

PARISH MEETING

8 April 2003

Ten and Father Gordon were present at the Meeting held in the Day Chapel at 1900 on Tuesday 8 April 2003.

Fees for Weddings and Funerals

It had been suggested that due to the high costs of maintenance of the Church Grounds that the Fees for Weddings and Funerals be revised. Our Fees were currently on average the same as most Catholic Churches in the area. The Meeting felt that our Fees should remain as they are.

Sunday Mass

Last Sunday's Mass attendance was the lowest ever- perhaps due to the advancing of the Clock. Father Gordon wondered if a later or earlier Mass would be more appropriate. The Meeting felt that the current time of 1000 was satisfactory.

Distribution of Communion

It had been agreed, at a Meeting of Eucharistic Ministers, that since the numbers at both Masses are almost the same and only two Chalices are used at Saturday night - with no logistics problems - then only two should be used at the Sunday 1000 Mass instead of the current four Chalices. This would also solve some practical problems with the Eucharistic Ministers' Rota. Those present had no objections.

Holyday Mass

Father Gordon thought that 1215 since the 1215 Monday Mass appears to attract more people should we consider having the Holyday morning Mass at 1200 instead of 0930. The Meeting advised that the 0930 time should remain.

Stations of The Cross

With Stations of the Cross being three times a week in 2000, twice a week in 2001 and once a week in 2002 – and at midday – what is the most suitable time to attract people seeing that less than 15 people are attending. It was proposed that from next year there should be Stations of the Cross one evening night and also on a different day of the week at 1215.

It was also suggested that 1900 is not a suitable time for Services or Meetings such as this due to the work and eating patterns of many.

Baptisms: If the Church is eventually re-ordered the Baptismal Font will be at the rear of the Church. When Baptisms will be held at Mass should the Font at the rear be used – with everyone being asked to turn around and face the Font – or should a temporary mobile Font be used at the front of Church –when Baptisms are held at Mass.

After a physical demonstration using the Church Benches it was proposed that no temporary mobile Font be used at Mass.

1st Communion Mass:

Father Gordon reported that Father Des Seddon of the Archdiocesan Religious Education Department had reported at the Deanery Meeting, held today, that since the 1960s the Archdiocese had advised that Children making their First Holy Communion should not do Readings at the Communion Mass. They had enough to do without having to worry about preparing the Readings. Archbishop Patrick, at the same Meeting said that Children really should make the First Communion at the Mass they normally attend – even if it is the Vigil Mass.

The Meeting proposed that elder siblings – if capable of reading clearly and distinctly - could do the Readings for the 1st Communion Mass

Padre Pio Statue:

There had been an offer to display the travelling Statute of Padre Pio – either in the Church or in the home of a Parishioner. The Meeting felt that it would be more appropriate that the Statue should be displayed in the home of a Parishioner.

72 Disciples:

Christ Church Parbold or Christ Church Newburgh Church no longer wish to be involved in this project.

The Meeting advised that Our Lady's should continue but in a different form. An information leaflet from this Parish should be produced and put through everyone letterbox in Bispham, Dalton, Hilldale, Newburgh and Parbold. These could be left at the back of Church for distribution -street by street.

The Meeting concluded with a Prayer and Blessing at 2010.