

Bereavement Group

The Group has made contact with a synagogue that has a well-established group and has agreed to share their good practices .

Mission Project– Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea

The second and final cheque of £1,500 is yet to be sent. We can then expect to receive a letter from the Bishop acknowledging receipt

Open House 2019 – 21/22 September 2019

Open House is uploaded and ready to go. We need to start recruiting stewards. We will put up a poster for volunteers to sign up in September.

Passover Seder – Wednesday 17th April

The Seder went well.

Foodbank

The Foodbank received a sizeable donation which will be used to stock up. As ever, they remain grateful for the generous contributions

Visiting Group

The Group is meeting regularly and has a list of people to visit.

Worship



Sacramental celebrations

On Sunday 19th May, Archbishop Kevin McDonald administered the Sacrament of Confirmation. Then on the 2 consecutive Sundays of 2nd and 9th June, we have the First Communion celebrations.

Prayer and Life Workshop

The sessions have been very well received in Westminster. There are 3 sessions a week and Joy runs one of them. A priest who was ordained with Fr Andrew Connick is one of the participants and says he will recommend them to Fr Andrew for his parish.

Altar Servers

David and Genevieve will be enrolling the altar servers into the Guild of St Stephen during Mass one Sunday

Bible Timeline

Mauro, who is currently a parishioner, will be running this course in the autumn. Although, it is likely he will have moved and no longer be a parishioner, by then, he is willing to run this for us. It is worth attending.



News from the Parish Council May 2019

In this short Bulletin, you will find highlights from the Parish Council meeting held on 16th May 2019



OPENING PRAYER

Jenny Schneider gave the opening prayer.



Fr Tony welcomed everyone. He introduced Brendan and Johnny from Friends of the Holy Land. He explained that they would be going round the Groups to speak about what they do.

Fr Tony then shared the following updates:

Hall Manager

The job description is out and on the Diocesan website. The closing date is 31st May and interview date is 3rd June. We hope to have several candidates.

Organ Fund

The Organ Fund was launched. The good news is we have already received £1, 020. Please spread the word.

Proposal for documentary film

One of our parishioners, Carlo Lavarini ,is a documentary film maker. He would like to make one about the parish. He will be joining us at the June Parish Council meeting to get initial views on this.

Youth Adult Group (18-35 year-olds)

The Group had its first meeting on Sunday 12th May. About 15 people came along to the meeting. There will be another one next month. The plan is to have a meeting once a month. Please spread the word. The Group is directed at those in the 18-35 year age bracket.

Communications (Comms) Group

The Comms group met Saturday 18th May to review the newsletter. Anyone with comments about the newsletter can let Fr Tony know.

Side alley

The walkway was closed while workmen were putting metal straps to strengthen the weak parts of the wall, which were a hazard.

Fr Tom Murphy

Fr Tom arrives on 26th June and will be with us for 2 months.

Caritas Community Sponsorship project

This project is about supporting an approved migrant family with the legal status to remain in the UK. It is an undertaking that requires people prepared to invest time and effort over a couple of years. For that reason, first, on the list of priorities, is finding and set up a dedicated group willing to commit for the duration. Fr Tony will speak about this at all Masses on 6th/7th July.

News Highlights from the Groups



Social Events

Easter Shared lunch (21st April) and Flores de Mayo (5th May)

Both parish events were a great success.

Nutrition Talk – Saturday 18th May

On Saturday, 18th May, Andrea Cojocaru gave a nutrition talk.

Fundraiser for the victims of Sri Lanka – Sunday 9th June 2019

We have been approached about having a fundraiser for the victims of the Sri Lanka bombing. We are having a sale of home baked goodies. So far, we have 6 home bakers. The bake sale will be in the hall during coffee morning on 9th June.

Upcoming events:

1) Parish barbecue – Saturday 6th July

We have our Summer parish barbecue on 6th July

2) African Mass – Sunday 14th July

We have the African Mass and celebration on Sunday 14th July

3) Roy Schoeman witness testimony/talk – Wednesday 26th June

Before all that Roy Schoeman will be speaking at our parish – more information to follow soon

Movie nights

People have been asking what has happened to movie night. There hasn't been a showing of a film for some time. The reason is Jyoti, who runs the movie night, has been engaged with other commitments. The request is for something religious. The next movie will be "For Greater Glory: The true story of Cristiada" ,starring Andy Garcia. She will see when she can show it.



Faith Formation

Read of the month

This is going very well.

Catechists

The happy news is that we have 2 new catechists.

Activities: Advent Project, Easter Project and Rosary

These were very successful

Youth group

We are looking to re-launch the young persons group and organise an event/outing for them every term.

Retreat

We would like to arrange a retreat for families of children who are not taking part in the sacraments. This would most likely be at SPEC.

Administration Inventory

We are passing on the inventory to the Finance Committee so they can value the inventoried items.

Furniture replacement

We are also passing on the furniture requirements of tables and chairs for the parish hall and room to the Finance Committee.

Side alley

The wall has been strapped to make it more secure. It is important that we write to Glentree Estates to point out that we carried out this remedial work out of a duty of care because it had to be done. We maintain that the wall is their responsibility.

Cleaning/caretaking

External cleaners have been found and contracted to clean the hall. Dorota will mainly clean the church.



Outreach

CARITAS Community Sponsorship project

We support the formation of a group dedicated to this project. Consequently, we will delay and defer fundraising for this project.

Outreach fundraising proposal- School of joy

We would like to maintain the fundraising momentum of the mission project. We are considering raising money for the School of Joy which is run by Friends of the Holy Land.