



## Looking Forward

Holy Cross, Hucknall and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell



**Fr Richard Hardstaff**  
**Deacon Martyn Swaby**

<b>Representatives</b> <b>Holy Cross</b>	<b>Representatives</b> <b>Our Lady of Perpetual Succour</b>
<b>Simon Clunie</b> <b>Chair of PPC</b>	<b>Bridget Doyle</b> <b>Chair of PPC</b>
<b>Bodwell Mendy</b> <b>Vice Chair of PPC</b>	<b>Onosi Ifesemen</b> <b>Vice Chair of PPC</b>
<b>Lucas Ortega</b> <b>Chair of Finance</b>	<b>Brendan O'Boyle</b> <b>Chair of Finance</b>
<b>Olympia Blaj</b> <b>Vice Chair of Finance.</b>	<b>Pauline Lynch</b> <b>Vice Chair of Finance</b>

The above group of Parishioners have been asked by Fr Richard to work together in order to gain further insight following receipt of the Nottingham Diocese paper on Pastoral Organisation. Guidance for re-structuring and merger of parishes. A meeting was arranged just as Fr Richard was admitted to hospital.

Pauline Lynch spoke with Bishop Patrick with regards to this meeting - organised before Fr Richard's illness and subsequent convalescence, asking advice should we go ahead and start this process, so that whenever Fr Richard was ready to return fully to parish life, much of the background work would be in place for the next steps to take place. Bishop Patrick was happy for us to proceed and advised us to take time, seek necessary advice when needed to support our work.

All members agreed that this was a sensible way forward. Our two parishes were moving forward already with many joint successful services at major times in the Liturgical Calendar ( past few years ). It was agreed that the hidden joint administration, would not be felt by the majority of parishioners.

**First steps to be taken:**

- Become familiar with the document for future meetings.
- Seek advice from a parish who has completed their merger. PL has been in touch with Fr Paul Newman from Eastwood and he is happy to come and share their experience and process with us.

**Date agreed and confirmed - Monday 2nd December at Holy Cross meeting room - 7.00 pm**

- Discussion around a consultation that had taken place in Fr John's time. That was never completed, so it was agreed to start again. All schools in the parish and convent and any other agencies involved would be consulted.
- To plan a timeline for milestones commencing after Christmas, and after the meeting with Fr Paul

**Meeting 2 - 02/12/2024 at Holy Cross Meeting room**

Fr Paul Newman was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for giving up his time to share with us their Parishes experience to date and advised us of the following to support our process.

- Keep records of all paperwork that will need to be presented to Diocese.
- Ensure everything is minuted.
- Communicate to the Parish the process.
- Communicate to all stakeholders linked to the churches; schools, academy trust, convent, retired clergy etc
- Ensure transparency across Holy Cross and Our Lady's.
- Establish a clear timeline for work to take place.
- Do not rush the process - it will take much longer than initial planning.
- Events will be led by timings of Diocesan meetings where documents will need to be presented.
- Ensure that everyone is working from the same page before moving forward.

Following general questions and answers for clarification, it was agreed for all members to read through the pastoral guidance paper before our next meeting which will be convened after Christmas.

Again Fr Paul was thanked for his support.

### **Meeting 3 at Our Lady's Parish Centre 25/02/2025**

Purpose of the meeting

To discuss Looking Forward for the parish merger taking into account all points for consideration discussed in our previous two meetings.

To establish a timeline of communication for all parishioners and any action required, administration support needed from the office staff, preparation of letters, emails, website inclusion, talk to the parishes, meetings to take place and consultation document to prepare.

So that all is transparent and clear.

We all agreed that our current position is as follows

- Holy Cross and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour churches since our previous parish priest's residency have aligned the following and they have been accepted successfully within both communities;
- Mass times agreed
- Christmas services aligned
- Shared Holy Week services - Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil - held in each church every other year.
- One administration office in Bulwell with responsibility for the two bank accounts separately
- Joint RCIC and RCIA courses each year
- Baptism classes for both churches held throughout the year
- Confirmation preparation for both churches has been successfully merged
- Saint Margaret Clitherow School since the closure of the Infant of Prague Parish receive their Sacraments in Bulwell and are active participants in Our Lady's reading rotas. They attend Mass on Holydays of Obligation (transport financed via the sale of the IOP church - ring fenced) and take part in the parish Carol service each year, plus other services.

Therefore, the main focus for us now 'Looking Forward' will be the financial merger in to one bank account, thus forming one Parish Pastoral Council, one Finance committee, which will streamline the administration all round, particularly in the administration office.

It would not be possible to join First Reconciliation and Holy Communion groups because of the numbers within each of the schools and those Catholics attending state schools exceeds the capacity of any given venue. This has already been agreed and is working successfully between schools and parishes.

It was agreed that 'Looking Forward' will have very little impact on the members of our Churches and any discussions, questions, concerns will all hopefully be clarified in any papers shared, meetings and consultations

### **Looking Forward - Holy Cross and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour**

The following was agreed:

#### **Timeline**

**Meet with Fr Richard and office staff to update him as he is unable to attend meetings currently. (PL volunteered). This has now taken place on 13/03/2025. All matters communicated and Fr Richard agreed with all that has taken place to date.**

**Communicate information via newsletter, website, Facebook, for four weeks -those being;  
04/05/; 11/05; 18/05; 25/05/; 01/06/2025.**

**Representatives from both Holy Cross and Our Lady's will speak over the weekend of 07/06 and 08/06 at all Masses. This will be instead of the Homily.**

**FAQ sheet to be distributed with this communication paper.**

**Consultation document to be distributed and meetings to be held after weekend Masses 21/06 and 22/06/2025**

**Deadline for response to consultation documents by 05/07 and 06/07/2025**

**Notification to Primary Schools x 3 website/newsletter clip  
informing parents  
Secondary Schools x 2 website/newsletter clip informing parents  
Little Sisters  
Monsignor Forde  
The Deanery - email  
OLOL Trust**

**Chairs of all Committees have convened meetings to inform all  
PPC and Finance members of all that has taken place so far.**

**This will now be a regular agenda'd item at each future meeting.**

Communication items will be prepared and the Looking Forward group will convene once all has been completed completed to discuss and edit if required before circulation to all parishioners and other interested parties at the given dates already mentioned.

## **Frequently asked questions that may arise .**

- Will Mass times change?  
There will be no Mass time changes as this is all in place
- Will there be any changes to Sacramental preparation?  
First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are established now with all 3 schools. The numbers receiving the Sacraments each year requires 3 separate celebrations.  
Baptism and Confirmation is working jointly.  
All are working successfully.
- Will any major changes to events throughout the year take place?  
These changes have already taken place and feel established for at least 3 - 4 years. Both Christmas and Easter services operate very smoothly.
- What about our Schools?

No change to our schools will take place as they are part of the Our Lady of Lourdes Trust. They are all very active within our places of worship.

### **Financial questions**

- What will the impact of a single bank account for the receipt of money and payment of bills?

The benefit of the single bank account will mainly support the administration staff in the office. All will be combined in to one accounting process, but with codes specifically devoted to each place of worship. Therefore, no specific charges shared.

- Will major building works be retained in the name of the place of worship?

Yes.

- How will fundraising work.

Unless there is a future joint venture planned - fundraising for specific places of worship will remain the same.

- Volunteer teams - how will they work eg liturgy, safeguarding.....?

As both places of worship operate slightly differently, it has been agreed that these groups will remain separate. Safeguarding in particular remains separate as parishioners do need to have knowledge of their representatives.

- What will happen to legacies left to a named church?

Only to be used for the 'named church' as will be agreed by finance committees.

- What will happen with administration staff?

Both positions are part time, and both would work for the new parish. So, no issues there - thankfully!

- How will the Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Committees operate in the future.

The Councils and Committees will amalgamate to one in the name of both places of worship with elected members representing both communities. This will not take place until this whole process of communication, consultations, parish meetings, presentation to the Deanery, the Council of Priests at Diocesan level and finally to Bishop Patrick.

