

DIOCESE OF HALLAM - COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

Dear Fathers,

February 2024

Facing the Future

Following on from a series of meetings with the Council of Priests, the Bishop wishes to start a consultation about the future shape of the Diocese. The attached information is to be made available to each Parishioner/family following the reading of the Pastoral Letter, to facilitate the discussion about the future shape and size of the Diocese. This discussion needs to take place in three (3) stages;

1. Firstly Individually/Family. Each practising Catholic/Family needs to take a good look at the information provided and ask themselves what the Holy Spirit is saying to them?
2. Then each Parish Community needs to come together and discern what is the Holy Spirit asking of them?
3. Finally, the Deanery Clergy need to come together and reflecting on the information themselves and the reflections of their people, summarise their conclusions in a written report compiled by the Dean.

As the Bishop outlined in his (pastoral) letter to the people, we must prayerfully engage with the future of the Diocese of Hallam and how we are to best serve the Mission of the Church entrusted to us with all the resources we have available.

Lent and Easter are an appropriate time to undertake these tasks of reflection. Therefore, the Deanery clergy should look to reflect on the results and submit their written consultation¹ to the Vicar General by **Sunday 30th June**. This allows over 4 months for the process of reflections and meetings. All other dates should be set with this target date in mind.

Yours with every prayer

The Council of Priests

¹ *The written consultation document should have attached all notes, letters and emails received during the period which are applicable to the consultation*

Questions to Beginning Discussions

1. What are the good signs for your parish that you can see?
2. What are the concerns you have for your parish?
3. Where do you see your parish as we enter the year of Jubilee (2025)?
4. What actions do you think you/your parish need to take?