishop, giving thanks for all that they are and all that they do for us.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/seminarian-paschal-uche-becomes-brentwoods-newest-deacon/>

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/bishop-alan-ordains-fr-gary-dench/>

**Family:** Fr Matthew, Director and Chaplain for Marriage and Family Life introduced the recent diocesan conference day by explaining the focus on marriage: for marriage is the communion of life and love that is the starting point for the family. Introducing the discussion on the family as a strand for renewal he quoted Archbishop Eamon Martin, from an address at the World Meeting of Families: “we have the joy and challenge of communicating a clear and positive vision of family and marriage... We proclaim the Gospel of the Family because we believe in it, and we also believe and firmly hope that, with the help of God, it is attainable.”

A full report on this important strand of renewal can be found on the website at

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/marriage-family-life/>

**Formation:** There is a free Catechist training Day on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

For information: <https://bcys.net/events/catechist-training-day-2019/>

### Charity, Justice and Social Action:

This month several of our parishioners were honoured at the Million Minutes’ Celebrating Young People Awards. Their stories are inspiring and a testament to the breadth and depth of good works being carried out in our midst so please take time to read

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/million-minutes-awards-honour-young-people/>

The Brentwood Pastoral Deaf Service organises regular events for those who benefit for a Mass that is signed. For details: [deafservice@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:deafservice@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

Please share a story relating to the exercise of the ministry of charity in your Parish Partnership by contacting [gemmabrooks@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:gemmabrooks@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

There are no hard and fast rules about what should be in a Parish Partnership Plan but here is a suggested list that is open to addition, alteration and amendment. Let me know your thoughts.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/PARISH-PARTNERSHIP-PLAN-PROFORMA.pdf>

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/resources/>

**Steven Webb**

**Director of Development**

<http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development>

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