



## Looking Forward Phase 2

**Including outcome consultation document**  
Holy Cross, Hucknall and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell



**Fr Richard Hardstaff    Deacon Martyn Swaby**

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

**BRENDAN O'BOYLE RIP:** It is with deep sadness that Brendan passed away suddenly on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025 during our work together. We keep Julie, his wife and children Francesca, James and Daniel and families in our thoughts and prayers. **REST IN PEACE OUR DEAR FRIEND BRENDAN.**

A group of parishioners [see over] were asked by Fr Richard to work together to gain further insight following receipt of the Nottingham Diocese paper on Pastoral Organisation. Guidance for re-structuring and merger of parishes.

Further to our Looking Forward booklet published early June, this booklet explains the responses from the consultation form, meetings and emails that were sent.

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

*All the above were actioned.*

**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. *All carried out on the dates noted and information booklet distributed. In total 450 hard copies were handed out in person; an email was sent to the 510 on our parish mailing lists. Additionally, we notified The Little Sisters living in our parish, our three primary schools and our two secondary schools, the Our Lady of Lourdes Trust and the Deanery. Fr Richard visited Monsignor Forde to discuss plans of merge.***

**FAQ sheet to be distributed with this communication paper.**  
*This was included in the booklet distributed on 7th & 8th June.*

**Deadline for response to consultation documents by 05/07 and 06/07/2025.**  
*All responses now collated, and the outcomes are noted below for your information.*

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

**Consultation document to be distributed and meetings to be held after weekend Masses 21/06 and 22/06/2025. *Actioned on noted dates. (In total 450 hard copies were handed out in person, 510 were emailed to mailing lists. At Our Lady's and Holy Cross no questions were raised after Mass or at the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup>/22 June 2025 in the meeting room. No-one attended meetings.***

*From the above number of forms distributed (907) we received 32 responses, and the result details are as follows:*

*26 of the responses agree of parish merge with no comments.*

*1 of the responses in favour but with reservation and 5 disagreed.*

*(84% agree on the amalgamation and 16% disagree)*

*Summary of reasons to all are listed below:*

*In favour comments from responses:*

- *No problem at all.*
- *Embrace this as a positive thing.*
- *Thanks, and congratulations to the team responsible to move the process forward.*

- *Enhance relationships between the two communities.*
- *United parish enabling parish to thrive.*
- *We are all one family.*
- *Reduce costs and time.*
- *It's a fait accompli!*
- *It makes sense.*
- *All is working well so far.*
- *Feel at home in both churches.*
- *Good idea to have finance and admin combined.*
- *Natural progression because of shortage of priests.*
- *Will unite the communities in witnessing as a missionary parish in our area.*

#### ***In favour but with reservation:***

- *Insufficient sociological research countrywide.*

#### ***Disagree comments from the 5 responses received:***

- *Do the office run the show?*
- *Why is the office open only 3 days per week?*
- *Office needs to be open all week.*
- *Priest never responds to phone calls and doesn't answer the phone or respond to emails.*
- *Name change – worried.*
- *Need someone to care about Holy Cross.*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> Mass for Hucknall on a Saturday.*
- *Why merge anyway?*
- *Link with other countries.*
- *What is the benefit of it?*
- *Holy Cross is like the poor relation.*
- *What will happen to Holy Cross money?*
- *Priest not interested in Holy Cross.*
- *Contacting office isn't easy – like a GP receptionist.*
- *It won't work; Holy Cross has worked ok on their own.*
- *It will be a dictatorship system.*
- *Holy Cross parishioners need to have more input in Parish Life.*
- *Care for the disabled.*
- *Sort Holy Cross out first, Holy Cross needs the Priest to be interested in the community.*

#### ***Suggestions from responses:***

- *Need to nurture -grow different backgrounds, languages, ethnicities – all need to be represented and have nominated contacts.*
- *Can there be more Deacons?*
- *When financial merger takes place will our bank details need to be re-presented?*
- *Joint large events – alternate events – eg. carol service.*
- *Next generations responsibility to move forward.*
- *We haven't a choice.*
- *Trial an evening Mass on Saturday at Holy Cross.*
- *New PPC needs clear structure and mission, equally represented and a workable number.*

- *PPC should be the overall decision maker affecting all decisions democratically with a majority vote.*
- *Not the priest to make decisions or change them.*
- *Lucky to have a priest.*
- *Both churches need to maintain social pastoral and spiritual activities that don't necessarily need a priest.*
- *Continue what works well in both places.*
- *Parishioners do attend both churches.*
- *Need smaller sub committees to organise parish life.*
- *We need to journey together faith, love, trust and action.*
- *The need to communicate fully informed of any progress at all stages of parish life.*
- *Need to maintain individual identity of churches.*
- *Cut down admin for office staff.*
- *One community to get to know each other.*
- *Develop a monthly termly magazine to communicate more than the newsletter.*
- *More joint events socially.*
- *Our Lady and Holy Cross, Mary Our Lady and the Holy Cross – name suggestions.*
- *One PPC with members will bring us closer together.*
- *Clergy and Laity formation.*
- *St Joseph as a likely patron for the merger, devotion to St Joseph in both communities.*
- *Keep communication strong.*
- *Any other priest available to support Fr Richard?*

*Following on from this, members of the Looking Forward committee will be available after every Mass next weekend 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> September if anyone has any questions, comments or further suggestions. Please come and speak to them.*

*If you are unable to attend any of these Masses but still have a question/comment, please complete below and return to either church or the parish office and we will endeavour to get a response to you.*

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*Name:*

*Contact details:*

*Question/comment:*