

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Eastertide (A)

27<sup>th</sup> April 2014

'Growing in Faith — Commitment w/e'

Acts 2: *the whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles.*

Ps 117: *This day was made by the Lord ...* 1Pt 1: *You did not see Him, yet you love Him ...* Jn 20: 19–31: *Doubt no longer but believe!*

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Reading — speaking of how the earliest disciples held everything in common, and supported one another spiritually and financially — gives me the opportunity today to 'tie up' our parish's contribution to 'Growing in Faith.' You will, all of you, have heard me speak about this many times since the New Year: these four months have given St Augustine's the chance to play our part as Catholics of Westminster diocese: to support our Cardinal wholeheartedly as he fulfils his important responsibilities of (i) caring for our sick & retired priests; (ii) training our seminarians well for the priesthood; (iii) exercising our love for neighbour in the charitable outreach of the diocese; and (iv) encouraging us in our parishes to find new ways of living out a lively and deep Catholic faith. Our own parish project, as you know, is to employ someone new here, a parish catechist part-time, to help expand and better the means by which we learn, pass on, and live our faith — children, teens, young adults, young parents, all of us ...

To this end, I have been asking you to respond

generously to the request of the Cardinal, and to consider prayerfully how and to what extent you can contribute financially to this campaign. So far, about 100 families (that's maybe about 20% of the active households of our parish) have made a gift or pledge, so that we are already at 70% of the goal of £200k. These have been generous decisions from them, mostly to make a monthly gift over a 5-year period. Today is our 'Commitment Weekend,' an opportunity for us all to make our own commitment ('a final push,' you might call it) to get to the goal and to bring our campaign season to a close.

In a few moments you will be handed a card (one per household) for you to indicate your decision with respect to 'Growing in Faith.' Every household can take a card, since there are four options to tick ... [cite options ...]. I do urge you not to rely just on the generosity of others; let's make this a common effort, as a committed, lively community, truly to benefit one another — our parish and our diocese — each of us making whatever contribution we can. I know that this has been a difficult exercise, not least for me! But let's, to the extent we are financially able, be generous and live as those early disciples: "they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone ..." etc.