

Rev Damian Humphries
The Presbytery
70 West Street
Worsbrough, Barnsley S70 5DJ
damian1935@sky.com

Dear Father Damian,

As a member of the Polish Catholic community in Barnsley I urge you to reconsider celebration of a Mass in Polish language in a church in Barnsley.

For many years, we have been celebrating Mass at Holy Rood Church and worshipping God as best we can - that is, in our mother tongue. Although our lives are slowly returning to normal and congregations can meet in churches again, unfortunately for us such this possibility does not exist. For many of us, for various reasons, it is not possible to attend a Mass in Sheffield.

Participation in the Holy Mass in Polish is not a sign of division and isolation. Many Poles are very committed and involved in the initiatives of the Catholic community in Barnsley. Limiting the possibility of participating in the mass in the language in which we naturally worship God will not result in integration with the English community, but the departure of the people from the Catholic Church. Let's build bridges, not set up barriers.

We sincerely hope that our appeal will meet with a positive response, and you will honour the provisions of the Code of Canon Law and the agreement between the Episcopates in Poland and England and Wales regarding the activities of the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales.

Yours sincerely in Christ.

.....
Date

.....
Signature

Also sent FAO: Rt Rev Ralph Heskett CSsR, Bishop of Hallam