Enabling Our Mission Campaign Announcement Letter
Parish of Holy Family

Dear Parishioners of Holy Family,

I know you are all aware of the challenges we face as a Diocese, however, I genuinely remain very positive about what I see happening in our diocesan parishes, schools and chaplaincies. Let me express my sincere gratitude to all our clergy who continue to care for their parishioners, listen to their needs and work closely with them in living out our Catholic faith. Without this, our Diocese of Nottingham would not be celebrating our 175th anniversary this year.

As a Diocese we are trying to become more missionary in the living out of our discipleship; we cannot do this without resilience, kindness and generosity. I continue to witness remarkable sacrifices from our worshipping community and I am grateful for all that you do for our Church. I am confident that, with the support of the parish of Holy Family and the prayerful intercession of our diocesan patrons, Our Lady Immaculate and St Hugh of Lincoln, we can continue to become ever more outward facing.

After much prayer, reflection and consultation with clergy and laity, we have embarked on a new fundraising initiative entitled the Enabling Our Mission Campaign. This will help our parishes, schools, and chaplaincies to be better supported in becoming more outward looking and missionary, while also striving to ensure that the fewer priests now available for active ministry across the diocese are best able to serve our communities.

This initiative underpins the three pastoral priorities I have for our diocese: to help children and young people to encounter God's love and to become active disciples of Christ Jesus in the life and mission of the Church; to offer support and formation to parishioners to enable them to be confident agents of missionary discipleship, both within their parish and wider society; and thirdly, ongoing support for our clergy to free them up to be pastors, leaders and enablers of mission. The Campaign will ensure we have the funds to finance all these priorities, while also ensuring parishes receive a direct share of the funds raised, so they have the resources to grow in their relationship with Christ and in confidence and ability to be missionary.

The Enabling Our Mission Campaign is a 'call to action' which invites all parishioners to make their relationship with the Church a real partnership – as we strive to become the Church God is calling us to be. Simultaneously, the Enabling Our Mission Campaign reflects a commitment to improved communications and stewardship of donors' generosity. Over the next 6 months, we hope every parish will have participated in this endeavour. To date, over half the parishes in our Diocese have taken part and I am delighted that the parish of Holy Family will be part of the next group of parishes leading the way.

Over the coming months, Canon Chris will be sharing the aims of this initiative – through individual conversations, small group gatherings and announcements at Mass. I thank you for your willingness to learn more, ask questions, consider the role you could play and, importantly, to pray for our success.

Jesus said to his disciples "Go make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20) and I pray that you will join me on this journey, as we seek to become more and more outward-looking and missionary in every sense of purpose and direction.

With my prayers and good wishes

+Patrick
Bishop of Nottingham