

## **Bishop Richard's call to all of us to take part in a Review of the Diocese (and of Parishes)**

Bishop Richard has visited all the Deaneries of the Diocese and given presentations on the future of the Diocese. He has invited every Parish to respond to a number of questions to enable him to form a plan for the future. He will return to Deaneries early in the New Year.

We invite all parishioners to respond to the Bishop's questions but first a summary of what he said in his presentations.

Our Bishop reminds us that (a) The Mission of the Church to proclaim the good news, i.e. bring the Gospel to all peoples and (b) that we are the Church; each one of us is a disciple and we are called to be sharers in the Church's Mission, which may mean going out of our own "comfort zone". This Mission is entrusted to ALL the Faithful – not just the Clergy.

Bishop Richard describes a Diocese as a portion of the people of God, which is entrusted to a Bishop to be nurtured by him - and to be Christ's Church in our locality. He goes on to describe our tasks and what we need to do, as follows:

- **Mission:** All in the Diocese are called to be disciples and all, by virtue of their Baptism, are to be engaged in the task of bringing others to know Christ.
- **Prayer:** The life of the People of God is centered in the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, the other Sacraments and through prayer, we are nourished for the work Christ has given us to do.
- **Formation:** We must, too, be formed for this work – without formation, we shall be able neither to deepen our own relationship with Christ, nor be his instruments for others.

**He then says:**

- In order for us to foster prayer, develop formation and ensure continuing mission, we must **review our Diocesan and Parish life.**
- This must be **carried out at a time when the ratio of priests to people is changing.**
- This will be challenging for all concerned and **difficult decisions must be made.**

Towards the end of his presentation he gave facts and figures about the number of priests in the diocese, by age and looked ahead to 2030 when:

**The Diocese will have 50 priests, of whom 25 will be under 65.**

**In 2030 there will be 1 priest for every 3200 Catholics (Currently it is about 1 to 1700).**

**We invite all parishioners to respond to the questions on the next sheet.**

Please send in your written comments either by email to: [st.dunstan@dabnet.org](mailto:st.dunstan@dabnet.org) and mark the Subject as "Review of the Diocese" or in writing to the Parish Office with the same Subject Heading, by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Check <http://www.dabnet.org/news/view/33> to a video: "Bishop Richard on Diocesan Vision and Mission."

We shall hold a Parish Meeting in January to inform the parish of our responses. Thank you.

Parish Team November 2017

## Review of the Diocese

Questions posed by Bishop Richard. Please return to the parish office, or by email marking Subject as: **“Review of the Diocese” by Monday 18 December 2017.**

1. Given the Mission entrusted to us all, what three things do you think we most need for Mission-effectiveness?
2. What roles in this Mission can be best carried out by the lay-faithful?
3. What roles in in this Mission belong to the Priest?
4. What factors, do you think, have brought about the present situation that we are having to address in our Diocese?
5. If we were starting the Diocese today, with 25 priests, where would you place them?