



Lay Participation



Our Diocese is marked by faith, worship and service where laity, priests, Religious and bishops embrace and live out the commitment of their Baptism working together to build the Kingdom of God on earth.

People, priests and bishops will work together to:

- promote a culture of co-responsibility among clergy, religious and laity at every level of the life of the Diocese.
- promote the on-going formation and development of lay volunteers for service in parishes.
- value the commitment and skills of all those employed within the Diocese.

Next Steps

- In early 2014 we will present our newly formed Diocesan Pastoral Council. Formed and begin its work
- During 2014 we will support 20 parishes in developing new Parish Pastoral Councils.
- We will provide days of development for our parish secretaries and diocesan staff.



Passing on the Faith



All members of our Church are supported in their relationship with God throughout their lives as they grow in faith together.

People, priests and bishops will work together to:

- ensure that children, aged 0-11, belong to a parish community that provides a safe place for them to grow in their experience and knowledge of God's love, to hear God's plan for their lives and to develop their potential to make a difference in the parish and the wider world.
- ensure that young people, aged 11- 18, recognise their place within the parish community and grow in their own relationship with Christ and with peers who will share with them the mission to build the Kingdom of God.
- reach out to young adults and provide them with a peer community that supports them in entering fully into the life and mission of the Church.
- ensure that the Diocese has the capacity and resources to welcome and form new members of the Church and support renewal of adult faith.

Next Steps

- We will provide resources, training & support to all of our parishes to deliver the GIFT 1 programme to our Year 8 pupils.
- We will provide training & support to all our schools and parishes to deliver the Pope John Paul II Award.



Prompted by the Holy Spirit, we seek to witness to our faith in Jesus Christ as a community of disciples dedicated to service of God and one another.



Open, Welcoming Community

As a community of faith, hope and love we open wide the doors of our Church to all without exception.

People, priests and bishops will work together to:

- create a Church where everybody feels welcome and supported and knows that their needs have been considered;
- ensure that the highest standards of safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children continue to operate in our Diocese;
- maximise opportunities for interchurch and interfaith dialogue;
- ensure that the Diocese has structures that foster open and transparent communication.
- ensure that the voice of the Church and of the Gospel is heard in the public square and that the Catholic response to all major issues is clearly presented,
- contribute to the Church's engagement with legislators, politicians, and public bodies both statutory and voluntary sector.

Next Steps

- We will create opportunities for on-going listening in the Diocese.
- During 2014 we will provide Ministry of Welcome training to 20 new parishes.
- By January 2014 we will have established a Communications Commission to enhance internal communication across the Diocese.



Faith & Worship

We celebrate and participate in the saving work of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and are strengthened to proclaim and live the Gospel.

People, priests and bishops will work together to:

- place adult faith development at the centre of parish life, helping the community to grow in its on-going conversion to Jesus Christ;
- promote the worthy celebration of the liturgy as an uplifting experience of communion with God and with one another and as an integral part of the community's growth in faith;
- provide opportunities for people across the Diocese to deepen their own prayer life and develop their relationship with God;
- ensure that families can grow in their prayer life.

Next Steps

- We will support the delivery of courses in adult faith development, with particular focus during Lent.
- We will organise a 'Faith & Life forum' on the role of faith in contemporary society'
- We will provide children's liturgy training throughout the liturgical year.
- We will provide courses during 2014 on the Proclamation of the Word.



Clergy & Religious

The priests, religious and bishops are supported and nourished in their life and ministry in the service of the People of God.

People, priests and bishops will work together to:

- ensure that all priests are given the support they need for their life and ministry, taking into account the changing context within which our priests minister;
- develop a structured programme of on-going formation to support and nourish the clergy in their personal and vocational lives in order to respond to the needs of the Diocese;
- facilitate fraternity and mutual support among the priests of the Diocese;
- promote vocations to the priesthood, the religious life and the other new forms of consecrated life,
- encourage the work of the Religious and facilitate their involvement in the life of the Diocese.

Next Steps

- Our next Clergy Conference will be on 15th October 2013.
- In 2014 we will establish and fill the position of Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, who will oversee support for clergy as indicated in the pastoral plan.
- We will begin to implement a policy for Clergy sabbaticals.