

# PARISH SPOTLIGHT

## Hiring a Catechist and Refurbishing the Parish Centre: St Raphael's, Yeading

The Growing in Faith funds have been used to refurbish the Parish Centre, repair the Church Roof and support the parish's Catechist.

The recent refurbishment of the Parish Centre has reclaimed what used to be a bar area and opened up the hall that much more. The Parish Centre is in constant use throughout the week, meeting the needs of the Catechetical programmes (Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation), Alpha in a Catholic Context, Pensioners and Scout Groups. These programmes are in turn spurring other ministries, like the prayer ministry group.

The Parish Centre is serving to become a place where people of the parish are moving from being just a community to being a parish family. The parish is moving from the more usual "I see that person at Mass on Sunday" to "I know that person". Whilst in its early days, the signs are encouraging. In October the parish celebrated "International Day", where parishioners from all five continents came together as one big family and laid on a feast that was enjoyed by all – there were about 300 parishioners that took part in this event.



Jane, the parish's Catechist, has trained 12 adults to assist with First Holy Communion instruction and preparation, and 11 more to organise Confirmations. In addition, a television was purchased for educational instructional videos and clips, to train parents helping their children receive the Sacraments. Her work, and these tools and resources, were made possible by Growing in Faith funds.

## Church Renovation: Our Lady and St Joseph, Kingsland



Aesthetics is concerned with mind and emotions in relation to the sense of beauty. As part of a believing Christian community, it's important that the Churches where we gather reflect the dignity, respect and reverence in which God is held. The environment and atmosphere around us helps to raise our hearts and mind to God in prayer and contemplation.

The Church of Our Lady and Saint Joseph in Kingsland is situated on the busy Balls Pond Road in North East London. It is open from 7am to 7pm every day and is rarely empty. It's very much a 'working Church' and much loved by Catholics, non-Catholics and others who just like to call in and be alone in silence and stillness.

The parish's 'Growing in Faith' project was to redecorate the Church in simplicity, and enhance its sacred character. This meant the removal of an old and soiled carpet, revealing a parquet floor, which has now been cleaned and refurbished. The carpet on the sanctuary was also removed revealing a beautiful terrazzo floor which has also been cleaned and polished.

The people of the parish are very proud of their parish Church and very happy to see that is now a fitting place for prayer and worship.



## Many More Parish Projects On Track

A total of 61 out of the 214 parishes across the diocese have formally applied for their share of Growing In Faith monies, held in trust until such time as their plans are ready to proceed. For some capital projects this may include developing architect's or engineer's plans, securing local approvals and permits, securing additional financing if needed, and undertaking a bidding process. For social programmes, it may involve recruiting the programme staff, paying for training, and setting up the parish programme, sometimes in conjunction with ecumenical or Catholic partners.

