

Guidelines for the Mission Project

The mission project should grow organically from the context of the curacy. Ideally it should meet a need within the parish rather than be imposed artificially onto the context simply because it is a task the curate has been set.

It is called a mission *project* because in some shape or form it should have a beginning, a middle, and an end. The curate should be involved in setting up something new, or in some cases resurrecting something that may have died out or lost momentum. They should then run with the project for several months, ideally leading a team of lay people who will be helping. Then at some stage, they should either bring the project to an end or pass on its leadership to someone else. Sometimes they may continue assisting alongside others.

The idea is that at each of these stages (the beginning, middle and end), the curate is reflecting on the process in their portfolio: recording the highs and lows, what has gone well, what they might do differently another time, discerning where God is at every point and indicating what they are learning about their own leadership skills and style. Whilst we hope, for the sake of the parish, that the mission project is successful and reaps rich rewards, this is not the basis on which it will be assessed. Rather, we are interested in the quality of reflections and how the curate develops, grows and learns through it all. Some of the best reflections have come out of apparent failures.

As a general rule the project should take place in year 2 and take approximately 9 months. However, these timings are flexible and designed helpful rather than constrict. The idea is that during the first year the curate (together with TI and others in the parish) can discern what the right project might be. They then carry out the project during the second year, reflecting in the portfolio as they go. If the time scale does not match perfectly, that does not need to be a problem. The project might start a little early or late and it might spill over into the third year portfolio. The curate should keep the CTO informed about timings and be explicit in the portfolio so that the assessor knows what's going on.