



## *Speaking the truth in love*

*Eph 4:15*

19/1/17

Dear brother Priests and Deacons

We give thanks to God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ for the great gift of this new year of grace, which we embrace with faith and hope. I, for one, expect this to be a rather better one than last year was!

Through our various Clergy conferences (including the Terrigal forum), deanery gatherings and Council of Priests meetings over the past eighteen months, and from my Pastoral letter of December 2016 which launched the next phase of our pastoral planning process *Parish 2020*, I have shared with you something of my vision for our Archdiocese, invited your insights, and called upon your support in reinvigorating our mission here in Sydney.

So first let me thank you for your own engagement in this process so far and for working with your Parish or Community leadership team to discern and respond to the preparatory survey circulated prior to Christmas. I have reviewed your feedback with interest, and resources are now available to support the next stage of consultations: that of hearing back from Parishes, Chaplaincies, Communities and Movements across the Archdiocese. You will shortly receive a pack with full details to support your Community during this phase of the consultation.

You've heard me say on many occasions that *Parish 2020* is about renewal for our Archdiocese – growing and strengthening Parishes and Communities for our future. There is no doubt that we need to change some of our ways as the Church in Sydney, not least because Pope Francis is repeatedly insisting that we must understand ourselves more as a missionary Church. We need to support our parishes and other communities better. We have some great achievements and experience to build upon here, and the gifts of our clergy and laity to take us forward under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

There is, for me, excitement in listening to the ideas and wisdom of the people of the Archdiocese and so I ask you to continue to promote the consultation with conviction

Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LIB BTheol DPhil  
Archbishop of Sydney

---

Poling Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

There is, for me, excitement in listening to the ideas and wisdom of the people of the Archdiocese and so I ask you to continue to promote the consultation with conviction and enthusiasm. It is my hope that this consultation will be prayerful and fruitful, and that any changes will be discerned carefully and embraced generously.

I ask each of you also to continue to pray for the success of *Parish 2020*, both personally and with your community, so that in our times and in the circumstances of tomorrow, we will be the best Church we can be for the people of Sydney, reading and responding to the signs of our times, and ever-faithful to Christ, His Gospel and His people enduring love for our people.

Yours fraternally in Christ



Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LIB BTheol DPhil  
Archbishop of Sydney

---