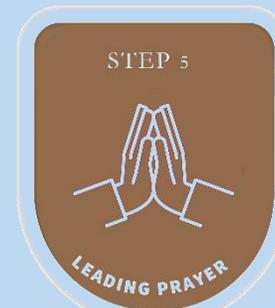
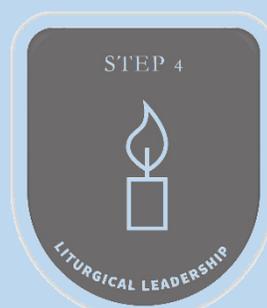


Developing Parish Communities

7 Steps from School to Parish



To be understood
as to understand,
To be loved
as to love with all my soul.



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

In the name of the Father, and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen



DIocese of SALFORD

Welcome

We have come together today to a very special assembly, to celebrate the Launch of Hope in the Future for our School. On the 4th October 2017 – the feast of St. Francis, Bishop John launched a major initiative for the Parishes of the Diocese of Salford. Bishop John's hope, inspired by the teaching of Pope Francis, is that schools will now be encouraged to develop a more missionary character, along with our parishes as every school is part of a parish community.



St. Francis of Assisi



St. Francis of Assisi changed the world during his brief life, and he is remembered for miracles people say God performed through him and his compassion for the vulnerable, especially poor people, sick people and animals. Francis became convinced that God wanted him to help poor people, so he abandoned his possessions. Francis heard a gospel in which Jesus Christ tells his disciples to minister to people.



The San Damiano cross is the one before which St. Francis was praying when he received the commission from the Lord to "Rebuild the Church."

Above Jesus' head is a portrayal of the Resurrection: the triumphant Christ emerging from a red circle, holding a golden cross which is now His Sceptre.



A host of angels welcomes Him into heaven. Around the crossbar of the cross, we see a company of holy angels, looking in awe upon the Divine Sacrifice.

"His Mother and the disciple whom he loved" stand beneath the Cross.

Standing on the cross in His full stature, Jesus' hands are spread out serenely in an attitude of both supplication

A Gospel Reading From Luke 8:4-15

While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

““though seeing, they may not see;

though hearing, they may not understand.’

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain

The Word of the Lord.



Bidding Prayers

Reader: Let us pray that we may open our hearts to God's love and awaken us to greater generosity in mission and service. (Pause)

Lord in your mercy.....(Hear our prayer)

Reader: Let us pray for all schools and parishes that they may give witness to Christ by lives displaying faith, hope and love. (Pause)

Lord in your mercy.....(Hear our prayer)

Reader: Let us pray for all of us here today, that we may reach out with compassion and care to those in need, especially our own private intentions. (Pause)
Lord in your mercy.....(Hear our prayer)

We offer these prayers and the prayers of all God's people, to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, as we say together.... Hail Mary.....
Stay with us Lord on our Journey.



Today, we give thanks to God for all the gifts and talents we have and how we use these to help in our parish communities.

**What
are my
gifts
and
talents?**



7 Steps from School to Parish

STEP 1

Designed to enable schools to have a close contact with their parish even though they may be a distance away.

STEP 2

Designed to take a more active role in the life of the parish community.

STEP 3

Designed to help young people get to know and understand the structure of the parish.

STEP 4

Designed to look at ways in which the pupils might lead aspects of the liturgical life of the parish.

STEP 5

Designed to focus on the pupils leading and facilitating new initiatives in the prayer life of the parish.

STEP 6

Designed to look at fostering the growth of young people in the parish by inviting them to be part of the Parish Council.

STEP 7

Designed to join the 'Hope in the Future' parish team.

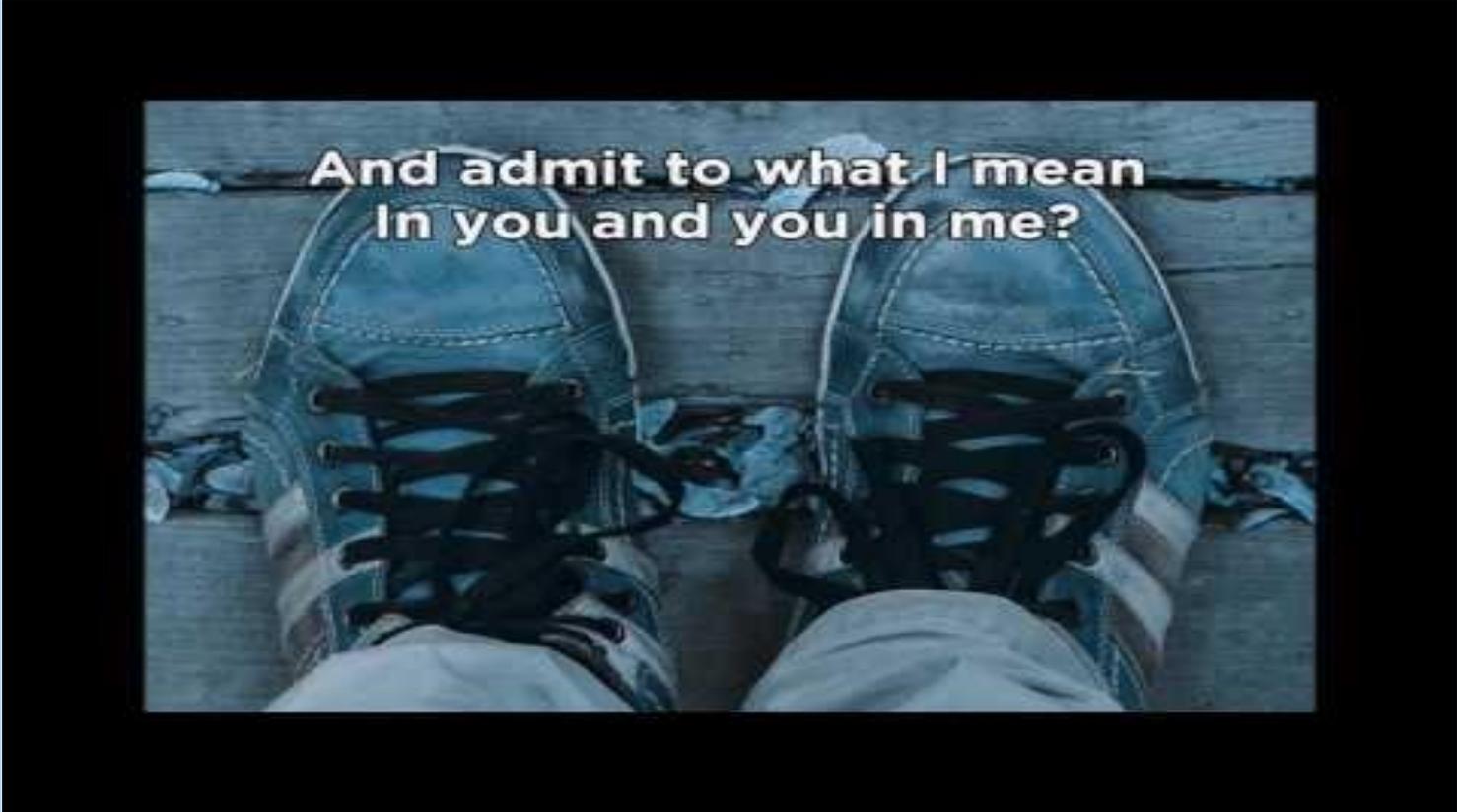
Hope in the Future Prayer for Schools

God our loving Father, we thank you
for blessing our parish communities
with all that we need
to respond to our vocation
to be missionary disciples.

We ask you to pour out afresh
the gifts of your Spirit upon each one of us,
that we may be inspired to serve you
in new and creative ways,
bringing your light to the world.

We ask your blessing upon us
as we journey together in hope
through Christ Our Lord
Amen.





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