

PARISH MEETING

28 May 2002

Eleven were present at the Meeting held in the Day Chapel at 1930 on Tuesday 28 May 2002

Surveys

The general opinion seemed to be that Surveys, held to obtain the views of Parishioners, were a good thing.

They are a means of communication and even if the result was not what some Parishioners desired – at least they had been asked to give their opinions.

Midday Mass

This had been very successful at 1230 on Fridays at the beginning of Lent, but had tailed off towards the end.

It was suggested that since there was an evening Mass once a week and a late morning Mass on Saturdays why not a midday Mass?

It was agreed that we experiment with a Mass around midday from September until December and to judge the response.

Hymn Books

There are as many Hymn Books as there are opinions. This can be seen from those who prefer to read the Times, the Telegraph, the Mail, the Express, the Sun, the Mirror depending on their taste.

Our Hymns are chosen to fit in with the Readings and the Theme for the Mass. Those which are not in our Hymn Book are reproduced on a separate piece of paper.

A member of the Music Group gave Father Gordon a copy of *Laudate* which contains many of the Hymns we have to reproduce.

Youth and Children's Masses

It had been noted that more and more children are attending the evening Mass on Saturday.

Despite having a *Little Church* on Sundays for children who have not made their First Holy Communion, at which post First Communicants are also welcome, very few children attend it.

Father Gordon said he would be delighted to have Youth or Childrens' Masses – but there has to be someone to organise them.

We could publicise our hope to have one for Christ the King – which is also Youth Sunday. Who will organise this?

Liturgy Group

It was felt that a Liturgy Group was not needed in such a small Parish as ours which has only one Sunday morning Mass.

The Hymns for the Mass are selected by who ever is providing the Music and they have the liturgical books to help them follow the guidelines to provide Hymns in accord with the Readings and Theme. In this Parish the Bidding Prayers are written by whoever is giving the Homily, since the Preacher has chosen what the Theme of the Mass will be – taken from the Readings and his Homily.

Ideas for special times of the year such as Lent, Advent, Christmas can be submitted by anyone to any of the Clergy – who meet once a week to discuss such matters. Suggestions will be considered as long as enough notice is given.

Publicity for Parish Groups

It was felt inappropriate for a talk on the Groups to be given after Communion at weekend Mass.

The SVP, Rosary Group and Prayer Group have publicity each week in the Notice Sheet as does the 200 Club and PTA. The Choir, Music Group, Mums and Toddlers had increased publicity with special articles in the Notice Sheet – which unfortunately did not produce any results.

The leaflet *'Welcome to our Parish'* is currently being updated.

Meanwhile each Parish Group has publicity on the Parish Web-site.

Evangelisation

The main problem in Parbold is finding people at home.

New parishioners, who are sometimes too shy to introduce themselves, can find our Parishioners very unwelcoming. A member offered his services as a *Greeter* to work alongside the Steward to seek out new Parishioners in Church and make them feel welcome.

Other suggestions were for the revival of the Twelve Apostles scheme, with the Parish being split into twelve areas with a Parishioner "caring" for their area - especially for newcomers.

The Jesus Video plan was considered – being currently used by Hilldale Evangelical Church. Volunteers would be required for this.

House Masses and Social events organised by Parishioners were also suggested as was Coffee after Mass. Father Gordon said that the latter will be reintroduced when the alterations to the Church are completed.

The Meeting concluded with a Prayer at 2050.