

# **Pastoral Plan 2024-2025**



**St. Teresa's, Heaton  
St. Lawrence's, Byker  
St. Anthony's, Walker**

## **Pope Francis – Evangelii Gaudium**

**‘The Church which ‘goes forth’ is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first, and therefore we can moved forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of is own experienced of the power of the Father’s infinite mercy. Let us try a little harder to take the first step and to become involved. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. The Lord gets involved and he involves his own, as he kneels to wash their feet. He tells his disciples: ‘you will be blessed if you do this’.**

**‘The parish is not an outdated institution, precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of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 evangelizes, 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 useless structure out of touch with the people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few.’**

## **Our Guide for our pastoral plan**

**The words of Pope Francis remind us that our parishes exist to bring people to God, and God to the people. In order to do this, here in the east end of Newcastle, we have developed this pastoral plan to keep our eyes fixed on the everchanging communities that we serve, and live, within. Our Pastoral Plan is broken down into five areas, which require constant review, so that we continue to walk alongside, and with, the people we serve.**

## **Formation**

# **KNOWING OUR FAITH**

- 1. We will provide formational opportunities for all people, that highlight the liturgical life of the Church (Mass, Sacraments, Devotions, Liturgical Seasons, Liturgy of the Word)**
  
- 2. We will establish House Groups, known as Kairos, to expand opportunities and/or resources for families to actively engage in learning the Catholic Faith.**
  - ~ KAIROS ‘small faith house groups’ that meet together on a bimonthly basis in homes, or in churches, to help members to connect, to belong and to grow together.  
(Easter 2024)**
  - ~ Through regular activities we will provide opportunities for our young people to encounter other groups through different events such as Youth2000, The Source, and Flame  
(Ongoing throughout 2024)**
  
- 3. We will provide spiritual and practical formation for those involved in ministries within the parishes.**
  - ~ We will invite readers, eucharistic ministers, music ministers, welcomers to attend a training day and day of recollection.  
(Advent 2024)**
  
- 4. Through marriage preparation meetings, we will provide formational opportunities that highlight the Church’s teachings about the Sacrament of Marriage and Family life.**
  - ~ We will offer catechesis to educate parishioners about the Church’s teachings on marriage, family life, divorce, annulments, birth-control, and natural family planning.**
  - ~ We will conduct mini-retreats for engaged couples and married couples.  
(Advent 2024)**

## **Outreach to Community**

### **LIVING OUR FAITH**

**1. We will evaluate, encourage, and expand outreach ministry to parishioners in need. We will do this by -**

- ~ **being proactive in promoting services already available to families here in the East End of Newcastle.**
- ~ **Creating a parish resource guide that would assist parishioners in finding resources available in the community.**
- ~ **We will organize an annual 'service programme' through which parishioners could volunteer to assist other parishioners with household projects**

**(Lent 2024)**

**2. We will establish and maintain a welcoming environment and engage all parishioners in the ministry of hospitality. We will achieve this by**

- ~ **Hosting bi-monthly events so that new parishioners can be welcomed to the parishes.**
- ~ **Reinforcing the need for all parishioners to reach out to others, especially to visitors and new parishioners.**
- ~ **Pairing new parishioners with established parishioners to help them feel at home and involved.**

**(Easter 2024)**

**3. We will encourage, and expand outreach ministry to the wider community, especially the vulnerable, neglected, and marginalized.**

- ~ **We will promote and enhance outreach ministry to the Byker Wall residents, Student's, and refugees. (2024/5)**
- ~ **We will partner with other Catholic charities in the local area to provide items for needy families.**
- ~ **We will increase our visibility and knowledge of our outreach programmes by reporting on their activities to both the diocese, parish, and local media.**

## **Spirituality & Building the Kingdom SPREADING/KEEPING OUR FAITH**

- 1. We will assist all parishioners, and all within our local community, to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We will do this in various ways including,**
  - ~ Providing a yearly retreat (October 2024)
  - ~ Establishing KAIROS groups which will increase opportunities for parishioners to share their faith in small group settings.
  - ~ Running programmes such as Sycamore aimed at creating personal relationships with Jesus for different age groups.
  
- 2. We will assist parishioners with understanding the primary role of the Mass in Evangelisation**
  - ~ We will offer a course, and regular newsletter inserts about the significance of the Mass in our daily lives  
**(Ordinary Time – Summer 2024)**
  
- 3. We will assist parishioners in becoming intentional disciples who evangelise others in their daily lives. We will achieve this by -**
  - ~ Having a ‘question of the week’ at the end of the homily which invites parishioners to reflect on the question throughout the week.
  - ~ Through the JPPII award and through active involvement we will train, integrate, and empower youth to collaborate in parish life through ministry and service.
  - ~ Through the KAIROS groups we will assist families in becoming more intentional in making the connection between faith and everyday lives.
  
- 4. We will recognize and develop the role of Catholic Devotions and other liturgical celebrations in evangelization.**
  - ~ We will provide opportunities for parishioners to celebrate the devotions particular to their cultures.
  - ~ We will invite parishioners to share with others the devotions and main celebrations of their cultures.
  - ~ We will offer yearly celebrations such as ‘Il Nino’, African Mass, International Mass ect

## **GROWTH OF OUR PARISHES**

- 1. As we begin to achieve the Pastoral plan we will continue to discern the future needs of our parishes by reflecting on the needs of the communities in which we serve. This will be done through regular reviews, pastoral council meetings, and open meetings with the different church and school communities**
- 2. To support the growth of our parish we will have a vision for future upgrades and works on the church properties.**
  - ~ We will create a committee, and a plan, for long range strategic planning and works with the goal of looking to the future**
  - ~ We will engage with all groups across the parishes to make sure the access to Church is supported**
- 3. We will look at determined ways to better serve our community in the years to come.**
  - ~ We will utilize parish data to determine projections for future growth.**
  - ~ We will consult the local communities to see what is needed to help improve the lives of those who live within our communities.**
  - ~ When new staff are needed we will look at hiring people from our local communities.**
- 4. We will create a vision for future pastoral work**
  - ~ We will look at new ways to offer regular news updates to parishioners and the local communities.**
  - ~ Conduct an annual meeting of the parishes, inviting our school communities, our local communities, and partners**



## **Prayer & Liturgy MUSIC MINISTRY**

- 1. We will look at how we can improve the liturgy of our parishes through Music.**
  - ~ **We will invite children from our local schools, along with others who play musical instruments, to share their talents so that we can praise God worthily!**
  - ~ **We will look at setting up a children's choir across the parishes, involving the local school communities**
  - ~ **We will promote, and support, our younger people in learning musical instruments and in singing.**
- 2. We will look at how we can share the gifts and talents that we have within the parishes to serve each other.**

## **Young People THE NOW OF THE CHURCH**

- 1. We will explore the need to employ a Church outreach worker to work with, and to support, our younger members.**
  - ~ **We have heard that our young adults want a 'formation group' to learn more about the faith and to engage with it in new ways. This will be supported by an Outreach Worker**
- 2. We will liaise with our school communities in new ways.**
  - ~ **We will explore how we can work together to reestablish links that have been lost.**
  - ~ **We will publish more information from the schools in our bulletin, noticeboards, social media feeds and on our websites.**
  - ~ **We will review, with the help of our young adults, how we welcome and support them.**
  - ~ **We will review how we support young families, involving families in identifying any changes we need to make.**

# **FINANCE**

- 1. We will start looking to the future with a clear financial strategy**
  - ~ **We will assess what we have and how we can best use our income to support the growth of the parishes.**
  - ~ **We will begin fundraising campaigns so that we can make our parishes viable for the future. (LENT 2024)**
  - ~ **We will promote regular standing orders, gift aid, and legacies to the parishes. (lent 2024)**