

HOLY CROSS PARISH

Looking to The Future

In April 2023 Archbishop Nolan launched his “Looking to the Future” initiative. This was intended to look at how the Archdiocese of Glasgow could continue to provide pastoral care in the future, considering the challenges of falling attendance, financial constraints and fewer priests. Changes would have to be made and hard decisions taken. This has been publicised in the Flourish and in past bulletins. For Holy Cross this means looking to our future within the new South Deanery.

Pathways to Change

Change is never easy. Change may mean letting go of something we value to embrace something of greater importance or value. The motivation behind any change is key.

From earliest times adapting to different situations has been a crucial part of the Church’s work of evangelisation. Service, in the work of proclaiming the gospel, is our mission as a community of faith. Anything which may hold us back from that fundamental vocation needs to be reviewed and if necessary reformed. Our goal in revising our parish structures in the Archdiocese is the creation of vibrant faith-filled communities that nourish the faith of the Church and offer witness to the gospel and its values. Sacraments, liturgy, community, care for the poor, are at the core of who we are as a Church, rather than buildings or boundaries. We aim to look to the future, while being faithful to the past.

As we look to the future how do we best use the resources that we have before us in fulfilment of our core mission?

Some introductory comments may be helpful.

On which parishes should close.

- There is an important distinction to be made between the closure of a church building and the merger or realignment of a parish. In most cases parish boundaries will be realigned so that the pastoral care of the community is maintained. Parish buildings will be dealt with separately.
- It should be noted that where a building is sold the financial benefit to the Archdiocese of Glasgow is limited. The assets of the parish follow the parishioners to their new parish. Where for pastoral reasons a parish is divided up between more than one parish, the assets of the previous parish will be divided in the same way.
- The assessment of which parishes should close should be based on the provision of pastoral care, rather than the history of a particular church or the listing of the property.
- The listing of a given church is offered for information. This should not be taken to mean that a particular building should be considered as outside the scope of this discussion.

On numbers of clergy

- The number of clergy is projected to fall sharply over the next few years. We have given an indication of how this may affect your deanery.
- In the figures quoted where religious congregations are concerned we have allowed for 1 priest in our calculations.

To illustrate the actual issues facing the South Deanery it is useful to look at what is currently available in terms of the number of priests and parishes and what is projected the situation will be in 5 years time. The table below illustrates this.

Total number of clergy for South Deanery Today	19
Total Projected Number (2028)	12

This reduction in the number of priests should not be looked at in isolation. The number of practising Catholics who attend church has been falling for some time and this does affect how many will come forward to accept a vocation in the priesthood. This is illustrated by the numbers in the table below.

South	Listed	Priests	Est Cath	Census	Census
Parish		2023	Popul'n	2022	2019
<i>Bl. John Duns Scotus</i>		1	3000	160	741
St. Mary Immaculate	B	1	2500	161	345
St. Helen's	C	1	2500	504	774
Holy Cross, Glasgow	B	2	5800	224	417
St. Albert's	B	1	1100	95	127
St. Vincent's		1	2000	318	370
Holy Name		0	1400	53	173
St. Gabriel's		1	3800	439	778
Our Lady of Lourdes		1	5000	492	812
St. Leo's		1	800	90	117
Our Lady & St. George's		1	3500	356	467
St. Constantine's		1	3800	432	796
<i>St. Anthony's</i>	B	1	3000	177	293
Christ the King		1	4900	405	535
St. Bartholomew's		1	2500	183	267
St. Margaret Mary's	B	0	3000	133	230
St. Brigid's		1	3000	240	247
St. Robert's		1	2000	187	502
St. Bernard's		0	1200	74	58
St. Conval's		1	2400	425	310
St. James'		1	3000	215	300
Totals (21 parishes)		19	60200	5363	8659

Parishioners will continue to be updated as the process evolves and there will be opportunities for debate and discussion on what the future direction of the parish will be.

Monsignor Hugh Bradley
Parish Priest

The Parish of Holy Cross is a Parish of the Archdiocese of Glasgow, a Designated Religious Charity SC018140

