

2017 STATISTICS

- 163 parishes (183 churches). 13 are currently committed to the care of a Religious order, 150 served by our diocesan priests or others.
- 144 non-retired priests, of whom 107 are PPs, 9 Assistants, 6 Chaplains, 6 other diocesan posts, 6 Working outside the archdiocese, 10 not currently in post.
- 56 retired (or imminently to be so)
- 20 of the 144 active priests are over 75; 25 priests are aged 50 or under.
- An estimate of perhaps 20 Religious priests are active in the parishes committed to their care.
- Mass attendance in 1990 was 137,000. In 2016 it was 46,879. That is a drop of almost 2/3rds.
- *Between 2001 and 2015 we had 65 retirements and deaths and 23 ordinations. This is a yearly average of nearly 4½ retirements/deaths and 1½ ordinations; or a net loss of 3 priests per year. Any future predictions, due to age profile and ordinations expected, should seem to be based on an average loss of at least 5.5 per year.*

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
	318	304	305	287	279	273	271	263	261	245	241	

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
	241	228	225	214	209	207	193	187	187	183	170	

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2030 ?
	170	159	155	153	152	151	154	144	139 ?	134 ?	128 ?	73 ?

What is your gut reaction to the Archbishops letter and the statistics above?

What do you think you can do to respond to the reality that we are facing as clergy and people in the parishes of Southport?

What will you have to let go of in order to enable the parishes across Southport to move together into the future?

What do you think clergy and people need to be aware of as we move into the future?

How can clergy and people best work together as we move forward?

Please spend some time reflecting on these questions. You can respond by letter/email to your parish priest before 12 May.