


A photograph of a church altar area, featuring a red carpet, two lit candles in brass holders, and a wooden altar with a decorative front. A large, semi-transparent red 'X' is overlaid on the image. The text is centered and reads:

***Introducing***  
***Ministering Communities in***  
***Mission***  
***in your Parish***

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- A photograph of a church altar area, featuring a white altar table, a wooden pulpit, and a red carpet. A large, semi-transparent red 'X' is overlaid on the image. The text is positioned on the left side of the image.
1. Awakening
  2. Exploration
  3. Formation
  4. Operation

# *Shaped by God*

## Missionary Passion with Sustainable Spirituality

- Theology of Rest
- Theology of Fun
- Theology of Fellowship



A photograph of a church altar. In the center, a large, three-dimensional red cross stands on a red carpeted floor. Two tall, thin candles with lit flames are positioned on either side of the cross. The background shows the altar table, a wooden pulpit, and a statue on a pedestal. The lighting is warm and focused on the altar area.

***Step One:  
Awakening***

# ***A reality check – what shape are we in?***



Jesus said: I am  
come that they  
may have life  
and have it in all  
its fullness John 10:10

# *The Potter's Wheel*

## *Jeremiah 18*

*“Then the Word of the Lord came to me: Israel, can I not deal with you as this potter deals with his clay? says the Lord.”*



***Are we willing to let God  
deal with us?***

***A Parish Shaped by God  
into the shape of God***

The Church is the body of Christ. As we work to reshape and reform it we must strive to allow it to reflect the same image of God that the world has seen clearly in the face of Jesus Christ

# *The face of Jesus Christ*



**D. AS IF.**  
s. Church. April 4.

# ***Remember you at stage one are not alone.***

- Find people of good will and pray
- Get hold of any existing Diocesan Resource
- Talk with a ministry officer and the Bishop
- Think carefully about the role of priest as chief missionary
- Consider parish prayer retreat and prayer triplets
- Try a mission formation retreat with the leadership
- Work toward the Parish leadership agreeing to explore ministering communities in mission formally.

***Step Two:***

***Exploration***

***the aim is to renew and  
rediscover our mission as  
the missionary God's  
Church***

A photograph of a church altar with a large red 'X' overlaid on it. The altar is covered with a red cloth and has two lit candles on either side. The background shows the interior of a church with wooden paneling and a window.

***A time to reflect on some  
theology and ecclesiology***

***What is God doing and how  
has he chosen to do it?***

# ***The Shape of God - Three theological principles***

- The Incarnational Principle
- The Relational Principle
- The Missionary Principle

# ***The Shape of God - A missional ecclesiology***

- The Church is the Body of Christ
- God in mission commissions a people to mission
- Each member of the body has a distinctly identifiable, divinely validated and empowered role
- Ministry and Mission are functions of every member of the body
- The ministry of all to all is the ministry of the risen Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit

***The key to be  
revealed***

***Every congregation is a ministering  
community, rather than a community  
gathered around a minister.***

***Every member is a minister in  
community***



Cultural change is the hardest thing. It starts early but happens in the process

*“It is not a program or a system but a way of being, a culture”*

(Bishop Stewart Zabriskie,  
Nevada Diocese)

# ***Remember you are not alone.***

- Keep praying
- Ask the Bishop to teach the parish
- Ask the Bishop or ministry officer to guide the process.
- Take care to understand change processes
- Reflect on your community. Issues and needs.
- Recognise the gifting of the people and existing teams
- Agree to move from enquiry to formation
- Form an interim ministry leadership team
- Have a go at something new in mission

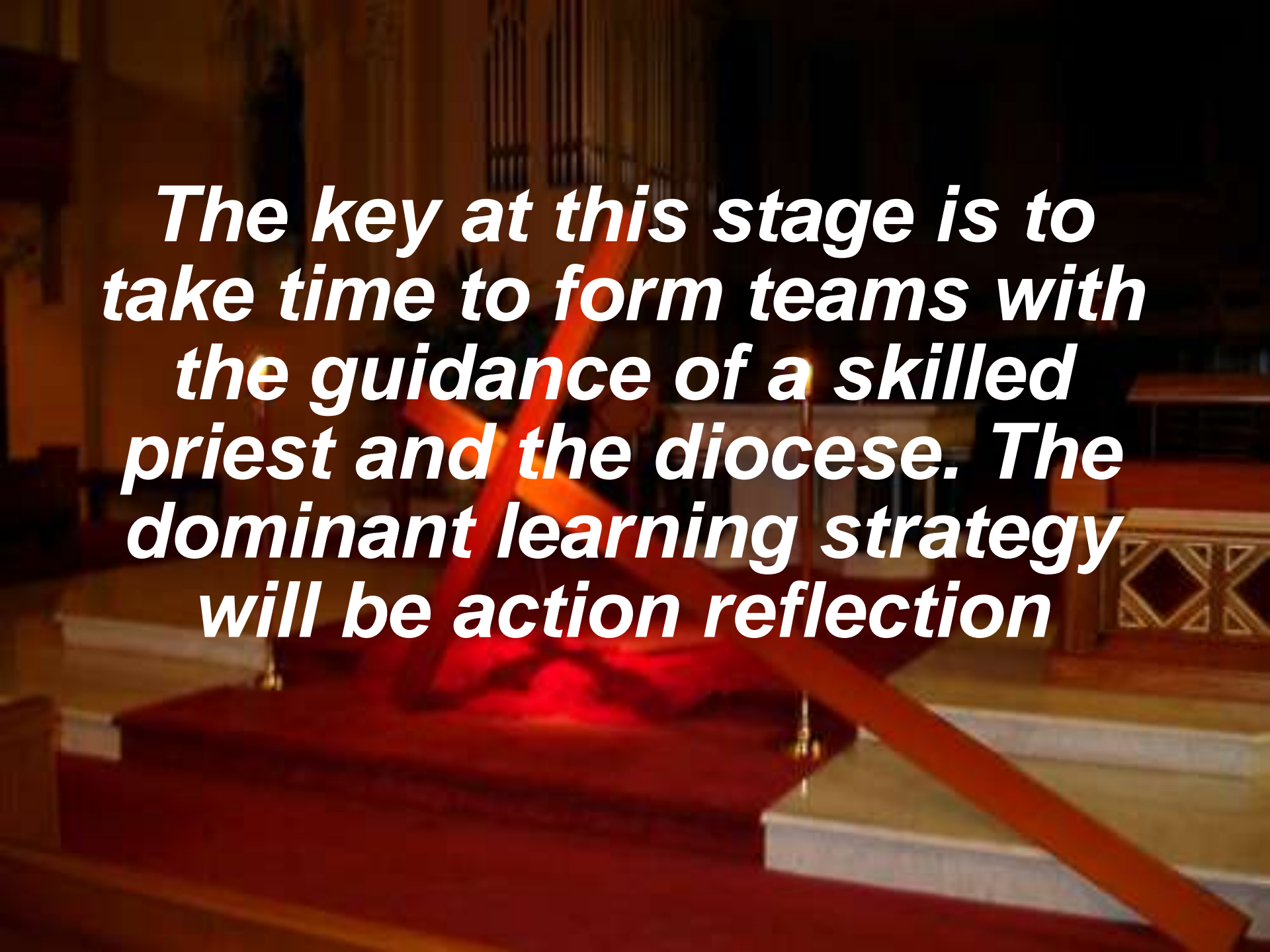


# *In stage two a few things get sorted*

- *Each Christian community shares with the Bishop the responsibility for worship, ministry and mission.*
- *The Holy Spirit calls every Christian into a Christian community.*
- *The Holy Spirit gives gifts for service to every Christian.*
- *God calls men and women as priests to draw the body together in worship and mission.*
- *Every Christian community has sufficient gifts to carry out its worship, ministry and mission.*

# ***Step Three Formation Shaping - up***

***the aim is to be reshaped for mission. Establish teams that will support your shape and perhaps be formally commissioned by the Bishop***

A photograph of a church altar with a red carpet and a large red 'X' overlaid on the image. The text is centered over the image.

***The key at this stage is to take time to form teams with the guidance of a skilled priest and the diocese. The dominant learning strategy will be action reflection***

# *Nine Marks of a healthy mission-shaped church*



# ***Nine marks...***

- ***Transforms*** lives and communities
- ***Worships*** in a way that renews and inspires
- ***Serves*** the community in practical ways

## ***Nine marks...***

- ***Prays***, and takes prayer seriously
- ***Shares*** faith by evangelising and witnessing
- ***Nurtures*** the faith of its members

## ***Nine marks...***

- ***Welcomes*** newcomers
- ***Reaches out*** to children and young people
- ***Celebrates*** the life of its communities

## *What's your mission shape?*

- Conduct a mission audit
- Talk about your shape
- What shape would you like to be.
- How will that shape be achieved
  - Planning
  - Identifying resources in God's people
  - Reallocating resources
  - Appointment coordinators
  - Forming working groups

A photograph of a church altar with a large red 'X' overlaid on it. The altar is covered with a red cloth and has two lit candles on either side. The background shows the interior of a church with wooden paneling and a stained glass window.

***Step Four  
Operation  
Staying in Shape***

***The aim is to reform the  
structures and ministries for  
mission***

# ***Remember you are not alone.***

- Keep praying
- Release your priest as a leader in mission
- Review and simplify all administrative functions.  
Find an administrator
- Experiment and take risks. Do something new!
- Recognise the gifting of the people and existing teams
- Commission the parish, priest and teams.

# *Changing culture in a tough place*

- Who has significant ministry? How can I help them and release them to it?
- How can I structure worship to sustain ordinary people in their weekly lives?
- Can we release a tide of prayer that causes things to change?
- How can I develop the disciples?
- How can I develop a sustainable small group experience?

# *Shaped by God*

## Missionary Passion with Sustainable Spirituality

- Theology of Rest
- Theology of Fun
- Theology of Fellowship





# *Shaped by God*

- You'll need a guide
- You'll know your gifts
- You'll empower teams
- You'll stay in mission shape
- You'll love the diocese
- You'll know your Bishop
- You'll be full of life

