

REPORT FROM FR DEO FOR THE PARISH AGM 11/10/2017

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION – TO BE PLACED IN
ABBAYANCE FOLLOWING THE ONGOING SECURITY
SITUATION. FOR REVIEW AT A LATER DATE.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD & PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY DOOR
OF ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL 9TH - 10TH SEPTEMBER 2016 –
PAROCHIAL INVOLVEMENT WAS EXCELLENT, INCLUDING THE
OVERNIGHT WATCHING BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
THROUGH TO THE MORNING. THE PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY
DOOR INCLUDED A FULL COACHLOAD OF PARISHIONERS,
AND SEVERAL WHO MADE THEIR OWN WAY THERE. IT WAS
REMARKED THAT NO OTHER PARISH HAD SENT SUCH A
LARGE CONTINGENT FOR THE PILGRIMAGE. IT WAS
WONDERFUL FOR OUR PARISH TO MARK THE
EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MERCY IN THIS SPECIAL WAY.

LITURGIES OF CHRISTMAS 2016 AND HOLY WEEK 2017 –
AS EVER WE HAD A FINE TURN-OUT FOR THESE TWO
CENTRAL EVENTS IN THE CHURCH'S CALENDAR. ALL THE
VARIOUS SERVICES WERE WELL SUPPORTED BY PARISH
GROUPS, BOTH ON AND OFF THE SANCTUARY.
INVOLVEMENT IN THESE LITURGIES WAS BOTH ORDERLY
AND PRAYERFUL.

REVERENCE AND RESPECT IN THE CHURCH – I PUT SOME DIFFERENT POSTERS UP FROM BEFORE, IN ORDER TO TRY TO ENCOURAGE A GREATER DEGREE OF REVERENCE AND RESPECT FOR OUR LORD IN WHAT IS, AFTER ALL, HIS HOUSE. IN WHICH WE ARE CALLED TO BE GUESTS. REGRETTABLY, SOME PEOPLE HAVE FOUND THIS DIFFICULT TO ADJUST TO. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THOSE WHO COME TO THIS HOUSE OF PRAYER, WHERE SILENCE IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THEIR WORSHIP. THOSE OF US WHO ARE PHYSICALLY ABLE SHOULD ALWAYS GENUFLECT IN THE DIRECTION OF OR IN FRONT OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, AND BOW TOWARDS THE CRUCIFIX WHICH HANGS ABOVE THE MAIN ALTAR. FROM JANUARY 2018, THE NEWSLETTER WILL CARRY ARTICLES WHICH WILL SUPPORT THE IDEA OF SILENCE IN CHURCH, AS WELL AS HOW ONE OUGHT TO CONDUCT ONESELF GENERALLY WHEN IN GOD’S HOUSE.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – SEVERAL GROUPS TOOK PART, MAKING THIS A SUCCESSFUL LITURGY. HAVING PARISH GROUPS INVOLVED IN LEADING THE STATIONS HAS HELPED PEOPLE TO FEEL MORE A PART OF WHAT IS GOING ON DURING HOLY WEEK. I INTEND TO REPEAT THIS IN LENT 2018

LEGION OF MARY WAS RE-ESTABLISHED IN OUR PARISH. IT HAS BEEN NAMED THE “STELLA MARIS” (STAR OF THE SEA) PRAESIDIUM. IT COMES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE NORTH SURREY CURIA OF THE LEGION. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF BOTH ACTIVE AND AUXILLIARY MEMBERS. THE PRESIDENT IS ROB FOSTER.

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND (CSF) – THIS HAS CONTINUED TO GROW, WITH THE DIOCESE HAVING A TARGET OF £4.5 MILLION. IT IS DESIGNED TO LOOK AFTER ELDERLY AND RETIRED PRIESTS. SO FAR, A SUM IN EXCESS OF £3 MILLION HAS BEEN RAISED AROUND THE DIOCESE, AND WE SHALL BE LOOKING TO MAKE OUR OWN CONTRIBUTION. THERE IS NO INDICATION AT THIS STAGE OF ANY PLANS TO MERGE OTHER FUNDS INTO THIS ONE – IE THE SOUTHWARK BRETHERN. A GOOD NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS SIGNED UP THE SCHEME, AND HAVE PLEDGED BOTH THEIR PRESENT AND FUTURE SUPPORT FOR OUR RETIRED CLERGY THROUGH THIS. ON BEHALF OF ARCHBISHOP PETER AND ALL RETIRED CLERGY WHO STAND TO BENEFIT FROM THE CSF, I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ADDED THEIR SUPPORT TO THIS SCHEME.

FUTURE PLANS – I AM STILL LOOKING AT THE POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING A MINIBUS TO ENABLE US TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT FOR VARIOUS GROUPS, AND TO BRING PEOPLE TO MASS HERE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND, WITH MANY TURNING TO OTHER PARISHES WHICH HAVE BETTER TRANSPORT LINKS.

IT IS MY DESIRE TO INCREASE THE INVOLVEMENT OF OUR YOUTH IN PARISH LIFE. I INTEND TO RE-LAUNCH THE ST BART'S FOOTBALL CLUB FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE AGE GROUPS 7-12 AND 13-16.

WE SENT TWO YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORLD YOUTH DAY IN KRAKOW, POLAND LAST YEAR. THEY PRODUCED AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR VISIT, WHICH WAS MADE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH PORCH SHORTLY AFTER THEIR RETURN.

WE SENT TWO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE YOUTH CONFERENCE IN LEEDS, ORGANISED BY THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA. THEY FOUND THE PROGRAMME VERY INTERESTING AND HELPFUL.

THERE IS TO BE A NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE AND CONGRESS ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2018 IN LIVERPOOL. EACH PARISH HAS BEEN ASKED TO SEND TWO DELEGATES. OUR DIOCESAN ORGANISER IS FR JOHN MULLIGAN.

I WISH TO ESTABLISH A FAMILY OR YOUTH CHOIR IN THE PARISH. REGRETTABLY, TWO ATTEMPTS TO GET THINGS MOVING LAST YEAR RECEIVED A POOR RESPONSE. IT WOULD BE GOOD TO FOR IT TO BE ESTABLISHED IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR. THIS DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON PARISHIONERS COMING FORWARD TO TAKE PART.

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE HAS NOW BEEN RE-FORMED, AND WE HOPE THAT, OVER TIME, WE CAN INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SOCIAL EVENTS TAKING PLACE HERE, ALLOWING PARISHIONERS TO COME TOGETHER IN A SOCIAL SETTING AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE. THIS WILL INCLUDE COFFEE MORNINGS ON SUNDAYS, WHICH WILL ALLOW THOSE WHO WISH TO DO SO TO INTERACT SOCIALLY OUTSIDE OF THE SILENCE OF THE CHURCH BUILDING.

THE PARISH CENSUS WILL BE TAKING PLACE NEXT YEAR, PLANNED FOR JANUARY. IT IS SOME YEARS SINCE WE HAD A FULL CENSUS, AND WE NEED TO BE UP TO DATE AT ALL TIMES, AS REQUIRED BY DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION, UNDER THE RULES AND GUIDELINES OF WHICH IT WILL TAKE PLACE.

THE BOILERS FOR THE CHURCH NEED REPLACING URGENTLY, AND MAY NOT MAKE IT THROUGH THIS WINTER. WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING QUOTES FOR THIS WORK. IT IS QUITE FEASIBLE THAT IT COULD BE UP AND RUNNING BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

“A DAY WITH MARY” – IT IS HOPED TO HOLD ONE HERE AT ST BART’S NEXT YEAR. WE ARE AWAITING POSSIBLE DATES FROM THE ORGANISERS.

VOCATIONS – THERE IS AN INCREASING NEED FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE RELIGIOUS LIFE. THIS YEAR SAW THE ORDINATION OF ONLY ONE PRIEST IN THE WHOLE DIOCESE. I SHALL BE INVITING ONE OF THE VOCATIONS TEAM TO COME AND PREACH AT ALL MASSES ON VOCATIONS SUNDAY, SHORTLY AFTER EASTER 2018.

TANZANIA SAFARI. IT IS LIKELY THAT WE SHALL REACH THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF 40 PEOPLE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. I AM ALREADY PUTTING THE DETAILS OF THE TRIP TOGETHER, AND MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW IN DUE COURSE. THE DATES ARE CONFIRMED AS 25TH JULY TO 8TH AUGUST 2018. THE COST IS YET TO BE ADVISED.