

# Walking Together - The Diocesan Vision Statement – 25 April 2023

**Kari** welcomed everyone and opened the session with a beautiful Papal prayer echoing the themes of co-responsibility and collaboration. Everyone introduced themselves and **Rob** gave a recap of our synodal pathway meetings in January (pilot), February (main meetings), and our April follow-up meeting to take action to address some of the issues raised for our parish. The following people gave a quick recap on what has subsequently happened:

- **Marianne** - the two vibrant parish parties for children & families, and a third being planned
- **Lynne** - opening and continuing the Warm Hub
- **Maureen, Kate and Peter S** - extending and adding to our prayer & study groups
- **Mo** - reviving noticeboards and the comms group adding a parish Facebook profile with lots of activity

**Fr Kevin** talked through a survey the deanery needs to complete thinking through the consequence of half our parish priests retiring in the next ten years, and asked everyone to have **breadth of vision** as well as **focus**, as clearly parishes like Kenilworth which are relatively rich in skills and resources will need to work in a more collaborative way with other parishes in the deanery. The current ways of working will not be sustainable with fewer priests - there will need to be new ways of working across our current parish boundaries, and co-responsibility between clergy and laity will also be important. **Lynne** then introduced the Diocesan Vision Statement and the six steps which we are considering together as one through this event:

The Diocesan Vision statement	The Archbishop has asked us to...
<p>We are called to be a Catholic diocese which is:</p> <p><i>faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ</i></p> <p><i>full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith,</i></p> <p><i>joyful in their service of God and neighbour</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reflect on what God has been doing in our parish and where he might be leading us</li> <li>2. Look at what the Vision Statement means for our parish</li> <li>3. Make a powerful change to make the most of the opportunities we have</li> <li>4. Use the four themes to identify opportunities</li> <li>5. Look at how our parish culture helps or hinders change</li> <li>6. Pray to fulfil the Vision and consider our next steps</li> </ol>

We then broke into five smaller groups with **David, Marianne, Lynne, Nicki, Peter R** and **Ann** presenting back:

<i>Maureen, David, Margaret &amp; Fr Kevin</i>	<i>Marianne, Martha, Kari &amp; Peter S</i>	<i>Catharine, Nualan, Lynne &amp; Mo</i>	<i>Kate, Nick, Nicki, Sandra &amp; Peter R</i>	<i>Ann, Angela, Ricardo &amp; Patricia</i>
--	---	--	--	--

Before Fr Kevin closed the meeting with prayers and a blessing, some people noted their interest on the wall display. Our next step is **to form some small informal groups over May and June to look at the many ideas generated and to choose a few that group members would be happy to explore further** and try out over the next 12 months (like we have over the last 12 months), keeping in mind Fr Kevin's request that we remember to look for opportunities to share good practice within the deanery, not just within our own parish:

- *Deepening Our Faith – Formation, Spiritual Growth* - Kate (in June), Ricardo, Peter S, David, Veronica, Catharine, Nualan, Maureen
- *Sharing Our Faith – Evangelisation* - Ricardo
- *Celebrating Our Faith – Worship & Liturgy* – Mo, Patricia, Ricardo, Kari, Nicki
- *Witnessing Our Faith – Social Action* - Lynne, Peter R, Kari

As we continue the process of discernment over May and June please consider through these small groups:

1. *Which ideas do you think might attract other parishioners and sustain people's interest to find deep soil and take root (like the Warm Hub has)?*
2. *Who's happy to work with others to help pilot these over the summer and autumn?*
3. *Which ideas might be more sustainable if we work together with other parishes and share skills and resources? Can we use Zoom (etc) to connect activities and resources with these other parishes without always needing to travel?*

Each group doesn't need a leader nor to necessarily agree on one idea, it may be that two or three ideas are developed further by people working in 2s and 3s to reflect different interests within the parish and different age groups, so for example:

- ☑ **Catharine** and **Nualan** have attended several of the Fr Richard Rohr groups in Solihull - Nualan is also an active member of the Manresa Link ([www.manresalink.org.uk](http://www.manresalink.org.uk)) based on St Ignatius of Loyola Spirituality and is interested also in supporting others with social events
- ☑ **Patricia** and **Ricardo** are interested in traditional forms of Catholic spirituality such as the Rosary and Benediction, whilst **Kari** and **Nicki** are interested in exploring forms of worship and liturgy that particularly appeal to families with children and young people

Everyone has busy lives, so people will dip in and dip out from time to time as they juggle other commitments. The groups don't need to be permanent either, they might be like "Task & Finish groups" that many organisations use to get ideas up and running and then disband when those ideas have got themselves sufficiently established.

**Mo's** portable synod display in the narthex also generated some more ideas via post-its:

- *Ask schools for children to read – create a rota – which might encourage their parents to come to Mass.*
- *Maintenance of Catholic culture & Lectio Divina*
- *Every other Thursday there is a Meditation with a Mantra group run by Pat Southall at her house*
- *A children and adults meet up & greet up in Abbey Fields with Mass in the park*
- *The children's liturgy group doing posters for coming to Mass, and at the end do drinks, cakes, arts & crafts based on Jesus and the Bible*
- *A parish group for children in secondary school*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Deepening Our Faith Formation, Spiritual Growth</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sharing Our Faith Evangelisation</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Celebrating Our Faith Worship &amp; Liturgy</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Witnessing Our Faith Social Action</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture study &amp; prayer groups (some are ecumenical) – evening &amp; daytime</li> <li>• Lent &amp; Advent lectures, series of talks and Mass</li> <li>• CWL already provide opportunities</li> <li>• Study online</li> <li>• Rosary, Divine Mercy, Lectio Divina</li> <li>• RCIA groups</li> <li>• Learn from best practice in (future deanery) clusters, e.g. from St Peter's</li> <li>• Kenelm training for children &amp; young people 11+ and for youth leaders</li> <li>• Evangelist, Thrive, Leamington, Fanning The Flame (fanningtheflame.co.uk)</li> <li>• Franciscan Fr Richard Rohr</li> <li>• Manresa House (Jesuit retreat in Birmingham)</li> <li>• Train prayer guides – invite other parishes</li> <li>• Over Zoom</li> <li>• Youth? Going into schools, confirmations</li> <li>• 'Pray as you go'</li> <li>• Prayer - find a time and place each day</li> <li>• Faith books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecumenical scripture groups, St Nicholas group</li> <li>• RCIA aimed at adults, instruction courses</li> <li>• Focus on lapsed Catholic families who go to St Augustine's School / Crackley</li> <li>• Prayer</li> <li>• National conference 2015</li> <li>• Share gospel, testimony, personal story</li> <li>• Meeting</li> <li>• Evangelisation officers / diocese</li> <li>• CTS booklet</li> <li>• Computer, Zoom, technology, camera in church</li> <li>• Contact young people before they leave party? Engage them before they leave secondary school</li> <li>• Dave from Youth For Christ</li> <li>• Bereavement group</li> <li>• Confidence from groups to talk – role play / asking questions</li> <li>• Have a good grounding in our faith (Bible Alive, discussion groups)</li> <li>• Show love and compassion to others outside the church as well as inside</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole deanery services – shared transport – regular calendar</li> <li>• Clusters within the deanery for services</li> <li>• More school involvement in Mass, more parishioners in school Mass</li> <li>• Young people and families getting involved, links to schools and chaplain at schools</li> <li>• Know who to ask to get involved</li> <li>• Back to basics (what are basics)</li> <li>• Services other than Mass</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Choir &amp; musicians</li> <li>• Carol service with other churches</li> <li>• Crib before Christmas Eve (not with baby – just the journey)</li> <li>• Walk of Witness</li> <li>• Confirmation, understanding the Mass</li> <li>• Confidence to recognise not known / not talked to / shared</li> <li>• Covid has broken Cradle Catholics' habit of churchgoing</li> <li>• Go to Mass regularly as a celebration</li> <li>• Join prayer / meditation groups</li> <li>• Keep young adults interested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate SVP, SALVE, Catenians, CWL – be in a group that reaches out to all, work together</li> <li>• Involve secondary children</li> <li>• Build on Warm Hub – SVP and parish</li> <li>• Father Hudson's talks – refugees / disability – posters at the former Ramada hotel, St John's, pop up shop at Royal Priors</li> <li>• Eucharistic ministers – return following Covid</li> <li>• SVP – alternate Tuesdays, programme of visits in pairs, vulnerable families</li> <li>• Rosary – public in Leamington / Coventry</li> <li>• Teenagers – D of E volunteering</li> <li>• Frank Sinatra night / 3 Tenors</li> <li>• Welcoming others – refugees, Warm Hub</li> <li>• Opening up opportunities for all to engage</li> <li>• Different Masses (combine)</li> <li>• International evening</li> <li>• Pulling parish together – mixing can lead to everyone deepening their faith</li> <li>• Daily Mass forms → twice year</li> </ul>