

Feedback to Questions from Woking Parish

*Note: The use of asterisks **** :
* somewhat frequent whereas **** very frequent
Used to reflect the frequency of times this response arose*

3. What roles in this Mission belong to the Priest ?

- Spiritual focal point / guidance***
 - Prioritisation / "in extremis situations"***
 - Administration of the Sacraments (Baptism, Reconciliation, 1st Holy Communion, Marriage, Anointing the Sick, Funerals)**
 - Mass & specifically Consecration at Mass
 - Articulation / Translation of the message of the Gospel**
- Leadership – sharing of best practice
- Motivators
- Facilitators

1. Given the Mission entrusted to us all, what three things do you think we most need for Mission-effectiveness ?

- Clarity (purpose, definition, direction)***
 - Community Focus (kindness, help, love, justice and support)
 - Definition (what does good look like)
- Education / Training - lay people need to be properly "Formed" / Formation** (diversity talents gifts languages)
- Prayer / Personal commitment**
- Re-engage the disenfranchised (divorcees, LGBT, lapsed catholics / young)**
- Living life as a good example (humility, respect)**
- Practical Action (lonely, confused, homeless, ill, hungry, poor)
- Co-ordination (local groups/agencies: visibility, lobbying, vocal)*

4. What factors, do you think, have brought about the present situation that we are having to address in our Diocese ?

- Inability to recruit****
 - Perception that being a priest is a lonely / isolated existence
 - Not availing itself of a broader populous who would want to become involved as either Deacons or Priests
 - Vow of celibacy / inability to marry
 - Smaller families – fewer candidates
- Bad Press/Media sex-abuse scandals with implied accountability
- The time available for people to participate and contribute
- The appeal in a secular society of the message of the church – it's not 'cool'
- Priests are ill equipped to be responsible for the financial and administrative work required to run a Parish
- 'Ordination is not an automatic certification of competence'

2. What roles in this Mission can be best carried out by the lay-faithful ?

- In support of the priests : spiritual vs practical***
 - Spiritually assist priests/deacons with ministry / teaching** – prayer groups, visiting sick, hospital, prison, readings, adults & children
 - Practical help as in: running of the parish' building maintenance, finance and administration, local-faith communities, transport elderly. **
- Role of the Deacons / Mentorships
- Lobbying MP's / influence groups
- Distribution of pre Consecrated Hosts

5. If we were starting the Diocese today, with 25 priests, where would you place them ?

- Most populated areas***
- Provided sufficient substructure (lay people) could be established in communities perhaps a couple of priest hubs serving larger areas (N, S, E, W)**
- Associate with points education locations / transport hubs / key existing church infrastructure (+ football grounds !)
- 'Sensitivity' toward the few priests / audit of individual strengths
- But also need outreach to "dry areas" to evangelise
- Rota systems
- Need for a more fundamental restructure of Diocese ?