

Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill-on-Sea
Pastoral Care & Support Group
Easter 2022 Update: Discussion of our Parish Mission & Vision

Introduction: In November 2019, a large group of parishioners met for the event *‘Something to Celebrate’*, in which they listed their *‘Dreams’* for the parish as we became the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary. On page 2, is a summary of those *‘dreams’*, from which the Parish Pastoral Care & Support Group (PPCSG) proposed four new categories of: **welcome, oneness, communication, and ministry for children and young people**. We explored these in the newsletter throughout Advent and Christmas, and then used them as the starting point for our Synod discussions, being closely linked to *‘communication, participation and mission’*. Since then, guided by the Bexhill SVP, our parish also looks to a renewed ***‘outreach to the lonely, housebound, and anyone feeling isolated’***. Now, the PPCSG have used Lent to consolidate these areas into a renewed Mission and Vision for the parish. The last mission statement has served us well but is 19 years old. Below, is a first consideration of our refreshed Mission and Vision, the beginning of our Easter Reflection these 50 days to Pentecost, as we pray for a renewal of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us.

Mission: Our parish mission shares with the universal mission of the Church. Our parish is a stable and geographical portion of the People of God, part of the Eastbourne & St Leonards Deanery in the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton. We come together to ***‘celebrate, share, and hand on the Catholic and Apostolic Faith, through our pronouncement of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in both word and deed, all for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls’***.

Vision: Our vision is closely linked to mission, and yet is more aspirational. It may not be easily achievable but has an ambition akin to those who wished *‘to put a man on the moon’*. It requires an effort from the whole community, a belief that that *‘with God’s grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, we may obtain heaven’*. To coin and adapt a phrase, *‘do not ask what the parish can do for you, ask what you can do for the parish’* to fulfil our mission and advance our vision. Additionally, a parish is not an island, working closely with families and schools, who might inspire our vision so that it speaks to all parishioners whatever their age.

“Let Your Light Shine.”

St Mary Magdalene Primary School has a simple idea that permeates everything the children do. ***‘Let Your Light Shine’*** is a request for people to use their gifts and talents to help the Parish and not hide their lights under a bushel! As parishioners *‘we should be utilizing our gifts and talents as torches to shine the light of Christ among ourselves and into the wider community’*. We create *‘missionary disciples’* so that we are always *‘a caring community where people express the love of Christ in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy’*. To borrow from St Richard of Chichester (*our secondary school patron*), we wish the next generation of Catholics in the parish *‘to know the Lord Jesus more clearly, to love him more dearly, and to follow him more nearly, day by day’*. As the bedrock of this vision, there should be *‘transparency in what we do’* so that our parish is a *‘friend to all’*, by virtue of being *‘place of trust, where people feel united on a journey of faith, where everyone feels welcome’*. The image of the Church as a lifeboat on a stormy sea seeking a safe harbour may be, in part, a helpful illustration of our vision. Let the PPCSG know what you think: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

***Queen of heaven, rejoice (Alleluia), for He whom you did merit to bear (Alleluia),
has risen as He said (Alleluia). Pray for us to God (Alleluia).***

Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary -Dreams

Youth & Family	Parish Growth & Unity	Liturgy & Worship	Pastoral & Community
Children's Masses led by children	Shared Community Vision	Mass every day	More care for the environment
Children's liturgy every Sunday Mass	More emphasis on pastoral matters	Review of Mass times	More help for the homeless
Children's School Masses	Unite as one Parish	One sung Latin Mass each Sunday with traditional hymns	Develop outreach
Singing Concerts with school children	Integrate OLR Community	Uphold and keep traditions	Develop ecumenical links
Find ways to attract teenagers	One Parish Forum	No talking in Church	Vibrant Pastoral Centre
Make it more relevant to teenagers	People more willing to share their talents and have the courage to do	Church doors open all day	Coffee morning and social events with other Churches
Greater involvement of younger generation	A Mission every year	More modern and forward looking for 21 st Century	Priests to come to coffee mornings (after Mass) and social events
More Youth Groups	More priests and deacons	Homilies or talks by parishioners	Laity relieve priests of admin
More music with Youth choir	Women priests and deacons	More modern hymns and liturgy	More fund raising
More help for young families	Retain current clergy	More charismatic approach	Welcome all & friendship
Closer ties with St. Richard's	Father Stephen to continue to support Parish	A Christ-centred community not ruled by laws	Extinguish loneliness
More encouragement of families to get engaged with Parish	To pray for more priests	Greater tolerance and acceptance of the modern way of life	Kindness
More mixing of young and old after Mass	Speak to one person we do not know at each Sunday Mass	People to be more open to the Lord	Generosity of spirit
New Red and White Albs for servers	To be unified under one Church roof	"Welcome Teams" at all Masses	Inclusivity
Establish a 6 th Form for our youth	Larger new Parish Church	Less being made to feel bad about ourselves	Friendship, warmth and caring
	Single Church on the site of St Richard's	To feel supported and uplifted when you go to Mass	Bigger Car Parks
	Refurbish Sacristy	Use of 'overheads' during Mass	Upgrade St MM Hall
	More admin support for the Parish		Have Fun
			Replace the bishop