



"As part of moving forward as a Diocese and growing as a Synodal Church, in the New Year, I formed a Mission Discernment Group of people, young and more mature, clergy and lay, from across the Diocese and from its various parishes, chaplaincies and institutions to meet with me to discern. Through spirit led synodal conversations we shared and prayed about the themes raised from the Diocesan Listening Reports, the Diocesan Synod Synthesis and the findings of the Diocesan consultation process Forward Together in Hope. What is shared with you is an initial discerned way forward that hears and responds to the voices of people from across our Diocese. In order to grow as a synodal Church it is important that we all have a chance to pray and discern how the Holy Spirit is inviting us to grow in mission in our parishes and communities. The vision presented is not intended to be imposed but to offer an opportunity for our communal reflection. We may agree with parts, we may disagree with parts. We may think some of it expresses our priorities, we may have other priorities. I do not wish to open another formal consultation process rather present these to you for local Spirit-led synodal conversations. Accompanying resources have been produced to help with this discernment and I strongly recommend that we meet in our communities and hold these Spirit-led sessions. In twelve months' time, it is my intention to draw together our further discernment. As a diocesan family we will be offering opportunities to listen to one another and further discern what the Lord is calling us to Be and Do. These opportunities will be advertised in due course." + Stephen