



PARISH PASTORAL STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Field Worker - Parish Renewal Team

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Assists the Parish Renewal Working Party to implement the Archbishop's Strategic Plan for Strengthening and Renewing parishes
- Support and work with Clergy and Parish Pastoral Councils to develop Parish Pastoral Strategic Plans
- Develop parish pastoral council resources
- Promote collaboration between parishes and development of HUBS

WHAT is a Parish Pastoral Strategic Plan?

It is our honest effort to bring our fellow believers together to see how we can more effectively serve Jesus, His Church, His people, as we accept our responsibility with which we are entrusted and expected to fulfil, just like the Lord once gave to Peter and Paul, Francis of Assisi, Elizabeth Seton and now Pope Francis and you and me, “Build” or “rebuild” – “my Church”.

That’s the what of pastoral planning “ Making All Things New”.

BENEFITS OF A PARISH PASTORAL PLAN

We Plan Because:

We want to be pro-active in our approach to the future

It allows us to name our common vision, for ourselves and for others

It gives us individual wisdom , communal vision and a common language to speak about God's mission

It focusses our gifts and resources on our highest priorities as we work together as one Body of Christ

WHY do we need Pastoral Planning?

We want a Church where Sunday Mass is celebrated with reverence, joy, a solid sermon, and full participation; we want a Church embracing our cultural diversity and new migrants, we want a Church vigorous in the promotion of social justice, and care for the poor, sick, vulnerable, and our elders; we want a Church purified, positive, and transparent; we want a Church, not a museum.

Pope Francis

WHY Have A Plan?

***“IF YOU FAIL TO PLAN,
THEN YOU PLAN TO FAIL”.***

Benjamin Franklin

What about the WHEN?

- Well, how about **NOW**?
- Yes now.....but, slowly, prudently and patiently.
- We cannot do this by sudden or rash action, or arbitrarily. This is a when that starts now, but unfolds gradually for the next three to five years per se.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN MODEL

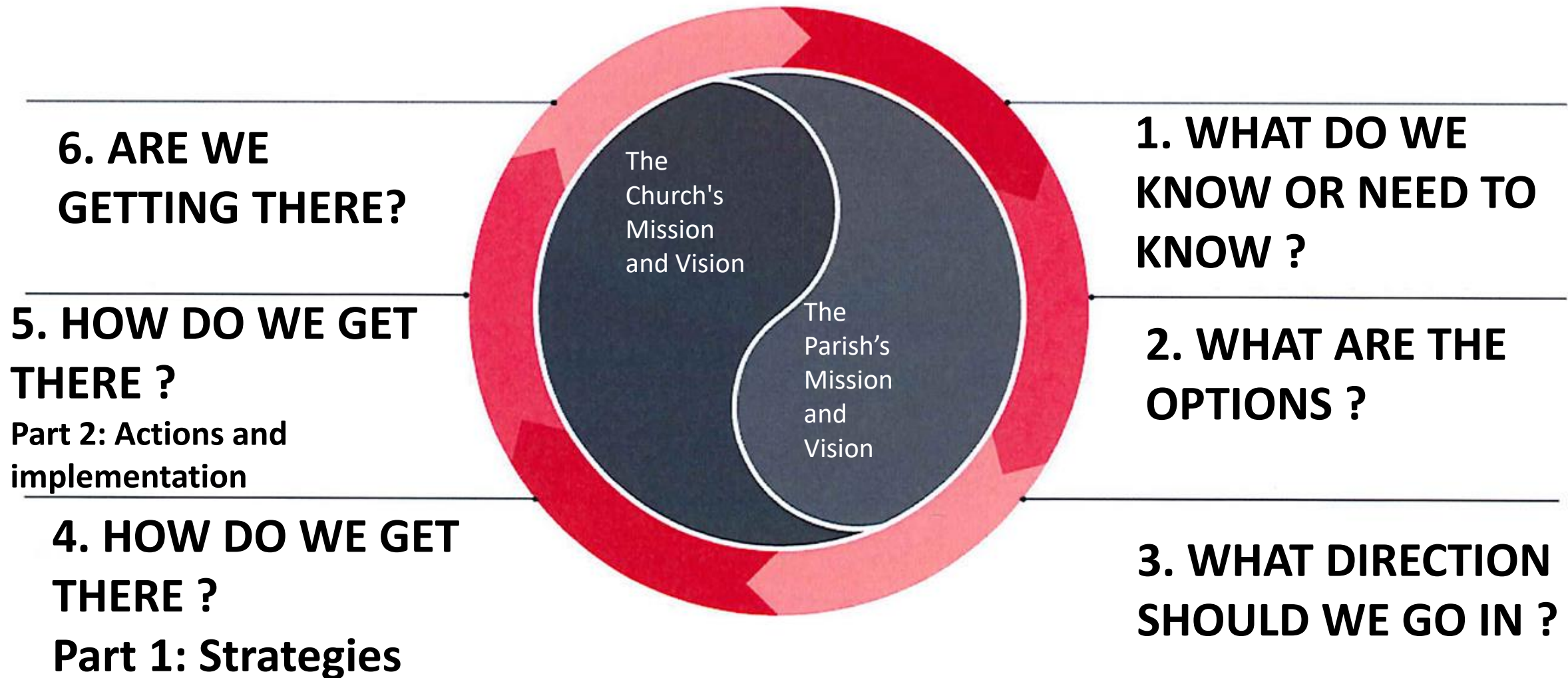
- Planning is a community experience
- Collaboration and cooperation sit at its heart
- It cannot be meaningful if it only reflects the views of a few well-intentioned people

VALUE AND PURPOSE OF COLLABORATION

- Discernment (the call of the Spirit and the collective heart and mind on the Parish)
- Engagement (common focus)
- Ownership
- Commitment (to see it through)



STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS



1.

DATA AND INFORMATION

(What do we know or need to know?)

WHY COLLECT DATA

- Current information is inadequate, out of date or no longer relevant
- Validates or causes us to question information currently held
- Discover new innovations and thinking

WHAT DO WE KNOW OR NEED TO KNOW ?

Data and information

Data and information: Useful or Junk ?

- Needs to be relevant to your parish requirements
- Needs to be from reliable sources
- Can be easily accessed, analysed and understood

DATA COLLECTION

- **Surveys/Questionnaires**
- **Community meetings**
- **Brainstorming**
- **SWOT analysis**
- **Focus groups**
- **Census information**

WHAT DO WE KNOW OR NEED TO KNOW ?



Group Discussion
15 minutes



Based on what you know, what types of data and information would assist your parish planning and why?



You may wish to individually write your responses in dot points and then share your responses with the group.

WHO AND WHAT ARE YOU AS A PARISH?

- What is your purpose?
- Is there something distinctive that influences and guides how the parish worships and thinks?

Parish Mission Statement

In short, the Parish Mission Statement articulates:-

- **What the parish does or “why it exists ”**
- **Has a present focus**
- **Reflects the individual character or identity of the parish**

Universal Mission of the Church

- The church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelising community knows the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19) , and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast.

(Evangelii Gaudium n.24)

Benefits of a Mission Statement

- **Gets everybody on the same page**
- **Shapes future planning**
- **Anchors the parish**

HOW DO WE EMBRACE THE FUTURE?

- What are our hopes and dreams?
- What problem are we solving for the greater good?
- Who and what are we inspiring to change?
- Where do we see ourselves in 5-10 years time?

Parish Vision Statement

A vision statement talks about the future and the aspirations of the parish

Benefits of a Parish Vision Statement

- **Paints a picture of what the future parish looks like**
- **Clarifies the type of parish culture required**
- **Guides the selection and development of parish structure so the right people and ministries are in place**
- **Enables the strategic plan to unfold**

EXAMPLES : Parish Mission/Vision Statement

OUR MISSION

Holy Trinity Church exists to
glorify God;
love, accept, care and pray
for **one another;**
teach the next generation and
bless the people of West Bromwich
as we hear, **believe**
and joyfully live out
the good news and commandments of
Jesus Christ together.

OUR VISION

At Holy Trinity we see:
a growing band of men and women
battling **prayerfully together**
for the mission of the church;
Trusted leaders appointed
and **equipped** to run small groups;
Every member **committed**
to a small group,
and a small group
on every street in the parish.

EXAMPLE: Mission/Vision Statement

Mission & Vision Statement

First Baptist Church is a body of believers determined to do whatever it takes to answer God's call to make disciples of all nations.

Our intent is to raise up ever-growing followers of Jesus Christ, who, through authentic worship, selfless service, and bold proclamation, will bring the truth of the gospel first to our community but also to our state, our nation, and our world.

Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:8, Matthew 13:45-46

EXAMPLE: Parish Mission/Vision Statement

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Luke's Parish

- "We, the people of St. Luke's Parish, in the Diocese of Dallas, are called through Baptism to celebrate the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament. We are called and sent by Christ to live gratefully the life God has given us and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. In the spirit of faith, service, and community, we strive to bring people closer together and closer to God.

EXAMPLE: Parish Mission/Vision Statement

VISION STATEMENT

This we accomplish by: * Building our lives in the image of Christ through worship and prayer. * Contributing to the growth of our parish by spreading the Gospel by word, witness, action and evangelization. * Inviting everyone to serve, in this way meeting the needs of our parishioners and the broader community. * Being faithful stewards of St. Luke, accountable to God for responsibly sharing our time, talents and treasures. * Lending support to the parish leadership and working together to fulfill the mission.

EXERCISE: Parish Mission/Vision Statement

VISION STATEMENT

Where are you heading?

- What do you want to see?
- What do you want to be like as a Parish?
- What has your parish discerned as God's will?
- What do you know that will inform your direction?

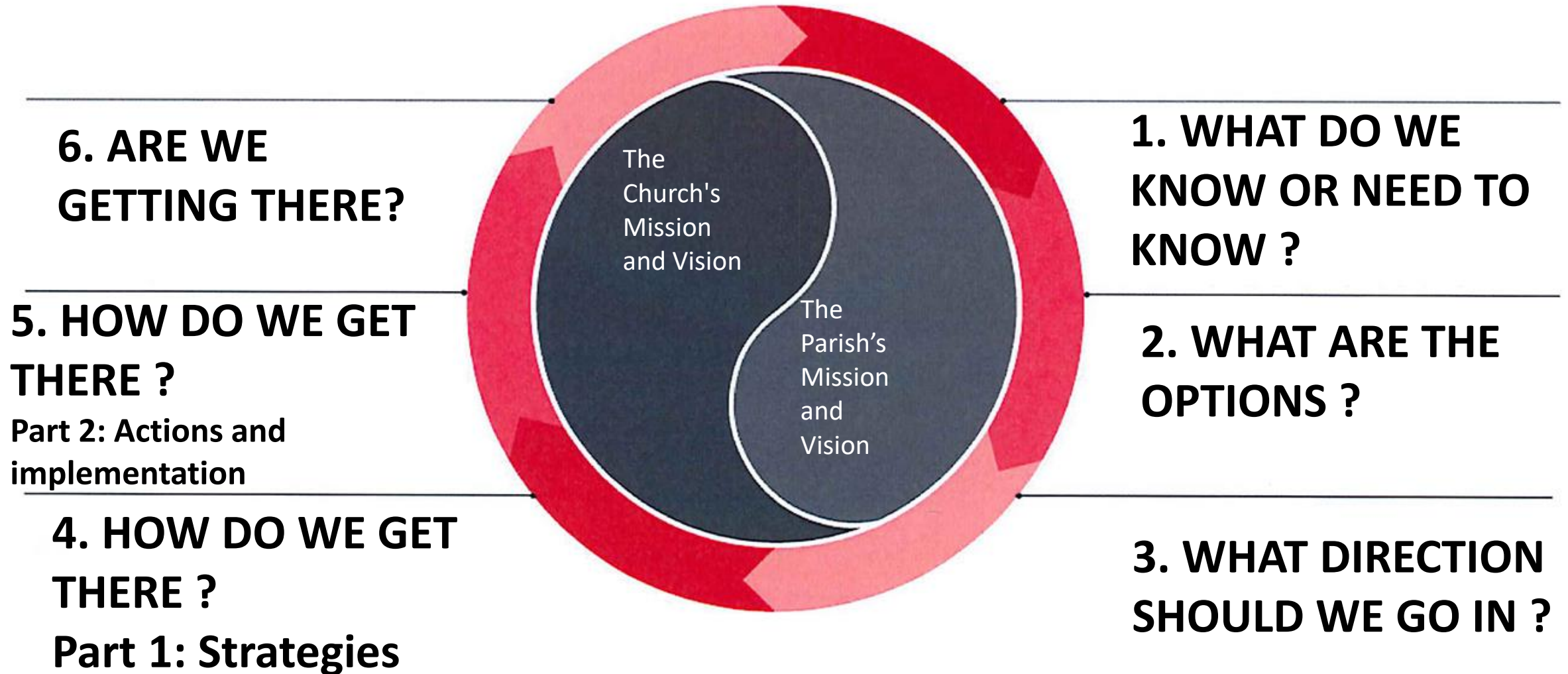
WHAT DO WE KNOW OR NEED TO KNOW ?

Data and information

- **Discussion:**
- **What do you think is the connection between Mission/ Vision and data and the rest of the planning process?**



STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS



The Bedrock is in place.

Crafting the mission and vision statements has made our purpose clear, and the gathering of information has validated our vision for the future. The bedrock for future planning is in place.



Some tips

- Pray and Listen
- Discern and know God's desire
- Be Patient do not rush process
- Take time to prepare
- Don't take shortcuts
- Ask for help
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate