

Meeting of clergy and lay people of Brighton & Hove Deanery on 28th November 2024

• ***Paul VI, Evangelii nuntiandi, 8th December, 1975 – Evangelisation in the Modern World***

“...And it is above all his (Jesus) mission and his work of evangelisation which the church must constantly maintain. For the Christian community can never be confined within itself, because its intimate life, that is its zeal for prayer, its hearing of the word and the teaching of the apostles, its exercise of fraternal charity, the breaking of bread, cannot achieve its full force and value unless it becomes a witness and evokes admiration and conversion of souls. It must preach the gospel and announce the good news. In this way the mission of evangelisation is undertaken by the whole church and the work of each individual redounds to the good of all.” (Paragraph 14). “There is, therefore, a very close connection between Christ, the church and evangelisation. During this ‘era of the church’ the task of evangelisation is entrusted to her.” (Paragraph 16).

Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 24th November, 2013 – The joy of the Gospel

- “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day.” “John Paul II asked us to recognise that ‘there must be no lessening of the impetus to preach the Gospel’ to those who are far from Christ, ‘because this is the first task of the Church.’ Indeed, ‘today missionary activity still represents the greatest challenge for the Church’ and ‘the missionary task must remain foremost.’ (Paragraphs 3 and 15 quoting John Paul II in *Redemptoris Missio*).

• ***The Word who is Life, The Pastoral Plan: The Call to Mission 2023***

“The Church has a ‘Missionary Mandate’, to be ‘the universal sacrament of salvation.’ This task of preaching the Gospel to all stems from the command of the Lord to the Apostles, recorded at the end of Matthew’s Gospel: ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.’ Effective mission is not possible unless grounded in prayer and underpinned by formation (Paragraph 3.3.1 and 3.3.iv).

- “Thus, each of these restructured parishes will comprise a number of church communities, based at current church premises”. “With such a structure in place, the team of priests living across this wider community will then be able to cooperate more closely, serving the sacramental needs of the communities concerned in a flexible way and freed to bring their gifts to the service of the Church in mission. Those who hold the office of Dean will in, this way, take on the task of Moderator for the communities in their care” (Paragraphs 5.7 and 5.9).

• ***The Word who is life, The roles of the Clergy in the Parishes of the Diocese 2024***

“While the priests of the parish are not constituted as a ‘college’ in the canonical sense, a collegiate approach to priestly ministry will bring many benefits to the parish” This must be grounded in prayer together, with opportunities for the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours and occasions for Eucharistic Adoration” (Paragraph 2.2.iv).

- “The Moderator is a ‘*primus inter pares*’ among the priests of the parish. The relationship he has with regard to the other priests of the parish is **not**¹ that of ‘Parish Priest / Assistant

¹ Emphasis is mine.

Priest'. (Paragraph 3.1.i).² "The Moderator must encourage and support the clergy of the parish to carry out the primary responsibilities of their ministry: the preaching of the Word, the celebration of the sacraments and the pastoral care of the lay faithful and of one another" (Paragraph 3.1.v)

- "The Moderator has a role of overall co-ordination for the parish, in the following ways:
 - He has oversight of the joint action within the parish and is responsible for it to the Bishop.
 - He acts in the person of the parish (Canon 532). Subject to the limits set by the Bishop (Canon 1276), he holds responsibility for the administration of the goods of the parish in accordance with Canons 1281-1288.
 - He has a role of oversight for the pastoral activities of the parish, ensuring the resourcing, running, and maintenance of all parish communities, most especially regarding the provision of Masses and the availability of the sacraments.
 - He takes sole responsibility for representing the parish in juridical affairs, including the care of the parochial registers. (Paragraph 3.2.ii)
- "In order to ensure the best possible communication and a collaborative approach to mission, each parish will develop a leadership team. This will be a small group of lay people and clergy who can unite around a shared vision for the parish. The team will assist in determining the aspects of formation and administration that can be carried out centrally for the whole parish and those aspects that can be more appropriately developed at local or intermediate (hub) level. Each community will establish or develop their own representative team and some members from these teams will also be invited to form a parish-wide council which will meet frequently with the leadership team. How the Council and leadership teams are constituted is for local determination and guidance from the Formation team³ is available for this. The involvement of such teams in discussions about Mass provision will be essential" (Paragraph 1.1.v).

When will all this take place?

- We have already begun to meet and work together here and there. Determining the vision and putting the structures in place, together with the people in them, will be led by the active clergy in consultation with lay people and by the final approval of Bishop Richard. This process will begin when the Deanery clergy meet on 11th February 2025 at their monthly deanery meeting. Don't panic! It will take some time to get the initial structures in place and everyone working together productively, but once this is done we can then ask Bishop Richard to formally establish the new parish and continue the work on the many outstanding items!

Canon David Parmiter, Parish Priest, St. Peter's RC Church, Hove

² 'In such cases, the group of priests, in communion with the other members of the Parish community, act in common deliberation, the Moderator being a *primus inter pares* among the other priests, all of whom are, to all intents and purposes, Parish Priests. (From: The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community)

³ Based at the Diocesan Offices at the St. Philip Howard Centre, Crawley