

## Parish Reality for Formation – Where are you staying?



*The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). (John 1:38-44)*

## **Vision statement**

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

We desire to be a people who, choosing Christ anew daily, long to witness more to others while seeing those already in our parish and helping them grow close to Jesus.

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 formation? Given our parish reality, what is our true formation 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?
- ◆ Where are you staying?

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 Formation** – getting to grips with the reality of where we are

**Statistics:**

- Mass Attendance data
- Courses/programmes and people involved in formation (Alpha? Sycamore?...)
- What has changed since Brexit/Covid? 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. Are there areas of growth in formation? Are there any events, programmes and resources that are currently being used to help people to deepen their faith?
2. What do you think is missing?
3. If you consider areas of faith formation (e.g. knowledge of the bible, Church history, teaching and morality), which areas do you think that people would most benefit from in deepening their understanding and confidence of faith in?

