

# NEWCASTLE & NORTH TYNESIDE - MISSION DIRECTION SUMMARY

## Moving from Individual Plans to Shared Planning

### 1. What is strong and should be celebrated

- Strong, prayerful worship and sacramental life across many communities, supported by clergy, deacons, and lay ministers
- Growing and diverse communities in several parishes, including intergenerational and multicultural participation
- Active lay involvement in liturgy, parish life, and governance, with emerging leadership potential
- Strong links with schools, sacramental preparation, and catechetical activity
- Visible outreach, generosity, and service to local communities and wider causes
- Developing sense of community, belonging, and hospitality through prayer groups, social activity, and shared events

### 2. What we are facing together

- Limited volunteer capacity, with reliance on a small number of people
- Increasing pressure on clergy and concerns about long-term sustainability
- Gaps in engagement with young people, especially beyond early adolescence
- Difficulty sustaining participation of families after sacramental preparation
- Uneven outreach, with some communities more inward-facing
- Challenges relating to buildings, including maintenance, suitability, and use
- Need for stronger collaboration and shared direction across parishes

### 3. What is clear across all parishes

- **Lay leadership is essential** - Greater shared responsibility between clergy and laity is needed to sustain worship, leadership, and mission
- **Formation is critical** - People require training, encouragement, and spiritual formation to step into leadership and ministry
- **Young people are a priority** - There is a clear need to engage, involve, and empower young people more intentionally

- **Worship needs to develop** - Worship will need to become more flexible, supported by lay ministry, and sustained through new patterns
- **Mission needs to grow outward** - There is a desire to strengthen outreach, visibility, and engagement with the wider community
- **Collaboration is necessary** - Future sustainability depends on deeper partnership working and shared planning

#### **4. What we feel called to do**

##### **Worship**

Enable greater lay leadership and participation in worship

Develop shared and sustainable patterns of worship across parishes

Strengthen formation and support for liturgical ministries

Use technology and alternative forms of worship where appropriate

##### **Teach**

Recruit, train, and support catechists and lay leaders

Strengthen relationships with schools and families

Develop ongoing formation beyond sacramental preparation

Create engaging pathways for young people and families

##### **Serve**

Build on existing outreach and social action

Encourage wider participation in service across all age groups

Develop more coordinated approaches to mission locally

Strengthen support for vulnerable groups and local needs

##### **Community**

Strengthen belonging, welcome, and participation

Develop intergenerational relationships

Grow and coordinate volunteer involvement

Increase opportunities for connection and shared life

Build stronger links between parishes and communities

#### **5. The direction of travel**

- From reliance on clergy to shared leadership
- From isolated parish activity to stronger collaboration
- From maintaining buildings to focusing on mission and sustainability
- From inward-facing communities to outward-looking mission
- From serving current communities to forming future disciples