

Let's bring the Gospel to life  
across Nottingham Diocese!

# Here: Now: Us

## Workshops for building missionary parishes

### An introduction

**Here** in our parish, our neighbourhood  
and the wider world

**Now** as we emerge from lockdown  
into a 'new normal'

**Us** God's people called to build the  
Common Good.



After 18 months of social distancing, **Here: Now: Us** is an opportunity to help our parishes grow as outward-looking missionary communities.

**Here: Now: Us** will help lay people put Catholic Social Teaching into action, grow in confidence and leadership, and reach out to the community.

 TOGETHER FOR THE  
COMMON GOOD

 DIOCESE OF  
NOTTINGHAM

# Here: Now: Us: People

Growing lay leadership for outreach  
in the Diocese of Nottingham with

**Together for the Common Good**

*Here: Now: Us: People is a training programme to help churches and organisations refresh mission and build the Common Good in community, workplace and everyday life.*

“Together for the Common Good is exploring some of the most important themes in our society today: how do we build a more resilient sense of shared endeavour? What will bring about a common effort across our society? These challenges are so important as we face deep-seated changes in our way of life.”

*Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
Speaking about Here: Now: Us:  
People leadership programme*



As we emerge from the pandemic, our vision is to see Christians transforming the world in the light of the Gospel by building the Common Good. We see this as:

- ✦ **To invest** in our people and grow in our mission as confident, outward-facing communities. Not waiting for God to intervene but recognising that each one of us is called to be his hands and feet within our own sphere of influence.
- ✦ **To tackle** problems and strengthen the bonds of social trust within our communities, by building relationships with other local institutions.
- ✦ **To plan** how to keep mission alive, and see it grow, even in a context of smaller numbers and dwindling resources.
- ✦ **To engage** with people who are currently not involved, who are new, different, or from whom we have become estranged, to foster a shared life together.
- ✦ **To build** relationship back into the system. To start new conversations.
- ✦ **To become** the focal point of the wider community and become an outward-facing, principled and relational body of people.
- ✦ **To keep** strong community bonds and mission focus as we grow.

**To find out more and book your place:**

- visit [dioceseofnottingham.uk/herenowus](https://dioceseofnottingham.uk/herenowus)
- email Paul Bodenham at [caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

# Aims and programme

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**Here: Now: Us** will start to unlock the potential described on the previous page, and help re-mobilise our parishes for mission after lockdown. The programme works best with 12-20 people. Over the course of the day, the sessions are designed to enable participants to:

1. discover how Catholic Social Teaching helps us build the Common Good
2. imagine how it can help us transform our parish, neighbourhood and world
3. help each other to discover and claim our unique vocational responsibility
4. develop a vision for the Church across the area, in collaboration with others.

These objectives can be tailored to address specific objectives identified locally by the local host parishes. The day concludes with an extended action planning session to agree next steps and resolutions for action.

## *Timetable of a typical workshop*

9.30	Arrivals ( <i>Tea, coffee, registrations, meet and greet</i> )
10.00	<b>Session 1: Welcome and Introductions</b>
10.30	<b>Session 2: Our Context</b>
11.15	Break
11.25	<b>Session 3: Common Good Thinking and Common Good Practice</b>
12.40	Lunch
1.10	<b>Session 4: Building the Common Good Locally</b>
1.55	Break
2.05	<b>Session 5: Looking Forwards</b>
3.35	<b>Session 6: Conclusion and Feedback</b>
4.00	Depart

# Autumn 2021 workshops

Growing lay leadership for outreach  
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Thanks to funding from the Plater Trust, we are able to offer at least five workshops in Autumn 2021. Here's how you can benefit from this opportunity.

A strong interest has emerged in the four cities of Derby, Lincoln, Nottingham and Leicester for workshops in Autumn 2021 which gather parishioners from across each city. Parishes in each city share the same potential partners in ecumenical networks and civil society, and can achieve much more by working together than they can alone.

These city-based Here: Now: Us workshops are taking place as follows:

- **Derby: 16 October** at Our Lady of Lourdes, Mickleover
- **Lincoln City and County: 23 October** at SS Peter and Paul
- **Greater Nottingham: 30 October** at Our Lady & St Patrick's, The Meadows
- **Leicester: 13 November** at St Joseph's.

Workshops will be advertised by personal invitations, ideally combined with adverts in parish bulletins, posters and verbal announcements at Mass. These resources can be provided by your local hosts or by Caritas.

In building their own collaboration in the 'core cities', participants will also be laying foundations at county level for the four emerging Caritas Hubs – ongoing networks of Catholics which hold a vision for the Kingdom of God in their area, interact with local ecumenical and public sector partners, and support each other in developing and sustaining practical projects which bring the Gospel to life.

In addition local workshops are being hosted by the following parishes:

- Wollaton, Aspley and Bilborough
- Most Holy & Undivided Trinity, North East Lincolnshire (4 December)

"The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle." *Pope Francis*

"The essential vocation and mission of the lay faithful is to strive that earthly realities and all human activity may be transformed by the Gospel." *The Joy of the Gospel*

"This initiative comes at an exciting time for our diocese, as we listen afresh to the Gospel's invitation to encounter Christ, grow as disciples, and step out in mission... Every parish that takes up the invitation of 'Here: Now: Us' won't just make an impact at home; it will be joining the universal Church in making Christ's love known on earth." *Bishop Patrick McKinney*