

Introduction

Male/female balance

Full time/part time

Native to Dublin

Any with NI Connections

Slide 1 Process of reflecting on vocation

Here because you feel God has called you

Ministry always has a context – place, community

Slide 2 Go back a step

What is our ministry?

Slide 3 Begins here, in the heart

Slides 3-8 Different aspects – we will each bring our own particular skill set.

Slide 9 So where?

Slide 10,11 At the end of my own training.

Slide 12 My own pilgrimage – value of spell in North

Slide 13 Raheny & Coolock – 1978-80

Rev Cecil Wilson – wonderful, down to earth
pastor, source of wisdom, friend.

Slide 14 Finglas – 1980-83

‘Careful lads, whoever laughs gets Finglas’
1980’s time of deprivation, real social problems
area had a bad name – Parish and wider community
‘salt of the earth’ in terms of loyalty and generosity

Slide 15 Mountmellick – 1983 – 89

Close to people in their place of work

Slide 16 Ahoghill & Portglenone 1989-2005

‘Are you still interested in a place in the North?’
Area did not have a good image – cradle of our
troubles

Parish of Terence O'Neill – pride in that legacy

Canon Jim Hartin – Church of Ireland has a vocation to occupy the middle of the road.

Middle of the road not the safest place to be – hit by traffic in both directions.

16 very good years – great contacts right across the community.

11 years earlier I had said – keep me clear of here. You will go where the Lord sends you.

Now in Howth since 2005 – very different social & political environment.

Howth has given me a freedom to do and say things – but I really miss the down to earth, no nonsense honesty of the North

Slide 17 Awful weather – but it is the same everywhere

Slide 18 North South, East West – people basically the same

Slide 19 We come back to this

Slide 20 What am I looking for in a curacy?

Slide 21-5 Number of factors

Rector – crucial

Churchmanship – important but not deal breaker

Family needs – if family are not happy – you won't be.

Accommodation – not looking for luxury – there is a measure of the value the Parish place on their clergy.

North or south?

Slide 26 Beware stereotypes

In a sense they help us get a picture

Slide 27 Is this your stereotype of the North.

Drumcree – not just divided our Church North and South. Church in the North was divided – indeed parishes were divided.

Orange Order divided – many left.

Slide 28 Northern Ireland is a very different place