

DIOCESE OF HALLAM – COUNCIL OF PRIESTS  
Facing the Future

St. Jude's, Worksop-Oldcotes Parish Meeting  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 7.00p.m. – held at St Joseph's, Worksop

34 in attendance

Fr Paul welcomed everyone, with a recap of the Bishops' Letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 (leaving things as they are, is not the answer).

Opening Prayer

4 questions from the Council of Priests for discussion, incorporating previously submitted written responses

1. What are the good signs for your parish that you can see?

- We still have a parish
- St Mary's is well attended
- Consistent numbers, though some have left for other local parishes, since the amalgamation
- Dynamic, charismatic, good and holy priest. Hard working priest and deacon. (Do we need another deacon)?
- 3/4 former parishes mixing gradually, with people not merely identifying with "their" church
- 2 schools are an asset to the parish
- Integration of ethnic communities in to the parish
- Good car parking facilities
- Good to have welcomers at the church doors
- St Helen's mass time is good for some – and well attended, young and old
- That the Children's Liturgy might be reintroduced in the future
- A core team of volunteers in all 3 churches, while young people will (only) respond to specific requests for help
- Pockets of growth – choir is growing and some organ students
- More families are attending mass
- Opportunity for exposition during the week, bringing great blessings to the parish
- Availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the week
- A good number of altar servers
- Friendly parishioners / growing sense of community
- Wonderful organist

2. What are the concerns you have for your parish?

- Unsustainable in its present geographical area
- Lack of social events

- PP overworked
- Ageing congregation / drop-off rate in the young
- No links ecumenically or with the local community at large
- Fund raising needs addressing – volunteers needed to run things (one offered to start up again in the future), especially as many are often older parishioners
- Indian community integration
- Possible Property Committee needed, so it's not always PP doing such things
- How to involve working younger adults in the life of the parish (same in society at large)
- Church cleaning – no response to appeal
- That there might be a need for older servers, for Funerals etc.
- Dress code at mass – “wear what we like, whenever we want to” attitude
- A lot of people take Holy Communion in their hands
- Lack of quiet time before and after mass
- No Latin Mass is ever offered or any instruction / education in Latin
- Will LGBTQ people have blessings?
- Lack of ability to meet up after mass and therefore unable to welcome newcomers
- We need to be able to get together to discuss the Jubilee Year 2025
- Lack of SVP members
- Transport difficulty for non-drivers to attend mass
- That the cost of living crisis might affect weekly offering
- Very conscientious PP is definitely over-worked

### 3. Where do you see your parish as we enter the year of Jubilee (2025)?

- Probably the same as now but unsustainable going forward
- Not sure
- Not much change without ability to meet up / share ideas, asking Holy Spirit to enlighten us
- St Jude's will be prosperous

### 4. What actions do you think you/your parish need to take?

- No youth groups etc
- St. Mary's Hall (a Listed building) – someone needed to apply for grants. A volunteer offered and will liaise with PP but others needed to help as well
- Heart-breaking if any of the 3 churches had to close
- Mass on a rota basis, which regrettably, would inevitably mean some could not attend weekly
- Parishioner's need to be made aware that it is “use it or lose it”
- People to take more active roles in the parish – committees etc
- Communication of the Parish financial situation, giving a clearer picture of how things are (possibly through the newsletter)
- Live streaming
- Outreach into local community

- 2 parish schools, though relatively few children at masses – encouraging them to attend
- Children’s Liturgy (SM was over 5’s – the very young didn’t tend to go in, as they wanted a parent but meeting room wasn’t big enough)
- Alternative to a homily – getting to know you exercise / small group discussions
- No meeting room at SH for after mass coffee – request to use the house! Volunteers would be needed. Back of church is used elsewhere
- Looking into the possibility of setting up a Catholic Scout group
- Property committee
- Finance committee
- Greater use of Social Media, as a means of engaging with the youth
- Encouraging Holy Communion on the tongue
- Establishing quiet time before and after mass inside the church (talking / chatting to each other outside at SH)
- Encourage small groups to come together / more prayer / talking about our faith etc.
- To regular attend mass and where possible, support the parish financially
- Support the PP, in order to maintain a thriving parish that people want to be a part of

PP thanked everyone for attending.

The results are to be sent on to the Vicar General and Bishop Ralph

The meeting closed with a Prayer and Blessing at 19.52 hrs