

St. Mary Crowned, Glossop

A brief history of the church.

On 31st January 1852, Francis Sumner, a local Mill-owner, wrote to the Duke of Norfolk to request the lease of a site for the construction of a Catholic School. The Duke consented, and the building now known as St. Mary's Church Hall on St. Mary's Road was built the same year, at the cost of £1,400. It would appear that, almost from its first opening, the School was used by Fr. Fauvel from All Saints as a Mass-centre for what was then called "Howardtown".

Fr. Fauvel died in 1865. His successor, Canon Tasker, continued to celebrate Mass in the School. The population grew and, when the town received its Charter of Incorporation as a Borough, with Francis Sumner as the first Mayor, "Howardtown" became known as "New Glossop", and eventually simply "Glossop". The Glossop Chronicle of 18th March 1882, reporting on a Visitation of Bishop Bagshaw of Nottingham, said "We are informed that as one result of the Bishop's Visitation, it has been determined to divide the parish of Glossop into two (Catholic) parishes.....and constitute distinct parishes of All Saints and St. Mary, and it is contemplated that Canon Tasker shall reside in the latter parish, in a residence to be erected near St. Mary's Road School."

In June 1884, the development of the new parish received a setback with the sudden death of Francis Sumner. He had looked forward to seeing the new church built and had planned to finance it. Unfortunately, he died intestate, and the consequent legal proceedings delayed the building work, and also led to a simplification of the plan, including the omission of a steeple and organ loft. The building was completed in 1887 at a cost of £12,000, and officially opened on 18th August that year. In 1889, the adjoining Rectory was built.

2. The Parish Properties

Essential Repairs to, and Maintenance of, our beautiful, historic and listed church is a Key Priority for the next three years

The Church

1. Advent 2004 Work was already well in hand to raise funds and grant aid for major repairs to the exterior of the church.

- Leaking roof
- Rotting roof timbers
- Inadequate rainwater goods and surface drainage
- Significant damp in the church itself
- Wet rot due to poor ventilation
- Inadequate heating
- Confessional suffering badly from damp and wet rot.
- Lack of any toilet facilities
- Poor public address system.

2. Ongoing works

- ✓ Repairs to roof and timbers
- ✓ Replacement of all rainwater goods
- ✓ Repairs to windows

The main contractors for the work are **A. J. Restoration**.

Asbestos removal and repairs to the central heating pipework during the course of 2005 have alleviated the heating problems to some extent, but more work remains to be done.

A Heritage Lottery Fund Grant of £109,000 has been awarded to St. Mary's, and is gratefully acknowledged

3. Works scheduled for future years

- The church needs to be rewired
- A new sound system must be installed. (Completed 2007)
- The Confessional must be upgraded and redecorated.
- After a suitable period of drying out, the interior of the church needs to be restored.

The Rectory

Having had resident priests for 115 years, the parish very much regrets the absence of a resident priest.

The Rectory is in a generally poor state of repair.

Downstairs rooms are available for parish use.

Some of the upstairs rooms are at present used by A. J. Restoration Ltd. for their workmen.

When work to the church is complete, it is hoped that it may be possible to lease out the upper floors of the Rectory so as to raise much-needed income for the parish.

St. Mary's Hall

The old School building comprises a stone building on St. Mary's Road, which is used as a Parish Hall. The attached house has been let out for many years.

Part of the hall itself is rented to a Day Nursery. The main body of the hall is used by the parish and is also rented out for a variety of purposes.

All Hall Committee has been set up in the past year.

Works undertaken to the Hall

- ✓ Roof Repairs
- ✓ Renovation of toilets
- ✓ Provision of disabled toilet
- ✓ Repairs to cellar

A new Property Licence has been obtained for the Hall, and at the time of writing the Hall Committee is implementing the new operating procedures demanded by the Property Licence.

Other property matters

We acknowledge with thanks the work which some parishioners have carried out in the grounds.

It is hoped to address the maintenance of the grounds again when the external scaffolding on the church building has been removed.

3. KEY AREAS OF THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

3.1 Communication

The media of communication in our parish are:

- Our Bishop's Pastoral Letters
- The Homily
- The church notices at the end of Mass
- The Parish Newsletter, which is shared with All Saints
- The Diocesan Newspaper
- Catholic Papers and periodicals
- Parish meetings
- The Parish Notice Board
- Posting of Parish Meeting minutes
- A board giving times of services outside the main door

3.1.1 Areas to be developed 2005-7

- A "welcome pack" for new parishioners
- A (quarterly?) Parish Magazine (First edition due summer 2007)
- An improved sound system. (Completed 2007)

3.2 Planning & Structures

3.2.1. Autumn 2004

- No Parish Pastoral Council
- No Parish Finance Committee
- Specific events planned by convening meetings of interested parties
- Parish Books of Account maintained by a Chartered Accountant.
- Well-established Gift Aid Scheme.

3.2.2. Developments 2004-5

- ✓ Regular Open Parish Meetings, attended by 15 – 20 parishioners. At these meetings, the Diocesan Pastoral Plan was discussed, also parish finance, work to property and hopes for the future.
- ✓ Establishment of Hall Committee.

3.2.3. Developments 2005-6

- A properly constituted and representative Parish Council to be functional by the First Sunday of Advent 2006. **This is a Key Priority.**
- A Parish Finance Committee to be fully functional within the year. **This is a Key Priority.**
- **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL IN PLACE AND MEETING REGULARLY FROM NOVEMBER 2006**

3.3 Education and Formation

3.3.1. The Schools

We are blessed in having St. Mary's Primary School on Gladstone Street.

The Head Teacher is Mrs Judith Whittaker. A report from her forms an appendix to this plan.

Relations between parish and school are excellent.

The priest visits the school, and school Masses are celebrated occasionally in term-time.

Special School Masses are also celebrated on a Sunday once each term, and the school prepare the liturgy.

School Masses are celebrated on Holy Days of Obligation in term-time.

St. Philip Howard Comprehensive School is situated right next to the church. The Head Teacher is Miss Wendy Steciuk. Her report is included as an appendix to this Pastoral Plan.

School Masses are celebrated at the beginning of each school term, on the Feast of St. Philip Howard, and on Holy Days of Obligation in term time.

Relations between the parish and schools are excellent.

3.3.2. Catechesis

CAFÉ courses are shared with All Saints and with the Catholic Parish of Longdendale.

There is a Childrens' Liturgy Group during Sunday Mass.

3.3.3. Sacramental Preparation

- a) Baptism. A Baptismal Course has been established and is a compulsory part of parents' preparation. The CASE course is used, and much appreciated. In the course of the past twelve months Children have been baptised in St. Mary's Church. Courses are held approximately every ten weeks. It is hoped to maintain this course, and to make it available on a regular basis.
- b) First Forgiveness/Communion A parish-based course was introduced in January 2005. Candidates attended an "after-school club" in St. Mary's School (All Saints was available as an alternative on another evening.) and additional catechesis was carried out on Sunday mornings. Parish celebrations also formed a part of the course, as did meetings for parents. We plan to run the same course in 2006, but with more meetings specifically tailored to parents. We hope to develop our resources and also follow-up. This year's First Communicants were taken to the **Eucharistic Congress** "Behold the Lamb" in Birmingham and took part in the Mass and Blessed Sacrament Procession.
- c) Confirmation A Deanery Confirmation Mass was held in St. Mary's Crowned in May 2005. Our Candidates were prepared on a joint course with All Saints which took place in St. Philip Howard School. We plan to invite the Bishop to carry out another Deanery

Confirmation in 2006. This should mean fewer candidates for preparation, and may facilitate both the course and follow-up. It is hoped that this will become an annual occurrence.

- d) Marriage A Marriage Preparation Course was initiated in the spring of 2005, and was attended by the couples planning to marry during the year. We welcomed the assistance of **Engaged Encounter**. The course was run on two Saturdays (morning and afternoon). This course will be provided again in 2006. The engaged couples also met individually with the priest to complete the necessary paperwork, plan the ceremony, and discuss any particular matters of concern.

Future developments in Sacramental Preparation

Effective follow-up and support remain the most important need. We understand that the time spent by the priest and catechists in planning and providing the preparation courses will very much reduce time available for visiting and aftercare. We are challenged as a parish community to identify and develop new ways of keeping in touch with and caring for those who receive the sacraments in our church.

The development of this “aftercare” is a Key Priority for the next three years.

3.4 Evangelisation & Mission

- Care of the Sick & Housebound
- Ecumenical contact
- Evangelisation
- Non Mass-going Catholics
- Young people
- Looking beyond our own parish boundaries

3.4.1. Care of the Sick & Housebound

We identify people in need of pastoral care in

- Hospital
- Nursing Homes
- Private houses

- a) Hospitals. Most local people in need of hospital care are taken to **Tameside Hospital** in Ashton-under-Lyme. There are also two small Cottage Hospitals in Glossop, which are part of the Tameside Trust: **Shire Hill Hospital** and **Woods Hospital**. Our priest visits any Glossop parishioners who are in Tameside

Hospital. They are also visited by parishioners, though at present on an informal basis. Our priest also provides chaplaincy cover for Shire Hill and Woods Hospital.

- b) Nursing Homes. The following Nursing and Residential Homes are situated in the parish: **Whitfield House, The Risings, and Pennine Care Home** Parishioners are also to be found in Homes elsewhere in the town. They are cared for by the priest and Extraordinary Ministers who visit them with Holy Communion. They are also visited by other parishioners, though at present on an informal basis.
- c) Private Houses. Sick and housebound parishioners are visited in their own homes by the priest and Extraordinary Ministers, and by other parishioners.

Developments in the care of the sick & housebound. A parishioner has agreed to be the link person for the sick. His telephone number is published at the back of church and in the newsletter. He informs the priest of sick people and of their whereabouts. A group of volunteers is now meeting to put the visitation of the sick on to a more formal basis, so as to ensure that no one is overlooked.

We recognise the importance of caring for the increasing number of elderly, sick and housebound parishioners, and accept the development of this ministry as a Key Priority for the next three years.

3.4.2 Ecumenical Contact. Contact has been made between the clergy of the local churches. Some acts of united worship have taken place:

- United Service of Prayer for the Faithful Departed
- Licensing of new incumbent at Glossop Parish Church
- Womens' World Day of Prayer
- Glossop Carnival Service

The clergy have also had some social contact during the year.

Parishioners make contact with other churches and share worship with them through Taizé Prayer (All Saints and the Methodist Church), and through a variety of other occasions.

Developments in Ecumenical Contact A volunteer parishioner has been designated as Ecumenical Contact Person and will strengthen links with local churches and with the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission.

The development of a deeper relationship with other local Christians will be a Key Priority for the next three years.

3.4.3. Evangelisation

We acknowledge that much of the work of evangelisation goes on through St. Mary's and Philip Howard Schools, which brings the Catholic Church into contact with the wider community.

Evangelisation has also been achieved through the CAFÉ courses and Sacramental preparation courses held during the year.

We identify the need for an RCIA Enquirers' Group locally, and will work in coming years with local parishes to make one available.

We acknowledge the need to grow in our understanding of the meaning and methods of evangelisation needed within our community.

A parishioner attended the autumn 2005 **Day for Evangelisation** in Leicester.

We plan to work with our sister parish of All Saints Glossop in developing an Evangelisation Group for Glossop Catholics.

3.4.4 Non Mass-going Catholics

We have worked to identify the non Mass-goers through updating the parish census.

Limitation of the priest's available time means that his frequent and widespread visitation of their homes is no longer a realistic expectation.

We plan, over the next three years, to try to find other ways of keeping in touch with them.

3.4.5 Looking beyond our own parish boundaries

We cannot simply be an inward-looking group

As Catholics we are part of the Universal Church

We express this principally through

Our loyal and prayerful support of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI

Living our lives in accordance with the teachings of the Church
Peter's Pence Collection

As a Parish we are part of the High Peak Deanery and the Nottingham Diocese.

We express this principally through

- Loyal support for our Bishop
- Participation in Diocesan Events, Training Days and other initiatives.
- Contributing to Diocesan Funds
- Observing Diocesan statutes
- Taking part in Deanery activities (eg. Station Masses)
- Sharing our resources (and our priest!) with other parishes in the Deanery

As Children of God we have responsibilities far beyond our own immediate community.

We express this wider concern principally through

- Support for CAFOD
- Support for the Missions
- Support for Fairtrade
- Commitment to Justice & Peace

All of our future planning must include a growing commitment in faith and charity to our brothers and sisters throughout the world

3.4.5 Young People

Again, we acknowledge with gratitude the great work which is done by our schools in the care of our young people.

Within the parish, the groups which at present cater for the young are

- ✓ Altar Servers
- ✓ Junior Youth Club
- ✓ Rainbows
- ✓ Brownies

Both groups are described elsewhere in this Pastoral Plan. We recognise their importance and wish to see their work facilitated and resourced by the parish over the next three years.

We also minister to young people through Sacramental Preparation, as described elsewhere.

St. Mary's Parish welcomes and values the participation of young people in all parish activities, and thanks our young people for their ministry to our community.

We recognise that the ministry to, and of, young people is a vital part of the future of this parish. This will be a Key Priority for the next three years.

3.5 Liturgy and Worship

3.5.1. Liturgy and Worship in our parish are facilitated by the following

- Our priest (who is shared with our sister parish of All Saints Glossop)
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Child Protection Representative
- Sacristan
- Altar Servers
- Readers
- Bidding Prayer writers
- Musical Director
- A Choir which sings the Common and parts of the Proper of the Mass on Sundays
- Childrens' Liturgy
- Flower Arrangers

- Collectors
- Church Cleaners
- The Laundry Team
- Those who provide transport, enabling older and less-able parishioners to come to Mass.

3.5.2 Description of Roles

Extraordinary Ministers Holy Communion under both species is made available at every Mass celebrated in the church. The ministers maintain their own rota and are reverent and reliable. In spite of the distances involved, they are faithful to their own on-going formation and study days.

Altar Servers St. Mary's has a strong and well-trained group of Altar Servers. The Senior Servers have during the year been working their way through the General Instruction on the Roman Missal with the priest. Training sessions are also provided for the younger servers. The Servers have attended the Mass in St. Barnabas Cathedral, and also served in 2005 at the Walsingham Pilgrimage and the Eucharistic Congress in Birmingham.

Readers work on a rota basis. The quality of reading is good, and it is particularly heartening to see some of our young people reading at Mass. There is at present no formal training programme for Readers

Bidding Prayers form a part of every Mass. The weekend prayers are written on a rota basis. The writers have guidelines based on the General Instruction and "Celebrating Mass".

Church Music is an important part of worship here, with a wide variety of music, modern and traditional. Our organists and choir provide an excellent and greatly-valued ministry in the parish. We plan to build upon this firm foundation.

Childrens' Liturgy – please see above "Education & Formation"

Sacristan, Flower Arrangers, Church Cleaners and Laundry This essential work is carried out with good will, skill and dependability. It is greatly valued by the parish community.

3.5.3. Roles to be Developed

A need for a **Ministry of Welcome** has been identified, and work to develop this role was undertaken in October 2005.

Altar Servers recruitment and formation needs to be maintained and developed.

Written Guidelines for those exercising Ministry need to be kept up to date.

New Readers need to be encouraged, especially among the young, and training given as and when necessary.

Cash Handling Requirements of the Charity Commission and Diocesan Finance Office must be applied.

3.6 Spirituality

- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Eucharistic Devotion
- Rosary
- Prayer Group
- October and May Devotions
- Pilgrimages
- Devotion to Blessed Nicholas Garlick

- a) Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament is made available each weekend and at request. The present confessional is cold, damp, and unsuited to modern requirements. In no way do our present facilities reflect the dignity or importance of the Sacrament. The provision of a better confessional elsewhere in the church is a **Key Priority** and will be addressed within the next year.
- b) Eucharistic Devotion. We have marked the year of the Eucharist through weekly Eucharistic Devotions and Benediction, and Benediction on Sunday evenings at intervals throughout the year. These devotions will continue.
- c) The Rosary We say the Rosary before Mass each Saturday.
- d) The Prayer Group There is a well-established prayer group which meets in St. Mary's Hall on a Friday evening.
- e) October and May Devotions These devotions are a long tradition in our parish community and will be continued as an expression of our devotion to Our Lord and to Our Blessed Lady and Saint Joseph.
- f) Pilgrimages In the last years, parishioners have been in pilgrimage to Walsingham and Lourdes. We hope to make Pilgrimages to Rome and Holywell in 2006.
- g) Blessed Nicholas Garlick. We are blessed in having a local martyr from Dinting. There is a memorial to Blessed Nicholas

Garlick in the grounds of a house belonging to a Catholic family in Dinting. The Blessed Nicholas is included in the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, and his prayers invoked in the prayer of our Altar Servers, before and after Mass. We plan to have a Young Peoples' Pilgrimage to the Dinting memorial in July 2006.

Areas for Development

- Parish Mission
- Parish Retreat
- Church open for private prayer

The areas for development in spirituality which have been identified at our meetings are planning for a Parish Mission and/or a Parish Retreat.

One condition for our Heritage Lottery Grant is that the Church is opened to the public for a specified period of time every year. We intend to address the question of the locked church and identify ways in which the church might safely be kept open for longer periods so that people could make private visits to the Blessed Sacrament and spend time in private prayer.

SUMMARY OF KEY PRIORITIES IN OUR PASTORAL PLAN

Our Pastoral Priorities over the next three years are:-

- **Ministry to the Sick and Housebound**
- **Ministry to Young people**
- **Sacramental "aftercare"**
- **Ecumenical contact**
- **Essential Repairs to Church and other properties**
- **Provision of new confessional**
- **Establishment of Parish Pastoral Council**
- **Establishment of Parish Finance Committee**