



Northeastern Deanery Forum

Round 2 Report

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Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst
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Contents

Part 1: Summary of Table Discussions Deanery Forum 2 p3

Item 2: What Was Shared, Heard and Acted Upon from Deanery Forum 1

Items 3–5: Updates from Chancery on a range of Chancery related matters raised at Deanery Forum 1

Item 6: What's Working Exchange

Item 7: Priority Discernment

Item 8: Complex Issues Presentations

Item 9: Priority Focus Discussions

Item 10: Follow-Through and Feedback

Conclusion

Part 2: Notes of Table Conversations about the above p11

Part 1: Summary of Table Discussions Deanery Forum 2

Item 2: What Was Shared, Heard and Acted Upon from Deanery Forum 1 Stand Outs from Deanery Forum 1

Need for consistent parish governance and guidelines

- Strong call for PPC and PFC guidelines and greater consistency across parishes, rather than practices changing with each priest.

Ageing volunteers and sustainability

- Heavy reliance on older volunteers, with few younger people stepping into parish roles.

Declining youth and family engagement

- Schools are growing, but church participation is declining, particularly among young people and parents.

Administrative and safeguarding burden

- Paperwork, reporting, and safeguarding requirements are seen as demanding and difficult to manage.

Need for financial and practical support

- Requests for assistance with finances, compliance, and property maintenance.

Communication and collaboration between parishes

- Positive feedback about deanery forums and opportunities to share ideas across parishes.

Reporting systems and resources

- Desire for simpler reporting; PACEM and ZERO generally viewed positively.

Reduced clergy numbers

- Noted as a challenge, with one parish moving from three priests to two.

Overall Summary

The strongest theme is the need for **greater consistency and support** in parish governance, particularly through clear PPC and PFC guidelines. There is also significant concern about the **ageing volunteer base, declining youth and family engagement, and increasing administrative demands**, all of which raise questions about long-term parish sustainability. A notable positive is the strong support for **communication and collaboration between parishes**, with deanery forums seen as a valuable initiative.

Comments on the Tablemat Description of Deanery Forum 1

Overall Summary

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants finding the graphic easy to understand and appreciating that their ideas were being captured and considered. There was strong support for bringing people together through the forums, including from those who had not attended the first one. Practical suggestions for future forums included recording sessions and providing video access for those unable to attend, keeping to allocated time limits, and scheduling evening formation sessions at **7pm rather than 6pm** to improve accessibility.

Items 3–5: Table conversation about updates from Chancery on a range of matters raised in Deanery Forum 1

Volunteer Capacity and Sustainability

- Concerns that the pastoral plan will place significant demands on volunteers.
- Questions about who will undertake the work, particularly given existing volunteer shortages.

Parish Planning, PPCs and Governance

- Strong interest in PPC models, hybrid models, and the ACBC guidance document.
- Viewed as an important foundation for parish planning and renewal.

Need for Discussion and Engagement

- Frustration that there was insufficient time for discussion during sessions.
- Participants felt conversation was sometimes cut short before ideas could be explored.

Support and Resources

- Positive response to receiving support, particularly in areas such as work health and safety.
- Handouts and parish planning resources were generally valued.

Youth and Family Engagement Challenges

- Ongoing concern about the lack of young people and limited parental engagement in parish life.

Communication and Accessibility

- Suggestions to use parish bulletins and Facebook to share information.
- Some participants were uncomfortable with QR codes and preferred alternative access methods.

Session Format and Timing

- Mixed feedback on session length, with some preferring 60-minute sessions over 90 minutes.
- Unpacking sessions were still seen as worthwhile and necessary.

Positive Momentum

- Excitement about the upcoming August event.
- Clergy interest in implementing PACEM in their parishes.

Overall Summary

The strongest theme was concern about **capacity and sustainability**, particularly the risk that implementing the pastoral plan will rely heavily on an already stretched volunteer base. Participants also showed strong interest in **PPC governance models and parish planning resources**, seeing these as important tools for the future. While there was broad support for the initiative and enthusiasm for upcoming events, participants wanted **more time for discussion**, practical support, and clearer communication methods. Ongoing challenges around **youth engagement and volunteer recruitment** remain significant concerns.

Item 6: What's working exchange: A substantial initiative from Christ The King Parish

Volunteer Capacity and Leadership Development

- Ongoing shortages of volunteers, limited parish council membership, and concerns about implementing new initiatives without sufficient people.
- Need to empower parishioners to share responsibility rather than relying solely on the parish priest.

Parish Governance, Planning and PPC Formation

- Interest in PPC training, facilitation skills, clearer structures, and more strategic planning.
- Recognition that governance models need to reflect local realities and available resources.

Different Parish Contexts and Resource Levels

- Participants noted that successful models from larger parishes may not be transferable to smaller communities.
- Desire for approaches that are adaptable to varying parish sizes and circumstances.

Collaboration and Shared Mission

- Interest in deanery-wide projects, follow-up discussions, and ways larger parishes can support smaller ones.
- Examples of parishes working together through shared bulletins and a stronger communal identity.

Positive Organisational Improvements

- Improved office organisation, clearer roles, smoother priest transitions, growing ministry teams, and adjusted parish practices were recognised as positive developments.

Youth Engagement and Future Sustainability

- Continued concern about attracting younger people and ensuring long-term parish vitality.
- Existing volunteer groups are active but ageing.

Facilitation, Communication and Engagement

- Positive feedback on the clarity of presentations and small-group conversations.
- Requests for resources such as PowerPoint slides and facilitation support for parish-wide discussions.

Healing and Parish Renewal

- Recognition that some parishes need deeper conversations around healing and past challenges before moving forward effectively.

Overall Summary

The dominant theme was the challenge of **building sustainable parish leadership and volunteer capacity**. Participants supported stronger PPC formation, facilitation training, and more strategic planning, while stressing that solutions must be realistic and suited to the size and resources of individual parishes. There was also strong interest in greater collaboration across parishes and deaneries, with recognition that shared responsibility, local leadership, and mutual support will be essential for future parish vitality. At the same time, concerns remain about volunteer shortages, ageing congregations, and the need to engage younger generations while continuing processes of healing and renewal where required.

Item 7: Priority Discernment - What Matters Most in the Deanery Now?

1. Youth and Missing Middle Generations

- Minimal/no presence of teenagers and young adults (5), missing 35-60 age demographic. The most significant concern is the absence of younger generations and middle-aged adults from parish life.
- Participants consistently identified this as a critical challenge for the future vitality and sustainability of parishes.

2. Leadership, Clergy Capacity and Future Parish Models

- Parish models and leadership (3), clergy capacity/multi-parish models.
- There is a strong recognition that parishes need to prepare for fewer resident priests through shared leadership, lay leadership development, and new models of parish organisation.

3. Volunteer Sustainability

- Concerns about ageing volunteers and limited capacity were raised across almost every table.
- Participants recognise that many initiatives will be difficult to sustain without a broader volunteer base.

4. Intercultural Relationships and Communication

- Intercultural formation and communication, connection within and between diverse cultures.
- Participants consistently highlighted the importance of building stronger relationships across cultures and improving mutual understanding and communication between clergy and parishioners.

5. Parish-School Connections

- Strengthening the relationship between parishes and schools remains an important opportunity for engagement, particularly with younger families and future generations.

6. Community Building and Social/Faith Gatherings

- Joint social and faith gatherings were seen as practical ways to foster connection, belonging, and collaboration across parish communities.

7. Financial Sustainability

- While not as prominent as leadership or demographic concerns, financial sustainability remains an ongoing challenge requiring careful planning and resource management.

8. Common Deanery Mission and Focus

- One table highlighted the value of identifying shared priorities or a common mission across the deanery to strengthen unity and direction.

9. Chancery Administrative Support

- Administrative and compliance support from the Chancery was identified as a helpful need but was not a major focus compared with the larger pastoral and leadership concerns.

Overall Summary

Across all tables, the dominant concern was the long-term sustainability of parish life, particularly the absence of young people and middle-aged adults, an ageing volunteer base, and the need to prepare for fewer resident priests. Participants repeatedly pointed to the importance of new leadership models, stronger lay leadership, and multi-parish approaches.

Another major theme was the need for greater intercultural understanding and communication, reflecting the diversity of deanery communities and the desire for stronger relationships between clergy and parishioners. While financial sustainability, parish-school connections, and social gatherings were also noted, they were generally viewed as supporting factors within the broader challenge of building vibrant, sustainable parish communities for the future.

Item 8: Presentations on more complex issues

Overall Summary

Discussion centred on **youth engagement, intergenerational connection, and parish relationships with Catholic schools**. Participants emphasised the need to clarify what involvement is being sought from young people and what meaningful opportunities are being offered to them, noting that schools remain the primary point of contact with many families. There was strong support for initiatives that foster accompaniment and mentoring between generations, such as parish-school connections, while recognising that formal diocesan plans would require episcopal approval.

Some also called for **dedicated consultations on the role of women and ministry to the elderly**, identifying both as important areas for future discussion. Financial matters generated interest, particularly the relationship between Catholic education, parish assets, and diocesan structures, with requests for greater clarity and more accessible presentation of financial information. A recurring concern was that **insufficient time was available for discussion**, with participants wanting more opportunity to explore these topics in depth.

Item 9: Progressing Action around Priorities: Self-selected groups gathering around a displayed Priority Issue

1. The Core Challenge is Sustainability

- Across every discussion there was a recognition that existing parish models are under pressure due to ageing populations, volunteer fatigue, fewer priests, and declining participation among younger generations.

- Participants were looking for practical and realistic ways to sustain parish life into the future.

2. Relationships Matter More Than Structures Alone

- Whether discussing youth, intercultural communities, schools, leadership, or finance, the recurring emphasis was on relationships.
- Participants consistently highlighted the need for welcome, accompaniment, mentoring, communication, and connection rather than relying solely on programs or structures.

3. Greater Lay Leadership is Seen as Essential

- There was clear acceptance that the future will require stronger lay leadership and broader participation in ministry.
- Participants recognised the need to better utilise the gifts of parishioners, support women in leadership roles, develop local leaders, and reduce over-reliance on clergy.

4. Younger Generations Remain the Most Urgent Pastoral Concern

- The strongest pastoral concern was the lack of teenagers, young adults, and middle-aged adults in parish life.
- Participants believe engagement must begin early, particularly through schools, family formation, mentoring, and creating opportunities for young people to belong before expecting deeper religious involvement.

5. Inclusion Requires Deliberate Formation

- Intercultural and intergenerational challenges were frequently linked to fear, misunderstanding, and lack of awareness.
- Participants saw formation, education, hospitality, and social activities as essential tools for building communities where diverse cultures and generations feel valued and connected.

6. Support from the Diocese is Desired

- Across all themes there was a recurring expectation that diocesan leadership could assist through resources, formation opportunities, youth initiatives, financial expertise, guidance on lay-led ministry, and support for emerging parish models.

Key Takeaway

The conversations reveal a deanery seeking to move from a model centred primarily on clergy and existing parish structures toward one that is more relational, collaborative, intercultural, and lay-led. The overarching desire is to build parish communities that are welcoming, sustainable, financially responsible, and capable of engaging younger generations while caring for those who are ageing or isolated.

Item 10: Overall Feedback Summary

What worked well

- Participants highly valued the opportunity to share ideas and engage in open discussion.
- Interaction and learning between parishes was a particular highlight.
- The follow-up from the previous Deanery Forum was appreciated, demonstrating that feedback and ideas were being acted upon.
- The event was viewed very positively overall, with recognition of the significant effort that went into its preparation.
- Chancery staff at the tables were considered helpful and supportive.

What could be improved

- The opening pace felt rushed, with insufficient time for discussion and questions.
- Some participants felt there was limited opportunity to engage with Chancery representatives due to time constraints.
- Otherwise, very little negative feedback was received.

Suggestions for future forums

- Reduce the amount of content covered to allow more time for discussion and reflection.
- Increase opportunities for interaction and sharing between parishes.
- Ensure a broader mix of presenters and participants, including greater involvement of women.

What participants would like less of

- Less content overall to avoid feeling rushed.
- Less focus on financial presentations, which some felt were not relevant to all attendees.
- Many participants indicated they would not reduce anything, describing the forum as a very positive experience.

Key Insight

The strongest message is that participants highly value the **relationships, discussion, and sharing between parishes**. Future forums may benefit from a **slower pace and greater emphasis on conversation and participation**, rather than additional content delivery.

Part 2: Table Notes

Item 2: What Was Shared, Heard and Acted Upon from Deanery Forum 1

Is there anything standing out to me (good idea, really like that, something missing, implications...) from *Deanery Forums Round 1: Various Categories of Needs/Issues Raised?*

What happens if a priest is creating their own guidelines, so when the priest changes everything changes. Until we distribute the guidelines priests should follow Canon law. Very large focus on the need for PPC and PFC guidelines.

Issues with volunteers too much paperwork and a lot of aged people. There's no one under 60, school is increasing church is decreasing. Teachers are a reflection of the younger generation and I should say the present generation. Minimal no presence of young ones, they are not coming to church. No parental engagement, they are active in school but wouldn't want anything to do with the church. We need financial help and physical help with safeguarding, paperwork intensive. We also need assistance with taking care of the church, cleaning trees from the pathway are people are just too old to do those things.

Benalla would like easier reporting; they will contact the Chancery finance for assistance. Euroa happy with what's in place in PACEM and ZERO but need work on committees. Communication between parishes is a good idea, these forums are a good idea.

Went from three to two priests. The parish is currently using PACEM.

The Tablemat: Diagram depicting the nature and dynamic of the Deanery Forum?

Record sessions, add video for others to view. Stick to time limits. 7pm is better for an evening formation time than 6pm.

The group seemed to easily understand the graphic. Excellent seeing the output and that ideas are being considered. Some who did not attend the first Forum felt it can only be a good idea to gather together.

Items 3, 4, 5: Chancery-related matters raised in Deanery Forum 1

During the unpacking sessions we ran out of time. Work health and safety, like the idea of receiving support because volunteers are not necessarily skilled nor have time even if trained. The handouts were useful. General remarks, the pastoral plan is a lot of work and will fall back onto volunteers. There was excitement about attending the August event two people were not comfortable with QR codes and were directed to the CDOS website, comments from clergy indicating they plan to add PACEM to their parishes. Parish unpacking sessions to come, 90-minute sessions June and July 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Paper from ACBC in regard to PPC models we would like to use this.

The table was frustrated that there was no discussion time as soon as something started to be explained someone began speaking again.

A member of the clergy commented that they're at the point where they visit schools and just show their face whatever comes after that whatever happens is a bonus. There's a lot of people in the Chancery. We don't have young people; parents are not cooperating. You can contact anyone at the Chancery via reception. Parish planning resources, 90 minutes is too long 60 minutes would be better, it is a good initiative though. Put information into the parish bulletin and on the Facebook pages. Who's going to volunteer for this. What a waste of paper, resources

for the parish mission and pastoral plan. PPC initiative, we need to revisit understanding PPC models and hybrid models. Good way to start preparing. ACBC have put out a PPC guide.

Item 6: What's working exchange: A substantial initiative from Christ The King Parish.

Improved environment, a more organised office, clarifying roles. Transition of new priests is improving. Growing teams, e.g. Eucharistic. Adjusted practices.

Establish direction, small steps in correct direction. PPC training on facilitation. (Could we have a copy of the PowerPoint.) Planned and facilitated, small conversational groups. Some parishes have a lot of healing to be done, go deeper into those issues. Important not to look back. Forgive ourselves when we make mistakes. Remember it's not applicable to all parishes. Parishes are volunteer poor; there are other ways. No structure top to bottom, base it on reality and resources available. Need a big parish meeting, need people to facilitate conversation.

Some parishes have a much smaller congregation than the one presented. That was a beautiful initiative/model but it is not working for us now. Entirely different from our area, we are much smaller. We have done our best.

The group liked the clarity of it. Much simpler than other parishes. A bit of a struggle to start, a lot of explanations in the beginning. Some got stuck on the names and you had to bring them along. Rogationists don't understand synodality? Maybe it just takes a bit of time.

Take that up yes, like the way father set it out but limited numbers on parish councils to implement the improvements. Rely on PFC and PPC to take some tasks. Not sufficient number of volunteers. People are spread thin. Need a strategy to draw people of younger age in. Works well in theory but not in practise without more resources.

Questions that arise for our parish from the "What's Working Exchange": Does this have relevance for our Parish? Does it stimulate thinking about what we might do in this or another area? Is there a follow-up discussion we can have with the presenting parish? Can our parish leverage this? Is there momentum for a Deanery project here?

No forward planning. People on councils were tapped on the shoulder, not volunteering. Not enough volunteers to fulfil the ideas of Father Nathan and Mons Cris. Clergy commitments mean services are rushed and not enough time given to strategic planning.

It makes it so not everything comes directly to the parish priest. Parishioners need to learn to own things and parish priests need to learn to allow others to own things. How can big parishes support the small parishes?

The Knights in our area are very much active compared to Wangaratta and Wodonga, they're willing to help but they are ageing as well.

Three churches, hard to integrate, important to be on the same journey, very separate parishes, changing notion of if "I go to Violet town because I'm from there". Hurt by fires and have banded together. Share bulletin and make a communal parish.

Item 7: Priority Discernment, What Matters Most in the Deanery Now?

Table 1

Ranking	Topic
1	Parish models and leadership: shared leadership models, lay leadership and preparation for fewer resident priests.
2	Joint social and faith gatherings
3	Connection between parish & school

4	Connection with and between diverse cultures within parish communities
5	Financial sustainability
6	Volunteer sustainability
7	Minimal/no presence of teenagers and young adults 20s
8	Key missing demographic 35-60
9	Common mission and focus or two across the deanery
10	Intercultural formation for communication between clergy and parishioners – mutual, not one way
11	Clergy capacity/multi-parish models
12	Chancery assistance with parish administration compliance matters

Table 2

Ranking	Topic
1	Minimal/no presence of teenagers and young adults 20s
2	Key missing demographic 35-60
3	Connection between parish & school
4	Volunteer sustainability
5	Intercultural formation for communication between clergy and parishioners – mutual, not one way

Table 3

Ranking	Topic
1	Intercultural formation for communication between clergy and parishioners – mutual, not one way
2	Connection with and between diverse cultures within parish communities
3	Volunteer sustainability
4	Financial sustainability
5	Clergy capacity/multi-parish models
6	Parish models and leadership: shared leadership models, lay leadership and preparation for fewer resident priests
7	Minimal/no presence of teenagers and young adults 20s
8	Key missing demographic 35-60
9	Joint social and faith gatherings

Table 4

Ranking	Topic
1	Clergy capacity/multi-parish models
2	Parish models and leadership: shared leadership models, lay leadership & preparation for fewer resident priests
3	Intercultural formation for communication between clergy and parishioners – mutual, not one way
4	Volunteer sustainability
5	Minimal/no presence of teenagers and young adults 20s

Table 5

Ranking	Topic
1	Financial sustainability
2	Clergy capacity/multi-parish models
3	Intercultural formation for communication between clergy and parishioners, mutual, not one way
4	Joint social and faith gatherings
5	Volunteer sustainability
6	Minimal/no presence of teenagers and young adults 20s
7	Key missing demographic 35-60
8	Connection between with and between diverse cultures within parish communities

Item 8: Presentations on more complex issues

Consultations needed on women and on care for the elderly. What kind of involvement do we want for our youth? What are we offering them? Main contact within the churches through the schools and they want the schools to provide more encounter opportunities. Under finance need a larger font on screen financial graphics or place them in the participant booklet. Good clarity around the diocesan levy. Youth accompaniment grades 3/4 morning tea with parishes for mentoring. For the accompaniment to be made into a definitive plan it would require Bishop approval. Intergenerational is so important. We didn't feel we had enough time to discuss this topic. Parish put a lot of effort into schools, they were our assets. We are not getting any return from them, who owns the capital asset. Rental and lease payment should come back to the parish. What is the financial relationship between Catholic education and the diocese. Ministry for aged care and for women, also would be good to have a consultation.

Item 9: Progressing Action around Priorities: Self-selected groups gathering around a displayed Priority Issue.

CONNECTION WITH AND BETWEEN INTERCULTURAL FORMATION

1. *Why did I select this priority?*

The main concern in the parishes under this category are age differences, ethnicity, and generational. We need to focus on youth and ageing persons. There was a lot of worry fear and anxiety. We have to understand cultural norms. The needs to be education and understanding and relation realisation of the value each person adds.

2. *What is this group identifying as key issues within this priority?*

Poverty, differences in cultures. Hardships of families, expenses, priests do not fully know. Education and formation, cultural, monetary, lack of understanding. There's a disconnect, and a big change of perceptions. Cultural matches between priests' personalities and parishioners. Generational differences, baby boomers, Gen X, Gen Y, and younger. Fear of getting it wrong, different to what we know.

3. *What do we want? What's the outcome we desire? Do we believe this is the same as what the Holy Spirit desires? Is this the "fruit that will last" that Jesus speaks of (Jn 15:16)?*

We need to learn, smile chat and welcome. There are no parish playgroups, etc. Social activities are so important. Can there be women's groups? Widowed unwell support, unable to drive, isolated.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

1. Why did I select this priority?

This issue is too much or not enough? I'm a parish secretary, I have to know. If we have too much money and you don't spend it you are going backwards. Because I live in a poor parish.

2. What is this group identifying as key issues within this priority?

Funding resources, outside planned giving. Use of unused assets, sale and use interest as buffer. Multiple income streams. A themed need for planned giving within the diocese. Outsource. Personas need to know what we are spending money on.

3. What do we want? What's the outcome we desire? Do we believe this is the same as what the Holy Spirit desires? Is this the "fruit that will last" that Jesus speaks of (Jn 15:16)?

The Lord will always provide. Don't have people trying to own the parish, for their own desires.

4. How do we go about this? What do we need to know?

Get your books in order. Know where the money goes. How do we report to parishioners? Costs of priests.

5. What do we need to do? What are the next steps?

Dispose of assets. Get support from the Chancery. Make the church nicer, get rid of the rats and get better lighting.

6. Who or what people/resources can we connect with? Perhaps, start with the Chancery...

Reach out to business and finance, get provided informed financial advice. Some issues to discuss at the next Deanery forum: ministry to ageing persons and pastoral care of. Women. Ministry to ageing and pastoral care. Catholic education office. Pastoral care initiatives in the parishes.

CONNECTION WITH PARISH AND SCHOOL

NO PRESENCE OF TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS(20S)

KEY DEMOGRAPHIC 35-60

1. Why did I select this priority?

Because they were all are all connected. Struggling with schools and parishes especially secondary schools. There is no space or area for young people where they can meet up. Parents, educate their children mentoring their faith, schools to nourish invite priests to spend time.

2. What is this group identifying as key issues within this priority?

We don't see young people in the church, we would love to bring them in but how?

3. *What do we want? What's the outcome we desire? Do we believe this is the same as what the Holy Spirit desires? Is this the "fruit that will last" that Jesus speaks of (Jn 15:16)?*

If the diocese could provide a programme and or event which could we could use in the parish for young people, doesn't have to be heavy, take it easy with the religion, giving time for the young people to set out and then maybe we can go further period we want to bring young people back but how?

4. *How do we go about this? What do we need to know?*

What do we do with the grassroots, primary age? We want to start early, teenagers can sometimes be too late to start with.

5. *What do we need to do? What are the next steps?*

Find someone in the church or community to accompany the young people, be a mentor and a youth advocate. Be more welcoming in the parish, not telling people off especially when children cry or allowed in the church. Be mindful if there's young people in the parish and just talk to them, invite them to take part in the ministry, music altar servers' readers etc.

6. *Who or what people/resources can we connect with? Perhaps, start with the Chancery...*

Resource resources from the Chancery, especially with young people ages 12 to 18.

CLERGY CAPACITY/MULTI-PARISH MODELS

PARISH MODELS AND SHARED LEADERSHIP, LAY LEADERSHIP AND PREP FOR FEWER PRIESTS

1. *Why did I select this priority?*

Fundamental to the faith, precious commodity we need to safeguard that. Grappling with the word trust. Competency varies are we tapping into their talents. Different models must be looked at because we are exhausting priests.

2. *What is this group identifying as key issues within this priority?*

Use of laity.

3. *What do we want? What's the outcome we desire? Do we believe this is the same as what the Holy Spirit desires? Is this the "fruit that will last" that Jesus speaks of (Jn 15:16)?*

There was a lot of investment given, ongoing formation, etcetera. Appreciation from Catholic education period more recognition for what is done. Bring women in and give them roles. We need catechist's liturgists, communion servers, especially for weekday masses. Catholic Church is very traditional and they don't always accept less than a priest. There must be a directive from the Bishop. Retired priests, struggle to come back into the system. Driving aspect of being a priest is such a challenge.

4. *How do we go about this? What do we need to know?*

Lay LED services are not foreign to overseas priests. They have been set up and they are not well received. The parishioners do not understand where we are at in regard to the number of clergy. Leadership changes in small steps, keep taking them even if you get frustrated. Does the Bishop need to authorise a lay-led service? Not having priests isolated and alone. Have we thought about mentoring someone, to take my role?

Item 10: Follow-Through and Feedback

What I appreciated and worked well for me...

The group was vocal and readily shared their opinions and ideas. The interactions, the sharing with other parishes. The follow up from the previous deanery forum, very appreciated. The whole day was great, so much work put into it. The table chancery people were very helpful.

What didn't work well for me or frustrated me...

The pace at the start of the day didn't leave room for discussion or for the chancery person at the table to answer questions. Felt a bit rushed. Nothing negative to add.

In the next Deanery Forum I would do more of...

Less content to not feel so rushed. More with other parishes, it's more interesting that way. Have women present, not just the same men every time, mix it up.

In the next Deanery Forum I would do less of...

Less content.

Less finance; it's not the audience for it.

Nothing, it was really wonderful.

Conclusion and Next Steps

This report forms part of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst Deanery Forum Round 2 consultation series and is intended to support ongoing discernment, planning, formation and pastoral action across the Diocese.