

The following are open ended questions which you may find useful to stimulate your sharing. Feel free to go beyond these questions. A summary of the gathering will be sent to the diocese for collation.

- *What did you learn about the diocese?*
- *Did anything surprise you?*
- *What are the challenges the diocese faces?*
- *What opportunities are there for the diocese to grow?*
- *What inspires you about the diocese?*
- *What gave you hope?*

After the time of sharing has finished the gathering will conclude with everyone praying together the Our Father.

To find out more please visit ledbythespirit.rcdai.org.uk

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Sgir-Easbuig Earraghaidheal 's nan Eilean

Diocese of Argyll
& the Isles

Gatherings for Consultation Phase 2: Our Diocesan Resources

Welcome

The facilitator welcomes everyone to the gathering. We are reminded that *it is a gathering in faith and not a business or planning meeting since we come together in openness to what the Spirit wishes to reveal to us.*

Period of Prayer

The facilitator or priest invites all to make the sign of the cross.

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on us.....

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Gospel: John 6:1-15

Someone reads the Gospel passage aloud. All then silently reflect for several minutes. Perhaps the facilitator will invite the participants to share a phrase or thought which has particularly struck them.

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, ‘Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?’ He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, ‘Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each’.

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said, ‘There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Make the people sit down’. There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, ‘Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted’. So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves.

The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, ‘This really is the prophet who is to come into the world’. Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

After the period of reflection is concluded all pray together:

Diocesan Discernment Prayer

God of love, we come before you as the Diocese of Argyll & the Isles, humbly seeking your guidance in determining our way ahead.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, guide us and give us the grace and courage to go where you want us.

Cleansed and enlightened by your Holy Spirit may we follow in the footsteps of your beloved son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we stand at the crossroads and wonder what road to take, help us to discern the path you wish for us.

May we listen with an open heart and embrace your will.

Stir our hearts O Lord to consider what we can all do as individuals and be instruments of your Church’s mission among all people using our talents.

O Lord hear our prayer. Amen.

Group Reflection

Much information about the diocese has been posted on our websites for you to read so that you can reflect and discuss our present situation in a meaningful way. In an atmosphere of prayer the bishop invites you to share the fruits of your reflection.

The facilitator will remind the gathering that the purpose of Phase 2 is to learn about our diocesan resources, to understand better our diocese and its parishes. The time to seek solutions is Phase 3, not now.