

DIOCESE OF SALFORD



HOPE IN THE FUTURE

# **‘REBUILDING PARISH COMMUNITIES’**

August 2021

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**The basic rule of a crisis is that you don't come out of it the same. If you get through it, you come out better or worse, but never the same.**

– POPE FRANCIS

@TheMillennialGrind

”

# INTRODUCTION FROM BISHOP JOHN

My dear brothers and sisters,

In September 2020, the resource '*Rebuild My Church – Ways forward in difficult times*' was distributed as we sought to navigate the fast changing situation of the pandemic. I continue to pray for the people of the Diocese during this challenging time.

Since then, there has been further easing of restrictions and this resource is to assist clergy and lay teams in Rebuilding Parish Communities after much disruption. It will take true collaborative and synodal leadership, time, and discernment to rebuild our parishes to be outward facing, missionary beacons of hope in the community.

Firstly, may I pay tribute to the leadership of our priests during this difficult time and the dedication of volunteers who have kept our churches safe and moved so much of parish life online.

There are many suggestions in this resource, but it will be up to parish communities to discern which aspects of parish life should be resumed and which shouldn't. This work will need to be done in stages and priests and parish teams should take care to look after themselves too.

Parishes will need to welcome back parishioners who may have been away for some time and reach out to those who have come into contact with the Church through our online presence. There are some resources below which may help with this.

In his book, *Let us Dream – the path to a better future*, Pope Francis challenges us to dream a fairer and stronger Church and World. We will explore some of the Holy Fathers reflections in this resource.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021, we will launch Stage 4 of our Hope in the Future journey, focussing on 'Proclaiming the Good News' in the form of a Holy Hour locally in parishes; further information and resources will follow. However, for now, this season of Rebuilding Parish Communities will be essential preparation for this next stage.

This resource is designed to be a 'living document' to help individuals and communities as we rebuild and strengthen our Faith and our communities while we emerge from the pandemic. This resource will be regularly updated on the Diocesan website.

Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.

+ John

**Bishop John Arnold**

**“For I know the plans I have for you,”  
declares the Lord,  
“plans to prosper you and not to harm  
you, plans to give you hope and a future.”**  
*Jeremiah 29:11*



## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

During this difficult time, it is important we look after our own mental health and support those around us with acts of kindness. Here are some links you may find useful:

[Mental Health Foundation – Kindness Matters Guide](#)

[Every Mind Matters](#)

[Mind – For Better Mental Health](#)

[Premier Christian Helpline](#) (to speak or for prayer) or call 0300 111 0101

[Mental Health First Aiders](#)



## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & RESOURCES

During lockdown, many families have experienced bereavements and haven't been able to give their loved ones the funeral service they would have liked to. Some parishes may wish to arrange individual memorial services or hold a joint service; ideally this would be in November when the Church remembers especially the faithful departed but that will need to be planned nearer the time to take account of any ongoing restrictions or to be held virtually.

[Funeral Guidance Notes](#)

[Archdiocese of Liverpool Bereavement Resources](#)

[The Art of Dying Well](#)

[Cruse](#)

[Support for Young People - Winston's Wish](#)

## SHARED LEADERSHIP & PASTORAL PLANNING

In April 2019, parishes were invited to establish a Shared Leadership Team. Shared Leadership will be essential in supporting priests in the task of Rebuilding Parish Communities which are synodal and mission orientated. All teams are tasked with advising and supporting the Parish Priest.

You may use any of the suggested models, a combination of models or a different model. Resources to help with this are below. If you would like a facilitator to help set up a Shared Leadership Team in your parish, please email [hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk).

[Shared Leadership Models – At a Glance](#)

[Setting up a Shared Leadership Team Guide & Videos](#)

[Vision & Mission Statements](#)

[Parish Review](#)

[Mission Action Plan Template](#)

If your parish is not receiving regular Hope in the Future updates, please email [hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) to ensure we have your most up to date contact details.

## DISCERNING PRIORITIES

Parish teams have the opportunity to reflect on which aspects of parish life should be resumed and which shouldn't. These questions, along with discussion and prayer, may help with discernment.

- What has been lost during lockdown which must stay lost?
- What has been lost during lockdown which we must regain?
- What has been gained that must be retained or developed?

**“Though one may be overpowered,  
two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”**  
*Ecclesiastes 4:12*

# COVID-19 GUIDANCE

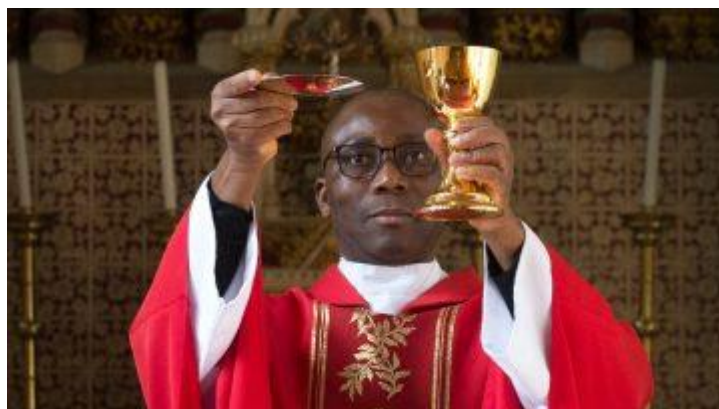
## A note from Bishop John – July 2021

Almost the whole of the Diocese of Salford is still in a high infection region, and I am inclined to suggest that – having established very good practices in the use of our churches – we change little for the time being. There would seem to be good sense in reducing the social distancing required in churches and the sanitising of the church after each service but the wearing of face-masks, hand sanitising, communion in the hand, and controlled movement of the congregation to communion would seem to remain very sensible measures with which we are all now very accustomed. I would personally feel doubtful about the benefits of any congregational singing even if face masks are being worn. Cantors and choirs can provide the singing for the present.

I am urging all adults, who are able to do so, to be vaccinated. Pope Francis has reminded people of the duty to be vaccinated if they are able. The Church is clear that all Catholics can take any of the vaccines on offer with a clear conscience. Even if you are at a low risk of becoming seriously ill, being vaccinated will lower the risk of transmitting the virus to somebody else who might then have a severe reaction or even die. It is particularly important that those in our parishes, clergy and lay-people who visit those who are housebound or otherwise vulnerable are vaccinated.

**This guidance will be updated regularly as the situation changes.**

*Step 4 Guidance for Communal Worship during the COVID-19 Pandemic from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is available on the following link. This is national guidance and should be read in the light of the local guidance from Bishop John for our Diocese - [www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/)*





# PREPARATION & CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1. As with so many aspects of parish life, the present situation provides us with an opportunity to pause and to take stock. Rather than rushing to 'catch up' and 'get back on track' as it were, it is worth taking the time to look at the way we were doing things before lockdown, what we have learnt during lockdown and, therefore, what we might do differently.
2. The key message is not to overcrowd the parish and yourselves with a 'catching up' that is overly burdensome. Plan on using the whole year, or more, to catch up rather than cramming it into a single term. Remember that there will also be other pressures on your time plus much needed time to recharge your own batteries.
3. As part of the planning of how to restart/renew the preparation for the sacraments, we invite you to reflect on four key dispositions, which are found here ([www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Our-Dispositions-Guiding-Principles.pdf](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Our-Dispositions-Guiding-Principles.pdf))

## THE PREPARATION & CELEBRATION OF FIRST RECONCILIATION/EUCHARIST

1. No two parishes will be in the same place as we emerge from the restrictions. Some parishes have been able to offer on-line, family-based or school-based catechesis to the current Year 3, as well as completing the cohort who were being prepared when lockdown occurred (the current year 4). Other parishes have not been able to continue with First Communion catechesis at all and have still to complete the preparation of that first cohort.
2. Please note that educational activities for children can now take place indoors. Please ensure, if you are using Parish Rooms or the Parish Hall, that you have read the [separate guidance on Parish Halls](#).
3. There are resources available to promote family-based catechesis which employs a balance of communal meetings and home-based activities (<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/sacraments/first-communion/>). Many parishes have found '[Heart speaks to Heart](#)' to be an engaging resource. It is available from the [Cathedral Bookshop](#).
4. It would be sensible to assess whether to return to large First Communion Masses. Many families have appreciated the more devout nature and personal touch that has been achieved when children and their close family have been invited to celebrate the First Communion at one of the regular parish Masses.
5. If you have two cohorts still needing to prepare for or make their First Communions, then the following is a possible way of accommodating that situation without cramming too much into a short time:

### Cohort 1 (2020-21/Current Y3s)

September 2021 – February 2022: preparation takes place, making their First Holy Communion in February 2022.

### Cohort 2 (2021-22/Current Y2s)

March 2022 – July 2022: preparation takes place, making their First Holy Communion in July 2022 (which is when they are due to make it). Alternatively, it

might be possible to combine both cohorts, if the number of families makes that possible.

6. For further support please email [formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) or join the closed Catechists Group on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/groups/2263934637234008](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2263934637234008)

## **PREPARATION FOR & THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

1. Where young people have been prepared, parish priests and priests-in-charge have been given the faculty by Bishop John to celebrate the Sacrament.
2. Where catechesis has yet to begin, there are some excellent resources available on the Diocesan website ([www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/sacraments/confirmation/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/sacraments/confirmation/)) These resources can be used via zoom or for a face to face course, or as a mixture of both.
3. Confirmation preparation is an excellent opportunity for parishes to work together.
4. In recruiting catechists for Confirmation, whether via zoom or face to face sessions, you must follow the rules on safe recruiting. If you need advice, please contact the Safeguarding Office.
5. Confirmations take place either during the regular Sunday Mass or at a separate celebration. The anointing should still be administered using a cotton bud or small ball of cotton wool (one per candidate). So as not to prolong the celebrations you may wish to celebrate the Sacrament outside of Mass.



**“May your love be upon us O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you”**

*Psalm 32:22*



# SUNDAY – IT IS OUR DAY

## *Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England*

On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission were rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there remains an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales operates a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

**It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021.**

In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled The Day of the Lord. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.”

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of The Day of the Lord.



*You may like to consider a campaign to welcome back parishioners who have not yet returned for this special season.*

# REFLECTION: THE DAY OF THE LORD

*From the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales*

Gathering as Bishops in Conference this week, we wish to pay tribute to all in the Catholic community who have shown such courage, generosity and understanding in the face of adversity this past year. Across England and Wales, families and parish communities have risen to the challenge of sustaining one another through times of great isolation, loneliness and grief in an impressive variety of ways, spiritual, emotional and practical. We thank all who have worked tirelessly in prisons, in hospitals, care-homes and across the medical profession for giving of themselves so generously. We thank all who have worked valiantly in our schools, facing unforeseen demands and meeting them with characteristic professionalism and dedication.

We wish also to pay tribute to those who have given of their time and energy to keep open our churches as havens of peace and prayer. Churches up and down the land have realised the vision of Pope Francis that they be like village-wells where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey; and centres of “constant missionary outreach.” We thank all who have developed diverse new patterns of outreach – of prayer, catechesis, study and spiritual solidarity; all who have made participation in the Mass possible through the internet.

Also prominent in this tribute should be thanks to all who have contributed to the immense effort of providing food for those most in need. The generosity shown in the distribution of so very many meals has given eloquent expression to the mercy, love and compassion which are at the very heart of God. Many have been touched by the joy of meeting Christ in the poor; and many of the poor by the joy of meeting Christ in selfless parishioners. The provision of food is often the first step into a deeper relationship of help and accompaniment, including the sharing of the gift of faith in our Blessed Lord.

‘Vibrant’ is a word which seems to have characterised so many of our parishes throughout the pandemic. We wish to salute our priests in particular for the leadership they have shown in this time of crisis. We thank them for their deep devotion to both the liturgy and to their parishioners. We commend every priest who made of his parish “a ‘sanctuary’ open to all” and with a particular care for the poor; and the many Deacons who have exercised with such generosity their mission of charity.

What will be the pace of our emerging from this pandemic remains as yet unclear. What is clear is the challenge we face of bringing our communities and the practice of the faith to a still greater expression and strength. As your bishops, we are aware of a threefold pattern to this challenge.

**a) There are the fearful and weary, anxious about coming into the enclosed spaces of our churches; those who have simply lost the habit of coming to church. Personal contact, clear reassurance, and sensitive invitations will all be needed.**

**b) There are those who will have reassessed their pattern of life and priorities. The practice of faith within the community of the Catholic Church may not be among those priorities. A gap may have opened up, or widened, between the spiritual dimension of their lives and any communal expression of that spiritual quest. They represent a particular focus and concern for our outreach.**

**c) There are those whom we might describe as the ‘Covid curious’, those who have come into contact with the Catholic Church through our presence on the internet – a contact we may be able to develop through our continuing presence across diverse media platforms.**

In facing these challenges, we are endowed with veritable treasures which serve to resource and enrich us. Among them are our schools, in which so many are regaining confidence to come together with others. We believe our schools can indeed be bridges back to church. There is also the remarkable work of social outreach which has grown exponentially during these long months of pandemic. On this, too, we must build. But the greatest treasure is, of course, the sacramental life of the Church, and, pre-eminently, the Eucharist.

It is the Eucharist, the celebration of the Mass, that makes the Church; and it is the Church, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, which makes the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the lifeblood of the Church. It requires our active participation and, to be fully celebrated, our physical presence.

At this moment, then, we need to have in our sights the need to restore to its rightful centrality in our lives the Sunday Mass, encouraging each to take his or her place once again in the assembly of our brothers and sisters. We face the task of seeking to nurture the sense of Sunday as “a weekly gift from God to his people”, and something we cannot do without; to see Sunday as the soul of the week, as giving light and meaning to all the responsibilities we live out each day; to see the Sunday Eucharist as food for the unique mission with which we have been endowed.

In the time to come we can do no better than to rekindle in our hearts, foster and encourage, a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord and the practice of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, a gift so deeply appreciated in these times of lockdown. We need to begin by fostering this in ourselves. For the Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.

The invitation to Sunday Mass resonates all the more deeply when we consider, as Pope St John Paul II reminds us in the Encyclical Letter *Dies Domini*, that the Sabbath rest is nothing if not a call to remember the gift of God’s Creation. The Eucharist is indeed a celebration of the created world, called into life by the Eternal Word, for the bread and wine of the earth becomes the Body and Blood of Christ who is that same Lord of all life. The Christ to whom we come so close in the Eucharist must be the foundation of our strivings, not least in the urgent task we face of caring for creation and our environment.

Pope St John Paul II spoke of our amazement at the gift of the Mass and the abiding Presence of our Blessed Lord in the Sacrament of the Altar. Herein lies our treasure, enriching our relationship with Jesus and bringing together every aspect of our life and mission. This is such an important focus for our task in the coming months.



## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

Parish Hope in the Future teams, along with other volunteers, will be key in supporting the rebuilding of parish life. Here are some questions to think about:

- Do we have a team in place to ensure visitors are welcomed safely?
- After the need for stewards, how can we show our gratitude to stewards and see if they could form a team of welcomers/ushers at Mass?
- Could we continue to provide occasions of online streaming for the housebound of the parish encouraging those who can attend in person to do so?
- How can we support our priest in arranging a large number of baptisms, memorial services and first holy communions?
- Can any online formation/family catechesis, which has worked well, continue?
- Can we improve our communications strategy and compile a parishioner database so we can communicate with them if a similar situation should arise again? (Needs to comply with GDPR requirements which are available [here](#).)
- Can we encourage people to set up [planned giving](#) and to [gift aid](#) their donation? Could a 'donate' button be added to our website linking people to [this webpage](#) ([https://www.mygivinghub.com/detailed/donate?charity\\_id=1086324&type=2](https://www.mygivinghub.com/detailed/donate?charity_id=1086324&type=2))?

*Divine Renovation have produced a reopening toolkit.  
A blank template which may assist parishes to plan (using local  
government/diocesan guidance) can be found [here \(on page 50\)](#).*

## THE WELCOME WE GIVE

If your parish would like a printed PVC welcome banner, please email [hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) so we could enquire about printing costs, which will depend on the number of orders received. The design would be a generic welcome; however, parishes may wish to get their own designs printed with a parish logo. Welcome graphics could also be added to parish websites and social media to welcome back those who have been away for a while and to welcome new members.



## VIRTUAL TO IN PERSON

*“There was the remarkable opinion poll result that stated that, prior to the pandemic, 4% of the nation attended religious services and now it is about 25%, by electronic means. If that is true, we may well have a wonderful challenge of welcoming newcomers to our churches when they re-open.”*

**Bishop John Arnold**

Here are some suggested ways to invite those who have been following Mass online to attend in person, especially those who had not been regular church goers:

- At the end of your streamed Mass (on Facebook, YouTube, website or similar) create and display a slide saying ‘We hope you enjoyed our streamed Mass. Why not visit us in person at (address) for these Masses (Mass times)? We would be delighted to welcome you to our parish community.’
- Produce a short video/slideshow (30-60 seconds) which showcases parish life and has a similar message to above.
- Share the above messages on your website, newsletter and social media and send by email/text to any contacts on your parish database.
- For those who have little understanding of the Christian faith, guide them to an online/in person [Alpha course](#) (or similar).



## MAXIMISING OUR IMPACT

Thousands of people have contact with our parishes through schools, the sacraments, key points in the Church's year and key points in people's lives. How can we give them a positive experience of the Church, so they want to become active members of our parishes? Here are some examples:

- **A warm, non-judgmental welcome:**
  - Visitors are greeted at the door with a smile and shown to available seating.
  - They are handed a hymn book and service sheet explaining the order of the service and when to sit/stand/kneel.
  - Volunteers are on hand to show where the toilets are.
  - Regular parishioners smile and speak to visitors and are not precious about seating.
- **Engaging liturgy:**
  - The presider welcomes the visitors and makes them feel at ease.
  - Homilies are kerygmatic, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus and not presuming this is already known. They have the fundamental message that God loves them and what it means for their lives.
  - The principles from Stage 3 for readers, music ministers and eucharistic ministers apply here too.
- **Invitation:**
  - Provide your visitors with a welcome flyer with the times of weekend Masses, prayer groups and social activities during the week and ways they can be received into the Church.
  - Parishioners are encouraged to invite non-church going family and friends to key points in the Church's year such as Christmas and Easter.
  - Use social media/websites/local press to advertise special celebrations and submit news stories to celebrate the event afterwards.
  - If your church is in a busy area, could you run Nightfever, Eucharistic Adoration with pointers for those who want to learn more about the faith?
  - Invite visitors to take part in the next Alpha course or other adult faith opportunities.

## A HOLY PEOPLE OF PRAYER & SERVICE

*"For Barnabas was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith, and a large number of people were won over to the Lord" Acts 11:24*

In order to be authentic witnesses for the Lord we need to be a people of integrity, prayer and service so people will see the Spirit working in our lives and give glory to God.

As a parish can we offer Eucharistic Adoration on a regular basis?

As a parish team, do we spend time in regular prayer alone and together?

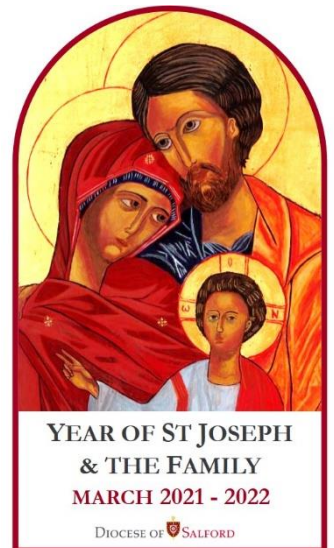
This is the fuel for our mission.

During the pandemic, so many parishioners have reached out to those in need and isolated in our communities. Could your parish continue to be a beacon of hope through social action in collaboration with [Caritas Diocese of Salford](#)? Perhaps the parish eucharistic ministers could continue to visit the housebound and lonely, connecting them to online Masses, bringing a copy of the weekend readings and newsletters and ensuring them of the parishes prayers and asking them to pray for the parish.



# THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH & THE FAMILY

Pope Francis has asked the Church to celebrate a special year for St Joseph and the Family. In our Diocese we are celebrating this from **March 2021-2022**. We have produced several resources for Families, Schools & Parishes to celebrate the Year of St Joseph & The Family available here [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/stjosephandthefamily/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/stjosephandthefamily/)



## Prayer at Home - Prayer Focus



God is present in each member of our family, especially when we pray together. At the back of this resource (<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-2022-THE-YEAR-OF-ST-JOSEPH-AND-THE-FAMILY-ST-JOSEPH-2.pdf>) there is a special gift to you from Bishop John to help you to pray at Home. You may wish to print as one page, then cut out and stick together or print back-to-back.

You could put this prayer focus in a special place, along with any other prayer cards, a cross and a light, reflecting on the images and praying for each other.

When you close the prayer focus, the Cross on the left door is the image for Hope in the Future in our Diocese. Jesus asks us and St Francis to 'Rebuild His Church'.

Bishop John invites us to say our Diocesan prayer each day asking God to 'Stay with us on our Journey' which is shown on the right door. The image on the inside in the centre shows the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary & Joseph) which is a reflection of the Holy Trinity and your family. The icon on the front is of the Holy Trinity painted by Andrei Rublev. Notice there is a space at the table for you and your family to join God in prayer.

© 2021 – The Holy Family of Bethlehem by Fr Chris Gorton, Cross at San Damiano and the Trinity by Andrei Rublev Andrei Rublev, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



# REFRESHERS FOR MINISTRIES

## Altar Servers

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/video-for-altar-servers-made-to-help-rebuild-confidence/>

## Ministers of the Word

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sZ-rl4\\_FLI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sZ-rl4_FLI)

## Eucharistic Ministers

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7HtMqho3rM&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7HtMqho3rM&feature=emb_title)

## Music Ministry

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/hope/resources/>

# WHICH PARISH?

In certain areas there have been several new housing developments. Could your parish reach out to new housing estates or apartments welcoming them to your parish by adding the links below to your website or creating a welcome leaflet?

Search which parish you are in from your postcode here

[https://boundaries.stjosephsmanchester.co.uk/?page=parish\\_postcode](https://boundaries.stjosephsmanchester.co.uk/?page=parish_postcode)

Find Mass times and Contact Details here (under Churches)

[www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/directory/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/directory/)

# LOOKING FORWARD TO STAGE 4

In Stage 4 of our Hope in the Future journey, we will be focussing on 'Proclaiming the Good News', reflecting on how we can develop links between our schools, parishes, and families and how we can help those who come into contact with our parishes through the celebrations of baptism, weddings, funerals, RCIA, and Christmas and Easter Liturgies to experience the Good News of Jesus Christ.

There will be a renewed focus on evangelisation, catechesis, and lifelong faith formation.

During this Stage, may we be prepared to be outward facing, joyful, courageous ambassadors of Christ bringing his Good News to those around us.

If it helps with your planning, there are some Development Suggestions available [here](#) which will be explored further in the Stage 4 resources.



## FURTHER RESOURCES

[Divine Renovation Resource Pack \(Ministering in the new reality\)](#)

[Catholicism in the time of Coronavirus - Stephen Bullivant \(Free PDF book\)](#)

[Engaging Seekers Video – Fr James Mallon & Sherry Weddell](#)

[Life after the Pandemic – Pope Francis \(Free PDF book\)](#)

[Hope in the Future Resources](#)

[Home, School, Parish Links](#)

[Stage 3 Celebration Booklet](#)

[Parish Guide to Disability \(produced by Catholic Disability Fellowship with Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, USA\)](#)

“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***

## INSPIRING WORDS FROM LET US DREAM

1. To come out of this crisis better, we have to see clearly, choose well, and act right. Let's talk about how. Let us dare to dream.
2. We must redesign the economy so that it can offer every person access to a dignified existence while protecting and regenerating the natural world.
3. What is the greatest fruit of a personal crisis? I'd say patience, sprinkled with a healthy sense of humor, which allows us to endure and make space for change to happen.
4. When I speak of change I mean that those people who are now on the edges become the means of changing society.
5. We do not possess the truth so much as the truth possesses us, constantly attracting us by means of beauty and goodness.
6. Sin is a rejection of the limits that love requires.
7. Our greatest power is not in the respect that others have for us, but the service we can offer others.

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

To share your ideas and feedback, contact:



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