**Representatives from St Joseph’s Parish Pastoral Team and the Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council met in St Joseph’s Parish Hall on 23rd April 2024.**

Earlier this year, Bishop Alan provided parishes with guidance for the relaunch of the Brentwood Diocese Vision Document: Shaping our Future and asked parishes to consider which two or three Strands of Renewal they wish to focus on. In addition to the chosen Strands, parishes will provide a summary of Strand 8, Material Assets.

As a Partnership team, we discussed Bishop Alan’s request and concluded we would focus on:

- Strand 2: Christian Life and Worship

- Strand 12: Young People

We agreed to consider Strand 5 (Formation) in all our discussions so we understand how we can receive the appropriate information and guidance to enable us to fulfil our mission “To have Christ at the centre of our lives, enabling us to grow in faith as a community where all feel welcomed, loved and valued.”

Strand 2 – Christian Life and Worship

From the Vision document:

As we now consider liturgy in the diocese, we recognise that, in the context of evangelisation, so often what we celebrate in our churches becomes a “shop window” for our faith. Those who attend our services are not only practising Catholics but also many others of different denominations, the occasional Mass-goer, the lapsed, and those who perhaps just want to have a “look-see”.

With this in mind, it is important that we re-capture the beauty of the liturgy, whether it be the way we celebrate the rites of the Church, the way we decorate our churches or in terms of the music.

We spent time during the meeting considering ways in which we could shine a light on the liturgy, gaining an understanding of its dignity and beauty. A few of the ideas are summarised below; the Partnership team will follow up and expand on these initial ideas, in consultation with our parishes in the coming months.

· Hire out St Joseph’s parish hall as a resource to bring parishioners across the Partnership

· Include a ‘Prayer for the week’ in the newsletter.

· Run a faith-based course, such as Sycamore, to help us grow on our faith journey.

· Provide resources to help families pray together at home.

· Review parish groups across the Partnership to provide opportunities to share resources.

· A warm, welcoming environment at Mass, for example turn to someone near you, introduce yourself, find out their name and offer to say a prayer for them.

. Create opportunities for parishioners to offer their talents to grow in faith as a Partnership.

· To strengthen the provision of music at St Joseph’s parish, look across the Partnership for a leader to assist in providing regular music at the Sunday mass.

Several ideas arose during the meeting related to Strand 12 - Young People. We have dedicated the meeting on 30th April to this Strand, so here we simply summarise the ideas:

· Restart Children’s’ Liturgy at St. Joseph’s parish.

· Provide laminated children’s order of mass cards for the Partnership (they are available in St Joseph’s so we will consider providing them in the cathedral).

· Create and distribute child-friendly prayer cards.

· Whilst children do holy communion/confirmation, parents could be offered a course e.g. Sycamore.

· Social justice group for the Partnership to attract young people.

· Once per month, a class in the Catholic schools read, provide music and the offertory at mass. · Encourage children to participate in the SVP Mini Vinnies or similar organisations.

· Invite a youth leader to the meeting on 30th April to provide the voice of young people when discussing Strand 12.

These initial ideas will be communicated on the Partnership page on St. Joseph’s website and during 2024 we will consult with parishes to help generate further ideas and assist turning ideas into action.

**Chris Brooks Jon Avery**

Chair, St. Joseph The Worker PPC Chair, Cathedral Parish of St Mary and St Helen PPC