

Scunthorpe Deanery Sunday Mass Times

Proposals prepared by the Clergy of the Deanery

At an open Deanery meeting on 1 May 2012 as part of the *You are Living Stones* Diocesan wide review clergy and parishioners of all the Deanery parishes considered how the Deanery could manage with one less priest. One obvious impact would be on the provision of Sunday Masses in the Deanery. However it also became clear that this wasn't just a problem for the future, but that even now priests were finding it difficult to get supply cover for when they need to be away. The meeting asked the clergy to work on preparing specific proposals which could be presented to the Deanery and considered at another open meeting in the autumn.

The Deanery clergy met later that month and agreed that any solutions must meet the following criteria:

- That the Deanery is able to cover for the absence of one priest and not be dependent on outside help.
- That the number of Masses needed in each parish based on current Mass attendance are: 3 at St Bernadette's, 2 at Holy Souls, and 1 each at Barton, Brigg, Crowle, and Gainsborough.
- That any changes made now will also fit in with plans for the future when there will be one less priest.
- Canon Law states that no priest is permitted to celebrate more than three Masses on any given Sunday, or two Masses on a weekday. This means in practice that a priest may never celebrate more than five Sunday Masses (two vigil Masses and three on Sunday), although this should only be in case of absolute necessity (Canon 905§2).

Priests were asked to take soundings in their parishes about proposals that might specifically effect their parish and that definitive proposals would be drawn up at a meeting in June which would then be presented to the Deanery in advance of an open meeting in the autumn. Those soundings proved very valuable and helped clarify a number of outstanding questions. This document presents the proposals from the Deanery clergy and supersedes any previously circulated proposals.

Firstly, a reminder of our current Mass times:

Present situation: normal, 4 priests, 13 Masses

Present Situation	Saturday Vigil	Sunday			Sunday Evening
		Early Morning	Mid Morning	Late Morning	
4 Priests (A,B,C,D) 13 Masses					
Holy Souls	5.30 A		9.30 A		6.30 A
St. Bernadette	6.30 B	8.30 B		10.30 B	
Barton			9.30 C		
Brigg	6.00 C			11.00 C	5.00* C
Crowle				11.15 D	
Gainsborough	7.00 D		9.15 D		

* Extraordinary Form (Latin Mass)

N.B. The 5.30pm Saturday evening Mass at Winterton has not been included in any proposals. This Mass is celebrated by the Polish Chaplain based in Scunthorpe and will continue as long as he or any successor is willing to say it.

N.B. Where a Mass in the Extraordinary Form is included it is subject to the continuing presence in the Deanery of a priest who is able and willing to celebrate it.

The following changes would make it comfortable for three priests to cover all Masses, and are proposed to the Deanery with a view to implementing them from the First Sunday of Advent of 2012:

Present situation when only three priests available

Present Situation	Saturday Vigil	Sunday			Sunday Evening
		Early Morning	Mid Morning	Late Morning	
3 Priests (A,B,C) 12 Masses					
Holy Souls	5.30 A		9.30 B		6.30 C
St. Bernadette	6.30 B	8.00 B		11.00 B	
Barton			9.30 A		
Brigg	No Mass			11.15 A	5.00* A
Crowle				11.15 C	
Gainsborough	7.00 C		9.15 C		

* Extraordinary Form (Latin Mass)

Looking to the future, like every Deanery in the Diocese, we have been asked to prepare to cover the Deanery with one less priest, therefore we need proposals that would allow the Deanery to be served on some weekends by two priests only.

We are also aware that a review of Deanery boundaries may see Gainsborough transferred to the Lincoln Deanery, therefore we have considered proposals including and also excluding Gainsborough.

Retaining Gainsborough, there are two proposals for weekends when three priests would be available.

The first proposal retains a Sunday morning Mass at Gainsborough and foresees the priest based at St Bernadette's celebrating that Mass in between the two Sunday morning Masses there:

Proposal 1a: 3 priests

3 Priests (A,B,C)	Saturday Vigil	Sunday			Sunday Evening
		Early Morning	Mid Morning	Late Morning	
10 Masses					
Holy Souls			9.30 A		6.30 A
St. Bernadette	6.30 B	8.00 B		11.00 B	
Barton			9.30 C		
Brigg				11.15 C	5.00* C
Crowle				11.15 A	
Gainsborough			9.30 B		

* Extraordinary Form (Latin Mass)

The second proposal retains the Saturday evening Mass at Gainsborough and foresees this Mass being celebrated by the priest serving Barton and Brigg.

Proposal 1b: 3 priests

3 Priests (A,B,C) 10 Masses	Saturday Vigil	Sunday			Sunday Evening
		Early Morning	Mid Morning	Late Morning	
Holy Souls St. Bernadette Barton Brigg Crowle Gainsborough	6.30 B	8.00 B	9.30 A	11.00 B	6.30 A
	7.00 C		9.30 C	11.15 C 11.15 A	

* Extraordinary Form (Latin Mass)

However on any weekends when there are only two priests available the following schedule would then apply with vigil Masses at both Gainsborough and Crowle:

Proposal 1c: 2priests available

2 Priests (A,B) 9 Masses	Saturday Vigil	Sunday			Sunday Evening
		Early Morning	Mid Morning	Late Morning	
Holy Souls St. Bernadette Barton Brigg Crowle Gainsborough	6.30 B	8.00 B	9.30 A	11.00 B	6.30 A
	5.30 A* 5.00 B*		9.30 B	11.15 A	

* If there is insufficient time to notify Crowle and Gainsborough of a change, there would be a Service of Word and Holy Communion at the regular Mass time

The above is the most challenging scenario and it envisages that priest B would say five Masses (2 vigil Masses and 3 on Sunday) which is the absolute maximum allowed under Canon Law.

Proposals 1a and 1b recognise the desires of parishes to retain their current Mass times if possible, but they do not actually fulfil the initial criteria and changes would have to be made on any weekend that only two priests were available (including possible changes at short notice if a priest is ill).

Proposal 1c would offer a greater degree of stability and would not require any changes for the weekends when only two priests are available.

A similar situation arises overleaf when comparing proposal 2a and 2b.

Should Gainsborough no longer be in the Deanery then the situation will be a little less challenging and the following schedule is proposed for weekends when there are three priests available:

Proposal 2a: 3 priests

3 Priests (A,B,C) 9 Masses	Saturday Vigil	Sunday			Sunday Evening
		Early Morning	Mid Morning	Late Morning	
Holy Souls St. Bernadette Barton Brigg Crowle	6.30 B	8.00 B	9.30 A	11.00 B	6.30 A
			9.30 C	11.15 C	5.00* C
		11.15 A			

* Extraordinary Form (Latin Mass)

and for weekends when there are only two priests available the Mass at Crowle will change to a vigil Mass as follows:

Proposal 2b : 2 priest available

2 Priests (A,B) 8 Masses	Saturday Vigil	Sunday			Sunday Evening
		Early Morning	Mid Morning	Late Morning	
Holy Souls St. Bernadette Barton Brigg Crowle	6.30 B 5.30 A	8.00 B	9.30 A	11.00 B	6.30 A
			9.30 B	11.15 A	

If there is insufficient time to notify Crowle of a change, there would be a Service of Word and Holy Communion at the regular Mass time

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the process so far. These are proposals and alternative proposals are still welcome. We have tried to take on board comments that we have received. The Deanery recognises the help and support received over a number of years from retired priests living locally, and that support will continue to be welcomed and valued when it is available. However, justice and prudence suggest that such support is a gift to be appreciated gratefully and not something to be included in our plans. This document has been circulated now so that people have a chance to consider it over the summer holidays in advance of the meeting in the autumn, which will take place at **St Bernadette's Hall, on Monday 10 September at 7.30pm**. Could all Parish Pastoral Councils include this as an Agenda item for their next meeting and a summary of their discussions and conclusions would be welcome. Submissions from individual parishioners are welcome too.

Please write or e-mail to the Dean:

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For distribution in the Parishes of the Scunthorpe Deanery on the weekend of 7/8 July 2012