

You are Living Stones

The Council of Priests discussed *You are Living Stones* at its meeting on Monday 4th November 2013. It received a report from the Working Group of Deans which had been established by the Bishop to oversee the implementation of *You are Living Stones*.

These are important things to think about as *You are Living Stones* moves from consultation to implementation:

- The need for strategic vision, as stated in the last *You are Living Stones* update: 'Until now the its emphasis has had to be the parochial structure of the Diocese – in other words, practicalities concerning priests, parishes, ministries and Mass times. However, since it is accepted by most that things cannot remain as they are, *You are Living Stones* needs to go beyond and deeper as it begins to be implemented. This means we need to think more carefully about *how* we live the Christian life, individually and in common, since our reflection on this question will help to prepare our-selves and our parishes for a very different future.'
- The importance of moving from discussing what parishes could be linked to each other to how to implement the proposals – it is time to put the proposals into practice. Just as our schools are linked as 'families of schools', so too our parishes can be linked as 'families of parishes', working together for the common good of the Church.
- The realism that it might not be possible to celebrate Mass in every church in every parish on every Sunday in the future, and that we will have to develop means of supporting people, e.g., by the establishment of cell groups & prayer groups etc.
- We also need to look at how deacons and laypeople can do things traditionally done by priests and religious in the liturgical, catechetical and administrative spheres, e.g., lay chaplaincy in hospitals, prisons, schools & universities; the Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis; conducting Celebrations of the Word & Holy Communion, Baptisms and even Funerals (the Liturgical Commission is already looking at the latter).
- The importance of organic change: there will be no 'big bang' and parishes, and their clergy, working more closely together is an essential development. If two parishes are linked with one parish priest, there may be some short-term loss of parishioners, which is to be expected, especially if this leads to a reduction in Mass times; however, the publication of a set of proposals for parishes should mean that parishioners will have some inkling of what will probably happen to their parish in the future.
- There are no parishes which are 'too big to fail'; just because a parish is not expected to be linked formally with another, it does not mean that it should not offer anything to its neighbours. This is especially so of the principal churches in the county towns – St Barnabas' Cathedral; St Mary, Derby; Holy Cross, Leicester; and St Hugh of Lincoln, Lincoln.
- Sector chaplaincy (e.g., hospitals, prisons, schools & universities) has an important role to play in building community and providing pastoral care; the chaplaincies are communities in which clergy and laypeople have already been working together in teams, alongside ecumenical and interfaith partners.

- Every parish must have a parish pastoral council and a parish finance committee – these are not optional, but mandatory for all parishes in the Diocese of Nottingham. Priests may need to be empowered to relinquish control of certain aspects of parish life, and laypeople empowered to take a more active role in parish life – but as laypeople serving laypeople rather than a ‘clericalised laity’ and a ‘laicised clergy’. We have to accept, and deal with, the fact that some people will find this more difficult than others.
- We need to look at the relationship between our parishes and our schools, since they are, or should be, an instrument of evangelisation.
- We also will need to re-examine the current deanery structure to make sure that it is fit for purpose, e.g., should Nottingham and Leicester have one deanery each rather than the current two?
- It is of vital importance that all of us live out our baptismal calling to share in Christ’s prophetic, priestly and kingly mission by working together for the common good of the Church and the wider community in our Diocese.

Within this context, the Council of Priests APPROVED the following proposals concerning parishes for discussion at open deanery meetings (For information, each parish is listed once. In the case of a proposal to link a parish which is currently in one deanery with a parish in another deanery, it is listed as agreed by the Council of Priests on 4th November 2013; this does not imply that there will be no change in the organisation of deaneries.):

Nottingham East:

- RETAIN St Barnabas’ Cathedral
- RETAIN Good Shepherd, Arnold
- RETAIN Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Carlton with St Bernadette, Sneinton
- LINK Corpus Christi, Clifton WITH Our Lady & St Patrick in the Meadows
- LINK Our Lady & St Edward, Gordon Road WITH St Augustine, Apostle of England, Woodborough Road
- RETAIN Holy Spirit, West Bridgford
- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN Our Lady of the Angels, East Leake AND St Margaret Clitherow, Keyworth
- LINK St Anne, Radcliffe-on-Trent WITH Our Lady of Grace, Cotgrave
- RETAIN University of Nottingham Catholic Chaplaincy

Nottingham West:

- LINK St Theresa, Aspley WITH St Hugh of Lincoln, Bilborough
- RETAIN Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell and Divine Infant of Prague, Bestwood Park
- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN St Paul, Lenton Boulevard and St Mary, Hyson Green AND St Thomas More, Wollaton
- RETAIN Assumption, Beeston

- LINK Our Lady of Good Counsel, Eastwood WITH Holy Cross, Hucknall
- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN Our Lady & St Thomas of Hereford, Ilkeston AND St John the Evangelist, Stapleford
- RETAIN St Francis of Assisi, Long Eaton

Amber Valley:

- RETAIN Christ the King, Alfreton with St Patrick & St Bridget, Clay Cross
- LINK Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Belper with St Margaret Clitherow, Duffield WITH St Joseph, Ripley
- LINK St Joseph, Matlock (WITHOUT St Theresa, Wirksworth) WITH All Saints, Hassop with English Martyrs, Bakewell

Derby:

- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN St Mary, Derby AND Holy Family, Allestree and ADD Christ the King, Mackworth
- RETAIN English Martyrs, Alvaston with St Ralph Sherwin, Chellaston and ADD Our Lady of Mercy & St Philip Neri, Melbourne (WITHOUT Risen Lord, Castle Donnington)
- LINK St Hugh, Borrowash WITH St Alban, Chaddesden
- RETAIN St Joseph, Burton Road
- RETAIN Our Lady of Lourdes, Mickleover
- RETAIN St George & All Soldier Saints, Old Normanton with Holy Spirit, Sinfen
- LINK All Saints, Ashbourne WITH St Theresa, Wirksworth
- LINK Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Stapenhill & St Joseph the Worker, Winshill WITH Ss Peter & Paul, Swadlincote

Fenland:

- RETAIN St Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, Boston
- RETAIN Holy Trinity, Holbeach
- LINK Sacred Heart, Skegness with Our Lady & the English Martyrs, Spilsby WITH St Joseph, Mablethorpe
- RETAIN Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sleaford
- RETAIN Immaculate Conception & St Norbert, Spalding

Grantham:

- RETAIN St Mary the Immaculate, Grantham
- LINK St John the Baptist with St Peter, Melton Mowbray WITH St Joseph, Oakham with St Thomas of Canterbury, Exton
- LINK St Augustine, Stamford WITH Sacred Heart & St Gilbert, Bourne and Our Lady of Lincoln & St Guthlac, Deeping St James

Grimsby:

- RETAIN St Mary on the Sea, Grimsby with St John Fisher, Scartho
- RETAIN St Pius X, Grimsby with Corpus Christi, Cleethorpes & Our Lady Star of the Sea, Immingham

High Peak:

- LINK St Anne, Buxton WITH St John Fisher & St Thomas More, Chapel-en-le-Frith with Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tideswell
- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN Immaculate Conception, Charlesworth with St Margaret, Gamesley AND St Charles Borromeo, Hadfield
- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN All Saints, Glossop AND St Mary Crowned, Glossop
- RETAIN St Mary, Marple Bridge and Annunciation, New Mills

Leicester East:

- RETAIN Holy Cross, Leicester (OP)
- LINK St Edward the Confessor, Aylestone Road WITH St Mary, South Wigston & St John Bosco, Eyres Monsall
- LINK St Thomas More, Knighton Road WITH Immaculate Conception, Oadby
- RETAIN Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary, Mere Road
- RETAIN St Joseph, Uppingham Road with Rosary, Nether Hall
- RETAIN Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough with St Mary, Husbands Bosworth

Leicester West:

- LINK St Patrick, Beaumont Leys Lane WITH Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rushey Mead
- RETAIN St Peter, Hinckley Road
- RETAIN Most Blessed Sacrament, Gooding Avenue
- RETAIN Mother of God, New Parks
- RETAIN St Theresa, Birstall with Sacred Heart, Rothley
- LINK Ss Peter & Paul, Earl Shilton with Our Lady & St Gregory, Market Bosworth WITH St Peter, Hinckley and Saint Martin, Stoke Golding
- LINK Saint Pius X, Narborough WITH Our Lady of Victories & St Alphonsus, Lutterworth

Lincoln:

- RETAIN Our Lady of Lincoln, Lincoln
- RETAIN St Hugh of Lincoln, Lincoln with St Francis, Bardney
- RETAIN Ss Peter & Paul, Lincoln

- LINK Holy Rood, Market Rasen with St Thomas More, Caistor, St Francis de Sales, Hainton and Our Lady and St Joseph, Osgodby WITH St Mary, Louth
- RETAIN Our Lady & St Peter, Woodhall Spa (including Horncastle Parish Church)

Loughborough:

- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN Our Lady of Lourdes, Ashby-de-la-Zouch AND St Charles Borromeo, Measham
- LINK Saint Wilfrid of York, Coalville WITH Holy Cross, Whitwick
- RETAIN St Mary of the Annunciation, Loughborough (including Loughborough University Catholic Chaplaincy) (IC)
- RETAIN Sacred Heart of Jesus, Loughborough (including Woodhouse Parish Church)
- LINK Saint Winefride, Shepshed WITH Risen Lord, Castle Donnington
- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN St Gregory, Sileby AND Divine Infant of Prague, Syston

Scunthorpe:

- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN St Augustine Webster, Barton-upon-Humber AND St Mary, Brigg
- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN St Norbert, Crowle with Saint Joseph & St Dymphna, Luddington AND St Thomas of Canterbury, Gainsborough
- RETAIN Holy Souls, Scunthorpe
- RETAIN St Bernadette, Scunthorpe

Sherwood:

- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN St Patrick, Forest Town with St George, Rainworth AND St Joseph, New Ollerton
- RETAIN St Philip Neri, Mansfield
- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN Our Lady Help of Christians, Kirkby-in-Ashfield AND St Joseph the Worker, Sutton-in-Ashfield
- RETAIN LINK BETWEEN Holy Trinity, Newark AND Our Lady of Victories, Southwell with St Anthony, Calverton
- RETAIN St Joseph, Shirebrook with St Bernadette, Bolsover & St Teresa, Market Warsop