

**Report of the Diocesan Council of Laity Meeting**  
**Held in the Church of Our Lady of The Annunciation, Poringland**  
**On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**APOLOGIES there were sixteen apologies for absence.**

Bishop Michael welcomed all parish representatives to the meeting and announced that they would need to elect a new Chairperson for this and the next meeting.

Tony Lawler was proposed, and accepted responsibility as Chairperson with the approval of the meeting.

Bishop Michael welcomed Fr David Bagstaff, Diocesan Vocations Director, to the meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2009 MEETING**

The distributed report was approved by the meeting.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Diocesan Pastoral Plan - Five Year Review 2004 - 2009.**

Bishop Michael asked for comments.

Our Lady of the English Martyrs - the report had been distributed but more time was needed for reflection.

Our Lady, Wisbech - the report had been discussed at the PPC meeting the previous Wednesday and was still being digested.

Several comments were raised as a consequence of the comments in the report on 'welcoming children and young people', and these centred on the liturgy as follows:

- Trying to get all the children together to participate in Children's Liturgy is difficult.
- St George's Norwich have a strong Children's Liturgy team and don't seem to have problems.
- St Walston's Costessey have a lot of older teenagers to help with Children's Liturgy. Would it be possible to organise a Deanery commitment to support Children's Liturgy in the smaller parishes whilst recognising that gathering the children together for involvement in the Mass is just as important?
- OLEM - Music at Mass is important, especially leading the singing; children are good at this.

CRB checks. Does this put people off? Unfortunately we have to do it because of legislation, but also to ensure that we play our part in keeping our children 'loved and safe'.

Some liturgists consider that having Children's Liturgy too often is not good because the children do not have enough exposure to the Mass in its entirety. Without in any way discouraging Children's Liturgy Groups, which are very fruitful when genuinely liturgical and catechetical, Bishop Michael also encouraged more frequent Family/Children's Masses in which children are as fully involved as possible, as suggested in the *Diocesan Pastoral Plan* (pages 17-18).

St Lawrence, Cambs. Concern was expressed about the upcoming changes to the liturgy with respect to understanding the new translations.

**VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

See Bishop Michael's Report on this main topic.

**Father David Bagstaff - comments on vocations**

Vocations are nurtured in an atmosphere of prayer and love in the home, school and parish.

He distributed cards and publicity for Invocation 2010 at Oscott College from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

Various examples of discernment were given including information on the national vocations website.

*Answering God's Call* is an updated version of a book produced by the Catenian Association from an original written by Bishop Michael.

**Topic for November - 'The New Role of the Laity'.**

The meeting closed at approx 3.15pm