

Diocesan Boundaries: Clergy Consultation 19th May 2026

Draft Report

1. Convergences

- Mission is more important than structures.
- Feel that Christ is with us. Personal experience of Christ with me and my community.
- The mission is Christ's mission - same priorities as Jesus' were.
- There is a deep love and care for the Diocese.
- There are many signs of mission – it is not restricted to preaching and the Sacraments but service of the kingdom of God.

Mission is found in many forms:

Through love

Visiting the sick and bereaved

Foodbanks

Pilgrimages

Silence and beauty

Catechesis

Seeking justice

Witness to family and friends

COVID outreach

Outreach beyond Church

Liturgy

Ecumenism

Working with Local Authority through SCES

Sex education programme in schools

Helping the poor

Gaelic culture

Writing and publishing as a form of mission - clergy and laity with writing gifts could reach people and places we cannot physically access.

We have a presence, basic to our nature as a Diocese.

We engage with wider society which often supports us too.

However, more intentional evangelisation beyond presence and sacraments needed. Better response to loneliness and mental health in community.

Listen to the quiet people, the struggling, the nervous.

There is a special and unique character to our Diocese: culture, language, history. Same size of population and priests as in 1878.

Modern Diocese established due to distinctive linguistic and cultural characteristics including its Gaelic nature. This identity still matters.

If we merge the bigger the structures, the further we are away from each other and our people.

Mergers haven't helped mission elsewhere.

Parishes would be swallowed up – we are different from elsewhere in Scotland.

Some localised changes may be possible rather than changing the entire Diocese.

There should be better collaboration between Dioceses.

Sharing of resources will improve professionalism but also enhance evangelisation.

More needs to be done in terms of adult Catechesis.

Courage! Don't be despondent. Trust in God. (Danger of Pelagianism)

Unanimous Agreement

1. Mission more important than structures.
2. Keep Diocese but better sharing with others and internally.
3. Staying the same is best for mission.

2. Divergences

3. Matters for Further Study

- Better sharing of resources within and between Diocese