

Our Calling & Our Mission

— Preparing Together for Our Future —



✦ Introduction

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

With grateful hearts for God's abundant goodness to us, we embark on a process of prayerful reflection to plan our future direction for the next five years. Through baptism we are all called to share in the mission of the Church, especially in the proclamation of the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, while underpinning all our endeavours with prayer:

God has raised up the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham for a specific purpose (its mission). This document has been compiled to help us reflect prayerfully on what we understand our mission to be, and on our own individual calling and mission in response to this.

I want to ensure lay people are empowered and supported to use their gifts in collaboration with our clergy in promoting the mission of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, and giving witness to the faith. By reflecting prayerfully on our calling and mission we have a wonderful opportunity to ponder together how we believe Jesus is calling us to live as His disciples.

May Almighty God, through His infinite wisdom, guide us in this most important work with His Holy Spirit.

Please be assured of my prayers as we labour joyfully together in the vineyard of the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Keith Newton



The Right Reverend Monsignor Keith Newton
Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham
4 November 2019

✦ What is the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham called to be?

Ten years ago, on 4 November 2009, Pope Benedict XVI issued the apostolic constitution *Anglicanorum cœtibus*, opening the way to the establishment of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham as a new canonical structure within the Catholic Church. This constitution enables Anglicans to enter into the full communion of the Catholic Church whilst preserving elements of our liturgical, spiritual, and pastoral heritage. Drawing on our founding documents, we have developed this **Mission Statement** to guide our future work:

To realise the vision of the apostolic constitution *Anglicanorum cœtibus*, as a concrete means of bringing lay faithful, clergy, and religious to a faithful and authoritative expression of the Catholic faith through the liturgical, spiritual, and pastoral traditions of the Anglican tradition now within the full communion of the Catholic Church, cultivating bonds of unity, and promoting this precious gift as a means of building up the one Body of Christ, which is the Church, through love.¹

The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham is therefore called to implement the vision set out in *Anglicanorum cœtibus*. But what does this mean in practical terms, and what do we need to do in response?



Monsignor Newton and the late Cardinal William Levada attend a Private Audience with Pope Benedict XVI to mark the establishment of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham in 2011.

✦ Delivering the vision of *Anglicanorum cœtibus*

The key to understanding the specific calling and mission of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham is found in *Anglicanorum cœtibus*. Here we read that the ordinariates are created for a “definite purpose”:

To maintain the liturgical, spiritual, and pastoral traditions of the Anglican Communion within the Catholic Church, as a precious gift nourishing the faith of the members of the ordinariate and as a treasure to be shared.²

Pope Saint Paul VI referred to these liturgical, spiritual, and pastoral traditions as the Anglican patrimony.³ These gifts, insofar as they are in keeping with Catholic faith and practice, find a home in the Catholic Church through the ordinariate. They nourish and sustain the members of the ordinariate, and help us share the gospel with others. At the heart of our mission, then, is the preservation and promotion of these distinctive elements. Faithfulness to our origins helps us to deepen our life of faith—it expresses our inner life.⁴



Pope Francis is presented with Divine Worship: The Missal, the missal approved by the Apostolic See for use by the faithful of the personal ordinariates established under the provisions of Anglicanorum cœtibus.

✦ How should we respond to this calling?

In order to respond to our calling, and to ensure we always express faithfully and clearly the Anglican tradition within the Catholic Church, we have identified three priorities to guide our life and work for the next five years:

Our Common Life

Vocation & Formation

Evangelisation

These priorities have been identified following extensive consultation and work already undertaken through our *Growing Up, Growing Out* review, the first conference of our Pastoral Council, the work of the deans liaising with each of their local ordinariate groups, and the Governing Council.

Our Common Life focuses on deepening our life together as Catholics and developing vibrant communities of faith. **Vocation & Formation** is about praying for and fostering vocations, and helping us each to hear the Lord's call by growing in holiness, and in our knowledge of the faith. **Evangelisation** concerns both the explicit proclamation of the gospel to others, and ensuring all our administrative activities are closely focussed on this work.



Our Lady of Walsingham visits Our Lady of the Assumption & Saint Gregory, Warwick Street, a church dedicated to the life of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, during the Dowry Tour in 2019.

1. Our Common Life

All who believed were together and had all things in common

—Acts of the Apostles 2:44 —

“If one member suffers,” wrote Saint Paul, “all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together” (1 Cor. 12:26). The Church, then, is not simply the clergy, but all the baptised. We have a common call and mission; a common responsibility—for each other, for prayer, for reverent worship, for acts of loving service, for witness, for contributing to the community of faith. In the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham we carry out this work through our distinctive identity, within the wider Church.⁵

To help understand this idea of the unity of the Catholic faith in a diversity of expressions, we can think of a symphony orchestra made up of many different musicians and instruments.⁶ In front of each musician is a stand holding the music. None of them sees the whole score, but the score is what brings all those sounds together, co-ordinates everyone’s efforts, and produces a beautiful, inspiring performance. In this sense we are all musicians, each contributing our own unique talents to the symphony of holiness. Despite having different gifts, by remaining faithful to the “score” written by the “composer,” together we can produce a beautiful symphony.

Pause for Prayer —

As we reflect on our common life, let us pray that we might each hear the call to become instruments of God’s work in the world, and may come to realise how we can best serve the mission of the Church for the building up of our common life.

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am like a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do his work.

Saint John Henry Newman

2. Vocation & Formation

*Jesus said to His disciples:
“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Immediately they left their nets and followed him
— Matthew 4:19-20 —*

The word *vocation* comes from the Latin word that means *calling*. Our first calling is to know, to love, and to serve God. This is the call given to every Christian in baptism. It is a call not just to do something, but to live the life God desires for us—a life oriented toward the happiness of heaven. This means being attentive to the state of life God calls us to. It also means recognising that the call to holiness and mission is a universal call, a call for all the baptised.

Missionary activity, then, is not just for priests and religious. Each and every one of us is called to make a wholehearted commitment to the Lord and, by His grace, to grow not only in holiness but in confidence and knowledge of our faith, so that we can become more effective in carrying out His work in the world.

Pause for Prayer —

As we ponder the theme of vocation and formation, and how each one of us can foster vocations and support others to know and live out their call to mission, let us pray for an increase of labourers in the vineyard of the Church.

O God, who willest that all men should be saved,
and come to the knowledge of the truth:
send forth, we beseech thee, labourers into the harvest,
and enable them to speak the Word with all boldness;
that thy Word may run and be glorified,
and that all nations may know thee,
the one true God, and him whom thou hast sent,
even Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord.

Divine Worship: Collect for the Propagation of the Faith

3. Evangelisation

*Faith comes from what is heard,
and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ*

— Romans 10:17 —

The word *evangelisation* comes from Greek and means *to announce the good news*. Effective proclamation of the gospel proceeds from a life of faith, hope, and charity; from a personal relationship with God in His Church. It overflows from being joyful and positive in our daily lives and allowing our faith to shine out through care and love of those around us.

We can help our communities to grow and develop by ensuring we have good administration and communication and also use a range of different and appropriate media to communicate our message effectively. As good administration and communication are vital for effective evangelisation we have included both of these topics under this theme.

Pause for Prayer —

As we reflect on the actions that relate to this evangelisation theme, let us pray that through the Holy Spirit we might hear the call of the New Evangelisation to deepen our faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel, and witness boldly to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

“ The Church is watching what we are building here in the personal ordinariates. The openness of the wider Catholic community to the rich Anglican patrimony which you bring will be encouraged when they experience in your communities the joyful and peaceful embrace of our common faith. — *Cardinal Gerhard Müller* ”

✦ Putting our priorities into practice

Together with our Mission Statement, these new priorities set out broad principles for living out our calling and mission. So that we can put these principles into practice, we have identified the following areas for action:

1. Our Common Life

- ✦ Developing and growing groups, personal parishes, pastoral areas, & deaneries.
- ✦ Strengthening the ordinariate identity in our communities.
- ✦ Developing our distinctive liturgical and spiritual life.
- ✦ Reflecting our Anglican patrimony by worshipping in the beauty of holiness.
- ✦ Encouraging the use of *Divine Worship*.
- ✦ Developing a vibrant lay faithful.
- ✦ Developing and drawing on the gifts of our Religious and hermits.
- ✦ Providing high quality pastoral care.
- ✦ Safeguarding and protecting vulnerable people.
- ✦ Engaging with local communities.
- ✦ Promoting Catholic social teaching and action.
- ✦ Bringing treasures to share.
- ✦ Promoting marriage, family, and the sanctity of life.

2. Vocation & Formation

- ✦ Promoting and praying for priestly and Religious vocations.
 - ✦ Forming men for the priesthood.
 - ✦ Accompanying former Anglican clergy.
 - ✦ Providing formation for the permanent diaconate.
 - ✦ Providing high quality and ongoing formation for our clergy.
 - ✦ Providing high quality and ongoing formation for our lay faithful.
 - ✦ Developing a culture of missionary discipleship.
 - ✦ Developing specific formation and pastoral care for the young.
-

3. Evangelisation

Outreach & Mission (Evangelisation *ad extra*)

- ✦ Undertaking effective charitable outreach and apostolic work.
- ✦ Explaining our vision and mission to others in an historical context.
- ✦ Utilising a wide range of media to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ✦ Developing gifts and resources for mission.
- ✦ Promoting devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham.
- ✦ Strengthening links with the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham.

Administration (Evangelisation *ad intra*)

- ✦ Ensuring an effective Pastoral Council and lay involvement.
- ✦ Ensuring excellence in financial and resource management.
- ✦ Increasing our property portfolio and formalising property agreements.
- ✦ Ensuring civil and canonical legal compliance, and support for the Chancellor.

✦ **How are we putting this into action and evaluating it?**

Specific action plans will now be developed, with people appointed to lead on each of the three priorities. We hope you will be able to contribute to the development and delivery of these plans. The Governing Council will work closely with these people to carry out a thorough annual review of the implementation of the plan.

✦ **What can I do to get involved?**

In the first instance, discuss your thoughts with your local ordinariate pastor. The task locally is to embrace the calling and mission under our three priorities, and to examine what you and your group are doing, or can do in the future, to help contribute to these. Over time this will provide a toolkit and a bank of resources for local pastors to assist them with this work.

✦ References & further reading

¹ A theological guide to this Mission Statement can be found on our website: www.ordinariate.org.uk.

² Benedict XVI, apostolic constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus*, III.

³ Paul VI, *Homily for the Canonisation of the Forty Martyrs of England & Wales*, 25 October 1970.

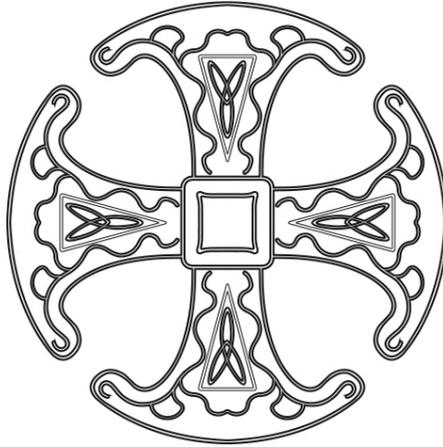
⁴ See J.A. Di Noia, "Divine Worship and the Liturgical Vitality of the Church," *Antiphon* 19.2 (2015) 109-115.

⁵ See Benedict XVI, *Plenary Meeting of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*, 27 January 2012.

⁶ Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, letter *Communio notio*, IV.



Official portrait of Saint John Henry Newman, patron saint of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, during the Papal Mass in Rome for his canonisation on 13 October 2019 © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk



Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham
under the patronage of Saint John Henry Newman

www.ordinariate.org.uk

This document was approved by the Ordinary at a meeting of the Governing Council
on 23 October 2019 and published on 4 November 2019,
the tenth anniversary of the promulgation of the apostolic constitution *Anglicanorum cœtibus*

The Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham is a company limited
by guarantee with no share capital registered in England.
Company Reg No: 07582943 & Charity Reg No: 1141536
