



Christ and Saint Mena or friend, 8th Century Coptic Icon, Louvre

Come and you will see

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "**What are you seeking?**" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "**where are you staying?**" He said to them, "**Come and you will see.**" So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "**Follow me.**"

Now that we have completed our Vision and Reality stage, we move to the Plan stage. All three stages build on each other. In this stage we wish to explore how our vision for formation might become a tangible and practical reality in our parish. In order to do this, we need to be clear about what we desire, who we desire it for, what the purpose and goal of the activity is, how it would practically be brought about our own context and how we would measure and assess it.

We pray together with scripture:

- ◆ What struck you about this passage? Perhaps just one word.
- ◆ What did you notice that you hadn't before?
- ◆ What will you see? The Lord asks every one of us this question.
- ◆ Jesus asks his followers direct questions. What questions should you be asking?

Take 5 minutes to reflect on this.

- ◆ What does the Lord want for this parish?
- ◆ What is his dream for this parish?
- ◆ What do we want this parish to be?
- ◆ What plans can we make to enable this, with God's grace, to happen?

Take 5 minutes to reflect on this.



A Parish Plan for Formation

1. Which area does the parish want to give priority at this time? What can this look like for your parish?
2. How is formation understood by our parish? How can this be clarified so there is more unity across the board?
3. Do we have a sense of the need for ongoing support and what that would look like?
4. What is on offer this year at your parish or the surrounding area? Are there any courses being offered in training that might help? How can you find out and start signposting?
5. What conversations need to take place (and with who) to help to progress the development of formation in your parish?
6. Where do people need to take ownership? What resources do you need? What budget do you need? What teams can be formed, and what formation and training would be helpful?
7. Based on the Parish Picture of the current reality of your formation programmes / ministries, and where you would like them to go, what gaps can you identify concerning people, time / training and cost?

