

Newsletter

January 2013
3rd Issue

Parish Project News

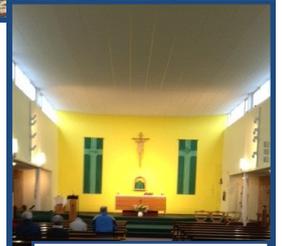
£200k of Parish Project funds released

Two years on from the start of the campaign we are delighted that four Parishes have already benefited from Capital Projects.

In addition to the Stations of the Cross in Holy Family, Slough, 2012 saw the completion of the Beaconsfield Parish Centre as well as church roof repairs for St Peter's in Biggleswade and St John's in Luton.

There had been fears that St John's would have to close when the roof became unsafe. With the support of the Parishioners and the funds raised by **TIF** the work is near completion. Parish Priest Fr. Tony Brennan said "The Parish community of St John is very excited to be moving back into the Church after 14 months away. **TIF** has been instrumental in helping us to complete our renovation plans"

A further £129.4k has been put to use reducing the debt in 14 of our parishes.



Work in Progress - New Roof being installed, St John's, Luton.

Priestly Formation Update

It brings great joy to share the news of three further Ordinations.



Priests concelebrating at the Ordination Mass in Luton

Michael Patey was Ordained a Priest of the Diocese on 8th September 2012, the Feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at Northampton Cathedral. Fr. Michael has now taken up his first post as Assistant Priest at St Joseph's Bedford.



Fr. Michael Patey giving the traditional first blessing to his mother whilst celebrating his First Mass of Thanksgiving

Wayne Coughlin and Christopher Perry were ordained at St Joseph's, Luton on 5th January 2013. The Bishop likened the faith journey of the two former Anglican priests to that of the Magi who had travelled on from Bethlehem "by a different route".



Laying on of hands, during the Ordination of Christopher Perry and Wayne Coughlin

Stewardship Committee member Brian Gardner has been taking an in depth look into the costs and process of developing candidates for the priesthood, through seminary training. We invite you to read this insightful document which will give you a good understanding of how the funds raised by **TIF** are used. This will be included in our donor communication and available on our website (details overleaf).



Mgr Andrew Faley with Mgr Kevin McGinnell, Episcopal Vicar for Education & Formation

Lay Formation

The 'Celebrating Vatican II' series of lectures subsidised by **TIF** commenced as planned in October 2012, led by Mgr Andrew Faley, Interfaith adviser to the Southern Dioceses. This first lecture provided a general introduction and background to Vatican II and was well received by the 70 participants.

The Second Lecture, held in November, drew as many participants and was led by Canon John Redford on the topic of The Church. His approach was praised by those who attended as informative and challenging.

The series of lectures, a joint venture between the Diocesan Religious Education Service (NORES) and the Benedictine Nuns at Turvey Abbey, is designed to mark the 50th anniversary of the second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the issue of Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Lectures are open to all and will continue until October 2014.

To learn more please contact NORES on 01582 723312 or e-mail admin@nores.org.uk.



Participants at the first 'Celebrating Vatican II' Lecture

Sick and Retired Clergy

Supporting our clergy who are struggling to remain mobile through ill health or old age is one of the many ways we are using **TIF** funds to support our sick and retired clergy.

We have in the past year installed two stair lifts, a walk in shower, two orthopaedic beds, extra lighting and handrails to help with mobility.

We are also covering the cost of nursing home care for three of our priests who are no longer well enough to care for themselves.

Our clergy who have served the Diocese so well deserve a happy and dignified retirement and we are doing all we can to ensure this is the case. Please keep them in your prayers.



Finances

What you have contributed so far.....

Gifts	Gift Aid	Total
£3,414,416	£693,163	£4,107,579



On-going Campaign

Below you can see how we are doing, taking into account pledges which we know will not be realised, how the money received to date has been distributed across the causes and what has been spent so far.

	Retired Clergy	Seminarians	Lay Formation	Parish Projects	Religious Orders*	Total
Total initial goal	£3,500,000	£1,000,000	£500,000	£1,000,000	-	£6,000,000
Total pledged	£3,583,691	£1,023,626	£511,813	£4,828,969	£483,063	£10,431,162
Total 'active' pledges (excludes cancelled pledges)	£3,469,661	£991,046	£495,523	£4,260,240	£477,909	£9,694,379
Income (donations + Gift Aid claimed) to date	£2,168,194	£619,198	£309,599	£762,701	£247,887	£4,107,579
Total expenditure to date	£283,164	£267,792	£5,000	£330,104	£247,887	£1,133,947

* For the eight parishes which are run by a religious order it was agreed that a portion of the funds received for those Parishes would go to the religious order to support their seminarians and retired clergy. This does not affect the amount allocated for the projects in those parishes.

Campaign Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God. Through your goodness, the Church in the Diocese of Northampton has flourished for 160 years. We have endeavoured by your grace, to contribute our time, talents and treasure in building a community of believers in our parishes, with the Lord Jesus Christ as our foundation.

As we work **Together In Faith**, we ask for the grace of your Holy Spirit.

So that we might know your will, and be strengthened in our work, we ask for your blessings and for the patronage of Blessed Mary Immaculate and of St Thomas of Canterbury.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever,

Amen

Here to help.....



We hope this newsletter is useful to you.

However, we do understand from time to time you may have questions or need to speak to somebody about your individual pledge. Our Together In Faith Administration team will be more than happy to help and can be reached on the contact details below:

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