

From Parish to Mission

Parish	Our Lady of Unfailing Help and St Paul of the Cross Cleckheaton
Parish Priest	Fr Nicholas Hird
Facilitators	Annette Crowther, Nicky Grant, Andy Hill
Date of Meeting	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> November @ 6.30pm
Number	6 plus Fr Nicholas Hird
Approx Age Range	50s-70s
<b>I. The journeying companions</b> As we journey together let us look around. Who are you on the journey with and what persons or groups are marginalised and why?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>We are a general community. Meeting and greeting is very important to welcome new people. The more welcoming we are, the more people will come and more often. Word of mouth is very important.</b></li> <li>• <b>There is still an issue with companions due to COVID and some have not returned yet. We need to find ways to welcome them back. The marginalised therefore are those not on line and they need those who are online to keep them up to date with things that are happening in the Parish.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>II. Listening</b> How might our local Church better listen to lay people (and especially young people and women) and minorities and those who are not respected?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Could be a reminder to follow the Gospels. Jesus encouraged the young, he sat with the women and tax collectors. If we follow that, we are teaching it is wonderful to meet the marginalised.</b></li> <li>• <b>How do we make the lapsed welcomed back, and welcomed home?</b></li> </ul>	
<b>III. Speaking out</b> How can everybody be encouraged to communicate appropriately what is important to them?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Just by being respectful of others' opinions and views.</b></li> <li>• <b>All comes down to if you feel confident in your group/ community that you can speak your beliefs and view. It comes back to being welcomed.</b></li> </ul>	





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### IV. Celebrating

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

- Mass is teaching us all the time. Sometimes in the Readings that I was wrong or I was right. There is a way forward.
- Teaching us to go out and follow through/ live it, what was heard in the Mass that day. Like a 1-1, each person will get something, different to others.
- Readings will influence you, each time you hear it, it might be different.
- Not just readings, a hymn might speak to you, or the Homily, there might be something you pick up that you can use/apply in your daily life.
- Our congregation needs more encouraging to sing or participate more.
- Music has a large part to play.
- Encourage people to be Ministers e.g. of the Word and encourage as many different voices as possible.
- Attending Mass gives you the chance to be peaceful.

### V. Co-responsible in the mission

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

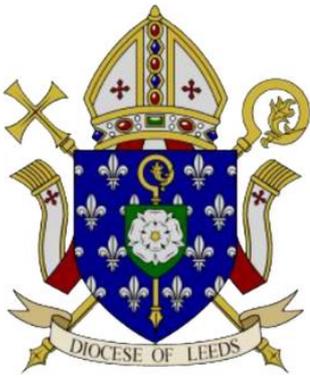
- Simple conversation- bringing God into your everyday life. E.g. saying “I am going to Mass first then I will see you.”
- Just being your normal self, putting others’ needs before yourself sometimes. It’s just the way you act, you behave. Setting examples.
- Someone tells you something is concerning them and you simply say “I will pray for you.”

### 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)?

- Cooperation with other churches, other people and not being “cliquish”. E.g. I’ve got my group of friends and “I’m ok”- that’s not ok.
- Have to recognise all as individuals, not put them in brackets.
- Important to talk to people of other faiths in the street, for example Asian families, a





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simple “Good morning” rather than passing and saying nothing.

### VII. With the other Christian denominations

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

- There is a need to go back pre-pandemic e.g. Ecumenical services in our local area. Hopefully they will resume soon.
- Through ‘True Life in God’ – return to one Easter. Our Pope should have dialogue with Coptic Christians. Catholics could go back to the original Easter calendar. All celebrate Easter together at the same time.

### VIII. Authority and participation

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

- Perseverance
- By journeying together and not letting someone’s role in church imbue them with greater power or greater influence than anyone else
- People like to be asked
- It seems to be the same people in a Parish, some might feel they are always involved. But sometimes there are few volunteers or the same volunteers. People should be encouraged to come forward into Parish groups. In particular encouragement for the young. Certain groups for a certain age. I am sure young people would have some great ideas

### IX. Discerning and deciding

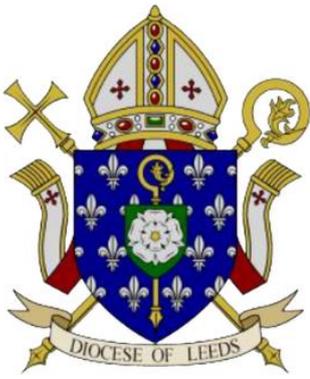
How might we improve the process of decision-making in our local Church, so that we truly listen and recognise that the Holy Spirit can speak through each one of us?

- By praying about it. Starting off the process, like we did tonight starting the meeting by praying
- Can only do it over time. All have a valid point and we might have to agree to disagree. People have to get comfortable with being able to do that.
- Having a safe learning environment.

### 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?





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- **Practise to begin with. Setting out boundaries and expectations**
- **People see their voice in an outcome, reflected back so they can see they have been listened to. They might not have got what they wanted but shows they have been heard.**
- **Time, space and opportunity- us becoming a church that does this on a more frequent basis.**
- **Our society is very diverse and complex, therefore we have got to show ourselves as Christians and of a Christian ethic. Church has to be a unit working to one end and spirituality comes with that.**



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For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission