

Enabling Our Mission Campaign

The **Enabling Our Mission** campaign aims to make our Diocese and its parishes more outward-looking and missionary-focussed. Through this initiative, we will also strengthen communications and improve accountability to both clergy and laity. Our three key priorities are:



Equipping our priests and lay leaders with the tools and resources they need to lead a move to mission



Alleviating the ever-growing administrative workload of clergy



Responding effectively to the local requirements of parishes and helping laity grow in their faith

Campaign Progress



Launched in Winter 2024



38 parishes engaged to date



Over £3.2 million received in pledges



100% of funds raised are held in a restricted bank account and can solely be used for the three priorities



Parishes are already receiving their share of the funds, with over £212,000 distributed so far



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“After a very fruitful 4Mission Summer Camp in 2024, funded by the Mission Enabling Fund (MEF), I applied for the funding for a second year. The weeklong faith-based summer day camp took place in July and is orientated towards forming a solid foundation built upon learning more about their faith, as the 56 children took part in the various activities available throughout the week.

“There were 6 activities on offer, including Dance, Sports and Arts and Crafts. Most importantly, we embed Church teaching in the activities such as action songs and faith-based creations. We also applied for coach travel to Lincoln Cathedral to develop the young people’s understanding of our wider Diocesan Mission and explore the life of our patron St Hugh” – Fr. David Cain

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How the Funds are Secured

To ensure a faith community-wide effort, one underpinned by a sense of fairness – with us all playing our part – Enabling Our Mission is designed to enable all parishes to participate. Importantly, we want to give every parishioner the opportunity to learn more, ask questions and make a decision that is right for them. Each parish's goal is based on multiplying their 2021/22 annual offertory income by 1.5. The share of those funds will be split as follows (once a parish reaches its goal):

Share of Funds

split across the following priorities:

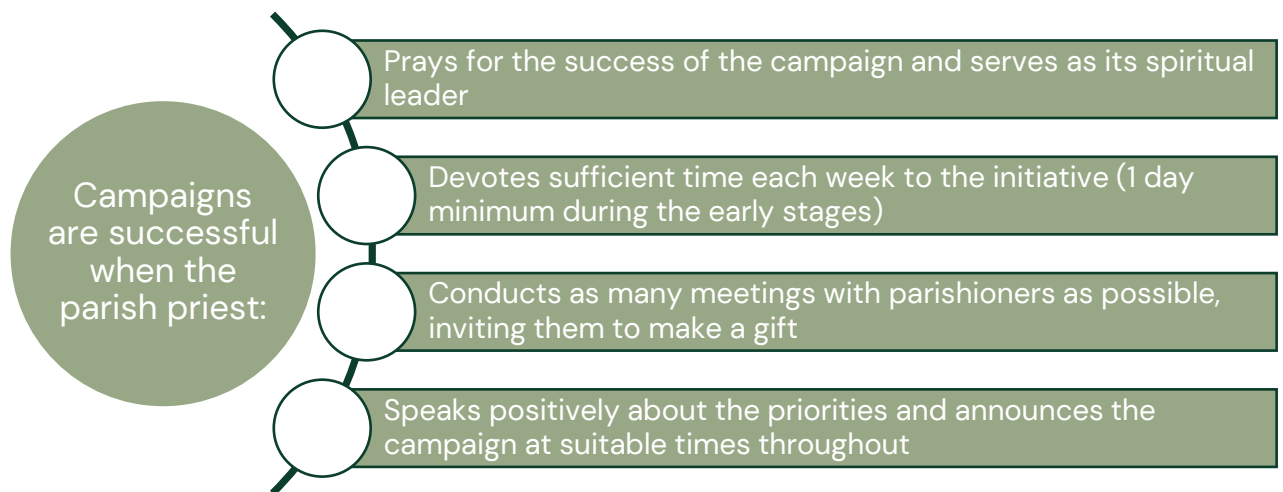
- Becoming more missionary – 40%
- Supporting our Clergy – 20%
- Strengthening our Parishes – 40%



Gifts and pledges to the **Enabling Our Mission** campaign are ring-fenced in a separate account. A Campaign Committee (made up of clergy, trustees, senior leadership and laity from across the Diocese) has been established to ensure a high level of transparency and communication. This group is guided by formal campaign policies that govern the expenditure of all funds pledged.

Role of the Parish Priest

The campaign will require the involvement of clergy at various stages. Each parish is expected to participate for approximately three months. The time commitment will be greatest at the beginning, when meetings with parishioners are being held, and will reduce as the parish moves toward the end of its three-month involvement.



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“People have contributed and it has shown what can be done by taking part in this campaign. We can now do things that we wouldn't have been able to do otherwise.” – Canon Andrew Cole

“The campaign was only possible due to the generosity of parishioners...our people are happy to help” – Fr. Paul Nellikulam

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What do our Parishioners say?

The opinions of parishioners were gathered in a survey in August 2025. The aim was to understand their experience with the campaign, what motivated them to give and if they were satisfied with the communication they had received.

- 70%** of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with communications related to the campaign
- 75%** of respondents had a favourable or very favourable experience with the initiative
- 85%** of respondents agreed they were provided with enough information to make an informed decision

Parishioners recognised the need for the campaign to be conducted now and were aware of the impact this would have in the future.

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“I wanted to help my church community and the wider diocese”

“Support efforts to increase congregations. Relieve Priests from some of the admin duties. Generally, to support the diocese and the parish”

“Hopefully encourage and build a united community which include everyone regardless of race, gender, age or abilities. From the oldest to the youngest where every matters”

“Wider scope to achieve the Christian Mission”

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Clergy Case Study

Fr. David Cain led the initiative across his two worshipping communities last year, raising £205,473 from 71 families and exceeding their £190,000 target.

The parish used a portion of the funds raised (supplemented by a successful application to the Mission Enabling Fund) to run a five-day summer camp for 50 children from the Holy Family community, teaching them about missionary discipleship through activities like dance, crafts, and sports. The camp was such a success it was held again this year, attracting even more young people.

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“Without doing the campaign, we would not have had a chance of raising our parish share of £80,000. Thank you to everyone that has supported.” – Fr. David Cain

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Helpful Information

The following provide an insight into the campaign so far:

- [Hear from Fr Andrew Cole and Fr David Cain](#) about what the campaign meant to them
- [Canon Matthew Jakes speaks of his experience](#)
- [A parishioner shares their thoughts](#)
- [Enabling Our Mission Impact Report](#)

Frequently Asked Questions



Why is this campaign needed now?

Despite the many challenges we face, our Church is changing and evolving in exciting ways. If we are to support our communities and become more missionary, then we must ensure we have the resources to do it.

Additionally, we need to alleviate the ever-increasing workload our priests must contend with, so they can focus on delivering the word of God.

Finally, this campaign will also enable us to stabilise income in our parishes and provide an opportunity for growth.



How will the Diocese deliver this campaign?

Due to the size and nature of this endeavour, we have retained the services of a professional firm who can provide the level of expertise and practical support needed to ensure success. They have many years' experience in running similar campaigns and are supported by the Curia, helping us to build our own internal capacity.



Does the Diocese not have funds that could be used?

The Diocese is very grateful for the ongoing support and sacrifices our parishioners make. However, Mass attendance continues to steadily decline, and many parishes are finding it hard to survive. In 2024 our annual diocesan offertory has remained nearly £1.5 million down since COVID-19. We need to be able to generate additional funding to help these parishes and to achieve our vision of becoming more missionary. This campaign will enable us to plan for our future.



What is the Mission Enabling Fund (MEF)?

The Mission Enabling Fund (MEF) is a key priority of the **Enabling Our Mission** campaign as it provides an opportunity to deliver our diocesan mission of becoming more outward-looking. The MEF will enable parishes to lead the people of our Catholic community into an ever-deeper Encounter with Christ, inspiring Discipleship and forming Missionary Disciples. It will be employed to equip and support these people to co-operate with the Holy Spirit in bringing others to Encounter Jesus through their daily lives – individually and as an attractive, welcoming, Christ-filled parish community.



What type of projects has MEF been able to support?

With the initial seed funding of just over £500,000 from our own unrestricted funds, we have been able to fund projects which have included:

- Piloting a parish website platform to help parishes with maintaining a cost-effective online presence that is attractive and informative
- Establishing a diocesan Youth Forum to give young people a stronger voice in the Mission of the Church
- Producing a resource on the Mass to support school staff, lay chaplains, and clergy who are involved in preparing Masses with children and young people