**Moving on…** In light of your reflection on the key quotes, from the example of the annual finance report and the maintenance schedule and the checklist, what action if any, can you take as a parish community in these changed times?

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)***

##### *The Parish Finance and Maintenance Committee*

##### *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.*

***KEY QUOTES***

The number of priests is declining and their average age is increasing …. However, it is also important to note that since church attendance is also gradually falling, the ratio of priests to practising people is not significantly declining. This suggests the need to think about how we organise parish life with smaller and more disparate communities and what we do with our resources, including our buildings and money. Increasingly we will face choices about which activities we want to maintain, develop or discontinue altogether.

(The Sign We Give p 15)

In each parish there is to be a finance committee to help the parish priest / Administrator in the administration of the goods of the parish,

(Code of Canon Law 537 and 532)

***FOR REFLECTION***

In the light of the Key Quotes:-

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the parish in the area of maintenance and finance? Use the following to get you going -

Is there a parish pastoral council (or a parish in council)? Yes No

Does it have a vision statement? Yes No

Does it have any constitution or agreed terms of reference? Yes No

Is there a parish finance committee? Yes No

Does it reflect the membership of the congregation? Yes No

Does it meet regularly? Yes No

Do parishioners know who the members are? Yes No

Are the Minutes or notes published in any way? Yes No

Is an annual budget prepared? Yes No

Are the accounts presented in a written form to the parish? Yes No

Is there a maintenance committee/group/co-ordinator? Yes No

Has the state of the parish property been recently assessed? Yes No

Do parishioners know the results? Yes No

Are the parish grounds currently well cared for? Yes No

Are parishioners aware of the current financial needs of the parish?

Yes No

Is gift aid secure? Is there a gift aid lay co-ordinator?

Yes No

***What do your results tell you about the management of maintenance and finance in your community?***

***What are your greatest strengths?***

***What are your greatest weaknesses?***