##### *Where do we go from here……………?*

1. If you are a parish priest what do you need to do to help your parish community to deepen the ministry of welcome?
2. If you are in a parish with a resident priest, how would you like to see your parish priest enabling your community to deepen the quality of welcome with and without his presence in the future?
3. If your parish is without a resident priest what action do you need to take now, following your reflection on the depth of welcome?

**Realistic action:**

*(When you have made your plans make sure everyone knows what they are, when they will happen and why they are important.)*

##### *Insert the name of your parish*

##### *Being a Welcomer:*

***Fulfilling the ministry of welcome***

##### *…………………………………..Catholic Church, is part of the Deanery of St Charles Borromeo, Doncaster in the Diocese of Hallam*

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##### *Doncaster Deanery (St Charles Borromeo)*

*Our Lady of Sorrows & St Francis, Armthorpe; Blessed English Martyrs, Askern; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bentley; St Alban’s, Denaby Main; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Intake; Sacred Heart, Balby; St Paul’s, Cantley; St Peter in Chains, Doncaster; St Mary’s, Edlington; English Martyrs, Mexborough; St Joseph & St Nicholas, Moorends; Christ the King, Rossington; Our Lady’s, Stainforth; St Joseph & St Teresa, Woodlands*

*Dean: Rev Augustine O’Reilly V.F*

##### *Being a Welcomer*

##### *How to ….Be a Welcomer*

The role of a Welcomer sets the tone for the community’s celebration. The quality of the welcome reflects the life of the community. Thus, the role of ‘Welcomer’ is a most important ministry.

Every one of our churches should have ministers of welcome.

##### Points to remember

* Smile!
* Don’t intimidate. Be aware that some people may wish to keep themselves to themselves
* Treat everyone the same
* Use names if you know them
* Talk to children as well as adults
* Keep an eye open for people who look “lost”
* If you know people are newcomers make a particular point of welcoming them to your church. Make sure they know where to pick up hymn books, etc. if you are or others are not giving them out yourself. You may also feel it appropriate to introduce them to a few other parishioners.
* Be prepared to listen
* Refer queries you cannot answer to the appropriate people
* Tell the person responsible for the bidding prayers of any late news that may need to be included
* If you are in a parish without a priest or where a supply priest is present be prepared to speak to the congregation beforehand to introduce and welcome him to the community
* Be around after the celebration to say goodbye - direct people to any other social event - to listen in case anyone wants to talk
* Most of all, just be yourself, be authentic

The ministry of ‘Welcomer’ is extremely important within any Christian community.

If you are already fulfilling this role and you are the only one who welcomes, please try to encourage one or two others to minister with you or to take your place when you are unable to be present.

***A KEY QUOTE TO CONSIDER***

“Whatever else the Church is about; communication is at its centre, so much so that it is possible to describe the Church, as Cardinal Martini did, as “communication”. That has to be part of the sign we give if we are to be faithful to the mandate and mission given us by Christ.”

(Bishop Crispin Hollis, March 1996)