

St Joseph's Catholic Church, New Malden

PARISH GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

REPORTS FOR THE A.G.M. 2009

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLICS IN EDUCATION (ACE!)

Bernadette Lally

Founded in 2007 by the two priests of our parish, in cooperation with the Teresian Association (see below), at a time when Catholic Education in particular and "Faith Schools" in general are under attack by secularism, this Association seeks to provide a spiritual and moral support network, discussion forum, guidance and information (thus filling a surprising gap) in similar ways to the national provisions of the Guilds or Associations for Catholic Nurses, Catholic Doctors, Catholics in the Police, etc. ACE is for all Catholics involved in the field of Education whether as teachers or governors, in chaplaincy, administration, counselling, support, leadership or in teacher-training, and not only in Catholic schools/institutions, but also for Catholics in non-Catholic schools.

The next major event hosted by ACE will be a lecture by Dr Gerald Grace, Director of the Centre for Research and Development in Catholic Education at London University. Dr Grace's talk takes place at the Institute of Education in London on 12th November 2009. starting at 7pm.

ALTAR SERVERS, JUNIORS

Fr Richard

New Servers were recruited during the course of the year, with a number of children signing-up who had recently made their First Holy Communion. A popular trip was again organised to the Wimbledon Panto (Cinderella). Large numbers of servers assisted with the Holy Week ceremonies which went very well, due in no small way to the time which the servers gave up to practice and take part. Those who have now completed a full year of serving were enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen, and received their Guild medals, earlier in the year.

ALTAR SERVERS, LADIES

Rowena Wittenbaker

This team now consists of 3 ladies, who serve at the weekday 10am Mass on Wednesdays and Fridays.

ALTAR SERVERS, MEN

Michael Barnes

These adults have served for many years, and continue to do so at the various Sunday Masses, and on alternate days (with the Lady Servers) at the 10am daily Mass, and one at the daily 7am Mass, as well as offering support to the younger servers. A new man has recently joined the team, and training/refresher sessions are planned for other men who would like to offer to serve at the altar. Just speak to one of the priests.

APOSTOLATE OF EUCHARISTIC ADORERS

An Apostolic Adorer's role is to encourage Parishioners to spend 1 hour a week (or any time they can give), with the Blessed Sacrament on a regular basis, and to commit to a weekly time on a Thursday when there is Adoration in our parish from the 10am Mass right through to 9pm, with Benediction at about 8.50pm. Additionally there is Adoration in the Parish every first Saturday of the month for 1 hour after the 10am Mass. Parishioners are encouraged to pray especially for vocations on the first Thursdays and Saturdays.

The procession of the Blessed Sacrament for Corpus Christ feast has now become a regular annual event. It is especially rewarding to see at this occasion those children who have recently received their First Holy Communion.

Parishioners who come to Adoration are asked to sign their name in the book as they come into the Church, so we know that the Blessed Sacrament always has a goodly number of people present throughout the day; and to add any intercessions and/or thanksgivings in the other book.

ASCENT MOVEMENT

Laurence Burbridge

This is a movement for retired Parishioners (and you do not have to be old to be retired today !!) We meet after the ten o'clock Mass on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Pastoral Centre. After an opening prayer and a get to know you session we discuss the following Sunday's Gospel with its meaning for our lives.

The Movement is part of an International one and in our Diocese we arrange a number of social/religious events. On 8 October Southwark Diocese are welcoming members from Westminster at St Mary's West Croydon. After Holy Mass there will be a buffet lunch and an opportunity to meet other Members. We arrange an annual Day of Recollection with an invited speaker at The Little Sisters of the Poor at Vauxhall and an annual Retreat at Aylesford. Why not come and join us? **You** are sure to receive a very warm welcome.

BEAVERS – 2nd Malden

Rosemary Matters

The Beavers have enjoyed a full and varied programme. We have invested many new Beavers and said good-bye to several children as they progressed to Cubs. The Beavers have successfully taken part in the Animal friend badge and the Friendship challenge. We took part in the St George's day parade and we have a party at Christmas and at the end of the summer term and some Beavers attended the District party and also the explorer's and the science afternoon. We were also invited to join the Cubs for a day at their camp and also participated in an activity day called "Sparks" at Polyapes. Each evening is made up of games and a variety of activities. At present we have 14 Beavers which will rise to 18 at Christmas and we have a waiting list.

I would like to thank my helpers Kerry Flanagan and Ian Almeida and all the parents who help on an occasional basis. Looking ahead our greatest need is for another warranted Leader because if I am unable to attend an activity or a meeting then the Beavers cannot participate.

BOOKSHOP

Maureen Sampson (Bookshop Manager)

It has been another busy year in the Bookshop. The team has worked hard to support the regular parish programmes such as First Holy Communion, Confirmation and *Evangelium*. We also assisted some new programmes and initiatives including the Study Days for the Maryvale Certificate in Catechesis and the newly-promoted Association of Catholics in Education. The Bookshop was open around the time of the meetings and it stocked relevant books and literature.

During the year our many customers from inside and outside the parish have complimented us on the good range of inexpensive repository items and religious cards. Additionally we now carry a limited-edition range of statues and plaques from "Devotum" which come with an authenticity certificate in the form of a prayer card. Although more expensive than our usual ranges they are ideal for that extra special gift.

An attractive plaque of St Therese of Lisieux is now on sale to coincide with the visit of her relics.

We continually aim to expand our range of books and devotional items throughout the year to meet the developing needs of the parish.

CATENIAN ASSOCIATION

Michael Bennett

The Catenians is a national organisation of Catholic Professional men who meet socially at least once a month for the free exchange of views and to help encourage one another and their families in their Catholic, social and business lives. The members are particularly concerned with the care of widows and children of deceased members and all forms of benevolence to members in difficulty and need. The Association is non-political. It is over 12,000 strong and has over 300 circles in Great Britain and overseas. Many Catenians have prominent roles in their local Parishes and Schools working very closely with the Parish Priest to provide much needed help and support.

Kingston Circle meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Malden Golf Club, Coombe Road, New Malden at 8pm. Everybody is very welcome and for further information, or if you are just curious, please talk to me or contact the Parish Office. Parishioners are also members of other local Catenian Circles which meet elsewhere in the locality.

CELL GROUPS

Mary Cruickshank

Cell groups meet every fortnight in members' houses and grow together in faith and love through praise, prayer, reading the Sunday Gospel and a discussion topic. They offer each other mutual support and encouragement both in their faith journeys and in their everyday lives. A key part of cell groups is evangelisation by adding new members so that in time the cell can divide and form new groups.

The seven purposes of a cell group are:-

To grow in the love of God

To grow in the love of one another

To share Jesus with others
To serve others in our parish family
To give and receive support
To raise up new leaders
To deepen our Catholic identity

There are currently cell groups meeting on the first and third Tuesdays at 8pm and every Friday morning at 10.30am, please come and join us. For more information contact Mary (8949 0089).

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Marianne Roberts

The St Joseph's Charismatic Prayer Group meets each Monday at 8.00pm in the Lady Chapel. All meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. The average attendance over the past year has been around 25 out of an overall membership of about 40. The Monday meetings include praise, intercessory prayers and a talk, based either on books by established leaders in the renewal movement or on reflections on passages of scripture. The Group also organises days of renewal for everyone wishing to attend.

Particular events of note during the past 12 months included 5 Occasional Masses with prayers for healing at St Joseph's.

The Prayer Group is committed to playing a full and active part in the spiritual life and welfare of the parish. Many members of the Group are actively involved in other aspects of the life of the parish, including Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Eucharistic Adorers, Lectors, Collectors and Welcomers, Church Cleaners, the Parish Pastoral Council and a member of the Finance Committee.

The Prayer Group's overall mission statement remains as follows:

- to increase the awareness of the Holy Spirit and to be open to His power working in our daily lives;
- to encourage those attending the Prayer Group to maintain a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, praise and scripture;
- to evangelise through witness, ministry and talks;
- to take an active part in Occasional Masses with prayers for healing at St Joseph's to organise Life in the Spirit seminars.

CHILD PROTECTION WORKING PARTY

Andrew Stables

We are continuing to make good progress in completing the necessary checks – most groups have been contacted and, although the majority of people are helpful, we need them to return the forms promptly. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. We have been invited to some of the groups' meetings, which is very helpful as we come to know you and can answer your questions face to face.

In order to improve the process of completing the paperwork for Child Protection you need to leave your forms and CRB application form with Agnes in the Parish Office.

It would also be very helpful if the leaders of the groups would let us know about any new members.

Please let one of the priests or the Parish Office know if you are interested in becoming a rep. Contact Andrew Stables on 020 8942 7942 for more details. We urgently need more people.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP (3-7 years)

Joanna Ferraris & Fiona Burgess

The Children's Liturgy Group provides a Liturgy of the Word appropriate for young children during the 9.30am Mass in term-time (dates displayed in the Narthex). As well as a reading of a children's version of the Liturgy, there are various activities to help explain or reinforce it such as stories, craft, role play, puppets, discussion, games, prayers or singing - working within a structure. They join the rest of the congregation at the Offertory Procession. They will usually bring something they have made or an activity sheet in to church with them. These are sometimes displayed at the front of church or in the Narthex and mentioned by the priest to help integrate the groups with the congregation.

Children register in advance and are allocated to one of the four groups. For younger children there are two groups (nursery and reception i.e., 3-5 years) meeting in the large hall of the Pastoral Centre. For the older children (years 1 and 2 i.e., 5-7 years old) two groups meet in upstairs rooms of the Pastoral Centre. The four groups are run on a rota basis by leaders and helpers drawn from the parents. We are always keen to recruit more helpers as each year some

leave as their own children grow up and move on, and we do have several new leaders who have volunteered this year. A proportion then go on to assist with other older children's groups such as Explorers or as catechists for the First Holy Communion Programme.

Attendance at the groups continued to be strong during the last school year and so far the numbers signing up for the new year this September are again high.

During the last year Father Richard has prepared a leaflet giving a simple outline of the Mass for the oldest children to use when they come into the church so that they can follow what is happening. They were each given a copy and laminated copies are left on the benches to be used by the children each Sunday.

CHURCH CLEANERS

Ian Smith

The church cleaning teams have had a quite busy year. Despite an excellent response to our last appeal for new volunteers we have still been quite short handed. We recognise that this is purely a function of how peoples' lives change (people find new jobs, move home, are ill, etc) and so we are looking towards running a more flexible system to recognise this.

The group have already set up a 4 week system where we clean on two Saturdays as well as two Fridays each month. This will continue and the groups allocated to each of those days will remain as the core of our cleaners.

However, we will be inviting people to "come whenever you can" across the month. So, if you have a free Friday morning (first and third Fridays of the month), consider coming to the 10am Mass and then share an hour with us cleaning and preparing the church for the whole parish. Similarly, on Saturday mornings we would like to welcome you to share in the work before your busy weekend really begins (8am on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month).

So, thank you all for helping during the past year – cleaning the church is a vital service to the whole parish - and please look out for the poster inviting new people to "drop in and clean" with the regular team! You never know, it may become a habit for you, too....

COLLECTORS AND WELCOMERS

Marianne Roberts

Collectors and Welcomers normally meet formally twice a year, once in the third week of Lent and again in the second week of Advent. They give their services on a monthly Rota basis in 4 teams. Welcomers aim to be represented at each Mass, giving recognition to our regular members and providing assistance and advice to newcomers, together with handling matters in the Narthex such as Second Collections, distributing Newsletters, Magazines, etc.

Collectors distribute hymn books, arrange for the Offertory Procession of Gifts and the Collection and are generally of service to others.

These are rewarding duties that re-inforce our membership of the Body of the Church helping us to get to know one another better.

We operate on a Monthly Rota basis so it need not be an onerous duty. More volunteers are always needed to help our dedicated band to keep this very important duty light and enjoyable.

If you are willing to help (or know anyone else who is), please speak to a Collector or Welcomer at the Mass you attend.

CONFIRMATION

Fr Richard

This year 36 young Catholics were Confirmed by Bishop Paul Hendricks on Sunday 24th May. Fr Richard was assisted in their catechesis by Anne Shine, Bernadette lally and Cesar Rodrigues, as well as three Wonerh Seminarians on pastoral placement. The Confirmation Mass took place at 11.30am - an experiement this year which proved very popular and looks set to continue. Many thanks to our 11.30 and 5.30 musicians and singers who worked together in making this Mass a truly joyful occasion.

CORPUS CHRIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pat Geiringer (Chair of Governors)

Head Teacher: Mrs Vanessa Vaughan

Corpus Christi is our parish primary school. Situated in Chestnut Grove, New Malden, it provides a good Catholic education based on Gospel values for girls and boys aged 3 to 11. The Catholic faith is central to the life of the school. Whole school Masses are celebrated at least twice a term, and each class celebrates the feast of its patron saint with a class Mass or service. We work in close partnership with the parish, particularly in preparing children for

the sacraments. In addition, Fr. Richard visits to teach year 3 children. During Lent there are opportunities in school to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation, and children visit the church to follow the Stations of the Cross.

Over the past year, in inspections by Ofsted and by the Archdiocese of Southwark Corpus Christi was judged to be a good school with outstanding features. Both inspection reports commented on the "outstanding pastoral care", and the Archdiocesan inspectors noted the excellent relationships between staff and pupils which "...reflect the Gospel values of care, forgiveness and respect."

The premises have been improved by the addition of a first floor corridor and adjoining rooms, providing spaces for small group teaching, staff work and an art gallery. The nursery has also been remodelled to provide a brighter, more open and welcoming environment for our youngest children.

The school celebrated its 40th anniversary in the summer, with a Mass, a party and a summer fair. We were delighted to welcome back many former pupils, staff and parents to share these events with us.

Over the year ahead, following recent government initiatives, we will be working to develop a more creative curriculum with links between subjects to stimulate the children's interests and make learning even more motivating. We will also continue, as funds permit, to improve the school premises with refurbishment of classrooms and the provision of an area for quiet reflection.

CUBS

Keith Axbey

The cubs and scouts continue to enjoy the excellent facilities at St Joseph's catering for boys and girls aged 8 – 10 (Cubs) & 10 -14 (scouts). We provide a varied programme, with special emphasis on outdoor activities and boating. Our Group Camp in May saw 115 members of the Group take to the water at Shepperton.

Where possible we offer the opportunity for our young people to gain boating qualifications and a number of our 14+s are training to become canoe instructors. Our Explorer scouts (aged 14-18) who meet at the scout HQ in Gloster Road have excelled at air rifle shooting and boast a couple of National Champions and one member of the Welsh National squad.

Weekly meetings have seen visits to the Fire & Police Stations and recently a talk on cyber bullying from the NSPCC.

Both units are among the largest in the local District, with waiting lists extending into 2011 and currently the easiest way for Young People to join the Group is by one of their parents becoming a leader.

DIVINE OFFICE

Rowena Wittinbaker

From Monday to Saturday in the Church at 9.30am, about 15 parishioners come together as part of God's family to join Fr Peter, Fr Richard, our Deacons, and during the summer we also had Alan Burgess (seminarian), in morning prayer - a wonderful way to begin the day praising God as He speaks to us through Songs, Psalms and short Scripture Readings. Everybody's welcome to attend.

EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Clergy Pastoral Team

Parishioners may nominate to the priest (in confidence) those whom they think may be suitable, who are then considered by the Pastoral Team and may be invited to be commissioned by the Bishop, after the required training sessions. Extra-ordinary Ministers assist with the distribution of Holy Communion during Mass, and some also take Communion to the Sick and Housebound at home or hospital as needed. The rôta for this team is revised yearly.

FINANCE & FABRIC COMMITTEE

David Roberts

The Finance Committee has ten members and is responsible for all aspects of the Parish's financial affairs. It also reviews and approves the accounts of the Parish and the Annual Financial Return that we make to the Diocese. The Finance Committee meets quarterly and is answerable to the Diocesan Board of Finance, the Charity Commissioners and the Inland Revenue.

Please see Page 13 of the 2009 Lent and Easter issue of the Parish Magazine for the 2008 year-end report which will be presented to the Parish Annual General Meeting on 2nd October.

FINANCE COMPUTER TEAM

David Roberts

The Finance Computer Team operations are carried out in the Presbytery Finance Office. The team consists of four volunteers divided into two separate sections for the purpose of handling two different areas of the parish's finances.

Section 'A' works on Monday mornings and now comprises Catherine Kelly and Andrew Stables.

Section 'B' is staffed by Mary Wright and Carina Manning. They work on Wednesday mornings so that each section has sole access to the computer during these periods.

The team's 'A' Section is responsible for all aspects of Gift Aid, entering all receipts arising from weekly Gift Aid envelopes and Standing Orders into the *Kubernes* accounting programme in the team's computer, producing financial statements and various other print-outs needed by Andrew Manning, our Gift Aid Organiser, for initiating tax reclaim procedures. The 'A' section is also responsible for issuing Weekly Envelopes and Standing Order documentation, and for securing Gift Aid records to ensure confidentiality.

The team's 'B' Section receives its instructions from the Parish Treasurer, David Roberts, and is responsible for recording all the Church's financial transactions (receipts and expenditure) on the team's computer, producing several different print-outs for analysis by the Treasurer and the Parish Finance Committee.

FINANCE COUNTERS

David Roberts

There are eight members on the monthly rota of whom two meet each Monday morning to count the Sunday collections and other cash income (wall boxes, fund-raising and other special events, etc). Details are entered on sheets for the Parish Treasurer, and are then passed to the Finance Computer Team (see above). The Counters prepare everything for banking.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Karen Neilson

Here in St Joseph's we follow a very successful programme for those children from school year 3 upwards who wish to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion.

Over a period of 9 months commencing in September 2008, 46 children have met in the Pastoral Centre on one or two Saturdays of each month. The children were split into small groups of 6 or 7 and the following 9 catechists took the children through each step of mass and what it means through the "I Belong" program:

Anne Griffin, Kathleen Ryan, Teresa Priest, Maria Rippin, Denise Shaw, Jason Simpkin, Joanna Ferraris, Trisha McAlister-Ames and myself as co-ordinator

Prior to each session, the parents of those children have met with Fr Richard and myself on a Wednesday in the Pastoral Centre. The aim of this was to take the parents through each chapter that the children were going to be taught so that they were able to understand and offer support to their children.

The children were prepared for their First Reconciliation and in November 2008 a service was held at St Joseph's, with priests from neighbouring parishes to assist.

In addition to Reconciliation, 9 of the children were received into the Catholic Church in a separate celebration with Frs Peter and Richard.

To date the children have met on 10 separate occasions which were followed the next day at 9.30 Sunday Mass as a celebration of their latest stage of their journey. Over the course 2 of the groups would be involved in the Liturgy of the Mass either by the reading of bidding prayers or by bringing up of the gifts in the offertory procession.

The First Communion Masses are held over 3 Saturday's and is a great celebration with friends and families of all those concerned. With the help of the musicians and Eucharistic Ministers and the organisation of the catechists it is indeed a wonderful gift that the children have received.

The children are encouraged to dress in their attire the next day at Mass so that the congregation too can join in with the celebration of our children here at St Joseph's,

After the last Communion Mass, the parents met for one more time and we asked for feedback for anything that we can do to change or improve things for future and of course, to encourage them to attend with their child Mass and Reconciliation on a regular basis to practise their faith.

The "Going Forth" Mass and Communion breakfast was held in the Pastoral Centre, prepared and organised by the

parents of the previous year.

Thanks must go to the catechists, some of who have taken this on for the first time, for their time, effort and preparation they have put in to make this year a success as it has been. My thanks also to Fr Richard for all his support and guidance he has given us all, and especially for taking the children through all the different aspects of the Church, from the statues to the Stations of the Cross. My personal thanks to all those who have helped over the year in any way.

FLOWER ARRANGERS

The flower arrangers normally work on Friday mornings after the 10am Mass, but the members with jobs sometimes have a different schedule.

Some who attend the weekday Masses help with watering - Josie Bratt keeps a close eye on this, but she cannot always be available.

Last year three First Communion Saturdays were provided for and also the Confirmation Sunday.

We also have requests for wedding flowers, but cannot always undertake this task, as it depends on what is required and what is available, but anyone who is getting married this year needs to give us plenty of notice.

The Mothering Sunday Sale this year raised £451 for the Lenten Charity Projects - thank you to everyone for their support.

If you are free on Friday mornings, or at any other time, please do get in touch - we're always in need of more volunteers. Speak to one of the flower arrangers or 'phone Agnes in the Parish Office.

FORUM CHRISTI

Fr Richard

Our group for young adults has continued to meet regularly. Most often we will discuss the scripture readings at Sunday's Mass, or the liturgical theme of the season – this readily leads to prayer and to discussion on faith and life. We also met for Mass together at New Year and just after Easter. Although, inevitably, people in this age range have a lot of other demands on their time, the group has certainly proved useful and enjoyable to all those taking part. Anyone in their 20s or 30s is most welcome – simply speak to Fr Richard for more information, and watch out for the termly fliers.

HOSPITALITY GROUP

This is a small group of ladies who, with great dedication, provide refreshments for parishioners after 9.30am Mass every Sunday, every Mass on the first weekend of each month, on a Friday after the 10am Mass, as well as on various other occasions throughout the year. We are eternally grateful to you, Peggy, Mary, Sadie, Rita, Phil and friends!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Michael Connolly

We meet on the last Sunday of each month in the Lady Chapel of from 7pm to 9pm. While some stay for the whole two hours, some come when they can, which is absolutely fine. During this time we pray in the presence of the Lord Exposed for us in the Blessed Sacrament.

Why Intercession? Because we are convinced that God is calling His people to pray more intensely than ever, to combat materialism, the lack of faith, the decline in morality in our world, to make reparation for sin, and for world peace. Usually 10 to 15 of us gather; we would be happy to welcome anyone to join us in prayer and adoration. Just come along to the Lady Chapel (behind the large Crucifix in St Joseph's), between 7–9pm on the last Sunday every month.

JUSTICE & PEACE / SOCIAL ACTION

Ian Smith

The Justice and Peace group have been busy this year. As well as holding regular monthly meetings throughout most of the year the group has followed the basic tenet of the Church's teachings on Justice & Peace by following the basic tenet to "See, Judge, Act".

In the context of the "seeing" aspect of our work, we are regularly building and sharing our knowledge of J&P issues through reading, attending meetings and conferences and sharing our findings with the group.

In the context of the word "Judge" we always spend time in our meetings to reflect, pray and study the Teachings of the Church. Though our improved understanding and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit we hope to be able to select our actions wisely and share our information with the rest of the parish. Currently we are devoting part of our meetings to reflect on the Pope's latest encyclical (Caritas in Veritate).

This year, the J&P Group raised funds for the Parish Lenten Project with the help of a sponsored walk from our church to Box hill. We have been active in supporting the L'Aquila Appeal and continue to provide Father Richard with relevant topics to be included when he writes the Prayers of the Faithful.

Our meetings are always announced in the Parish Bulletin and all are welcome. We intend to have more guest speakers this year and to have regular joint meetings with other J&P groups, so please watch out for the meetings and drop in to see what we are discussing, planning and praying about during this year. And, of course, you can also ask to be added to our informal email list and you will be sent updates on our activities from time to time!

LIFE GROUP (Kingston & District)

Lucy Smallwood

Our local membership is 122. We maintain regular contact with Edward Davey MP re LIFE issues and last year had several meetings with him in his surgery.

We helped to collect signatures for the petition to the Advertising Standards Agency asking them not to approve the use of radio and television for abortion advertising and some of us were there when the Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe presented the petition from LIFE last June. The objections of the public were so strong that the ASA has deferred its decision for six months. This is encouraging but let us remain vigilant.

Fund-raising included a Bring and Buy Sale; a Good as New Sale and proceeds from a LIFE stall during Malden Fortnight. We also collected for LIFE through Alexandra Rose Charities. Another less usual means of income was the sale of kittens (courtesy of a member's pet) The major part of these funds goes to support the London Caring Office with its counselling work and education for schools. A LIFE Awareness morning was held at St Joseph's in June. We hope to repeat this in the near future. A LIFE Awareness morning plus table-top sale will be held at Our Lady Immaculate, Tolworth on October 25th. Some of us will be singing carols at Victoria Station in December. LIFE literature is distributed to doctors' surgeries. Two of our members are helping the London office with the distribution of LIFE Fertility Care leaflets and have been invited to begin training as counsellors.

We are very grateful for the support we receive from Father Peter and Father Richard and from members of St Joseph's parish. Special thanks to Father Peter for making available a room for our meetings in the new PPC.

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

Michael Connolly

Peace – Conversion – Prayer – Fasting = Faith. This is Our Lady's message to the world whenever she appears.

The group was started in 1989 in response to this message. This is first and foremost a Prayer Group; you don't have to have been to Medugorje to come, everyone is welcome who wishes to pray. With an average attendance of 30-40 people, the group meets on the second Friday of each month at 7.30pm in St Joseph's Church for Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration, moving to the Hall at 8.30pm for the Rosary and prayers for healing.

MOTHERS PRAYERS

Mary Cruickshank

The Mothers Prayers group meets in the Lady Chapel on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8pm. Mothers Prayers is a worldwide prayer group for women who wish to pray together - for their children, grandchildren and godchildren. All women who have a desire to pray for children are welcome. We follow the format of prayers in the 'Mothers Prayers' booklet, which includes a prayer to the Holy Spirit, praying for forgiveness, singing songs of praise, a bible reading and praying for our children. For more information, phone Mary on 8949 0089 or Carina on 8390 5755.

MUSIC GROUP, 9.30 MASS

Cecilia Hazell

The 9.30am music group currently comprises keyboard, guitars, violin, clarinet, recorders and singers. As this is the family mass, we aim to lead the congregation in the singing of contemporary liturgical music and we invite the younger members of the congregation to play instruments during the final hymn.

We support the first Holy Communion programme, including leading the music at each of the special communion masses. Members regularly attend a number of other services including the Healing Masses and the Corpus Christi School masses and services.

We meet regularly to discuss, plan and practice the music for our weekly Sunday mass. Our practice sessions run from 7.45pm until approximately 9.15pm in Church on the first and third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August.

New singers and musicians are always welcome.

MUSIC GROUP, 11.30 MASS

Antony Matthews

After my first year as Director of Music, the first thing I should do is congratulate all of the members of both the 11.30 Choir and the Parish Choir (who do Christmas and Easter in particular) for how much they have improved – it's they who do the work, without them there'd be nothing! We should also thank Cecilia Hazell and Anne D'Silva for their work with the 9.30am and 5.30pm Music Groups, without whose help I'd have to do much more!

Our concert series has run for its first full academic year – to great success. Highlights included the group of choral scholars from the London Oratory School putting on a concert for WYD 2011 (organised completely by themselves!), the Chapel Choir from The John Fisher School in Purley (postponed after the snow in February), and the Aurin Girls Choir from Hungary, who popped by one evening on their tour of the UK. Don't forget to keep an eye on the website (www.stjoseph-newmalden.org.uk) for details of what it coming up!

As always, the music groups are always on the look out for new members. If you'd like to join the 11.30am Choir, just come up and say hello after Mass on Sunday morning, or come to the rehearsal on Wednesday evening at 8pm.

MUSIC GROUP, 5.30 MASS

Anne D'Silva

The 5.30pm music group continues to develop hymns and music predominantly for young people but encompassing all age groups. Some members have supported the First Communion Masses and continue to provide music for the Healing Masses.

This year the music group joined together with the 11.30pm Choir at the Confirmation Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks. It was the first time that both groups had played together and it was very successful and hopefully will lead the way to further opportunities to offer both styles at our special Masses.

The choir consists of mainly young talented singers and musicians who come together to practice before Mass and glorify God using their musical gifts. The group relies on the commitment of each member to come every week which can be difficult at the time of exams and other family commitments which affect our young members.

Since the last report, new members have joined and old ones have returned after university and we hope to develop the music group. We are also proud to announce our oboe player; Isabella gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Hannah at the end of August.

The future of the group is to continue to build on enhancing the Mass with music to help both the group and the congregation deepen their faith and to develop a close relationship with Jesus. We thank God for the musical gifts He has given to all the members and we thank each of them for using their gifts to serve God.

We always welcome more singers and musicians in order to ensure that music can always be provided at the 5.30pm Mass.

If 5.30pm Mass is the most convenient Mass for you and you have a musical gift to offer God, think and pray about joining us.

PARISH OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Agnes Vella

The Parish Office continues to be open every weekday (during term time), from 9.15am till 12.30pm.

The office deals with many varied queries on the phone or at the door. We prepare the weekly Bulletin (which once a month now incorporates the Monthly Prayer Sheet), Readings sheets, Parish Rotas, and any other literature that needs to go out to Parishioners.

We have a hand in communicating with those preparing to Baptise a child, First Communion and Confirmation catechists and parents, Toddler Group, Weddings and Funerals, all those needing to use our PC, and last but not least, collating this report.

We keep the Parish Registers, Narthex notice-boards and back of church updated, and generally endeavour to support Parish groups in any way we can.

We are always kept very busy in such a thriving Parish, but we enjoy the challenge! I'd like to thank Fr Peter and Fr Richard for their invaluable support and advice, Sarah Koffler for being such a great help in the office, and all parishioners for making our work very enjoyable and gratifying.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) / EVANGELIUM TEAM

Fr Richard / Maureen Sampson

Once again we used the CTS 'Evangelium' course to guide a committed group of enquirers through the riches of the Catholic Faith. The Easter Vigil was a very joyful occasion, with Michelle Major being received into Full Communion and Confirmed, Paul Lawson being Confirmed and Jiyeon Kim being Baptised and Confirmed. Several other enquirers are continuing their journey of faith and a new programme of 'Evangelium' begins very soon.

READERS

Readers are members of the Parish who proclaim the Word of God at Mass. Parishioners can volunteer to read at the Mass which they usually attend on Sundays and/or weekdays), and are given specific training for this ministry. Speak with one of the Priests or the Parish Deacons or contact the Parish Office. Youth Club members now read regularly at the 5.30pm Sunday Mass.

ROSARY GROUP

Laurence Burbridge

The Rosary Group meets in the Lady Chapel from Monday to Saturday (excluding Thursday when there is Eucharistic Adoration), immediately after the 10am Mass. Some parishioners are regulars and some come when circumstances permit. Anybody is very welcome to do so as we are encouraged us to praise our Blessed Lady in this special way, offering up intentions and asking for her intercession.

SACRISTY TEAM

Rowena Wittinbaker

Since 2008, we are now 2 full time parishioners; we also have one parishioner helping 2 days a week and another assisting once a week when one of us is on holiday. This is an ideal opportunity to encourage and plead for more volunteers to join this group. If you are interested in helping, and you are able to come to the 10am Mass on weekdays, please speak to one of the priests. You will be most welcome!

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Kitty Gilronan

The Sacristy Laundry of six ladies who take it in turn each week to launder the purificators and other linen needed on the altar at Mass. Thanks to all of you for your help!

More volunteers are always needed. This seems an ideal opportunity to invite & encourage a few more volunteers to join the group. It involves a few hours, usually every two months, but due to the swine flu precautions currently in place, less purificators are used and everybody's turn comes round every three months. Please contact me on 0208 942 0206 if you think that you could help.

SACRISTY SEWING TEAM

Therese Hoey

New items and repairs to vestments and other sacristy items are undertaken as need arises.

SCOUT GROUP (see CUBS report)

ST JOSEPH'S TODDLER GROUP

Sharon Heptinstall

St Joseph's Toddler group offers children under 5 the opportunity to play with a range of toys, participate in structured and unstructured art and craft activities and sing songs. It runs on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, from 10am to 11.45am. Parents/carers are asked for a donation of £1.50 per family. The group has been a great success with a high level of attendance on both mornings. This has enabled us to make a financial contribution to named charities on behalf of the Parish. A big thank you to the team of volunteers who run the group, for their availability, organisation and efficiency. A special thank you goes to our "tea ladies" Peggy, Mary, Rita and Philomena for their hard work and dedication.

"Punto giochi italiano" on Thursdays is a further opportunity for Italian-speaking children, accompanied by their parents, to practice their language skills by playing together.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)

Geoff Brand

The SVP looks to find and help those in need in our Community. In these troubled times of change and uncertainty, faith is often challenged. But when faith is challenged, it often finds a true outlet by helping others – the motto of the SVP is to turn concern into action, by bringing a sense of Community to those people who, for various reasons, feel marginalised or are unable to participate. There is always work for another pair of hands or for another heart for listening to others, so if you think this appeals to you, please leave a contact phone number at the Presbytery for the SVP and we will be in touch.

SUNDAY LUNCHEAS TEAM

Anne Higginson

We are now entering our third year of providing a Parish Lunch on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Throughout the past year we have had over 60 parishioners attending each month with Christmas seeing the Pastoral Centre full to capacity and looking very festive.

We provide a two-course meal which is always freshly prepared; during the year we try not to repeat the main course, regularly introducing some new recipes. We also provide a vegetarian option and a complimentary glass of wine!

Our Christmas lunch and summer buffet were also enhanced by Neville who entertained us all by playing the piano - and who can forget Katie Jaffa RIP playing for us and leading us in song during the Christmas lunch!

The core team are extremely grateful to all those who have willingly helped in preparing the hall, serving the food, providing delicious home-made desserts and, of course washing up over the past year. Their regular commitment and support has greatly contributed to the success of the lunches.

Do please consider coming to one of the lunches - just sign up on the form on the narthex notice board.

TEAMS OF OUR LADY

Colin & Sue Lobo

Both New Malden Teams attended a retreat at the House of Prayer, Molesley. The day provided everyone with time for prayer, reflection and the appreciation of silence.

In November of this year, the Teams movement celebrates its 50th anniversary with a number of events taking place to mark this milestone.

THE TERESIAN ASSOCIATION

Carmen Irusteta

The Teresian Association is an international association of men and women, founded by St Pedro Poveda in 1911, committed to promoting human values in education and culture in accordance with the spirit of the Gospel. We carry out our mission through our professions and through a number of centres in the world.

The UK main house is in Chestnut Grove, New Malden. We organise days of prayer, celebrations, discussions and educational occasions in which parishioners are involved.

Some members are actively involved in the Parish's Justice and Peace work and we house Interred UK, an NGO of the Teresian Association.

The annual Solidarity Day was very successful and the donations went towards social educative projects in India.

Among the activities held at Chestnut Grove we also have a Spanish Club which meets once a month.

We have a website hosted on the diocesan server. The address is: <http://WWW.rcsouthwark.co.uk/teresian>.

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS (UCM)

Sadie Carroll

As in previous years, we were grateful to have Mass said for members and friends, which preceded our AGM. It has been an eventful year, the most popular being our annual UCM Diocesan Pilgrimage to Aylesford, and, without any doubt, the uplifting and enjoyable Carol Service which is an Ecumenical event, attended by men and women from all our local Churches, UCM Foundations, as well as our own parishioners and friends.

Whilst we responded to the invitations and attended the various events in our neighbouring Churches, we were involved in raising funds for our own Parish Charities, for HCPT and KCAH (Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness). In addition, a contribution to the Priests Fund was made by cheque, presented to the Archbishop by our Diocesan UCM President at the Rally Mass. Members from our Foundation have continued to assist in our Parish on several occasions. We are most grateful for the support and help given to us by both, Fr Peter and Fr Richard.

At our monthly meetings, held in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre on the second Tuesday of each month commencing at 7.30pm, we pray for peace in the world, for vocations, for those who are ill and for those who need our prayers; we also offer regular Masses for members, friends, and relatives. We were delighted to have ladies and friends/visitors in our midst at a number of our meetings. Our doors are always open and we would certainly welcome new members.

The Objectives of the UCM are: to help Catholic married women to appreciate the Sacramental character, responsibilities and permanence of marriage and to live in unselfish love observing the laws of God and His Church; to assist them to bring up their children as practising Catholics and public-spirited citizens; to teach and defend Christian values in family life and to ensure for their children Catholic education; to offer love, sympathy and practical help to the family in difficulty; to foster vocations in life, especially in Christian Marriage and Family life and in the Priesthood and Religious life. The UCM has a Daily Mass Scheme whereby somewhere in England and Wales, UCM members attend Mass daily during the year, remembering the above intentions.

WEBSITE

Antony Matthews

Our new Parish Website, www.stjoseph-newmalden.org.uk, was launched at the beginning of Lent this year, to great acclaim from many local parishes!

There is much more on there now, including a list of all the Parish Groups, a short history, and pages of events happening in the near future.

We also have the Parish Blog (blog.stjoseph-newmalden.org.uk), which has all of the reflections written for the Bulletins by Fr Peter and Fr Richard, and among other things, an archive of the *Saints this Week* that we have just introduced into the Bulletins.

If you think something is missing, could be added, or notice it's broken, just drop us an email anytime at - webmaster@stjoseph-newmalden.org.uk.

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA

Oliver Abasolo

The World Apostolate of Fatima continue to organise a portable statue of Pilgrim Virgin to visit parishioners homes in St. Joseph Church, New Malden. The statue comes in a portable wooden case just over 2 feet and lined with pale blue fabric to create the effect of a shrine. Our Lady will be venerated for a week or two at each home, where the Rosary is recited daily. Other parishioners may join the host family making this recitation for one day.

The request and promises made to the children of Fatima will be remembered especially in order to bring about peace in the world. Other families who would like to consider having a pilgrim statue are welcome to contact Oliver R. Abasolo (Southwark Archdiocese Representative) Telephone number 02082748261 or 07782661922 (email: portugal1917@yahoo.co.uk)

Total families who hosted the Pilgrim Virgin statue since last report: 8 families

YOUTH CLUB (Years 8/9)

Marie Baxter

I have run the years 8 and 9 youth club, under Russell O'Mara's excellent guidance for the past year. We have a very healthy 35 young people on roll, averaging 30 most Sunday nights. The year 8's are especially active, playing table tennis, badminton and table football and the year 9's have become a very close unit, enjoying socialising together as they progressed through the Confirmation programme. It was wonderful seeing them all be confirmed in May.

We have enjoyed outings to bowling and Jurassic Golf but certainly the highlight of the year was going to the Youth Festival at Aylesford in July. 20 of the young people went on a coach leaving at 8am and not returning until 9pm! The day focused on St. Paul and the youth were involved in practical workshops which included drumming, singing, drama and art and craft. The event culminated in a wonderful open-air Mass. It was a truly uplifting experience sharing our faith with so many like-minded young people.

My husband, Paul and our great helpers have made Sunday evening youth club a pleasure.

YOUTH CLUB (Years 10/11)

Russell O'Mara

We had a successful year attracting on average 14 young people at each session and they thoroughly enjoyed playing badminton, ping pong or just having some where to sit, relax and talk to their fellow Catholic friends.

The first thing we did back in September was to ensure we had as many young people as possible participate in the monthly Youth Mass.

At the end of each session we continued to have our 10 – 15 minutes reflection time when we talked about a particular Reading or perhaps an issue in the press which had a direct affect on our faith and we invited everybody to contribute.

Of course we had lots of fun going Bowling, Ice Skating at Hampton Court Palace, Dry Slope Ski ing at Esher and the summer evenings were spent playing rounder's, football, volleyball over in Beverly Park.

During Lent we invited a speaker from ANC (Aid to Church in Need) to talk about conditions in the schools in Khartoum and the wonderful work the volunteers were doing in a project they called Save The Saveable Schools.

We had an interesting Q & A session and the following week the youth held a cake sale to help raise some money for this very worthwhile cause.

In the summer term we talked about the importance of taking part in World Youth Madrid and encouraged the whole group to attend the first meeting in the Parish Centre.

Additionally, and thanks primarily to Mary Cruickshank, we now have a young person reading at every 5.30 Mass (during term time).

Going forward we are looking to encourage more young people to join us, help keep WYD Madrid in their minds and move the Youth Mass to the 4th Sunday of the month to avoid clashing with school half terms.

I had a smashing two years and my thanks go to Julie (Mrs O') for her unstinting support, Marie and Paul Baxter, Father Richard, to my fantastic, energetic team of helpers and finally to the youth themselves for making Sunday evenings so enjoyable.

Joseph's Catholic Church, New Malden

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2000 hours Friday 2nd October 2009

D R A F T A G E N D A

- 1 Opening prayer
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Acceptance of Annual Reports from Parish Groups
- 4 Annual Finance & Fabric Report
- 5 Parish Priest's Annual Report
- 6 Fit for Mission - Church
 - 6.1 Presentation
 - 6.2 Discussion
 - 6.3 Proposals
- 10 Concluding prayer

