



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

Jesmond St Mary Partnership
Wednesday 4th June 2025 6:30pm – 7:30pm
St Mary's Catholic School



Minutes of the meeting

Present: Fr S. Hall, Fr M. Campion, J. Riley, M. Potts, Fr Jojo, R. Blackburn, J. Early, A. Dack, G. Shepherd, J. Shepherd, Fr J. Bowes, G. Coward, A. Cameron, Fr M. Weymes, M. Potts

Apologies: Deacon A. Rebello

1. Prayer

The meeting began with prayer.

2. Welcome and Apologies

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting, especially A. Cameron.

3. Update about the Partnership

Fr J. Bowes gave thanks to Fr M. Weymes for his leadership of the Partnership. Fr J. Bowes is now the Lead Priest of the Partnership and expressed that it was an exciting time in the diocese as we continue to move forward. Fr J. Bowes also explained that he was also Vice Dean of the Deanery.

4. Mission and Formation in the Diocese

R. Blackburn introduced A. Cameron and explained the context of discussions relating to formation at previous Partnership meetings. A. Cameron shared a PPT explaining the various opportunities currently available and the areas for formation and mission being launched in the future. A. Cameron took questions and feedback from the group.

Action: R. Blackburn to share the PPT shared with the Partnership group.

5. Talking about the vision of the Diocese

G. Shepherd and J. Shepherd shared their experiences of attending a group which discussed and unpicked the vision document. Three meetings had been held. Two meetings were for Sacred Heart and St Charles together and the third meeting was held separately. Context of discussion was the Emmaus narrative. Anyone who could not attend the meeting were invited to email their responses ahead of the meeting. Meetings continued monthly unpicking synodality. School for Synodality website was used to find documents which formed the basis of discussion. Resources from A. Cameron were also used. The meeting was more of listening to one another than a discussion. There was no expectation to speak at the meetings but those who did speak did so for a short space of time to allow others to share. Size of the group started out at about 30 and then became a regular group of 15 people. Meetings were held at 7:00pm.

POST MEETING NOTE

Two sets of meetings have been conflated in point 5 (above). For clarity:

- The Original Synodal meetings were held as a group of 3: one in each parish (Sacred Heart and St. Charles) + 2 joint meetings.
- These meetings were based on the questions posed by the Diocese. The Emmaus Narrative was used to contextualise the process as being part of our joint journey.
- Written submissions were allowed.

- At Sacred Heart this group was used to continue meeting in order to discuss the various stages of the Synodal Process.
- The group then looked at the Bishop's Vision document.
- Resources from the School for Synodality have been used as have Conversations in the Spirit.

J. A. Shepherd

6. Confirmations

The Confirmation Course has been going well and the young people are being confirmed on Thursday 26th June at Holy Name, Jesmond 6:30pm.

The details for the Confirmation course next year are already being advertised with the Confirmations taking place on 7th July 2026. . The course begins in September and will take place on Tuesday evenings at St Teresa's, Heaton. There is a QR code on the Christ the King newsletter but a link will be shared also.

Action: Fr. J Bowes to share the link with R. Blackburn to share across the Partnership.

All Priests are invited to the Confirmation ceremony on 26th June.

7. A.O.B

Day of Spirituality - Fr S. Hall asked if the Partnership wanted to go ahead with another day of spirituality. Fr Dermott Preston is willing to lead a day. Everyone agreed this would be a good idea.

Pilgrimage to Holy Island – St Mary's, Forest Hall and St Aidan's, Benton are going to Holy Island Saturday 2nd August, Mass taking place at 3:30pm and then returning to Newcastle. There are spaces available.

Action: Reps / Priests to advertise this opportunity.

The Live Simply Award – Holy Name, Jesmond is working towards this award. On Friday 13th June, 7:00pm, The Letter will be shown in the Hall at Holy Name. Film is 1 hour 15 minutes and then there will be 45 minutes discussion. All are welcome.

Action: Reps / Priests to advertise this event with others.

Liam Finn, a member of Holy Name is doing work on the Year of the Jubilee. It was suggested that he come and speak to the group.

Action: R. Blackburn to contact Liam and organise a visit.