

Cathedral Deanery Newsletter

'The Word Who is Life'

Spring 2020



Welcome to this second newsletter for the Cathedral Deanery.

What is a Deanery?

A deanery is a group of neighbouring parishes who work together to coordinate pastoral activities. Of course 'working together' and 'coordinate pastoral activities' can mean various different things in different circumstances. In our Diocesan Pastoral Plan it is made clear that this role of local parishes working more and more closely together will become increasingly important. It envisages that Formation will take place at a deanery level (rather than centrally at a diocesan level, or locally in individual parishes), but also that parishes will take advantage of the opportunity to share resources and administration (*The Word Who is Life* para 70).

In each deanery of our Diocese the clergy (including the retired clergy) meet six or seven times a year to pray together, to discuss common matters of interest (including, for example, the Deanery Secondary School) and to support one another. In addition, the Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated by the Bishop on a deanery basis, with all the parishes of the deanery presenting their candidates at the same Confirmation Mass.

The real question for us to consider is how we can work together more effectively as parishes in the Cathedral Deanery. Already some of our parishes are working together to provide shared preparation for Confirmation, and for Reception into the Church. This is an excellent start, but as the number of priests continues to reduce in the coming years it is essential for our parishes to work more closely together, not just the clergy but the lay people too. I would like to suggest a simple rule of thumb as a starting point. When we are arranging an event, course, training session, quiet day, special liturgy in our parishes, we should ask ourselves: 'Is there any good reason why this event should be limited to just people from our parish?' Unless there is some really compelling reason to keep it just for that parish, the presumption should be that all these events would be advertised throughout the Deanery. This simple change of approach will make sure that we use our resources well, and do not duplicate things that would be better done together.

We cannot be sure how the Deanery will look in ten years time, but one thing we can be sure of: the more we work together, communicate with one another, and share resources, experience and expertise, the more healthy all our parishes will be.

Fr Peter Newsam

Dean of the Cathedral Deanery

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Cathedral Deanery Forum

14th March, 10am-1pm - St Philip Howard Catholic High School, Barnham

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan encourages us to look beyond our parishes and consider our membership of a Deanery. The clergy and schools have always worked in this way and there are real benefits to sharing and exploring our membership of a deanery. This newsletter is a fruit of the collegiate way that we work and wish to develop in the future.

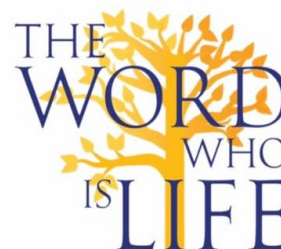
The Diocese is divided into eleven deaneries and the Cathedral Deanery consists of The Cathedral Parish of Arundel; Bognor Regis with Slindon; Storrington; Chichester with the Witterings; Midhurst and Petworth; and Selsey.

The Cathedral Deanery has been chosen to begin a process of deanery conversations with regards to formation. When we say 'formation' in the Church, we mean being prepared and ready for our Mission, that is 'to go and make disciples of all nations...' (Matthew 28:19). Formation of ourselves means confidence in our faith, that we have undertaken learning to be catechists, readers, extraordinary ministers, musicians etc so that the work we do in the parish is the best it can be and we are constantly looking for ways to improve how we carry out Mission in our communities.

On Saturday 14th March, 10-1 at our Deanery High School in Barnham, there will be an event called the Cathedral Deanery Forum and we invite all those people who are interested in listening and sharing with each other about how we build God's Kingdom in our parishes. Fr Rob Esdaile will give a keynote talk on the challenges a parish will face in the future and our Dean, Fr Peter Newsam, will contextualise this for our deanery.

There will be an opportunity to hear about inventive initiatives that are happening in the different parishes of our deanery and that we may each consider for our own parish, so that we can begin to develop a way of working across parishes that shares good practice. At the end of the meeting, we will consider how to take this work forward.

For more information, please contact Jon Harman, Diocesan Formation Adviser on 01293 651157 or jon.harman@abdiocese.org.uk



Prayer ♦ Formation ♦ Mission

St Gabriel's, Billingshurst

You may remember that in the last Newsletter it was mentioned that Billingshurst would be moving from the Cathedral Deanery to the Crawley Deanery. That move has now taken place, which means that in future Billingshurst will be working closely with the parishes of the Crawley Deanery. We bid them farewell, and wish Fr Alan Sharpe and the people of St Gabriel's many blessings for the future.

In Solidarity with Persecuted Christians

Roy Peachey, the Area Secretary for Aid to The Church in Need, is coming to Petworth to speak about the situation of persecuted Christians at The Sacred Heart Church in Petworth on Friday 27th March at 7.30pm. This will give us a great opportunity to learn more about our brothers and sisters in Christ who pay a high price for their discipleship, and to express our solidarity with them. Anyone is welcome.

Corpus Christi Carpet of Flowers at Arundel Cathedral

Week commencing 8th June 2020. Helpers welcome at the Cathedral on the preparations and viewing days for the Corpus Christi Carpet of Flowers. Do you have experience in First Aid, stewarding, public address systems, or just a willing pair of hands to wash-up or a smiling face to welcome visitors?

Flowers and spaces prepared on Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th June; open to the public on 10th & 11th June.

Contact the Cathedral Office in Arundel on 01903 882297 or at aruncath1@aol.com if you can offer a few hours, a day or more.