

Terms of Reference for Mandated Ministry Working Parties

Introduction

Every Pastoral Area has been asked to reflect on how the proposed Mandated Ministry roles could help the mission of the Church in their local area. (See the Mandated Ministry Information Sheet for further details of these roles). It is expected that a small working group will be established after the Pastoral Area Reflection Day, consisting of representative clergy and laity from the Pastoral Area. A initial proposal should be produced as part of your Mission Plan, suggesting ways in which the Mandated Ministry roles could be implemented in specific places in the Pastoral Area. This report will then be sent to the Bishop.

Constituency of the Working Party

Within the group there should a mix of clergy and laity, and it would be helpful to have a mix of skills relating to church mission and growth, church administration, managing change, finance and communication. The group should include the Dean, with an experienced chair and secretary. The working party should relate to, and communicate regularly with, the Pastoral Area Council, although it can include different personnel.

Areas for Investigation

The scope of the group will include:

1. The current needs and pastoral provision across the PA – from the Reflection Day.
2. Future changes to provision (eg large housing estates, population moves, a new school/shopping centre) – from the Reflection Day.
3. A vision for what the local Catholic community could be – from the Reflection Day.
4. New projects getting started as a result of the Reflection Day.
5. How the new Mandated Ministry roles could help make this vision reality.

Answers to the first four points will form the context for the answers to the final question.

Timetable

It is our hope that all Mission Plans (even in outline form) should be with the Bishop ahead of the next gathering of Pastoral Area Councils on 28th March 2020. It may well be helpful for Avril Baigent to attend the first meeting of this group to answer questions about the new roles and how they might relate to the Pastoral Area.

Final Report

We are asking Pastoral Areas to focus on mission, outreach and growth as the context for these new roles, although it would be tempting for groups to concentrate instead on the decline of clergy numbers. These new roles are to help local communities to grow in skill and confidence, to reach out into our local areas, and to become, as Pope Francis asks us, evangelizing communities that get involved by word and deed in people's daily lives (*Joy of the Gospel*, 24). Funding suggestions will be welcome, but specifics around salary will be worked out in detail at a further stage. The report should focus on specific proposals as to where one or more of these roles might fit well into the local team of clergy and laity: adding to the skill, energy and time of that team; freeing up priests; and bringing fresh ideas and approaches.