

Forward Together in Hope – Exploring the Way DVD

The accompanying DVD is in two sections. They follow a similar format; questions raised by individuals and possible responses. The questions are some of the most frequently asked at the back of churches and at meetings with people from around the Diocese. The two parts are also available from the *Forward Together in Hope* YouTube Channel -

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHt0VMXYZyhbb7jHE1p78ag>) which can also be accessed through our website www.hope.rcdhn.org.uk

Part 1 – Running time 7 minutes 26 seconds

This part contains 3 questions and responses and concludes with a brief reflection from Bishop Séamus on prayer in our lives in a changing Church. It may be of use in place of a homily to introduce some of the issues lying behind the questions people are asking.

The questions in this part are as follows:

Question	Questioner
1) There's two questions that tend to be asked by a lot of planning groups and also by parishioners in general and that is 'What are we doing about vocations to the priesthood and the religious life' and also 'Why can't we have married priests'?	Fr Jeff Dodds, Parish Priest and Dean
2) What responsibilities can lay people take up in the church in the future? Is there more we can do to help?	David Khachikian, Parishioner at St Mary's, Whickham and Teacher in a Catholic school in Newcastle
3) We're busy filling in our questionnaire at the moment and people are wondering how the decisions will be made in the future. Also there is a fear out there that this is just part of the process of deciding which churches will close.	Phil Baxter, Parishioner, All Saints, Newcastle

Part 2 – Running time 24 minutes 12 seconds

There are 9 questions asked by various people from around the Diocese. Between each question there is a brief marker which is simply a prompt to indicate that the particular response is complete and the next question will follow in a few seconds. The markers are included in case people in groups would like to spend time discussing what has been said, offering their own thoughts and comments. It is possible to move between these 'chapters' of the DVD using your DVD remote or your computer's on-screen controls.

The questions in this part are as follows:

Question	Questioner
1) A worrying aspect of completing this parish questionnaire is how do we ensure that we are reflecting the views of the entire community and not just the voice of a few people?	Veronica Shearer, Parishioner at St Roberts, Morpeth
2) What happens with communities that are not doing anything about their questionnaire?	Deacon Jeff Parkes, Stockton
3) It seems to some of us that the questionnaire is very long. Is it too long and complicated?	Sr Innocentia, Missionaries of Charity of Mother Theresa
4) A lot of people say that the future of the church depends on young people but there doesn't seem to be many young people coming to church so how do you think we can reach out and involve them?	Julia Henzell, Student and former member of the Diocesan Youth Council
5) You've given a lot of examples about how <i>Forward Together in Hope</i> is very much a renewal process but I've listened to quite a few of the priests and some parishioners and they say at the end of the day it's about money and it's about people coming to Mass. If you've got lots of money your parish is going to be ok and if you've got lots of involvement in the parish things are going well but if not maybe the parish could close. I don't know if you've got any thoughts on that.	Fr Jeff Dodds
6) I'm wondering what people in our parishes can do <i>with Forward Together in Hope</i> .	John Stopher, Parishioner at St John Vianney, Newcastle
7) What I can't understand is why can't we invite priests from other countries? Wouldn't that help?	Veronica Shearer
8) We've heard quite a lot about it now. Will <i>Forward Together in Hope</i> make any difference?	Deacon Jeff Parkes
9) How will <i>Forward Together in Hope</i> help us to witness to Jesus in our world today?	Sr Innocentia

Thanks to everyone involved in the making of this DVD, particularly those mentioned above, Bill Campbell and Xavier Javier. We hope it is a useful addition to the other available resources as we raise awareness about discipleship and the need for viable and flourishing worshipping communities in the future.

God bless

