

# Consultation Questionnaire

## To the parishioners of the Parish of Saint Mary, Marple Bridge and Annunciation, New Mills

This Consultation is being undertaken, as part of a wider pattern of consultations across the Diocese of Nottingham, to consider the future of the parishes and churches we have, in light of the current and projected numbers of parishioners and clergy. The Consultation is intended to form a basis for discussion and conversation about what the future might look like, and how we can best prepare ourselves and our communities for that future. The Consultation is open to all stake-holders of the parish, and will take various forms: this questionnaire is simply one part of the exercise, recognising that some people respond better in writing, whereas others prefer a meeting, etc. The questions below are all worded so as to be open-ended, with no 'right or wrong' answers. Likewise, if there's anything which isn't asked for, but which you'd like to add, there is space at the end of this questionnaire for such comments.

With regard to the specific context of the Parish of Saint Mary, Marple Bridge and Annunciation, New Mills, it might be helpful to bear in mind the following contextual points:

- The parish has two churches, Saint Mary's Church in Marple Bridge (two Sunday Masses), and Saint Mary and the Annunciation Church, New Mills (one Sunday Mass).
- The parish has two primary schools, Saint Mary's school in Marple Bridge, and Saint Mary's in New Mills.
- The average Sunday Mass attendance in the parish in 2024 was 104 (35 in Marple Bridge, 69 in New Mills); this compares with 293 in the parish in 2014.

Parishioners' responses to these questions will help to shape the Consultation about the future of Saint Mary's Church; all the responses are anonymous, but it would help to know one question first:

**I usually attend weekly Sunday Mass in:**

Saint Mary's Church  
Annunciation Church  
Another Church

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

1. Considering the Bishop's decision that sacraments will no longer be celebrated in Saint Mary's Church after Easter:

how will this personally affect you?

how will this affect your family, friends, and other members of the parish and community?

2. What are your initial thoughts on the removal of sacramental celebrations from the Church?

3. What challenges do you think this decision will bring? How could these challenges be positively overcome?

4. What benefits might this decision bring?

5. How will you personally respond to the decision?

6. If you presently attend Mass in Saint Mary's Church, where would you be likely to attend Mass after Easter?

7. How might this decision strengthen the worshipping community, celebrating the sacraments in one church rather than in two churches?

8. How will this decision affect other aspects of the parish community's life (such as ecumenically, with catechesis, social activities, etc), centred on one church building?

9. In what ways can you personally help to ensure Saint Mary's church continues to be well used in other ways – perhaps for the Rosary, Daily Prayers, or other devotions?

10. Are there any initiatives which could be undertaken to bring more people from the local area in to Saint Mary's Church, and perhaps also into becoming members of the Catholic Church? If so, what are these initiatives, and how could you play a part in them?

11. What effects (positive or negative) do you foresee this decision having in the two parish primary schools?

12. What effects (positive or negative) do you foresee this decision having in the local community of Marple Bridge?

13. Which aspects of parish life are likely to be most affected by the sacraments being celebrated in just one church in the parish? How far do you consider these changes to be positive or negative?

14. In what ways could members of the parish undertake more roles and tasks, both pastoral, and practical / maintenance, in the parish?

In what ways could you personally undertake more of these roles in the parish?

15. Please include any thoughts you might have which aren't asked for above. Continue on a separate sheet if that's helpful.

**Thank you for your time in completing this survey – please return it to the presbytery  
by Palm Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025**