



Inspiring disciples for mission



Motherwell Diocesan Centre
Coursington Road, Motherwell, ML1 1PP

PASTORAL LETTER - WELLSPRING PROJECT LAUNCH **Sunday 11th February 2024**

Dear brothers and sisters,

This weekend I am pleased to announce the launch of Wellspring, our new diocesan renewal project.

Wellspring is the fruit of many months of discernment and preparation and offers the hope of a new, energised pastoral landscape in our local Church, seventy-five years since our foundation. It is the prayerful and practical response to the findings of our diocesan synodal conversation.

At its core, this new project seeks to form missionary, evangelical disciples who are ready and equipped to respond to the challenges of our day. It will rely on the support of clergy and lay people working together, in a spirit of genuine synodality, for the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God here in our diocese. Of course, it will also look at other practical areas of our diocesan life such as property management, finances and effective working practices.

Wellspring will focus on three specific areas of pastoral renewal:

PROMOTING A COMMON VISION

Now, more than ever, we want to unite our diocesan family around the core ideals of the Gospel. Everything we do will flow from our common, scripture-centred ambitions. We will be inclusive and outward-looking, eager to share the riches of our faith beyond the physical walls of our churches. (The full vision can be found in your Wellspring parish information flyer).

LAUNCHING RENEWED MISSIONS

We will prioritise and resource five key missions to foster deeper faith and greater witness to the Gospel. These five missions are:

1. **Liturgy**, ensuring high-quality, dignified and engaging Masses and services, especially the Sunday Eucharist;
2. **Adult Formation**, offering opportunities for prayer and learning to deepen our understanding of the faith;
3. **Youth Formation**, providing programmes of prayer, fellowship and learning for our young Catholics;
4. **Poverty Relief**, ensuring we offer generous practical and material support to those most in need;
5. **Education**, supporting our Catholics schools to be nurturing environments alive with faith.



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ENGAGING PARISH RENEWAL

We want to create thriving communities where all are invited to contribute and serve. We will renew our parishes 'from the soil upwards', identifying key areas of spiritual and pastoral growth. This local, bespoke approach will vary from parish to parish, meeting the needs and wants of individual communities. The diocesan Wellspring team will be available to support clergy and parish teams throughout the journey of renewal.

The success of Wellspring depends on two things. Firstly, it requires generous and big-hearted co-operation from each one of us. It invites us to live our faith more completely and share our faith more courageously, especially in our homes and families. Living and sharing the joy of the Gospel is surely what will untap a new sea of grace in our diocese. So everyone is invited to take up this vital work.

Secondly, and most importantly, we need to pray that God will bless and multiply our human endeavours so that our diocese experiences a new and abundant spring of living water. The Lord is the one who will lead Wellspring; we simply make the offering of our lives as His instruments.

Finally, we entrust our future into the maternal hands of Mary our Mother. May the ancient image of 'the Mother's Well', from which our diocese takes its name, flow again with new graces. May Our Lady grant a new springtime in the life of our beloved diocese.

Yours sincerely,

+Joseph Toal
Bishop of Motherwell