



## VISION DOCUMENT: SHAPING OUR FUTURE

e-bulletin

April 2019

He is Risen. Alleluia!

**Welcome** to the April e-bulletin about our work together to evangelise our diocese in the context of our **Vision Document: Shaping Our Future**.

**Parish Partnerships** are already achieving great things. I just heard that one is now bringing all the PPCs together to get to know each other and share ideas, another has established a caritas project to work on as a partnership, two have renamed themselves. What is in a name you might ask; well in some cases a very great deal and it shows a solidarity in a mutually shared future. Other partnerships have already begun the process of implementing new Mass schedules in a co-ordinated manner that should benefit priests and people. Bishop Alan has already given approval to the change. Another three partnerships (at least) are exploring possibilities for their combined buildings conscious that once they start to work as a partnership they can find better uses for some of them. Staff and Trustees of our diocese are working with them to help the process. I know of a couple of prayer groups that have been formed across the partnership. Priests have been meeting to consider their future in the context of the new partnerships and you will see much that is new in this e-bulletin. Please take advantage of the things on offer. Change is not always welcomed but it often proves to be an exciting time when new possibilities are found and new ways to serve God come about. There's a lot of good stuff going on. Thank you.

**Vocations:** Recently, Michael one of our seminarians, shared that he has been accepted for candidacy for ordination to the priesthood. This is a significant milestone on his vocation journey and our thanks and congratulations go to him and all men in this position. Bishop Alan has previously noted that our work on Parish Partnerships is work on the environment which newly ordained priests will step into. While we owe it to everyone in our church to ensure that we create the best environment that we can, let us never forget that these men have answered God's call and that they will work with us and for us in this new environment. Our work together to evangelise our diocese is not a mere hypothetical exercise; it is serious preparation for a new shared future. Our continued prayers go with all our seminarians and our work together holds them in mind.

Is God calling you to be a priest? Monthly sessions take place at St Edmund of Canterbury church Loughton. Tuesdays: 7/5; 4/6; 2/7. Please contact Fr Mark Swires, Vocations Promoter for more information: [vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org)  
<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/12-strands-renewal/vocations-to-the-priesthood/>

**Family:** Diocesan Marriage Conference in the Cathedral Hall on Saturday 6th July. The programme includes input from Brenden and Laura Thompson (Catholic Voices) 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. All participants are invited to take part in the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life which takes place in the Cathedral at 3pm the same day. The event is free and open to all who are interested, however registration via Eventbrite is essential - <https://brentwoodmarriageday.eventbrite.co.uk> It would be particularly good to have a representative from every parish partnership present to discuss this key strand of Renewal.

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

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**Formation/Leaders/Caritas:** CSAN working in collaboration with EducareM and eight Caritas organisations from across the country, is producing a resource to encourage people to recognise the special value and gifts that Catholic organisations offer to our world. Caritas Diocese of Brentwood is pleased to be taking part in this exercise and documentation is currently being produced and trialled. We will keep you informed of progress. [www.csan.org.uk](http://www.csan.org.uk)

**Youth:** “Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!” These are the opening words of Pope Francis’ recent Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation. It is an historic document following considerable discernment and I would urge you to read it.

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20190325\\_christus-vivit.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20190325_christus-vivit.html)

**Leaders:** Caritas Anchor House is currently offering several opportunities for leadership. <https://www.caritasanchorhouse.org.uk/job-vacancies> It is seeking new trustees and new employees to work for this amazing charity that has such a special place in the life of our diocese and does so much to help homeless people achieve their success. Please apply yourself or share this information with any one you know who might be interested.

**Evangelisation:** The **Sharing Hope in Crisis** team are offering a day designed to help you know what to say—and what not to say—to someone facing difficulty and to compassionately share the love of Jesus Christ with those who need it most. Conference Centre, Brentwood Cathedral. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sharing-hope-in-crisis-seminar-tickets-58994806053](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sharing-hope-in-crisis-seminar-tickets-58994806053)

I have been asked what should be in a Parish Partnership Plan. There are no hard and fast rules 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>

On the website you will find two documents “An Aid to Thinking About Possibilities” and “A (very) Rough Guide to Canon Law”. If your partnership has not yet read and considered these documents I would urge you to do so.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/resources/>

**Young People:** As part of the programme of events to foster evangelisation, people came together to learn more about Youth Work. This was perhaps the most commonly mentioned area of Renewal that we should engage in; so we videoed it.

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

**Charity, Justice and Social Action:** On the night of 12<sup>th</sup> April people from across our diocese slept out to raise money and awareness about homelessness and housing and young people. £7,000+ was raised along with a new appreciation of what sleeping rough means.

**Christian Life and Worship:** On Wednesday the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral was a wonderful celebration. Coming together as a diocese is wonderful and the distribution of sacred oils to each corner of the diocese a great symbol of our shared work together. Thank you for all the great work that is being done in our diocese. Please keep it up.

Steven Webb

Director of Development

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

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