

Plymouth East Roman Catholic Parishes

Report for the 'In Council' Parish Pastoral Council 'PPC' 2024/25

Dear Parishioner

Please find below a brief summary report for the parishes during the 2024/2025 Liturgical Year. The 'In Council' meetings are scheduled to take place on:

- Saturday 29th November Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Theresa Efford after 5pm mass.
- Sunday 30th November St Austin's Priory Ivybridge after 11am mass.
- Sunday 30th November Our Lady of Lourdes Plympton 4pm.

Liturgy & Music

- Choirs in both Plympton and Ivybridge and the Efford parish music group continue to be a strong support for the liturgical celebrations provided.
- The choirs/music group aim to be inclusive and introduce new approaches and songs including the new mass settings etc. 'To sing is to pray twice'.

Sacramental provision

- Masses for Sunday Obligation are currently celebrated at the three mass centres of Efford on the Saturday vigil and Plympton and Ivybridge on a Sunday. In the week masses are celebrated at both Plympton and Ivybridge on a Tuesday, Thursday and a Friday. There is currently no mass at Modbury.
- Children's Liturgy takes place at both Ivybridge and Plympton for the Sunday mass.
- Five children received their First Holy Communion in Plympton this year. And Six Adults were Confirmed and received their First Holy Communion at Easter. One adult was Confirmed and received First Holy Communion at Ivybridge later in the year.

- Father Victor continues to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation after all masses and on request.
- Baptisms, marriages and funerals have taken place in each of our three main mass centres.
- Fr Victor also regularly administers the Sacrament of the Sick to parishioners as required.
- Eucharistic Ministers across all three parishes support those who are sick and ill to receive the Eucharist. More Eucharistic ministers could be helpful in Ivybridge.
- Readers are encouraged and plentiful in the Ivybridge and Plympton but Efford would benefit from having more people who are willing to become readers.
- Carol Services, Corpus Christi processions and Marian devotions such as the Crowning of Mary have also taken place in both Plympton and Ivybridge.

Faith & Spiritual opportunities

- As a part of the Year of Jubilee of Hope a parish pilgrimage to Launceston to the Church of St Cuthbert Mayne was organised for Saturday the 22nd November. Approximately, tried and executed in Launceston. There was then a chance to venerate his relic and after lunch a tour of the relevant sites in Launceston town centre itself. There was also a 12 mile walk from St Austin's Priory via Our lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Theresa to The Cathedral Church of St Boniface and St Mary. As a part of the Jubilee Year of Hope undertaken by a few parishioners and friends.
- 'Faith discussion/chats' take place in both Ivybridge and Plympton parishes on a regular basis after weekday mass and there is a bible study on a Monday morning in Ivybridge.
- There is a rosary group that meets at Plympton on a Wednesday morning and evening and Adoration happens for 30 minutes before the Plympton and Ivybridge week day masses.

- A second parish pilgrimage consisting of parishioners from across the three mass centres as well as other parishes went to Medugorje in October 2025. There were a group 24 pilgrims including Father Victor who went to the Holy shrine in Bosnia Herzegovina where they had a wonderful week of prayer and adoration answering the call of Our Lady who is asking us her children to attend **Holy Mass, Pray the rosary, Fast, repent through confession and to Read the Bible**. This will help to bring peace in the world in these very troubled times. Our Lady's message is one of urgency to and for us her children of whom she says would, “....weep if you knew how much I love you.”
- The Lighthouse Deanery Charismatic Renewal prayer group which is well attended meets on the first Thursday of each month at Plympton parish hall where the group is led by parishioners from Ivybridge and Efford.

Evangelism, Outreach & Pastoral Care

See also Faith & Spiritual Opportunities above.

- Safeguarding representatives are in place at Plympton and Ivybridge, but Efford needs a new Safeguarding rep. They continue to be a key support to the parishes.
- The CWLs of both Ivybridge and Plympton continue to provide much support and service to the parishes. They are industrious and generous fundraisers and a great help to Fr Victor and parishioners in general. Lenten and Harvest lunches are provided to support CAFOD. As well as providing cake stalls and help for social activities, the CWLs support many charities including the Food Bank in Ivybridge, Hospice Southwest, Shelter Box, and The Salvation Army in Ivybridge and The Salvation Army Baby Bank in Plympton. Action Aid and other charities are also helped. Both CWLs are involved in welcoming, cleaning, flower arranging, providing lifts to mass, gardening, visiting the sick, reading at mass and singing, helping organise social events, as well as regular refreshment provision and fundraising e.g. through produce stalls

- Speakers for Stella Maris, The Church In Need, and The White Flower annual appeal for SPUC amongst others have made appeals and have been supported.
- In Efford two charities are helped via the tea and coffee contributions; the MSA Trust (Multi System Atrophy) and the Bethlehem charity linked with South Africa.
- This year the 'Party in the Park' took place in the Methodist Church due to inclement weather and became 'Party in the Church' as before involving several different churches in Ivybridge. It was attended by a number of parishioners.
- A number of these outreach activities involve working with other Christian churches e.g the Advent Ecumenical service in Plympton and The Plympton St Maurice Jesse Tree event and Supporting the Methodist Church activities such as The Men's Breakfasts and The Wise and Wonderful in Ivybridge.
- Efford have a group of Lay Dominicans who support the Evangelisation outreach team at 'Christ The King' Church in Plymouth, where they support Fr Jon Bielawski during Advent and Lent.

Parish Social events and activities

- As well as tea and coffee after all the masses across the three parishes, other social activities have included: A Calamity Jane sing a long, film nights, a bingo night, a murder mystery night, quiz nights, Paddy's night and St George's night, summer fete and barbecues amongst other social activities. There is a parish art group in Plympton
- There is a timetable of social events for Plympton now lodged with the parish secretary and posted at the back of OLOL. It is hoped that social events across all parishes can be circulated enabling all three sets of parishioners to join and attend.

Future Plans

- Building on faith discussion and spiritual outreach to our family & neighbours

- Potential RC Alpha course
- Attending or joining the faith chats/bible study group or Lighthouse worship prayer group
- Potential Café evangelisation / faith development course
- Exploring becoming a 'Divine Renovation Parish'

Thanks must go to all in our parishes for their hard work, support and devotion to their Roman Catholic faith and parish. Not least to our cleaners, flower arrangers, social event organisers, administrative staff, sacristans, choir members, catechists, those who support the liturgy through music or reading ministry, our MC Gary and our Finance Committee & Parish Pastoral Council members. At the heart of all of our activities lies our mission to support Fr Victor and Deacon Simon in spreading of the Good news of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are truly blessed to have them and fortunate that Fr Victor continues as our parish priest leading and guiding us in this task as our teacher, pastor and shepherd. We are truly thankful to his home Diocese that he has been loaned to us here in the Diocese of Plymouth.

We continue to pray for him and Deacon Simon and for their protection and continue to pray for each other and for all our lapsed brothers and sisters. Jesus we Trust in You.

Alan McCarthy (Chair of the PPC November 2025)