

Parish Pastoral Council Update November 2019

RCIA Journey in Faith

The Journey in Faith programme has recommenced September 2019 with two introductory sessions on 19th & 26th September. We currently have 3 catechumens, 6 candidates. 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.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Annual gathering took place at the end of June (most of our 52 Extraordinary Ministers were present). Renewal of Commitment took place during the annual Blessed Sacrament Procession service on Sunday 23rd June. We are fortunate to have a large number of extraordinary ministers who are able to visit the housebound and nursing homes regularly.

Gratitude Prayer Group Reunion of the Spirituality of the 12-Steps. Two sessions have been held September and October. We will be looking to find extra dates into the New Year.

Welcome Tour of the Church & Tea – Saturday 26th September 2019 Tom Gately, Nick Dunne and Martine led this bi-annual visit/tour of the church recently and to which all new members of the Journey in Faith group, First Holy Communion children/families were invited and followed by tea in the upper new hall.

Live Simply Team are now meeting regularly. Season of Creation was celebrated with a Holy Hour on Sunday 1st September, Harvest Festival Mass during our family Mass on Sunday 15th September and a special Mass on the Feast of St Francis including readings specifically chose to highlight creation and a sermon on Franciscan spirituality. Noticeboards have been allocated for *Live Simply* material and updates, as well as a weekly reflection in the parish newsletter (when possible). The Live Simply team will be represented at the Parish Faith Open Weekend in early November. **Update** from Deacon Tom. *Ember Days* to be discussed (see agenda).

Catechist On-going Formation (Safeguarding, Health & Safety meeting) led by Peggy Jhugroo (Parish DBS Representative) Excellent attendance from 60 catechists of all the sacramental programmes of the parish. **Annual Diocesan Day for Catechists** Five catechists attended this annual day of workshops and concluded with Mass celebrated by Archbishop John. It was unfortunate the CCF sent out the date and details to parishes just after the schools had closed for the summer break and there was a delay in early September to confirm workshops which affected the number of catechists attending at such short notice.

St Anselm's & St Saviour's Pilgrimage to Avila (Mon 7th – Sat 12th October 2018.) Thirty-eight pilgrims travelled to Avila. a most successful and inspiring visit.

Mass of Healing & Anointing this was cancelled in October due to the parish pilgrimage to Avila. We were unable to find an extra date in the busy diary schedule. Our next Mass will be Saturday 9th May 2020.

Guild of St Stephen (Altar Servers) A notice will be included in the newsletter in the next fortnight to recruit new altar servers and John Pontifex will confirm three Sunday afternoon training sessions in January 2020. We have some 50+ altar servers currently on the rota, though some of the older members are now 'retiring'!

Parish Faith Weekend Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd November following all Masses. In the Spirit of renewal and evangelization each parish group will be asked to contribute to a "Faith Alive Exhibition" over the weekend of 2nd/3rd November 2019. The purpose of the weekend is to showcase all the many activities that happen in our diverse and vibrant parish. The event will be based in the Old Hall (Balham High Road entrance) following Saturday Vigil Mass and all Sunday Masses. This is 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 come and share your faith with others in this important parish event. This was last held in October 2013.

PPC Members to please sign the rota for the weekend.

Mary, Mother of God & The Bible – This course is due to commence after half-term on Tuesday 28th October 7.45pm in the upper new hall, and continue Tuesday 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th November, 3rd, 10th & 17th December. and will be used as part of our Advent Retreat 2019.

Readers' Workshop & Commissioning of Readers/Renewal of Commitment: Workshop will take place on **Saturday 9th November 2-4pm in the upper new hall.** All readers will be invited to attend the 11.15am Mass on Sunday 8th December (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.

Marriage Preparation classes Wednesday 6th, 13th 20th & 27th November 2019 from 8pm in the UNH. Led by Canon William, Deacon Simon & Ellen English and team of parishioners.

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of the Month Deacon Michael 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) Saturday 30th November. **Dates for 2020:** Sat 22nd February, 23rd May, 29th August & 28th November 2020

May Day Bank Holiday (transferred from Monday 4th May to **Friday 8th May – 75th Anniversary of VE day in Europe.**

Sacrament of Confirmation, Sunday 17th May 2020, 11.30am. Thirty-seven young people are enrolled to the programme commencing with an induction afternoon on Saturday 23rd November 2019 and classes commencing January 2020. Retreat Weekend to St Vincent's, Whitstable Friday 20 – Sunday 22nd March 2020. Day visit to Canterbury tbc (possibly Saturday 2nd May 2020). 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.

First Holy Communion Masses Sunday 7th & 14th June 2020, 11.30am Fifty-two children of the parish have now enrolled to the programme and will receive their First Holy Communion in two groups in June 2020. Classes commencing in January 2020.

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.

CAFOD Fast Days/Diocesan Missionary Appeals & Second Collections continue through the year.

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.