

St. Nicholas' Church, Ardglass

**Proposed Alterations to Layout of
ALTAR & SEATING**

In the Eucharistic celebration we are the family of God, gathered round the Table of the Lord to receive the body and blood of Christ, to share in His divine life. (*"... if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you will not have life in you."* Jn.6.53)

The position of the altar in St. Nicholas' - at one end of a long, narrow space - means that it is impossible to physically express the reality that we *are* the family of Christ, gathered in unity round His table.

To express this reality, insofar as possible in a gathering of some 400 people, a simple re-arrangement of altar and seating might be made - as indicated in the sketch plan opposite.

NOTE: To carry out these proposals:

- Structural alterations are not required.
- The present altar is moved to a specially built and carpeted platform (*as in Dunsford*)
- some seats are simply *turned round* to face the altar in its new position

The benefits of such a re-arrangement are as follows:

- Everyone is nearer to the sacrificial table.
- We physically reflect the fact that we are the close-gathered family of Christ.
- There is easier movement to and from the altar to receive the Body of Christ.
- The ideals of the Church are achieved with an absolute minimum of expense.

I hope that the Pastoral Council will consider these suggestions and recommend their adoption by the priests of the parish.

Yours Sincerely,
Michael O'Shea

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DOWN DESIGN 55 Strangford Road, Ardglass
Co. Down, N. Ireland BT30 7SP

TEL. / FAX. : (01396) 84 11 58

E-mail: <michael.o'shea@virgin.net>