

# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST BEDE

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## ST BEDE'S 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### Newsletter 2 – October 2018

Many thanks to all who have supported and participated in the various events we have enjoyed this year, to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Bede's parish.

Further to Newsletter No 1 last December, we set out to provide a year of social events that would involve our parishioners, neighbours and the wider community. This was to include some fundraising to support a number of maintenance projects, in order to improve and enhance the fabric of the church building, etc. But most importantly, we hoped this would be an opportunity to develop and share our Faith. Clearly, we have succeeded!

We are renowned for our hospitality at St Bede's, and our Parish Breakfasts after 10am Mass are second to none! On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January we marked the Feast of the Epiphany and the start of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March our First Holy Communion candidates were formally elected at 10am Mass, so our Parish Breakfast that day marked this special occasion, and celebrated the feasts of St Patrick and St Joseph.

The celebrations continued with a superb celebration meal at West Herts Golf Club, when we raised a toast to our parish, and tucked in to a splendid celebration cake!

This year 17 of our children received First Holy Communion on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May, so it was fitting to hold a Parish Breakfast on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May - Trinity Sunday. This was also an ideal occasion for the blessing of our new garden bench, donated in memory of the late Con & Sadie Shanahan, who were long-standing parishioners of St Bede's.

Afternoon Tea in the Hall took place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June, and it was a pleasure to welcome many of our parishioners, as well as friends from the other churches in Croxley. Delicious cakes and scones were elegantly served on tiered stands, with tea from a range of colourful teapots!

It was a warm and sunny day for this year's Croxley Revels on The Green. A band of willing helpers erected gazebos, transported chairs, tables, supplies, etc., and manned the St Bede's stall; serving tea/coffee & cookies, and selling plants throughout the afternoon.

By coincidence, the National Eucharistic congress in Liverpool: **Adoremus**, took place from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September. This historic event was a call to adore Christ in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and aimed to rejuvenate Eucharistic adoration among Catholics. Parishes were invited to send representatives, who could then return to share their experiences with their fellow parishioners. We were very grateful to Fabian Hiscock, who volunteered to be our representative in Liverpool, and delivered excellent feedback to us over the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> October.

We intend to build on the inspiration received from his experience at the Congress, and hope many of you will respond to future activities we plan, to ensure our parish remains strong and committed.

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The highlight of our celebration year was undoubtedly the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September - a truly memorable event, followed by refreshments in the Hall. Bishop Paul McAleenan celebrated Mass with Fr John on this wonderful occasion, which was attended by many of you, together with friends from the other churches in Croxley and neighbouring parishes. We wanted as many people as possible; ranging from the youngest to our more senior parishioners, to be actively involved. Young Izac and Ivy Rabot performed 'Ave Maria' - a delightful duet on piano and violin, and some of our children provided percussion accompaniment during The Gloria. Renditions of 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring' and 'Ave Verum' were exquisitely delivered by the combined Choir; St Bede's, St Oswald's, and All Saints. An excellent testament to the strong ecumenical bonds we enjoy in Croxley Green. We also received a beautiful rose bush, named 'Congratulations', from St Oswald's Church. This has been planted alongside the Church; adjacent to the Garden of Remembrance.

We are extremely grateful to a number of dedicated parishioners who worked tirelessly during the preceding weeks to ensure the success of this momentous Mass. A good deal of cleaning, brass polishing and attention to detail took place, and the beautiful floral displays in church were much admired. Also, the reception afterwards in the Hall; just one more example of the exceptional hospitality our parish is renowned for, thanks to the proficiency of Louise McKenna and her dedicated team. You may also have noticed our new St Bede's roller banner; created especially for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but which can be used for future events.

We have two more dates for your diary, before our special year draws to a close. These are:

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - QUIZ NIGHT - Tables of 8 - £12 per person.**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December - PARISH BREAKFAST after 10am Mass.**

Watch out for full details in the weekly Newsletter! We hope to see you there!

Of course, none of these events happen by magic. We are truly blessed to have a number of dedicated and willing members of the parish who give of their time and talents to make it all happen! You know who you are, and your input has been invaluable. Thank you to all who continue to ensure the smooth running of the parish.

As mentioned earlier, there have also been practicalities and maintenance of the parish buildings to consider. Our Finance Committee has been busily working behind the scenes to juggle the budget, as there have been several tasks that have needed attention. We ran a Stewardship Campaign shortly before Easter, to which many responded by committing to increase their financial contributions, or volunteering their time.

This year's Easter raffle raised £315, thanks to the magnificent prizes; beautifully presented hampers created by June Jones, which undoubtedly promoted the sale of tickets!

Earlier in the year the gate posts were restored, as during the process of arranging to install new signage, it was discovered that the brickwork was crumbling.

More recently, a new central heating system has been installed, as the old heaters were failing and had become inefficient. So we can look forward to keeping warm this winter!

In the last few weeks, the Presbytery gutters, fascias and soffits, and some areas of the flat roofing, have been replaced / refurbished. Maintaining the Church and surrounding buildings is an ongoing project, and we are very grateful to all who continue to support the parish financially.

Finally, you may have noticed an extra candle at the front of the church; in remembrance of those who have gone before us. To quote from our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prayer, 'We give thanks for the past members of this parish and for the priests who have guided your flock to this day'.

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Team**