

**Pastoral Area of St Alexander Briant
Open Meeting – 2nd December 2023
St Francis of Assisi**

Reflecting Back from the Groups

I. What are your hopes and fear as we move to this new model of a Pastoral Area?

HOPEES	FEARS
Reinvigorating our parishes	Nothing will happen
Involve more young people	Not being listened to
Building prayer & companionship	Lack of consultation
Church will be more welcoming and accepting of ALL people's talents	Unless there is radical change things will continue to decline
Coming together for forums and socials	Battle for resources
Revisit properly Vatican II on the laity Parishioners taking control	Not all priests being 'on board'
Sharing of resources	Perception of losing control
Drawing people in and being inclusive	Imposition rather than consultation
That we can allay people's fears of change	Challenges of logistics
Building on change	Burnout of priests – lots of roles both parish and diocesan
Paid help	Losing local identity
Formation shared between parishes	Decreasing parishioners as well as priests
	Getting too territorial
	Focus on maintaining buildings rather than seeing the people as the Church
	People's fear will hold progress/change back

2. What are the next one or two steps we could take to move forward ?

STEPS FORWARD:

Communication – sharing information with parishes

Mechanism to publicise information across the Pastoral Area – e.g. website

Synodal style meetings in each parish to include as many people as possible

Pastoral Area Council with representatives from each parish who link and feedback to their parishes

Effective Parish Pastoral Councils in all parishes, which could then feed into a Pastoral Area Council

A more professional outlook

Consider paid roles for Pastoral Assistants, Youth Workers, Family Workers etc

Create opportunities for everyone in the Pastoral Area to understand/see the bigger picture

“Listen to people in the pews”

Each parish needs a ‘skills’ audit

Audit of current resources, including groups and catechists etc

Encourage an increase in devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and offer more opportunities for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Develop a youth formation programme

Look to see how skills can be shared beyond parish boundaries

Support our priests more

Parishes to come together to say what they do well – learning opportunity
Formation

Create opportunities for joy – let people know they are loved

Effective use of live-streaming for those who are housebound

Learning from other Christian communities

Definite action plan required