



VISION DOCUMENT: SHAPING OUR FUTURE

e-bulletin

June 2019

Welcome to the June e-bulletin.

Family: Bishop Alan writes:

On Saturday 6th July our inaugural Diocesan Marriage Conference takes place and I am looking forward to celebrating Mass at the end of the conference and preaching about the vital importance of marriage and family life more generally.

Stable and Holy families are a key building block of our catholic communities and indeed of wider society, so this conference will explore how we maintain and strengthen that building block for the future. Set firmly in the context of our Diocesan Vision: Shaping our Future, you will hear from key note speakers Brendan and Laura Thompson as well as others involved in supporting those preparing for and experiencing married life. It will be important for every parish partnership to take part if at all possible and I would urge as many as possible to come along to what I am sure will be a very worthwhile step along our road to supporting marriage and family life in our diocese.

Bishop Alan Williams sm

Diocesan Marriage Conference is in the Cathedral Hall on Saturday 6th July. The programme includes input on sharing the good news of marriage and the family; a discussion on taking forward the 'family' strand of diocesan renewal; and information sharing from the various organisations within the church for supporting marriage and family life. Registration is essential - <https://brentwoodmarriageday.eventbrite.co.uk> It's free and open to all who are interested.

Parish Partnerships

Thank you to those who have been sharing ideas and concerns with me this month and to those who have invited me to future meetings. There has been a bit of a theme around employing parish managers (or a variation on that theme). The idea of having a lay person who takes on delegated responsibility for non sacramental aspects of parish partnership life working with priests in the partnership and relieving them of some of the work in the partnership is one that clearly has merit and is worthy of consideration.

Others have been exploring the possibility of employing a youth worker or co-ordinator for the partnership and this is something to be encouraged. Indeed In a few days time every parish will receive copies of our new document about **Employing a Parish Partnership Youth Co-ordinator**. A copy for every Steward of the Gospel is being sent. Please look out for this and ensure that it finds its way to the most appropriate person in your parish. This document builds on work we did together earlier in the year. This is a link to the video of that day.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/12-strands-renewal/young-people/>

If you have not already organised a joint worship/social event for your parish partnership please give consideration to doing so. In other dioceses where parish communities have joined together in a wider community it has been a good way of forging new personal relationships and a meeting of minds to support working relationships across the new parish partnership.

<http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development>

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Please read *Canon Peter Connor's* (a member of the Cathedral Chapter and the College of Consultors) latest personal reflection on the Vision Document: Shaping Our Future.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/12-strands-renewal/christian-life-worship/>

"An Aid to Thinking About Possibilities" and "A (very) Rough Guide to Canon Law" provide ideas for your consideration. <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/resources/>

There are no hard and fast rules about what should be in a Parish Partnership Plan but here is a suggested list that is open to addition, alteration and amendment. Let me know your thoughts. <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/PARISH-PARTNERSHIP-PLAN-PROFORMA.pdf>

Vocations: Fr Mark Swires (Vocations Promoter) writes:

Steve Webb kindly offered to put something in this bulletin about Vocations. I'm on holiday at the moment and I'm sending this email from a little church in a small town where all the churches are open during the day.

It's clearly a place of prayer - people have come in and there are candles burning in front of the Lady altar.

Helping people at key moments in life to discern God's plan for them is surely a very important part of the work of any parish.

It seems to me that Stewards of the Gospel and others who are involved in helping in parishes might be able to give encouragement to this work.

Perhaps a mention about praying about one's vocation can be a useful part of First Communion, Confirmation and other Catechesis.

Stewards might like to pray in a particular way for vocations to the priesthood for our diocese and mention to the parish priest people they see who might be suitable...

God is certainly calling people, but are we providing the right help for people to hear God's voice and follow?

Our next "enquirers' evening" for those interested in Diocesan priesthood takes place on Tuesday 2nd July. Please get in touch with me on vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org for more information. Please keep this very much in your prayers and have lots of Masses offered for it!

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/12-strands-renewal/vocations-to-the-priesthood/>

Charity, Justice and Social Action:

Congratulations to Phyl McLaren who won Volunteer of the Year Award for her brilliant work with Basildon Emergency Night Shelter. Read all about the excellent and inspiring work being done at <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/>

If you would like to share a story relating to the exercise of the ministry of charity in our diocese please let us know by contacting gemmabrooks@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Steven Webb

Director of Development

<http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development>

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