**ST BEDE’S AT 60 YEARS**

**A DIAMOND JUBILEE**

In 2018, our parish will mark the 60th anniversary of its foundation in Croxley Green. This is a significant milestone in the life of St Bede’s parish.

The purpose of this special newsletter is to draw your attention to what it is hoped will be a year of celebration, renewal and growth in the parish. Throughout the year we propose to celebrate in different ways:

• Parish social events involving parishioners, our neighbours and the wider community.

• Addressing the need to secure the physical condition of the fabric of the building for the

 future and the necessary maintenance / replacements, e.g. the heating system.

• And, most importantly, finding opportunities to develop and share our Faith and find once

 again its joys.

Beginning on the Feast of the Epiphany, we hope to make the year one of thanksgiving and celebration of our place in Croxley Green, as a vibrant, worshipping Roman Catholic community. The highpoint of our year will be the special Thanksgiving Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan on 16th September.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols wrote to parishes at Corpus Christi asking us to think about the central importance of the Eucharist in our lives. From 7th to 9th September there will be a National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool called **Adoremus***.*  It is a call to adore the Lord in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and aims to rejuvenate Eucharistic adoration among Catholics. This raising awareness of devotion to the Eucharist is a fitting focus for the growth Faith in our Parish in our year of jubilee. Further information about this event will be forthcoming.

A list of proposed events is attached to this newsletter. In addition to the usual parish events, various social occasions are being planned to bring people together in celebration, such as Parish Breakfasts and a Quiz Evening. Some of these will be fundraising initiatives. Volunteers are needed to form a working party to organise and run these events. Further ideas are welcome.

Please come along to the next Parish in Council meeting on Monday 29th January 2018 at 7.30pm to hear more and contribute to the discussion.

This is our Parish and we all need to be involved in these important events to mark this wonderful anniversary and look forwards to the future.

**Fr John Wiley**

**Parish Priest**

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