

PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM Fr JIM 2019



Dear Parishioners,

This is the time of the year for us to reflect on the year past. So this 'Parish News' is a summary of some of the things I have been doing and what has been achieved in the parish during 2019,

STATISTICS.

During 2019 there have been **45** Baptisms, **65** First Holy Communions, **41** Confirmations, **19** Funerals & 1 Wedding that took place here and preparation for **6** weddings which took place overseas. **Four** people were received into the Church through the RCIA process and **448** Masses have been celebrated (including school Masses).

Thank you to all our catechists who helped in the preparation of those who received the Sacraments here.

THE OFFICE. Many of you are aware that, since 2016, I have had two very efficient people in the parish office, Nikki Devane and Susan Kerrigan. Sadly, we said Goodbye to Susan in October when she and her husband, Des moved to Dorset. Nikki kept things going on her own for many weeks but we are now pleased to welcome Naomi McLoughlin, who will be joining Nikki in the office in the New Year. Please make a note of the parish office contact numbers for all enquiries. Almost EVERYTHING needs to go through the office, please. **020 8950 2077.**

BENE MERENTI it was wonderful to have the privilege of presenting Papal medals to Andrew Kelly and Liz Simpson for long and dedicated service to the parish Ministries of Altar Serving and Music respectively. The presentation was made to coincide with the 60th Anniversary of the parish church here in Bushey and the 30th Anniversary of the RCIA process which began in 1989. Afterwards, we enjoyed a buffet lunch in the Parish Centre which was attended by many of you and we were particularly pleased to see some new faces there.

OH DEAR! It was a huge shock when I had another fall this year! This time due to the erratic movement of a London bus I was travelling in. I sustained a nasty gash to the back of my head which needed 10 stitches and was left with extensive bruising... and of course, shock. My thanks to Fr Jim Duffy for stepping into the breach so promptly to say the evening Mass that day, for saying the morning Masses and conducting two

PARISH NEWS
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funeral Masses. I am also grateful to the usual suspects who carried on the business of the parish until I returned. I hope I am not due for a third fall!

WHAT'S NEXT & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY in 2020?

SUNDAY PPC. We tried the experiment of having our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) AGM and the October meeting of the PPC on a Sunday at 12.00. It was heartening to find more people were able to attend and contribute their views and questions. So we will be having our next PPC AGM on **Sunday 23rd February at noon** Please note change of date from that given in the October newsletter and put this date in your diary. Among the items to be discussed is how we might make good use of approx £26K - funds from the diocesan Growing in Faith initiative which many parishioners contributed to. The meeting, which is open to all parishioners, will follow the 10.30 Mass and tea and coffee will be served from 11.30 in the Parish Centre.

CELEBRATION Following the success of our buffet lunch in November, we would like to repeat it on **Sunday January 26th 2020**. We don't need an excuse to meet together and welcome newcomers to the parish over some refreshments and a cuppa or a glass of wine but this date is the anniversary of my ordination so I will celebrate that at the 10.30 Mass that day and we welcome everyone to the buffet lunch afterwards.

SOCIAL LIFE IN THE PARISH. Andrew Kelly is in the process of gathering a small group together to organise a few social gatherings in the parish next year. We would like to work with the Sacred Heart School on this to bring our communities together once in a while. Andrew will be making appeals for ideas and for people to join him in organising an event or two in the New Year.

CHRISTMAS

A huge thank you to everyone who cleaned the Church in preparation for Christmas. To the SVP members who erected the crib, to our flower group who organised the wonderful floral arrangements and to the musicians, readers and servers who made our Christmas devotions so prayerful.

PARISH NEWS
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