



Dear Parishioner

The Diocese of Brentwood, of which we are part, anticipates a severe shortage of priests in the coming years. It has come up with a strategy to deal with the problem that is based on restructuring and on development of the Catholic communities.

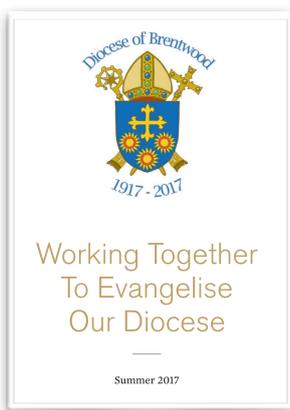
The fact that we are a Franciscan parish does make some difference, but we and Catholics in this area will be affected by the restructuring, and we are already aware of the need for renewal of our own community.

The Diocesan strategy "*Working Together To Evangelise Our Diocese*" may be read by clicking the following link

[Renewal and Restructuring plan](#)

It is a long document but the main details are contained in pages 11 – 21.

Your comments on the Diocesan strategy are very much needed – especially from the 15-50 year olds.



Please email your comments to william@yeung.org.uk ideally by 23rd September since the Diocese requests feedback by 30th September.

Any contribution at all would be most welcome, particularly from those under 50 who will obviously be most affected in the future. If you could indicate your age range in the email, we will know how representative the contributions are.

Responses will be collated by the small group that helps William, our Steward of

the Gospel (our parish representative on the Diocesan group).

Some of the questions you might like to ask yourself are:

1. In which ways could we strive for renewal of our faith; how could the necessary restructuring take place in our local area? How will this help the people of God pursue the Vision put forward by the Diocese?
2. How will the aspects of renewal outlined in the 12 point plan, which can be found on pages 11-13, affect you in your daily life as a Catholic?
3. Do you have any thoughts on how the Diocese could be restructured in our area due to the predicted and inevitable shortage of priests?

If there is a demand, we will convene a meeting to discuss this.

Thank you for your interest.

William Yeung

Steward of the Gospel
St Thomas of Canterbury Parish