

DIocese of Salford



FORMING
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES
BUILDING
MISSIONARY PARISHES

STAGE I
CELEBRATING OUR PARISH

OCTOBER
2017 - 2018

Introduction

A year has passed since we launched our parish renewal programme, Hope in the Future, on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. On that October evening, in the Cathedral, I reminded those present that St Francis had been called by God, to 'Rebuild my Church'. I am encouraged by the way in which those words have been taken to heart and for the enthusiasm with which the programme has been received across the Diocese. Thank you.

The first stage of Hope in the Future focussed on celebrating our parishes and we have seen many different examples of celebration. From displays of 'talent trees' to thanksgiving afternoon tea, parishes have chosen their own distinct way to engage with Stage One and celebrate all that already exists in the life of our parishes.

Recognising the uniqueness of each parish is key to the success of Hope in the Future. By the end of this journey it is hoped that we will have a programme that has resources relevant for all parishes, whether large or small, whether urban, suburban or rural. Some parishes have already started and will be leading the way. Other parishes, because of local circumstances, may not be able to start so quickly but will follow at the right time, benefiting from those that have gone ahead.

But every parish can find their own time to join the journey and use the resources provided.

We now look forward to the start of Stage Two, where we will learn to Harvest our Talents and put them to use in our parishes. Our aim must be to grow as Missionary Disciples in Missionary Parishes, putting into action the call from Pope Francis to show what we believe by our actions. We are asking everyone no matter who they are, their age, skills or experiences to join us on our journey to create, strengthen and develop Mission Parishes. Our parishes must be places of welcome and prayer where we grow in faith and no-one is forgotten and from which we take Christ and Gospel values to the world around us.

I look forward to progressing on this journey with all of you.

Stay with us, Lord, on Our Journey.



"I ask for your active participation in both prayer and action. If we were all to undertake just one task in our parishes we would transform the witness we give and make a difference to the lives of so many people."

Bishop John Arnold

Launch

On Wednesday 4th October 2017, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, we launched 'Hope in the Future' at Salford Cathedral. The launch evening was a great success. Clergy and parish representatives from across the Diocese gathered together to celebrate and all who attended left feeling enthusiastic for the task ahead.

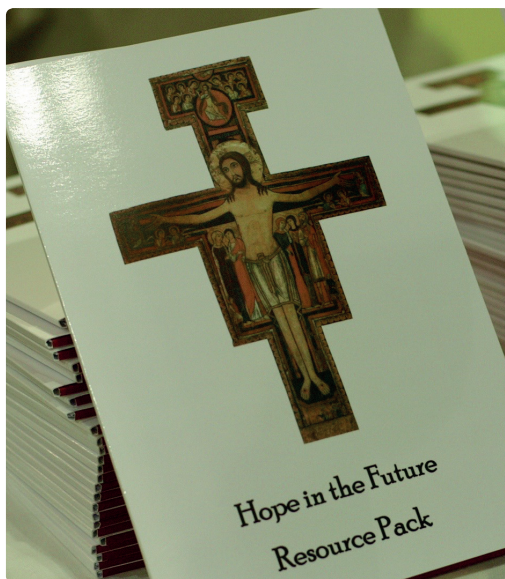
At the launch Bishop John explained: **'Pope Francis wants each and every one of us, no matter who we are, our age, our skills, our experiences; he wants each and every one of us to be Missionary Disciples. Missionary Disciples in Mission Parishes.'**

Bishop John went on to explain, 'Hope in the Future aims to help provide each parish with the support, encouragement and resources to achieve this. It is an invitation to every parish in the Diocese to recognise and develop their missionary identity and their call to evangelise. It builds on the theme of Hope which is key to the catechesis of Pope Francis.'

Every parish was presented with a blessed San Damiano Cross to display in their church and a resource pack to get their parish started on the process.

It is important that we recognise as Bishop John states that 'Our parishes are so different, suburban, urban, rural parishes. Some of them are ancient, some of them are very new. And each in its own context has its work to do. We need to identify what that work is and respond in our own parish mission.'





Our Lady & St Gerard Majella, Lostock Hall

- AFTERNOON TEA

The Parish of Our Lady and St Gerard Majella in Lostock Hall had Afternoon Tea for all their volunteers as a thank you for all their help and to introduce them to Hope in the Future.

Over 130 volunteers attended. They presented all the different groups with a card with the patron saint and feast day of each ministry.



St Boniface, Lower Broughton

- ADVENT LITURGY

St Boniface's, Lower Broughton launched Hope in the Future as a celebration of St Boniface's past, present and future. The B you see in the photo is in three sections, two people carried each part up to the altar with a corresponding symbol and read a prayer and gradually the B was assembled.

The three B's were for: Boniface representing the parish's foundation and background and general community; Body and Blood for the actual work and participation for the Mass; Be for the future.



St John Fisher, Kearsley

- FESTIVE JOY

St John Fisher Parish in Kearsley launched Hope in the Future on the same day as their Christmas Fayre. They also arranged events to reach out to others including a carol service at Forest Bank Prison. Additionally rather than sending Christmas cards parishioners are asked to just send one to go on a publically displayed tree, and have a donation box for the money saved on postage and cards. The money saved will be donated to the Salvation Army to give a homeless person a meal and a bed for Christmas Day.



St Thomas of Canterbury, Bolton

- MINISTRIES JIGSAW

The parish has just started a Alpha group to introduce people to the Christian faith through hospitality, sharing and open conversation. Hope in the Future launch at St Thomas of Canterbury, Bolton took the format of a Jigsaw that was created by pupils from the Primary School. Each piece of the jigsaw represents one of the parish ministries. A representative from each ministry brought a piece of the jigsaw to the altar and placed it on the image of the San Damiano cross to symbolise the unity in the parish.



St Mary, Bamber Bridge

- THE BROWNEDGE PARISH TREE

St Mary's Bamber Bridge chose to focus on trees, which are very much part of the tradition of Bamber Bridge.

To celebrate the life of St Mary's they created "The Browndedge Parish Tree". It followed the idea of the "Jesse Tree", a tree which grows in life during Advent until it flourishes into a Christmas tree. The Browndedge Tree is adorned with fifty small crosses, each labelled with a different group or aspect of parish life. Parishioners were asked to place the crosses onto the tree at Sunday Masses for the First Sunday of Advent.



The Good Shepherd, Pendle

- PASSION WALK & EASTER EXHIBITION

Parishioners with friends from other local Christian churches, gathered on Palm Sunday in the local park to commemorate the Passion of Jesus. Young people from the 'Stage Door Theatre Group' created tableaux of the Stations of the Cross, whilst more than 60 followed the procession listening to readings and singing hymns as they made their way around the park. They were delighted to be joined by their MP Andrew Stephenson and local Councillor Joe Cooney.



The Parish Craft group created an exhibition which was displayed in 'The Glass House' in the main street in Colne to bear witness of Holy Week and Easter to the local community.



St Marie & St Joseph, Bury

- PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP & RETREAT

The Hope in the Future team started a 'Padre Pio Prayer Group'. The prayer time includes praise and worship, reading God's Word, Times of Silence and Individual and Group prayer.

In August the prayer group attended a 'Padre Pio Retreat Day' at the Pantasaph Franciscan Friary in North Wales.



Mt Carmel & St John Bosco, Blackley

- TALENT TREE

The Parish of Mount Carmel and St. John Bosco, Blackley had their celebration on Caritas Sunday. During the introduction a parishioner carried forward the San Damiano cross and during the offertory a talent tree was carried forward showcasing the many ministries in the parish.



Our Lady & the English Martyrs, Urmston

- NIGHTFEVER

'Nightfever' was launched in their church on the evening of the 15th June. 'Nightfever' is a gentle way of Evangelisation. The concept is simple, the church remains open from around 7pm - 10pm, bathed in just candlelight. On the altar is the exposed Blessed Sacrament with opportunity for confession. Live music is softly played in the background. The atmosphere is one of beauty and of peace. Trained volunteers from the parish invited people to come into the church and light a candle. At the front of church was a basket with paper and pens so that anyone who wanted to could write down the name or a cause to be included as a special intention. A number of regular parishioners volunteered to pray in the church for the street mission taking place outside. Over 30 new people were brought into the presence of Jesus that evening. It was a very uplifting experience.



St Charles Borromeo, Swinton

- INTERNATIONAL MASS + MINISTRY FAIR

The parish of St Charles Borromeo, Swinton produced a fantastic Hope in the Future Parish Booklet, celebrating the wonderful gifts and talents shared by their parishioners through their Parish ministries.

On Sunday 22nd April the parish celebrated the diversity of their parish with an International Mass. There were music, readings and dance from the many cultures. Following the Mass there was a ministry fair showcasing the parish groups with opportunity for new members to get involved. There was lots of fun too with a BBQ, games and a bouncy castle in the sun.



St John the Evangelist, Salford

- DISPLAY + LENT REFLECTIONS

The Cathedral parish displayed their many ministries and groups at the back of the Cathedral. Their Hope in the Future team decided to print enough copies of the Lent and Holy Week reflections for parishioners and visitors to the Cathedral to take away each week after Mass to reflect on. This has helped the parish's prayer life throughout Lent and helped people discern how they can get involved with parish life.

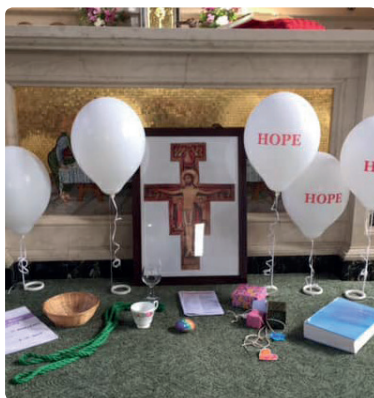


Christ the Redeemer, Bolton

- MINISTRY TREE + LAUNCH

Hope in the Future was officially launched in the parish on the feast of Pentecost. A short liturgy was held to give thanks to God for the many groups and ministries in the parish.

There was a stall at the back of Church with more information and all parishioners were given this reflection so they could prayerfully discern how they could contribute to the mission of the parish. After Mass the children received balloons with the word HOPE printed on them. In addition a new shared leadership team was set up along with a parish directory and a new weekly prayer group.



St Mary, Oswaldtwistle

- DEANERY LENTEN STATION MASS

The parish held their annual Deanery Lenten Station Mass attended by over 125 people from parishes within the Deanery area along with seven guest priests.

Other parishes were invited to share their individual skills and experiences with a view to recognising new possibilities and needs, and to share best practice while forming joint projects in the future.



Sacred Heart & St Francis, Gorton

- PENTECOST + PRAYER VIGIL

The Hope in the Future Team from the Parish of Sacred Heart and St Francis helped to organise a special liturgy and display celebrating the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost.

The team also arranged a prayer vigil to remember those who lost their lives at the Manchester Arena attack. The Church was open until 10:30pm so members of the parish could light a candle and pray for the victims and their families. The youth music group 'ambition' also performed a song.



Parish of the Holy Spirit, Manchester

- LENT RETREAT

During Lent the parish organised a retreat led by Fr Eamonn Mulcahy with the theme 'Journeying to Emmaus'. They marked Mothering Sunday remembering all the mothers in the parish who have died and a special blessing for all mothers in the parish with the children's liturgy singing 'More than enough' after Mass.

A group showed their support for International Women's Day by 'Pressing for Progress' promising to challenge stereotyping and bias in everyday life.



Formation Days On Mission + Evangelisation

We held 6 formation days for parish teams and clergy on Mission and Evangelisation.

These days were led by Fr Gerard Kelly and we received wonderful feedback. The day included times of prayer, small group discussion, talks on Missionary Discipleship and idea sharing. Over 500 people

attended these days in the various deaneries and attendees found the content inspiring and challenging. In June the talks were recorded onto DVD so parishes could share the talks with the wider parish for further discussion and group work.



Hope in the Future Launch in our Schools

On Tuesday 26th June 2018 over 800 school pupils joined us at St Mary's Bamber Bridge for a day of celebration of the GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) chaplaincy teams. Our GIFT chaplaincy teams are going from strength to strength with over 170 teams spread around the diocese. The teams are entrusted with a range of responsibilities in their schools including:

- Giving joyful witness of Christ in their school – missionary disciples.
- Assisting with the delivery and development of the prayer life of the school, supporting assemblies, worship, class prayer times and prayer groups.
- Developing and leading social justice activities in their school.
- Developing outreach work and supporting local, national and international charities – Caritas Diocese of Salford, CAFOD: working for change – being the change makers.



This celebration day is the fifth time schools across the diocese have all come together to celebrate the gifts and talents of our young people. This year's theme was Developing Parish Communities: 'Beacons of Hope'. Those present were invited to explore the ideas that surround the '7 steps from school to parish'. These steps aim to promote the closer involvement of our schools and young people in parish life.

The jam packed day saw activities in the morning including many of the schools sharing their gifts and talents in helping to build up the parish communities. Each school was asked to create a poster displaying their school as a Beacon of Hope for the local community. After a lunch in the sunshine, Bishop John celebrated a liturgy of Mission as we launched Hope in the Future in our schools.

Bishop John reminded all present that we are all ambassadors of Christ with our own purpose to fulfil. He went on to talk about the connectedness of Parishes and Schools, and that together, we can do great things to bring the energy of the Gospel to life as Missionary Disciples.

To evidence the link between our parishes and schools, each school was presented with a blessed San Damiano Cross. This echoes the launch event of Hope in the Future last October where each parish was also presented with the same image. During the service we also heard for the first time the new Hope in the Future hymn. It is hoped that each school will take the cross and the teachings of the day back to their schools and continue to be Beacons of Hope in the life of their parishes.



More information and resources available at:

[dioceseofsalford.org.uk/
parishes/school-links](http://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/parishes/school-links)

Developing Parish Communities

- 7 STEPS FROM SCHOOL TO PARISH



STEP 1 LINKING WITH THE COMMUNITY



STEP 2 TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE



STEP 3 UNDERSTANDING PARISH STRUCTURES



STEP 4 TAKING A LITURGICAL LEAD



STEP 5 LEADING PRAYER



STEP 6 FOSTERING SPIRITUAL GROWTH



STEP 7 JOINING THE TEAM

Music Ministry Training Day

On Saturday 14th July we hosted a Music Ministry Training Day at the Cathedral Centre for Singers, Organists, Musicians and Musical Directors from around the Diocese.

It was a joyful celebration with over 90 attendees representing most of our parishes.

The day began with a talk from Martin Barry, the Cathedral Director of Music, looking at why we sing at liturgical celebrations and some suggestions of best practice. After lunch there were workshops led by Daniel Bath, Nick Baty, Martin Barry and Anthony Hunt for instrumentalists, singers and organists.

The day finished with a Mass for musicians in the Cathedral celebrated by Fr Michael Jones. This was a real celebration with many joining the music group and others joining the large choir singing in parts.



Retreat for Parish Teams

On Saturday 22nd September we held a retreat at St Bede's College. The day was a chance to give thanks to God for all we achieved together during Stage 1 and an opportunity to 'refuel' and pray for inspiration for Stage 2. The day began with an opening liturgy. This was followed by a keynote address from Fr Chris Gorton who explored the theme 'Sowers of God's Word' (Luke 8:4-15). Fr Chris explained that this parable of Jesus underpins the whole programme. After lunch attendees were put into three small groups named after St John the Evangelist, St Teresa of Avila and St Francis of Assisi. Each group attended three different 'Prayer Experiences'. Fr Brendan led a session on the Jesuit prayer exercise 'the examen', Sr Brenda Matterson DC led a session on 'Personal Prayer' and Fr Gavin Landers led a session on 'Lectio Divina'. The retreat concluded with a Holy Hour led by Bishop John which included music, scripture and silence.



Caritas Update



Caritas has been working with parishes and schools to support the Hope in the Future Programme. Working with other charities in the Diocese Social Action Network (DiSAN) they have been providing opportunities for people to put their faith into action. In June 2018, Bishop

John joined the DiSAN meeting to share his vision for Hope in the Future encouraging the various charities to get involved. After the meeting a task and finish group was set up to plan events and resources to feed into the programme.

St Mary (The Hidden Gem), Manchester

Some of their achievements include:

- A team of volunteers assisting in English lessons for refugees/asylum seekers.
- A foodbank collection point in church which is then delivered fortnightly to the Lalley Centre and Cornerstone in rotation.
- 4 members who volunteer weekly at Cornerstone.
- A 'Buy a special Christmas Gift' initiative which raised over £10,000 for Cornerstone.
- The Big Sleep Out raising almost £2000.



St Michael and St Bernadette Parish, Whitefield

'Sponsor a Family' Community Sponsorship Scheme

"We have been together for a year. It has been a wonderful period of developing and deepening our friendships as well as reaching out to others in the wider community and learning so many new skills. There is a tangible atmosphere of love. We love each other, without love we can do nothing. This is even before our family has arrived from the refugee camp. We have secured a property in the heart of our community working with a housing association. Now, we are on to the second phase preparing for their arrival within the next couple of months, furnishing the home, repairing the garden, putting into place welfare and employment opportunities, preparing lessons to teach the parents English, working with the local authority to provide school places for the children, preparing welcome packs and when they arrive being with them to guide them safely to their new lives eventually promoting independence. It may seem daunting and we have achieved a lot so far but it has been step by step, great fun and always guided by the Caritas Sponsorship Community Scheme."

Felicity Brangan,
*Parish Caritas
Representative*



Looking Forward to Stage 2

Building on the firm foundations of prayer and formation in Stage 1, Stage 2 looks at developing the mission. The Church teaches that it is the mission of all people to proclaim the Gospel. Each of us have been given unique Gifts, Talents and Charisms from God and during this stage there will be events and resources to help you discern

how you can use these gifts for the development of the Parish.

Also key to Stage 2 is the shared leadership of the Parish. Each parish is asked to choose a model which works best for them so the priest and laity can work together in the building up of the Missionary Parish.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5



Hope in the Future Prayer

God our loving Father,

We thank you for blessing our parish with all that we need to respond to our vocation to be a missionary community in our locality.

We thank you for all our parish members who, in response to your call, give of themselves so freely to enrich our parish life in the ways of love and service.

We ask you now 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 as missionary disciples, bringing your Light to the world.

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

Amen.



*Please remember the Hope in the Future Programme
and your Parish in your Prayers.*

"The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelises, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters". This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented."

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 28



Join the Conversation

To share your ideas/feedback or for further information/support contact...

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