



Glossop Catholic Parishes

**Jesus Christ calls everyone to experience His transforming love.
We joyfully embrace our responsibility to proclaim this good news.**

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Consultation on the future of Catholic life in Glossop

Observations on the impact of various scenarios on the question of which church would best suit the future needs of Catholic life in Glossop

There are three factors which would have a decisive impact on the question of “which of the current two churches would best serve a single parish in Glossop as its single place of worship.”¹ The first and second are the fruitfulness or otherwise of the ongoing missionary efforts of the Catholic community in Glossop and the number of priests available to celebrate Holy Mass in the diocese. The third is the location of St Philip Howard School.

Fruitfulness of mission and availability of clergy

- If mission bears limited or no fruit and an overall decline in Mass attendance obtains, then All Saints, with a capacity of 60 persons² will be adequate as long as the diocese is blessed with sufficient priests to celebrate two or more Sunday³ Masses in Glossop.
- If mission bears much fruit and the modest recent growth in Mass attendance continues, or if a decline in priestly number means only one Sunday Mass⁴ may be celebrated in Glossop, then St Mary Crowned, with a capacity of 120 persons⁵ will be the better choice.

Location of St Philip Howard Catholic Voluntary Academy

- If St Philip Howard Catholic Voluntary Academy is rebuilt on the present site, and the car park continues to be available for Sunday Mass, then parking for Sunday Mass at St Mary Crowned will remain tolerable, albeit not optimal.
- If St Philip Howard Catholic Voluntary Academy is rebuilt elsewhere, and the car park is transferred to the church, and so continues to be available for Sunday Mass, then parking for Sunday Mass at St Mary Crowned will remain tolerable, albeit not optimal.
- In any scenario where the car park is no longer available for Sunday Mass, then parking for Sunday Mass at St Mary Crowned would be difficult and disruptive to neighbours.

This document offers observations on the impact of the scenarios above. The reader should consult the main consultation report for broader observations on the advantages and disadvantages of the two churches as a single place of worship for Glossop.

Note that while alternative proposals arose in the consultation, including a new church on a present or another site, and the development of a multi-use campus with a place of worship as well as school and community facilities, these proposals were not considered in depth as the scope of the consultation was limited to which of the existing two churches would serve best.

¹ Letter from Bishop Patrick to Fr Martin Sylvester, July 2025

² Mandated by the Fire Risk Assessment conducted by Allied Safety Limited. The capacity rises to 100 if trained fire marshals are on duty at each exit for the duration of any event.

³ Perhaps including a Vigil Mass on a Saturday.

⁴ Or a Vigil Mass on a Saturday.

⁵ Mandated by the Fire Risk Assessment conducted by Allied Safety Limited. The capacity rises to 342 if trained fire marshals are on duty at each exit for the duration of any event.