

Questions relating to the future pastoral provision and mission strategy of the Diocese of East Anglia

Bishop Peter has asked all parishes to think about **Three Questions** looking at how the Diocese of East Anglia carries out the Church's mission now and over the next decade.

In the next ten years the number of priests in the Diocese is likely to significantly decrease. This means that more will need to be done to support the remaining priests and some difficult decisions will need to be taken about the total number of churches and Mass centres the Diocese can support. This is particularly challenging because the number of people coming to Mass in many parishes is, happily, growing.

Therefore, the Bishop wishes parishes to reflect on how parishioners can best support not only their parish priests but also other parishes in the Diocese who may, in the future, not have their own resident priest.

The Questions are an opportunity for us all to reflect on our parish community and both rejoice in the many blessings it already brings and to consider how we can continue to grow as a community of faith, encompassing young and old, both long term and recently welcomed parishioners and reaching out to other local churches and to the community at large.

Overleaf you will find short versions of the Three Questions and we would kindly ask that you fill in your answers and return them to the Parish as soon as possible. We will put a box at the entrance to the church for your replies. Please do take a look at the full version of the questions from Bishop Peter which is available on the Parish Website (www.elyrcchurch.com), along with a supporting document from Bishop Peter outlining the future challenges in providing priests to all the parishes in the Diocese. You can email your answers, if you prefer, to Father David at david.finegan@rcdea.org.uk

Once we have received your answers to the Questions, we will collate them to form the Parish response, to be sent to the Bishop at the beginning of February.

Father David Finegan,
Parish Priest

Laurence Tisi,
Chair of the Parish Forum

12th January 2025

Questions relating to the future pastoral provision and mission strategy

Please provide comments on the following three (abridged) questions from Bishop Peter, the full text of the questions can be found on the Parish website along with a supporting explanatory document from the Bishop.

How do you think parish structures and practices need to evolve to best serve the mission of the Church in light of how our Parish Community has changed over the past twenty-five years and what it realistically might look like in ten years' time?

How can all members of the parish, from all ages and backgrounds, sustain a deep personal relationship with Christ both in our local parish and as a part of the diocese?

What concrete steps do you think should be taken in our parish to address present and future needs?