

### **Q.9 Why is the “Leadership Formation Team” so named?**

**A.** The People of God have multiple resources and gifts – many of which have never been realized. This is due in large part to the limited implementation of the insights of Vatican II which said that each one of us should exercise our baptismal priesthood through our participation in Christ’s mission as priest, prophet, and leader. We do this according to the grace and charisms each one of us has been given. A primary goal – and a primary reason for the establishment - of the LFT is to provide an environment in which our people assume their leadership potentials and grow and flourish together as followers of Christ. We see ourselves as a “team – that helps form leaders”. The term “Leadership” in our title refers not *only* to the LFT members – but to the leaders in our community, those already existing and those yet to emerge. The promotion and formation of such leadership is also part of the succession planning of our Team - which is necessary to ensure the very continuation of our community. As a team we are also both being formed in - and forming - a new model of parish leadership and service. So the word “Formation” in our title has a number of different layers of meaning.

### **Q.10 Why do we not have Deacons (married men and women) who do everything except say Mass?**

**A.** The Archdiocesan Synod of 1998 under Cardinal Tom Williams considered the question of leadership in the form of ordained Deacons. The Synod decided by a significant majority not to pursue this option but rather to focus on more laity-led leadership within the Diocese. One of the resultant new shoots of growth has been the Lay Pastoral Leadership programme which has produced 29 LPLs since the programme began. The collaborative model now being used in our Parish is consistent with the Archdiocese’s strategy (restated at the 2017 Synod) to seek new models of lay leadership.

### **Q.11 What is the parish approach to provision of Requiem Mass or Funeral Service in the event of bereavement?**

**A.** In the sad event of bereavement within our community the wishes of the deceased (often specified in his/her Will) and the bereaved family are *at the centre of* the pastoral care they will receive. If a Requiem Mass, or Funeral Service led by a priest, is requested – a priest will be found. However, these days not every deceased person – or his/her family – wants a Requiem Mass. Some prefer a Funeral Service whether led by a priest or an authorised lay-person. These options can be provided if preferred and requested. We are aware of rumours to the effect that there is a policy to phase out Requiem Masses. Such rumours are unfounded and untrue.