##### *How to ….be a lay leader of worship*

What should be the characteristics of a well led service or simply a prayerful gathering of some of the parish community?

Here are some suggestions:-

**A leader of worship is someone who**:-

* is accepted by other members of community
* is aware that she/he may do so for only a specific time or activity
* has undergone some formation
* is prayerful
* wears appropriate dress
* can be heard clearly
* has a sense of “presence”
* lives in harmony with gospel

**A prayerful lay led service will**:-

* take place in an appropriate environment where there is a focal point to aid prayer
* have a sense of structure
* have a theme
* encourage active involvement of others
* exhibit good preparation
* have the correct balance of Scripture, silence, prayer and song too if appropriate
* show appropriate movement from one place to another

***KEY QUOTES***

*Christ is always present when two or three gather in his name. (Matthew 18:20)For this reason, no matter how informal the setting, when ever we pray together – even with only one other person – we are gathered for worship, members of a liturgical assembly.*

*The ministry of presiding is a service of the gathered community, a ministry exercised in the name of Christ and in collaboration with others.*

*Each assembly is unique because before worship begins, people have their own thoughts and expectations. Thus we always need to prepare, no matter how familiar we are with the service, regardless of how skilled we may be. In particular, if we are to lead others in prayer, we ourselves need to be people of prayer. (In Sure and Certain Hope 1999)*

*“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)*

\* 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?

*(You may like to use the generic action planning format provided to assist your planning for this issue)*

##### *(Please insert your own parish name here before copying for parish use)*

##### *Parishes of Hope*

***“Gratitude for the past, enthusiasm for the present, hope for the future” (John Paul ll)***

***LEADING WORSHIP:***

***Some things to consider***

##### *Diocese of Hallam*

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

***Dean: Rev Augustine O’Reilly V.F.***

*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 of the Assumption, Stainforth; St Joseph & St Teresa, Woodlands.*