

Suggestions Feedback

SuggestionAction/Response1. Can we have a warm Church this winter? The boiler has been serviced and is now working properly. This should keep us all warm.2. Pews are uncomfortable. Can we have some cushions? There is a Health and Safety issue concerning cushions potentially slipping off the shiny pew seats and causing injury. Hence, cushions will not be provided. There are some ordinary seats in the church which some may find more comfortable. 3. Could we have a jug of water and glass at the back of the church for when people are coughing? A glass and tap water are always available for use in the sacristy.4. Could we have some ladies helping with the collection? This is currently a male-dominated role. Female (and child volunteers) should make themselves known to existing collectors for inclusion in this duty.

5. Can we have smaller takeaway copies of the mission statement data currently on posters attached to church columns? Copies are now available to take away in the pigeon holes at the back of the church. 6. Poor acoustics. Microphones do not work effectively. Microphones are in the process of being upgraded along with the installation of an induction loop for the hard of hearing.7. Consideration to move Saturday Mass time to 6.30 pm. Current Mass time of 7.00 pm appears suitable for the majority and there are no current plans to change this. 8. Could Sunday 11 am Mass be brought forward to 10 am?

(Anon)The council has discussed the suggestion of changing the 11 am mass to 10 am. It is recognised that certain parishioners find it difficult to coordinate public transport timetables with mass times, but on balance the 8.30 am and 11 am times do give a reasonable choice to most parishioners on a Sunday. It was noted that Father Dennis would have less than 30 minutes from the 8.30 am mass ending and a 10 am mass start. The 11 am mass is the best attended and the timing is often more convenient for parents with young families. The council agreed to maintain the present mass times.

9. Stained glass windows be cleaned if cost not prohibitive. The stained glass windows have a high lead content and need to be cleaned very carefully to ensure they are not damaged unduly. The PPC has considered the suggestion and decided that the windows will be dry dusted on the inside and will be washed on the outside of the double glazed units.

10. Could a register of contacts be set up/published of people willing to give lifts (to the 3 services) to those without transport/unable to get to church on their own. The PPC discussed this suggestion on 14 July 2005.

Before setting up such a register, the PPC needs to establish the likely demand and has requested further feedback from interested parishioners who may need this service. Parishioners are requested to confirm their names, location and desired frequency for the service by 11 September 2005.

The responses will be considered at the next PPC meeting scheduled for 15 September.

11. Louder microphone.This has been a recurring concern for parishioners. The PA system has been checked but it has been suggested that it is Father's technique that needs to be modified to improve the reception. Fr Dennis will experiment and aim to keep close to the microphone at all times. It was noticed also that bidding prayers were particularly difficult to hear without amplification. We will monitor and welcome continued feedback.12.A talent show of old and younger people of all different talents. From Fiona xxx. The Social Committee has taken this idea and will look at how and when it might be fitted into the social programme.13.Suggestion for a note to be added to weekly newsletter, from St Bernadette's Church, Lancaster, www.st-bernadettes.org.uk. "We extend a warm welcome to visitors to

our church. Thank you for joining our parish community this weekend. We hope you enjoy your visit. You are most welcome to come forward at the Eucharist and receive a Blessing from the Priest if you are unable to receive Holy Communion."This idea has already been incorporated into Fr Dennis's final words before the final hymn.14." 06-08-2005. Visiting from Melbourne (Derbys) I'm impressed by the energy and life of this parish. Sat 10 a.m. not a soul in church but I can read and see the Churches life. God bless you all." Maria Moul. The PPC consider this a great compliment to the whole parish and has resolved to share it with the wider parish community in the next Open News or Bulletin.15. A request had been made for the 11.00 am Christmas Day Service to be more "upbeat" and child friendly. The service on the 18th would include the Junior Liturgy presenting a Christmas Play and would-be child orientated. It was difficult to do things with the children on Christmas Day as the Junior Liturgy leaders did not necessarily attend the 11.00 am service and needed to spend time with their own families.16. A request had been received from a gentleman in Poole enquiring whether the church had a team of handymen to look after the older parishioners as his auntie, living in Buxton, was having difficulty with her gas fired central heating boiler. Enquiries had been made and the lady in question had already received some assistance but it was agreed that only people with a CORGI qualification would be allowed to work on the heating.17. A suggestion had been made that an artificial tree should be purchased in the January sales to save money on the purchase of a 'live' Christmas tree each year. Although it was agreed that this would save money, the PPC agreed it was preferable to have a natural tree for the children (of all ages)18. A request had been made for a flower festival many questions were raised over this suggestion: Who would organise it? Who would make the arrangements? Would we need sponsorship? Where would we source the flowers? How long would it last for, would it get in the way of Sunday celebrations? Security of the Church, etc.

It was decided that this would require further research.

Action MR19. What about a flower festival? the week of the well dressings. Anon.

Following enquiries, M Robinson reported that because of the time restraints and because of other Flower Festivals being held within the area it had been decided to postpone our festival until 2007 20. Do a Talant conpotishon. Anon. (or perhaps a spelling bee !!)

21. A request has been made for the Diocesan Prayer to be said at the beginning of each PPC Assembly

This was agreed 22 upon. A request to change the time of the Saturday evening service in order to make it more convenient for those parishioners relying on public transport. After discussion, it was agreed to hand out a questionnaire to all parishioners for their opinion on the most suitable time for the evening service.

Action – MW/RA to design a questionnaire for circulation at all weekend services on 7/8th October.23. 'Why not have one celebration on Sunday morning?'This suggestion had previously been discussed and agreed that no change should be made at this time.24. 'Why no Altar Servers?'This had also been discussed previously and the reason given was for practical/legal issues regarding child protection. Anyone working with the children was required to be CRB tested.25. 'Why not have altar wine?'Fr Dennis felt it was not necessary. The wine was used at the Maundy Thursday celebrations.26. 'The sanctuary lamp could explode if left burning for long period sanctuary lamps burns in all churches, the container is not flammable, it is placed on the level and not in a position to be knocked over.

Action –J Davey to be asked to check the lamp as part of the new Fire Regulation Risk Assessment.27. A suggestion to raise money – 'The PP to give money to parishioners (possibly £10) and ask them to make more from it's Dennis did not wish to be flippant with

parish funds and suggested that the money could be sponsored if it was felt worth launching.²⁸ 'Would there be any objections to removing the railings from round the Repository to make more room for the Repository stall?' No one knew of any reason why the railings should not be removed.

Action – RA to organise.²⁹ 'What about a Parish Sale' There is no reason not to have a sale if someone is willing to organise it.³⁰ 'Could we have a few moments to reflect on the homily before moving on?' It was agreed that this was not generally a problem as Fr Dennis always sat quietly after the Homily, it was felt this was probably a reaction to our recent visiting Priest.³¹ 'Requirements for gluten-free communion waters information regarding this problem had been circulated. The Catholic Church requires that the bread used at Mass be made from only wheat flour mixed with water. The Church has readily acceded to the request that for people suffering from a Gluten allergy this is a problem, and agreed that they can use a low-gluten bread at Mass. This bread is made using wheat flour, but virtually all gluten has been removed. This can still be a problem for those with a severe reaction to gluten, but in these cases the Church allows them to receive Holy Communion under the form of wine only.

Fr Dennis said that he had not found a problem in this parish as people with a gluten allergy will inform him and bring their own bread.^{32.33}