

DIOCESE OF SALFORD

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



To Hope in the Future Parish Teams

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your willingness to embrace the Hope in the Future initiative and to make it a going concern in your parishes. From what I am hearing you are all hard at work considering the ministries, gifts and talents presently in place and preparing to celebrate all that you are already achieving. There seems to be a lot of energy and enthusiasm within these groups and that can only have a positive effect on the rest of the parish.

Now that you have taken the first steps and set up a steering group it is essential that the people in that group have the help and resources they need to enable them and in turn, the rest of their parish community, to become truly missionary disciples.

To that end we have arranged a formation day for parish teams which will provide an opportunity to meet together and reflect on what it is to be missionary and what we mean by discipleship. The days will be led by Fr Gerard Kelly and will give people a chance to meet with other parish teams to share ideas and any concerns. There will be a chance for questions in the afternoon. Most importantly, the day will be a time of reflection where we can consider the part that the Holy Spirit plays in all that we are doing. Evangelisation must touch our hearts, becoming the engine that drives us forward in our mission, it is the Holy Spirit who gives us the courage to advance.

I am aware that people work in different styles and at different paces and you as a group will know what suits your parish best. We will send you regular messages and resources, copies of which are also available on the Diocesan website under the *Parishes* heading. I am certain that, with the amount of enthusiasm and talent within our Diocese, Hope in the Future will be a success and will only make our Diocese stronger and better prepared to face the future with whatever challenges it may bring.

With my thanks for all that you do and best wishes,

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

+John Arnold
Bishop of Salford

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