· What is the Church actually for? Who is it?

Evangelisation – Sharing the Good News (who does this?)
The Church is NOT for us – we are the Church for the world.
Baptism has made us the Disciples of the Lord to 'go out'

· The 'Power' of Baptism

The 'sign value' of active catholic Christians is evident to others (as it was in the Acts of the Apostles)

Preaching the Gospel is more than attending Mass on Sunday.

The local Church in each place is responsible for working with the Spirit of God to decide practically how to do this.

Parish of the Guardian Angels, Blackpool

A conversation to consider the present and future of the parish.

Bulletin Notice

JULY 17th: *On Pentecost Sunday the priests spoke about how the Church has had to adapt and change over its long history. And it seems that we are once again at a point of adaption with a need to consider change. We shall hold a preliminary meeting on July 17th in the St John Paul Centre at 7pm to begin this conversation. All are invited.*

Prayer, Scripture and Welcome

Blackpool Statistics

Number of Churches
8
Average Mass attendance (inc Indian & Polish)
1502
On average 187 per church
Number of Masses
13
Average Number attending each Mass
115
Number of Priests
6 – (4 under 70 [soon to be 3])
Number of priest ÷ Mass going population
1 per 250
Catholic Parish Primary Schools
7
Number on roll
1763 (not all Catholic)
Blackpool Catholic Secondary School
1

Number on roll
1176 (not all Catholic) *children from St Bernadette's also use Cardinal Allen High School and children from OLA also use St Bede's High School.*

Parish Statistics
Number of churches
3
Average Mass attendance (inc Indian & Polish)
687 (437 exc Indian & Polish))
On average 229 per church
Number of Masses
6
Average Number attending each Mass
114 (72)
Number of Priests
2 (+1)
Number of priest ÷ Mass going population
1 per 218 (*NB the Indian Mass usually numbers 200 and the Polish Mass 50)*

Some Questions
· Buildings and the Future - What is my parish income & expenditure in a year?

Have we enough in the bank for when the roof falls in?
What happens when we don't have?

Have we income beyond the Sunday offertory?

What is the cost of the parish per person per year? Can I afford this?

· Parish Priests: Are we aware that most priests have responsibility for more than one Church (or parish) and buildings?

Are we aware of the increasing pressure on often aging parish priests?

Have you an idea of your priest's age, health and retirement?

What are your priests' particular gifts

· Future Numbers of Parish Priests:
How many seminarians have we in training at the moment?

If your Parish Priest retired this year would there be a priest available to replace him as there has been in the past?
(Is our parish community capable to respond to this?

· What can you 'Take off' your priest in the parish?

Have you already particular ministries?

Are you aware of some of the responsibilities your priest has which may not be in his training or gift?

Have you life experiences which you can offer?

What can you offer to the parish – or give up?

· What are the Needs of the Parish Next Door?

Remember when Sunday Masses were full? Parishes are now often left with two/three Masses when one will do!

Would Mass per parish allow your priest to supply in the next parish when there is holiday or illness If your Church is large enough to hold them)

· YOUR priest May become temporarily Ill.

Has the parish a list NOW of parish jobs and people the situation will need to fill – and the help to do them?