

Growing Vital Parishes

SELF-REFLECTION TOOL

Vital parishes read the signs of the times with hope and missionary vision. They understand their local neighbourhoods, culture, and history. Having been shaped by the past, they are nevertheless filled with hope for their future. This may involve openness to new ideas, acknowledging that past methods no longer fit where God is calling the parish today. They have clear direction, purpose, and collaborate effectively with others to further the kingdom of God.

This tool enables parishes to identify their strengths and areas for improvement against missionary vision, co-responsible leadership and collaboration.

This tool is used to encourage group conversation and to assist in planning.

MEASURES	RATING
<p>1 = We rely on our parish priest to lead us through the change process</p> <p>3 = We have a lay leadership team (however named) that assists our parish priest to lead the change process</p> <p>5 = Our leadership team (however named) is co-responsible for creating a vibrant and vital parish community</p>	1 2 3 4 5
<p>1 = We have a vision statement but rarely refer to it</p> <p>3 = We have recently reviewed our vision statement in light of Take the Way of the Gospel</p> <p>5 = Our parish community owns our missionary vision and our plans to realise it</p>	1 2 3 4 5
<p>1 = The way we have always done things works for us and we don't want to try anything new</p> <p>3 = We recognise the need for change and have begun to experiment</p> <p>5 = We seek out new ideas and learn from others' success</p>	1 2 3 4 5
<p>1 = We struggle to engage with our schools and local ministries of mercy and charity</p> <p>3 = We have good relationships with our schools and local ministries of mercy and charity</p> <p>5 = Our schools and local ministries of mercy and charity are embraced and supported by our parish community</p>	1 2 3 4 5
<p>1 = We have not yet had any conversations with our neighbouring parish(es) about how we might work together</p> <p>3 = We have developed a plan with our neighbouring parish(es) for how we will begin to work together but are yet or just begun to implement it</p> <p>5 = We are collaborating well with our neighbouring parish(es)</p>	1 2 3 4 5