



# DIOCESE OF SALFORD

## *Pastoral Letter to Schools from the Right Reverend John Arnold Bishop of Salford*

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

**Feast of St John Bosco**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Over two years have passed since we launched our parish renewal programme, Hope in the Future, on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. On that October evening, in the Cathedral, I reminded those present that St Francis had been called by God, to 'Rebuild my Church'. I am encouraged by the way in which those words have been taken to heart and for the enthusiasm with which the programme has been received across the Diocese. Thank you.

As we continue on our journey together it is important that we spend some time further developing our school and parish links. We are blessed in our Diocese to have many wonderful schools where pupils already put their faith into action in their school environment, and where they are supported by dedicated and gifted staff. This is especially the case in the excellent existing programmes of GIFT Chaplaincy and Caritas Ambassadors to name a few.

We also have dynamic and active parishes which are on this same journey to become beacons of hope in their communities. It is important that we walk together – home, school and parish - to engage with young people and their families.

It is important that the good work which takes place in the school is shared and lived out in the parish community and that the young people's faith journey continues in the parish long after they leave school through ongoing, lifelong faith formation.

To achieve this, I believe it necessary to define a shared vision and mission to enable this project to continue with greater pace.

### **Our Vision**

Our parishes, schools and families working together in partnership to develop a shared faith journey for our young people.

### **Our Mission**

To provide resources and to facilitate opportunities that enable our parishes, schools and families to develop closer links, encouraging our young people to grow and develop their faith within their community.

This resource booklet has been sent to Schools, parish priests and Hope in the Future teams to help with fostering good links between school and parish. Our aim must be to grow as missionary disciples in missionary parishes, putting into action the call from Pope Francis to show what we believe by our actions. Our parish and school communities must be places of welcome and prayer where we grow in faith and no-one is forgotten and from which we take Christ and Gospel values to the world around us.

In our parishes we have moved into Stage Three of our journey and our theme is 'Living the Eucharist'. During this stage we hope to encourage everyone to value Mass more and more, devoting ourselves to its preparation and celebration, so that it may be an encounter with the presence of Jesus in our lives and a strengthening of our Church and ourselves as missionary disciples. During this Stage I would be very pleased to see times of Eucharistic Adoration being observed in our parishes and schools. Where

this has been promoted, many would feel that it has had a significant positive impact on the life and energy of the community. Many schools have hosted 'Lightfever Eucharistic Adoration', which is similar to 'Nightfever' but this takes place during the day in either a school or parish.

I am sure that this next stage of Hope in the Future can benefit us all. The Mass reminds us that the Lord is with us on our journey and he promised his disciples that he would always be with them, until the end of the age. He is present to us in the Eucharist and precious to us in the reception of Holy Communion.

I appreciate that clergy, school staff and parishioners are already very busy with large workloads. I hope some of the suggestions in this resource will help us to work together more closely and effectively. God bless you for all that you do.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John". The plus sign is small and positioned to the left of the name "John", which is written in a cursive, flowing script.

**+ John Arnold**  
Bishop of Salford