

# Possible changes to Mass times at St Vincent's

Dear Parishioner,

As you will be aware, there are not as many priests as there used to be and difficult decisions are having to be made about how to deal with this.

## What is our Bishop asking us to do?

Within our diocese, the Bishop is asking us to do two things to prepare us for life with fewer priests. These are:

1. Parishes are asked to '**cluster**' to ensure that priests can cover for each other;
2. Parishes are asked to consider **dropping one Saturday evening or Sunday Mass by Advent** this year, where possible, to free up priests to cover in other parishes.

At St Vincent's, we are to form a 'cluster' with Sacred Heart parish in Hillsborough. This **does not mean** that we are merging with Sacred Heart. All it means is that we will coordinate Mass times so that one priest can cover both parishes should that be needed. We may also work together in some other ways, although that hasn't been decided yet.

## What might this mean for our Mass times?

Given the Bishop's requests, I am proposing the following which would mean that either I or the priest at Sacred Heart will be able to cover for the other if needed. I would appreciate your comments on each proposal...

1. Our Saturday evening 6pm Vigil Mass is **discontinued**. The 6.30pm Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart will be maintained.

### Your comments:

2. Our Sunday morning Mass will be **brought forward to 9.30am**, with the Mass at Sacred Heart moved back to 11.00am.

### Your comments:

3. Our Sunday evening Mass will be **retained** because we are the only Sheffield parish to have a Sunday evening Mass other than the cathedral, but it could be brought forward to 5.30pm or 5.00pm to make it easier for elderly people, especially during the winter.

### Your comments:

Please leave your completed form on the table in the narthex. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Fr Paddy