

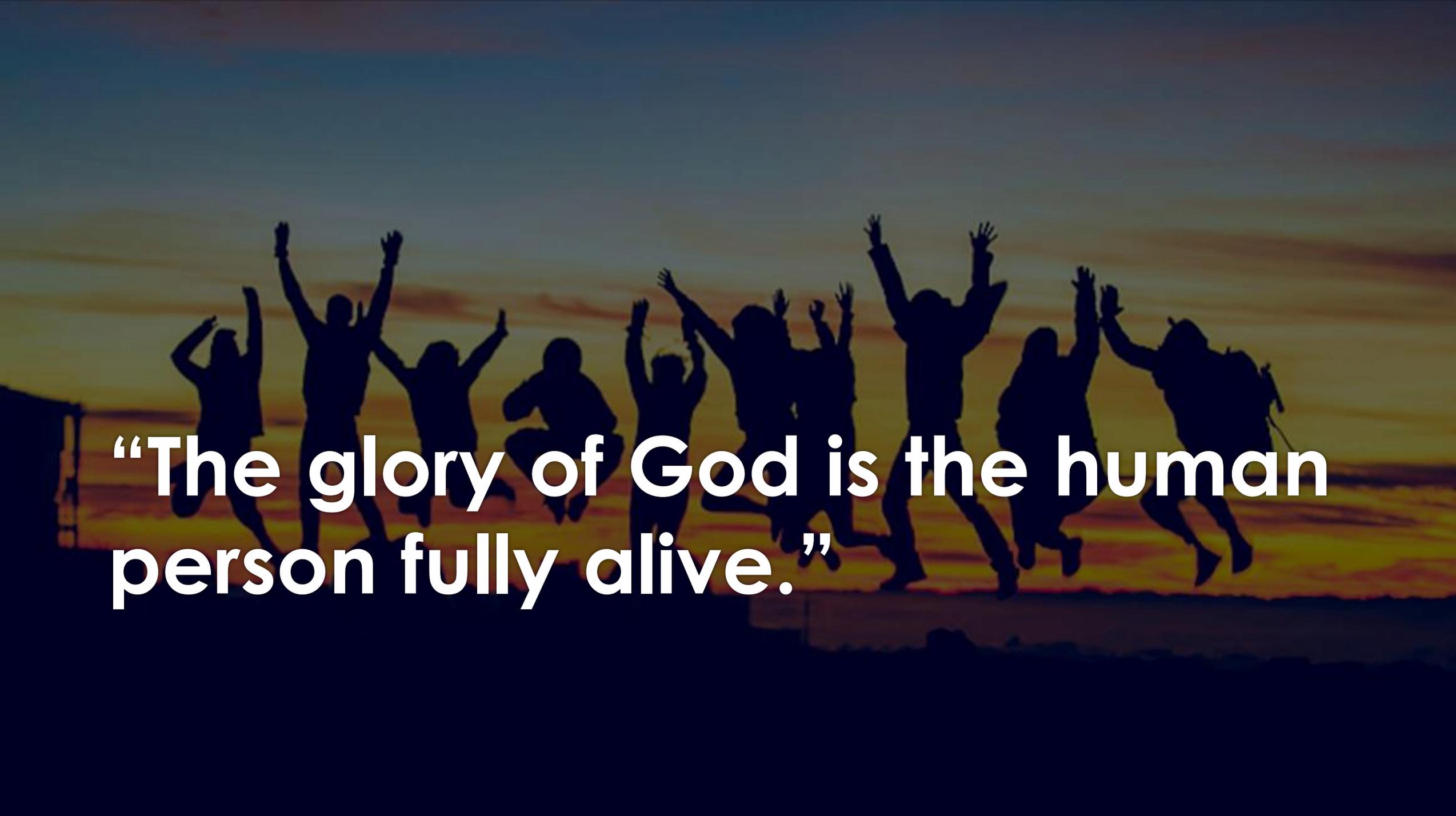


Re-imagining Catholic Education – The journey so far

School Business Managers Conference March 2020

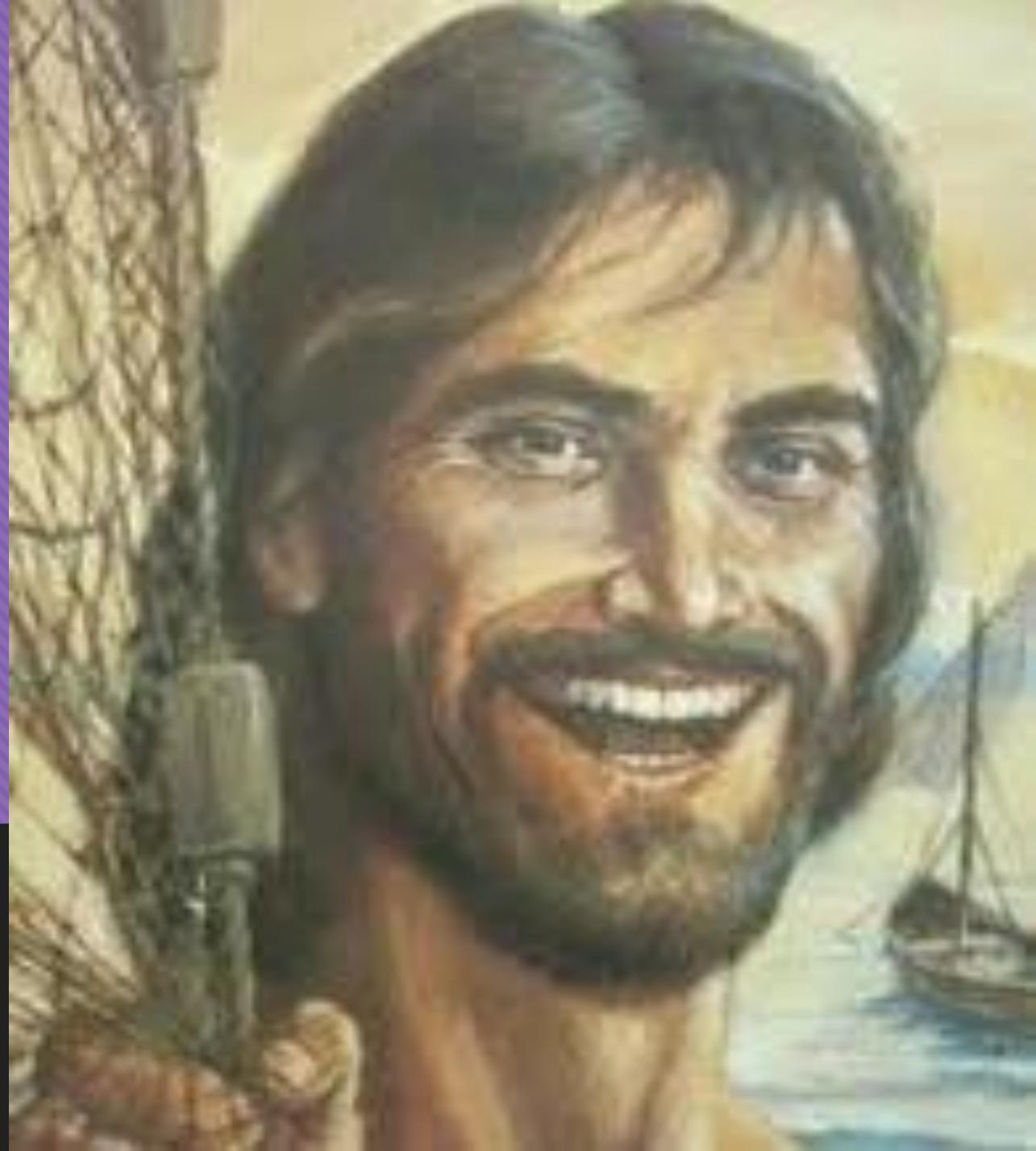
What is the purpose of Catholic Education?

- “The Task of the imagination is to imagine that which is real.” William J Lynch SJ
- Catholic education has a fundamental conviction about its core purpose set in the context of the Mission of the Catholic Church
- That core purpose is one of proclamation – “Go out to the whole world – proclaim the Good News”
- We call this purpose EVANGELISATION
- “The Church exists to evangelise.” Saint Paul VI – Evangelii Nuntiandi (1975)

A group of approximately ten people are silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky. They are captured in mid-air, jumping joyfully with their arms raised high. The background shows a horizon line over a body of water, with the sky transitioning from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The overall mood is one of celebration and happiness.

“The glory of God is the human person fully alive.”

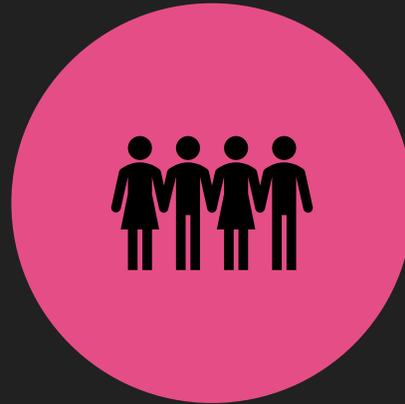
**“I HAVE COME
THAT THEY
MIGHT HAVE
LIFE TO THE
FULL.”**



The Purpose of Catholic Education



TO ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS



TO LEAD PEOPLE TO A RENEWED
UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE
A HUMAN PERSON



OUR HUMANITY IS NOT UNDERSTOOD BY
WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE, HOW MUCH
MONEY WE CAN MAKE OR HOW MUCH
WE CAN PRODUCE



Gandalf: I am looking for someone to share in an adventure that I am arranging, and it's very difficult to find anyone.

Bilbo: I should think so—in these parts! We are plain quiet folk and have no use for adventures. Nasty disturbing uncomfortable things! Make you late for dinner! I can't think what anybody sees in them ...



Reclaiming the adventure

Our task...



THE GLORY OF GOD IS THE
HUMAN PERSON FULLY ALIVE



FAITH AND LIFE ARE TWO
REALITIES THAT MERGE
TOGETHER



HELPING DISCOVER TRUE
IDENTITY, PURPOSE AND
FULFILMENT

Catholic education
never an
“elastoplaste” over
a secular system



Do what
it says
on the
tin



This means...

There is an inner reality to Catholic education



The flourishing of the human person is at the centre of its mission



Helping young people to discover their identity, purpose and fulfilment rooted and founded in Christ



“You have made us for yourselves O God, our hearts find no rest until they rest in you.”

So what about us?

01

86,982 pupils in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham

02

18.8% of pupils in primary schools come from the most deprived backgrounds compared with 13.5% nationally

03

16.5% of pupils in secondary schools come from the most deprived backgrounds compared to 11.3% nationally

04

40% pupils are from varied ethnic backgrounds

05

15.64% FSM



**What's Been
Happening...**

Developments this past year

Our work so far...

01

Our Diocesan agenda to secure, protect and improve Catholic education in the Archdiocese continues

02

Trustees continue to be highly committed to the development plan for Catholic education led by His Grace the Archbishop

03

The Continued development of the work of the DES with new staff appointments to add strength to the support provided to Catholic schools

04

The Diocesan Academy Strategy is central to the development of Catholic education in the Archdiocese

The Benefits

Across England many Dioceses are following the lead of the Archdiocese of Birmingham in implementing an academy conversion programme

The benefits of this strategy are evidently supportive of the following

Educational – School to school improvement

Leadership – Huge opportunities for leadership potential to be developed at all levels

Financial and Service Provision – Opportunities for creative development, staffing, funding and use of resources

Mission – Strengthening our Catholic Identity

The importance of Governance



Exciting development of the new leadership role of Catholic Senior Executive leader



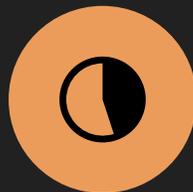
Core purpose of the role is to support the development of the MAC at all levels working with a core team and supporting the unique mission of each school within the MAC



Strengthening the role of Directors – core analysis of skill sets and strengthening of Boards



Recognising the strengths and roles of Local Governing Bodies



On-going recruitment and training strategies essential for the near future



Holding to account – the task of the DES and Trustees and working in partnership with the RSC, DfE, ESFA and the CES and colleagues in other Dioceses

Expectations

- All schools are expected to form part of a multi academy company
- Reasonable dialogue between groups of schools will continue
- Benefits to financial planning and stronger governance
- Strengthening of leadership, mission, standards and provision
- Diocese has duty and responsibility to secure, protect and improve schools that are under its Trust Deed.
- Placed within the context of Diocesan Development Plan focused on Evangelisation, formation, future of parish communities, young people and families and care for those in need.

Finally...

- The distinctive offer of Catholic education is about living a fulfilled life and forming persons, meaning individual subjects in whom virtue is fostered, who can make sound judgments and grow into the fulness of their character in an environment illumined by the person of Jesus Christ."

