

Fundraising Consultative Phase Update

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits, as the Holy Spirit leads us to a deeper Encounter with Christ and Our Holy Mother in this month of the Rosary. May Mary's Yes to God continue to inspire us to become a more outward-looking, evangelising Church in our Diocese.

Following my previous updates about the recent consultations across our Diocese, I want now to share the outcomes with you. I am deeply grateful to all who so generously shared their insights and perspectives. Your invaluable feedback and insights have encouraged us to progress ambitious plans for supporting new mission initiatives in our parishes.

Guided by a dedicated Steering Committee, comprising both laity and clergy, and with the endorsement of our Diocesan Trustees, we have decided to take further steps towards a fundraising campaign to resource and support 'Evangelising Mission' and 'Invigoration' in our parishes. We will run a pilot in a few parishes in early 2024, hopefully followed by a wider roll-out in Summer 2024.

Below is a snapshot of the consultation process, and what you can expect for the continued development of a flourishing Catholic faith community in our Diocese. As we embark on this path, please pray for those involved in the pilot programme. Your prayerful support, as well as any practical help you may be asked to provide, is deeply appreciated.

With prayers and best wishes,
+ Patrick

Gathering a cross representation of opinions...



Key Takeaways

Clarity and Communication

- Most parishioners are 'somewhat familiar' with the **diocesan spiritual themes** and pastoral priorities, but request greater clarity and more communication.

An Achievable Target

- There is a **general belief** that although there are some challenges to achieving the fundraising goal, **the overall financial target is achievable**.

Main Priorities Identified

- Of the three areas tested, '**Invigorating Parishes**' and '**Enabling our Mission**' were deemed the main priorities. Investing in parishes would positively enable mission.

Considerable Support

- There is **considerable support from both the laity and clergy** for a campaign. Laity indicated interest in volunteering time, talent and providing a financial contribution for the needs of their faith community.

Moving forward with recommendations in mind...



Improve communications with clergy and laity regarding fundraising (past and future) and use simpler language to explain the Spiritual Themes and Pastoral Priorities.



Develop clarity of the message; "why fundraising is needed and what is the impact".



Build a committee to help inform and drive activity.



Provide adequate support and a strong structure to ensure success.



Begin a pilot fundraising initiative.