

FORMING
MISSIONARY DISCIPLES
BUILDING
MISSIONARY PARISHES



STAGE 3
LIVING THE
SUNDAY EUCHARIST

OCTOBER
2019 - 2020

Introduction

When we gathered in the Cathedral on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi last October to launch Stage 3 of Hope the Future, which focussed on the celebration of the Eucharist, we could not have imagined that only a few months later we would be without easy access to the Sacrament itself.

The closure of churches and inability to physically participate at Mass this year, due to restrictions imposed during the pandemic, has been felt deeply by many parishioners. We have been invited to join in spiritual communion, a long-standing tradition in the Church, where we place ourselves in the Mass that is being offered, either by watching a live stream or in our own prayer time. While there have been many initiatives to celebrate our parish communities, the restricted access to the Sacraments, our churches and the parish community events was a time of loss for us all.

Many have seen the opportunity to reflect on their own faith journey and how they could incorporate Church at Home and strengthen a personal spirituality.

With some restrictions easing, we need to be bold in reflecting on how

we want to renew and rebuild our sense of Church, parish and Faith.

In September we began a period of discernment and reflection to assess what we have learnt during these challenging times and, drawing on that knowledge, how we can plan for a brighter “new normal”.

On 4th October, the day we have usually chosen to launch the next stage of our Diocesan journey, we held a Holy Hour praying for all those who have died, suffered and are grieving because of the pandemic. We gave thanks to God for all the good works during this time and prayed for guidance for Stage 4.

When the time is right, we will launch Stage 4 of our Hope in the Future journey as we focus on ‘Proclaiming the Good News’. This will provide us with the space to ask ourselves how we can continue to be ambassadors for Christ in a world which is everchanging.

I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you.

Stay with us, Lord, on Our Journey.

+John



“During these challenging days, we have had to be a missionary Church in different ways. It has been wonderful to see so many parishes live streaming Masses, offering online formation, and providing acts of service to their communities. As churches reopen, we have a wonderful challenge of welcoming newcomers to our parishes.”

Bishop John Arnold

Journeying Forward

A Celebration of Mission

In October parish representatives from around our diocese gathered for a Mass of Celebration to launch the Third Stage of Hope in the Future. This was the first time that the launch of one of the stages has been celebrated by a Mass, this is because the Third Stage focuses on Living the Sunday Eucharist. During the launch, and through this stage, we reflected on how the weekend liturgy is, in a real sense, the shop window for the parish. Speaking ahead of the launch Bishop John said: "I am certainly convinced that carefully prepared and prayerfully celebrated Masses are of great benefit to people's spiritual development and we owe it to ourselves to regularly review how we celebrate Mass and involve people both in their ministries and their participation."

The congregation were joined by a choir made up from members of the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, English Martyrs Church in Urmston and pupils from Sacred Heart Primary, Westhoughton. The choir helped bring the cathedral to life with hymns.

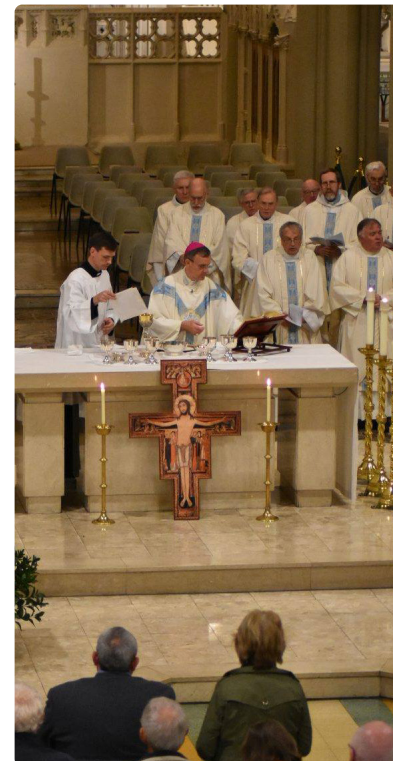
In his homily Bishop John reminded us that when we come together for Mass we are the Body of Christ come together. Bishop John went on to ask how we prepare for Mass:

"If someone were to say 'Would you like to meet Pope Francis?' 'Would you like to meet Queen Elizabeth?', we would smarten up; we would be quite tense and ready for that. What an exciting occasion, something we prepare for. But we are not just meeting Pope Francis or the Queen. We are receiving the Lord himself. I know it, I say it, but does it make an impact in my life? Does it mean I am preparing as best I can to receive the Lord?"

He then reminded us why Stage Three is so important to us all:

"We can think again and absorb the enormity of what we do every time we celebrate the Eucharist. It is a chance for us to see the importance. I believe this is a very important year for all of us, whoever we are. I see it as crucial in developing Hope in the Future in this diocese, with the Eucharist at the centre of what we do."

You can listen to Bishop John's Homily [here](#) or read the homily [here](#). Those present were given a Mass booklet that they could take away as a resource (you can view this [here](#)). Extra notes were provided to help us all understand the structure and richness of the Mass. Other resources for Stage Three include a [Children's Mass Sheet](#) and training days. All the resources and training dates can be found [here](#).



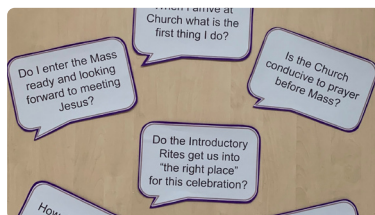
Around the Parishes in Stage 3

Across the Diocese of Salford, parishes have been embracing Stage 3 of Hope in the Future. Here are just a few examples of good practice from parishes and deaneries in our diocese.

St Mary & St Philip Neri, Radcliffe

- MEETING JESUS IN OUR WELCOME

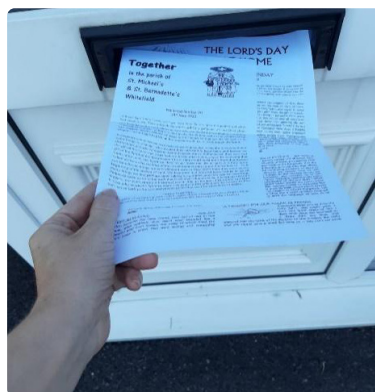
The parish of St Mary and St Philip Neri made a display exploring the reflection questions on the first [Pastoral Message & Worksheet](#) on Meeting Jesus in our Welcome, encouraging the assembly to think about the Introductory Rites of Mass.



St Michael and St Bernadette, Whitefield

- ONLINE & COMMUNITY PRESENCE

The parish have strengthened their online presence by developing a new parish website & Facebook page, both incorporating the Hope In The Future Initiative. Their Parish Pastoral Team has been a beacon of hope through these troubled times by delivering newsletters to those who were shielding, organising virtual coffee mornings and stewarding for the reopening of church which has given parishioners the confidence in returning to Mass. They also arranged for the children of the parish to read the Sunday Gospel and to decorate the church doors for the Month of Mary and the Month of the Sacred Heart. Both churches also have a



Hope in the future display to keep parishioners up to date with the programme.

Our Lady & St. Patrick's, Oldham

- FAITH OF OUR FATHERS II

The parish of Our Lady & St. Patrick's, Oldham produced a 150 year anniversary booklet celebrating all that they have achieved over that time which you can view [here](#).



St Cuthbert, Bolton

- ONLINE PRAYER & FORMATION

During the lockdown, the parish continued to reach out with daily live streaming of Mass and Exposition; with an online presence offering An Ignatian Parish Retreat; three virtual Pilgrimages (Lourdes, Rome, The Holy Land) and daily prayers. Through video they shone a Light of Hope by passing on a lighted candle from person to person. For the children they produced online readings, messages and building a home prayer corner. Fr Chris with Joshua and Woolly engaged with the younger ones. For the Youth there were online special messages and guided meditation. Through Zoom there were coffee mornings, a Quiz Night and a Talent Show. Funds were raised for Bolton Hospice from a home sale of hanging baskets and food donations continued to be collected to support Urban Outreach. All this gave a strong link and a bond both within the parish and beyond.



The Parish of
St CUTHBERT



This rich resource will be available to help people pray long after the lockdown.

You can view it [here](#).

St John Vianney Deanery,

- STRUNG SUNG SUPPER

A number of people from parishes in the Deanery of St John Vianney (Burnley Deanery) took part in the Strung Sung Supper at St Joseph's Hall Accrington on 17th January 2020. Over 150 people from parishes in the Deanery attended and thoroughly enjoyed singing an eclectic range of popular and folk songs professionally accompanied by seminarian, Luke Bradbury, Fr David Featherstone and a number of other musicians. The stars of the evening were the audience as they all had been given song sheets to sustain the singing. Among the highlights were two traditional Lancashire folk songs from the Burnley Cloggers as well as an unforgettable rendition of "Bring me sunshine" led on guitar by Fr Pat Tansey. They also welcomed a group of adults with additional needs from a local care home who were delighted to share in the evening. A wonderful hot supper was provided and those present had an opportunity to meet with other parishioners and priests of the Deanery. Funds raised at the event are to be donated to two local causes and to a school in Kenya. The band were really pleased to be asked for an encore at the end so it looks like this will be the first of many such gatherings in East Lancashire.



Christ the Redeemer, Bolton

- ONLINE FORMATION, PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

During lockdown, the parish moved their weekly online prayer group virtually with praise and worship, scripture study and discussion. They also arranged an online Alpha course watching the weekly video together and going into breakout rooms to discuss. Each Saturday there was a virtual coffee morning followed by the rosary on Zoom.

**Pause Netflix.
Try Alpha Online**

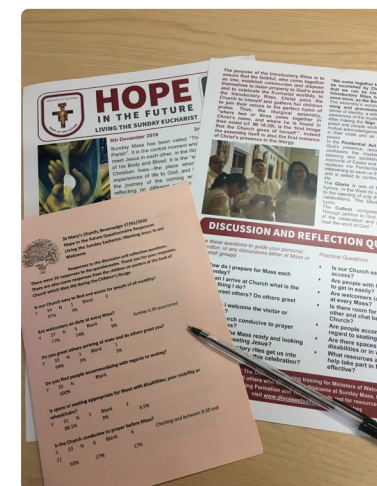


**Starting Wednesday 27th May
7:15pm – 8:30pm on Zoom**

St Mary, Bamber Bridge

- MEETING JESUS IN OUR WELCOME

The mission team at St Mary's in Bamber Bridge asked parishioners to complete a questionnaire in response to the first pastoral message and worksheet on how we Meet Jesus in our Welcome. The responses were compiled and shared with the rest of the parish to help with planning to improve the parish's welcome. A similar process will be arranged for the other three pastoral messages.



St James and All Souls, Salford

- ALPHA AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT

The parish of St James and All Souls moved the remainder of their Alpha course online which proved very successful. A team of 'Guardian Angels' provided practical and emotional support for vulnerable and shielding parishioners. The parish also streamed Masses, Holy Hours and are planning a virtual healing service. The parish have recently formed a Senior Leadership Team and are working closely with Divine Renovation on a journey of



renewal tying to respond to Pope Francis' invitation to be missionary disciples in a missionary parish.

St Margaret Clitherow, Rochdale

- DEVOTIONS, VOCATIONS & FIRESIDE CHATS

The parish was blessed to have an online presence with the livestreaming of Masses even before lockdown. This came into full use after churches needed to close with livestreaming Masses and other devotions. During Vocations Week, together with Theo Sharrock, a seminarian for the diocese, the parish were able to broadcast a series of talks to encourage vocations. The webcam coupled with the parish Facebook page has helped to keep the community together in these difficult times. Fr Francis Wadsworth has tried to keep spirits up with his fireside chats and cookery demonstrations. During the Virtual Pilgrimage to Lourdes Theo and Fr Francis were able to bring the diocesan family



together with recitations of the Rosary from the Grotto in the grounds of Holy Family Church.

St Vincent de Paul, Bolton

- LIFE IN LOCKDOWN - BUILDING FAITH AND COMMUNITY

Since lockdown, the parish has streamed Mass each day. Attendance has been great with a lively conversation taking place about the ongoing liturgy, its meaning and importance in this difficult time for many. Parishioners were involved in preparing readings at home sending them in by video. Youth groups from local parishes joined in to read for a week. This gave a real feeling of being involved at home and not just watching. Parishioners from other parishes in the Deanery who had no live stream of their own joined the stream and this meant information could be passed on from other parishes. Key worker children from St Bernard's School also prepared stations of the cross and decorations for the May altar. Services were streamed over Holy Week involving different participants. Children also had their children's liturgy online once a month. The parish ongoing formation programme did not stop with the CaFE programme "Let it be" being run online. A small group was set up to gather names and contacts of people who did not have online access and through their families found ways to allow them to participate online. Where that was not possible, designated contacts rang each week to chat and keep parishioners up to date on developments from the Church. In this period of time, communication



over Facebook and an email newsletter grew. The parish also put on some social events via Zoom. A coffee morning and Afternoon Tea, as well as a talent competition were among the choices made. It's amazing that this time apart has brought the community closer together. A lot of the work during this lockdown will become a great platform for moving on in the community to a new normal.

St Ambrose Barlow, Swinton and Pendlebury

- BRINGING THE PARISH TOGETHER AROUND THE SCREEN

During 'liturgical lockdown' the parish were keen to provide online Mass and reflections, whilst keeping a sense of community using video conferencing. This encouraged active participation so parishioners could join in with the responses, see each other and proclaim the Scriptures and Bidding Prayers. In less than forty-eight hours one parishioner had contacted parish email subscribers and another was busy working out the technical bits and pieces. In that space of time they were able to gather a 'congregation' of over sixty, some of those sixty representing whole families. As well as celebrating Mass, Father Paul continues to record a daily reflection for



Facebook, accessible via the parish website. This is surely a reminder that times of great crisis can be times of great grace. Social media can surely become a great grace.

Holy Trinity, Worsley

- DIGITAL MISSIONARIES

During the pandemic, the parish became experts in 'Zooming'! Since the early days of lockdown, Fr John Dale zoomed Masses daily, with Exposition for quiet prayer each evening. On Sundays, the Rosary and Benediction were zoomed also. Email has been a blessing with Fr John sending out a daily newsletter and a weekly parish bulletin with the 'Lords Day at Home'. Parish groups continued to meet online including the Bereavement Group, SVP, Ecology Group, and the Poetry Group.



Contact was maintained with the isolated and vulnerable members of the parish by 'phone or socially-distanced visits.

St Catherine of Siena and St Ambrose, Didsbury & Chorlton

- OFFERING HOPE IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Once lockdown started, a team of parishioners stepped up to share their gifts to serve the community. A team of technical 'experts' helped in updating the website, managing social media accounts from scratch, and editing and uploading streamed Masses to YouTube on Sundays and other special occasions. It immediately became a whole parish effort, as the editing team were able to drop in readers, musicians, and the children's liturgy group to each Mass. Mass was also offered for those without the internet via a phone number. The highlight of the contribution made by the children and families was a 'Families Stations of the Cross' video which was aired on Good Friday. The parish clergy also recorded videos regularly to provide some spiritual nourishment and formation, as well as to maintain contact with people. They ranged from 'God in Culture', 'Grill the Priest' and a series of catechesis about the Mass. The parish also developed the links with their schools by streaming several Masses with St Catherine's Primary, and a Year 11 Leavers' Mass with the Barlow High. The Caritas Ambassadors at St Catherine's also wrote letters to many parishioners to cheer them up. A team of parents from the primary school volunteered to be



on standby to help anyone who requested help, as well as spreading the word about any projects that needed help, especially Cornerstone. One of their most popular social media campaigns was to fill the church with 'selfies.' Parishioners were asked to send a 'selfie' which was printed and placed on each chair, filling the whole church with a 'virtual congregation,' which certainly helped the priests when celebrating Mass in an empty church. All this was noticed by BBC North West Tonight, and that exposure helped to reach out to the wider community and be a beacon of hope. This was shown on an ecumenical and deanery level when several people from other local Christian and Catholic churches wrote to thank the parish for the hope offered in difficult times.

St Edward, Lees

- STAY DISTANT, STAY SAFE

Since March 2020, Masses have been streamed each weekend. Twenty-five stewards supported Fr Callum at daily Mass. Fr. John provided thought provoking weekly reflection on the Sunday readings and weekly prayer intentions were shared online. An outdoor socially distanced Prayer Service for Year 6 pupils was led by Fr Callum followed by a blessing for all St Edward's pupils and staff. Rainbow cards were sent from school to vulnerable parishioners. Families in need were supported by the priests of the parish, SVP, St Edward's PTA and the School Pastoral Lead. Hope in the Future and CAFOD information was shared online with the parish community, e.g. coronavirus emergency appeal and online talks and



discussions. Virtual meetings were held with Finance, Buildings & Maintenance, School Governors, Sacramental Programme and YCW teams.

St John Fisher, Denton

- WELCOME

As a way of improving the parish welcome, St John Fisher, Denton, purchased high chairs to allow some of their youngest Mass-goers to enjoy mid-morning snacks in the parish hall whilst parents have a cup of tea and a chat; a lovely welcome.



The Good Samaritan, Burnley

- SUSTAINING FAITH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

During these challenging times the Parish of the Good Samaritan, Burnley, has, through the leadership and ministry of their Parish Priest Fr David Featherstone, the service of the Assistant Priests and the commitment of many dedicated volunteers, enabled new ways of worship and faithful practice, bringing spiritual comfort and enrichment in a time of uncertainty. The parish website posts 'The Lord's Day at Home', 'Thought for the Day', parish news, local and global appeals, information of community organisations set up to help the most vulnerable in our community and much more. It is updated with new material every day and parishioners are encouraged to pass the news on to people who are not on the internet and to keep in touch with those who are socially isolating or living alone. In addition, the content online is mailed out or hand delivered to those who cannot access the internet. A series of prayers and readings involving students from Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic College featured on the website throughout the Easter Season and leading up to Pentecost, three videos of prayers, scripture, reflections, music and hymns with a concluding blessing, produced by Fr David and seminarian Luke Bradbury, also involved the students. A further video, in which families were central, was produced to mark the Feast of



Corpus Christi, celebrating the great gift of the Eucharist. Live streaming of Sunday Mass (the team responsible evolved from nothing, before lockdown, and now comprises some reliable young people who are new to ministry in the Church) and the private daily Masses have enabled the sharing of 'Spiritual Communion'.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel with St John Bosco, Manchester

- CREATIVE SOLUTIONS KEEPING EVERYONE CONNECTED

From the beginning of the lockdown the parish has streamed Mass, Divine Mercy Prayers and Holy Hours through Facebook and YouTube. Fr Anthony used these opportunities to rally the parish and lift their spirits, giving hope in difficult times as well as updating viewers on important news about the life of the parish. A team of parishioners used their technical skills in setting up the live stream and uploading 'worship at home' resources. Others ensured those in need had shopping, access to the Sunday scripture and someone to talk to. Sacramental preparation continued through the excellent links with the schools and families with catechists providing materials online with accompaniment on the phone and on zoom. Children's worksheets were also available online for each Sunday. A large team worked hard to ensure the parish could open again following all the safety regulations. Members of the prayer group prayed in their own homes, gathering at a distance at a set time each week, sharing scripture, hymns, and prayers. The 'Prayer for Healing in Uncertain times' was read at each Mass along with recorded hymns and readings. Fr Anthony encouraged families to pray together at home. The



Pastoral Committee continued to meet on Zoom and socially distanced to help the parish adapt to the pandemic and find creative solutions to keeping everyone connected. The parish will continue to use technology more to connect with the housebound and families that are on the edge of involvement in the future.

Stage 3 Formation & Training Day Highlights

MINISTERS OF THE WORD TRAINING DAY

Marian Tolley presented a training day for Ministers of the Word in November 2019. She offered a prayerful perspective paired with practical action for readers in our diocese, to help them in their own formation and in immersing themselves in the Mass in their own parishes. She shared with attendees some top tips for ensuring they are as good as they can be in their reading.



Reflect - She advised readers to work with others, listening and telling them about the readings to bring them alive and to pray with the text to find its meaning in the reader's own life.

Research - Marian suggested that readers study the passage in its context in the bible - the whole story, not just one specific passage. She suggested readers could look at Scripture commentaries and determine the style of the passage as narrative, poetry or argument and so they could reflect that in their reading.

Rehearse - Practicing offers readers the opportunity to take into account basic communication skills: having positive

body language, making eye contact and deciding on the volume and pace of delivery. It was suggested that this is a great stage for getting help and asking for feedback.

Review - Kindly critique yourself, or ask a trusted friend for their perspective on your reading. That way, you can continue to grow and develop a deeper understanding of the reading.

Marian offers some further advice for readers in the video [here](#).

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TRAINING DAY

Over 120 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from parishes across our diocese attended a training and formation day led by the Irenaeus Project in January.

At the event, Fr Chris Thomas and Sr Moira Meeghan explored the themes of Baptism and Vocation, the vision of the Church, practical sessions, dementia awareness and safeguarding guidance.

Fr Chris thanked all the attendees for responding to their vocation to serve God and his Church in this way. In the practical sessions new ministers had the opportunity to practise and ask questions. More experienced ministers spoke of the honour of distributing Holy Communion at church and in bringing Communion to the sick and housebound.

Fr Chris and Sr Moira finished the day by saying 'more important than getting the practicalities perfect straight away is your prayer life and relationship with God'. You can watch the summary video [here](#).



MUSIC & LITURGY WORKSHOP DAY

In February, music ministers from across the diocese gathered at St Cuthbert's parish in Bolton for a Music and Liturgy Workshop Day with Jo Boyce.

The programme looked at the shape of the liturgy, the role of music within it, as well as sharing new music, ideas and resources for the development and renewal of parish music ministry, finishing with a vigil Mass with music led by Jo and the attendees from the day. Jo is a talented composer of a number of well-known Catholic hymns including Bread of Life Truth Eternal, Taste and See and her setting of the Magnificat. She shared Mass settings and free responsorial psalms along with some new music.



She also introduced the LIFT programme for renewal and development of parish music, song and liturgy looking at the importance of leadership and discipleship.

The slides from the day can be found [here](#) and [here](#) is a short summary video from the day

MUSIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAY

In November, a training day was provided for music ministers. Well known composer Stephen Dean gave a keynote on 'How music builds Christian Community'. This was followed by workshops from Daniel Bath, Simon Passmore and Maria Hall supporting musical directors in choosing music for Mass, organists, guitarists, and singers. After a rehearsal led by Daniel, the day finished with Mass at St Mary's Church, Eccles, celebrated by Fr Martin Collins with a wide range of hymns, psalms and Mass settings which music ministers could take back to their parishes.



Pastoral Messages & Worksheets

During Stage 3, parishes received Pastoral Messages and Worksheets examining Sunday Mass under four headings: Our Welcome, Our Listening, Our Offering and Our Mission. Bishop John called on us "to value Sunday Mass more and more, devoting ourselves to its preparation and celebration." Each theme focused on our personal encounter with Jesus and how every part of the Mass must be seen in these terms, if it is to nourish and strengthen us as disciples. Each Worksheet included a message from Bishop John, catechesis on this part of the Mass and discussion and reflection questions for parish teams and individuals. Over the last few months our access to the Celebration of Sunday Mass has been disrupted, but perhaps this has enabled us to respond to Bishop John's call to value the Sunday Mass even more than we already did when things return to some form of normality. Printed copies of Worksheets 1 and 2 were made available

WORKSHEET 1 - [Meeting Jesus in our Welcome](#)

The first worksheet explains that Sunday Mass has been called "the shop window of the parish", and describes it as the "central moment when we gather together to meet Jesus in each other, in the Word and in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. It is the "source and summit" of our Christian lives—the place where we can bring all our experiences of life to God, and be nourished and filled for the journey of the coming week."



for each parishioner but due to the coronavirus restrictions Worksheets 3 and 4 were only available electronically. All four worksheets are available at the links below for parishes to print and reflect on at a time which suits them.

To launch Stage 3 Bishop John wrote a pastoral letter which can be viewed [here](#).

WORKSHEET 2 - [Meeting Jesus in our Listening](#)

In the second worksheet, Meeting Jesus in our Listening, Bishop John wrote: "Our spoken words are an essential and vital part of our prayer in the Eucharistic celebration. We declare our Faith and give praise to God in the many familiar texts of the Mass, such as the Gloria, The Creed, the Our Father. We can also present our needs and concerns in the Prayers of the Faithful. But it is in listening to the readings from the Scriptures that we hear God Himself speaking to us."

WORKSHEET 3 - [Meeting Jesus in our Offering](#)

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, and during the long period of praying at home, Bishop John wrote: "As we pray at home, perhaps following streamed Masses from around the Diocese, we can experience special graces from the Lord at these challenging times. As the gifts of bread and wine are presented on the altar, we are invited to offer to God all our prayers, concerns and hopes, trusting that he will transform them just as he will transform the gifts of bread and wine into his very self. We are encouraged to join in praying the eucharistic prayer in our hearts as the priest offers the sacrifice of Jesus to the Father on behalf of the people."

WORKSHEET 4 - [Meeting Jesus in our Mission](#)

Our final pastoral message and worksheet focused on the Concluding Rites of the Mass and how we are sent out on Mission, to be Missionary Disciples in our Missionary Parishes. In the worksheet, Bishop John wrote: "Having encountered Jesus in each other, in his word and in his body and blood we are called to go out from our parish communities and be the living Church. When we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, he lives in us and we live in him. This is the source for our Christian lives and the source of our strength for the mission that Jesus gave us "to make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). During these challenging days, we have had to be a missionary Church in different ways. It has been wonderful to see so many parishes live streaming Masses, offering online formation, and providing acts of service to their communities. As churches reopen, we have a wonderful challenge of welcoming newcomers to our parishes."

Videos on the parts of the Mass along with Worksheets were produced for young people and can be viewed [here](#) (under the School section)

Formation Lecture Series Highlights

BISHOP PHILIP EGAN - THE NEW EVANGELISATION

In January, Bishop Egan, of Portsmouth Diocese, gave a talk on The New Evangelisation. The talk focused on three elements: an in-depth focus on today's society and culture, what New Evangelisation actually is and practical actions which could be taken by those in attendance. The talk was followed by an opportunity for questions. Bishop Egan addressed attendees with a message of hope, saying: "As Catholics we stand in a great tradition. The message we have is powerfully Good News. It is an invitation sent to every single child, woman and man on earth. Our task is to communicate Jesus Christ attractively and imaginatively so that everyone can find their way to him and to that true, genuine, lasting happiness and fulfilment for which they long." Bishop Egan went on to explain there are three different contexts for New Evangelisation: those where the Gospel has not been announced, needing primary proclamation, those where the faith is flourishing and ongoing pastoral care is required, and those in intermediate situations where people have drifted from the faith – and therefore, a New Evangelisation is needed. You can listen to the full talk [here](#).



FR EAMONN MULCAHY CSSP -

THE CHALLENGES OF POPE FRANCIS' VISION OF MISSION

In February, Fr Eamonn Mulcahy spoke to over 150 people including Bishop John about the Challenges of Pope Francis' vision for Mission. Attendees left the event feeling inspired and empowered. Fr Eamonn spoke about how Evangelii Gaudium should be the blueprint for all our missionary efforts with Hope in the Future. He encouraged local communities to discern how they can renew their parish by sharing the Good News of Jesus with Joy in the power of the Holy Spirit. He also asked attendees to thank God for the gift of Pope Francis to the Church and encouraged them to pray for him. You can listen to the full talk [here](#).

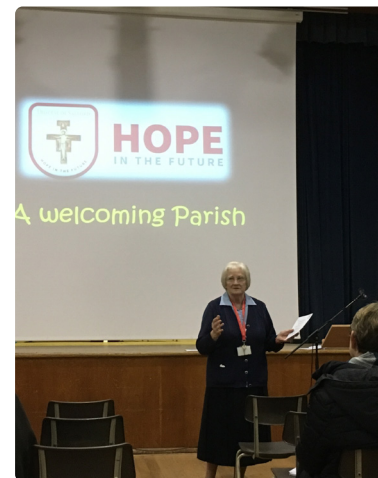


SR BRENDA MATTERSON DC

In addition, Sr Brenda Matterson DC gave an inspiring talk on the ministry of welcome and how we should see Jesus in all who come to our parishes.

FR JAMES MANOCK provided wonderful catechesis and formation on the Liturgy.

FR RICHARD OUNSWORTH OP led a clergy day on Preaching & Presiding and a formation evening on Source and Summit.



The God Who Speaks

2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, in partnership with the Bible Society, to launch this exciting initiative 'The God who Speaks'. Due to the pandemic this campaign has been extended to January 2022. For more information visit The God Who Speaks website [here](#).

Here are some ways our parishes and schools have been celebrating The Year of the Word.

DEANERY SCRIPTURE DAYS

Deanery Scripture Days were planned to develop school and parish links and celebrate The Year of the Word. Unfortunately, due to lockdown only two of the eight deanery days could go ahead but we hope to provide the other celebrations when this is possible. Schoolchildren from the deaneries of St Ambrose Barlow and St John gathered representing over 40 schools. Pupils learnt about their deanery patron, took part in an opening liturgy and prepared prayer stations on key events in St Matthew's Gospel. At the end of the day, each school was presented with a Hope



in the Future deanery candle which will burn brightly in their schools, reminding them of their value and links with their parish community.



THE GOD WHO SPEAKS SERIES

The God who Speaks Through Creation – Sr Margaret Atkins, CRSA

In August, the Department for Formation was delighted to welcome Sr. Margaret Atkins, CRSA, to present a talk on The God who speaks through creation via Zoom. The talk was part of the series 'The God who speaks in the City' to celebrate The Year of the Word which was to be hosted at the Hidden Gem but postponed due to the pandemic. Sister Margaret Atkins is a Canoness of St Augustine in the community at Boarbank Hall, Cumbria. She is a lecturer and author in Theology with special interest, amongst other things, in the ethics of the environment. Over 60 attendees from around the diocese joined virtually. In her talk, Sister Margaret suggested that God is speaking through His creation but asked the question, 'are we listening carefully?' She reminded attendees of the beauty of God's creation and of our responsibility to care for it. Quoting Pope Francis in his document on our Common Home, *Laudato si'*, Sr Margaret said we need to hear 'the cry



of the earth and the cry of the poor'. She went on to say, 'although climate change is a real challenge for our world, we must not despair. God is to be trusted and is capable of bringing good out of evil'. The talk finished with an opportunity for questions and answers.

THE TALK CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)

For more information on upcoming talks, visit [here](#).

Caritas Update

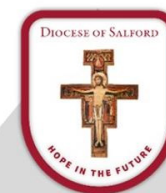
Throughout the pandemic, Caritas Diocese of Salford and their volunteers have been offering practical support to those in most need. Parishioners offered continued prayers for the work of Caritas, front-line staff, and volunteers and of course the beneficiaries of the services. Volunteers have put Caritas into action by volunteering their time to support our services when so many long-standing volunteers had to shield. Clergy offered support too, some of whom rolled up their sleeves to help prepare and serve takeaway lunches for example at the Cornerstone Day Centre and collect and distribute food parcels and donations. Like so many other charities, Caritas has been hit hard by the pandemic. Caritas are very grateful to parishioners who have been able to make a financial contribution to their work which allowed them to keep all their services in operation during the pandemic. Some parishioners have been regular donators of food, clothing and household items to services such as Bury Red Door and the Lalley Centre, liaising with Caritas staff to find out what the particular needs are to ensure that they are donating what will be most useful. It is much appreciated. The Deaf Service has nine trained CCRS volunteers offering services to aid the inclusion of deaf people in the life of the church. A huge thankyou



to those who have supported not only Caritas but their local social action initiatives in their own parish areas, whether through the SVP network or local authority hubs and other local charities. Several parishes were able to take advantage of emergency food vouchers being offered through the Albert Gubay Fund to distribute to families in crisis. Advocacy and social action is the embodiment of Pope Francis's vision of a "poor Church for the poor" and is what is meant by his plea for us all to become Missionary Disciples. Although unwelcome, the pandemic has provided an opportunity for all our parishes to move forward towards this goal. Over the next two stages of Hope in the Future, as we build 'a new normal', we pray our parishes may be a beacon of hope to those in most need around us.

Developing & Supporting Home, School, Parish Links

In January 2020, Bishop John provided a vision for Home, School and Parish partnership.



DEVELOPING & SUPPORTING LINKS HOME | SCHOOL | PARISH

Our Vision

Our parishes, schools and families working together in partnership to develop a shared faith journey for our young people.

Our Mission

To provide resources and to facilitate opportunities that enable our parishes, schools, and families to develop closer links, encouraging our young people to grow and develop their faith within their community.

FAMILY IS SACRED WEBINAR

Families are the 'linchpin' between school and parish. Parents are the first teachers of the faith. During the pandemic, the families working party wanted to provide some support for marriage and family life and the domestic Church.

In July, we hosted an online webinar to introduce the programme 'Family is Sacred' which helps to support and enrich marriage and family life. The programme supports families in their mission of being the salt, light and leaven of the world, thereby helping families live out the Catholic Vision of marriage and family life. Several people joined the webinar from around the diocese.

There was input from Fr Bryan Cunningham, a Schoenstatt Father who helped to develop the programme and is responsible for Marriage and Family life in the Department for Formation. Fr Bryan explored [Marriage & Family Life - As a way to holiness](#) and gave an overview of the 'Family is Sacred' programme. Matthew and Marianne Barnes then delivered a session on the 'Religious Importance in a family' giving examples from their own marriage and lives. Attendees were then allocated to 'breakout rooms' to discuss how lockdown has affected Marriage and Family life and faith. After returning to the main room to share, Fr Bryan explained how we hope to offer this programme online in September 2020 and possibly in parishes and deaneries around Spring 2021.

A recording of the session along with the slides are available here:

[- Webinar Recording](#)

[- PowerPoint Slides](#)

The full 'Family is Sacred' course is currently taking place online. If you would like to take part in the course, help to lead a session (training provided) or would like more information please email hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

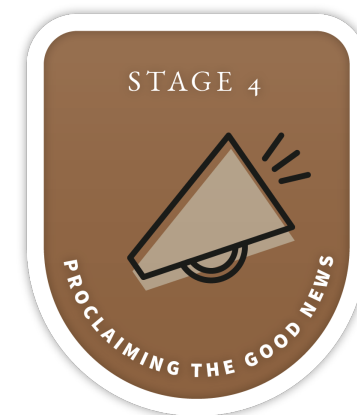
More information and resources available at
dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/hope/home-school-parish/

Looking Forward to Stage 4

After a period of reflection, and when the time is right, we will begin Stage 4 of our Diocesan pastoral renewal programme. 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.



"Evangelising is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelise"

Pope Saint Paul VI
Evangelii Nuntiandi 14

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.

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No programme accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

That is what we are about.

We plant a seed that will one day grow.

We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects
far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace
to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

St Oscar Romero

Join the Conversation

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

Hope in the Future, Department for Formation,
Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

Tel: 0161 817 2214

Email: hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Web: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/hope