



St Joseph's  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
UPMINSTER

# Our Future

A parish of missionary disciples, growing in faith,  
serving God and our local community



# A vision for our parish

---

- A **community** of men and women of all ages who aspire to follow **Jesus Christ** within the fellowship of his church, local and universal
- Who **support** each other, **welcome** newcomers, and **share responsibility** for the life and mission of our community according to their ability and resources
- Committed to the path of discipleship, with the **Mass as the source and summit** of all we do
- Seeking to **deepen our faith**, so we can better **share** it with others through words and actions in our workplaces and homes
- Trusting that **anything is possible** to God, if we seek **his will** in all things





# What do we need to realise this vision

---

- A recognition that all of us need to discern and follow God's call
- A culture of open communication and shared responsibility
- People with the time and freedom to give to specific areas of mission
- Spaces where meetings and formation can happen, and people can be invited to events that might start them on a journey
- A readiness to support this vision financially
- Prayer: as this vision can only flourish if it is truly of God and we seek his help at every stage.



# Investing in people

---

- Explore employing a youth minister shared with the *Upminster – Hornchurch – Elm Park* parish partnership
- Ongoing financial commitment from each parish – c.£10k p.a., maybe less for first year if grants available





# Investing in our physical space

---

- We are blessed with a church in good condition that meets our needs as a worshipping community centred on the Mass
- We have a Social Centre providing space for St Joseph's Catholic Club, and a pre-school, and used by various parish groups
- We have a large hall 2 miles away in Cranham
- We have a youth room underneath the Sacristy (accessed via the playground), and the Sacristy itself can be used for small groups.
- We make occasional use of the hall at St Joseph's Primary as well as space at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, and have used the New Windmill Hall and Upminster Park.





# Social Centre

## 117 St Mary's Lane

---

- Opened in 1972
- Well used by the parish
- Not in great condition structurally – walls wobble
- But has had more investment than St Peter's recently





# St Peter's Centre

## Front Lane, Cranham

---

- Built as a dual-purpose Mass Centre and Hall in 1977.
- Used as a Mass Centre until 2016. No prospect of this being reinstated.
- Used by various groups and one-off bookings
- Car park and large field – 3 acres
- Not used much by the parish – wrong location
- Hire Income just about covers costs but no profit
- Not in great condition, internally or structurally.





# The dream

---

- A new two-storey building
- Space for a pre-school, social club, meeting rooms and large hall with modern kitchen
- A base for fellowship, social events, catechesis and formation
- An attractive facility for external groups and individual hirers
- A long-lasting, efficient and appealing building that fits in with the local area







# The task

---

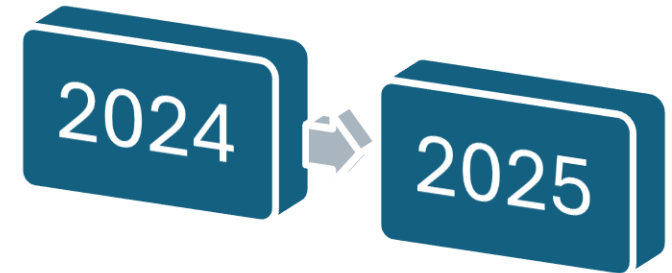
- Likely cost £2 million
- Construction time 12-18 months
- Lead time 2-3 years
- Need to plan for existing groups
- Need to apply for grants
- Need to raise money from the parish and local community





# A 5 year plan...

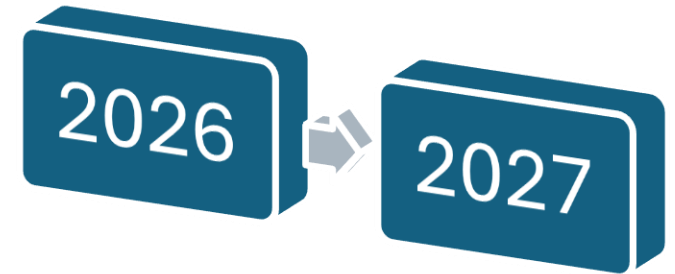
- Autumn 2024
  - Initial Parish partnership meetings with Youth on agenda
  - Ask Diocesan Trustees to instruct land agent
  - Launch appeal for New Social Centre
- 2025
  - Define role and appoint a partnership Youth Minister
  - Put St Peter's on the market and receive offers
  - Social Centre working party to identify needs and wishes
  - Instruct architects to draw up plans
  - Research grant possibilities





# A 5 year plan...

- 2026
  - Youth Minister in post
  - Planning application in process
  - Apply for grants and continue with fundraising
  - Plan alternative homes for parish groups
- 2027
  - Tender process for construction firms
  - Demolition of existing building from summer
  - Construction begins
  - Fundraising continues





# A 5 year plan...

- 2028
  - Review/reappoint Youth Minister
  - Construction underway, aiming to complete late summer
  - New Social Centre opens in the Autumn
  - Fundraising continues
- 2029
  - An exciting year making the most of our new facility...
  - Aim to clear remaining debt and rebuild some financial reserves
  - What next?

