

DIOCESE OF SALFORD

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



4th October 2018
Feast of St Francis of Assisi

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we come to the end of Stage 1 of our Diocesan programme Hope in the Future we have much for which to be thankful to God. The majority of our parishes now have an active team in place, each bringing their own creativity to the programme and working more closely with their schools. We have built firm foundations on prayer with the Formation Days on Mission and Evangelisation, the parish cycle of prayer and the parish teams retreat. We must now embark on the second stage of the programme and follow where we feel God is leading us as the Church in Salford.

Stage 2 has two key focuses. The first is about Discerning our God-given Gifts, Talents and Charisms and then using them for the building up of our Parishes. The second is also about clergy and laity working closely together to share in the leadership of the Parish. In order to successfully do this I believe we all need to recognise that the Spirit is already at work in our Diocese and Parishes and we need to deepen our listening. Personally, each of us needs to deepen our appreciation of our own Gifts, Talents and Charisms. Then we should collectively establish a shared leadership model right for our Parish made up of a range of people, each contributing their own God-given Gifts, Talents and Charisms.

On behalf of the Hope in the Future working party I am pleased to share with you the next set of resources (Stage 2, Resources 1). The resources are also available electronically (www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/parishes/resources).

Further resources to help with setting up a Parish Shared Leadership Team will be distributed at the start of Lent 2019.

If you require any further support, either with setting up a Hope in the Future Team or with Stage 1 or 2 or if you would like to share ideas or feedback please get in touch by emailing hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

Please keep the Hope in the Future Programme and your Parish Community in your prayers.

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

Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.

+John
Bishop of Salford