

In the light of the request for more stewards
and welcomers....

**A blessing
on those
who greet us
as we enter
the
church**



Yours is the first of Christ's faces
to greet God's people as they assemble for Mass.

Your greeting of welcome is the first wish that
"The Lord be with you!"

Yours is the word
that welcomes the stranger to be at home.
Let your welcome and your smile
be for all who enter here.

Remember that you will have time later
to see your own close friends.

Seek out the lost, the confused,
the stranger and the curious.

Do not wait for them to come to you.

When appropriate, lend an arm to the infirm
or the unsteady,
remembering your own infirmities.

Have a special word for the children.

Greet each person as you would the Lord,
for that is precisely whom you meet.

Remember that you stand at the temple gates
to greet those who come on pilgrimage.

Some will come rejoicing,
others perhaps in fear and trembling;
some will come healed, ransomed, restored,
and others will come to seek that healing.

Be sensitive and welcome all as best you can.

Some may rush by and ignore you;
let go of any negative reaction;
let go any disappointment;

Some may fall ill while at prayer:
see to their needs

as you would have them see to yours;
be slow to judge those who leave early,
be glad that they have shared our prayer
and recall that

only the Lord knows the reasons of the heart.

**Be faithful in the work you do,
for in it the Lord saves his people.**

[Reflection by Aidan Kavanagh OSB]

The Ministry of Welcome is of course not
confined to those who greet us as we enter and who
give us our hymnsheet and newsletter. Gathering as
God's beloved children, the liturgy consistently
addresses us as "brothers and sisters" in this holy
assembly.

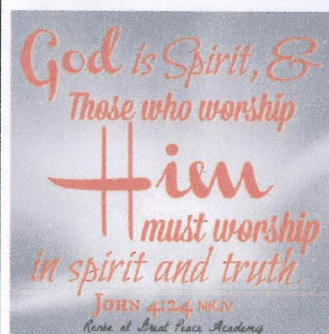
One contemporary hymn sings that we are:

*No longer strangers to each other,
no longer strangers in God's house,
we are fed and we are nourished
by the strength of those who care.*

Gathered around the scriptures and made one in the
Eucharist, we are the community of God's Kingdom
whose very assembling is the sacrament of God's
presence in the world. In the living words and
gestures, sacrifice and meal of the liturgical prayer the
living God is revealed to us as the faithful and
redeeming Lord whose *tent is pitched among us*.

We are blessed in our Churches to have many
travellers and visitors week by week who come and
share our Sunday and Weekday Masses, and often as
they leave they mention how they have felt welcome
in our midst and how much they have enjoyed the
liturgy and in being in such beautiful buildings.

Priests, and also ministers in other Christian churches
have told me of the "mystery worshipper" travelling
incognito, attending services in churches in the UK and
beyond, then doing a critique of the experience and
publishing it to the web at www.shipoffools.com
scoring the welcome, length and content of the
sermon (!), the aesthetics of the surroundings and the
overall experience of the worship. The only sign that
the "mystery worshipper" gives of their attendance is
the discreet placing of a calling card in the offertory
basket.



Should it ever happen
here, a good welcome
would surely be our
default position!

Hospital Chaplaincy and Visitation

If you or a loved one is in hospital — Ninewells,
RVH, Roxburghe House and wish a visit, the chaplain
can be contacted by the mobile phone [07821 624124]
or through the hospital switchboard on 01382 660111.