

2017-2020

A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE
CLIFTON DIOCESE

FROM THE BISHOP

In the Diocesan Guidelines '*Called to be a People of Hope*' I quoted from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah. These words are again the springboard for the next phase of our Diocesan life.

'I know well the plans I have made for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord.'

Jeremiah 29:11-13

When Jeremiah wrote those words the people of Israel were going through a time of so much upheaval that they had lost hope. Through Jeremiah the Lord speaks a word of hope to his people. He reminds them that he is with them and that he listens to them. The Lord has a plan for them and it is 'a future full of hope'.

An ancient symbol of hope is the anchor. In the letter to the Hebrews hope is described as an 'anchor for the soul' (Hebrews 6:18-19). The image of the anchor does not promise protection from the storm or free us from the battering waves but it gives us the assurance that the Lord is with us.

We live in a time of great change and that is reflected in our Diocese of Clifton. In some places the size of our congregations is in decline and in others there is growth. On the one hand we have fewer priests than we have been accustomed to but, on the other, many of our lay people are willing to take up their rightful role in pastoral leadership.

As we face the future we are called to be both bold in looking to the future and faithful to our history and our tradition. If all we are is bold we will drift off from our moorings and find ourselves hopelessly lost. If all we are is faithful to the past, and unwilling to change, we could become irrelevant. In other words, we are not called merely to remain in the safety of the harbour nor are we to set sail without the anchor.

The Letter to the Hebrews goes on to say that 'we should take a firm grip of the hope that is held out to us'. Taking a firm grip of the hope the Lord holds out for us means to be anchored in God's promise that he has a future plan for us.

+ Declan

Bishop Declan Lang

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of 2017 Bishop Declan wrote a pastoral letter for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God and asked all the people of the Diocese to reflect with him on the future.

He wrote:

'At the beginning of this new year I would like to invite you to ponder this question: what is it to be the Church for our day and our culture? To be fruitful in our response we need to do this in the light of the Gospel. Two further questions for each one of us to ask is: what is God asking me to be and to do as a member of the Body of Christ, the Church? What is it for me to be a Catholic today?

Imagine what our Diocese will be like in five to ten years' time. What do we need to do in order to make our imaginings come true?'

A large number of responses came from individuals, parishes, deaneries, schools and religious. All the responses were read and will inform the practical steps that need to be taken in our pastoral guidelines 'A future full of hope'. These you can find towards the back of this resource on page 15.

In the light of those responses Bishop Declan offers us his own vision to guide us in the coming years.

The Bishop's vision focuses us on the **person and the mission of Jesus Christ** and so calls us to a renewed encounter with the Lord and echoes the words of Pope Francis:

'I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day.' *Evangelii Gaudium* 3

The Bishop's vision calls us to encounter the Lord Jesus anew in **Mission, Prayer and Communion**.

OUR BISHOP'S VISION

The Church of Clifton
is called to be a people
who believe in Christ,
who celebrate Christ
and who live the way of Christ.

The Church is created by God
to live,
not for itself,
but for others;
To be a people who share
in the mission of Christ,
to proclaim the Kingdom
and to make disciples
so that the world will be transformed
according to God's plan.

Our Parishes and Communities
should be places
where Christ is celebrated,
shared,
proclaimed and lived,
where everyone is welcomed
and valued,
and all have a sense of responsibility
for the life of the community and the world.

We are called to be disciples
who not only know about Jesus
but also come to know Him in prayer.
Our liturgies
should be celebrated in such a way
that Christ's word is heard,
His presence known,
and which are so connected
to our lives
that we joyfully
take up the command
'Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life'.

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2017-2020

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE

This document sets out a roadmap for the next three years so that we may use the many resources the Lord has given us in order that we might build up the life and work of our parish communities.

Each of our parishes is different and so this plan does not seek to impose uniformity but offers, rather, an overall framework within which each community might be able to respond. It doesn't seek to add a further work-load to the good things that are already happening so creatively and abundantly in our parishes. It seeks to deepen our understanding of what we already do and offers ways in which that can develop and grow.

Each of the three years ahead of us will focus on one aspect of the bishop's threefold vision of Mission, Prayer and Communion. They will follow the cycle of the Church's year and begin with the season of Advent.

Year of Mission	Advent 2017 - Advent 2018
Year of Prayer	Advent 2018 - Advent 2019
Year of Communion	Advent 2019 - Advent 2020

Each will have its own document with resources and reflections in order to spur us on to more active engagement in the work of Christ.

The aim of these three years is to give us the tools we need in order to be able to take a firm grip on the future that the Lord calls us to. The symbol of the anchor, which recurs throughout this document, reminds us that the anchor which holds us fast is the knowledge of God's love for us. As Pope Francis has written:

'Faith also means believing in God, believing that he truly loves us, that he is alive, that he is mysteriously capable of intervening, that he does not abandon us and that he brings good out of evil by his power and his infinite creativity. It means believing that he marches triumphantly in history with those who "are called and chosen and faithful"' *Evangelii Gaudium* 278

We know God's love first of all through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and one of the surest ways to encounter the Lord is through the Gospels. Each year's resource will be rooted in the Gospel that is proclaimed Sunday by Sunday in that particular year.

The **Year of Mission** will anchor us in the Gospel of Mark; the **Year of Prayer** in the Gospel of Luke; the **Year of Communion** in the Gospel of Matthew.

The Year of Mission will help our parishes to reflect upon the ways we are called to build the Kingdom of God in our world:

**The Church is created by God
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but for others;
to be a people who share
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to proclaim the Kingdom
and to make disciples
so that the world will be transformed
according to God's plan.**

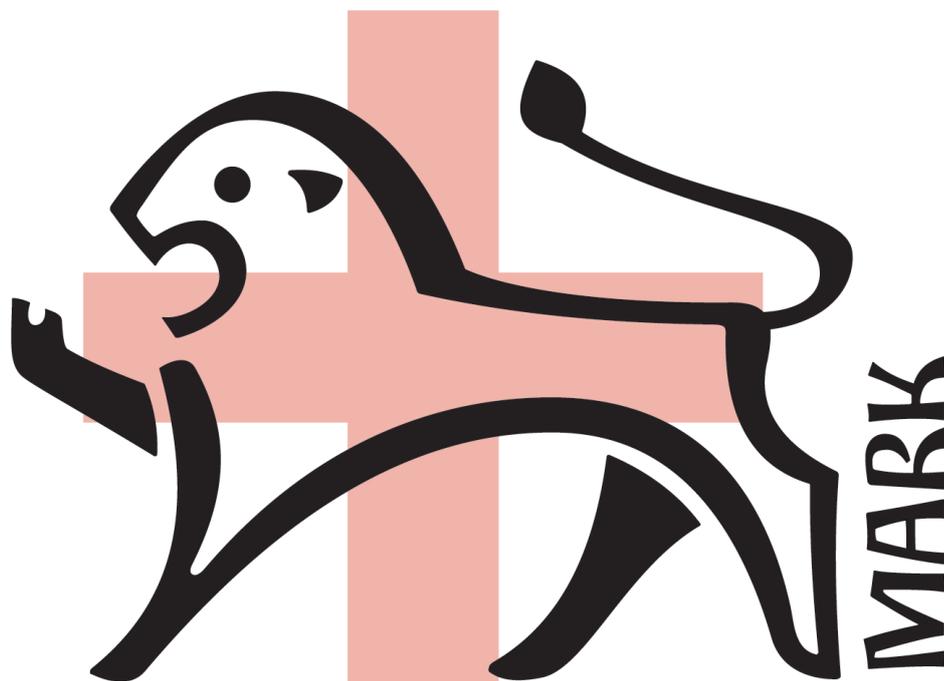
The Year of Prayer will allow us both to deepen our own relationship with the Lord, exploring prayer and ways of praying, and to consider the many ways that we celebrate our faith as individuals and as communities:

**We are called to be disciples
who not only know about Jesus
but also come to know Him in prayer.
Our liturgies
should be celebrated in such a way
that Christ's word is heard,
His presence known,
and which are so connected
to our lives
that we joyfully
take up the command
'Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life'.**

The Year of Communion will build upon the existing ways in which parishes collaborate with each other and will encourage the work that has already begun:

**Our Parishes and Communities
should be places
where Christ is celebrated, shared,
proclaimed and lived,
where everyone is welcomed
and valued,
and all have a sense of responsibility
for the life of the community and the world.**

MISSION



The Church is created by God
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2017-2018

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE – Mission

Advent 2017-2018

The Gospel of Mark

‘Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.’

Mark 16:15

‘Each particular Church, as a portion of the Catholic Church under the leadership of its bishop, is likewise called to missionary conversion. It is the primary subject of evangelisation, since it is the concrete manifestation of the one Church in one specific place, and in it “the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of Christ is truly present and operative”. It is the Church incarnate in a certain place, equipped with all the means of salvation bestowed by Christ, but with local features. Its joy in communicating Jesus Christ is expressed both by a concern to preach him to areas in greater need and in constantly going forth to the outskirts of its own territory or towards new sociocultural settings. Wherever the need for the light and the life of the Risen Christ is greatest, it will want to be there. To make this missionary impulse ever more focused, generous and fruitful, I encourage each particular Church to undertake a resolute process of discernment, purification and reform.’ *Evangelii Gaudium* 30

On Wednesday 29 November at 7pm, there will be a Liturgy in Clifton Cathedral. At this gathering of our diocese Bishop Declan will launch the Year of Mission by presenting each parish and community with the resource booklet called ‘A future full of hope: Mission’.

This booklet will accompany us during the year ahead. It will be divided into two parts: a study section and a resource section. The study section (Part One) will be divided into three sections and can be used for reflection by individuals and by parish communities. The purpose of this Part is not just to stimulate conversation but to re-invigorate our active engagement with the mission of the Church. These sections are:

Discipleship

Mission

The heart of the Gospel - Kerygma

These are some of the resources and events that will be available to us through the Year of Mission. The full range of resources will be detailed in the Year of Mission resource booklet.

RESOURCES

A future full of hope: Mission - a resource for parish conversation
Resources for the prayerful reading and study of Mark's Gospel
The Art of the Gospel
Catechists' Course
Formation Course for Pastoral Assistants
Newsletter Inserts across the Year of Mission
Some useful resources for reading, study and shaping parish mission
'Year of Mission' posters

LITURGIES

Evening Liturgy & Presentation of the 'Year of Mission' (29 November 2017)
Celebrating Marriage (3 February 2018)
Lenten Station Masses: a diocesan pilgrimage (Lent 2018)
Liturgies of Reconciliation (Lent 2018)
Rite of Election (17 February 2018)
Mass for newly baptised and newly received (19 May 2018)
Eucharistic Adoration (in preparation for the National Congress)

EVENTS

Gathering our Religious (27 June 2018)
Annual Diocesan Day (30 June 2018)
Glastonbury Pilgrimage (8 July 2018)
Lourdes Pilgrimage (24 – 31 August 2018)
The National Eucharistic Congress (7-9 September 2018)
Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (22 -30 October 2018)

PRAYER



We are called to be disciples
who not only know about Jesus
but also come to know Him in prayer.

Our liturgies
should be celebrated in such a way
that Christ's word is heard,
His presence known,
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2018-2019

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE - Prayer

Advent 2018 - Advent 2019

The Gospel of Luke

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying and, when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy,
your kingdom come;
give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive
each one who is in debt to us.
And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!' Luke 11:1-13

'The great men and women of God were great intercessors. Intercession is like a "leaven" in the heart of the Trinity. It is a way of penetrating the Father's heart and discovering new dimensions which can shed light on concrete situations and change them. We can say that God's heart is touched by our intercession, yet in reality he is always there first. What our intercession achieves is that his power, his love and his faithfulness are shown ever more clearly in the midst of the people. *Evangelii Gaudium* 283

Bishop Declan will launch the year by presenting to each parish community the resource booklet called 'A future full of hope: Prayer'.

This year of prayer will focus on the fact that in the work of evangelisation we are entirely dependent on the gift of the Holy Spirit for which we must pray unceasingly.

COMMUNION



Our Parishes and Communities
should be places
where Christ is celebrated,
shared,
proclaimed and lived,
where everyone is welcomed
and valued,
and all have a sense of responsibility
for the life of the community and the world.

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2019-2020

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE - Communion

Advent 2019 - Advent 2020

The Gospel of Matthew

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.' Matthew 18: 18-19

'The word of God also invites us to recognise that we are a people: "Once you were no people but now you are God's people" (1 Peter 2:10). To be evangelisers of souls, we need to develop a spiritual taste for being close to people's lives and to discover that this is itself a source of greater joy. Mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people. When we stand before Jesus crucified, we see the depth of his love which exalts and sustains us but, at the same time, unless we are blind we begin to realise that Jesus' gaze, burning with love, expands to embrace all his people. We realise once more that he wants to make use of us to draw closer to his beloved people. He takes us from the midst of his people and he sends us to his people; without this sense of belonging we cannot understand our deepest identity.' Evangelii Gaudium 268

Bishop Declan will launch the year by presenting to each parish community the resource booklet called 'A future full of hope: Communion'.

This year will focus on the spirituality of communion and how we are called and saved not as individuals but as God's people.

HAVING HEARD

The bishop's pastoral letter evoked much response. Listening to what was said, the following ten areas emerged as the dominant themes and are offered by our bishop for our focus in the years ahead:

Faith formation
Prayer
Leadership development of clergy and laity
Our young people
Promotion of the culture of vocation
Ecumenism and interfaith dialogue
Strengthening of marriage and family life
Parish and deanery structure
Administration
A care for our world and a care for others

For each of the areas that have been identified we can discern both an **AIM** that we are striving for and an **ACTION** that we need to take in order that this aim becomes a reality. Aim and action need to be read together but they are not meant to be exhaustive nor restrictive. There are, of course, many things that are already happening at parish, deanery and diocesan level and these guidelines are to spur us on and help us develop what we are already doing. Hopefully parishes will develop their own new initiatives.

FAITH FORMATION

'Sometimes I think the best business we can do with many Christians, is to sell them mothballs so that they put them in their clothes and in their lives and aren't eaten by moths. Many times Christians are locked up and they are going to get eaten by moths. They have to go out, they have to go and bring the message of Jesus to others for the Good News is meant to be shared, not stored away. The message of Jesus is to give it; so just as I receive it from him through a brother or sister, the grace comes to me and I give it. The Christian shouldn't "can" the message, trying to conserve it in a jar, because it's not something to save; it is something to give.'

Pope Francis, Interview with Noel Diaz, 29 January 2017

- **Aim:** to strengthen the understanding that faith formation is for all Catholics of all ages; to continue to develop our Catholic schools as a vital part of our parish life for formation in the faith.
- **Action:** to ensure that faith formation continues to thrive and is available to all Catholics.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OF CLERGY AND LAITY

‘The Gospel is the message of the love of God who, in Jesus Christ, calls us to participate in his life. Therefore, this is new evangelisation: to become conscious of the merciful love of the Father in order that we may become pure instruments of salvation for our brothers.

This consciousness, which has been planted in the heart of every Christian since the day of Baptism, calls for growth, together in the life of grace, so as to bear much fruit. Included here-in is the great theme of the catechesis as the space where Christian life matures, by enabling one to experience the mercy of God.’

Pope Francis, Address, The Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelisation, 29 May 2015

‘I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre and which then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life. *Evangelii Gaudium* 49

- **Aim:** to develop formation in leadership so that our vision is not turned inward but towards those on the edge, especially the poor.
- **Action:** to develop men and women as leaders of faith, so that as many people as possible can be given the tools to evangelise and exercise leadership in our communities.

PRAYER

‘Breathing is made up of two stages: inhaling, the intake of air, and exhaling, the letting out of air. The spiritual life is fed, nourished, by prayer and is expressed outwardly through mission: inhaling and exhaling. When we inhale, by prayer, we receive the fresh air of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis, 16th International Conference of Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Communities, October 2014

‘Let us try asking ourselves: Am I open to the action of the Holy Spirit? Do I pray to him to give me illumination, to make me more sensitive to God’s things? This is a prayer we must pray every day: “Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day.’

Pope Francis, General Audience, 15 May 2013

- **Aim:** to deepen our awareness that each community is called to be a 'School of Prayer'.
- **Action:** to form the men and women of our parishes in prayer so that they can preside at liturgies and teach others to pray.

PROMOTION OF THE CULTURE OF VOCATION

‘Those who drawn by God’s voice and determined to follow Jesus soon discover within themselves an irrepressible desire to bring the Good News to their brothers and sisters through proclamation and the service of charity. All Christians are called to be missionaries of the Gospel! As disciples, we do not receive the gift of God’s love for our personal consolation, nor are we called to promote ourselves, or a business concern. We are simply men and women touched and transformed by the joy of God’s love, who cannot keep this experience just to ourselves. For “the Gospel joy which enlivens the community of disciples is a missionary joy” Evangelii Gaudium 21. Commitment to mission is not something added on to the Christian life as a kind of decoration, but is instead an essential element of faith itself. A relationship with the Lord entails being sent out into the world as prophets of his word and witnesses of his love.’
Pope Francis, Message for the 54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2016

- **Aim:** to develop a joined-up plan which organically links the vocation of all the baptised. A large number of responses brought up the matter of ordaining married men to the priesthood.
- **Action:** to deepen an awareness of the vocation of all the baptised and how that is lived out in Church and world; to continue the effort to discern and encourage vocations to the religious life, permanent diaconate and priesthood.

ECUMENISM AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

‘We must have sincere trust in our fellow pilgrims, putting aside all suspicion or mistrust, and turn our gaze to what we are all seeking: the radiant peace of God’s face. Trusting others is an art and peace is an art....How many important things unite us! If we really believe in the abundantly free working of the Holy Spirit, we can learn so much from one another! It is not just about being better informed about others, but rather about reaping what the Spirit has sown in them, which is also meant to be a gift for us.’ Evangelii Gaudium 244-6

‘An attitude of openness in truth and in love must characterise the dialogue with the followers of non-Christian religions, in spite of various obstacles and difficulties, especially forms of fundamentalism on both sides. Interreligious dialogue is a necessary condition for peace in the world, and so it is a duty for Christians as well as other religious communities. This dialogue is in first place a conversation about human existence or simply a matter of “being open to them, sharing their joys and sorrows”. In this way we learn to accept others and their different ways of living, thinking and speaking. Evangelii Gaudium 250

- **Aim:** to strengthen the bonds of unity with other Christian Churches and those of other faiths.
- **Action:** find practical ways to work with other Christians in the work of the Lord. To explore ways of working with people of other faiths and opening up ways of dialogue.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

‘Seeing you all present here today, I think of the story of Saint Francis of Assisi. In front of the crucifix he heard the voice of Jesus saying to him: “Francis, go, rebuild my house”. The young Francis responded readily and generously to the Lord’s call to rebuild his house. But which house? Slowly but surely, Francis came to realise that it was not a question of repairing a stone building, but about doing his part for the life of the Church. It was a matter of being at the service of the Church, loving her and working to make the countenance of Christ shine ever more brightly in her... In the Church of Jesus, we ourselves are the living stones. Jesus is asking us to build up his Church; each one of us is a living stone, a small part of the edifice; when the rain comes, if this piece is missing, there are leaks and water comes in. Don’t build a little chapel which holds only a small group of persons. Jesus asks us to make his living Church so large that it can hold all of humanity, that it can be a home for everyone! To me, to you, to each of us he says: “Go and make disciples of all nations”. Tonight, let us answer him: Yes, Lord, I too want to be a living stone; together we want to build up the Church of Jesus! I want to go forth and build up the Church of Christ!... You are called to build a more beautiful Church and a better world.’ Pope Francis, WYD Rio 2013, Vigil of Prayer

- **Aim:** to continue the work of forming our young Catholics in the faith that helps them to realise that Jesus is alive, present, and active in their lives and in the world.
- **Action:** to integrate our young people into the life and the mission of the Church and into the fabric of parish life.

STRENGTHENING OF FAMILY LIFE AND MARRIAGE

‘The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church.’
Amoris Laetitia 31

‘The “Good News” of the family is a very important part of evangelisation, which Christians can communicate to all, by the witness of their lives; and already they are doing so, this is evident in secularised societies: truly Christian families are known by their fidelity, their patience, their openness to life, and by their respect for the elderly... the secret to this is the presence of Jesus in the family. Let us therefore propose to all people, with respect and courage, the beauty of marriage and the family illuminated by the Gospel! And in order to do this let us approach with care and affection those families who are struggling, forced to leave their homeland, broken, homeless or unemployed, or suffering for any reason; let us approach married couples in crisis or separated. Let us be close to everyone through the proclamation of this Gospel of the family, the beauty of the family.’

Pope Francis, Pontifical Council for the Family, 25 October 2013

- **Aim:** to value more deeply the beauty of the teachings of the Catholic Church on marriage and family life.
- **Action:** families must be given the means to be aware of themselves as the "domestic church" from which all are sent out on mission.

PARISH AND DEANERY STRUCTURES

‘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 out- reach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers.’

Evangelii Gaudium 28

- **Aim:** to develop and deepen the communion of life within the parishes and communities of our diocese.
- **Action:** to review and renew our deanery and parish structures so that we make the best use of the resources God has given to us.

DIOCESAN AND PARISH ADMINISTRATION

‘The Church’s mission, directed to all men and women of good will, is based on the transformative power of the Gospel. The Gospel is Good News filled with contagious joy, for it contains and offers new life: the life of the Risen Christ who, by bestowing his life-giving Spirit, becomes for us the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. John 14:6). He is the Way who invites us to follow him with confidence and courage. In following Jesus as our Way, we experience Truth and receive his Life, which is fullness of communion with God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. That life sets us free from every kind of selfishness, and is a source of creativity in love... Mission reminds the Church that she is not an end unto herself, but a humble instrument and mediation of the Kingdom. A self-referential Church, one content with earthly success, is not the Church of Christ, his crucified and glorious Body. That is why we should prefer “a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security”

Evangelii Gaudium 49’. Pope Francis, Message for World Mission Day 2017

- **Aim:** to ensure that the administration at both parish and diocesan level (such as finance, property, safeguarding, and health and safety) are fully integrated into the mission and life of the Church.
- **Action:** continue to develop lay leadership in parishes in the areas of finance and property that work closely with our diocesan services.

A CARE FOR OUR WORLD AND A CARE FOR OTHERS

‘Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society. This demands that we be docile and attentive to the cry of the poor and to come to their aid.’

Evangelii Gaudium 187

‘The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: “Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest”.

Laudato si’ 48

‘Sometimes we are tempted to be that kind of Christian who keeps the Lord’s wounds at arm’s length. Yet Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others. He hopes that we will stop looking for those personal or communal niches which shelter us from the maelstrom of human misfortune and instead enter into the reality of other people’s lives and know the power of tenderness. Whenever we do so, our lives become wonderfully complicated and we experience intensely what it is to be a people, to be part of a people.

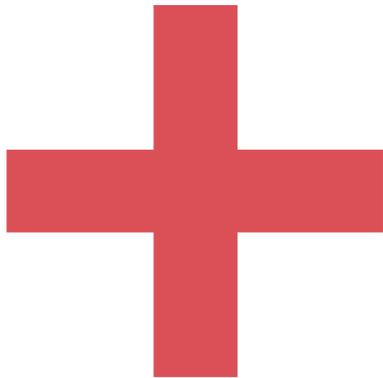
Evangelii Gaudium 270

- **Aim:** to grow in our understanding of the care we have for our world, for the environment we find ourselves living in and to be ever mindful of those around us, most especially the migrant, the stranger, the foreigner, the poor and the needy.
- **Action:** to explore the ways in which our parishes, deaneries and communities are focused on the needs of those who find themselves living on the peripheries of our society; to promote ways in which our communities can be responsible for the care of our environment.

RESOURCE ARTWORK

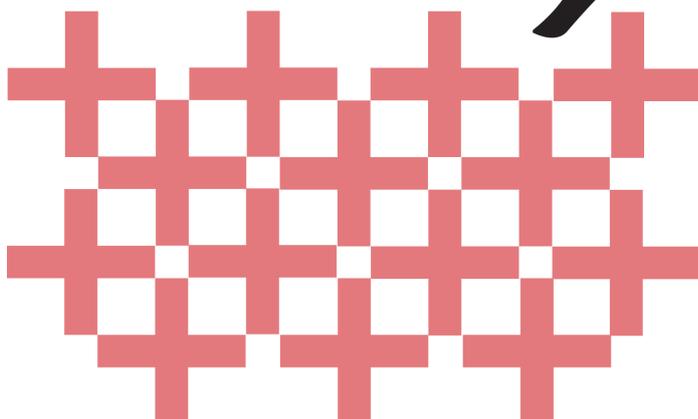
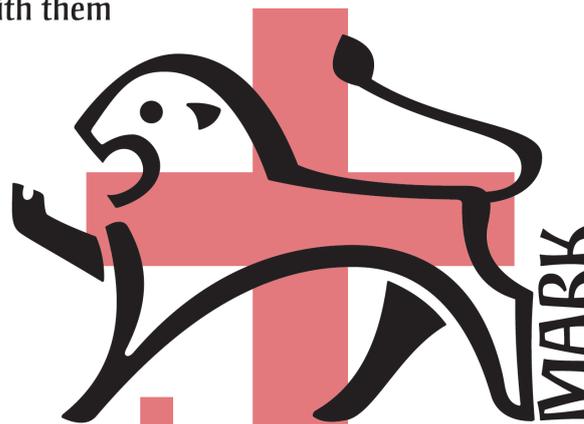
The artwork for the resources that will be used across the Years of Mission, Prayer and Communion has been designed and created by Fr Jan Rossey ocsa from Caldey Island. Fr Jan has used the image of the anchor as the foundation for the artwork, creating a simple icon for each year that, used together, makes up the anchor itself. As with the Jubilee of Mercy, Fr Jan has created a series of posters that are available to each parish and community as a focus for each of the three years.

The logos and icons are also available for parishes, schools, and communities to use on their own newsletters and publications.



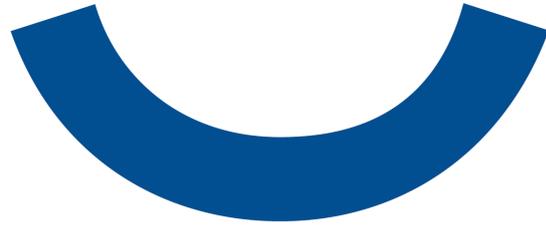
church: mission

directed toward the four corners
of the world - in equal measure
sharing the cross of people in pain
carrying the cross of Christ with them
bringing the Good News
of God's salvation,
loving kindness and mercy...



MISSION

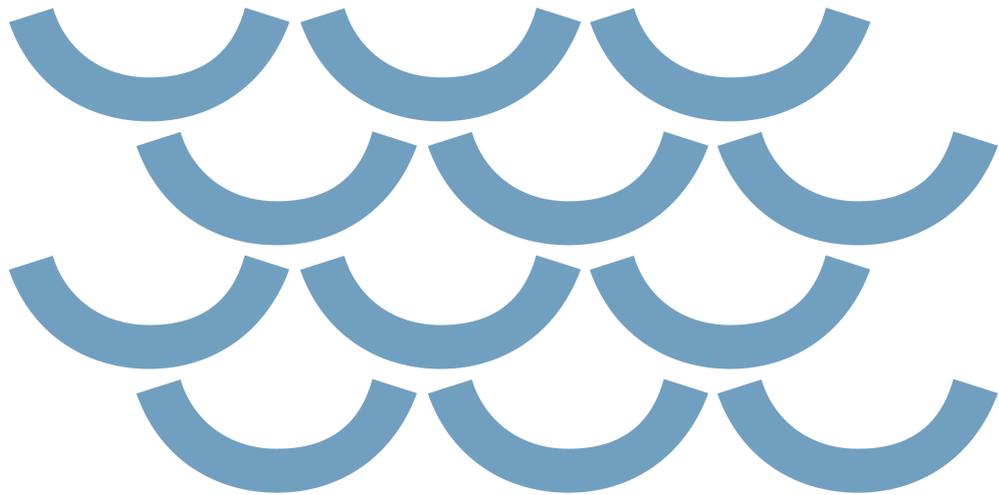
PRAYER



church: prayer
open towards heaven,
to offer praise and thanksgiving
to intercede and ask
to embrace
to receive
to encounter
...like a bowl
receiving the living water



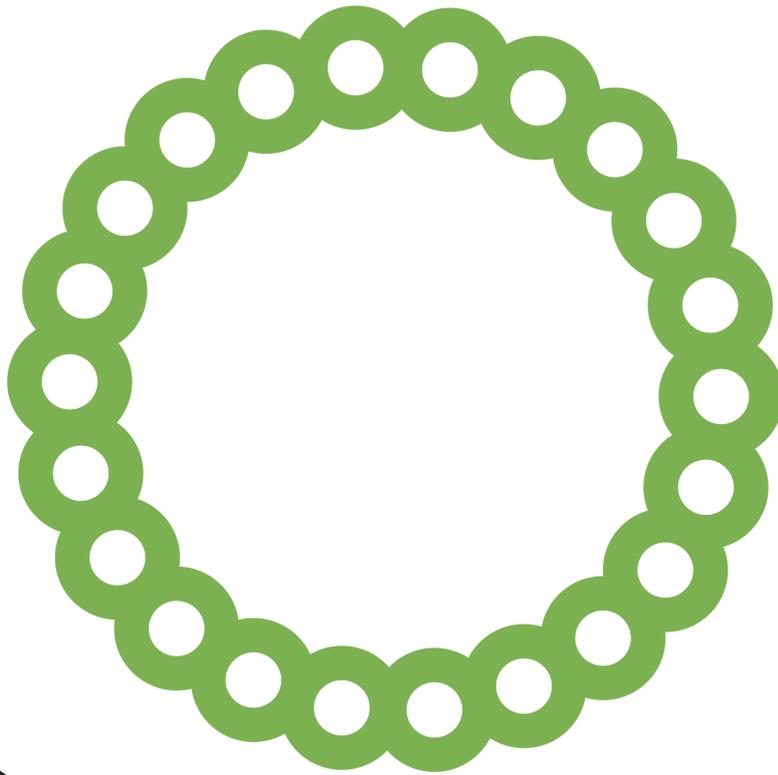
LUKE





church: communion

a circle of people meeting and sharing
like links in a chain -
as strong as the weakest link
open towards the centre of our life,
the communion with Christ...



COMMUNION

MISSION



PRAYER



COMMUNION



DIOCESAN PRAYER

God our Father,
open the horizons of our minds and hearts
so that we can see what hope your call holds for us.

Pour out the overflowing gifts of your Spirit
so that we, your Church,
may become a people of hope for our world.

We ask you this, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Our Lady, Woman of Hope,
pray for us.

St Peter, Rock of Hope,
pray for us.

St Paul, Apostle of Hope,
pray for us.