

TIMELINE

2018	
January	Bishop's Pastoral Letter
January to May	Prayer and Catechesis
Easter	Making All Things New Document published ahead of open meetings.
May	First Open Meeting Presentation of the Document, process, vision and data.
End of August	Second Open Meeting Discussion of collated responses of the laity and of data and plans. Make proposals adequate to a new local vision.
End of September	Concrete proposals will be honed and firmed up following discussions brought back from parishes.
End of 2018	Due diligence by the Bishop's Office will ensure proposals are complete and workable, and subsequently ratify them.
2019	
January until Easter	Beginning of implementation with ratified plans, followed by those ratified after further meetings.
The rest of 2019	Final roll outs.
Thereafter	Implementation of our vision as a new way for our Church.

Prayer

God our Father,
you sent your Son to show us
How to live fully in the Spirit.
Be with our diocesan family
while we walk together
in the generation ahead:
May we become
a people of evangelisation
who will go out to seek those
who do not know you;
a whole People of clergy and laity
who will take on our proper vocations
in the Church
And share responsibility
for our vision and mission;
a discerning people
who together will come to know Your will
and have the generosity to follow Your call.
Help us to be a holy People
who live by prayer and faith
our pilgrimage on earth.
Send the Holy Spirit to guide us;
to keep us united in purpose
and give us courage
for this journey of faith.
Help us in
our deliberations and discussion
to be aware of Your presence,
to listen to Your voice
and to discern Your will for our diocese
in the months and years to come.

*Our Lady of Paisley, pray for us.
Saint Mirin, pray for us.*

Diocese of Paisley

The role of the Laity

MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

**Renewing
our Local Church
for the 21st Century**

New
Evangelisation

INTRODUCTION

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO DO?

The Church exists

- to **EVANGELISE**, to proclaim the **GOOD NEWS** of Jesus Christ;
- to **MAKE CHRIST PRESENT** in our world by
 - The Proclamation of his Word
 - The Celebration of his Sacraments
 - The Love and Concern that we have for each other, and for the poor and the marginalised

“We” are to carry out this mission in the World of TODAY.

WHO ARE “WE”?

“WE” are all of us together, Lay faithful, Priests, Religious, Permanent Deacons. All of us whether we are married or single, young or old, male or female.

HOW ARE “WE” TO ACHIEVE THIS GREAT MISSION?

INDIVIDUALLY,

by a renewed understanding of our **VOCATION to HOLINESS** which comes from our
Baptism
Confirmation
Participation in the Eucharist

AS A CHURCH COMMUNITY

by a renewed understanding of our **VOCATION to HOLINESS** which comes from our **Baptism, Confirmation & Participation in the Eucharist** **AND by renewing the structures which support us in this mission; our PARISHES and our DIOCESE.**

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Our greatest resource is the Lay-faithful, Priests, Deacons & Religious of our Diocese.

Our Synod identified **three main ideas** to define us in the generation ahead.

1. We are a **people of evangelisation**, who actively reach out to those who do not know Jesus, or who have left or forgotten him.
2. We are a Church of **lay participation**, where responsibility is shared appropriately among our people and clergy.
3. We are a **“synodal” community** where we make decisions together, with everyone invited to be part of the consultation process.

A FIRST QUESTION TO CONSIDER

How best can we use our wonderful resources of clergy and people, and our material and financial resources, to move from being a “CHURCH OF MAINTENANCE” to being “CHURCH OF MISSION”?

- We now have fewer priests than in the past
- There have been great population shifts in the past fifty years.

This has consequences for us in our parishes and as a Diocese.

Bishop John is inviting us and challenging us to come together to pray, discuss and find solutions which will equip us to fulfil our Mission for the foreseeable future.

A SECOND QUESTION TO CONSIDER

In the light of our current situation we must ask:

- Have we too many parishes for our current needs?
- Are our parishes in the right places?

HOW DO WE PREPARE FOR THIS DISCUSSION?

By PRAYER: Pray daily the prayer on this leaflet

By CATECHESIS: Learn about your role in the Church and about the issues we are facing. Suitable materials will be provided to assist this.

By REFLECTION: reflect on your own **VOCATION** in the Church and on the issues we face.

SO, HOW ARE WE GOING TO HOLD THIS DISCUSSION?

Bishop John and your priests have already begun this discussion (as required by the Church’s Canon Law).

They have agreed **two principles** which, animated by our prayers, should guide our reflection and discussion;

1. **transparency & good communication**, ensuring that you get all the information you need in good time;
2. a preference for **local proposed solutions**, rather than for solutions to be imposed from above.

- **In Eastertime of this year we will be holding open meetings** in eight “cluster areas” centred on our eight diocesan high schools.

- In **further meetings in the autumn**, we will invite you to put flesh on your plans and to submit **proposals** by the end of the year.

- It will be for Bishop John, after formal consultation with the Council of Priests (as required by the Church’s Canon Law), to make the final decision for the good of the whole diocese, but he has committed himself to doing all he can to respect our local proposals.

- We hope to begin implementing our decisions in 2019.

You can read a fuller explanation of this process on our diocesan website:

www.rcdop.org.uk