

## **A Summative Report.**

Reflections on the Called Beyond Week (8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017) at St. Mary's Parish, Leyland.  
(A pilot parish for the national initiative from The National Office for Vocations.)

1. Extracts from the introduction to the Co-ordinator's manual by Fr. Christopher Jamison O.S.B., National office for Vocation Director.

### **SCENE SETTING :-**

*"God continues to call people to a variety of vocations and if we want more people to hear that call we need to celebrate it."*

### **Focussing Questions.**

1. Did more people in our parish hear the call or hear it more clearly, through the events of the Called Beyond week?
2. How did we celebrate those responses to the call during the week?

A. *"to meet in new ways to hear fresh insights about the vocations of single and married lay people, priests and nuns."*

### **Focussing Questions:-**

1. Did we and how effective were these occasions?
2. Where is the evidence for this?

B. *"Through the events of this week a parish community can become more focussed on encouraging all vocations."*

### **Focussing Questions:-**

1. Are we as a parish more focussed on encouraging all vocations?
2. How do we know?

C. *"More people may come to hear Christ calling them to a specific vocation."*

### **Focussing Question:-**

1. Do we have any sense of evidence for this as a possible outcome?

D. *"enables a parish to grow into a community that not only strengthens everybody in their vocation , but also accompanies those questioning their future, especially the young and those in distress."*

### **Focussing Questions:-**

1. Are we growing as a community and in what respects?
2. Has the Called Beyond week strengthened people in their vocations and how do we know if that is the case?
3. How do we accompany people in discerning their futures?

E. *"To develop such a culture of vocation is a service to the Church and to the local community."*

### **Focussing Questions:-**

1. As a result of the Called Beyond week have we as a parish community a greater or heightened sense of service to the Church and to the local community?
2. Where is the evidence of this?

### **CALLED BEYOND WEEK 8<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017 AT LEYLAND ST. MARY'S**

The following narrative of extracts will be used to see how well we did: from

1. The Parish Called Beyond Team Minutes.
2. Summaries of respondents to the Called Beyond Week Events' Evaluations.
3. Summaries of responses to the feedback forms distributed after weekend masses 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 incorporated into The Review Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017-11-07

These three pieces of evidence should enable one to address all the aforementioned Focussing Questions and to have a sense of whether or not the Called Beyond Week was beneficial to the parish community and to its service also to the wider community in “celebrating, affirming, sharing and renewing God’s love” ref Invitation Card.

**Extracts from Called Beyond Team’s Minutes of Meetings.**

**Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017** *Members of a Core Team had been asked by Fr Jonathan and had freely accepted the vision of Called Beyond and to help during the week.*

*Clarification of aim of Called Beyond Programme*

*Applying the programme and process to the parish and its context.*

*Initial discussion of launch – in particular communication strategy*

*Nomination of Chair and secretary.*

**Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

*Firming up on elements of the week’s events and of groups to be involved*

*Focus on celebrating a proud parish community reaching out to the wider community.*

**Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

*Agreement on speakers to present at the various events.*

*Devising a short presentation for weekend masses during month prior.*

*Finalising a Called Beyond prayer and mission statement for distribution.*

**Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017**

*Final preparation for liturgies for 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Agreement on Logo, invitation,*

*Script for presentation at masses prior to 8<sup>th</sup> October.*

*National Vocational Office contacted.*

**Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

*All communication and promotional materials finalised.*

*Events calendar agree and groups to be contacted finalised.*

**Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

*Final version of programme for the week.*

*Agreed questionnaire and evaluation forms for distribution.*

*Liturgies revisited and final agreement.*

1. Summary of Called Beyond Week Events’ excluding the two masses: Evaluations.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

1. Venue Railway Hotel 41 participants. (See the Events Card)

*Theme:- “Living life to the full – Shared Inspiration*

*High quality of all the speakers – impressive*

*Interest in the vocations of ordinary people.*

*God incidents do happen.*

*The Focolare Movement.*

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

2. Venue La Corte Restaurant 45 participants. (See the Events Card)

*Theme:- The joys and challenges of family life*

*A combination of meeting or exceeding our expectations*

*Good to have this kind of event within Church life.*

*A real sense of family.*

*There is strength in the Church community.*

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

3. Venue The High School c 100 participants (See the Events Card)  
*Theme:- 'Faith in Action' (High School Pupils from year 7 – 10 who have volunteered this year.)*  
 Three from the Animate team came to help and explain Faith in Action linked to Call Beyond Encouraging our students in their calling and learning from one other.  
 A very good and very loud response via games with Animate. Fruits: Making of Poppies and other things.
4. Venue Parish Centre 30 participants. (See Events Card)  
*Theme:- Turning concern into action.*  
 Opened our eyes to the hidden work of Parish Groups.  
 Very informative.  
 Surprising the extent of poverty and need in Leyland.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

5. Venue The High School  
 Year 6 from St Mary's, St Anne's, St Catherine's and St Mary's Euxton Primary Schools.  
*Theme 'Faith in Action' (Year 6 Primary schools) c. 100 Participants (See the Events Card)*  
 Janet Malone from the Core Group assisted by Jean Smith, Anthony Cave and teachers from the Primary Schools came.  
 Encouraging our younger pupils in their calling and learning from each other.  
 A good initial response: Primary school children are enthusiastic and need supporting: to be done.
6. Venue the Parish Centre 30 Participants (See the Events Card)  
*Theme:- Sign posts to Good Life Choices*  
 Venue Parish Centre Each speaker was consecrated to God as a Seminarian, a Sister or a monk.  
 Everyone has struggles and doubts.  
 No Road to Damascus experiences.  
 Finding God's Will in prayer and silence  
 Much to contend with in being a Christian in our culture today

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

7. Venue Parish Centre c. 120 Participants.  
*Theme:- "Called Beyond fundraiser for Goa project".*  
 A real success, full house great food, super music, all culminating in the video of the Goa Project and Eileen's excellent commentary of the service she provides serving God's needy children in extreme poverty and hardship.

**An extra Review Meeting Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October Open to all who wished to come:**

Venue Parish Centre including reflection on feedback forms(41 returned)

Attendees – 25 including Called Beyond Team (9)

**Focussing Question** for the evening Ref Invitation Card

"Called Beyond is about encouraging each other in our being called to be followers of Jesus as members of St. Mary's, a community sharing God's Love with each other and with all people with whom we come in contact."

Did we achieve what we set out to do and how well did we answer the Focussing Question arising from Fr. Chris Jamison's introduction at the start of this report?

**Brief Summary of responses:-from the Feedback forms.** (See the fuller 4 page fold over sheet)

In general yes ----- but room for improvement on marketing, communication, advance notice of impact of events on e.g. time and young families.

The week has made a difference  
 It was like a Mission, or a retreat  
 Better appraised of the large numbers of groups in the parish, doing good and of their effectiveness.  
 Sharing stories, testimonies and witnessing to faith were a major plus for many.  
 A better sense of community.  
 The opening Mass was so beautiful (a bit too long for some)  
 'Outside' venues were a real 'hit '  
 Difficulties reaching out to the young.  
 Greater awareness of how God works in one's life.  
 Appreciating the vocations of ordinary people.  
 Too many events condensed into one week  
 Sound system let us down a bit  
 How do we reach the "hard to reach"  
 We all have a part to play in building the Body of Christ  
 A chance to work, live and participate in an excellent parish.  
 We should do this, or similar, more often.

### **CONCLUSIONS.**

The five main responsibilities of the Called Beyond Team as described in Page 5 of the Co-ordinator's manual provide a useful framework for a concluding evaluation – viz

**1. Promotion and Communication:-**

Effective up to a point but could be improved; personal invitations were significant; advance notification in the month prior was a plus as were the timely distribution of the Events Cards and notice given out all Masses.

**2. Liturgy:-**

Both were well planned, inclusive and joyful celebrations of a community sharing God's Love with all; people specifically mentioned the opening Mass.

**3. Parish Events:-**

All of the Events were well received and very meaningful for those attending, the venues were excellent in all cases; congratulations to Fr. Jonathan for arranging all these!..... and believing in the value of going beyond the perimeter of Church!

**4. Youth and Children:-**

Having a "captive audience" in school is a plus as was the fact that the 'Faith in Action' programme was happening at the same time as the Called Beyond week.

**5. Co – ordination.**

I cannot praise too highly the team members invited to promote the Called Beyond week in the Parish. Their willingness to attend the meetings, their contributions, their taking on delegated functions and tasks to make it all happen, their prayerfulness and good humour, their creativity and imagination and last but not least their sense of being "missionary disciples", called for a time to serve the parish community to "Celebrate, affirm, share and renew God's Love." (Invitation Card) And finally to the Parish Community of St. Mary's Leyland, to all who entered into and contributed to the success of the week, to those who went beyond duty and obligation, and who enriched us with their living faith and sense of mission, we all owe a profound debt of gratitude. Indeed one could say with pride that here in Leyland we have witnessed St Mary's Parish "celebrating, affirming, sharing and renewing God's Love," in its response to the call to be Christ's body in the world.

7<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Kevin Quigley Chair of Called Beyond Team