

# Mission Provides a Vision for Leadership



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# A Leader

- Prepares people for the future
- Builds a learning and discerning community
- Has a vision that inspires, builds community and gives a sense of mission

# Mission: a Vision for Leadership

- Traditional Mission: conversion and planting the church in foreign lands
- Vatican II – the Fathers went back to the Trinity to ground mission
- *The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature. For it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she takes her origin, in accordance with the decree of God the Father.*

*Ad Gentes #2*



# Key changes from *Ad Gentes*

- God's mission
- God has a liberating plan for the cosmos
- The three persons of the Trinity are constantly creating, healing, reconciling, transforming and uniting the world.
- "Communion gives rise to mission and mission is accomplished in communion."

*Christifidelis Laici #32*



# The Spirit, Jesus & the Church

- The Trinity loves the world into existence and wants it to share the divine life
- God loves the world and for its sake calls the church to be the sacrament and servant of God's Reign/Kingdom
- Mission is the reason for its existence
- Mission is not primarily about the extension of the church but the realisation of God's love and plan for the world.

# The Kingdom was Jesus' central message

- From Mark 1, 15. *The time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God has come near, repent and believe the Gospel.*
- To Acts 1, 3. *After his suffering he presented himself alive to them in many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking to them about the kingdom of God.*

# It is a Radical Message

- Jesus did not come to bring a new religion, to establish a new ethic, or to be a moral example.
- His call was the Kingdom has come ...
- We are part of a movement to recreate the world

# The Kingdom has come

- Jesus was very conscious of the power of evil
- But also of his father and of the power of good breaking through
- Kingdom is now. The victory has been won but is yet to be fully achieved



# Describing the Kingdom

*For the kingdom of God is not food or drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Rom. 14:17*



# Justice, Peace and Joy in Holy Spirit

- **Justice – Right relations**
  - God
  - Self
  - Neighbour
  - Creation
- **Peace – wellbeing, right relationships, wholeness, reconciled**
- **Joy – fullness of life and love, space to unfold**
- **Holy Spirit – it is the Spirit who will bring forth the New Creation**

# God and the Kingdom are Present

God is especially active wherever people are inspired to strive creatively for justice, truth, peace, freedom and reconciliation between peoples, nations, religions and the environment.



# The Kingdom & the Church

- The Church is the community gathering in Jesus' name to carry on his mission
- To preach/reveal God's kingdom
- To struggle for its coming, for the transformation of the whole cosmos
- The Kingdom embraces all creation but is especially embodied in the church, "its initial budding forth". However, the Church is not the Kingdom but its seed and sign

# More on the Church's Role

- To discover, encourage, collaborate and celebrate
- A more authentic sign of God's hopes for the world
- People should be able to look at us and take hope.

# Value of a “Kingdom” Vision

- It is Jesus’ vision – God’s plan
- It is relational [Communion – Mission]
- It recognises suffering/sickness/evil but is positive and transforming
- It is inclusive - integrates the sacred & the secular
- It stresses the future
- It demands discernment, discovery, celebration and encouragement
- It is a vision which can unite, inspire, educate all Christians
- So that we can live, love and lead in hope and with a sense of a mission, worth living and dying for.