

Encounter ministries in the USA give three core principles to enter into our inheritance which are in tune with Bishop Patrick's mission plan:

A) ENCOUNTER WITH GOD'S PRESENCE

> Adoration and the sacraments.

> Contemplative prayer.

B) RENEWAL OF OUR MIND (Romans 12:2: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.)

> Clearing out the dross, making space for God.

> A discipline over our thoughts and orientating them to God.

C) RETURN HOME TO THE KINGDOM = return like the prodigal son to the Home of the Father.

> SEEK THE KINGDOM AT ALL TIMES, EVERYWHERE AND APPRECIATE THE GIFT.



Dear Parishioners,

We are now up and running with the three parishes forming a community which we have entitled "The Catholic Community of the South Wolds and Coast." There is much still to fine tune and organise but a start has been made. Many thanks to you all from Fr Julius, Fr John and myself for the prayers and support that you have given. By the end of October, I hope that everything is more settled and that representatives from the three parishes have met together at least once.

But more importantly, that there is some sort of spiritual plan behind the practical steps that have been taken.

In this unusual set up we could ask: What is the role of the parish and the parish priest in this? Simply put - to be the boat which enables us safely to negotiate the journey. To provide the graces that come from the sacraments, especially the mass; to provide instruction in the faith - especially in prayer and the spiritual journey; to build community which mutually supports each other in the journey. The Parish Priest is to guide and oversee this journey and in particular to frame a vision for the local parish in the light of the Church as a whole and the local bishop in particular. I was reading a commentary on the rule of Saint Benedict and it had this phrase which resonated with me: ***"To gather together equally committed adults for the journey through earthen darkness to the dazzling light that already flames in each of us but in a hidden place left for each of us to find."***

Of course each parish will have its own identity and particular charism. I also envisage lay people having a far great involvement in the journey as well as being asked to provide the support and back-up to the priests.

Also, Bishop Patrick has asked that as a community of parishes, we have a plan for mission based on the three steps of Encounter, Discipleship and mission. This primarily will depend upon the lay people.



What is needed? A common vision and mission for our community to fulfil our journey and mission with a greater turning to mission. “The people perished for lack of a vision.” Proverbs 29:18

- The necessary resources and help to enable this. If we provide our simple five loaves and two fishes, the Lord can multiply them. .
- With the decline in the number of priests we also have to develop a model of the domestic church based on the early Christian community in the second chapter of the Acts.
- People willing to step up and make this happen. A steering group in each parish as well as a joint group that can oversee things.
- Each Christian must remember that it is a precept of the Church that they contribute financially and in labour to the Church. I realise of course that the modern workplace and economic systems do not make this easy for families. Also, we must bear in mind our many retired and elderly parishioners
- God has given us the necessary resources but we must know how to use them wisely. But the main thing we must have trust that God will provide.
 - Most importantly: Interior conversion and a desire for holiness - in particular an appreciation of the mass, confession, adoration and communal prayer.
 - It only requires a few committed people to change things – people committed first and foremost to holiness of life and then to mission. Anointing with the Holy Spirit is essential.
 - The best change is slow and is often at first unnoticed. Many people find change difficult and it requires courage to put out into the deep.
 - Expect trials - trials, persecutions, divisions were all part of the Church from the very beginning.

FIRST CORE PRINCIPLES

- 1) All fruitfulness - be it interior conversion or mission flows from our identity as sons and daughters of the Father. This is one of the major problems in Christianity and also in our lives. We think that what is important is how I perform; how I am regarded by others; what social standing or reputation I have. This leads to a huge pressure and the enemy exploits this weakness. It also explains how we can think that we have lost everything if we don't have these things – MY VALUE RESTS ON WHAT I DO.
- 2) An example of this is in the gospel today – the workers in the vineyard who worked longer were upset that those that had only worked one hour were paid the same wage. They had “produced” more and so were entitled to more. But grace is a free gift from God.
- 3) Or the parable of the Prodigal Son – the elder brother has established his worth upon but what he does rather than his relationship to the Father. He has produced but he has never called upon what the Father had to give him: “You are always with me and everything I have is yours.” He resents the celebrations over the return of the younger son. Due to the fact that often we forget that our true Identity rests with whom God made us to be, we can often fall into the same trap.
- 4) MY VALUE RESTS IN MY BEING IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE FATHER. What we do must flow from this and will only bear fruit if this is the case.

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.” Ephesians 1:18-19
- 5) This is the Kingdom – the inheritance – to which we have been called. It is from this that we derive all our worth. LET US CLAIM OUR RIGHTFUL INHERITANCE.
- 6) When we truly appreciate this truth and stop trying to do everything ourselves, basing our worth on our achievements, then true peace comes. We then find the truth of what Jesus said when he taught that his burden was light and his yoke easy.

