

PDP 2 – Group 1

Understanding Faith: The Present Situation

Sacramental Preparation

What we are doing well:

- There is a good provision for parents and children.
- Parents receive a good reminder about their faith in the Baptism and First Communion sessions.
- The First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes seem to be effective.
- RCIA classes are enjoyable and well received.
- There is good feedback from the Marriage Preparation – people find it useful and enjoy the day

What we are doing badly:

- The main problem seems to lie in the fact that there are gaps between sacraments.
- Parents often aren't sure how to continue after Baptism and between First Communion and Confirmation classes.
- Young people are being lost, especially before Confirmation.
- RCIA candidates aren't sure of what they have learned and lack a sense of what they should actually know and understand as a Catholic.

What we are not doing at all:

- There is no adequate provision to keep children's commitment to their faith firm all the way to confirmation. FOG attempts to bridge a gap, but isn't adequate as there isn't anything for the older age group and teenagers.
- The parish lacks a trained youth leader to oversee the needs of all age groups.
- There isn't much being done to foster vocations to the diaconate, priesthood and religious life.

Communications - P2, In Touch and Website

What we are doing well:

- PQ and P2 attempt to inform and enrich. The Benedictine identity is evident throughout. It is largely produced for in-house consumption and the articles cover a reasonable spectrum of faith on relevant subjects. It is generally well written, thoughtful and analytical in tone.

- In Touch covers Parish events, notices, plus readings for the following Sunday Mass.
- The parish website has an open, pleasing and professional look. There is a good balance between text and images, and hypertext links generally work well.

What we are doing badly:

- A problem with P2 is that it is difficult to explore topics in depth within average space of approximately 1000 words.
- Controversial topics are rare in P2 and intellectually challenging ones, rarer still.
- The quality of pictures and drawings are a marked shortcoming in P2.
- In Touch looks like too many other parish newsletters and is not distinctive.
- In Touch doesn't have enough forward publicity for forthcoming events.
- The information in In Touch is not co-ordinated with Parish Website.
- The print in In Touch is too small and style constricted.
- Visitors to the parish can be bemused by unfamiliar abbreviations - FOG, LCSB, RAG, RCIA and puzzling terminology - Narthex, Lectio Divina, Necrology.
- P2 has a very limited archive.
- There is considerable scope for improving the quantity and quality of the content of most of the 47 subject areas covered by the Parish Website to ensure topicality and practical utility.
- The website's Homilies are very limited - a text-only archive.

What we are not doing at all:

- With regard to Social Action, the website makes no mention of Peru.
- Volunteering is a blank entry on the website as is Ecumenism - Worth Abbey Parish Initiatives.
- Website images are of variable quality and the vast majority are not scalable
- The website has no search facility.

Liturgy - Altar Servers, Junior Church, Parish Masses, Eucharistic Ministers Readers

What we are doing well:

- Altar serving also helps to develop an understanding of faith, the Mass and liturgical items.
- The Junior church and Pre-School Group are well attended. Children enjoy learning about the Gospel and it helps them to deepen their faith. They often have insightful observations.

- Liturgies aim to be of a high standard and largely succeed in this. The 9.30 Sunday Mass works well particularly for middle-aged, middle-class people who like traditional hymns and the inclusion of Latin.
- The homilies often explain the readings and help develop an understanding of faith.

What we are doing badly:

- The website doesn't cover much concerning altar servers.
- The 9.30 Sunday Mass doesn't cater for all tastes, especially the younger generation or include many modern hymns.
- Readers and Eucharistic Ministers are often middle-class and middle-aged and usually don't include children, teenagers and young people.
- Homilies are often not related to non-theological or worldly issues. Some people think they could be more related to present day issues.
- The sound-system needs improving.
- There is a slow turnover of Eucharistic Ministers and more parishioners might benefit from the opportunity to exercise this ministry.

What we are not doing at all:

- Children aren't encouraged to participate in the liturgy. This could work particularly well at St.Dunstons which has a family feel to it.
- There is no provision for teenagers and no Youth Group.
- There is no opportunity for young people to express themselves in liturgies through their own petitions or their own music.
- There is no Youth Leader to oversee the needs of young people within the liturgy and overall life of the parish.
- Confirmation candidates are not seen by the congregation.
- Young people in the parish and Worth School pupils don't link up – this could be relevant in the case of a specifically organised young people's liturgy.
- There is little evidence of members of the congregation being able to contribute to the planning of the liturgy.

Other Liturgical Events – Religious Affairs Group

What we are doing well:

- Various activities have been successfully organised.

What we are doing badly:

- Events don't have a follow-through so that people involved may not appreciate fully what it has meant to them or have the chance to inspire others.

What we are not doing at all:

- There is a lack of community spirit at times – perhaps due to the large size of the parish. Parishioners may be missing many opportunities to respond to people's individual needs, for instance calling people to see if they need help or using the internet more to link rural people i.e. a network formation. This could be seen as Faith in Action rather than a religious event.
- There is no organisation for young people to be involved with helping others in a practical way (as above) such as offering help to the elderly. This could be a long-term inspiration for the younger parishioners.

Outreach – Irundu, Home visiting, Justice and Peace, Housegroups**What we are doing well:**

- For a small number of parishioners, Worth Irundu Friendship has succeeded in its aims. Some have visited and been involved and others have been inspired by understanding how our parish has helped in Irundu.
- We have much to learn from Irundu's parishioner's deep and simple faith, the tremendous involvement of lay catechists and small Christian communities who gather regularly to study scripture, pray and support each other.
- Judging by the survey, the house-groups are very successful for those involved and lead people to a greater understanding of their faith.
- The email group has proved beneficial for people living further a field or not willing to join a formal group.
- The justice and peace group does attract a certain number of parishioners.

What we are doing badly:

- Many parishioners are not aware of what our involvement in Irundu entails or know sufficient details in order for them to be inspired and learn from it.
- A significant majority of parishioners aren't aware at all of what is involved in Irundu. Therefore the parish isn't benefiting from being renewed and energised by the spirituality of Irundu.
- The Justice and Peace group tends to attract the same group of parishioners most of the time and many parishioners aren't aware of what the content of the evening has been.

- Not everyone feels that the house-group leaders are sufficiently trained or that the content of the groups is satisfactory.

What we are not doing at all:

- About sixty percent of the parish are not involved in house-groups. This includes many young people who perhaps don't feel catered for. There is no provision for them specifically.
- Worth Caring, the parish group visiting elderly and needy people in their homes, has collapsed and only Eucharistic ministers are visiting at present, as well as individuals visiting neighbours in their villages.

14.2.10 (Final Draft)