



This round up is to keep everyone in Clifton Diocese up to date with information that is important to us all

January 2018

Chief Operating Officer - Lyn Murray



Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the latest edition of our quarterly Team Briefing document which includes information on various activities happening within Clifton Diocese.

Incorporation of the Diocese:

As you will be aware, a major project for 2017 was preparing for the change in legal status of the Diocese from a Charitable Trust to a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable status. I am very happy to confirm that the transfer was successfully completed on 1 January 2018 and I would like to thank everyone who has assisted in making this happen. This includes the teams in Alexander House and St Ambrose, together with the clergy, colleagues and volunteers in all our parishes. A large amount of work has been required to achieve this and the support provided by everyone is very much appreciated.

General Data Protection Regulation:

With effect from 25 May 2018 the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force, replacing the current Data Protection Act 1998 which governs the collection and use of personal information. Over the coming months we will be providing parishes with guidance to ensure compliance with the new regulation, as well as updating the Diocesan Data Protection Policy. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me.

New Diocesan staff



Geoff King has joined us in the Property Services Department and will be assisting Derek Salmon and Lyndsey McCullam as the new Property Support Surveyor. Geoff brings with him many years of experience in surveying and construction and you may see him on his travels as he will be out and about in the parishes over the next few months.

New Clifton Diocesan website launched

A New Year sees the launch of the new website

It has all the information that you have come to expect from the old website along with latest news from our Diocese as well as National and International news.

It has many new sections such as 'Faith' and has all the latest information for Bishop Declan's vision for the Diocese, 'A Future Full of Hope' WWW.CLIFTONDIOCESE.COM



News from the Parishes

Golden anniversary of St Bernadette's Whitchurch

Many great events are planned for the 50th anniversary of St Bernadette's in Whitchurch, Bristol in 2018.

A major fundraising initiative has been started to help with the up-keep and renovation of the iconic building which is showing signs of its age!



St Peter's Gloucester celebrate 150 years!



St Peter's will be celebrating 150 years since it was solemnly consecrated by the Bishop of Clifton, the Rt Rev. Dr Clifford on 8 October 1868.

More details on both these parishes and the events being held in 2018 will be published on the Clifton Diocesan website: www.cliftondiocese.com

Alexander House Team Day at Holy Souls

Brambles, wellies and co-workers makes for a good day out!

Many staff from the Diocesan Curial office, Alexander House, donned their wellies, gloves and warm clothes and gave up a day in November to help clear many brambles and nettles and cut the grass at Holy Souls Cemetery in Bristol ahead of Bishop Declan celebrating Mass for the Holy Souls a few days later.



A remembrance garden has also been built at the cemetery which was designed by Sharon Owen from the Property Services Department. This garden was officially opened by Bishop Declan during the Mass.

News from the Liturgy Office

Do keep abreast of what is happening liturgically by looking at the Liturgy Office section of the website on a regular basis: <https://www.cliftondiocese.com/departments/adult-education/liturgy-office>

You will find a host of resources and information, along with some catechesis and practical suggestions, to hopefully enhance the liturgical celebrations in our parishes. We've included some suggested Intercessions for Sundays throughout the Year and this resource will grow as the liturgical year progresses.

The Liturgy Office is here to support individuals, parishes and communities in everything that enables them to be more fully a Church of deepened prayer.

If there's anything that might support you and your parish in its celebration of the liturgy, please do get in touch.

Special Masses at Clifton Cathedral

Celebration of Marriage at Clifton Cathedral

The Celebration of Marriage will take place in our Cathedral on Saturday 3 February 2018. Bishop Declan is inviting the people of our Diocese to join him at the Celebration of the Eucharist beginning at 12noon as part of National Marriage Week. This now annual celebration is for the whole diocesan community and especially our married couples.

Rite of Election

The Rite of Election for those journeying towards baptism and those candidates being received into the Catholic Church this coming Easter, will be celebrated at 11am on Saturday 17 February 2018 in our Cathedral with Bishop Declan.



A Year with St Mark

Bishop Mervyn Alexander (Bishop Declan's predecessor) who was ordained bishop on the feast of St Mark, suggested that Mark's Gospel was written for people in a hurry! It is the shortest of the four gospels and allows the reader of his good news to be taken up in the sheer energy and urgency of Jesus' preaching, his ministry of healing, and his bringing in of God's kingdom.

The new liturgical year which began on the First Sunday of Advent (December 2017) means that Sunday by Sunday we pick up a reading of St Mark's Gospel for the next twelve months (with a little gap allowing us to read St John's sixth chapter in the summer). During this journey through our diocesan *Year of Mission*, there is an encouragement to read, pray and reflect upon Mark's gospel and allow ourselves to be drawn every deeper into the life of a disciple called to echo the mission of Jesus.

This series of monthly reflections was written by Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB, a monk of Ampleforth Abbey, for a Bristol parish three years ago. Its offered by way of helping each of us in our re-reading of the gospel of St Mark. Hopefully, it will help bring life to Mark's story of Jesus and allow you to read it with fresh understand and an eagerness to walk closer to the Lord who calls each of us to be his disciples.

These reflections will appear on the diocesan website a few days before the start of the month.

WWW.CLIFTONDIOCESE.COM

EXPLORING MARK

The simple series draws us into a deeper, richer understanding of St Mark and his gospel as we journey through his sixteen chapters during this liturgical year. You can find them on our own diocesan website as well as the Bishops' Conference website : www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Videos

You can use them as a parish group and use them for conversation and an accompaniment to your reading. You can use them on your own as part of your own personal prayer and reflection. Fr Nick simply allows us to understand St Mark and what Good News is for him. Jesus is Lord... a simple message that we need to hear anew and our world needs to have proclaimed. As we journey through this Year of Mission let's allow Mark's narrative to become part of our prayer this year. Let's allow him to draw us into deeper relationship with the Lord as we hear him call us into friendship with Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah.

A Year with St Mark



Clergy moves

This month sees two Priest moves within our Diocese

Newly ordained Fr Richard Elson will become Assistant Priest at Holy Rood Swindon.



Fr Dominic Findlay-Wilson

Fr Dominic Findlay-Wilson is moving from Swindon to become Priest at English Martyrs in Chard



Fr Richard Elson

We wish them well in their new appointments and ask that you keep them in your Prayers.

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