

## Diocesan Discernment Process: St Benet Biscop Partnership Consultation: Scenarios with less priests

Church	Location	Resident Priests	Current Weekend Masses	Scenario A 4 priests	Possible Masses	Scenario B 3 priests	Possible Masses	Scenario C 2 priests	Possible Masses
St Aidan	Ashington	2	2	1	2	1	2		2
St Bede	Bedlington		1		1		1		
St Cuthbert	Blyth		1		1				
St Wilfrid	Blyth	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
St Paul	Cramlington	1	1	1	1				
St John	Annitsford		1		1		1		
St Joseph	New Hartley	1	1		1				
St Robert	Morpeth	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
St Thomas	Longhorsley		1		1		1		
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

### Notes

- 1) The table above shows the current arrangements for Masses and resident priests in our Partnership – we currently have 6 priests sharing 12 weekend Masses. Of our 9 Churches, 3 have 2 weekend Masses, 6 have a single weekend Mass.
- 2) In scenario A the no of priests is reduced to 4 – there is still capacity to support weekend Masses at our 9 Churches as now.
- 3) In scenario B the no of priests is reduced to 3 – hence capacity for 9 weekend Masses. If St Aidan, St Wilfrid and St Robert retain their 2 Masses then only 3 Masses are possible at the remaining Churches – these Churches will either have to go on a rota for Mass or 3 Churches face closure. Clearly, difficult choices about closure of some Churches will have to be made in the medium term (5 years).
- 4) In scenario C the no of priests is reduced to 2 – hence capacity for only 6 weekend Masses. Under this scenario the no of Churches would be between 3-6, depending on whether those Churches having 2 weekend Masses could reduce to a single Mass. Hopefully, this scenario takes us beyond 10 years so hard to predict where we will be by then.
- 5) Hopefully this document is helpful in identifying the difficult options we face as the number of priests reduces.

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