

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

Parish Liturgy Audit Report 2008

Sunday 11am

(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) | 77% |
| 2. I am here for Mass most Sundays | 19% |
| 3. I come occasionally (less than 10 times a year) | 2% |
| 4. This is a special visit (e.g. visiting relatives or friends) | 1% |
| 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
8%	17%	19%	56%

3. Do you regularly worship at another parish?

Yes	1%	No	99%
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4. Which of these age groups do you fit into?

0-12 years	13-20years	21-40years	41-60years	60+ years
3%	2%	17%	33%	44%

5. Are you

Female ?	60%	Male ?	40%
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6. Are you

Married ?	76%	Single ?	24%
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7. Do you live in

Bishop's Stortford ?	Stansted ?	Sawbridgeworth ?	The Hadhams?	Other?
89%	1%	0%	3%	7%

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

Yes	22%	No	78%
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If 'Yes', please specify

Reader	14%	Eucharistic Minister	13%
Altar server	3%	Choir	12%

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
40%	22%	22%	10%	2%

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

1 Very	2	3	4	5 Little
30%	25%	27%	12%	6%

SECTION C

The Environment

	Yes	No
Are you comfortable in the church?	98%	2%
Are you warm enough in the church?	88%	12%
Is the church clean and in good decorative order?	96%	4%
Are you satisfied with the lighting?	95%	5%
Are you satisfied with the level and quality of sound?	78%	22%
If applicable, do you find the loop system helpful?	0%	0%

Comments on The Environment

COMMENTS	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
quality of sound varies						2		3	1	1	7
fixing & adjustment of microphone							2		1	3	6
acoustics and back of the church				1	1					1	3
street lights trained on the Sanctuary										1	1
extra lighting needed in choir-loft							1			2	3
sometimes too warm										1	1
can be quite cold in winter							1	1			2
incense can cause coughing						1					1
roof and cobwebs								2			2
decorative order of the church									2		2

SECTION D

Music

	Yes	No	Sometimes
1.Does the chosen music fit the seasonal theme?	66%	5 %	28 %
2.Is the chosen music appropriate for the different parts of the mass?	77%	6%	16%
3.Does the music reflect the diversity of the members of the congregation?	42%	19%	24%
4. Does the music help your worship?	68%	8%	15%
5. Does the music leader help or encourage you to participate?	46%	11%	36%
6. Has any of the music been unfamiliar to you?	26%	33%	35%
7. Would you welcome a practice session before or after mass for unfamiliar items?	25%	49%	20%
8. Comments: See Appendix D			

Appendix D: Comments about the Music

Sunday 11 am	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
excellent job choir & organist						1	1		1		3
William well esteemed										2	2
motets are good								1		2	3
Latin parts are well sung by congregation								1			1
people miss choir when latter on holiday									1		1
too staid music				1			1		1		3
some old unfamiliar hymns, so no singing with choir									1		1
younger people want hymns sung by them in school							1				1
some hymns are complex, drab & dreary				1		1	2	3		1	8
sameness of the hymns								2			2
inappropriate Marian & hymns to Sacred Heart at Offertory					1					1	2
material well chosen at Christmas & Easter								1			1
music needs to be updated; modernise the music						1		2			3
the Gathering Hymn is often disliked								1			1
go more for lovely modern hymns				1			1		1		3
wider range of hymns in Rutter/Taize mode								1			1
want more traditional hymns & music									1		1
Latin setting is uplifting							1	1		1	3
not the Latin every week/ too repetitive/uninspiring						1			1	1	3
Latin is too complex/unfamiliar to follow					3	1					4
Latin parts are only parts that the Polish relate to					3			1			4
sing an English Mass								1	1		2
sing the Psalms						1	1				2
more refrains rather than traditional hymns									1		1
encourage younger people into the Choir						1					1
no music wanted								1			1
too much cantor lead							1				1

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?	51%	41%	5%	4%
2. How useful do you find the other printed resources to use and follow?	47%	48%	1%	4%

	Yes	No
3. Is the print large enough for you to read?	98%	2%

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	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
have Order of Mass booklets	1			1		1			1	1	5
Hymn Numbers to be more visible								1		2	3
Welcomers to distribute									1	2	3
include Polish translations					1						1
too many old hymns in current book become an excuse for their use											0
Nicene Creed please								1			1

SECTION F

Silence

	Yes	No
1. Are you aware of the times of silence at different parts of the Mass?	90%	8%
2. Are these silent times sufficient to be of value to you? (long or often enough)	80%	16%

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	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
difficult amid distractions							1	2	3	2	8
not enough time post Communion						1		2	3	2	8
longer pauses at Intercessions									1	2	3
currently strictly observed by PP							1				1
generally too long								1			1

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?	62%	33%	2%	2%
2. Do you find the sermon/homily challenging or thought provoking?	27%	37%	24%	10%
3. Any other comments about the sermon/homily	<i>See Appendix G</i>			
4. Are the Readings delivered in a meaningful way?	44%	41%	9%	3%
	<u>Clear</u>	<u>Reasonably clear</u>	<u>Difficult to hear</u>	
5. Generally how audible are the Readings?	44%	45%	9%	
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?	56%	6%	35%	
8. Any other comments about the Liturgy of the Word?	<i>See Appendix G</i>			

Appendix G: Comments on Homily, Readings, Prayers

SUNDAY 11 AM	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											
Well-researched and prepared							2			1	3
the theology is interesting		1				1	1			1	4
preference for one single message/theme developed and restated									1		1
theology is on the limit							1	1			2
HOMILY CHALLENGING											
could be more thought provoking and challenging							1	1			2
should be no more than 5 mins									1		1
relate better to today's life							1	2			3
sometimes goes on for too long						1	2	1	3	1	8
READINGS DELIVERY											
alternating readings/psalms is disconcerting									1		1
to read clearly and with feeling							1	1		1	3
some Readers need more training							1	1	3	1	6
do a wonderful job							1		2		3
boring and monotonous								1			1
problem of softly spoken readers									1		1
READINGS AUDIBLE											
need to make better use of microphone				1		1	2		1		5
adjust mike to own height									3	1	4
encourage recruitment o younger readers								1			1
encourage individual practising						1					1
readers to come up from congregation									1		1

SECTION H**Ministries**

To what extent do the following ministries enhance your experience of the Mass?

	Positive	Indifferent	Negative	Nil response
ALTAR SERVERS	32%	12%	13 %	43 %
READERS	41 %	18%	3 %	38 %
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	40 %	9 %	6 %	45 %
PRIEST	57 %	4 %	1 %	37 %
MUSICIANS	48 %	11 %	9 %	32 %

SECTION I

As the Mass concludes...

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

Yes	No
73%	17%

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

Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not really helpful
48%	38%	8 %

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
60%	20 %

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

	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 like											
mass perfect as it is/well celebrated	1				1		2	3	3	2	12
greatly enjoy the music/right balance/ no change					2	1	1		2	6	12
the Latin is well sung							1	1		1	3
diversity of present liturgy is liked						1	1				2
choir liked										1	1
servers appreciated										3	3
the 4 masses gives a broad choice								1	1		2
What I would like to see done differently											
more traditional music						1	1	1		1	4
newer music please	1										1
too many old hymns/often dreary/more modern hymns				1	1	3	1	2			6
11 am sometimes too sombre						1	1	1			3
people look miserable						1					1
Latin mass is too complex /too difficult to understand						3				1	3
sung Latin each week is too repetitive						1	1	1			3
perhaps a quiet mass at 11am?								1		1	2
increased Polish understanding of things					1	1		2			4
more male voices needed in the Choir									1		1
recruit more servers									1		1
some fussy and obtrusive serving which is outmoded							1		1		2
less silence wanted								1			1
children a distraction/youngsters to be quieter								5	3	2	10
revise the vestments/old lace-cottas included							1		1		2
dress-code of Eucharistic Ministers								1	1		2
get a wider age-range of readers								1			1
Friendly Welcomers wanted/rota?								1	1	1	3
6 pm Sat music is too exclusive								1	1		2
6 pm Sat without guitars									1		1
microphone									1		1
why the present alternation of the Readers?									1		1
Easter Vigil music is off-putting & jars									1	1	2
socialise after mass										2	2
Cobwebs								1			1