

The future of the Catholic Community at Holsworthy: A Discussion Document for the PPC

Following the closure of St Cuthbert Mayne Chapel of Ease at Derriton in December 2005, the community has met for Mass at the Anglican church in Holsworthy, thanks to the hospitality of its Rector, Fr Michael Reynolds. There is an Agreement between the two churches concerned, dating from 1st January 2006, which represents the terms and conditions. This arrangement can be ended at any time on the authority of either bishop.

I believe that the time has come when the Catholics of H should join the community at Bude. The present time of Mass at B has proved popular with a generally older congregation and I see no reason to alter it.

Some reasons for withdrawing from H:

- The community at H is very small. Even in the summer, numbers are rarely above about 30.
- We currently pay £35 pw to rent the Anglican church. Our collections are generally not much more.
- Transport to Bude is not a problem. Everyone has a car (I have checked this) and many regulars already travel considerable distances to get to H.
- B is only 8 miles from H on a good, fairly straight road. The average journey time is less than 20 minutes.
- In Cornish terms, this distance is negligible. Many people will happily drive 10 miles to the nearest superstore.
- The community at B is neglected as I have to go on to H almost as soon as the Mass at B is ended. I do not want a later Mass at H partly because most of the regulars are elderly, and also because as things are, I do not get back to Launceston until about 8.30 pm. This gives me very little time to eat, prepare for Sunday and just relax a little.
- The Rector is due to retire next year. His parish may well be re-organised, and his successor not so favourably disposed.
- Although I was responsible for the present Mass times, I find the arrangement very taxing: the strain on my voice, which is weak anyway, is considerable. Organising and remembering two lots of newsletters and other pieces of paper is a nightmare, carrying around sums of money is not advisable, and I am ill at ease with night-driving.
- I love my 'job', but I am now in my late 60s and need to conserve my energy wherever possible. I am painfully aware that my two immediate predecessors fell ill while in charge of this parish.

Some practical suggestions:

- For most of the year there is adequate space for the 20 -30 community from H if they choose to come to B.
- During the summer there is a huge influx of visiting Mass attendees. I hope to rent the adjoining URC of St Martin in July and August (and possibly September too). This church seat 130+ and also has a small car park. The rent paid at H would be used to finance this arrangement.

- During the summer period, the Catholic church at Bude would still be used for weekday Masses.
- If granted permission, I will return the sanctuary at Bude to where it originally was. The new location will permit a more dignified celebration of the Mass and slightly increase the seating capacity.
- I shall still visit sick and housebound parishioners in H and district, especially after the Wednesday Mass at B. This arrangement would help me to rationalise my car journeys to and from Launceston.
- It may be possible to revive House Masses in the H area, so that the community's group identity is not entirely lost.

Fr David Annear, PP

<u>Some data:</u>	Mass count at B	Mass count at H	Collection at H
2 nd July	85	school party	-
9 th July	83	30	£63
16 th July	97	25	£50
23 rd July	101	26	£48
30 th July	93	34	£51
6 th August	103	35	£68
13 th August	109	29	£60
20 th August	102	62	£80
27 th August	139	23	£54
3 rd September	75	28	£44
10 th September	83	32	£58
17 th September	83	23	£48