

## **St Teresa's Parish, Donore Avenue**

### **Recommendation: Mass Schedule**

Over the past two months representatives of the Parish Pastoral Councils of Dolphins Barn, Donore Avenue and Rialto parishes have been meeting in line with the Building Hope guidelines for Parish Partnerships. The focus of the Building Hope process in the diocese is to encourage partnerships such as ours to work together to meet the spiritual needs of the people of each parish within the partnership.

One of the items on the agenda include: the sharing of resources in the development of parish funeral and baptism teams; the building up of local faith communities; and the scheduling / timing of Masses within the partnership.

This note is with particular reference to the scheduling / timing of Masses and in particular in St Teresa's Donore Avenue. Whereas we currently are lucky to have three priests in Donore, one in Dolphins Barn and the Syro-Malabar community of priests in Rialto, looking towards the future, it is quite probable that there could be one priest to say Mass within this partnership. In this respect, the guidelines from the diocese state that a priest on the weekend should only say one Mass on Saturday night and no more than two on Sunday. In order to plan for this, it is clear that we need to reduce the number of Masses currently within the partnership. As a first step, each individual parish will look at the number of Masses they currently provide.

The Parish Team and the Parish Pastoral Council have been reflecting on this over the past number of months. In St Teresa's we are all aware of declining numbers in the congregation and the reduced uptake of parents who have presented children for the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. This is regularly noted by the congregation. This is made more evident by the overall parish congregation being spread between four weekend Masses. This has an effect on the overall experience of the liturgy each weekend. Really the status quo is increasingly difficult to maintain and to justify.



PTO

We need to take some steps to enhance the liturgy.

- Combining congregations from different Masses would contribute to an enriched community prayer experience, including welcome, singing and social interaction.
- Making the best use of limited resources: ministers of the word, ministers of the eucharist, finance for heating, light etc.
- More time before and after each Mass provides the time for more community interaction and engagement, with the possibility of after liturgy events, such as refreshments, displays, talks.

In light of this, the Parish Team and the Parish Pastoral Council recommend that the **weekend schedule of Masses** in St Teresa's be adjusted to the following:

**Saturday evening vigil Mass:**                    **6pm (in line with weekday Masses)**  
**Sunday morning Masses:**                    **10.30 am and**  
   **12o'clock.**

No mass is being moved by more than 30 minutes.

We very much welcome your views and response to this proposal. Responses can be dropped in the box provided in the church on the tables, or given to any member of the Parish Team or the PPC.

With every good wish and blessing

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What are your views and response to this recommendation?

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Name (Optional)