

From Parish to Mission

Parish	St Mary's, Knaresborough
Parish Priest	Fr William Wright
Facilitators	Anne Pennock, Liz Vickerstaff
Date of Meeting	8th December 2021
Number	40
Approx Age Range	16 – 90
<p>I. The journeying companions As we journey together let us look around. Who are you on the journey with and what persons or groups are marginalised and why?</p>	
<p><u>Journey with</u> Our Parish x7 Parish Groups x5 Local Community x4 Our own families x 8 Our parish school, both primary and secondary x 3 Young families x 1 Families with disabled members Elderly + Frail Christians of all denominations All people of Faith</p> <p><u>Marginalised</u> Elderly x3 Disabled x4 Divorced x 11 LGBTQ x7 Young families x 2 Bereaved x 3 People with mental health issues</p>	





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Lapsed catholics x1

Poverty x 4

Why

Access x 1

Welcome

Time x1

Parish Facilities

Misunderstanding of church teaching about divorce, LGBTQ+

Transport for Elderly + disabled x1

Doctrine of the Church varies between churches

Dysfunctional families x 4

Conflict of doctrinal messages + inclusion

Unmarried clergy x1

Some choose to be on the margin vs the centre

Some lapsed catholics have had bad experiences with both priests and lay people who judge their position. Not enough is done to change this. Even receiving a blessing encourages perceived supremacy.

A barrier is put up by the Diocese + slow reactions to peoples needs x1

People who have no access to technology.

Immigrants.

More involvement of local catholic primary and High schools – this might help young families feel more part of the community.

II. Listening

How might our local Church better listen to lay people (and especially young people and women) and minorities and those who are not respected?

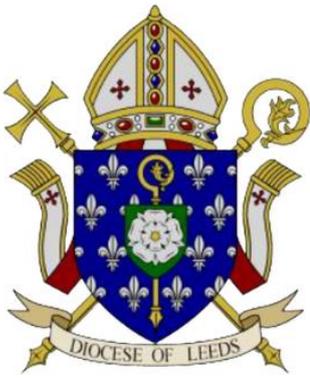
Develop a focus group approach – invite a “category” to get their views. x6

Make welcome of diversity explicit x5

Open to suggestions x1, (including priest) x2

More ways of feeding back opinions on social media x 1





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Training (from the diocese) people to organise listening projects.

Powers that be need to develop rapport with the youth.

Don't disregard the views of the minorities x 2

Break down barriers + allow others to challenge the Church x 1

Invite local schools + groups to share their faith/stories/perceptions x 2

Encourage minorities to voice their own concerns + anxieties.

In CofE, men and women lay people are encouraged to study theology to degree level, but few people do so.

PPC (Parish Pastoral Council) to seek views of parishioners more often.

PPC to present this question to the parish for their views.

The school and the parish need to work more closely together (Covid allowed).

Why are women in Brackets?

Be prepared to listen to what they say.

Have more meetings like this.

Church should allow clergy to marry x1

Women priests x1

Perhaps all the 10 questions are possible mis-aligned. If all Catholics are consulted, why are there no questions about : contraception, feeding people, opposing oppressive regimes x1

Follow Pope Francis' example of tolerance and generosity of spirit.

Should not be top down approach. Laity should go to Rome Synod.

Women Deacons – needed, but will they happen? As may have more influence + be listened to then should we reconsider what a "Priest" is?

III. Speaking out

How can everybody be encouraged to communicate appropriately what is important to them?

Be silent and listen, don't butt in , don't feel you have to have your voice heard x2

Be still – and know that I am God.

Ask the question "Actively" x2

Active time to set aside.

Different means or modes of communication could be offered eg: discussion, anonymous survey, etc x 12

Possibly regular discussion groups x 1





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Use technology to contact non-attendees at church x 4

A dedicated online forum x 5 – would appeal to the youth of the parish.

Church could subsidise IT support for elderly or those in need x1

Making people feel welcome and equally valued x 2, Bring back welcomers x 2

More accepting of different ways of worshipping and communicating.

Bring back parish reconciliation services in Lent + Advent x 4

In social media postings on prayer, a simple link – explanation to how it relates to every day life.

People are time-poor + the language from scripture can be hard to interpret + decipher – young people speak – link to people who are leading a Christian life that people can relate to.

IV. Celebrating

How might I be better able to participate in Mass and other religious services?

Prioritising the Time x10

Preparing myself before x 16

Praying quietly afterwards x9

Keep attention going throughout & listen x 7

Read readings before service, so as not to be pondering over contents to the detriment of the sermon x4

Liturgy to be more appropriate for the participants eg: children x8

Make the liturgies relevant to current issues, whilst remaining impartial + non political, often key events or incidents are omitted from prayer/bidding prayers.

Groups/families prepare and do bidding prayers.

Youth Masses – led by them especially.

Groups/families do offertory procession.

Involvement of children when they return from children's church x1

Less Traditional/Formality/More varied/Less prescriptive Hymns we can join in with + well known.

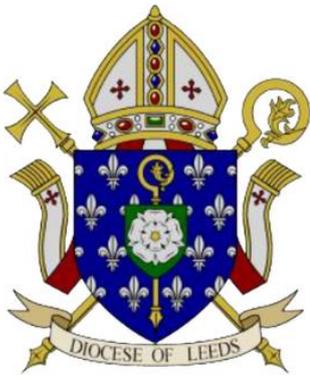
Imaginative use of Music + other media.

More silence in Mass and after Mass - encouragement to make a thanksgiving after Mass – not just rush straight out.

More Adoration available.

More variety of Liturgy.





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More formation, specifically on Liturgy.

V. Co-responsible in the mission

How can each Baptised person become a “missionary disciple”, revealing Christ to others through their words and deeds?

Lead by example and inform x12

Need to share with others – don’t hide your faith, be proud. x 5

Use Baptism as a starting point for becoming a Missionary Disciple x1. How? It needs the other persons assent first.

Listen to the views of those who disagree x 2

Having respect for others in conversation x 4.

Helping others in practical ways x 5

Asking Christ to live his life in me x 3

Respect and work with other faiths x 6

Be Yourself x 3

Be willing to be an “open” catholic – not just one in the shadows x 6

Lead by example – show others by the way we live our lives x 6

Apologise (even though they are not necessarily our fault – ie: child abuse, intolerance etc) to non-catholics, if required because they need to know that catholics can be Christians as well.

Listen to directions from the Holy Spirit.

Pray x1

Set your standard in accordance with The Commandments and live by them x 1

More formation – more confident in why you believe something.

Live out the faith in ordinary aspects of life and in good deeds to others – small things with great love! x 4

Love people where they are at x 4

We cant always do great things but we can do small things in a great way.

Value our strength + what we do well and build on them x3

VI. Dialogue in Church and society

How might we improve our conversations within our diocesan family and also outside of it, (for example with people of different faiths, those who have no faith and those who have particular roles and duties in society)?





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Better use of social media – especially for young people x8.
Listen to all people regardless of their faith x 7
Don't ignore people who have something to say even if we do not agree with them x 3
Reach out to people who no longer practice to find the reasons for possible loss of faith. x 2
Ascertain people's readiness to receive before asserting our own knowledge of the truth x 1
By not thinking that we (catholics) know it all x 3
Try to see things from their point of view x 5
Being non-judgemental x 2
Think before you speak. Learn about all faiths and focus on the many points we have in common x2
Better communication between parishes and within the diocese/clergy x 3
Remove the judgemental approach and attitudes on Divorce, Homosexuality, contraception, Gender etc. Often it is how the teaching is interpreted by a lay person and not scripture, that dictates how people are welcomed in the church and wider society x2
Church involvement in topics that are key in society and may not appear as "religious" at first sight x 2
Be more open-minded regarding the diocese and what it can provide.
More events organised by the diocese in local parishes.
Offer hospitality to open the door.
Get over embarrassment re clerical abuse – its not our (laity) fault.
Don't apologise for things we cant control or influence (currently) to other faiths, about our faiths current crisis/appearing out of step eg: on sexuality.
Listen and learn how other faiths have dealt with these issues.

VII. With the other Christian denominations

Are our relations with our Christian brothers and sisters good? How might they be improved?

By listening to them and taking them seriously x 3

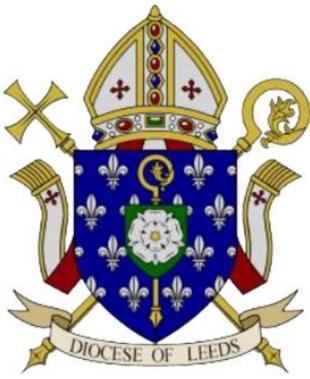
Nuns (and brothers) could be more involved with our parish.

Offer the youth a social aspect to the parish life (in the past, church provided the social life) x 3

No – encourage the church to be more relevant to younger people so it is more inclusive.

Younger perceptions often differ from current teachings x 6





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Education is too rigid with the rules from the diocese that impact on catholic teaching in schools x1

Correct misconceptions at a higher level x 1

Yes x 3

Respecting them and accepting various points of view even when unpalatable x 3

Traditional and rigid rules of the catholic church (in particular) regarding pre-marital sexuality, homosexuality and birth control need to be seriously overhauled before the younger generations will ever consider this church acceptable x 7

Reassert our connection with Ampleforth Abbey x 2

Person/Parish level Good – Improve ecumenical links x 4

There needs to be more clarity x 2

We can appear old fashioned and out of touch and maybe we are. We need to move forwards into 21st century.

VIII. Authority and participation

How might we develop teamwork and a sense of co-responsibility in our local Church?

Need for more group activities.

Communicate what activities are available and encourage participation x 5

More delegation of tasks in the liturgy/parish life x 4

Provide training for parish leaders to lead the teamwork

More prayer groups

Less hierarchical structure x 6

Invite people personally to join in x 5

Leadership from within the parishioners should be encouraged x 1

Encourage parishioners to recognise and give of their gifts and skills x 4 (not always appreciated)

Develop the Young People x 1

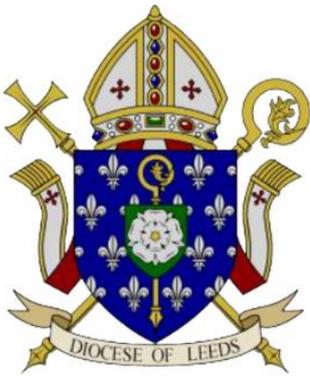
By being like Pope Francis and opening our hearts to the third world.

The regular Rosary group would bind some people together.

Regular exposition and Benediction is a benefit to the parish.

Join up with other local Christian groups and work out ways to show Christian kindness and values to everyone of every faith and colour and social status. All Christians and God loving people should act together.





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<p>Welcome and encourage feedback, even online suggestions x 1 Priest should not have last word x 1 Priest should have last word x 1 Opportunity to develop Food Bank at church To develop team work, we need parishioners to offer help/participate etc x 3</p>
<p>IX. Discerning and deciding How might we improve the process of decision-making in our local Church, so that we truly listen and recognise that the Holy Spirit can speak through each one of us?</p>
<p>To open Parish Pastoral Council meetings to any parishioner x3 And publish agenda and minutes x 6 More participation x 1 Less hierarchical structure x 5 More encouragement to pray together about important decisions x 4 More opportunities for people to raise issues, in an appropriate manner x 3 Offer a wider range of opportunities for people to share their thoughts x 1 People in higher positions need to be more approachable and attend/visit parishes x 2 Seek information (read it) on the issues, reflect and be prepared to share x 2 Be open-minded and seek wide range of views. Use different forms of communication (inc technology) x 3 Women Priests please, and parish priests should be able to marry x 1 Make use of our resident Deacon! Secular opinion is influencing our own before we consider church <u>teaching</u>, as opposed to Vatican decisions. Add some informal events which discuss big issues and involve a social aspect eg Food/drink – meetings without minutes!!</p>
<p>X. Forming ourselves in synodality What formation is necessary within the local Church if we are to become better at listening to one another and sharing our insights with one another?</p>
<p>More opportunities to share in the development of our faith, beyond celebrating/sharing weekly Mass together x 2</p>





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Union of Catholic mothers x 2
Prayer Groups (various) x 1
Youth club x 2
Groups like SVP
Develop friendship groups x 3
Be prepared to challenge accepted norms x 1
More collaboration with other churches x 2
Learning from other churches x 2
Opportunities for men's prayer groups x 2, or social (pub)
Encouraging people to take part in social activities already happening x 3
Providing training for local people to help with formation x 1
Open forum to allow groups to develop, to cater for individual needs x 3
Develop the art of listening thoughtfully and not just "hearing" x 2
Talk less and listen more x 2
Focus groups on specific topic.
I don't understand "formation", what does it mean?
We need adult formation in the faith x 1
Study the faith to a level consistent with your intelligence. Get to know the faith as well as you know your own day to day work x 1
Allow people through the church, to engage in practical work that has obvious benefits to community to foster unselfishness and pleasure in being in a group. That might lead gradually to more willingness to think about the role of religion and Christianity in our lives.
Devout Catholic, Being aware of how remote and irrelevant catholic beliefs – especially the traditional ones, have become to the younger generation x 1

