

Parish Project News—TIF Funds Bringing Pastoral Care to School

When the parish of Slough Holy Family reviewed how best to use its share of Together In Faith funds, a decision was made to allocate a portion towards supporting a full time Chaplain at the nearby Catholic secondary school, St. Joseph's in Slough. After a careful selection process, Theresa Hargreaves was appointed and joined the school in December 2012. She talks to us about her role and the benefits a full time Chaplain can bring to young people in a secondary school setting.

Would you tell us a little about your role as Chaplain at St. Joseph's?

As this is the first time the school has been able to have a full time Chaplain, it's a completely new role, which I am lucky enough to be able to develop and define as I get to know the school. I would say around 60% of my time is spent on pastoral care. I do a lot of one on one mentoring with the young people. I also support each year head in their pastoral care role.

What are some of the key initiatives you have planned at the moment?

A significant area of focus currently is on the transition to senior school for the upcoming year 7, who will be leaving primary schools and joining St Joseph's in September. I have visited some of the feeder primary schools and I am involved in Parent Days, when the new pupils and their parents are able to come to the

school in order to become better acquainted with it. In September, at the start of the new school year, I will lead Retreat Days for the new pupils, supported by the R.E. staff. Each form will have a day offsite at the Eton Dorney Centre, as a chance to get to know each other and bond as a year group.

What have been your highlights so far?

I am currently working with a year 7 form tutor to assist the class in organising and delivering an assembly. It will be based on the Gospel passage of Jesus walking on the water, so the theme for the assembly is one of Trust. One group of pupils has created a drama, another an exercise demonstrating trust whilst a third has written Bidding Prayers. It is great to see these young people's creative power and how they thrive on this kind of achievement.



Stations of the Cross
created by a St Joseph's pupil



Theresa Hargreaves,
Chaplain at St
Joseph's School, Slough



In Other News: Northampton St Francis and St Therese are enjoying new hymn books, thanks to their parish share of **Together In Faith** Flitwick Sacred Heart are delighted with the recently installed new chairs and carpets, funded by **Together In Faith**

Lay Formation—An Exciting New Development in Adult Education

When Bishop Peter first presented his vision of the Diocese, he told us that we are called to be a community who “act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God”. He encouraged us to acquire a confidence inspired by our faith, to enter meaningful conversation among ourselves and with God, and to deepen our sense of connection in order to build vibrant Catholic communities.



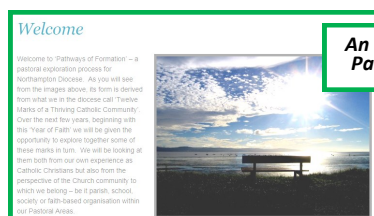
Bishop Peter identified three streams of energy and effort to develop, in order to bring these aspirations to fruition. The second stream is ‘Education and formation of lay people’ otherwise known as ‘Stream 2’.

A key element of the Stream 2 work has recently reached a milestone, with the invaluable support of the **Together In Faith** fund for Lay Formation.

A new opportunity for Adult Lay Formation, **Pathways of Formation**, has been developed to build on the 12 key “marks” identified as being at the heart of a thriving catholic community, including Welcoming, Praying, Conversing and Sharing Faith.

Pathways of Formation is a new programme for pastoral exploration, based on these 12 marks. It provides contemporary web based formation, offering users a wide variety of materials to prompt reflection and learning, which is recorded in an individual journal throughout the duration of study. Interactive forums and links with social media are available to connect the user to wider conversation and dialogue. Each module or Pathway takes six weeks to complete and culminates in a Bishop's Day at which the group gathers for conversation with Bishop Peter on their journey within the area of study.

An exciting pilot of the first module, based on the subject of Praying, has recently been completed by 30 adults from the parishes of Slough Holy Family and Beaconsfield. Feedback from the participants was very positive:



An extract from the
Pathways website

“I found the material very useful, relevant and thought-provoking”

“Very interesting – very glad I was part of it”

“Good idea! It helped me to explore and connect with other people”

For more information on Walking Humbly and the Pathways to Formation programme, please see the Northampton Diocese website:

<http://www.northamptondiocese.org/THEDIOCESE/WALKINGHUMBLY/tabid/129/Default.aspx>

Priestly Formation—Oscott College

St Mary's College Oscott is the Roman Catholic Seminary of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and is the principal place of study for those undertaking priestly formation from our Diocese. Oscott College was founded in 1794, moving to its current location in 1838. The beautiful gothic revival style building which houses the seminary was principally the work of architect Augustus Pugin.

In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI visited Oscott College, the first time a Pope has visited a seminary on British soil.



St Mary's College, Oscott
Roman Catholic Seminary



Together In Faith funds are currently supporting four students from Northampton Diocese through their training at Oscott College.

Pictured here from left to right are Benedetto d'Autilia, Michael Bates, Brendan Seery and Pius Amoako along with Canon John Udris, Spiritual Director at Oscott and previously Dean of Northampton Cathedral.

Benedetto, Brendan and Pius are 4th year students and are due to be ordained deacon in 2014, followed by ordination to the priesthood in 2015. Michael has just finished his 2nd year.

Financial Summary

What you have contributed so far:

Gifts	Gift Aid	Total
£4,105,359	£864,864	£4,970,222

We are delighted and grateful for each and every contribution to **Together In Faith**. Across the Diocese as a whole, our generous supporters have brought us extremely close to having received **£5 million** in Gifts and Gift Aid. We anticipate that this milestone will be reached in the middle of July 2013, a fantastic achievement for the Campaign

Facts and Figures

The total active **Together In Faith** pledges are worth £ 9.51 million. Our current total of gifts received of £4.97 million, means we have already passed the halfway point of the Campaign!

Expenditure across the 3 main causes to date has been as follows:

- Sick & Retired Clergy £ 516,717
- Priestly Formation £ 320,791
- Lay Formation £ 6,574

Across the parishes £ 463,520 has now been spent on Parish projects, meaning many of our individual communities are now seeing a local benefit directly from Together In Faith.

A further £ 189,638 has been used to reduce parish debt to the Diocese, improving the overall health of their finances.

For more detailed finance information, please see the Diocese website:

www.northamptondiocese.org/THEDIOCESE/TOGETHERINFAITH/tabid/402/Default.aspx



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

Happy to Help...

We hope this newsletter is useful to you. However, we do understand from time to time you might have questions or need to speak to somebody about your individual pledge. Our **Together in Faith** Administration team are always happy to help and can be reached using the contact details below:



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