

*St Joseph & English Martyrs Catholic Church
Bishop's Stortford*

Parish Liturgy Audit Report 2008

Saturday 6pm

(This document can also be downloaded from the parish website: www.catholicstortford.org)

SECTION A Tell us something about yourself

1. Which of the following best sums you up?

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. I am here for Mass every Sunday (except when away on business or holidays) | 79% |
| 2. I am here for Mass most Sundays | 21% |
| 3. I come occasionally (less than 10 times a year) | 0% |
| 4. This is a special visit (e.g. visiting relatives or friends) | 0% |
| 5. Other..... | 0% |

2. If you are a regular worshipper, how long have you been worshipping here? (please circle)

Less than a year	1-5 years	5-10 years	More than 10 years
0%	3%	4%	93%

3. Do you regularly worship at another parish?

Yes **10%** No **90%**

4. Which of these age groups do you fit into?

0-12 years	13-20years	21-40years	41-60years	60+ years
3%	4%	3%	24%	65%

5. Are you

Female ? **77%** Male ? **23%**

6. Are you

Married ? **85%** Single ? **15%**

7. Do you live in

Bishop's Stortford ?	Stansted ?	Sawbridgeworth ?	The Hadhams?	Other?
95%	0%	0%	1%	4%

8. Do you have a special ministry in the Liturgy?

Yes **34%** No **66%**

If 'Yes', please specify

Reader	9%	Eucharistic Minister	18%
Altar server	3%	Choir	2%

SECTION B

Before Mass starts

1. How welcome do you feel when you arrive? (1 is best, 5 is worst)

1 Very	2	3	4	5 Little
24%	31%	31%	15%	0%

2. How helpful to preparing yourself before Mass, do you find the 'atmosphere' in church?

1 Very	2	3	4	5 Little
25%	31%	32%	12%	0%

SECTION C

The Environment

	Yes	No
Are you comfortable in the church?	96%	4%
Are you warm enough in the church?	74%	26%
Is the church clean and in good decorative order?	96%	4%
Are you satisfied with the lighting?	96%	4%
Are you satisfied with the level and quality of sound?	89%	11%
If applicable, do you find the loop system helpful?	0%	0%

Comments about the church environment	Number of comments
not warm enough on cold winter, evening	2
turn lights on earlier	1
certain areas could benefit from regular cleaning	1
decorative condition is deteriorating	1
sound system, softly spoken readers, sound system generally	10
golden stars above Sanctuary need more illumination	1

SECTION D

Music

	Yes	No	Sometimes
1.Does the chosen music fit the seasonal theme?	41%	5 %	52 %
2.Is the chosen music appropriate for the different parts of the mass?	50%	7%	40%
3.Does the music reflect the diversity of the members of the congregation?	33%	25%	38%
4. Does the music help your worship?	30%	30%	36%
5. Does the music leader help or encourage you to participate?	32%	46%	17%
6. Has any of the music been unfamiliar to you?	64%	10%	25%
7. Would you welcome a practice session before or after mass for unfamiliar items?	21%	52%	23%
8. Comments: See Appendix D			

Appendix D: Comments about the Music

Saturday 6pm	0 - 12 M	0-12 F	13- 20 M	13- 20 F	21-40 M	21- 40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60+ M	60+ F	TOTAL
a consistently high standard										1	1
people enjoy the music								2		1	3
pre-knowledge wanted of the singing so they can decamp							1		1	3	5
people think that music is not generally popular					2				1		3
music is off putting					2		3	1	5	5	16
musicians rehearsing									2	2	4
music is not necessary on a Saturday evening			1						1		2
the music is too loud	1				1		1	3	1	3	10
can be overpowering					1			1	1		3
the Leader is too prominent								3	3	2	8
sing without the mike								1	1	1	3
put emphasis upon accompaniment								1	1	1	3
things appear piecemeal re. The Common Parts of the Mass							1	1			2
better indication in hymnal of parts such as Gloria/Sanctus							1				1
too much of a musical performance							1	1	1	1	4
some hymns are unfamiliar					1		2		2	1	6
sing more traditional hymns					1		1			2	4
sing more recent hymns once made known					1		1				2
Responsorial Psalm not always appealing					1						1
put musicians at rear of the church										1	1
Christmas music was not appealing					2		1	1			4
age-range targeted							1	1			2

SECTION E Leaflets, hymn books, etc

	Very useful	useful	Not useful	Don't know
1. How useful do you find The Sunday Plus Mass Leaflet?	46%	49%	0%	5%
2. How useful do you find the other printed resources to use and follow?	41%	45%	4%	9%

	Yes	No
3. Is the print large enough for you to read?	97%	3%

4. Any other comments or suggestions about the hymn book, mass leaflet or other items provided to enable you to participate in the Mass?

COMMENTS ABOUT PRINTED ITEMS						21-40 F				60+ F	Total
unsure what to pick up upon arrival										1	1
go for a full missalette										1	1
put Hymn Books into benches						1					1

SECTION F

Silence

	Yes	No
1. Are you aware of the times of silence at different parts of the Mass?	92%	7%
2. Are these silent times sufficient to be of value to you? (long or often enough)	81%	15%

3. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about times of silence during the different parts of the Mass? (e.g. Readings, Intercessions, Prayers, After Communion etc.).

COMMENTS ABOUT SILENCE						21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60+ M	60+ F	Total
a quiet period before Mass									1		1
long enough but not always silent enough									1		1
sufficient										1	1
could be longer after Communion										2	2
could be longer after Communion & Intercessions							1		1	3	5
serves no useful purpose									1		1
too much background noise undermines						1	2		2	1	6
not after the Homily										1	1
sometimes too long										1	1
point out why we need them							1	1			2

SECTION G

Homily, Readings, Prayers

	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Usually</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Not really</u>
1. Do you find the sermon/homily clear & understandable?	44%	37%	15%	2%
2. Do you find the sermon/homily challenging or thought provoking?	25%	28%	40%	8%
3. Any other comments about the sermon/homily	<i>See Appendix G</i>			
4. Are the Readings delivered in a meaningful way?	37%	49%	10%	2%
	<u>Clear</u>	<u>Reasonably clear</u>	<u>Difficult to hear</u>	
5. Generally how audible are the Readings?	40%	51%	8%	
6. Any other comments about the delivery of the Readings?	<i>See Appendix G</i>			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	
7. Do the Homily & Intercessions help to connect the Mass to your daily life?	54%	4%	41%	
8. Any other comments about the Liturgy of the Word?	<i>See Appendix G</i>			

Appendix G: Comments on Homily, Readings, Prayers

SATURDAY 6 PM	0 - 12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13- 20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60 + M	60+ F	TOTAL
HOMILY CLEAR											
the theology is interesting										1	1
preference for one single message/theme developed and restated									1		1
often repetitious											
rather too difficult to follow	1										1
HOMILY CHALLENGING											
should be no more than 5 minutes								1	1		2
relate better to today's life									1	1	2
be more up-to-date theologically - too many old ideas									1	1	2
too often a childish explanation of the Gospel										1	1
sometimes goes on for too long									2	1	3
READINGS DELIVERY											
alternating readings/psalms is disconcerting							1	1			2
to read clearly and with feeling										1	1
more preparation seems apparent									1		1
some Readers need more training									2		2
do a wonderful job									1	2	3
problem of softly spoken readers						1					1
READINGS AUDIBLE											
need to make better use of microphone						1			2	1	4
adjust mike to own height									1	1	2
varies according to the Reader										1	1
return t annual training session										1	1
encourage recruitment o younger readers										2	2
re-commissioning each year											

SECTION H

Ministries

To what extent do the following ministries enhance your experience of the Mass?				
	Positive	Indifferent	Negative	Nil response
ALTAR SERVERS	41%	11%	11 %	38 %
READERS	41 %	14 %	7 %	38 %
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	41 %	8 %	7 %	44 %
PRIEST	56 %	4 %	0 %	40 %
MUSICIANS	25 %	5 %	36 %	34 %

SECTION I

As the Mass concludes...

1. Does your experience of the Mass make you feel part of the Congregation? (please circle)

Yes	No
89%	7%

2. Do you find the announcements at the end of Mass

Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not really helpful
38%	47%	12 %

in making you aware of the faith life and pastoral activity of St. Joseph's as a Community?

3. Do you feel encouraged to participate in the ongoing work of the Church?

Yes	No
67%	18 %

SECTION J What *I* think, what *I* can do....etc

GENERAL COMMENTS MADE BY SAT 6PM	0 - 12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13-20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60 + M	60+ F	TOTAL
<u>WHAT I LIKE</u>											
Our liturgy is a special time	1			0				1		1	3
Communal celebration							1				1
Air of relaxation							1				1
Well delivered										1	1
Choice of Masses										1	1
Punctuality & consistency of the services									1		1
Always welcoming atmosphere at St, Josephs								3	1		4
People content with status quo									1	2	3
<u>WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE DONE DIFFERENTLY</u>											
More welcoming before Mass							1				1
Bring back the organ on a Saturday						1		1			2
Revise present 6 pm music format						2					2
Sing well known hymns	1						1				2
More collective parish liturgical celebrations								1			1
Encourage younger people to minister											
Allow more volunteers for Offertory Procession								1			1
Different readers							1				1

GENERAL COMMENTS (CONTINUED)	0 - 12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13-20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60 + M	60+ F	TOTAL
WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE DONE DIFFERENTLY (CONTINUED)											
Maintain present inclusivity							1				1
Tidying up after Mass	1										1
Noisy children								1		1	2
Spread Retiring Collections more evenly									1		1
Address fabric of side-altars (carpet)									1		1
Children's irreverent reception of communion										1	1
Shorter masses for children										1	1
Children's Liturgy										1	1
THINGS I AM PREPARED TO GET INVOLVED WITH											
Volunteer to become an Eucharistic Minister								1			1