

16 October 2019

Annual 2018-2019 report of the Kelmscott Traditional Latin Mass Community.

Details of this report:

1. Executive Summary
2. The health of the Community
3. Spiritual milestones
4. The issue of Clerical supply to support the Community
5. Charitable activities of the Community
6. Self-supporting financials
7. Parish Financial support
8. Looking to the future

Dear Fr Pavol Herda PP.

The Traditional Latin Mass Community is alive and well in your Parish.

There is, as always, a struggle with reliable Clerical Supply to Celebrate Holy Mass each Sunday.

We have been fortunate to have gained the enthusiastic support of Monsignor M. Keating (Ret'd) as we are equally sad to acknowledge the loss of Fr L Henry SDB from the roster a result of age-related illness'. Emeritus Archbishop Barry Hickey is committing more and more to our weekly Sunday schedule, without whom we would be reduced to irregular Sunday Masses.

Fr Alfonse Sivikas is again starting to say Mass for us while recovering from his 'Stroke'

Attendances at Holy Mass have been constant for the past 5 years with an average of 39 Adults and 13 children each Sunday.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation were celebrated for the first time in the 12th Year of the Trad Latin Mass in Kelmscott, along with the induction of new Altar Servers resulting in 7 young boys committing to service of Our Lord in Holy Mass.

The Community has given financial support to The Franciscan Sister of the Immaculate, Caritas and to one of our own Community members who serve the poor overseas.

Through several fundraising activities and generous donations, we have been able to complete the compliment of essential Vestments for the Celebration of Holy Mass and other Liturgies.

The Parish supports the TLM Community who are members of the overall Parish community, with Consumables, Water and Electricity and printing of essential material, most day to day maintenance is carried out at no cost to the Parish.

Looking to the future; Supply will be an ongoing struggle however I place my confidence in the saying 'the Lord will provide (Supply)'.

During the year I wrote to Archbishop Costello SDB, requesting help with the supply of Priests to Celebrate the Trad Latin Mass as directed by His Holiness Benedict XVI' Motu Proprio. Although the fruits of His Graces survey of Priests is yet to bear much fruit, there is some hope in the responses received so far.

The solid, Sunday attendance figures over the past 11 ½ years, continue to indicate the Traditional form (Extraordinary Form) is sought by members of the Catholic Parish of the Good Shepherd and occasionally worshipers from outside the Parish.

The floating nature of Holy mass attendances would indicate a total worshipping community of about 70 Adults and 16 Children, the diversity of which would indicate a similar cross section of Catholics attending the OF celebration of Holy Mass.

The Health of the Community.

The Community is, by attendance figures, a very viable and worthy community. Although from time to time we have lost whole families to the demands of modern mobility I have been surprised by their replacement by new families filling the gap. Recently we have had Dr James Kho and his family leave for another Community. Why mention this family? Because Dr James was an experienced Master of Ceremonies and his three sons were Altar Servers. Their departure is severely missed but we continue to be able to provide when required, the services this family gave to the Community.

At Easter a Member of our Community was received into the Church as part of the Parish RCIA programme; this was followed by a Confirmation; a short time later 2 x First Holy Communicant recipients; conferred by Mons Keating with permission. Then we had the induction of two junior Altar Servers.

The introduction of the Traditional Mass Community website has brought visitors from other states and locations to celebrate Holy Mass with us. A positive move!

Supply

Clerical Supply will always be an ongoing day by day probability and I am convinced that the real answer is to have one of our (Parish) Priest capable and committed by placement, to saying the Traditional Latin Mass (EF) as well as the OF.

We are fortunate to have the commitment by His Grace Em. Archbishop B Hickey and Monsignor M J Keating both of whom are either soon to be or have already reached their 80 year.

Fr Alfonsas Sivikas is slowly recovering his health and has recently said two Masses but this is a slow process and is not always to be counted on when rostering.

For the first time since beginning the Latin Mass in Kelmscott (2008) the possibility of not being able to have a EF Christmas Mass is a real possibility.

Attempts to roster enough Priests to celebrate Sunday Evening Benediction once a month, have fallen on deaf ears and has been abandoned for the time being.

Financials.

The Community through the 'small change drop box' has contributed over \$1000 to the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate missioning in Benin (Africa). Each \$400 brings another young girl, an outcast from her village, into the care and education of the Sisters

By way of generous donations and fund raising we have been able to purchase several Copes and Mass Vestments to complete our Liturgical colour requirements totalling \$1000.

One of the Community Members has for a few years, committed 3 months of his life to the service of the desperate poor overseas. A fund raiser and donations contributed \$400+ to this cause.

The Annual Caritas Lenten Appeal raised \$130 plus an unknown number of envelopes

Parish Support

We acknowledge the support of the Parish for the TLM Community by way of consumables, water and electricity.

The collapse of the ceiling in the old entrance way to the Chapel, was a major maintenance cost to the Parish and to date **has not been returned to a useable condition by the Contractors**, who I am told were paid to do so.

Other maintenance costs have been borne by the Community in lieu of the Parish.

Changes to the configuration of the building to accommodate two communities, has to my mind worked well achieving the desired outcomes.

A third step was built for the Altar/Sanctuary to conform to liturgical norms; funded by the Community

The Future

A pessimist would see the future as being tough, an optimist sees it as an opportunity to grow along with possible new norms, even while the Church itself seeks ways to once again be relevant in the wider world.

Prayerfully submitted

Faithfully in Christ

Phillip J Chadd