

EMBRACING CHANGE – SAINT MARY’S DEANERY

Deanery Meeting in Saint Matthew’s Academy, Saltcoats on 30 November 2014

Sixty-five lay people and six Priests from Saint Mary’s Deanery met at Saint Matthew’s Academy and worked in interest groups on different topics which were common outcomes of the Priests’ Three Horizons Process in March 2014 and the lay people’s Three Horizons Process on 14 September 2014. The six Priests worked on two topics - Leadership and Truth. The lay people, who came from all of the Parishes in the Deanery, joined groups based on their interest. Each group was asked to explore the topic following six questions and to record the outcome of their discussions.

Formation for Ministry

Question 1 What Formation For Ministry programmes would you like to see realistically in Saint Mary’s Deanery?

- Workshops led initially by formation department followed by training for adult catechists to continue at Parish/Deanery level
- Interlink with other Parishes to pool resources
- Education to produce consistency of approach to all aspects of Parish life, for example, Eucharistic ministry
- People involved in ministries sharing their expertise across the Deanery

Question 2 What good examples exist in the Deanery at the present time?

- Music initiative in Bourtreehill Parish spread throughout Deanery
- Special Religious Development (SPRED) and Lourdes Hospitality
- Mary’s Meals
- Prayers to the Church led by lay people
- Parish Priest link with schools
- Eucharistic ministry

Question 3 What new initiatives are needed?

- Expand role of Parish Council to Deanery level
- Information needs to be more open – leadership and collaboration between Priests and laity
- Have more meetings at Deanery level focusing on chosen ministries
- More interaction with schools to help Deanery outreach to youth
- Encourage more ecumenical contact with other denominations
- Development of lay Deanery Team
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) / Catechesis
- Ministry link with schools
- Encourage sense of ownership

Question 4 Who would need to be involved?

- Deanery coordinator and willingness by Parishioners to become involved
- Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Priest – more transparency. Parish Pastoral Council members to be re-elected

Question 5 What resources can we identify which will help us to develop Formation For Ministry in Saint Mary's Deanery?

- Clergy representative – laity willing to be involved as Parish representative
- Long term strategy – formalised approach with regard to ministry groups. Clear vision – use Three Horizons model

Question 6 What would be the short, medium, long term milestones to achieving this?

- Short Term – 6 to 12 months
 - Parish update on this group
 - Parish council set up in each Parish
 - Universal acceptance across Deanery
- Medium Term
 - Establishing the responsibilities, authority and terms of office within the group
- Long Term
 - Evidence of acceptance by laity and clergy

Attendees

- Ardrossan - Maria Hilferty, George Poole, Mary Swan
- Dalry - John McGoff
- Largs - John Tyler
- Millport – James Farrell
- Saltcoats - Julie Breen, Beth Curran, George Jackson, Frank Millar, John Mitchell
- Stevenston – Martin Kelly
- West Kilbride - Margaret Patterson
Donald McCormick also attended.

Youth

Question 1 What Youth programmes would you like to see in Saint Mary's Deanery?

- More coordinated sharing of good practice
- Young people to be engaged
- Activities to engage young people, parents and lost generation
- Engage youth through social media
- Paid coordinator – supervision of those taking part with youth

Question 2 What good examples exist in the Deanery at the present time?

- Saint John's Youth Group
- Saint. Mary's, Saltcoats
- West Kilbride Messy Church – ecumenical approach
- Saint Peter's mother and toddlers, kindergarten, rainbows, brownies, guides
- Youth for Lourdes
- Children's Liturgy
- Mini-Vinnies - youth Saint Vincent de Paul Society
- Caritas awards
- Saint Francis award primary 7

Question 3 What new initiatives are needed?

- Use of technology in communications
- Deanery website or bulletin
- Invite youth to participate – meaningful consultation
- Overall youth consultant and team – coordinator for each Parish
- Large scale events to involve all Parishes
- Retreat

Question 4 Who would need to be involved?

- Priests, parents, young people, schools, coordinators and volunteers from each Parish

Question 5 What resources can we identify which will help us to develop Young People in Saint Mary's Deanery?

- Money/ grants – someone to apply for grants in official capacity
- Transport – opportunity to visit other Parishes
- Church halls

Question 6 What would be the short, medium, long term milestones to achieving this?

- Short Term – 6 to 12 months
 - Appoint Deanery coordinator who will then appoint Parish coordinators (paid posts)
 - Set up consultation/communication
- Medium Term
 - Review consultation and assess and adapt as necessary
 - Communicate results to everyone
 - Promote activities
- Long Term
 - Youth involvement with whole of Parish life – ministry, spirituality, outreach to poor et cetera

Attendees

- Ardrossan - Andrew Hughes, Maureen McClumpha, Harry Sammons, Myriame Sammons, Monica Taylor
- Beith - Mair Christie
- Largs - Maureen Muir
- Saltcoats - Elizabeth Lynch, Eileen Reilly, Margaret Sharkey
- Stevenston – John Murphy
- West Kilbride - Jo Kelly , Betty Orr

Outreach To The Poor**Question 1 What Outreach to the Poor programmes would you like to see realistically in Saint Mary's Deanery?**

- We want to offer a wide understanding of 'Who is the poor?' – anyone who feels vulnerable or is struggling
- Two-tiered approach
 - Political campaigns
 - Practical
- All in line with Church's social teaching
- Political – 'The Gospel as our manifesto'
- Lobbying, studying, evaluating, understanding connections
- Other churches
- Public Sector
- Practical
- Welcoming, inclusive
- Range of practical supports

Question 2 What good examples exist in the Deanery at the present time?

- Saint Vincent de Paul Society
- Legion of Mary
- School initiatives, for example, food parcels
- Bereavement group
- Food banks
- Some soup kitchens
- Care and share
- Teen challenge
- We need to create an audit of what is going on and what the benefits are, of all of the above and whatever is out there.

Question 3 What new initiatives are needed?

- Salaried co-ordinator, supported by team of volunteers
- Links with various agencies in charity and public sector
- This is at Deanery level.
- Every Parish to have lunch club – warm meal available to everyone
- Showers? Group – working up our understanding of social teaching and translate into campaigns

Question 4 Who would need to be involved?

- One full-time salary to begin with
- Enthusiasm
- 200 volunteers – skills audit
- The findings of the audit
- Protecting Vulnerable Groups
- Expenses – a dash
- Time to look at other good examples
- Knowledge of what's out there
- Opportunities for getting grants
- Mix thoroughly, pray

Question 5 What resources can we identify which will help us to develop Outreach To The Poor in Saint Mary's Deanery?

- All of us
- The clergy
- Schools and youth groups
- Young people and families

Question 6 What would be the short, medium, long term milestones to achieving this?

- Short Term – 6 to 12 months
 - Each Parish capture what they are doing
 - Set up co-ordination group
 - Start up lunch clubs
 - Social teaching study group
 - Capturing what skills people have
- Medium Term
 - Coordinator in post
 - Set achievable targets
 - Review plan/ strategy
 - Politics
 - Needs
 - Buildings
 - Other working groups supporting this
- Long Term
 - The Kingdom has come!

Attendees

- Ardrossan - Anne McGuire, Maureen McGuire
 - Irvine - Fausto Maurri, Felix McGunnigle
 - Largs - Catherine Maguire
 - Saltcoats – Jim Monan
 - Stevenston – Danny Murray
- Anne Clarke, Felix Bell, Isobel Donnelly, Jo Gibson, George Pollock, Daniel Stewart and Gerry Turricchi also attended.

Spirituality

Question 1 What Spirituality programmes would you like to see realistically in Saint Mary's Deanery?

- Prayer group
- Bible studies
- Inspirational speaker - lay and Priests
- Training on evangelism
- Warning about spiritual intrusions
- Parish cooperation

Question 2 What good examples exist in the Deanery at the present time?

- Short and good homilies
- Prayer for vocations
- Use of websites on internet
- Saint Bride's website
- Use of Redemptorist bulletins in some Churches

Question 3 What new initiatives are needed?

- Have a Deanery bulletin
- Better use of Parish bulletin
- Better planning and better communications between Parishes

Question 4 Who would need to be involved?

- Inspired speakers
- All Churches and halls should have effective loop systems
- Recordings – compact discs and digital versatile discs to be available, particularly for housebound

Question 5 What resources can we identify which will help us to develop Spirituality in Saint Mary's Deanery?

- Everyone who is willing
- A competent advisor or trainer

Question 6 What would be the short, medium, long term milestones to achieving this?

- Short Term – six months
 - Steering group to be set up
 - Set up co-ordination group
- Medium Term – a year
 - Programmes to be set up
- Long Term – five years
 - Fruits of previous years
 - Prayer groups and Eucharistic adoration to be applied to all Parishes

Attendees

- Ardrossan – Katy Cassidy, Kathleen Collins, Robert Cooper
- Dalry - Agnes Best, Eleanor McGoff
- Largs - Betty Bissett, Ron Bissett, Eddie McLaughlin
- Stevenston – Rosemary MacAulay
- West Kilbride – Maurice Tutty

Truth

- We haven't hidden the truth.
- The Pope said feel free - synod
- A year that has been productive. You have been prepared to come.
- The process itself is happening. In a wider context, homilies. But people are perhaps looking for single issues.
- Different interpretation, even things that are emphasised on truth
- Signs of the times that are positive
- Still think people are deaf. They just don't want to hear but the resistance is part of the process.
- Still struggle to explain what happens here back in the Parish. But is this a two-tier process. Take people where they are to where they want to be.
- But it is a long procession. Takes time. Even though there is resistance, they are still moving. Will we see the end of it?
- There is a truth, that which gives life. Primarily aiming for giving life. Some of it will; some of it won't. Anything else not giving life
- The proclamation and Eucharist give life. So many hooked on entertainment, therefore they make a choice. What responsibility does that make on the preacher.
- Culture/ generation that gives life. But generations seek life. Or don't want to hear.
- Not understanding or not listening. Our society is just like Black Friday
- Much more fishing than being didactic. Statements don't hook.
- Black Friday – people longing for something
- Pope Benedict XVI message – interpret their message, help them interpret their own experience
- However, when liturgies come together it makes sense.
- When they have a good experience, do they come back? Some do.
- For a moment at least they see a truth. But it is about God dealing with them.
- Very hard about the Caritas relationship. We got it right.

Attendees

- Father Graeme Bell, Saint Mary's, Saltcoats
- Father Joe Boland, Saint Bride's, West Kilbride
- Father Willie Boyd, Saint Mary's, Irvine
- Father Mark Kelly, Our Lady Of Perpetual Succour, Beith; Saint Palladius', Dalry; Saint Bridget's, Kilbirnie
- Canon Matt McManus, Saint Peter's, Ardrossan
- Canon Martin Poland, Saint John's, Stevenston