

EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Planning ahead in the Diocese of Galloway

The Principles

Concerning the Priests

- ◆ No priest should be asked to do what he is not able to do.
- ◆ Priests should not be asked to do things that are manifestly unreasonable.
- ◆ The rights and needs of priests must be respected at all times.
- ◆ These rights include the right to adequate living quarters.
- ◆ Priests should only live in shared accommodation by mutual consent.
- ◆ Priests have a right to be cared for.
- ◆ Competent professional help should be available to priests when needed.
- ◆ Priests have a right to belong to a stable worshipping community.
- ◆ Every priest ministers in a unique and personal way.
- ◆ Priests minister according to Church law and under the guidance of the Bishop.
- ◆ The priest has a duty to provide care for the people.
- ◆ The priest must show flexibility and willingness to adapt.
- ◆ Plans for the future should not depend on the help of retired priests.
- ◆ There should be no pressure on priests to work beyond the age of 75.
- ◆ The priest must be willing to work with the Bishop and with fellow priests.
- ◆ Priests are called to a life of service.
- ◆ Priests have an obligation to be aware of Church teaching.
- ◆ Jesus is the model for priests at all times.

Concerning the People

- ◇ No parishioner should be asked to do what he/she cannot do.
- ◇ No parishioner should be asked to do what is unreasonable.
- ◇ The people have a right to Mass and the Sacraments.
- ◇ The people have a right to pastoral care.
- ◇ These should normally be provided by a priest who is part of the community.
- ◇ No parish has an automatic right to exist in its present form.
- ◇ Every parishioner is called to holiness.
- ◇ The people have a duty to play their full part in parish life.
- ◇ The people must be flexible and willing to adapt to changing circumstances.
- ◇ The people have a right to education in faith.
- ◇ The people have a right to properly celebrated liturgy.
- ◇ The people have a right to be ministered to by holy and prayerful priests.
- ◇ The people have a right to be led by priests whose theology is up-to-date.
- ◇ The people have no right to unrealistic expectations of priests.
- ◇ The people have a right to be consulted on matters concerning parish life.

Concerning Sunday Mass

- * The Sunday Mass is at the centre of parish life.
- * The quality of liturgy is more important than the number of Masses available.
- * Mass is a celebration of faith and not a duty to be performed.

