

Session 2: A Theology of Church: Clerical and Lay Ministry

- How does the Church understand itself with reference to its evangelising mission. Move from *'Pray, Pay, Obey'* to recognising *'hierarchical and charismatic gifts'* distributed widely among the Christian faithful. Need to encourage the identification and use of people's gifts. Priestly role *'to hold for what is good'*. (Lumen Gentium)
- Development of our understanding of collaborative ministry and 'communion ecclesiology' (The Sign We Give)
- Reconceiving the (mutual) roles of clergy and laity.
- Reconceiving the parish council: Father's helpers or strategic management?

Session 3: Understanding (and Challenging) Inherited Assumptions and Behaviours

- The challenges to collaborative ministry in practice.
- Reflections on inherited culture and ways of thinking.
- The nature of power, authority, ownership, responsibility, collaboration, partnership.
- Challenges of a consumer culture and scarce resources.
- Moving from criticism and blame to understanding and mercy (systems thinking).

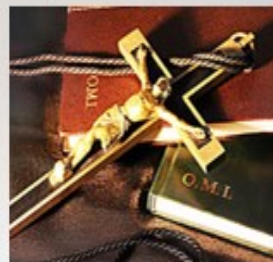
Session 4: Keeping on Track: Formalising our Shared Aspirations

- A model of parish council. Roles, responsibilities, practices, relationships ...
- Relationships with other parishes and overall 'Island Mission' – acknowledging and integrating roles and responsibilities.

- Catching ourselves out – how to observe and prevent old ways of thinking from surfacing. Dealing with conflict and disagreement. Code of practice and handbook.
- Towards a local development plan.

THE PROGRAMME AS A WHOLE IS DESIGNED TO:

- Give an appropriate grounding in Catholic theology; relating to the purpose of the Church and nature of collaborative ministry.
- Increase understanding of the mutuality of clerical and lay roles and how responsibility and authority can be shared without detriment to either role.
- Develop greater clarity about the nature of Island Mission and how it can be developed, co-ordinated and supported through Parish Advisory Councils, the Anglesey Pastoral Council, and the Island Pastoral Team.
- Enhance empathy and understanding regarding the difficulties unavoidably encountered in striving for partnership in mission.
- Stimulate creative responses to practical challenges and plan for the next steps for Catholic mission and ministry on Anglesey.



Isle of Anglesey, North Wales Centre of Mission Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI)

Formation Programme for Partnership in Mission 2024

Pilgrims of Hope in Communion on Anglesey



Organised by
Anglesey Pastoral Council (APC)
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INTRODUCTION

Developing ways of working together takes time to evolve and it is only through the process of dialogue and reflection that effective ways of 'being' in partnership are developing. We have been fortunate over the past years and greatly value the work of many people, Oblate priests and lay faithful, who have facilitated our passage through times of transition, challenge and change. Time taken to reflect on our lived experience of striving to work in equal partnership is not only helpful but necessary to live out the mission. It is through the difficulties as much as the successes that learning takes place. To support and further the progress communities are making towards partnership, a series of formation sessions for all those engaged in mission has been organised. Members of Parish Advisory Councils (PACs), the Anglesey Pastoral Council (APC) and the Island Pastoral Team (IPT), are recommended to attend.

WHY THIS PROGRAMME?

St. Eugene de Mazenod wrote to his companions, "May we understand well what we are", on the pontifical approval of the congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) in 1826. This call is approved even today, as we discern our role in the Pastoral Care of the Isle of Anglesey, as faith communities and our Oblate priests. Discernment over the Pastoral Care of Anglesey re-started with the "The Think Island" initiatives in 2002. Ardent discernment and commitment of many, throughout the years, has given birth to the Island Pastoral Team, the Island Mission Group (IMG) now named Anglesey Pastoral Council and Parish Advisory Councils. We are invited at this juncture of the evolution of the Isle of Anglesey, to discern as an Island community the possible ways of investing in the Pastoral Care of the Island. It is a call for outreach and

inclusion. We lay faithful and Oblate priests share the vocation to the same spirituality and missionary outreach. We journey together to rediscover the beauty of our charism, implanted by the Holy Spirit within our being, and to share it in our missionary outreach. The programme invites all who are willing to rediscover the charism within and work on the vocation of establishing the pastoral care of the Island. Those who wish to collaborate, in the future mission on Anglesey, are encouraged to come on board and take part in these formation sessions. Young members in our communities are warmly encouraged to take part.

In 2022, the Oblates across the globe, together with representatives of the lay people with whom they share their mission, met for their General Chapter. It is via these international gatherings that they continue to ask themselves, 'What has changed and how might we need to change to remain faithful to our vision?' Commenting on the Chapter, Pope Francis commended the Oblates, in particular for their desire to find ways to work in greater communion with their lay faithful. 'You frequently referred, during your Chapter, to ... the beauty and the importance of "walking together". I urge you to be promoters of communion through expressions of solidarity, closeness, synodality and fraternity with all.'

While these are challenging times, there is also reason for optimism. The OMI General Chapter committed all regions of the Oblate community around the world to find practical ways of creating genuine lay collaboration and lay responsibility in all parts of Oblate mission work. It is in the light of this that the OMI are promoting these sessions of reflection, conversation and planning for Catholic ministry on Anglesey.

WHAT AND WHEN?

The programme will run over four Sunday afternoons in the coming months:

1. 28th April
2. 19th May
3. 23rd June
4. 14th July



Venue: The Tunncliffe Room, Oriel Môn, Llangefni, 2pm – 5pm. Refreshments will be available during the afternoon. The sessions will be a combination of input, private reflection and conversation and will be facilitated by John Mannix who has worked with us on Anglesey in the past and, more recently, facilitated the residential conference for the Oblate Anglo-Irish Province.

SESSION THEMES

Session 1: Setting the Scene: Our Experience and Aspirations

- What is Parish / faith community? What is Church? What is it for and why does it matter? What are we trying to make happen through our work in our faith communities / parish? (Turning up isn't the point.)
- Network of opportunities for connection which, taken together, support growth in love and faith i.e. human flourishing. (Not an interest group.)
- Facilitate encounter with God and reflect, consider, learn, practise how that impacts on our lives. *'In the final analysis, truth is not a thing we possess, but a person by whom we must allow ourselves to be possessed.'* D&P 1991