



WHAT IS “DIALOGUE”?

The original Tablet letter (2 June 2012) which sparked the beginnings of ACTA nationally and in our Diocese was headed: “Call to Action”. The “action” called for was that of DIALOGUE. In all settings within our local Church, priests and laity together need opportunities and forums to develop skills through formation and then be able to use them to create a “culture of DIALOGUE.”

The “ACTION” we are called to is “DIALOGUE”.

DIALOGUE IS A PROCESS of formation. It is not new. At best Bishops, priests and people have been in “dialogue” since the foundation of the Church. But as Pope Francis acknowledges in *Evangelii Gaudium* it now takes place to meet a specific need –to enable the laity to play their rightful part in dialogue:

“A clear awareness of this responsibility of the laity, grounded in their baptism, does not appear in the same way in all places. In some cases, it is because lay persons have not been given the formation needed to take on important responsibilities. In others, it is because in their particular Churches room has not been made for them to speak and to act, due to an excessive clericalism which keeps them away from decision-making..... The formation of the laity and the evangelization of professional and intellectual life represent a significant pastoral challenge.” (Para 102)

DIALOGUE CREATES COMMUNITY. This challenge and process of DIALOGUE rests on a relationship with Christ in prayer and the study of scripture. It builds loving communities. Its members are then able to be “missionary disciples.”

DIALOGUE CREATES MISSION. Dialogue is not just an end in itself – it has an aim – it equips us for mission (“the loving service of all that exists” JP2) We dialogue with one God and another so we can together as Church bring the Good News of the Gospel to the world.

FORMATION FOR DIALOGUE. There are many more resources here for us to explore the theology, spirituality and practicalities of dialogue together. Most of them are available to download.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK AND WHAT YOU WANT TO FIND HERE.

“Be the change you want to see in the Church.”