



Archdiocese of Glasgow Parish Reflection ahead of Deanery Council Meetings

The Archdiocese invites Deanery Councils to bring their reflections and ideas to help build a new vibrancy throughout the Archdiocese of Glasgow. The first task of the deanery council is to contribute to proposals to be submitted to the Archdiocese this summer. These proposals will consider how each deanery can and should function regarding the following themes:

1. **Evangelisation:** How can each deanery best evangelise in this current time bringing renewal to parish life?
2. **Collaboration:** How can deanery parishes work together to better support each other by building local communities of faith and worship.
3. **Resources:** What resources of people, finance and buildings does each deanery need to best serve the process of evangelisation and collaboration?

To support this, there are questions each parish might consider as it prepares for the first deanery council meeting. Each parish community is different; their strengths and struggles have a unique character. Priests and lay council members are encouraged to listen to and reflect deeply on the reality of their own parish situation. Council members might consider these questions together with their parish council or wider parish community. These questions do not need to be answered all at once, they are simply prompts to help priests and parish representatives to begin to consider these issues ahead of deanery discussions.

“Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: “We have always done it this way”. I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities... The important thing is to not walk alone, but to rely on each other as brothers and sisters, and especially under the leadership of the bishops, in a wise and realistic pastoral discernment.” (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 33)

Evangelisation: How can each deanery best evangelise in this current time?

Imagine vibrant, joyful church life within your deanery. Envision life-giving faith experiences that have the power to actively introduce others to the love of Jesus Christ:

- What are your hopes for deanery life in your community? Where would you love to see new life and vibrancy?
- Where have you seen or experienced good examples of evangelisation and outreach?
- Where have you seen or experienced good examples to evangelise young people?
- In what ways could your deanery encourage people to deepen their existing relationship with Jesus Christ?
- Are there things your deanery could do to introduce people to the love of Jesus Christ for the first time?
- In what ways are the parishioners of your deanery well-positioned to act on their faith by serving those in need within your local community?

Collaboration: How can deanery parishes work together in new ways to support each other?

- What parishes in your deanery would be natural collaborators with your own in sharing knowledge, expertise and leadership as we plan for the future?
- What strengths and gifts can your parish offer your deanery?
- What strengths and gifts do you know of in other deanery parishes that will be helpful in this process?
- How ready is your parish to work in a new collaborative way with other parishes?
- What will your parish find challenging in this collaboration? What would help your parish work well with others?

Resources: What resources of people, finance and buildings does each deanery need to best serve these plans for evangelisation and collaboration?

Priestly leadership and Participation

- Given fewer numbers of priests, how should Mass schedules and the celebration of the Sacraments in each deanery be reorganised?
- Given the projected fall in the number of active Priests in the next few years; how can Priests best serve evangelisation efforts in each deanery?

Lay Leadership and Participation:

- Does your parish have a core of members truly committed to the Gospel of Christ?
- How willing are parishioners to make the parish a priority, giving generously of their time, talent and resources?

- Does your parish have enough people offering active ministry to the parish (e.g. Parish Council, Finance Council, Music Ministry, Readers, Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion etc.)?
- Are young people and families well represented and active within your congregation and in the various ministries?

“Synodal Leadership”

- What structures do you see being necessary to maximise the effectiveness of synodal leadership in which priests and laity contribute to the communities of faith and worship locally?

Financial resources

- Does your parish have sufficient income to cover your parish expenses and pay the Archdiocesan levy in any given year?
- How will this be impacted by the projected rise in gas and electric costs over the coming year?
- Can your parish fund new outreach or evangelisation projects as envisioned above?

Church and building spaces

- Is your parish able to maintain its facilities and properties in good condition?
- Are there major capital expenditure works required in your parish in future? (Consider things like wind and watertight roofs, gutters, windows and walls. Electrical safety, accessibility, toilets and welfare facilities etc.)

Formation and Education

- What formation and/or education of priests and laity do you consider necessary to achieve the vision in your area?