

## Briefing for Chairs of Parish Finance Committees– February, 2018

### Establishing a 'Joint Partnership Fund'

Bishop Seamus has directed each Partnership to establish a joint fund, with its own 'bank account' within the diocesan account. There is no immediate purpose for such a fund, but rather the sense that it demonstrates a commitment to collaborative decision making, since it necessitates the working together of clergy and laity in all parishes in the partnership to set it up.

Some partnerships have already used such an account to fund projects such as printing a 'partnership brochure', professionally produced prayer cards, plaques for each parish in the partnership. . . As you will be aware, any expenses we have incurred so far – quite small - have fallen on each parish, since they have related to items for distribution to parishioners, families, communities directly related to each parish individually (Advents candles for distribution to families, self-printed prayer cards for advent, Christmas, sweets/sugarcanes for Christmas, Lenten Services flyer)

In the Partnership Development Group, there has been no call to spend money, as yet, so it is difficult to even envisage how this might develop. However, the initial suggestion from Bishop Seamus was a sum in the region of £500 per parish (establishing in our partnership a fund of £5000).

### Partnership Finance Committee

The PDG sees its role and responsibilities as pastoral; animating and encouraging the gifts of all in the partnership. Thus, in response to the bishop's direction, it was felt that this provided an opportunity for another group of representatives from each parish in the partnership to work together, namely the Chairs of the Parish Finance Committees. The PDG would facilitate the introduction but leave to that team to decide how best to fulfil the remit:

- Establishing and managing the account;
- Providing advice to and maintaining contact with the PDG;
- Ensuring each Parish Finance Committee is kept up-to-date with the fund.

### Priorities

The main focus for our attention is 'Discipleship and Mission' - the formation of all the parishioners in our partnership to recognise and respond to their 'baptism calling'.

However, we also need to consider the possibility as we move forward of having to fund lay-leadership of aspects of partnership or parish work, especially as the number of priests, deacons and religious decline even further. Training for such roles will be funded (at least in some part) by the Diocesan Lay Formation Training Fund.

### Meeting of Council of Laity

The reformed Council of Laity, which is now constituted of the Chairs of the Partnership Development Groups across the Diocese had its first meeting on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February. At this meeting a communique was agreed. While no reference is made directly to finance, it was a concern for some partnerships moving forward.

### Contact Information

Email: [j.l.hardy@btinternet.com](mailto:j.l.hardy@btinternet.com)

Telephone/text/voice message 07887994243