

Diocese of Nottingham

**Lenten review and questionnaire 2019:
Social needs, mission and outreach**



Guidance for completing the questionnaire

Background to the 'Faith into Action' project

God is love, and he calls us to love. In recent years, the Church, worldwide and here in England and Wales, has been responding to that call afresh. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has given us compelling teaching on charity – loving service in the world – which challenges us here in Nottingham diocese:

"The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable" (Deus caritas est, 25)

Benedict asked each bishop to establish 'an Office to direct and coordinate the service of charity'. The Caritas Social Action Network in England and Wales (CSAN) is inviting us to apply for a two-year grant for that purpose. Given their own longstanding work in social action, the Justice and Peace Commission is also contributing to the project, so that we can be more effective in proclaiming the Kingdom through action for justice, peace and care for creation.

CSAN's offer could not be more timely. Bishop Patrick's Pastoral Letter in November 2019 encouraged us all to encounter Christ anew, grow as disciples and look outward in mission. Although we will have fewer clergy in future, the gifts of the whole people of God in the diocese are rich and varied, and deserve to be taken up. Our new multi-academy trusts will sustain and protect our schools' Catholic ethos. And, as ever, the Holy Spirit is equipping us for loving service in the world.

Build a picture of social action

Of course, our parishes, chaplaincies, schools, and organisations like SVP, are already taking social action, some of it with other churches and agencies. The first priority is to sustain and support that valuable work, and help it flourish. That is why we are starting with a survey of what is already happening in parishes, and the needs you perceive.

For your parish there will be a number of benefits from taking part:

- **Publicity:** Many parishes are doing valuable outreach which is only known of within the parish. Responses will enable that work to be valued and celebrated more widely in the diocese, and, if desired, given press and publicity.
- **Networking:** The information will enable people and parishes to be put in touch with each other for help and support, and with other advisers who can help them achieve their aspirations. Findings will be published at Deanery level in the summer.
- **Stimulus:** With an overall picture of the opportunities in every parish, we will be able to ensure all parishes have the support they need to develop new social action, mission and outreach.
- **Review:** Finally the survey provides a timely opportunity for Lenten reflection on your parish's mission in your locality.

Practical advice for completing the questionnaire

The survey is [available on line](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RGY7TFG), and will be open for responses throughout Lent 2019. To access it, click on the following link, or paste the text in to your browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RGY7TFG>

- A copy of the questions in Microsoft Word, which you can print off and use to collect information, is attached to Bishop Patrick's email alongside this guidance note.
- This questionnaire will take 5-10 minutes to complete, but will require some research beforehand. Please note that it must be completed in one sitting.
- Please gain the consent of individuals whose personal details are requested, if those details are not already in the public domain.
- If you are responsible for more than one parish, please complete a survey for each parish.

Please submit your responses online, in one sitting, no later than Palm Sunday, 14 April 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Bodenham in the first instance – email justice.peace@dioceseofnottingham.uk or call 07470 907656.

Many thanks for your time and effort in completing the questionnaire. I look forward to sharing the results with you, and discovering together what they tell us.

Paul Bodenham

Justice and Peace Fieldworker

February 2019

A prayer for *Faith into Action*

O Lord, you ask of us only this:
to do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.

We ask this of you:
Help us to fulfil your command.

Open our hearts to the unbounded love
you give to all humanity in Christ your Son.

As we encounter him in those in need,
draw us deeper into discipleship
and outward into mission.

And so may we, your Church in this diocese,
who pray day by day 'your kingdom come'
find your kingdom already in our midst
among those we are called to serve
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen