So ……

If you are a parish priest what do you need to do to enable

the members of your community to make full and inclusive use of all the liturgical ministries which are open to all the baptised?

If you are in a parish with a resident priest how would you like to see your parish priest enabling the liturgical life of your community to grow with and without his presence in the future?

If your parish is without a resident priest what action do you need to take now with regards to your liturgical life?

*Remember, the common action planning format may be helpful to you………………..*

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

##### *Reflecting on Liturgy*

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

##### 

##### *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.*

***KEY QUOTE***

“Yet unless we enable the ordinary faithful - not only the elite who have become familiar with the liturgical instruction contained in their missals - to acquire this habitual sense of personal involvement in what is being done by the priest, unless they become conscious of an inner participation and personal commitment, external participation will lack real roots and fail to produce its proper effects. The recent reforms introduced by the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy may easily result in a merely vocal participation imposed upon but not rooted in the interior movement of mind and heart which constitutes genuine worship. In the sphere of external participation, the saying can also be verified: “A little louder, but as empty yet” (Pope).”

*(The Mass and the People of God. J D Crichton)*

***FOR REFLECTION***

In the light of this quote, if you had to score the quality of

liturgy in your parish from 1-10 what would you give yourselves?

In what ways is this statement important in a situation in which there is and are likely to be even fewer priests in the future?

## *INTRODUCTORY EXERCISE FOR* EXPLORING LITURGY

Here is an introductory session to help us explore where liturgy fits into our parish life and how we are all called to be active participants in the liturgical life of the local Church. You could use this exercise in a parish pastoral council or at a parish day, (split larger group into smaller units as suggested in the activity).

1 In pairs or small groups discuss:-

What you like about your liturgical celebrations is …

What you dislike about your liturgy …

Now gather as a whole group and make a list of common likes and dislikes.

Discuss why you like and dislike certain aspects …………..

### 2. Here are some common celebrations of worship and those involved

**Action Roles undertaken**

Eucharist Readers

Reconciliation services Welcomer

Non-Eucharistic Liturgies of the Word Eucharistic Ministers

Funerals Flower arrangers

Eucharistic services Priests

Baptisms Musicians

Novenas Offertory procession

Benediction Deacon

Rosary Servers

Stations of the Cross Sacristan

School Masses Children’s liturgy leaders

School Assemblies Lay Minister of funerals

Morning and Evening Prayer Organist

Taize groups Banner/art designers

Contemplative prayer worship Service booklets

Youth services Choir

Marriages Leaders of bidding prayers

Confirmations Leaders of school assemblies

RCIA rites Leaders for non-Eucharistic worship

(eg rosaries, prayer groups)

Children’s liturgy

**How does your list compare with your own parish?**

**Is there anything you want to add or delete?**

**What two things might you want to consider doing (or not doing!)?**

Good worship requires good co-operation and co-ordination. Here are some examples and suggestions which may be helpful.

#### The Liturgy Group

Liturgy groups are a common feature in many parishes but sometimes they are little more than a “hymn choosing” group.

Here are some of the characteristics of an active liturgy group.

1 If there is a resident priest he is present (and prepared to share with the group)

2 There should be discussion about the theme of the celebration

3 The group should aim to be:-

creative

representative

participatory (ie to involve as many as possible in the liturgy)

4 The group discusses:-

hymns and music

readings/readers

how the homily fits into everything else

bidding prayers

the use of space

5 The group uses a liturgy planner

6 The group maintains records of previous celebrations

7 The group is responsible for rotas (readers/eucharistic ministers, etc)

8 The group is responsible for producing “orders of service” booklets when appropriate

9 The group makes sure the children’s Liturgy of the Word is seen as integral to the rest of the liturgical life of the parish and “dovetails” with it

10 The group is rooted in prayer

If you do not have a liturgy group is there any way in which you might begin?

If you already have a group are there any ideas here you could develop?

*Remember …………………. Every parish is different!*

*Adapt, adapt, adapt!*