

DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Wardley Hall, Wardley Hall Road, Worsley, M28 2ND



4th October 2017

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we launch our Hope in the Future programme, I am writing to encourage you to take up this challenge and to build on the good work already being accomplished in your parish in the name of the Gospel.

As already mentioned in the recent Pastoral Letter, the first part of the programme is to acknowledge and celebrate all that groups and communities are achieving. It is important for everyone to realise that the work they are already doing has value and that their contribution counts. The next step would be for them to consider stretching further as well as inviting new people to exercise their skills and talents for the good of all, not just within the parish but also in the wider community. Only through working together and looking outward can we truly become missionary parishes. The resources in this pack are suggestions to help parishes to get started. Further ideas for progression will continue to be sent, you will receive the next pack after Christmas.

Between now and the first Sunday in Advent, I would urge you to seriously consider forming a small team that can drive the initiative forward. Consider a cross section of parishioners with different abilities who can bring other people on-board through their energy and enthusiasm. You may find the register of interest form in this pack useful to assist with this. Please choose a point of contact within the steering group and send their contact details to bishop.pa@dioceseofsalford.org.uk. Messages and resources will then be sent directly to them.

We have every reason to be hopeful that, with God's grace and with the help and support of each other, we can truly make a difference to the lives of those who need us most. We can live, as Francis did, with the joy of the Gospel driving us forward and we can certainly have Hope in the Future.

With my thanks for all that you do and prayers for the success of your parish endeavours.

Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '+John'.

+John
Bishop of Salford

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