

E. Questions related to the present circumstances
(i.e. the transfer of certain Holydays to Sundays, and the present experience of parish celebrations of Holydays and Sundays)

1. Holydays

- What advantages will come from removing the obligation and transferring the solemnities of Epiphany, Ascension and *Corpus Christi* to Sundays?
- What is done locally to respect and nurture the festive and formative qualities of the days of obligation?
- How else might the worthy keeping of the remaining holydays in England and Wales be promote?
- How might people be helped to better keep the days when they cannot attend Mass?

2. Sundays

- What helps/hinders the worthy keeping of Sunday in your Deanery?
- What initiatives to support the keeping of Sunday have been taken in the past five years?
- In your Deanery what are seen to be the benefits and what the disadvantages that presently arise from the practice of anticipated Masses of Sunday being celebrated on Saturday night?
- What liturgical services are on Sunday evenings in your Deanery?

Keeping these days Holy

Celebration of Holy Days
of Obligation
and those Solemnities newly
transferred to Sundays

Using this sheet.

The process is designed to last between an hour and 90 minutes.
This may be adjusted according to need and circumstance.

Preparing the Process

Those preparing the session will need to consider what information participants need ahead of the reflection/discussion. Full and accurate information on the changes to the Liturgical Calendar for England and Wales can be accessed on the website of the Liturgy Office: www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Holydays.html

It may be helpful for a different person to lead the time of prayer and the time of discussion.

The person leading the prayer is responsible for

- Choosing and preparing the opening prayer (using a form suited to the group and the time available)
- Deciding how the scripture is to be read. It is suggested that it be read aloud twice by different readers and with a brief time of silence (perhaps a minute or two) between the two readings.
- Deciding how long the silence will be after the second reading (perhaps five or ten minutes)

The person facilitating the discussion is responsible for

- Ensuring all present can take part in the discussion
- Ensuring that the time is managed appropriately - for example is it going to be helpful to consider all the questions or only some of them
- Helping the discussion come to a helpful conclusion — for example, achieving agreement as to whether the group needs to act as a result of its discussion; if so is this a matter for each member separately or for the group collectively? If the latter, who is responsible for taking this action and reporting back to the group subsequently.

Keeping these days Holy

A. Opening Prayer

B. Scripture: Luke 24:46-53

Jesus said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you -- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

C. Silence

D. Reflection on the scripture

Where and how do we come to know and understand the mysteries of faith?

Where and how are our brothers and sisters in faith today 'witnesses' to the saving mysteries of faith?