

Benedict Partnership Celebration Mass 11 July 2018



Reflecting on the themes of Conversion, Stability and Obedience (or attentive listening) of our Partnership Patron, Benedict; Fr Mark Millward's homily focused on the 'tensions' and similarities all communities face as they seek to live and grow together in dynamic and creative ways.

Frs Tony Duffy, Paul Hopper, Mark Millward, Bill O'Gorman and Jim O'Keefe concelebrated the St Benedict Mass and were joined on the altar by Deacons Chas Ferguson, Peter

Lavery and Richard McLaughlin. Fr Bill began the celebration and during the Mass Fr Paul Hopper, the first priest appointed to a Partnership in the Diocese, was installed as priest of the partnership and welcomed on behalf of each church community. Fr Paul then continued as main celebrant for the remainder of the Mass.

Mick Davison, the PDG Chair, briefly spoke of the work of the PDG to date, as it explored what it means for us to be missionary disciples. All church communities in the Partnership had been invited to send representatives to each of the sub-groups as we sought to extend these ministries out into the wider arena, and we were looking forward to our 'Celebrating Partnership' road shows starting in September. Acknowledging, that the work to date had brought us near to the 'end of the beginning', Mick expressed the hope that the annual Patronal celebration will become a Partnership tradition.

The celebration was accompanied by musicians and choir from around the Partnership and each church contributed to the Eucharistic celebration. St Michael's extended their hospitality in food, drinks and football viewing in the Church Hall afterwards.

Maria Byrne and Mark Harris 13 July 2018