

Parish Vision for Formation: We are ambassadors for Christ



If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - 6:1

Thinking of our Parish Vision enables us to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord – it helps us look up out of the everyday-ness of parish life, the joys and the challenges and helps lift our eyes to the Lord – to remind ourselves of where we are headed. To remind us of what God is calling our specific parish in the specific area of Formation to be. This is vital for helping us to see what is needed for our parish plan.

And it starts with us!

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 you be reconciled with God?
- ◆ What will you do with the grace you have received?

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 would you like those outside to say about this parish if they visited?

Take 5 minutes to reflect on this.



What is our vision for the members of our parish, for their on-going formation. Do we, as a parish, actually desire something for these people?

1. What would it be like if we had the personal and ongoing conversion of everyone in our parish at the heart of our formation / parish activities?
2. What would it be like if parishioners started to personally invite people to engage in their ongoing formation? What would this look like? How would we like to see adults understanding their faith?
3. Rebekah and Paul have two primary school age children under the age of 7 and have been attending mass regularly prior to lockdown but come infrequently now as other activities seem to crowd their weekends. What would we desire for them in terms of formation and helping them to re-ignite their faith for both them and their children?
4. Adrian is a young adult in the parish who regularly attends Catholic young adult groups in other places. What do you think are the areas that Adrian (and others in the parish) would most like to learn about? What would we desire for him in the parish community when thinking about his faith formation?
5. Sarah and Mark have three grown up children who are now living away from home. They attend mass regularly and are open to getting a bit more involved in parish life. What course/programme or resource could be used to help to engage them further – to know Jesus more?
6. Mary is a widow in her early 70's and is very active in parish life. What would we desire for her as she continues to live out her Christian vocation?

