



On the Renewal of the Parochial Structure of the Diocese of Nottingham



“Coming to Him as to a living stone... chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”



Welcome to

YOU ARE LIVING STONES

10.30 Arrivals & Coffee

11.15 Opening Prayer & Address – Bishop Malcolm

Followed by Deanery Discussion

1.00 Lunch

2.00 Canonical Aspects of the Process – Andrew Cole

2.30 Questions & Answers

3.15 Closing Remarks & Prayer – Bishop Malcolm

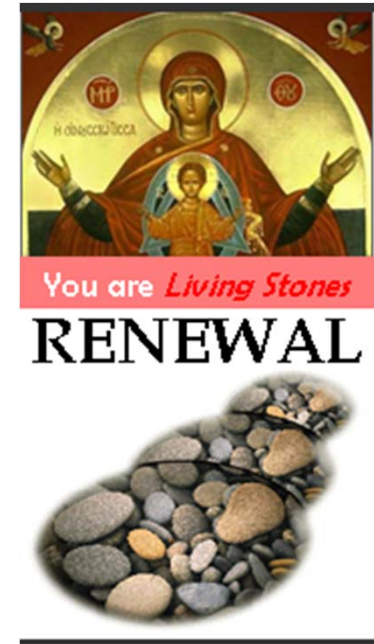


YOU ARE LIVING STONES - CONTEXT

Fifty Years since Pope John XXIII began the renewal of the Church at the Second Vatican Council

‘You are Living Stones’ will prepare us to celebrate the Year of Faith, called by Pope Benedict XVI

Ten Years as Bishop – Sabbatical – Personal Renewal!



WHY 'YOU ARE LIVING STONES'?

Coming to Him as to a living stone... chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. *(2 Pet 1:5)*

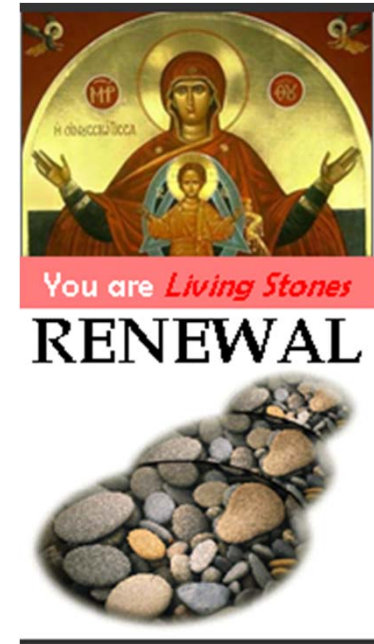


WHY 'YOU ARE LIVING STONES'?

We are called to live our baptismal consecration in the heart of the Church:

- Proclaiming the Gospel
- Prayerful sacrifice
- Witnessing with faith-filled lives

Our parishes are the visible sign of the Church in the Diocese



YOU ARE LIVING STONES

Proclaiming the Gospel:

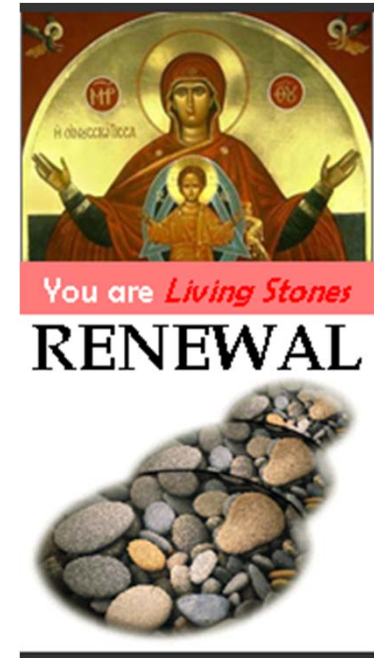
- Church buildings
- Parish communities
- Catholic schools



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Prayerful Sacrifice:

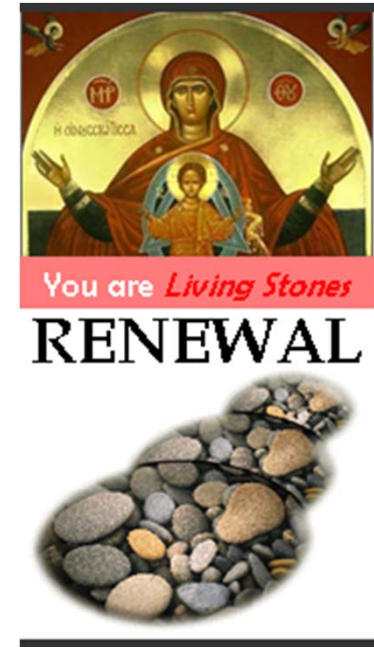
- Sunday Mass
- Daily Mass where possible
- Eucharistic adoration
- Prayer of the Church
- Sacramental life
- Personal prayer & Offering of our daily lives



YOU ARE LIVING STONES

Witnessing with faith-filled lives:

- SVP and other charitable works
- Outreach
- Young people



YOU ARE LIVING STONES

What this is NOT!

- A blueprint – if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans!
- A done deal
- Top-down/imposed
- Parish or church closure programme



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What this is!

- A prayerful reflection on all that is good in our parishes
- A consultation
- Realistic
- Faith-filled
- Community-based
- Celebratory



YOU ARE LIVING STONES

Who this is for:

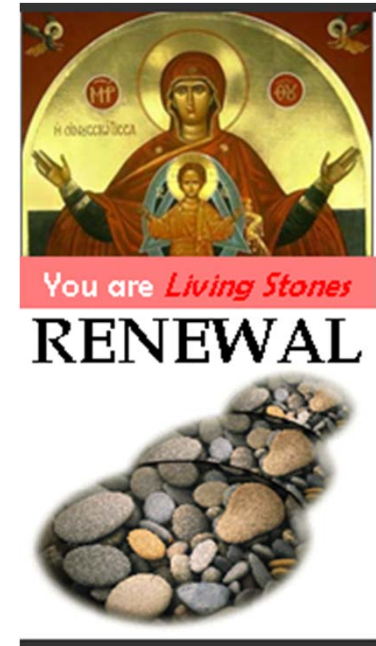
- The whole Diocese
- Every parish and community
- Priests, deacons and people
- Religious
- Schools
- Catholic groups and associations



YOU ARE LIVING STONES

TIME FOR REFLECTION & FEEDBACK

10 MINUTES!



YOU ARE LIVING STONES

The Process:

- Rooted in prayer
- Celebrating what we have
- Building on our history
- Sharing good practice
- Renewal!



YOU ARE LIVING STONES

Section 1 - Change:

- No one likes change
- ‘To live is to change and to live well is to change often’
- Change is inevitable in our fast-paced world
- Faith means openness to change



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The Road to Emmaus – A Pattern for Managing Change



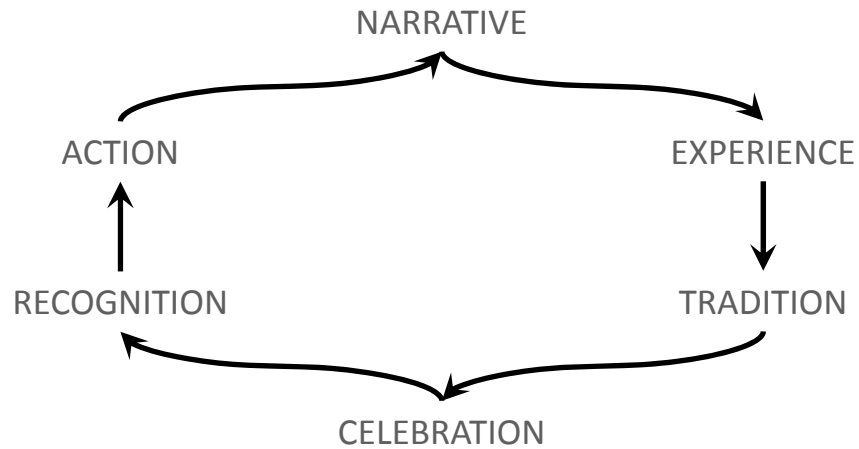
You are *Living Stones*

RENEWAL



YOU ARE LIVING STONES

The Road to Emmaus – A Pattern for Managing Change



YOU ARE LIVING STONES

Section 2 – Priestly Demography

We have:

- 108 parishes – 10 run by Orders
- 94 diocesan priests in ministry – 7 aren't in parishes
- Priests from Religious Institutes, other Dioceses & the Ordinariate

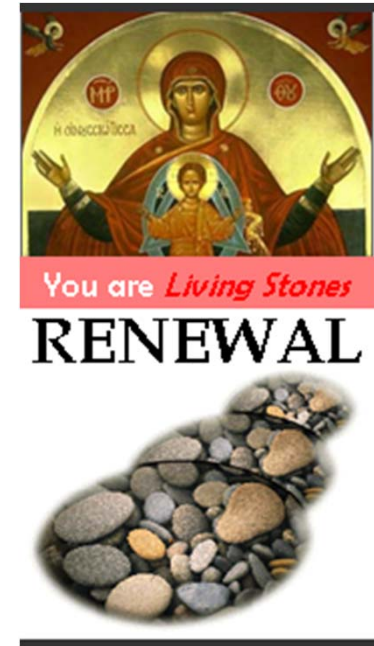


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Section 2 – Priestly Demography

Age profile of priests in ministry:

- 75+ 12
- 65-74 24
- 55-64 28
- 45-54 22
- 35-44 8
- 25-34 0

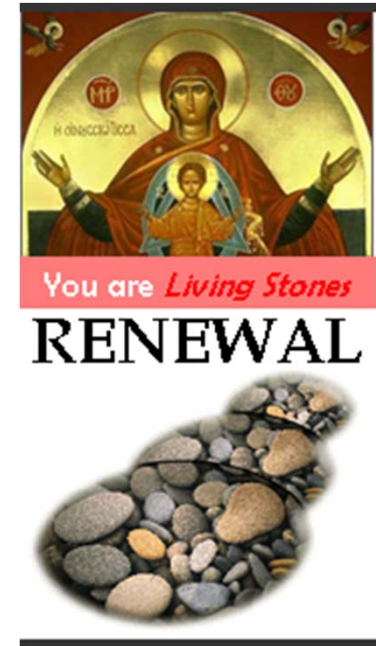


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Section 2 – Priestly Demography

Scenarios for the future:

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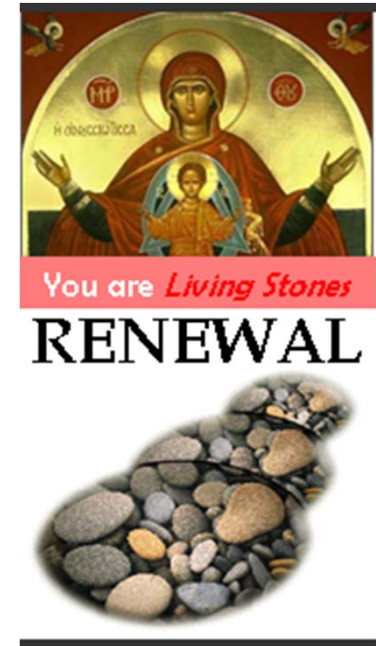


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Section 2 – Priestly Demography

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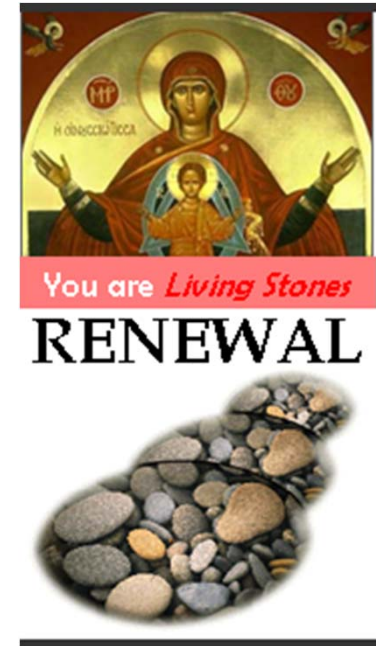
All change is opportunity



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TIME FOR REFLECTION & FEEDBACK

10 MINUTES!



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Section 3 – Consultation Process

This begins today!

Key principle:

Mission, not survival



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Section 3 – Consultation Process

- Celebrating and strengthening our unity
- Transforming our words and our lives to demonstrate that the Kingdom of God is at hand.
- Remembering that the Church is not here to serve herself, but to serve God and the world.
- Evangelisation of those who have not embraced the Gospel, using effective means, appropriate to our own era, while always respecting those who we serve.



RENEWAL



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Section 3 – Consultation Process

Where?

- Diocese
- Deanery
- Parish
- School
- Chaplaincy
- Groups & Associations



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Section 3 – Consultation Process

What?

- Review Parish Activity
- Provide Effective Leadership
- Adequate Preparation
- Inform the Faithful
- Collaborate



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Section 3 – Consultation Process

What?

- Stick to Time
- Prepare for Difficulties
- Root Everything in Prayer
- Audit Our Resources



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Section 3 – Implementation

How?

- Organic Development of Natural Collaboration
- Co-Responsibility for Decisions
- Recommendations from Consultation

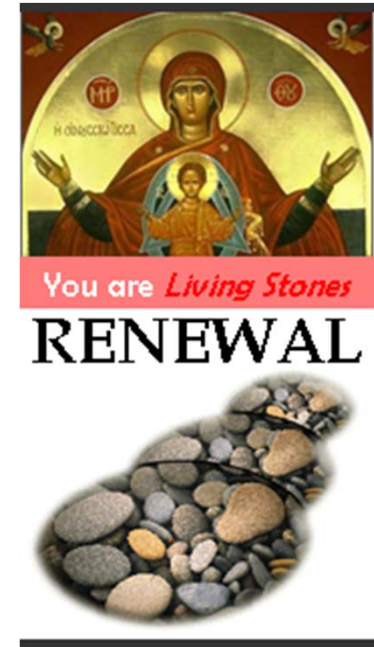


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Section 3 – Implementation

How Long?

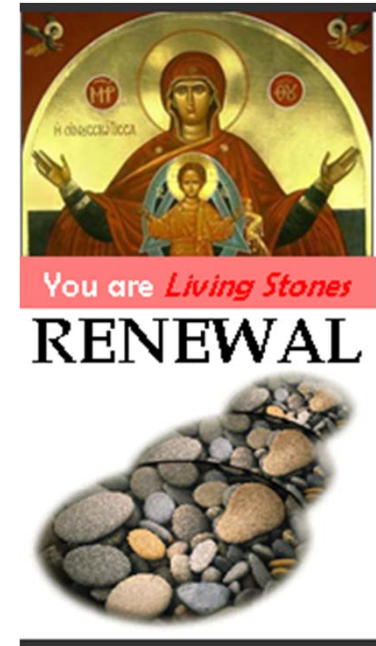
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Concluding Remarks

