



St Bartholomew's Church

AGM

Wednesday 12 October 2022

at 7.30 p.m.

(Parish Groups Update)

St Bartholomew's SVP Conference Report

From November 2021 it has been difficult to visit our beneficiaries due to covid, as they are all fearful of catching the virus as we ourselves had to be careful. Our fortnightly meetings have been on Zoom until the beginning of June this year, since then we are meeting in the parish sacristy.

We visit in pairs the lonely and vulnerable, some with cash flow problems which we can help with, also we make phone calls on a regular basis to people who require them and we also collect prescriptions on a monthly basis for another beneficiary.

We had a parish appeal at all masses for more members at the beginning of September this year which was very successful and we are working through the applications and references before they go through the DBS checks.

The conference president has to produce a monthly report of the activities of the conference to the SVP District Council President along with 12 other Conference Presidents who attend a monthly meeting.

We have plans for the future to include getting more beneficiaries by making the parish aware that we are here to help and using the parish newsletter to convey this.

Best wishes

Tim. O' Donoghue

Conference President

HOLY COMMUNION REPORT 2022

As Catholics, we believe that Christ is fully present in the host and receiving the Eucharist for the first time is therefore a deeply profound and faithful moment and requires careful preparation.

We were very fortunate to have 12 catechists help with this year's programme. The book "I BELONG" contains sessions that are divided into 10 chapters and is very pleasing to the eye and well presented.

We sent out forms via the website and hard copies at the beginning of September 2022. We included, in the form, the offer to help with the programme by becoming a Holy Communion catechist, so that we had enough time to get DBS checks done. We managed to get only 2 parents to help and they were the same that helped out previously when their other children were on the programme.

Unfortunately, some parents filled out both online and hard copies too!! So, in the future we will only have online forms.

22 children (8 girls & 14 boys) received Holy Communion over the weekend 9th & 10th June @12 noon.

The children were all very well behaved and some beautiful work was completed.

Attendance was very good and we had positive feedback from the parents regarding their 5 sessions. The venue was ST JAMES THE GREAT SCHOOL.

The masses went very well. Special thanks to Tony Price who played for both masses and who organised a small choir too.

We were extremely lucky and truly grateful to Kathy Perkins who very kindly took photos before, during and after the two masses. The parents were delighted and thankful to have such memorable photos.

Sadly, we did not get enough volunteers for the Going Forth party and had to cancel the event.

Going forward I will endeavour to ask the parish for help with this.

We aim to get the ONLINE forms for the HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023, ready by next week.

Teresa Furtado (Holy Communion Coordinator@ St Bartholomew's church Norbury)

Confirmation Programme 2021/22

This Sacramental preparation programme was affected by Covid which meant the running of the sessions had to consider the Bishops of England & Wales instructions with regards Covid security.

59 New Candidates + 3 Candidates who were originally part of Confirmation Programme 2020, plus 1 adult which meant 63 Candidates in total received the Sacrament of Confirmation at two Masses which took place on 22nd January 2022.

The Confirmation Programme ran from September 2021 through to January 2022. It consisted of 7 Sessions plus three in Programme Masses including a reconciliation service, a rehearsal, plus the two Confirmation Masses which were live streamed. The Programme also included some charitable work supporting Norwood & Brixton Foodbank & the St Vincent DePaul (SVP) Group. The Candidates supported the Foodbank by attending a Food Collection drive at Tesco's in Streatham, as well as raising funds for both organisations, through a variety of self-organised fundraising activities. The Group raised over £1400 for these two charities.

Most of the catechise sessions took place at Bishop Thomas Grant School with the final session taking place at St James the Great Primary School. We are very grateful to both Schools for their support of the Programme.

The Confirmation Programme was delivered with the support from the following Catechists

Savio Fernandes
Linette Fernandes
David Haddard
Lee Suaverdez
Sonia Suavedez
Brigid Griffin
Mary Meyern
Lucia Brugonli
Linda Leggett
Andrew Cranwell
Elizabeth De Zoysa
Fr Deo
Fr Augustine
Ged Perkins

Teams of Our Lady

The Norbury Teams of Our Lady, part of a world-wide movement for married couples, was begun by Fr. Michael Jones over 25 years ago. John and I joined then --the attraction being that we could go as a couple, and that the format based on a simple shared meal and complete confidentiality was a refreshing change. Each Team has a chaplain and often they have valued the support of the group and also gained insights into the married state!

Then came Covid! We had no meetings and couldn't manage Zoom. We have begun again with a much simpler format. There have been bereavements and removals but the deep friendship remains and we would be very happy to tell the Parish more about this wonderful movement.

Josephine Taylor



Province 12
Southwark

Past Provincial Grand Knight ~ Melvin Carty
12 Baldry Gardens
Streatham

London SW16 3DJ

T: 020 8764 3320(h)

07930 366721(m)

E: melvin01carty@gmail.com

6th August 2022.

The Order of the Knights of St. Columba ~ Council 266, Streatham, Province 12 ~ Southwark

The Order of the Knights of St. Columba is a fraternal organisation of Catholic men, dedicated to the work of the Lay Apostolate. The Order has been Blessed by the Holy Father and has the fullest approval of the Hierarchies of England, Scotland and Wales who jointly appoint the Orders Ecclesiastical adviser.

The Order was founded in 1919 in Scotland and shortly after extended to England, Wales and the Channel Islands.

The Order celebrated our Centenary in 2019 with the celebrations starting from Supreme Council in October 2018.

In May 2016 our Province 12 ~ Southwark celebrated our 90th anniversary with a Mass at Our Lady of the Angels, Erith with Archbishop Peter Smith as the chief celebrant and afterwards a banquet at the Marriott Hotel, Bexley Heath.

At the banquet Archbishop Peter was presented with a cheque for £3,000 which was an annual donation towards the Seminary Fund.

We are Council 266 Streatham, Province 12 ~ Southwark. Covers the Diocese of Southwark. Councils cover several parishes in their area. Council 266 cover five parishes, St. Bartholomew, St. Michael's Pollard Hill, English Martyrs Streatham, St. Simon & St. Jude Streatham Hill and Saints Peter & Paul, Mitcham.

We assist at St. George's Cathedral by stewarding at big occasions such as the Chrism Mass and other large ceremonies.

Also, we carry out duties at Aylesford Priory stewarding at large Pilgrimages.

The Council has been erecting the Christmas Crib on Streatham Common since 1956.

We distribute Easter and Christmas posters in our parishes.

When the Bishops visit parishes, we form a guard of honour for them.

When the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco visits in our area the Knights are there stewarding/guarding as on the 3rd July 2022 at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Links Road, Tooting.

We carried out a recruitment drive at The English Martyrs, Streatham in June 2022.

The Knight's motto is 'Serving God by Serving Others'.

Meetings are every 3rd Monday of the Month at 8pm at St. Bartholomew's upper room in the hall.

Dues are £65.00 per year.

For further information you can contact Melvin Carty email: - melvin01carty@gmail.com.
[Tel:-07930-366721](tel:07930366721).

Coffee Morning Report 2022

Yes, Coffee Mornings are back by popular request from our Parishioners!



One of the outcomes of the Parish Synod consultation was the lack of opportunity for Parishioners to meet and get to know each other socially therefore growing the life and community spirit of our Church. The Parish Council agreed that **FREE** coffee mornings should be re-introduced once a month after all 8.30am, 10am and 11.30am Sunday Masses.

To date we have had three coffee mornings and, as word spreads, attendance has increased quite markedly, which is wonderful to see and experience. In particular it is a brilliant way for new parishioners to make new friends and learn about other parish groups that they might be interested in joining. It is not just beneficial for our adult parishioners but also for the youngsters who will have fun, enjoy the refreshments, and play with new friends as can be seen below.



Next year we aim to have coffee mornings twice a month, but we will need more volunteers and/or offers to host them either from individuals, families or friends with relevant advice and support offered and provided. It's not all hard work but it's a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners, particularly if you are new to the parish. If you are interested, then please have a word with me at the next coffee morning.

Julie McDonagh (Coffee Morning Coordinator)

RCIA at St Bartholomew's

The RCIA group meets weekly in the parish house with candidates who wish to join the Catholic Church. The candidates follow a detailed one-year course covering a wide range of topics related to the faith and using a variety of sources for reference.

Each session starts and ends with a prayer or reflection connected to the topic. Candidates have a chance to read scripture and are encouraged to comment and ask questions at each session and explore their own faith journey together.

Topics include the meaning of faith, Creation, the Old and New Testaments, the life of Jesus, the Sacraments and significant feasts in the church. We also look in detail at the mass, the church building and religious items used in services.

There is input from the clergy and deacon on specific topics which gives candidates a wider perspective on the Catholic faith.

The group visit St. George's Cathedral for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversation before they are received into the church at Easter. Later in the year, they are invited to a Mass for New Catholics, also at the Cathedral.

Maria and Val Newey

MUSIC REPORTS - 2022

Director of Music Report

I wish to firstly thank Rosemary Clark for her commitment to our successful Hymn Choir, which sings at the 11:30 Mass on the fourth Sunday of each month.

In addition, I am happily able to welcome organist Sitsofe Fiaka to the music team, as associate organist and conductor to the Polyphony Choir, and to thank him for his willingness to contribute to the liturgical music at St. Bart's.

Finally I would like to convey my huge appreciation to Father Deo, Father Gus, Deacon Ged and all others associated with the liturgies at St. Bart's, along with the parish as a whole, for the wonderful support that music in our parish receives.

Report given by Tony Price

Hymn Choir Report

Now that the congregation are allowed to have Hymn books and Mass books after Covid, the Hymn Choir has resumed.

The aim of the Hymn Choir is to lead and encourage the congregation to sing. We usually sing at the 11:30 Mass on the 4th Sunday of the month from September to July. We mainly sing well known Hymns and the English Chant Mass that can be found in the Mass books and at the back cover of the Hymn books.

We also join with the Plainchant Choir for the sung Palm Sunday Mass.

We are a small group of singers and would always welcome new members, just come up to the gallery about 10 minutes before the 11:30 Mass starts and join us. All are very welcome.

I would like to thank Tony Price for all the help he has given us. I would also like to thank Father Deo and Father Augustine for all their support.

Report given by Rosemary Clark

Plainchant Choir Report

The Plainchant Choir sings at the 11:30 Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month, September to July inclusive. An exception is the 2nd Sunday of November when we sing the Requiem for Remembrance Sunday.

On Palm Sunday we are joined by the Hymn Choir for the 11:30 Mass which begins in the hall with the Blessing of Palms and Procession. We thank Rosemary for playing the organ at this Mass. We are always keen to welcome more people to join us in the gallery to lead the singing. We practice, at 19:30 for half an hour, once a month on the Tuesday before our Sunday sung Mass. This is just before the start of the Polyphony Choir practice. If you cannot initially commit to coming to the practice you are still very welcome to join us in the gallery on the Sunday.

I wish to thank the choir, our organists Tony and Rosemary and especially the congregation for their support of the Latin in the Holy Mass.

Report given by Tony Price (in the absence of Jane Windsor)

Polyphony Choir Report

We noted the sad passing of past Choir members Frances Carter, Sheila Newman and Clare Purnell-Brown in 2021/22.

Since the last AGM we have been delighted to welcome Molly joining our sopranos.

2019 saw the Polyphony Choir celebrating its 50th Anniversary of its formation. We were honoured to have Archbishop John celebrate our annual Mass of Thanksgiving at 11:30 on Sunday 22 September with us. Also present were Father Deo, Father Tomasz, Father Philip Glandfield, Father Michael Jones and Father Paul Antwi-Boasiako, with Deacon Ged assisting. We had a splendid celebratory spread in the hall after Mass!

With the cessation of Masses due to Coronavirus pandemic immediately before Holy Week and Easter 2020, it was almost a year before we managed to return and sing at St. Barts, in time for Holy Week and Easter 2021!

In addition to the musical ‘highlights’ of Christmas and the Triduum, the Choir has continued to sing diligently at 11:30 Mass on the first Sunday of most months and on the great feast of Christ the King. It is a privilege to be part of a parish community that has so many people working together to produce such wonderful liturgies.

Later this year, we have our annual Christmas Concert of Carols & Readings on Sunday 18 December at 14:30, and look forward to welcoming everyone to this traditional ‘beginning of Christmas’ at St. Bart’s.

The success of the Choir has always been largely down to our monthly rather than weekly (as in many other parishes) sung Masses; this enables our weekly Tuesday practices to give time to assisting those who don’t read music and yet still wish to sing. It is also, of course, a reflection on the commitment of our members and the happy and on-going support provided by the clergy and people of the parish. Thank you all.

During 2023 we hope to have a joint concert celebrating St. Bartholomew’s Orchestra’s 50th Anniversary.

New members are always welcome on Tuesday evenings at 20:00 in the Choir Gallery (enter by the side door in Ellison Road). To find out more, please visit the Choir’s Website **www.polychoir.co.uk**, or don’t hesitate to contact Tony on **020 8647 4435** or by email at **director@polychoir.co.uk**.

Report given by Tony Price