

Parish Pastoral Council Update February 2020

Baptism Preparation Classes take place on the 1st and 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the new halls. Stella and Margaret lead the first session and Deacon Tom McCarthy the second session.

First Holy Communion Masses Sunday 7th & 14th June 2020, 11.30am Fifty-six children of the parish have now enrolled to the programme and will receive their First Holy Communion in two groups in June 2020. Classes commenced in January 2020. Mass of Dedication took place on Sunday 2nd February at 11.30am when the children were presented with the Mass of Dedication certificates and badges. Sessions on Reconciliation for parents and children (workshop morning Saturday 29th February), Evening Meeting on Reconciliation for parents led by Canon William Thursday 5th March and Service of Reconciliation (First Confession) Saturday 7th March.

Sacrament of Confirmation, Sunday 17th May 2020, 11.30am. The Confirmation Programme is going well. There are thirty-six young people taking part and their engagement so far has been impeccable. There will be 12 sessions in all and there is the additional opportunity for a retreat at St Vincent's, Whitstable Friday 20 – Sunday 22nd March 2020 and a day visit to Canterbury on Saturday 25th April to visit various sites of Catholic interests, including the Cathedral. Bishop Paul Hendricks will confer the sacrament in May 2020. The programme is supported by the chaplain, Fr Peter Littleton and a dedicated team of catechists led by Bernard Dive who volunteer and give their time to prepare the young people of the parish.

RCIA Journey in Faith

The Journey in Faith programme recommenced September 2019 with the two introductory sessions on 19th & 26th September. We currently have 3 catechumens, 6 candidates and 3 parishioners who will receive a blessing on Easter Night 11th April 2020. The programme is well established now with an online programme of lessons based on Evangelium. We also support the programmes with on-going members of the parish community who have been invited to attend e.g. Little Company of Mary Sisters, former members of the RCIA programme, deacons, many parishioners across the parish community who are involved in being proactive and supporting those joining the '*Journey in Faith*' programme sharing their faith stories which has very much enhanced the programme under the direction of Deacon Tom McCarthy, Tom Gately and Martine. The Rite of Welcome & Sending will take place on Sunday 23rd February during the 10am Mass and Rite of Election, led by Archbishop John at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 29th February.

Marriage Preparation classes our next set of classes commence: Thursday 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th May 2020 from 8pm in the UNH. Led by Canon William, Deacon Simon & Ellen English and team of parishioners.

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday morning following the 10am Mass. First Friday of the Month following 6.15pm Mass. First Sunday of the Month 5-6pm and during Advent every Sunday. Pro-Life quarterly Saturday afternoon 1-3pm (Deacon Michael) **Dates for 2020:** Sat 22nd February, 23rd May, 29th August & 28th November 2020.

CAFOD Fast Days Friday 6th March & Diocesan Missionary Appeals & Second Collections continue through the year. **Missionary Society of St Paul diocesan annual appeal weekend of 14/15th November 2020.**

Guild of St Stephen (Altar Servers) A further 10 new altar servers have just completed training with John Pontifex and Martine and will be serving over the next two weekends at the 10am & 11.15am Masses respectively when John will be present to ensure they settle in and understand their roles/tasks. They will then move to their allocated Masses from Sat 29th Feb/Sun 1st Mar. We have some 50+ altar servers currently on the rota, though some of the older members are now 'retiring'! A pizza and film night has been put in the diary for Sat 20th June at 7.30pm and Enrolment to the Guild of St Stephen on Sunday 28th June at 11.30am for the 10 altar servers who completed training January 2019.

Mass of Healing & Anointing Our next Mass of Healing & Anointing will take place on Saturday 9th May 2020. (MM to check with Canon William as this is now the Bank Holiday Weekend as Friday 8th May is the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in Europe)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: We are fortunate to have a large number of extraordinary ministers, thirty plus who assist the clergy during weekday/weekend Masses and visit the housebound and nursing homes regularly.

Live Simply Team are now meeting regularly on the 4th Monday of the month with forthcoming events which will be advertised through the parishnewsletter and noticeboards. The Live Simply team were present at the Parish Faith Open Weekend in early November (see separate note). **Update** from Deacon Tom.

Parish Faith Weekend took place on Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd November following all Masses. In the Spirit of renewal and evangelization each parish group was represented at our "Faith Alive Exhibition" over the weekend. Once again the purpose of the weekend was to showcase all the many activities that happen in our diverse and vibrant parish. The event was based in the Old Hall (Balham High Road entrance) following Saturday Vigil Mass and all Sunday Masses. This was a powerful opportunity for us all, clergy and laity to celebrate our diversity, our strengths, our hopes and our challenges for the future. Our Mission is to be "The salt of the earth and the light of the World" This is the most sure seed of unity, hope and salvation for the whole human race, so we were delighted to welcome many of the parishioners and visitors who came share their faith with others in this important parish event. Prior to this our last Faith Weekend was last held in October 2013.

Readers' Workshop & Commissioning of Readers/Renewal of Commitment: Took place on Sunday 8th December, 11.15am (2nd Sunday of Advent, Bible Sunday) for Commissioning of new readers and renewal of commitment of all current readers. We are fortunate to have over 45 readers of the word in the parish.

Catechist On-going Formation (Safeguarding, Health & Safety meeting) Follow up to our meeting with catechetical coordinators of the sacramental programmes on 04.02.20. with review.

Bereavement Support Group continues alternate months – group meeting and individual sessions are held on demand. We, as a parish have many parishioners who have had advice and support through this important ministry since commencing in September 2010.

St Anselm's & St Saviour's Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Mon 12th – Sat 17th October, 2020.) Awaiting final itinerary before being advertised asap.

Patronal & International Feast Mass 2020 – Canon William's 40th Anniversary to the Priesthood & Fr Paul Connelly's 25th Anniversary to the Priesthood and date agreed at last PPC meeting for Saturday 11th July 2020, 6.15pm Mass. International Committee & Social Events team have met (Thursday 6th February). Canon William to meet with Claver in the not too distant future.