

Report from Parish day 4/10/09

What we like about the Parish

- Fr Kevin and Fr John
- The people and sense of community
- International and diverse parish
- The church building itself
- Sense of responsibility for our Parish
- The Parish Council
- Website
- Sense of hope and not duty
- Outward looking
- Sense of reverence
- Candles and the Lady chapel
- Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
- Communion to the housebound
- Children's activities/liturgy
- Welcomers.
- Justice and Peace activities and links with other countries e.g. Sr Helen
- Justice and peace brought into Liturgy
- Big choice of activities and groups
- Music- variety
- Tea and coffee after mass
- Tradecraft after Mass
- Social events
- Pantomime and dance group

What could change?

- More people to come to Mass
- We should start to plan for time with no priest
- Increased participation by people who come to Mass in the community
- Both Masses should be together more often
- Increased advocacy and voice for groups in Parish who are not always heard
- More hymns that are known
- Music sometimes too loud
- Some Latin singing or Mass
- Stop adults chatting in church before Mass
- More links with other Christian churches
- Stop the swine flu restrictions on the sign of peace
- More involvement of children in liturgy

- More opportunities to promote friendship as opposed to just welcoming
- Not enough Youth Masses

How could we make the change?

(Subdivided into different areas of responsibility on Parish Council.)

Liturgy, Spirituality and Faith formation

- More opportunities for single mass on Sunday
- Include parish groups as special intentions in bidding prayers
- More hymns that are well known
- Increased silence and reverence in church before Mass
- Openly acknowledge that non Catholics are welcome to be blessed
- Use of other cultures instruments in Music

Pastoral care and Community

- Reassure and encourage non participants to take more active part in Parish
- Build more links with other churches in Crosspool especially at special times like Lent
- Improve welcome for new parishioners maybe by recurring note in newsletter or slip in mass books
- Increased outreach to our local community
- A social committee that reports to Parish council
- Improved transport for Vigils
- More visiting of new parishioners

Youth and Nurture

- Extend children's liturgy to 9am Mass. Share experience of people who lead 11am liturgy with parents of 9am Mass
- More youth Masses
- Increased opportunities for post first communion children to become involved in Parish life
- Closer links with St Marie's and Notre Dame schools
- Improved activities/liturgy for older children
- Increased use of youth worker or employment of our own youth worker
- Establish a youth group
- Youth pilgrimage or retreat

- A youth choir
- Youth trips just to have fun
- Youth fundraising projects e.g. sponsored walk

Mission, Justice and Peace

- Increased outreach to the poor
- CAFOD meal or evening dinner
- Carpool/ walk to Mass Sunday to help environment

Communication

- More and clearer information about parish activities
- Include group contacts and recently ill in bulletin and more clearly on notice board

Maintenance and Finance

- Baby change in Gents toilet

This is a summary and collation of the flipchart sheets handed in at the day. I hope it fairly represents the discussions.

Dominic Shirt
October 2009