

### What has happened so far?

1. The clergy have come together prayed and started to outline a structure and plan. They have collaborated on a proposed name and vision statement so that the new parish has a shared identity and clarity of purpose.
2. Meetings have taken place with parish administrative and secretarial staff to discuss greater cooperation. An audit of data management systems and social media accounts has taken place.
3. Areas that can start to benefit from mutual support have been identified including hospital visiting, adult formation and youth formation.
4. The seven individual churches have been divided into two geographical hubs:

#### WEST HUB

Christ the King, Bagshot  
St Tarcisius, Camberley  
St Peter and St John, Camberley  
Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Frimley

#### EAST HUB

Our Lady Help of Christians,  
West Byfleet  
St Hugh of Lincoln, Knaphill  
St Dunstan, Woking

### What will happen next?

- A transition leadership team made up of clergy and parishioners will be established.
- A new finance committee will be established and, in time, assume responsibility for financial matters across the whole new parish of Woking and Surrey Heath.
- A new enhanced website will be developed using a platform proposed by the Diocese, alongside other communication and data-management tools.
- When ready a proposal will be sent to the Council of Priests to establish a new parish.

### Can you help?

- Talk to your parish priest.

### Do you have questions?

- Email Fr Paul Turner, Moderator of the new parish: [paul.turner@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:paul.turner@abdiocese.org.uk)
- Attend an open meeting:
  - **Tues 3rd June 7.30pm**, St Dunstan Church Woking,
  - **Thurs 5th June 7.30pm**, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church Frimley.



## The Catholic Churches of Woking & Surrey Heath *Information for Parishioners*

Last year, Bishop Richard Moth published a Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 'The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission', which outlined proposed changes to the structure of our parishes.

This booklet explains what to expect as we implement these plans.

### Our Mission

We are a family of churches that welcome everyone and work together in Christ to build a strong community of Catholic faithful, who are rooted in prayer and empowered by the Holy Spirit, so that we can live out God's call to proclaim the Good News to all, today and tomorrow.

**"The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's Word, for growth in the Christian Life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration...It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey and a centre of constant missionary outreach."**  
*Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel #28)*



## The establishment of a new Parish of Woking & Surrey Heath

### Why is this taking place?

Given the falling number of ordained priests, in order to continue to carry out our mission effectively we must adapt our structures and better support our clergy.

Bishop Richard's hope is that by linking our existing communities in one new 'canonical parish', we can create more integrated, collaborative and flexible ways of working across the seven church communities in our current deanery.

The current deanery of Woking is set to become a new canonical parish which includes the churches of:

Christ the King Bagshot  
St Tarcisius Camberley  
St Peter and John Camberley  
Our Lady Queen of Heaven Frimley  
St Hugh of Lincoln Knaphill  
St Dunstan's Woking  
Our Lady Help of Christians West  
Byfleet

This grouping of parishes will be constituted under the proposed name of  
**The Catholic Churches of Woking & Surrey Heath.**

### This transition represents:

1. Greater pastoral cooperation among our church communities, with a shared identity rooted in prayer and worship.
2. A freeing up of clergy to focus on their responsibilities to preach the Word, celebrate the Sacraments and provide pastoral care by rationalising administrative demands.
3. Providing formation and training, so to enable all our people to engage in the local mission as baptised members of the church.

As the Bishop says:  
"it will give us the flexibility to respond to current challenges in a way that is resilient, sustainable and adaptable. Without such a bold step, the pressure on the priests that we do have will become impossible for them to bear."

### What will happen?

For the most part, the familiar rhythms of church life will continue, albeit with adjustments.

Inevitably, change can be challenging. So it is important that, as plans are developed, we continue to listen to and support each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

On the road ahead, let us remember the purpose of Bishop Richard's plan and of all that we undertake together: "I invite everyone in the Diocese to join with me in forging our parishes into communities of saints, into strong, lively and welcoming schools of discipleship."  
Bishop Richard Moth

- Our priests will continue their work, living in the same house, with the same administrative support.
- Bishop Richard has proposed Fr Paul Turner to serve as Moderator for the new parish. As Moderator, Fr Paul Turner will lead the clergy and a dedicated Leadership Team, ensuring the vision of the pastoral plan meets local needs and priorities.
- Individual church names will remain the same.
- There is no immediate effect on the use of our buildings.

Priests will continue to celebrate the Eucharist and the other sacraments, but the greater sharing of pastoral ministry should enable priests to call more easily on each others' expertise and to allow priests with particular gifts to share them more readily across the local Church in order to support our mission.

Having a strong sense of fraternity and a shared vision should be a real support to our clergy as they support the lay faithful in living out their calling.



(Left to Right) Dcn Simon Tierney, Fr Abin Kochupurackal, Fr Aaron Spinelli, Fr Paul Turner, Canon Rob Esdaile, Fr John O'Sullivan, Dcn Russell Young and Dcn Rob Wellbelove.