

Welcome Programme

Meeting 1 – Guidance Notes

Introduction (10 mins)

The purpose of this session is to introduce the 'Welcome, Family Friendly' programme to the group of parishioners you have brought together. *(You should consider getting together as many parishioners as possible to participate in your parish reflection.)*

Introduce the programme by showing the powerpoint slides which explain how the programme has come about and how we are organising it in our Diocese.

If you are unable to present this introduction from the DVD, consider photocopying the slide pack and talk through the slides in your group.

Welcome and Introduction from Bishop Brain (10 mins).

Once you have set the background to the programme, show the DVD with Bishop Brain's personal introduction.

Try to project this onto a big screen if you have the means to do this or use a TV. If you need a VHS video instead of a DVD, please contact the Department for Evangelisation.

Welcome in the Scriptures (10 mins).

Having set the scene with the slide introduction and welcome from Bishop Brain, the third part of this meeting offers a short reflection on how 'welcome' is presented in the scriptures.

Parish Reflection (1 - 1½ hours).

For the final part of this meeting, it is suggested that you take time as a group (or if numbers allow) several small groups of 3-4 people to reflect on how your parish currently meets the needs of your community.

Take some time to think about the positive things your parish is doing already in your community, and write them down. A Parish is at its best when it is aware of a wide range of people's needs and actively seeks to meet those needs.

The questions in this booklet are not meant to be an exhaustive list, and you may wish to add some further questions that better reflect the dynamics of the community around you.

Another way of completing the parish reflection is to write down each of the key headings on flip chart paper and to pin these up around the room. Ask people to think about as many of the questions as they can and then use post-it notes to write down how they think your parish meets the needs of your community in these areas. They can then walk around the room and pin the post-its on the relevant flip charts - discussing points with other parishioners as they walk round.

When everyone has finished, ask a few individuals to summarise what has been included on the flip charts before bringing the meeting to a close.

Remember to record the information that has been written on the post-it notes/flip charts as part of your overall parish reflection.

At this stage, the objective is to reflect on the positive aspects of Parish life before you start thinking about areas where you feel the Parish could do more - this will follow in the next meeting(s).

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Conclusion.

If you have split the meeting up into smaller groups, bring the meeting back together to share what each group has discussed before you draw the meeting to a close. Delegate someone to collate all of the output from this reflection and produce a summary before the next meeting.

You may consider using a copy of your notes to report back to all parishioners via your parish newsletter and ask others to send in any comments they may have.

Preparation for Meeting II – Parish Audit

In preparation for the second meeting, issue the pink coloured booklet that includes the two assessment forms:

- ***Assessing Your Parish Welcome***
- ***How Family Friendly is Your Parish.***

Ask the group to spend time before the next meeting to make their own assessment. It may also be beneficial to ask others what their experiences are of Parish life – particularly those who may not attend church services' regularly'.

Take as much time as you need for this part of the programme as it is important that you gather views of others who you may not see on a regular basis.

You may also need to speak to the Headteacher or other people involved with your parish primary and/or secondary school(s), as well as people involved in other aspects of community activity in your parish.

You should arrange your next meeting at least 3-4 weeks away to allow time for you to complete this aspect of the programme.

Meeting 1 – Parish Reflection:

1. We meet the spiritual needs of our community by:

2. We meet the emotional needs of our community by:

3. We meet the physical needs of our community by:

4. We meet the social needs of our community by:

5. We meet the needs of young children (0 - 10) by:

6. We meet the needs of youth (11 - 18) by:

7. We meet the needs of young adults (19-25) by:

8. We meet the needs of 'young' families by:

9. We meet the needs of 'older' families by:

10. We support relationships between people by:

11. We meet the needs of minority groups in our community by:

12. We support the diversity of 'family life' in our community by:

13. We involve different people of all ages in the church service by:

14. We support our clergy, church workers and their families by:

15. The improvements we have made towards creating a building that is safe and accessible to everyone are:

16. We have a current child protection policy with clear guidelines to protect young people and vulnerable adults on any church activity - Yes/No?

17. We support families at key times in their lives (i.e. Marriage, Baptism, Sacramental Programme, Illness, Bereavement etc) by:

18. We reach out into the community to help meet local needs by:

19. We reach out to those less fortunate/in need in our community by:

20. If you could change/improve three things in your parish what would you like them to be:

1.

2.

3.

Notes:

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