

The role of the Parish priest In the Stewardship Process.

Stewardship involves collaboration between priest and parishioners in genuine shared responsibility for planning, resourcing and facilitating the mission with which we are all charged, as God's family, to spread the Good News.

Priest and laity will work together, in their different roles with their different responsibilities.

Priest and laity will remain grounded in their baptism and confirmation, living out the nature of their different Sacramental callings.

Both are called to the same end, to respond to God's love ever more fully in their lives.

Together this can happen, servants of one another, each calling out the gifts of those entrusted to their care.

Fr. David Elder

Prayer

Mary Virgin and Mother

You who, moved by the Holy Spirit

Welcomed the word of life in the depths of your humble faith:

as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,

help us to say our own "yes"

to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,

to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Pope Francis 24-11-2013 on the conclusion of the Year of Faith.

Evangelii Gaudium Pg 137.



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Sharing our responsibility for living the Gospel.

"Give to the most High as He has given to you,
generously as your means can afford,
for the Lord is a good rewarder,
He will reward you seven times over
Si. 35 9-10.

Why Stewardship?

Stewardship is a way of enabling both the laity and the Parish priest to fully live out their lives as God's people. It means that everyone belonging to this Parish family sees themselves as having a role to play in living out our Parish vision.



Stewardship is a way to channel the talents of this parish so that we all contribute in some way to our Parish.

Stewardship is in place in some other Parishes in the Lancaster diocese and in other parishes further afield.

How does Stewardship get established in a Parish?

The Process

A meeting will be called to invite those who are potentially willing to commit themselves to being part of a Stewardship leadership team. This will be an open meeting and will be attended by Jim Loughran from St Mary's Newhouse R.C. Church Barton, where stewardship has been in place for the last 6 years. He will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Once the Committee is formed, one weekend all members of the Parish will be asked to reflect on their God-given gifts and talents.

A further weekend or two will be taken up with existing Parish Ministries taking part in a display which will provide a comprehensive picture of the good work already being undertaken. How this display will be organised will be arranged as the process continues. One suggestion is to hold a Parish fair with the different ministries having a stall to set out the details of their ministry. This could also help the Committee identify any lack of provision in specific areas.

At a later weekend all parishioners will be asked to pledge their help in specific ministries in the Parish. It will also be a time for those already involved in Parish Ministry to reaffirm their commitment. Commitment will be pledged for the next 3 years.

After 3 years parishioners are asked to reconsider their commitments.

What can I do in this process?

Reflect on the talents God has given you and pray about how God may be wanting you to use those gifts for the good of others.

Think about the needs of our local community

Offer your time on a limited basis or offer to pray to support the work of the more active members of the Parish.

Have a say in how the parish develops.

Work collaboratively with others as part of a wider Parish family.

Be part of the Stewardship Committee.