



**IMPLEMENTATION SUGGESTIONS
for the
PARISH DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2010-2015**

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INTRODUCTION

The Parish Development Plan for 2010 to 2015 has been set out in a printed Report circulated to all members of the Parish.

This document, available on the Parish web site and at the Welcome Desk, brings together all the suggestions made during the planning process, at meetings and by communications through our web site. These suggestions will be used to guide those responsible for implementing the vision set out in the Parish Development Plan Report.

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A LEARNING PARISH

Training

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) diploma course run at the chaplaincy at Sussex University is recommended. The diocese also runs courses from time to time at a central and deanery level. As needed, the parish can also provide some training with parishioner led sessions.

‘Faith is caught not taught’ and faith filled assistant catechists can learn ‘on the job’ assisted by the programme co-ordinator. This would be ideal for post Confirmation young people. At the end of each session the co-ordinator would meet with the assistants and review how the session had gone and plan the next session.

Catechists should be encouraged to attend the proposed Worth Parish Conferences and Parish Seminars.

An annual retreat and training day should be offered to catechists with an annual re-commissioning at Mass as is done for Eucharistic ministers. A letter from the parish priest thanking them for the past year’s work and inviting them to attend the retreat day would help motivate them.

Links with Open Cloister and Diocese

The parish catechetical co-ordinator and youth leadership should be aware and make use of excellent courses and retreats outside the immediate responsibility of the parish for the benefit of their programme and assistant catechists and the parishioners attending their programmes.

Parent and Toddler Group

The **parent and toddler** group (pre-junior church) that meets each Sunday should meet socially after Mass from time to time so as to build community for parents with young children who may be new parishioners. This would also help to maintain ongoing contact for those between baptism and first communion. A group of parents

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might take on a 'ministry of remembering' by sending a card on the anniversary of the child's baptism through till first communion, when an invitation might be sent to attend the first communion programme.

First Communion

The enrolment of first communion candidates should be celebrated publicly at one of the Sunday Masses and the young people should be prayed for regularly during the intercessions.

Rites of Illumination and Tradition

The Rites of Illumination and Tradition should be celebrated publicly. The previous year's first communion parents could become 'sponsors' for those making their first communion in the following year. This would involve the parents after the intensive year of preparation and introduce them to new families. The parents and children could meet up monthly in the unity room for coffee after the 9.30 Mass.

Confirmation

Confirmation candidates should be enrolled, sponsored and prayed for by the whole parish community.

Post-confirmation

We consider ways of making the Follow On Group (FOG) more structured.

The youth leadership will include ongoing catechesis as part of the young peoples' programme, including retreats (consider using Zion Community), prayer, a young peoples' house group, voluntary service, religious films, drama production, etc. Consideration to given to an annual 'Faith and Fun Day'.

Term Time Weekly Religious Education Classes

For children not attending Catholic schools, and those not attending sacramental programmes or the ongoing programme between first communion and confirmation

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we will offer term time weekly religious education classes. A parent's prayer group could meet at the same time.

Homilies

Parishioners would appreciate moral teaching in homilies, as well as comments on the readings, and some presiders might be willing to follow through with a discussion on the homily (e.g. in the Unity Room at the Abbey) after Mass.

Lay Ministries

We consider rotation of ministries so as to involve more people.

We produce a leaflet to publicise and explain the various ministries for which people can volunteer.

Monastic Community

We encourage the monks to share their expertise/gifts and theology with the Parish.

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Parish Mass

We seek ways for parishioners to work with the monastic Liturgy Planning Group (LPG) which plans the 9.30 Sunday Liturgy, e.g. occasionally meeting to put forward suggestions for seasonal themes and music. We also consider setting up a LPG for the Saturday evening Mass.

We offer the following for consideration:

- An extract from the Rule of St Benedict to appear regularly in In Touch.
- Continuing encouragement for the raising of hands at the Lord's Prayer.
- Silence in the Abbey Church at the conclusion of the Mass.
- A Youth Mass once a month with a significant input from our younger parishioners.
- Emphasis on dismissal at the end of Mass (go in peace to love and serve the Lord)
- We would like organisers of rotas for ministries to encourage new people to join (perhaps on a fixed-term basis) to widen participation.
- Encourage more people to join the Parish Choir. It would be wonderful if the parish could provide its own large vibrant choir.
- Consider options for a wider range of music at the 9.30 Abbey Mass
- Follow the 5.15pm Mass, perhaps once a month, with a social evening in the parish office or Taizé prayers

Prayer

The Benedictine tradition includes formal prayer through participation in the monastic offices and private prayer and reflection through **Lectio Divina**. We are impressed by the Chilean lay Benedictine movement, Manquehue, which has, at its foundation, daily lectio divina. We would like to see continued invitation to increased private prayer and opportunities for parishioners to learn more about lectio divina.

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The Lay Community of St Benedict (previously the Worth Abbey Lay Community) has strong ties with Worth. We should learn from them about being a Benedictine community in the world, and encourage parishioners to read a section of the Rule each day.

House Groups

The current format includes reading and discussing the Gospel for the following Sunday. We believe that the introduction of 'lectio divina' could enhance the house groups. We would like the parish to explore this possibility. We suggest that an occasional interchange of personnel between house groups would be beneficial. Many house groups would also appreciate having members of the monastic community attend their meetings on an occasional basis.

Learning and Development

The Parish Survey indicates that most parishioners have not participated in the Religious Affairs Group (RAG) or Open Cloister events. We would like to see participation in **retreats, pilgrimages and courses** becoming a normal and regular part of parish life and to ensure that cost is not a barrier. We would also like to suggest an **Easter Cross walk** for the parish.

Youth

We encourage our young people to set up their own lectio divina groups. This would help younger parishioners develop their faith and would help create supportive spiritual friendships. It might be a revelation to some of our older parishioners to realise how much they might learn from the younger generation.

'Tools' for Spiritual Development

The parish offers a rosary group, meditation, a lectio divina group, Healing services, the sacrament of reconciliation and the opportunity to participate in the monastic offices. There is also a directory of Spiritual Directors. Very few parishioners

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participate. We would like the parish to look at the reasons why these activities do not attract many parishioners.

We consider introduction of Oblates for Worth Abbey. Some of our parishioners are oblates for other Benedictine Abbeys. This commits them to regular prayer – the Divine Office – and helps to deepen their faith as a group.

We Offer a 'Who am I' template for people to evaluate where they are on their faith journey and assess how, if at all, they would like to progress.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross could to be arranged more frequently (not just Lent)

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To build bridges with young people

Youth Group

We seek ways of learning from the involvement of Abbot Christopher and Bishop Kieran in the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFED).

We recognise the importance of the team of servers and the great work done by Michael Weston-Burt in nurturing this team, which needs to be integrated into our Youth Group. We also recommend the vision set out in “Be Like Bright Stars” (Brentwood Catholic Youth Service).

Events

The diocese puts on two yearly events, which appear popular amongst young people. We should consider taking part in these:

Youth Gather

Youth Gather is an annual youth festival event which has been running in the diocese for a great many years. It begins with Mass – normally celebrated by the Bishop – followed by a sponsored walk and then a celebration to end. In 2009, the Mass and celebrations were held at St Wilfrid’s school, Crawley.

Redshirts

For the past few years the Redshirts have been an important part of the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The Redshirts are officially known as the Lourdes Youth Service Group, but they are nicknamed ‘the redshirts’ for reasons which aren’t too difficult to figure out.

The role of the Redshirts is to provide a welcome at the Masses and other events of the pilgrimage and to serve people in many other ways

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Lessons from another parish

Here are some lessons from another parish we consulted, to be considered when planning our Youth work:

1. The moral is start slowly and allow things to evolve - build up existing personnel.
2. They have a catechetical co-ordinator (unpaid) who oversees quite a few (50?) assistant catechists. Assistant catechists are trained 'on the job' – 'Faith is caught not taught' - no need for theologians!
3. Saturday evening Mass is Youth Mass. Once a month they let rip with music etc, with parents involved, followed by a youth meeting. They did a nativity play last year and organised a Tea Dance.
4. The Eli Perspective run by David Beresford (ex Zion Community) do parish and school retreats and are excellent with young people. They have an understanding as to where youth are.
5. The parish has a paid Pastoral Assistant who is to some extent covering for a youth leader who left.

Young Adults

Ann Shorthouse is willing to lead the proposed Young Adults Action Group.

A regular seminar could be offered to parents and those thinking of having children on what we can learn from the monks about Christian education of children.

To build bridges with those outside the church

Bridges with those outside our faith

We inform the Parish in more detail of the work of the Crawley Inter-Faith group, to which our parishioner Lana Peile belongs, and encourage parishioners to take part in events organised by this group. We actively support events at Worth organised by the

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Inter-Faith group. We do not propose a direct involvement by the Parish in the Crawley group, but support the work of Lana and of Fr Paul in this ministry.

Bridges with other Christians

We seek to learn from and establish links with other Christian bodies such as Faithworks. We support the work of High Weald Churches and seek more active participation in ecumenical services, perhaps holding a major annual ecumenical event at Worth.

We consider setting up a St Vincent de Paul group

Bridges to 'out of practice' Catholics

P2 could be developed into an important asset for reaching out to 'lapsed' Catholics by describing all the activities that take place regularly at Worth, offering a confidential 'help line' which is answered by parishioners trained in following up faith questions, advertising informal meetings for those seeking to renew their faith, etc. Giving a copy of P2 is an easy way of making contact without pushing for a response!

Other ways to make contact with lapsed Catholics could include get-togethers in a pub to discuss faith in a non-threatening way.

Moral Guidance

We find ways to promote movements such as Live Simply, and convey messages such as balancing rights with responsibilities, in particular as outreach to non-believers as well as others.

Material and spiritual needs in our parish

We develop the Welcoming Ministry, for example by encouraging Welcomers to be pro-active in introducing new parishioners to others and helping them integrate with our community. We study 'Everybody's Welcome 2006' published by the Marriage and Family Life Project of the Catholic Bishops' Conference as a guide to developing

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the Welcome Ministry. We have a 'sit somewhere else' day – and encourage parishioners to greet new neighbours. We provide wheel chairs and helpers.

We bring together representatives of local village communities, House Groups, and the Welcome Ministry to find ways to identify and minister to those in need, bearing in mind the fate of the previous care Group and the work already done locally. This ministry should be to ANY in need, not just parishioners.

Following the review by this group, we consider setting up a method for bringing together those in need with a team of parishioners able to respond to these needs, through social visiting as well as provision of the Eucharistic ministry.

Lessons from Irundu

We are aware of the difficulty in getting messages from Irundu because of their poor communications infrastructure. One method that might work is to have voice messages recorded on a digital recorder. These digital recordings can then be e-mailed from Jinja to Worth, where they can be transcribed, edited, and published on our web site and in In Touch or P2. It would be good to have a (monthly?) newsletter inserted into In Touch to include these messages and feedback from visits by parishioners, as well as providing information on the web site.

The ministries in Irundu that can teach us include lay catechists and house groups. Parishioners planning to go to Irundu should be offered a briefing by those involved in ministries at Worth, so that they can arrange to meet the people in Irundu from whom we can learn. Fr Stephen should also be briefed about the objectives of each visit so that he can arrange meetings and provide an interpreter when necessary. It is important that every visit bring back something of value to Worth, and that the results of each visit are well publicised. We recognise, however, that not all Worth parishioners who go to Irundu will want to become involved in setting objectives for a visit and writing reports for the parish. A visit remains worthwhile if the visitors have had a valuable experience, and we hope that their experience will be shared with the wider parish.

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We arrange to receive regular news from Irundu, so that we can include their needs and problems in our prayers and intercessions.

We ensure as far as possible that all visits to Irundu by parishioners are carefully planned, that visitors are well briefed, go with a clear objective, and bring back a report on their visit to the Parish. Among the lessons that we can apply to our own needs are those from lay involvement in Parish work in Irundu.

We ensure that all who offer intercessions at Parish masses know about Irundu and include Irundu regularly in Parish intercessions. This applies especially to the Saturday mass at Worth.

Support for material and spiritual needs in our society and in the world

There are already a number of activities locally that minister to material needs in our society, and which are actively supported by parishioners. These include the Easter Team (<http://www.crawleybaptistchurch.org.uk/easterteam.htm>), the Crawley Open House (www.crawleyopenhouse.ik.com), support for detainees at Tinsley House, initiatives from the Justice and Peace Group, Outreach Peru, LIFE and more. We propose that each group in turn is invited to put up a display after mass, manned by group supporters, and include a flyer about the activity in In Touch. This will inform parishioners about all these activities and encourage those who wish to take part.

We provide an outlet for those in the parish wishing and able to take a more hands on role in serving the needy in our area and in the wider world.

We encourage parishioners who are already active in charitable activities to tell fellow parishioners about their work and invite them to join in these activities. This can be done by regular displays of information in the Narthex.

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Publicity

We appoint a Parish Press Officer who will tell our story to the local press (also A&B News)

In Touch

Our Parish news sheet is a vital means of communication. Our Plan includes a number of proposals for using In Touch in new ways, including extracts from the Rule of St Benedict, information about inter faith and ecumenical activities, local charities and news from Irundu. We propose that we find the resources to allow for a larger format to include this additional material, and for publication on every Sunday of the year.

Governance

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will be asked to find the best method for future parish governance.

Inclusion

We will avoid any appearance of reserving participation in parish activities to a small circle of activists. As we draw new people into our parish we will be open and welcoming.

Plan Launch

To launch the final plan, a Day of Reflection could be considered, when monks might also be invited to contribute examples of living by The Rule.