

Parish Purpose, Vision & Mission statement **Of Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish, Oxford**

Our Purpose as a parish (why we exist)

Is to bring the love of God to others *by following the exhortations of Jesus Christ to:*

- *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind; ... loving your neighbour as yourself. (Matthew: Ch 22 v34-39)*
- *Go... make disciples, of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew: Ch 28: v19-20).*

“The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church” (Pope Paul Vi, EN 14)

Our Vision (our long term inspiration and aim)

A welcoming and dynamic Catholic community, with the Eucharist at the centre, reaching out to all.

Our Mission (what we do in practice to implement our purpose and vision)

As missionary disciples walking together synodally, in the light of the Diocesan Vision, we:

1. **Exercise co-responsibility with our parish priest** - supporting him to fulfil his office effectively (which includes celebrating the Sacraments; ensuring that the Word of God is proclaimed in its entirety; visiting the sick; housebound and families to ensure that he not only shares their joys but also their cares, anxieties and sorrows i).
2. **Evangelise & form intentional disciples** -
 - i. By welcoming everyone to our parish.
 - ii. Encouraging and supporting each other and anyone interested in finding out about the Word of God, making every effort to share the Gospel message (the ‘Good News’) and to reconcile those who have fallen away from the practice of the Catholic faith.
 - iii. Nurturing the faith of our young people and adults, fostering the development of a mature faith, through appropriate formation opportunities.

3. Liturgy & worship

- i. Have prayerful Liturgy, founded on the Sacraments of the Church
- ii. Are ecumenical, fostering fellowship and cooperation with our local Christian churches and other faith communities, recognising that it is through praying together that the gift of Christian Unity will be achieved.

4. Social outreach

- i. Demonstrate a practical concern for justice and peace, both within and beyond our parish, including exercising care for creation through how we steward the resources of our earthly environment and parish appropriately.
- ii. Support those who are sick, either in their homes, in hospital, or in nursing homes; ensuring that they are nourished by the Sacraments
- iii. Support those in need, whether poor, hungry, homeless, lonely or bereaved, exiled from their homeland, or burdened with special difficulties.

Whilst some aspects of our mission can only be fulfilled by an ordained Catholic priest, enabling our vision and mission is the shared 'co-responsibility' of the whole parish. The parish priest recognises and promotes the specific role which the lay members of Christ's faithful (the 'People of God') haveⁱⁱ, making use of the charismsⁱⁱⁱ given to the community.

ⁱ The full role of the Parish Priest is defined in Catholic Canon Law, see particularly paragraphs Can. 527 – Can. 530 of The Code of Canon Law English Translation (1983): http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_P1U.HTM

ⁱⁱ The 'People of God' - the role of the faithful is given in Can. 204 (onwards): 'The Christian faithful are those who, inasmuch as they have been incorporated in Christ through baptism, have been constituted as the People of God. For this reason, made sharers in their own way in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and royal function, they are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfil in the world, in accord with the condition proper to each'.

ⁱⁱⁱ Charisms – CCC 799. Whether extraordinary or simple and humble, charisms are graces of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefit the Church, ordered as they are to her building up, to the good of men, and to the needs of the world.

Note: parish developmental frameworks such as Divine Renovation & Great Catholic Parishes may help further operationalise the Vision and Mission. The headings identified in 'Our Mission' above correspond to the focus areas of the broader Diocesan Vision.

Approved by Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)
Date: 9 September 2023