



But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

The Inspiration of Saint Matthew, Caravaggio, 1602

Vision statement

We desire to be a parish in which everyone's personal relationship with Jesus Christ is established, confirmed and strengthened.

We desire to be a people who, having been bound to Christ and to each other in the Church, place the call of the Lord to make new disciples at the very centre of our catechetical life.

We desire to be a parish in which every disciple is a personal witness to the Gospel.

Thinking of our **Parish Reality** enables us to begin to see both what and who we are missing. Given our reality where do we want to expend our energy on catechesis? Given our parish reality, what is our true catechetical need? In all this pondering we keep our eyes fixed on the Lord – it helps us look up out of the everydayness of parish life, the joys and the challenges and helps lift our eyes to the Lord – to remind us to listen carefully to the Lord and each other.

We pray together with scripture:

- ◆ What struck you about this passage? Perhaps just one word.
- ◆ What did you notice that you hadn't before?
- ◆ How can we be wise?

Take 5 minutes to reflect on this.

- ◆ What does the Lord want for this parish?
- ◆ What/who are we missing?
- ◆ Where do we want to expend our energy?
- ◆ What is the need?

Take 5 minutes to reflect on this.



Our Parish Reality for Catechesis – getting to grips with the reality of where we are

Statistics:

- Mass Attendance data
- Post catechetical-programme retention rate
- Demographic of congregation vs demographic of parish

Audit:

- Finances
- People
- Previously / well established patterns of working
- Spiritual and emotional position of Parish leaders and congregation in general
- Identifying particular needs in the Parish

Three key questions:

1. What are we doing well? What do we have that is strong?
2. What is the problem? Why is this a problem? Both stating that it is a problem and trying to work out the cause?
3. What would potential solutions look like? Practically, materially and spiritually.



