



# The Catholic Churches of Woking & Surrey Heath

Consultation Meeting



## Agenda

1. Welcome & opening prayer
2. Introduction & mission statement focus (10 minutes)
3. Overview; the creation of new parishes (10 minutes)
4. Plans and process (10 minutes)
5. Group discussions (15 minutes)
6. Feedback (10 minutes)
7. Next steps (5 minutes)
8. Closing prayer

The Catholic Churches of  
Woking & Surrey Heath



## Welcome and prayer

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him.

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. *James 1:5-6*

### Prayer

Holy Father, we humbly seek Your divine guidance as we embark on our mission. Illuminate our path with Your wisdom, strengthen our resolve, and unite our hearts in purpose. May we be instruments of Your love and grace, serving others with compassion and integrity. Lead us to fulfil our calling, and let our actions reflect Your light in the world. Amen.



## Introduction & mission statement focus

- Who are we?
- What are we seeking to achieve?
- Why are we doing it?

### 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.



## Overview; the creation of new parishes

Bishop Richard Moth's Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 'The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission', outlines proposed changes to the structure of our parishes.

The biggest change is a transition away from deaneries to one large parish formed of existing church communities.

The Bishop's plan acknowledges a difficult reality: numbers of clergy are dwindling and so it is necessary to adapt to better support our priests and to continue with our Mission.

A new canonical parish will bring about a more integrated, collaborative, and flexible way of working with the seven church communities in our current deanery.

"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)



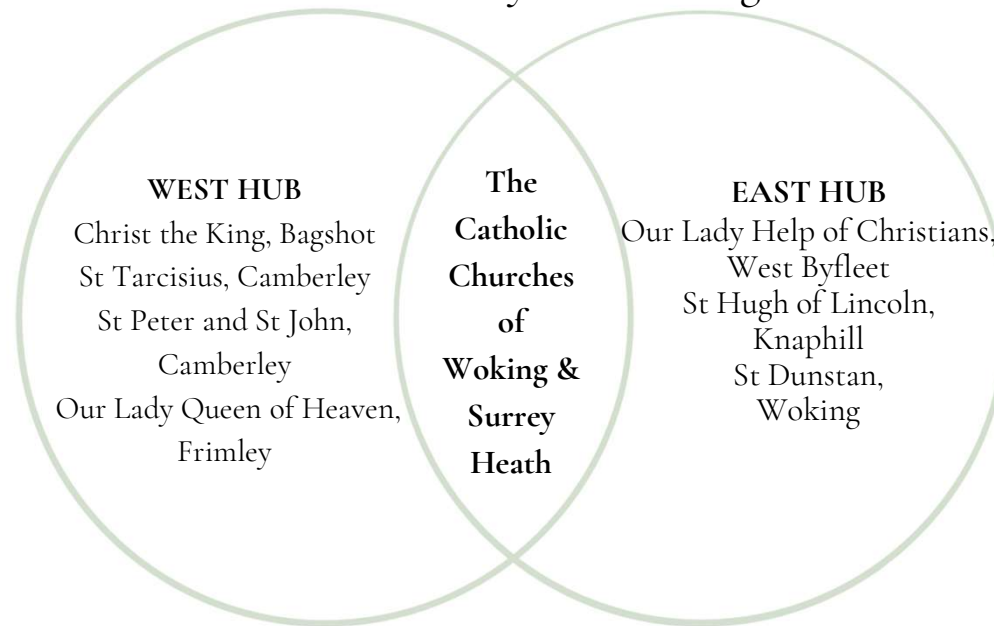


## Overview; the creation of new parishes

### Why is this taking place?

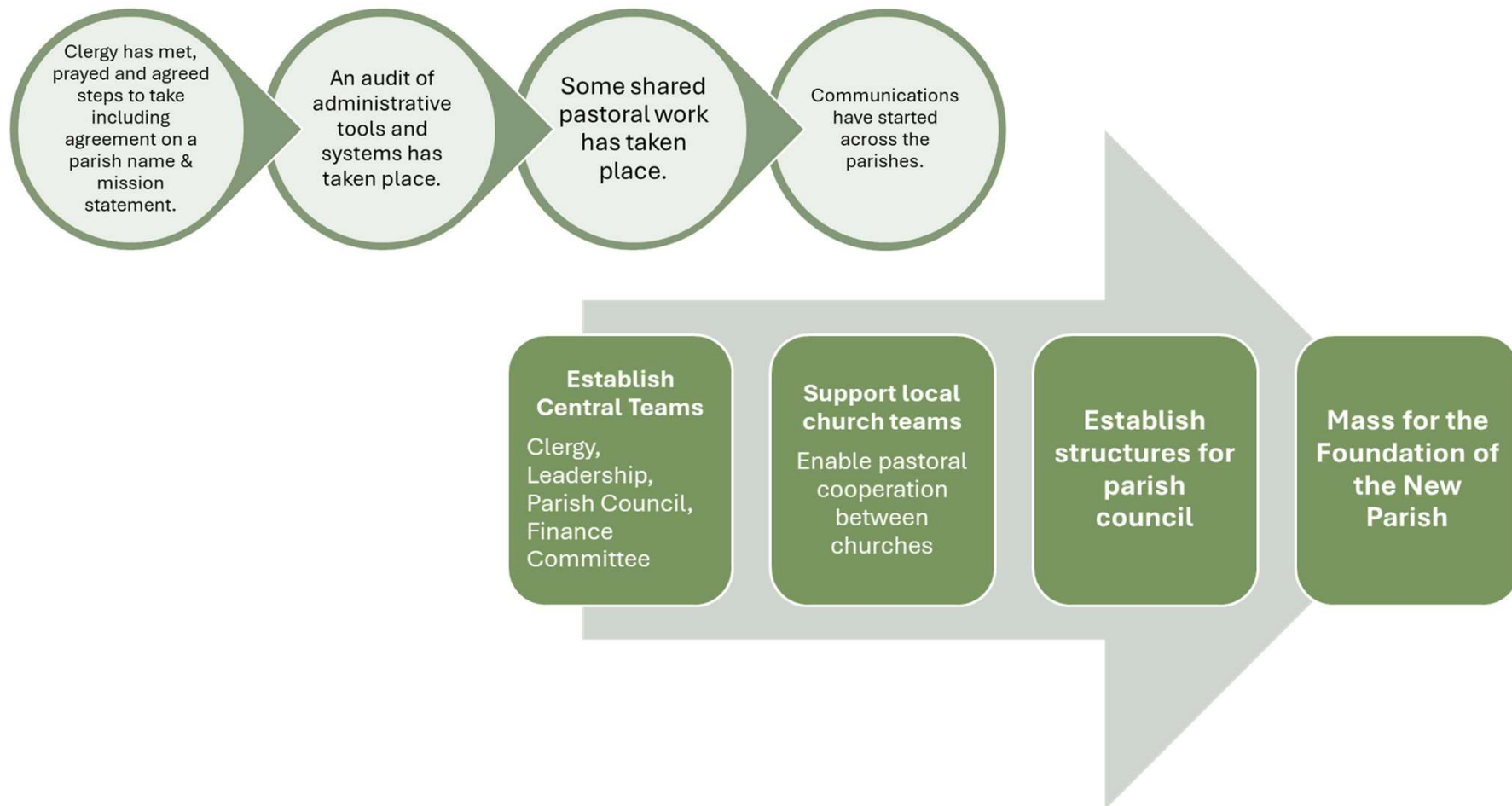
Given the falling number of ordained priests, in order to continue to carry out our mission effectively we must adapt our structures and better support our clergy.

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.



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.”

## Plans & process







## Group discussions & feedback

How can we respond to this inevitable change in a way that will best serve us for the future?

- Where are our strengths?
- Where are our weaknesses?
- What must we be mindful of?
- What opportunities can we seize?
- How can we be 'lively & welcoming schools of discipleships?





## Next steps and closing prayer

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria,  
and to the end of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

Our Father, we humbly seek Your divine empowerment through the Holy Spirit. Fill our hearts with courage, wisdom, and strength to fulfil Your purpose. May Your Spirit guide us in our daily lives, igniting our passion for service and love. Help us to be vessels of Your grace, spreading hope and light in a world that longs for Your presence.

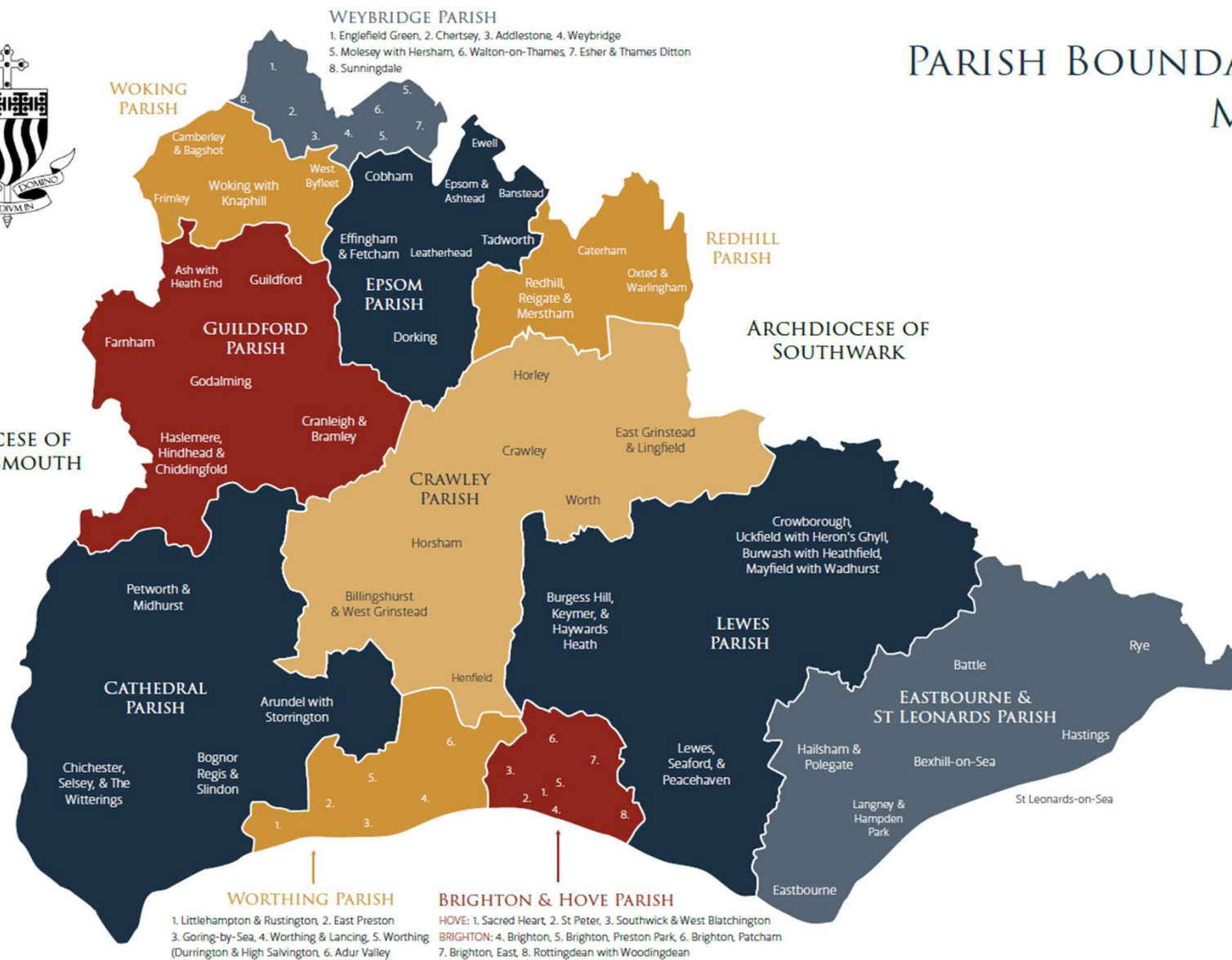
Amen.

*Thank you  
God Bless*





DIocese of  
PORTSMOUTH



## PARISH BOUNDARY MAP



# Our Parish Mission

**“Join with me in forging our parishes into communities of saints, into strong, lively and welcoming schools of discipleship. May they be communities where the Lord is known and loved; where the liturgy is experienced as an encounter with the wonder of heaven; where daily prayer is a natural part of life; communities of healing, where all are welcomed, their dignity as children of God always recognised; where young people grow in deep love for the Gospel, for the sacramental life of the Church and for prayer; where all know the riches of the Faith and seek to share it with others.”**

**Bishop Richard Moth**

The Word Who Is  
Life Pastoral Plan:  
The Call to Mission



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

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