

Reflection Questions

- In our OT reading (Deut. 30:15-20) what things do we have to do to “choose life?” What would that look like in your life/ our life as a community of God’s people.
- God says his commands are “not too difficult for you [to understand] or beyond your reach,” (Deut. 30:11). What do you think?
- In Matthew 5:17 Jesus says he has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfil them. How is this seen in the examples in 5:21-37: murder, broken relationships, adultery, divorce, and swearing oaths?
- Name one thing that you have learnt that has helped you to understand or love God better, or that will help you to ‘choose life,’ and to live as a follower of Jesus.





3 February 2017

Dear Vicars and Priests-in-Charge

With the New Year well underway, I am excited about 2017 and the new initiatives taking place in parishes to reinvigorate the church for its mission of bringing the good news of Jesus to those around us. I am excited about possibilities this year holds for the diocese in looking at ways of being even more effective in God's service, and ask for your continued prayer and support as we face the challenges this year will inevitably bring.

One of the greatest challenges for the diocese I see is the need to identify and grow new, visionary leaders for the future. While honouring those who have gone before, I am convinced that our church exists in a world very different to that of 20 years ago. If our ministry is to have any impact we must constantly look to those in the next generation to take on the mantle of leadership – at every level (parish and diocesan).

You may be aware that early this year all parishes in the diocese will be called on to elect not only their own parish leaders, but also those who will play a part in shaping our diocese through participation in our governing body, the Synod. Those elected at your parish AGM to serve at Synod will represent your parish for the next three years. I urge you to give their election, as well as that of your other parish leaders, your careful and prayerful attention.

Those you elect to participate at Synod will be called on to reflect your parish views on matters of central importance to how our diocese is equipped for its future mission. Their responsibility also includes communicating and incorporating decisions made back into parish life. Ideally, those you chose to lead in this way should be integrally linked to the life of the parish, be a team player with a servant heart and, above all, have a vision for the mission and future of the church in this diocese.

Synod 2016 resolved to encourage parishes to support the election of a Synod representative under the age of 40 years. You can of course elect more! I encourage you to prayerfully consider who you nominate and elect for this role, and actively call out those among you who God may be seeking to serve in this way.

With every blessing



+Richard

Cc: Vestry Secretaries