



Archdiocese of Liverpool

“Becoming the Church God is calling us to be.”

Implementing the Pastoral Plan

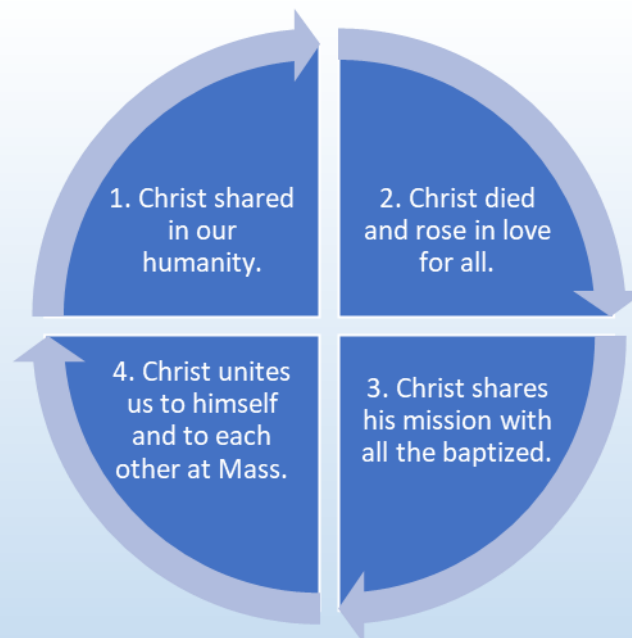
Parish Development Strategy -

a local mission planning approach

Our missionary priorities have been given to us by the Synod and the Pastoral Plan:

- Becoming a Church that accompanies people through life.
- Becoming a Church that honours the vocation of all the baptised.
- Becoming a Church where synodality is embedded.
- Becoming a Church that renews its organisational structures and administers its property to serve its mission.
- Becoming a Church where young people and young adults flourish.
- Becoming a Church that cares for its priests.

Keeping Christ at the centre helps us reflect on the kind of Church God is calling us to be.



In mapping the way forward, the Pastoral Plan set out four signposts to the future:

- be immersed in the joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties of humanity today;
- be brave and creative in renewing local structures;
- develop leadership to attend to changing needs;
- embed synodality in every aspect of archdiocesan life.

The Pastoral Plan sets out these ambitious, high-level missionary aspirations, which need to be delivered at local level in the parishes of the archdiocese.

Local Mission Planning

If we accept that the resources we have - including the number of priests, deacons and lay volunteers - are declining and the number of buildings we have cannot be sustained, then we need to engage in a process by which the local church accepts that reality and embraces the possibility of change. That is a developmental process – there needs to be a local acceptance of the need to change and a willingness to help shape a vibrant, healthy and sustainable Church for now and into the future.

How do we take this to the next level?

Guidance will be given to the local church so it can determine a local plan that it will own for the future. This must be firmly rooted in the Pastoral Plan and focussed on the missionary imperatives of the Church - they provide a vision of hope that will help us to determine what resources, including buildings, are necessary to support and deliver our mission. The most important thing is that the starting point is **mission** – the rest flows from that.

What is the process?

A four-stage process is proposed for each parish and deanery to engage in:

1. Reviewing the current situation
2. Choosing future priorities
3. Making plans
4. Acting on the plans



This local planning process will need to be conducted at three levels:

1. Each parish will carry out their own review. Local members of the Steering Group will lead this process, consulting as many people as possible,
2. In the three Sefton deaneries the findings will be shared at Deanery Synodal Council level.
3. Then future priorities will need to be imagined, discussed widely and decided.

This whole initiative must involve everyone; it must be truly synodal and every voice matters.

Can I find out more?

As this is a fully synodal approach, the full strategy document is available for everyone to read. You can view it here: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/parishdevelopment

What will happen next?

Look out for information in your parish about how you can get involved in the first stage – reviewing every aspect of the life and mission of your parish.

