What else needs to be considered?

You may find the generic *“Action Planning Profoma*” helpful as you plan for the future………………………..

##### *(Please insert your own parish name here before copying for parish use)*

##### *Parishes of Hope*

*Celebrating, consolidating and securing the Mission of the Church in Doncaster Deanery; - an opportunity to deepen the faith of our Parish communities in changing times*

***“Gratitude for the past, enthusiasm for the present, hope for the future” (John Paul ll)***

##### *Developing a Parent and Toddler Group*

##### *Diocese of Hallam*

##### *Doncaster Deanery (St Charles Borromeo)*

***Dean: Rev Augustine O’Reilly V.F.***

*Our Lady of Sorrows & St Francis, Armthorpe; Blessed English Martyrs, Askern; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bentley; St Alban’s, Denaby Main; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Intake; Sacred Heart, Balby; St Paul’s, Cantley; St Peter in Chains, Doncaster: St Mary’s, Edlington; English Martyrs, Mexborough; St Joseph & St Nicholas, Moorends; Christ the King, Rossington; Our Lady of the Assumption, Stainforth; St Joseph & St Teresa, Woodlands.*

**Parent and Toddler Groups**

There are whole ranges of pastoral care and social activities which can be undertaken to meet specific needs in our parishes.

Many social activities involving children have become ‘institutionalised’ over the years and are now rooted in schools, nurseries and Children Centres; many offering superb facilities, care, support but few linked to the Church.

Some parishes may like to consider or re-consider the place of *“Parent and Toddler Groups”* in these changing times.

A once a week opportunity for parents and their babies / toddlers / pre-school children to come together is a great way to help people stay connected to the parish. Some parishes have invited the parents of newly baptised children to begin such groups and some of these groups continue to thrive after many years.

Some parishes offer the opportunity for people to come together every month or just at certain times of the year, around the seasons of the Church’s year.

What support does your parish offer young families?

Might there be an opportunity to review your support and consider the place of such a group specifically related to the Church?

If you are thinking of doing this the following pointers may be of assistance to you:

Check you have:-

* On-going consultation with pre-school playgroups association etc.
* an appropriate venue (right number of rooms, etc.)
* a venue which meets health and safety requirements
* a proper leadership and appropriate staffing
* the right time to be meeting
* the right insurance cover
* adequate resources
* good relationships with local schools and agencies
* appropriate links with the local church communities (what could you do about baptism anniversaries, Advent, Christmas, harvest, Easter, etc.?)
* good communication with the congregation
* financial support ( by the parish as part of its evangelisation and pastoral care work)
* all safeguarding in place before any contact with any children