

A stack of four smooth, dark stones is balanced on a beach. The stones are dark and polished, with the top stone being the smallest and the bottom one the largest. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset with warm orange and yellow hues. The right side of the image is a solid white vertical band.

Family of Parishes Open Meetings

Wednesday 14th October 2026 &
Saturday 17th October 2026

A stack of three smooth, dark stones is balanced on a beach. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset with warm orange and pink hues. The stones are dark and smooth, with the top stone being the smallest and the bottom one the largest.

Our Vision

We recognise that all the baptised are called to share the Gospel and bring others to know and love God. We pray our Catholic communities be the living presence of Christ in South Ribble and West Lancashire; have good and prayerful liturgy in churches that offer welcome, hospitality and formation; and our churches be beacons of light as we engage with our local communities, serving those who are vulnerable and in need. We do this knowing that the Lord Jesus is with us always, to the end of the age!

Our Vision



At his Ascension, the Lord Jesus invited the Apostles:

‘Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

Mt 28:19-20

The Lord Jesus reminds us to “love one another as I have loved you.”

Jn 13:34

Four paid roles. One shared mission.

A Family-wide staffing model for Scenarios 3 and 4 • serving five church communities



Family Office Team

TWO COMPLEMENTARY POSTS

FAMILY OF PARISHES OFFICE MANAGER

Leads the operation, people and shared systems.

- Finance, budgets, reporting and compliance
- Buildings, contracts and long-term planning
- Develops procedures and supervises staff

PART-TIME FAMILY OF PARISHES ADMINISTRATOR

Handles routine work and keeps the office accessible.

- Enquiries, diaries, correspondence and meetings
- Registers, records and sacramental paperwork
- Newsletters and routine financial processing

STARTING POINT: 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK • REVIEW AFTER SIX MONTHS



Pastoral Coordinator

MISSION • FAMILIES • FORMATION • VOLUNTEERS

Builds pastoral life through people and teams.

- Mission, evangelisation and welcome
- Children, families and parish groups
- Support for catechists and sacramental teams
- RCIA, faith formation and Faith Advocates
- Recruiting and coordinating volunteers
- Mums, babies and family outreach



Youth Lead

TEENAGERS & YOUNG ADULTS

Creates belonging, faith and leadership pathways.

- Teenagers and young adults
- Schools and school chaplains
- Youth Council and young leaders
- Post-Confirmation pathways
- Prayer, retreats and social action
- Formation of volunteer youth leaders

ONE FAMILY • FIVE CHURCH COMMUNITIES

Four paid roles support, form and coordinate a shared network of local people.

FAITH ADVOCATES

CATECHISTS & MINISTRY TEAMS

EVANGELISATION TEAMS

VOLUNTEERS

HOW THE MODEL WORKS

Scenario 3

FOUR PARISHES COLLABORATING CLOSELY

- One shared staff team and pastoral plan
- Four canonical and financial identities remain
- Separate records may require more admin hours



Scenario 4

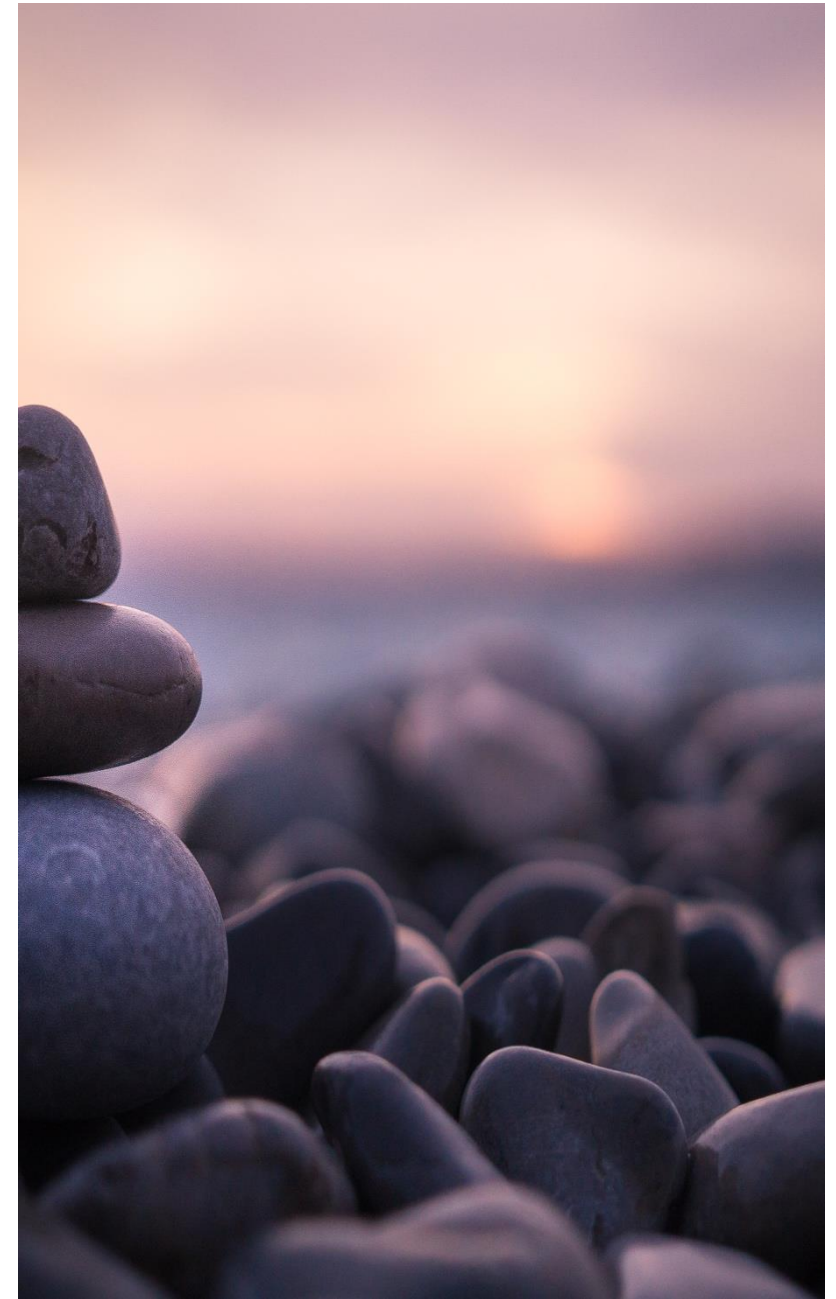
ONE PARISH • FIVE CHURCH COMMUNITIES

- One employer, leadership structure and budget
- Unified administration, mission and youth ministry
- Unified systems reduce duplication after transition

Data

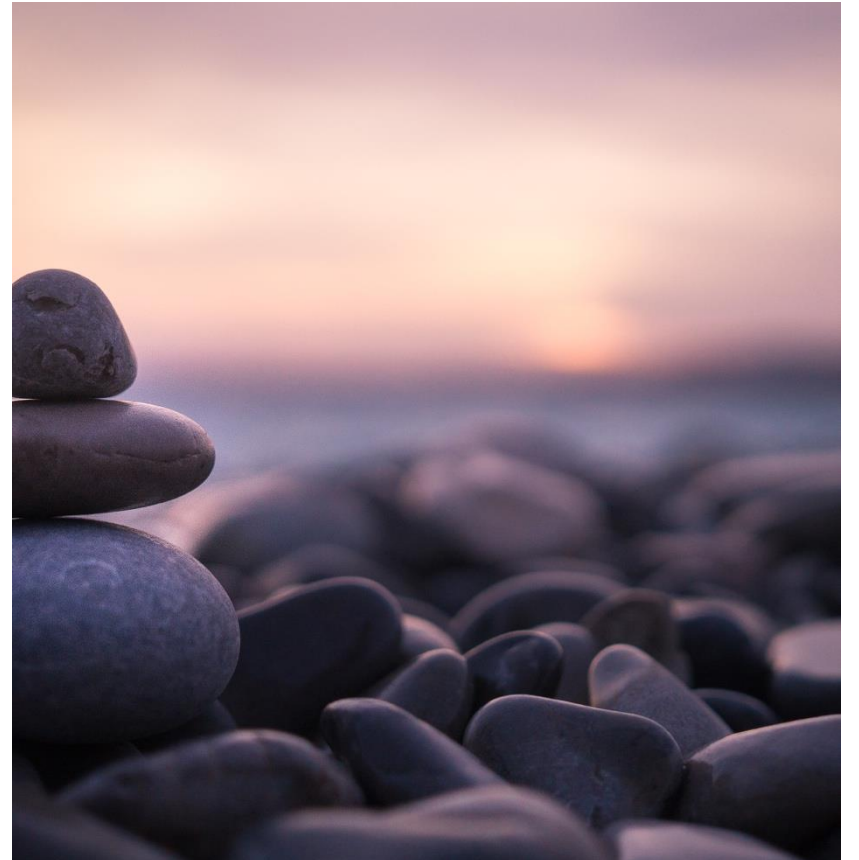
Mass Attendance :

- Saturday Vigil masses - St Teresa's - 88
- St Oswald's - 95
- St Mary's - 100
- Sunday masses - Our Lady's, Tarleton - 75
- St Oswald's - 75
- St Teresa's - 160
- St Mary Magdalen - 96
- St Mary's, Leyland - 232
- The average number of parishioners for weekday masses range between 10 - 20 with some exceptions dependent on day and school/other attendance.
- **Estate** - despite no quinquennial inspections of the 4 parishes and their buildings, there are currently no identified issues with maintenance of the churches or linked parish Halls.



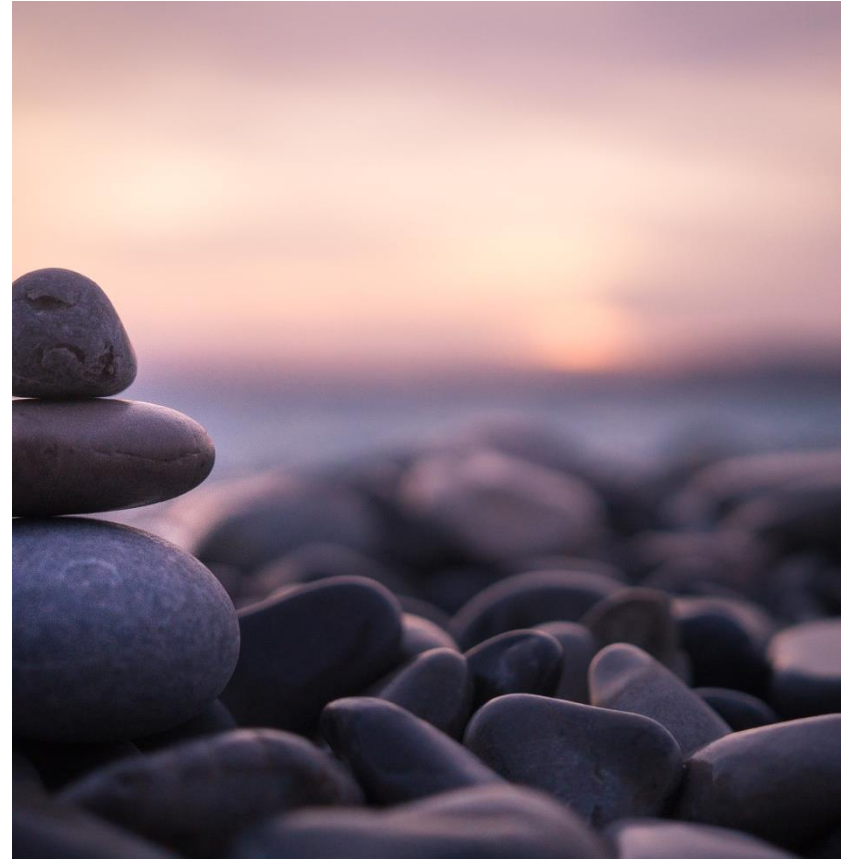
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- **Ministries across all our parishes:**
 - St Teresa's/St Mary Magdalen - 116
 - St Oswald's - 86
 - Our Lady's, Tarleton - 48
 - St Mary's Leyland - 149
- All these ministries cover a wide range of activities in the relevant parishes.
- Commentary - there currently appear to be a high number of volunteers across all our parishes. How can this be sustained and nurtured into the future?



Data

- **Staffing** - There is no full-time paid member of staff working in any of the parishes. Instead, there are 3 staff working out of 3 parishes - St Teresa's & St Mary Magdalen's, St Mary's, Leyland and Our Lady's, Tarleton. There is no administrative support at St Oswald's. The hours of the three individuals who do provide administrative support vary with one working 20 hours, one working 6 hours and one working 4 hours.
- **Commentary** - Is there scope to enhance administrative support across all our parishes
- **Collections/Finance** - Annual expenditure for each parish is met by the annual income with no deficit identified. All parishes have Gift Aid and Direct Debit options for parishioners.



Data

- **Summary:**

- All parishes are currently viable with expenditure being met by income.
- There are currently a significant number of volunteers supporting each PP and parish.
- Administrative support and coordination may be an area for closer review.
- Attendance at the various masses across the 4 parishes remains healthy but varied according to circumstances/geography
- Currently there is no information on any estate concerns, yet this will need to be reviewed in light of any forthcoming inspections of buildings/churches by the Archdiocese.



Family of Parishes Scenarios

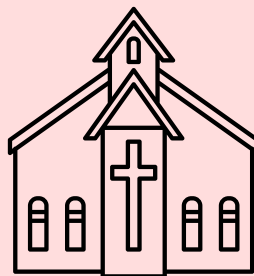
Hope/Vision

- Can't stay as we are
- Enable our parishes to flourish.
- New leadership models
- Develop an active presence where we are
- Connection/togetherness across generations, diverse communities and parishes
- Better connections across Family of Parishes
- Willingness to engage with change
- Greater willingness to work together and what we do we do together
- Want to be allowed to grow as a community
- Save parishes
- New approach involving all
- We might even end up with a more vibrant Church

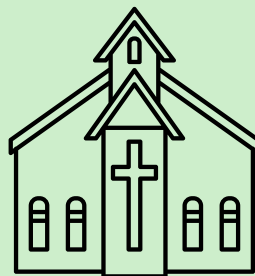
Forces for change - givens

- Numbers of priests & age profile of priests
 - Imagining 2 (1½ to 2½) priests in 5 years' time
 - Consequences:
 - Number of Masses
 - Sacraments & funerals
 - Provision in the 2 prisons
 - Provision in the 5 primary & 2 secondary schools
- Not many of our young people in church - lots of young people in our 7 schools
- Cultural Catholicism is dying (numbers baptisms etc)
Change of practice of Catholic community
 - not as frequent
 - different places
- Volunteer fatigue / availability / opportunity
- Change in Catholic population in schools -
 - children/young people
 - staff & leadership

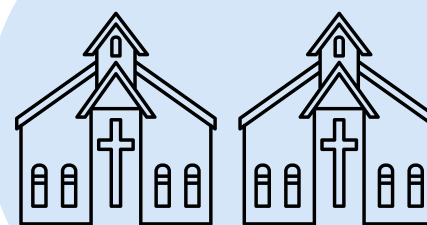
Longton



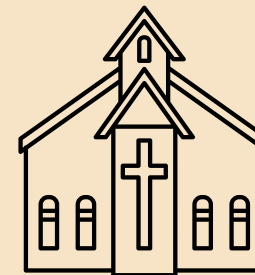
Tarleton



Penwortham



Leyland



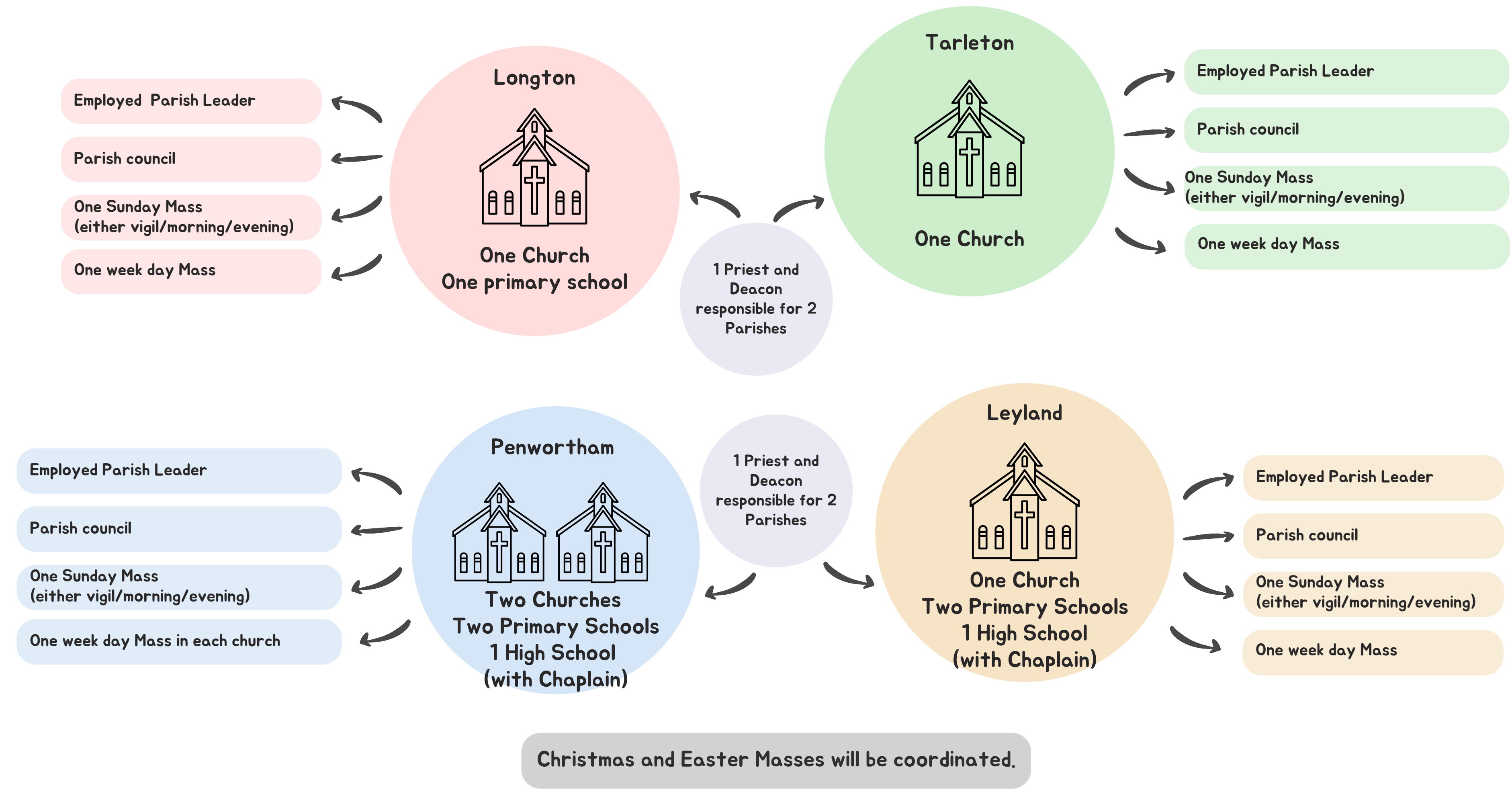
Key points relevant to all scenarios:

- Reduce number of Mass times - 1 Sunday Mass (vigil, morning, or evening) in each church; plus 1 weekday Mass in the Family each day.
- Expand lay ministry and ensure formation for lay ministry.
- Utilise land, buildings, and investments to fund the chosen plan.
- Each scenario has to be financially viable and sustainable into the future without central diocesan funding.

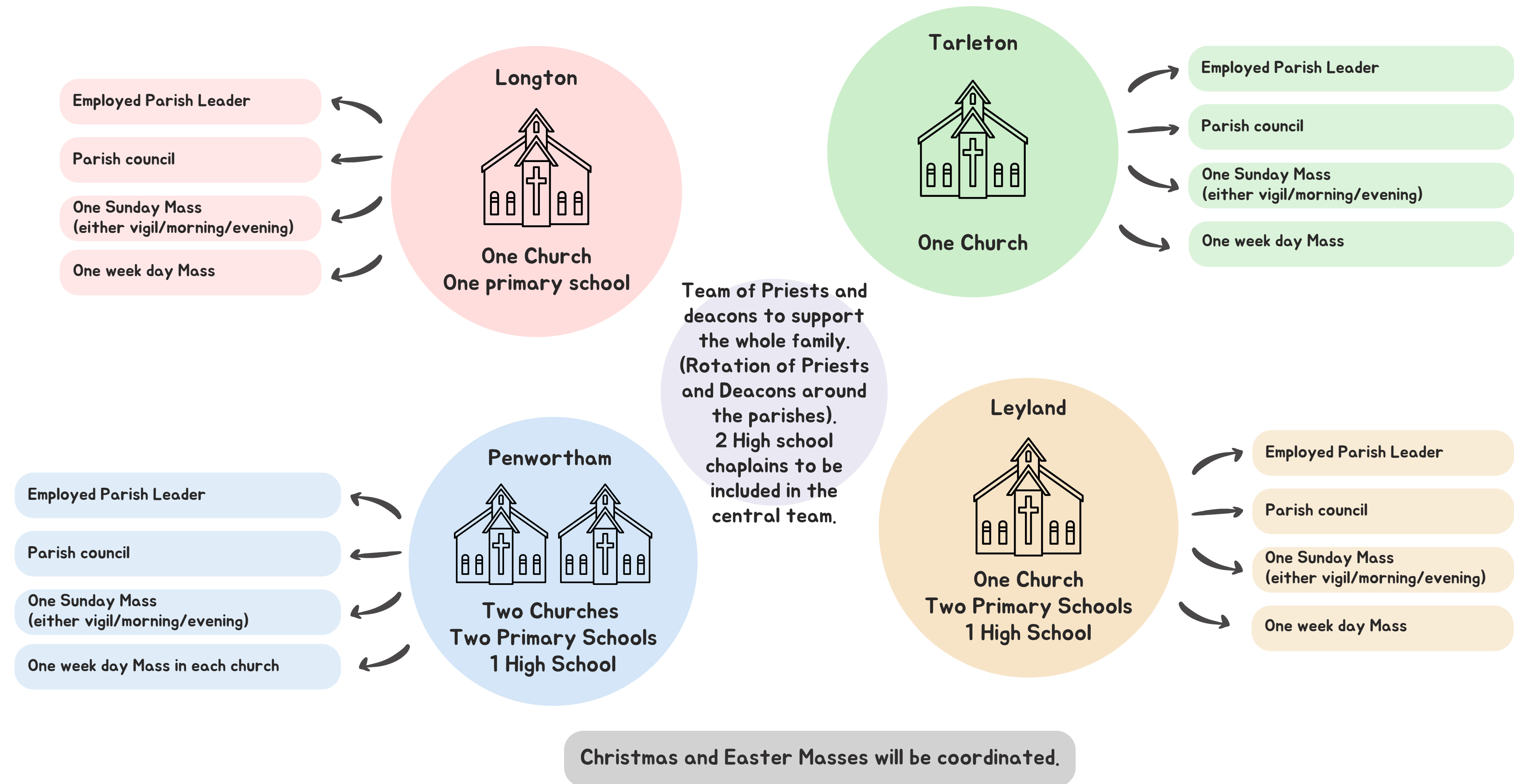
Summary of 4 Possible Scenarios

1. Four individual parishes with a priest & deacon serving 2 parishes each;
2. Four individual parishes with dedicated lay leadership in each parish, and a team ministry of priests & deacons serving the 4 parishes;
3. Four parishes collaborating & coordinating closely on everything with a team ministry of priests, deacons & other lay ministers;
4. One parish with one ministry & leadership team serving the 5 church communities.

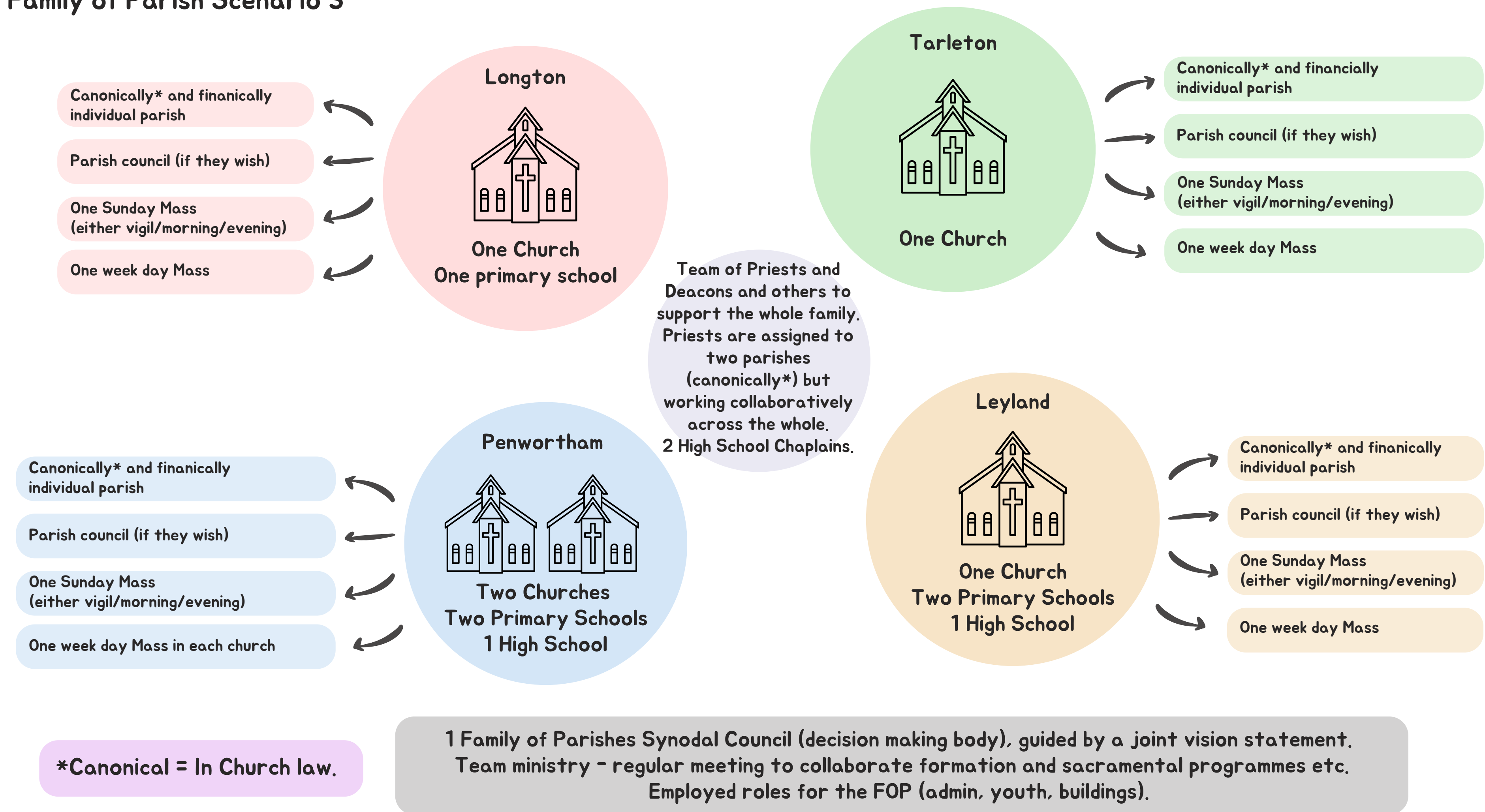
Family of Parish Scenario 1



Family of Parish Scenario 2



Family of Parish Scenario 3



Family of Parish Scenario 4

