

4 *OUR FOUR THEMES*

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God, Creator of the world and author of all that is good, we seek your guidance and inspiration as a Diocesan family. Give us missionary zeal in the renewal of our parish communities.

May the gifts of your Holy Spirit be the source of all formation. May our closeness to your Son Jesus, in prayer, in Scripture and in the Sacraments make us convincing heralds of the Good News. Bless our homes, families and schools with knowledge of your constant and compassionate presence.

As you shape our lives from the moment of our baptism, keep before our eyes the needs of our neighbour, and encourage us to know that your Kingdom is promised first to those who know their need for you, the ones Whom your Son chooses and calls by name. We make our prayer through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayerfully read and reflect on the passage...

Close with a simple prayer, concluding with an invocation of diocesan or parish patron saints.

'...pray for us.'

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

- Luke 4: 17-19

DIOCESAN VISION STATEMENT

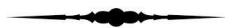
Our Vision is to be a Catholic diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour.

PART 4

The Diocesan Vision: *UNFOLDING GOD'S PLAN*

WORDS FROM ARCHBISHOP BERNARD

From the Diocesan Vision: *OUR FOUR THEMES...*



TO REFLECT ON

These four areas have been offered by the Archbishop in order to remind us of the key tasks of the Church, and he explains them for us. Further considerations he will add are *Young People & Families* and *Co-Responsibility*, as principles which should ground them. These themes are useful in helping us to assess the 'health' of our parish, as well as what ministries might be 'missing'.

Archbishop Bernard goes on to ask every Catholic to reflect on these four areas, to step outside our usual ways of thinking and to look with 'fresh eyes'. Consider and discuss the questions he raises:

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

"I ask you to reflect on these four areas - do you feel more strongly about one than another? Maybe God is calling you to use your talents there? I ask you to consider how you might put those gifts into action in service of the Church."

ACTIVITY

A good way that you can take this further is by using the framework in Appendix 4 which will help you to reflect on the 'health' of your parish in a systematic way. Are these themes present and represented in your parish and do they serve young people and families? Are there groups that can make them their responsibility or concern? Does anyone come to mind from Part 3 with gifts that might serve these areas?

"To prepare for this change, [...] there are four areas I am asking us all to focus on:

Evangelisation – *Encouraging others to know God's love for them by inviting them to church, to pray and to encounter Christ, and to groups where they can learn about Him. Forming missionary disciples and missionary parishes.*

Formation - *Growing leaders in our churches, schools and parish communities, by providing both spiritual and pastoral formation and support, to help prepare us for new roles. Helping you to understand more about your faith in order to deepen your personal relationship with God.*

Liturgy & Worship - *Invigorating and deepening our worship and sacramental celebrations so that we share in, and radiate, the divine life of God. Encouraging others to join us in prayer to our Heavenly Father.*

Social Outreach - *Building up the common good through our charitable outreach in the giving of our time, our resources and our love to those who need it most. Inviting others to join us in our charitable work."*

The Diocesan Vision: *UNFOLDING GOD'S PLAN*

FOR PRAYER

What intentions for prayer have come from this week's discussion? Make a note of them. Perhaps pray for them here or use them during the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass.

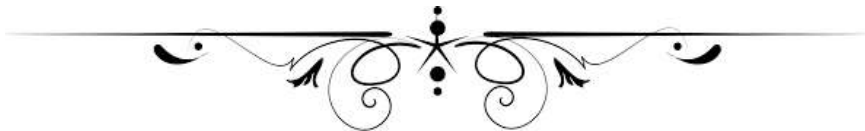
CLOSING PRAYER FOR THE VISION

S*pirit of God,
descend on me this day.
Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me,
the Spirit of hope to inspire me,
the Spirit of love to surround me and
the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path.*

*Holy Spirit,
I pray for a new outpouring of your grace,
so that I may grow in worship of your name
in love of you in my prayer
and in my actions towards others.*

*Come Holy Spirit into my life to guide me.
Strengthen and defend me,
so that I may be drawn ever closer to you.
Help me this day and always
to be a channel of grace
in all I say and do
and invite others into relationship with you.*

Amen



The Diocesan Vision: *UNFOLDING GOD'S PLAN*

APPENDIX 4 (For definitions of the 4 areas see PART 4)

DIOCESAN VISION – OUR PARISH	
Identify the various ministries in your parish (as well as those that you would like to exist) that fit into the 4 elements of our diocesan vision. Consider how Young People & Families are catered for in each area, and how ministries can be exercised Co-Responsibly . Is anything missing?	
EVANGELISATION	FORMATION
LITURGY/WORSHIP (PRAYER)	SOCIAL OUTREACH