

# North Wallasey Catholic Community

[SERVING THE PARISHES OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, LEASOWE, ENGLISH MARTYRS, WALLASEY VILLAGE & SS PETER & PAUL, NEW BRIGHTON]



## The Steering Group

The Steering Group was formed at the invitation of Fr Feeney, with the help of Fr Wentworth, and was made up of four members of each of the three Parish communities and the Head Teachers of both Primary Schools. One of the four members was under 18 years of age.

It was agreed that the status of the group was to provide a sounding board of opinion to assist Fr Feeney in making decisions about how best to achieve the clustering of the three parishes with one priest at the beginning of September.

The group will assist in helping to communicate the outcome of the discussions to the parishes and in the gathering of responses from the Parishes.

## Weekend Mass times

This is the most difficult and sensitive of the issues involved in the clustering.

Four or five years ago the Parishes of OLOL and EM went through a process of consultation and reduced the Weekend Masses to four, both parishes losing one mass each. In May 2005, when the two parishes were clustered, OLOL was reduced to one Sunday Mass and EM's Mass times were changed. So there has already been considerable disruption in those two communities in recent years.

However, throughout that time the community remained positive and the message given was that masses had not been reduced, there were still 3 Weekend Masses for both communities, but they were simply celebrated in different places. Twelve months on, that has come to be the norm, and at each of the three masses celebrated there will be members from both communities.

So now we need to make the Weekend Mass arrangement for the North Wallasey Catholic Community workable.

The principle we agreed to work towards was that there would be three masses, one in each church, and there would need to be a minimum of an hour and a half between masses celebrated on the same day.

The group looked at the current mass attendance in the three Parishes, and considered other factors such as the train times between New Brighton and Wallasey and the feasibility of running transport to the Sunday Masses. It was also agreed that as there was no recent history of Sunday evening Masses, the weekend masses in the cluster would be celebrated on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

As the two biggest Sunday congregations are at EM and PP, it was felt that they should have Sunday Masses with OLOL celebrating Mass on Saturday evening. There was a thought that perhaps the Mass on Saturday and one of the Sunday morning Masses could rotate on a weekly basis between OLOL and PP to give Leasowe a Sunday morning Mass once a fortnight, but this might just confuse everyone.

Needless-to-say, this has impact in each community. In PP the masses in the parish are reduced from three to one, in EM from two to one and in OLOL the Mass will be celebrated on Saturday evening with no Sunday Mass.

## Why the new name?

The group agreed that, from the outset, it was important to make clear that the clustering of the three Parishes was not an attempt to make one "big" parish in North Wallasey, but to serve the three existing parishes and sustain the individual ethos of each separate community.

The White Paper suggested that the grouping should be called the North Wallasey Parish, but in the spirit of openness and clarity it was decided that the cluster would be known as the "**North Wallasey Catholic Community**" serving the Parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, Leasowe, English Martyrs, Wallasey Village & Ss Peter & Paul, New Brighton.

Hopefully this will allow us to communicate about the cluster while retaining the Parish structures.

15 July 2006

For ease and to save space throughout this newsletter the three parishes will be referred to as:

- OLOL
- EM
- PP

## The Steering Group:

John G Feeney

**OLOL:**  
John Ellison  
Maureen Hibbs  
Katharine Joynson  
Alison Mawdsley

**EM:**  
Val Burns  
Tony Mossman  
Rachel O'Sullivan  
Paula Wherly

**PP:**  
Marina Ashton  
Onya Kelly  
Paloma McSorley  
Ann Muller

Ann Melville  
OLOL School

Ann Sharp  
PP School

Parish	Time	Numbers
OLOL	0945 Sun	80
EM	1830 Sat	71
	1100 Sun	167
PP	1800 Sat	160
	0900 Sun	90
	1030 Sun	140

However, the message bears repeating. Effectively each Parish has three masses available over the weekend, celebrated in three different churches.

The times suggested for the masses from the 2 September are:

<b>OLOL</b>	<b>1830 Sat</b>
<b>PP</b>	<b>0945 Sun</b>
<b>EM</b>	<b>1115 Sun</b>

The Sunday morning Masses could be swapped with the earlier Mass in EM and the later in PP, but whatever times are chosen there must be an hour and a half between the start times.

## Weekday Mass

It was proposed that two weekday Masses will be celebrated in each parish whenever possible.

In OLOL and PP that have Primary Schools, one of the two Masses will be celebrated in school and the parish congregation invited to join the children for the celebration.

## Other Celebrations

Weddings, funerals and other sacramental celebrations will take place in the persons own Parish, whenever possible.

Celebrations where there is the possibility of a joint participation such as Confirmation and the communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation can rotate around the parishes on an annual basis.

## Transport

The group considered the possibilities of how people will be able to move between churches in the cluster.

Many people have access to cars making the short distance between the three churches little problem. A number of people already bring others to Mass by car, and it wouldn't be difficult to introduce those who are happy to offer lifts to those who would be grateful for transport.

Certainly there is a rail link between New Brighton and Wallasey Village and we will try to match services to train times, although you may need Oxygen to cope with Atherton Street!!

The problem is to assist those who do not have access to transport to get to a Mass suited to their needs.

It has been suggested that we might look to provide a minibus to run between the churches on a weekend, to help make all the three masses a possibility for all.

## Children's Liturgy & Youth Ministry

All three Parishes work hard to open the Weekend liturgy to the children and help them to take an active part in the celebration of Mass.

Perhaps here there is room for co-operation and for developing a group, drawn from those who support Children's Liturgy in the Parishes and possibly the young people recently Confirmed, to work with children across our three parishes and help to present a "Children's Mass", possibly once a quarter, in each of the Parishes at the Weekend Mass.

This would be particularly important for the Parish without a Sunday morning Mass where sustaining Children's Liturgy will be difficult.

This also provides opportunities for the older young people in our parishes, to get involved, and we will hope to gather together young people to build on the Youth Ministry that is available in our Parishes.

## What next?

When the Parishes of OLOL and EM were clustered last year, the first thing we did was to set aside a period of prayer when we asked God to help us discern the way forward. That period of prayer made a tangible difference to the way we moved forward and has contributed to the harmony that to-day exists between the two communities. In fact we are one community celebrating as two parishes.

It will be important that as OLOL and EM clusters again with PP we set aside time for prayer and that will be the first priority.

There will also need to be time set aside for the three Parishes to learn about each other, to see what gifts we have to share and how we can support and sustain each other.

So we need to get groups of people together to talk! Groups who minister in the Parishes as reader or communion minister or catechist. Groups like the UCM and the SVP. The youth and the elderly to see what we can build for the future. Those who support prayer in our communities. The list will be extensive.

It would be good for us all to get together to celebrate the beginning of this new future in North Wallasey. When a Parish Priest takes on a new Parish he is "Inducted" into that office.

A joint Mass to celebrate that Induction and to bless the new cluster of North Wallasey will provide that opportunity. We will need to work on making that celebration special.

## Let us pray together

If we see the new cluster arrangement as a time of renewal, then perhaps you would like to join the whole Catholic Community in North Wallasey in praying this prayer of renewal.



**LORD, WE TURN TO YOU,  
KNOWING THAT YOU ARE CLOSE  
AND ALWAYS CARE FOR OUR  
EVERY NEED.**

**BLESS OUR THREE PARISHES IN  
NORTH WALLASEY IN THIS TIME  
OF RENEWAL.**

**HELP US TO BE OPEN TO WHAT-  
EVER YOU WANT US TO DO, OR  
BE OR BECOME.**

**GIVE US A SPIRIT OF TRUST  
THAT IS WILLING, A SPIRIT OF  
HOPE THAT IS WELCOMING AND  
A SPIRIT OF LOVE THAT IS AC-  
CEPTING.**

**LET YOUR WILL BE DONE.**

**WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST  
OUR LORD. AMEN**



### The Steering Group

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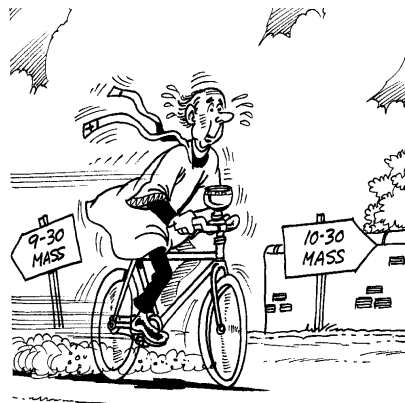
WE WILL BE ON THE  
WEB SOON AT  
[WWW.NWALLASEYRC.ORG](http://WWW.NWALLASEYRC.ORG)

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## We would like to hear your views

We would appreciate some positive and constructive feedback about the proposals included in this newsletter.

Let us know your opinion on where the masses should be said and the times of those masses and anything else that will help this clustering to work for the people in the parishes, and for the priest !!



You can send your response by email to:

[cluster@nwallaseyrc.org](mailto:cluster@nwallaseyrc.org)

Or you could write to:

The Steering Group

At the address above

Or talk to a member of the Steering Group:

Members of the Steering Group will be available after the Masses on the 15/16 July & 22/23 July and the Group will meet again on the 27 July.

A copy of this newsletter is also available at:

[www.nwallaseyrc.org](http://www.nwallaseyrc.org)

Where a web site for the cluster is under construction.

It would be helpful if you wish to respond to do so before the 27 July.