

Pastoral plan update

a year on from the Synod

Monday 20 June 2022 marks one year since the Archdiocese of Liverpool met for the Synod. Since then, the pastoral plan has been written, promulgated and implementation is ongoing.

Below is an update on the work that has been carried out since the pastoral plan launched:



Area 1 - Becoming a Church that accompanies people through life

- We have been exploring what accompaniment means. We hosted three side by side events (two in person and one online) attended by 131 people from across the archdiocese. The events were run by The Proximity Project – a National Group (backed by Jesuits, Benedictines and others), exploring accompaniment with external facilitators. On the anniversary of the Synod, we will be welcoming all who attended the events to an online meeting to feedback on the process and discuss the moments of accompaniment in local parishes that may typically go unrecognised.
- We have been part of the national proximity project, drawing on experience from across the country to reflect on accompaniment.
- Sr Lynne Baron, FCJ, has been appointed as Archbishop Malcolm McMahon's delegate for Catholic social action. Sr Lynne will be a key member of the new Archbishop's Advisory Body and will ensure that the voice of a woman will be heard as the archbishop makes important decisions. A key call from the Synod was to renew our Church by reaching out and being welcoming and inclusive.
- Significant work is being done to enhance the ethical policy informing diocesan investments such that it better reflects the demands of Catholic moral and social teaching.
- We will be appointing a Catholic social action coordinator – interviews for this post will take place w/c 20 June.
- Mass bringing together the LGBTQ+ community have been held regularly.

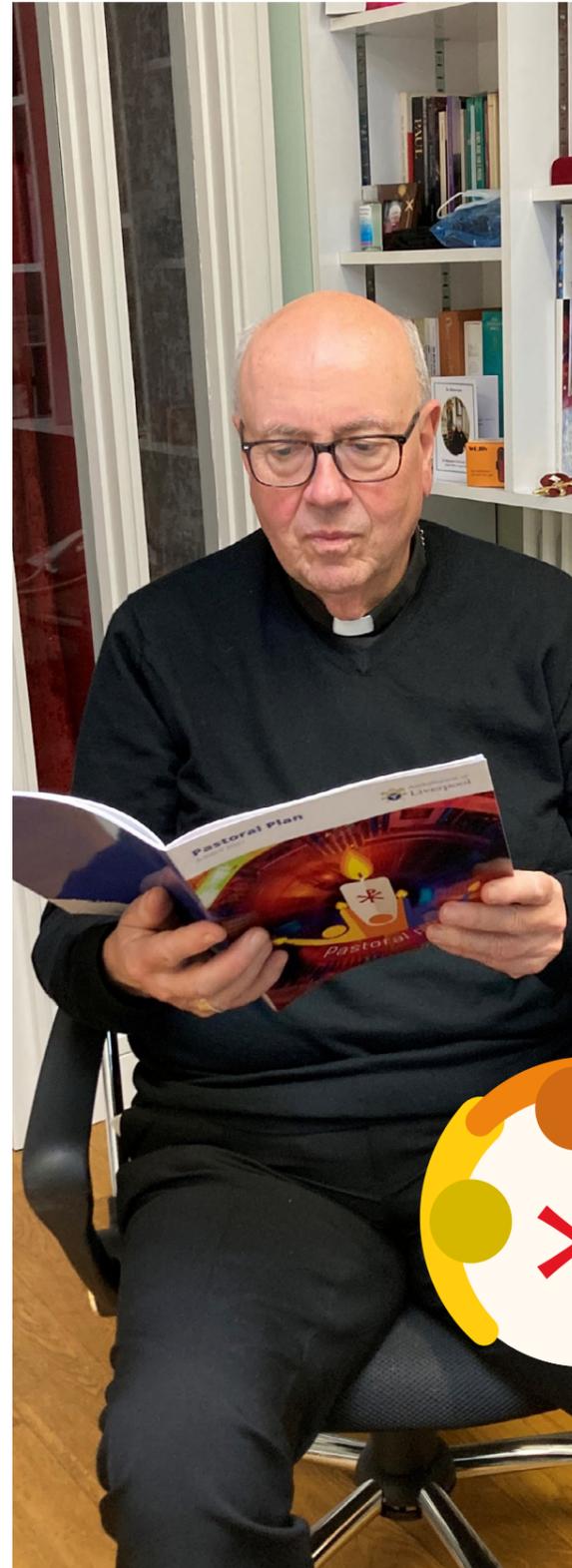


Area 2 – Becoming a Church that honours the vocation of all the baptised

- An appointment will be made for a new post in our Pastoral Development Department for a training coordinator. Interviews for this role took place w/c 13 June.
- Early conversations have taken place around the new ministries of catechists.
- We have explored the idea of a joint formation programme for future priests, deacons and lay ministers to train together.

Area 3 – Becoming a Church where synodality is embedded

- The decision to incorporate the archdiocese to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was approved by trustees earlier this year. The process is well underway and the new structure will be implemented by the end of the year.
- The revised constitution of the Council of Priests was promulgated in December 2021, to take account of the restructuring of the deaneries within the archdiocese.
- A review of the statutes of the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter (last revised in 1955) took place between November 2021 and April 2022. The fruit of the discussions is a new set of statutes that the Chapter proposed to the Archbishop for approval.
- The Archbishop has now given his approval to the new statutes and they came into effect on Pentecost Sunday, 5 June 2022.
- Following the revision of the statutes of the Chapter, the Archbishop transferred the functions of the College of Consultors from Archbishop's Council to the Chapter of Canons with effect from 6 June 2022.
- Now that Archbishop's Council no longer functions as the College of Consultors it has been possible to effect the next step of the plan, which was to create the Archbishop's Advisory Body as a replacement for Archbishop's Council as the consultative body that meets most regularly with the Archbishop.
- The Archbishop will now be able to appoint to this body members who are not priests. This new body also came into being on 6 June 2022. All those who were members of Archbishop's Council will sit on the new advisory body and you will be informed of the appointment of any additional members.
- Conversations have been taking place about a council of deacons forum.
- Ecumenical work and development has been taking place and there have been conversations with the Diocese of Liverpool about how we can work together with them on their Fit For Mission scheme which is built around four basic mission priorities:
 1. Introducing people to Jesus
 2. Deepening discipleship
 3. Developing Christian leaders
 4. Working for justice



Area 4 – Becoming a Church that renews its organisational structures and administers its property to serve its mission

- New deaneries were created at the end of last year.
- The deans and one lay person per deanery have been working in partnership as co-chairs on the Deanery Synodal Council (DSC). The lay people were appointed by the archbishop and will be in place for 12 months.
- A [terms of reference](#) for the DSC has been issued.
- The DSC will be meeting for the first time this summer.
- The audit of archdiocesan property and land is ongoing.
- Work is underway to create families of parishes and this process should be complete by June 2023. Answers to FAQs on families of parishes can be found [here](#).



Area 5 – Becoming a Church where young people and young adults flourish

- We explored how to capture the concern of working with young people.
- A job description for a new diocesan post has been created. The post will coordinate the way forward for youth ministry in the archdiocese in association with the current youth provision.



Area 6 – Becoming a Church that cares for its priests



- A major piece of work has been carried out for this area. Every priest has met with an external facilitator. Out of 106 priests, 104 participated in this. Religious priests and retired priests have also met with the facilitator.
- The second stage of this process is to feedback what has been heard and the next steps. Feedback will be included in clustered deanery meetings taking place in June and October and we will explore the suggestions in order to support their flourishing in the human, spiritual, liturgical, theological, intellectual and pastoral aspects of their lives.

Outside of the archdiocese

As the first diocese in the country to go through the synodal process, we have been sharing our experience of the Synod in different ways. The findings of our local Synod also fed into the Vatican Synod.

Archbishop Malcolm visited the Vatican and presented the pastoral plan and the issues that were outside the remit of a diocesan Synod to Cardinal Marc Ouellet and Cardinal Mario Grech, General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops.

