

Building Community

Since our January meeting there have been two initiatives delivered by the group-
Remap Charity Cakebake 12.02.23-

This event immediately followed the Family Focused 10.30am Mass. The format followed that of previous cakebakes. It was well attended by St Barts families. The inclusion of a childrens' colouring activity supervised by Ruth Mansell and Nick Dodds went down well . This time we also had a member of the charity attend to give a 15 minutes presentation on the work of the charity and who was available to share information on a 1-1 basis until 12:30. Once again this was a jolly gathering of our parishioners between 11.30-13:00. Collections were also taken at the end of our masses across this weekend. The total raised for Remap was £350.25. A particular thank you to those who led in delivering the event on the day: Ben Lizzio, Lizzie Lizzio, Liz and Mark James, Margaret Thirlsmith, Nick Dodd, Paula Dilger and Ruth Mansell and to Dawn Pace.

Issue of a Revised Parish Welcome Guide-

The revised guide is close to completion and issue. Given the positive feedback from the first Welcome Booklet a similar formatting has been applied to the revised guide. The purpose of the guide remain:

1. A message of Welcome to all parishioners and confirmation of Evangelisation as our Parish Mission Statement
2. To provide an outline of all ministries, groups and parish activities to which all parishioners are welcome to participate in
3. Current contact information for lead persons for sacramental programmes, parish groups and activities.

The revised booklet remains the same size (20 A4 sides). In addition to updating information on the entries of the first booklet, we have included details of an additional catholic secondary and entries for St Barts' Christian Life Community, South St Albans Churches and Churches Together in St Albans.

We would envisage sending a copy by e mail to all parishioners whom Dawn and Chris Blandford have e mail contacts for, saving to parish website and a limited number of copies printed which can be available in the church porch and office (especially helpful for Welcomers to give to new parishioners). Dawn will also offer an e mail copy when new parishioners make contact with the Parish Office.

Spirituality

Further to the details given for the January meeting, there are 2 points of update:

1. The Parish Retreat has been put back until Advent as there was no availability from Bishop Cowley's office to lead a Lenten Day on the two proposed dates
2. Margaret Leahy is leading the publicising of the Walsingham Pilgrimage 25 March.

Youth

Since our January meeting the Youth Group has:

- Organized and successfully delivered the First Youth Focused Family Mass. At this mass we engaged all of our youth ranging from Children's' Liturgy, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Our Confirmation candidates participated in Welcoming and reading, and the First Holy Communion candidates read the Bidding Prayers at this mass.
- St Adrian's school have begun attending Holy days of Obligation (Epiphany) and Ash Wednesday mass.
- Liaising with St Adrian's school for children to attend St Barts for 1 weekday mass in Lent on x3 occasions.
- Fr Francis to lead a Penitential Service during Lent at St Adrian's school.
- Connected our St Barts food pantry to our St Adrian's community.
- Continuing to support the involvement of the Children's Liturgy.
- Initial stages of planning the next Youth Focused Family Mass.

Following the above, there has been an increased number of families attending weekend masses. Big thank you to the St Adrian's Headteacher, Aideen Porter, for her ideas and support in building greater connections between St Adrian's and St Barts communities.