

CLUSTER 2 (HAWICK, JEDBURGH, KELSO, DUNS, EYEMOUTH)

CLUSTER MEETING 1

SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER - KELSO

Present

Fr Hugh Purcell, Fr Jeremy Milne

Ca. 35 parishioners with at least one person from each of the five communities.

Cluster Planning Team

It was suggested that each of the five communities put forward two representatives to form the Cluster Planning Team together with the cluster clergy. This team is to see the consultation process through, attending all of the meetings and coming together to agree and write a report to be sent to the Archbishop by Easter 2017. Parish representatives are also to liaise between the cluster planning meetings and their parishes/community by whatever means they think best (newsletter, letter to congregation, social media, website etc). Please note that all parishioners are welcome at any of the three Cluster Planning Meetings.

Parish/community representatives

Hawick - Steve Rodgers, Gerry Monaghan

Jedburgh - Steve Mather, Ted Upton

Keslo - to be determined

Duns - to be determined

Eyemouth - to be determined

Cluster Planning Meetings

Meeting 1 - Saturday 26th November 2016, 11am

Meeting 2 - Saturday 21st January 2017, 11am

Meeting 3 - Saturday 18th February 2017, 11am

All meetings to be held at Abbey Row Centre, Kelso

What works at a cluster level?

Currently

1. Confirmation
2. Family faith day (Borders Pastoral Forum)
3. Pilgrimages
4. Marriage Preparation
5. Training (eg, safeguarding awareness)
6. Catholic Union of the Sick (Mass for the Sick)
7. Priests

Previously

8. Deanery Pastoral Council
9. Youth activities
10. Retreats

11. Reconciliation Services

Potentially

12. SSVP and 'Mini-Vinnies'

13. Communication (meetings, newsletter, website, social media etc)

Comments

In general things that work well at cluster level are those things that benefit from gathering together a larger number of people to create a critical mass for events. For example gathering children and their families together for Confirmation in one place makes for a much more vibrant celebration.

What needs to be retained at parish level?

1. Mass (as often as possible)
2. Sacramental Preparation of children
3. Pastoral care of the sick including Holy Communion
4. Social events
5. Weekday services, prayer, Communion
6. Engagement with schools
7. Funerals
8. Sacrament of Reconciliation
9. Administration

General comments and considerations

1. Greater involvement of the laity
 - a) Utilise the talents and skills of the laity
 - b) Train laity for leadership and other specific roles in the parish/cluster, eg, parish catechists
 - c) Change mindset of clergy and laity to give lay leaders trust and authority to act without always having to ask the priest first.
 - d) Greater level of responsibility of the laity for looking after parishes.
 - e) Train clergy to delegate
2. What is the Archdiocese doing to promote vocations (priests and deacons), attract visiting priests and religious orders?
3. Can new roles be created/reverted to - eg, minor orders? New roles for laity?
4. What can we learn from the practice of restructuring elsewhere? Other dioceses? Church of Scotland, Anglicans?
5. Consider cross-border sharing of resources - eg, Eyemouth-Berwick (Sunday Mass in Eyemouth currently attracts ca. 30 people from Berwick).
6. Need guidance from the Archbishop about liturgical possibilities:
 - a) Sundays/weekdays without a priest - Communion services? If not, why? If not, what? Would like more explanation from Archbishop.
 - b) Can parishes fulfill Sunday obligation on other days of the week?
7. Suspicion among some that process of restructuring is driven by need for Archdiocese to save money.

8. What would the role of priests become if they were asked to minister across such a vast area? Itinerant 'Massing' priests as of old? Must consider age and health of priests.

9. Distances in proposed cluster are large, especially in winter. Newcastleton to Eyemouth is ca. 65 miles.

10. Is there a role for technology to help? What about live-streaming of Mass via internet?

Areas of consensus

Greater involvement of laity.

Cluster level

1. Reconciliation services
2. Communication
3. Confirmation

Parish level

1. Mass
2. Funerals
3. Pastoral care
4. Administration