

EMBRACING CHANGE – SAINT MARY’S DEANERY

Notes from the Meeting with Priests on 18 November 2014

In this session, we explored with the Priests of Saint Mary’s Deanery how far they wished to go with the process. We wanted to take time to uncover unspoken anxieties about the process as well as aspirations for the process. The method used was ‘Implemento’, a technique used in planning processes to uncover potential barriers before they arise so that action can be taken to minimise the potential for those barriers to derail the process. The Priests divided into two groups of three.

Group A was given the question – What is the **worst** that could happen if we continue with this change process?. Its feedback is shown below.

- Personal vulnerability
- We could damage existing relationships
- Loss of personal connection
- A lot of people would be unwilling or unable to face the Truth!
- A loss of unity, people staying in their comfort zone
- Letting go of what is not true could be hard for some people. Piety and historical accretions
- Transparency is an ideal but also carries risks.
- We might fall apart – an outbreak of truth could result in priests not cooperating. Sects and factions may be created.
- We might lose current Parishioners.
- We might lose status - become the same

Group B was given the question – What is the **best** that could happen if we continue with the change process?. Its feedback is shown below.

- Unearth new untapped resources
- People finally believe it is ‘their’ Church
- We have a reinvigorated Church.
- People become enthusiastic Church members.
- People ‘passionate’ about sharing
- Liturgy would be transformed.
- Greater boldness, creativity and imagination
- A deeper commitment to Christ
- More service of the poor and marginalised
- A more outward loving Church
- More ready to proclaim the good news
- Parish boundaries lost or less guarded
- Better sharing and flourishing of ministries
- Become a caring, joyful people
- Broadening of mindset, values and vision
- We would be more welcoming.