

PARISH REVIEW MEETING
Sacred Heart Church Community Prepares
for
Leaving Safe Harbours (LSH)

4th. November 2006.

What is "*Leaving Safe Harbours*"?

Our Catholic communities are facing new challenges: not only do we have too few priests, but lay people are also declining. We are unable to service our many churches in the way we have been used to and so we have to learn new ways of collaborative ministry between clergy and laity. LSH is a possible way forward, which the 3 Deaneries of Croxteth, Widnes and Leigh are pioneering.

A Deanery is a collection of parishes with separate priests united by a Dean (our Leigh Deanery comprised 9 parish communities); a Pastoral Area has a PA Leader – Fr Steve Cooper(PAL) based at St Joseph's, together with a small team of clergy.

The 2 Pastoral Areas, of St. Edmund Arrowsmith and St. Margaret Clitherow, from our Deanery were launched on the 6th of July 2005, with a special Mass at St. Joseph's.

Sacred Heart parish has a Resident priest, Fr John, but he is responsible for 3 parishes now, supported by Fr Steve Cooper, Deacon Tony Arrowsmith and Deacon Denis Vint at our Lady's.

We have a parish secretary, Teresa Arrowsmith, and the parish office is open on Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 9.30-11.30 when parish business is conducted. Please note that these are the best times in which to call in order to request a Mass enquire about Baptisms etc.

We also have money counters, Gift Aid organisers (all voluntary). Sacred Heart benefits from a town centre location. It is convenient for buses & business; and there is new housing nearby. We have a large church which has had 3 new boilers fitted; the capacity of the church is 300; 2 beautiful large modern stained glass windows; a Baptistery with large beautiful mosaic; Sacred Heart has an excellent Pendlebury pipe organ, - which is well maintained, and we welcome new organists.

Sacred Heart has a Chapel of Joy & Hope (capacity 30), which is warm, comfortable & well lit with modern, reflective stained glass window.

Sacred Heart Parish centre (capacity 150), recently decorated which is used daily by pre-school play group "Sunbeams".

We have a large priest's house attached to church.

Approximately 280 people attend week-end Masses.

Transport by parishioners is provided (free) for disabled & elderly. We have "Welcomers" at the main Sunday Mass. There is a good ethnic mix (Middle East, African, Indian & European).

Hard back Missals, large print Mass sheets and comprehensive hymnals available at main Masses. We have a common newsletter (including large print copies) every week for Sacred Heart, Twelve Apostles and Our Lady of the Rosary parishes. Fr John has provided a box of children's Mass books which are available to borrow during the celebration of Sunday Mass (in the porch).

We have a pleasing & warm atrium with 2 large tables of free literature.

There are beautiful fresh flower arrangements according to liturgical season.

Helpful banners are provided in Advent & Christmas seasons and Lent to Pentecost.

We have young altar servers, although we would welcome more children, especially from Sacred Heart school. Children must have made their first Communion; training is provided.

We always have 3 (appointed) readers and 6 Eucharistic ministers (appointed) at main Masses: all ages, male & female; and always an appointed reader at weekday Masses and 2 Eucharistic ministers available. We do need more volunteers and welcome any parents who wish to be involved.

Training is given to readers within the parish. We have both traditional and modern music: accompanied by either the organ or guitar with hymns & Mass parts are always sung at our main Masses.

We offer a Children's Liturgy on Sundays at the 9.30am Mass and encourage our parents to bring their children along.

Eucharistic ministers serve the housebound every Sunday & according to need.

There is a well-stocked Repository shop which is open for sale of Christmas cards etc. after the Sunday Mass.

We offer a Sacramental preparation group for Baptism (3 parishes) and any parent requesting Baptism for a child is requested to attend the meeting for parents which is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Priests' House. We also offer Sacramental programmes for first Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation

For any adults interested in learning about the Catholic Faith, there is a meeting every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. Parents of children from our school at most welcome attend these meetings which take place in the chapel.

Other parish groups include: Advent and Lent study groups, RCIA Group; Meditation Group; Legion of Mary, Youth SVP, SVP, Brownies.

Parents of children from Sacred Heart school are always welcome to be involved in parish life. May the home, the parish and our school work even closer together for the benefit of all.