

QUESTIONS RELATING TO FUTURE PASTORAL PROVISION AND MISSION STRATEGY



Please submit responses to these questions via email to Fr Peter, peter.wygnanski@rcdea.org.uk, with the subject 'QUESTIONS RELATING TO FUTURE PASTORAL PROVISION'.

PHASE 1 – CLERGY CONSULTATION

Question 1.

How would you describe and evaluate the elements that have fashioned or influenced the life of your Parish since September 2018? Please provide details of the impact these elements have had on Mass attendance, lay participation in ministerial service, other pastoral activity, et.al.

Question 2.

Whilst accounting for the timeline of your incumbency, how has your Parish changed/developed over the past ten years? Which elements can you identify that could impact future change/development over the next five years? Although this question seeks to identify known rather than speculative factors, it would be useful to provide details of actual and potential housing development.

Question 3.

Is there a need to alter the schedule of Masses in your Parish to account for changes in attendance? Provide a detailed description of each location where Mass is celebrated, alluding to history and to your assessment of projected changes to future patterns.

Question 4.

How does your Parish relate to the other Parishes in the Deanery? Accounting for the projected decrease in the number of priests who will be in active ministry within the Diocese over the next five to ten years, outline your suggestions as to how a re-structuring of Parishes in your Deanery might facilitate an improved pastoral provision in service to the mission of the Church?

Question 5.

Calling upon your varied pastoral experiences in the different zones of the Diocese, what suggestions can you formulate for future provision across the whole Diocese? Although the North/South Corridor from Peterborough to Cambridge will undoubtedly experience the most dramatic expansion of population, the whole region will see significant growth. What changes to Deaneries/Parishes/Pastoral Units would you propose in order to address future needs?

Question 6.

Taking account of the financial challenges facing the Diocese, what suggestions can you formulate regarding the stewardship of our resources and the best possible employment of those resources? We will need to take note of all relevant legal principles and constraints, canonical and civil, along with the demands of the common good.

Question 7.

What would you identify as the key elements that will/should fashion our future pastoral provision and mission? Please identify what you consider to be the strengths of your local practice and allude to what could be improved. Some elements will be within our control and some outside of our control. How would you prioritise your own objectives? Please provide details of the catechetical resources used in your Parish and the structure/methodology of their delivery. It would be useful if you would offer your opinions/analysis regarding the issues surrounding our Young People and the challenges we all face in nurturing their spiritual vocation as Witnesses to Christ in the midst of the world they inhabit.

Question 8.

Phase 2 of this process will involve consulting the Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese. We will need to be as open as possible regarding the challenges that face us so that we confront the temptations of 'parochialism' and 'congregationalism'. What suggestions can you formulate that would enhance this process?

N.B. These questions are not exhaustive and are intended simply to provide an initial platform to facilitate conversation and debate.