

# St Barts Together

Edition 1 - May 2021

## In this issue

- **Sharing our Parish Mission: "Evangelisation", and how we aim to deliver this through our 5 Focus Areas**
- **The Parish Pastoral Council's approach and timeline and how you can get involved**

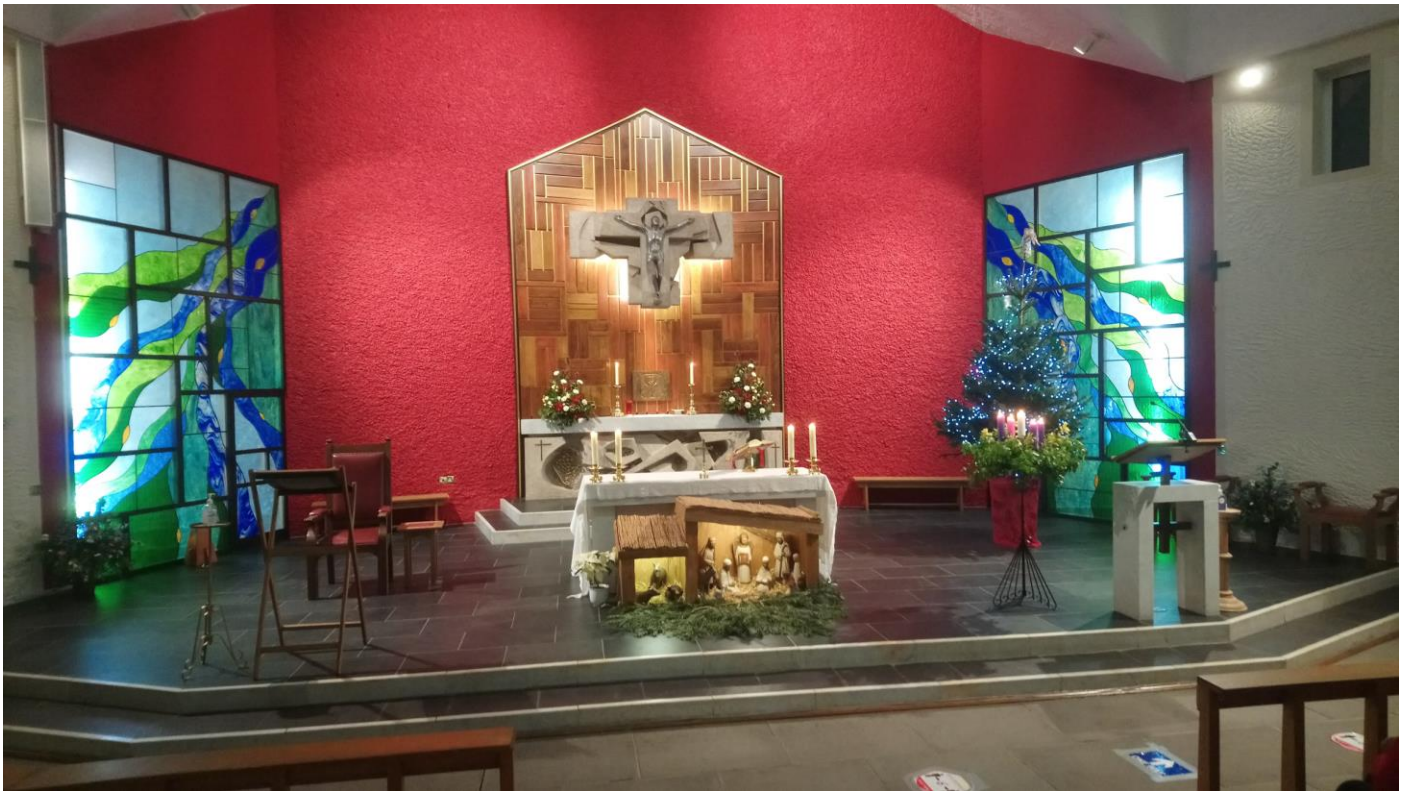
*Every Christian is called to be a missionary disciple here and now and to be actively engaged in Evangelisation by making God's saving love known to all people.*

- Pope Francis

A warm welcome  
back to our  
Parishioners!



St Bartholomew RC Church, 47 Vesta Avenue, St Albans, Herts AL1 2PE  
01727 850066  
[stalbanssouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbanssouth@rcdow.org.uk)



Christmas 2020



March 2021



April 2021



# Our Parish Mission

## Evangelisation

### A message from Father Francis



**By the grace of the Holy Spirit**, we were able to form a humble and formidable Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) last year. Since then, the names of all those who accepted this office in the Church were published and the PPC has been working behind the scenes. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic, with its devastating effects over the world, hasn't permitted us to start to operate as we should. I have, therefore, decided to share with you the mission we would like to be implemented at ST BARTS.

The mission is about **Evangelisation**. Evangelisation has been the core of Christianity since Jesus' time. It is to share or proclaim the good news of God's love as demonstrated and handed to us by His Son, Jesus Christ, with those we encounter in our communities.

This mission has been repeatedly expressed since Vatican II by every Pope. Pope Francis expressed this mission in his Apostolic Exhortation – *Evangelii Gaudium*. In this exhortation, he wishes to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of Evangelisation. He said that all those who are baptised are agents of Evangelisation whatever level our position is in the Church.

This mission is not something new, it already exists in the Parish, but my ultimate vision is how we as a Parish are called to be missionary disciples, how we will be actively involved in carrying on the work of God as handed on to us by Jesus Christ through the disciples. How we in some ways can try to foster or enhance this **Evangelisation**. Jesus says: "Go and make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19). St Paul tells us, in the people of God, in the Church, "there is neither Jew nor Greek... for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28). Therefore, we are **a people for everyone**, to use Pope Francis's phrase. We are the light of the world. We need to work together with our individual gifts and talents to promote the task given to us by Christ – **showing forth God's love towards all**. We are to let our light shine forth so that people may see our good work and give glory to God our Father who is in heaven. We are to build God's kingdom here, in our own community. Unfortunately, we have been "Sacramentalised", but not "Evangelised". Therefore, in humility, I want us to build on what evangelisation we already have within our Parish by working with the local community in five broad areas: **Building Community, Ecumenism, Spirituality, Social Justice and Youth**.

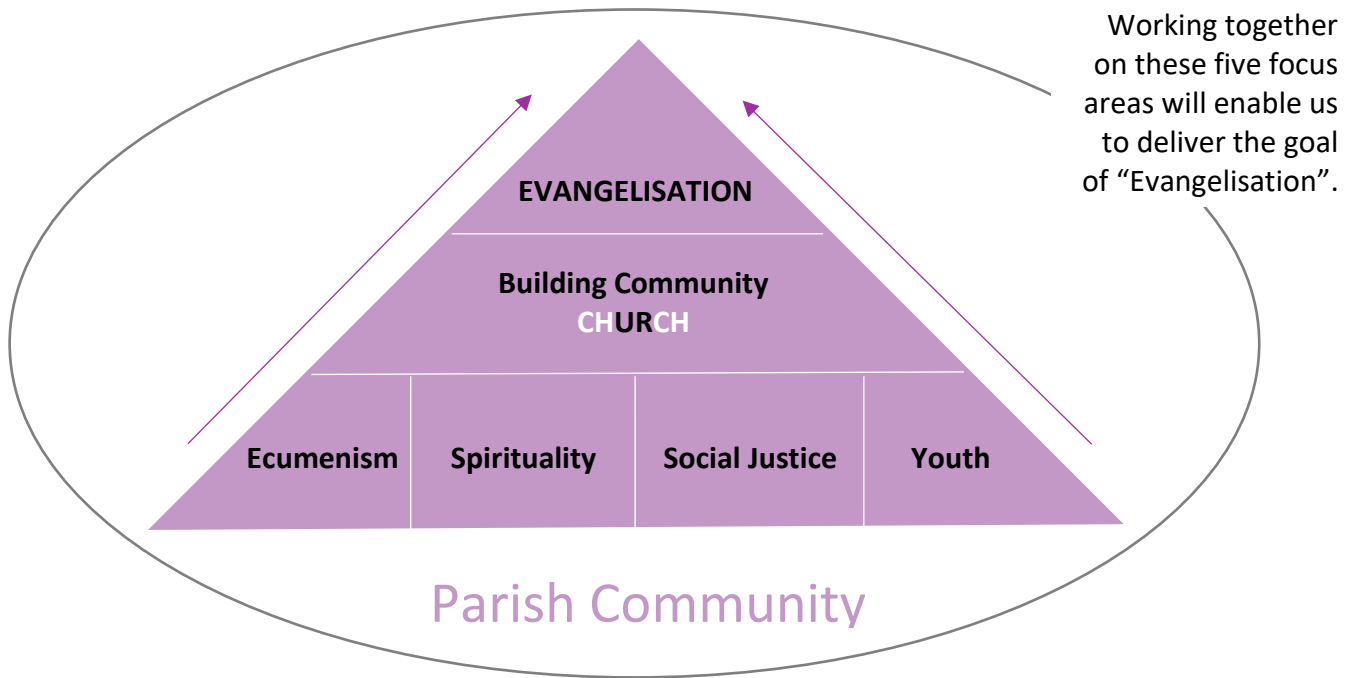
Therefore, what is our next step? Let us come together with joy to make our community more vibrant with the talents that He has freely given to us towards His mission.

Our goal is for every parishioner to feel that there is an adequate variety of Liturgical and social events to express the different aspects of the Catholic faith, to have access to growth in knowledge, prayer and spirituality, and to feel that our social events are suitably frequent and varied.

Thank you.

### Parish Mission Statement

**"Evangelisation is our Parish Mission. It means proclaiming the good news of God's love throughout the world and is the role of all parishioners as we work towards being missionary disciples, i.e., listening, following and sharing our faith. Our Parish aims to evangelise by working in the local community in five areas: Building Community, Ecumenism, Spirituality, Social Justice and Youth."**



### An update from the Parish Pastoral Council Chair, Christine Lambert



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We acknowledge that, sadly, we will not have all our parishioners back with us and we ask for your continued prayers for them and their families and friends – may they rest in holy peace and rise in glory.

“St Barts Together” aims to share what the parish is doing as well as provide a spiritual dimension. Contributions of articles are welcomed from all our parishioners. We aim to issue it quarterly and it will also be available on our parish website.

Much work has been continuing by our clergy, members of parish groups and parishioners, to support our church and individuals and keep the church open and we thank them all. St Bart’s Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has been in place for a few months, with its main purpose of supporting Fr Francis and the parish community to deliver our parish Mission, Evangelisation. With the support of several additional volunteers, PPC members have been exploring the Parish Mission and what the “5 Focus Areas”, shared by Fr Francis, could mean for St Barts. We have been linking up with long-standing parish groups to exchange ideas and are working closely with these groups to create a “joined up” draft plan and calendar.

Once we have a draft plan, we will share the overall picture with you and seek your suggestions, most likely through a survey and/or an online Zoom meeting. Getting together again as a community, in both large and small groups, is key and we are planning appropriate events in line with the steps outlined for lifting Covid restrictions. In September we are planning a Parish BBQ and parish group fayre to get together and to learn more about St Bart’s parish groups.

Reaching out to and exchanging with our entire parish and our local community is essential and we have established other small teams of volunteers including **Communications**, looking at how best to communicate online, in print and on social media and to support and develop our website, including from a technical angle. A **Maintenance** team has also been created and this team would welcome new members to help deliver their important agenda on the upkeep of our lovely church. You do not need specific skills but, instead, a willingness and flexible approach.

This is an exciting time for our Parish, and we look forward to your ideas and active participation in our parish groups. New members are needed for the Youth, Maintenance, CWL and SVP groups as well as drivers to help bring parishioners to the Circle of Friends monthly meeting.

Thank you in advance for your support and if you have any ideas or questions, please feel free to approach myself or a member of the PPC for a chat.

# The 5 Focus Areas

## Building Community



*Group Lead:* Maureen Kelly

*Members:* Martha Moroney-Lewis, Emma Smith, Elizabeth Lizzio

*Definition:* To support our parish community becoming even more inclusive and vibrant, focusing on welcoming new parishioners, and encouraging them to become actively involved with our masses. We will continue to reach out and care for all of our parishioners, engaging with those who attend mass alone and ensuring our elderly and vulnerable do not feel forgotten. We will work with our fellow parish groups to re-invigorate activities, ensuring there is a place for all, and being inclusive, so everyone feels connected by being closer, stronger, knowing that they are a valued part of our community. Our community needs to be accessible to all and a place where all can feel they are welcomed, and they belong.

*Aim:* Our inclusivity, vibrance and care will be driven by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

## Ecumenism



*Group Lead:* Christine Lambert

*Members:* Teresa Clarke, John Lambert, Veronica Grant, Pam McElroy

*Definition:* Ecumenism is the concept and principle in which Christians belonging to different Christian denominations work together to develop closer relationships among their churches and promote Christian unity.

*Aim:* To welcome all and share in prayer services, talks and events to encourage dialogue and understanding, demonstrate our unity, spread the good news and enrich our worship.

## Social Justice



*Group Lead:* Mark James

*Members:* Katherine Ajibade, Peter Godwin

*Definition & Aim:* To support our parish towards an active programme of Social Justice as an outward sign of witness, and commitment to proclaiming the love of the Gospel and the justice of God's kingdom in the public sphere.

## Spirituality



*Group Lead:* Peter Godwin

*Members:* Katherine Ajibade, Margaret Leahy, Eamon Rafferty, Jackie Tominey

*Definition & Aim:* Seeks to help the parish community to get closer to God in our daily lives.

## Youth



*Group Lead:* Elizabeth Lizzio

*Members:* Maureen Kelly, Martha Moroney-Lewis, Emma Smith

*Definition & Aim:* To enable children and young adults up to the age of 25 to find and build on their connection with their faith and feel like a valued member of the St Bart's community. To support families, including single parents and mixed faith families, who wish for their children to be brought up Catholic.

## Other members of the Parish Pastoral Council



**Dec. Justin Cross**



**Dec. Paul O'Connor**



**Teresa Clarke**



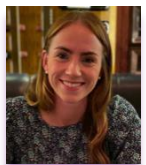
**Katherine Ajibade**



**Eamon Rafferty**



**Martha Moroney-Lewis**



**Emma Smith**



**Jackie Tominey**

## Parish Maintenance



Team Lead ;John Lambert Members : Mark James & Eamon Rafferty

We acknowledge the ongoing work of Eamon Rafferty in planning, organising and delivering key works. Eamon is handing over to John and Mark as he plans to focus on his Finance Committee role. Additional team members would be welcome to join this new team.

## Parish Communications

Members: Natalie Carolan, Paul O'Connor, Chris Blandford, Peter Godwin, Jo Walker, Liz James, Elizabeth Lizzio and Christine Lambert with Ary Viday and Ben Lizzio as Webmasters

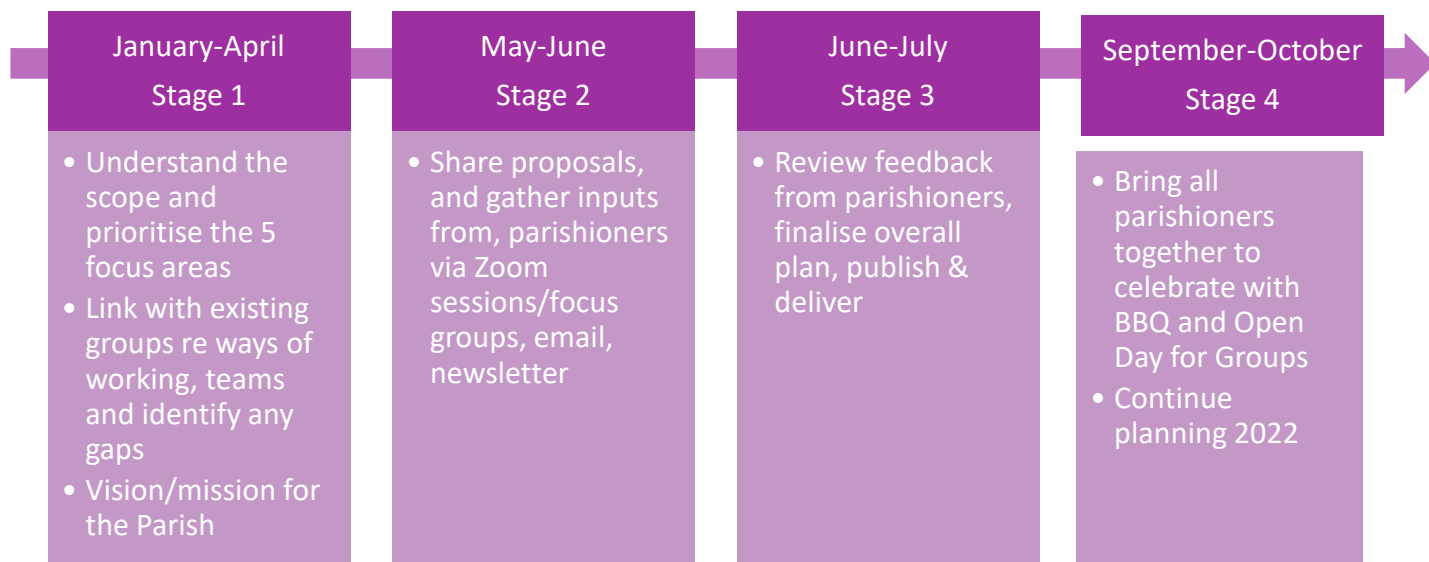
A new team is in the process of being formed to enhance and extend the ways we communicate within the parish and externally.

**We are hoping to start sharing Parish communications via social media too, so look out for that in the coming weeks!**

# Parish Pastoral Council Approach and Timeline 2021

Throughout the process, we will

- Communicate with the Parish
- Develop ways of working for PPC and spend time on spiritual formation
- Continue to support all existing parish groups




## Sharing activities proposed for 2021

APRIL-JUNE	JULY-SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER-DECEMBER
St. Barts Together Issue 1	Summer Bake-Off	Ecumenical Advent Groups
Launch of St. Barts Parish Mission	Launch of the new St Barts Welcome Pack	Christmas Family Mass
SustFest 2021: Climate Conversations	4pm Family Mass	Christmas Eve Drinks
SustFest 2021: Adopt a plant	HCPT 2022 Planning and BBQ	StBarts Together Issue 3
Parish Zoom Discussion "Developing As A Missionary Disciple"	Jumble Sale	St. Barts Christmas Dinner
Parish Survey	St. Barts Together Issue 2	Adult Spiritual Formation
Confirmations	Parish BBQ	
	Parish Group Fayre	
	First Holy Communions	

To find out more please check the website. To participate, please contact the relevant group lead in person or Christine Lambert [stalbanssouthpcc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbanssouthpcc@rcdow.org.uk)







Join Our  
**Climate Conversation**  
Friday 28th May 2021

A Climate Conversation is a chance to stop and really talk about climate change, and what we need to do – both as individuals and as a society.

Following activities, videos and discussion topics provided by Sustainable St Albans, discuss the climate crisis, your thoughts for the future, and deciding what actions you and your church could take.

Join in with one of our virtual sessions:  
 Session 1: 10:30am - 12:30pm  
 Session 2: 2pm - 4pm    Session 3: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

To book contact: [greenwoodurc@outlook.com](mailto:greenwoodurc@outlook.com)  
 07805306258

**SOUTH ST ALBANS churches**    #SSAChurches        #SustainableStAlbans    **SUSTAINABLE St Albans** 



# sustainability festival 2021



## ADOPT A PLANT HERE

29th May - After 6 pm Mass

30th May –After 8.30am and 10.30am Mass

For more details see our website:

[www/rcdow.org.uk/stalbanssouth](http://www/rcdow.org.uk/stalbanssouth)

