



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

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A letter to the laity of the diocese

Dear Friends,

As you will have heard in my recent pastoral letter, I am initiating a "listening exercise" for the whole of our diocese to help respond to issues raised by the recent reports, occasioned by the events surrounding the resignation of Bishop Byrne. The aim is to begin to look to the future together with healing and hope.

One of the strands of the overall exercise is to listen to the thoughts and concerns for the future of you, the laity of our diocese. It is important to hear one another and to look both individually and collectively at the culture we want to build for our parish communities and this diocese. To this end, I am convening meetings to which you are invited to generously share your wisdom, hurts and hopes.

I would like to invite you to attend one of the three initial meetings:

Or 11th July at St. Bede's RC Church hall, Bedlington NE22 5TZ or

12th July at St Michael RC Church hall, Houghton-Le-Spring DH5 8NF or

13th July at The Catholic Church of the English Martyrs and St. Peter & St Paul's, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 9BY

The meetings will begin at 7pm (prompt) and finish at 8.30pm

They will include a time for listening and discussion and a liturgy of healing for those who wish to partake.

I have asked Amy Cameron from the Vicariate of Faith & Mission to co-ordinate the Listening process and I have asked Dr Karen Kilby, Bede Chair at Durham University to provide me with a summary of these meetings.

I encourage you to be generous in taking part in this process in order to faithfully move our diocese forward under the care of our new bishop, Bishop Stephen Wright.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely in Christ

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon
Apostolic Administrator, Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
Archbishop of Liverpool