

The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
Cathedral Deanery Newsletter
'The Word Who is Life'
Autumn 2019

Welcome to this Newsletter for the Cathedral Deanery. Our Deanery covers the parishes in the South-West corner of our Diocese (you can see a list of the parishes over the page). Every parish belongs to a deanery, that is a group of neighbouring parishes which work together to promote the pastoral care of their people. The Diocesan Pastoral Plan tells us that the cooperation of parishes within deaneries will be increasingly important, as we work together to implement the three priorities that are at the heart of our striving to live the Gospel: Prayer, Formation and Mission. Some things must be done in each parish separately, but there are many things that can be done, and are better done, together. This brief newsletter is intended to bring you up to date with what is going on in our Deanery in relation to the Pastoral Plan. Much of it has been in the form of planning, so you may be surprised to discover how much is actually happening. Please read it, and share this news with others. Please get involved with the various events, most especially the visit of the Formation Team which is mentioned below. Please pray for our Diocese, for our Bishop, our priests, deacons and lay faithful.

Finally, you will already have seen that I am not a designer or a publisher! If you have the necessary skills and experience and would like to put together future editions of this newsletter, or indeed if you have any suggestions about useful content, just let me know and I will be delighted for you to be involved.

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School Chaplaincy

'Effective chaplaincy is a key element in the Catholic Ethos and pastoral provision for our schools' (WWIL 82).

St Philip Howard Catholic School in Barnham appointed Theresa McNamara as their chaplain earlier this year, and she has brought great energy and skill to the role. From the start of this school year she has been joined by three new chaplaincy team members: Joe Farrell, Mary George and Bethan Townsend (Joe and Bethan, like Theresa, are past students of the school). The four of them make a really strong team, with a wide variety of experience and skills, and the idea is that the experience Theresa is able to share with her three colleagues may help them discern a future role in chaplaincy. All four of them are part time – some days they are all in the school, and every day some of them are there, so we are well provided for. Hopefully the team will also be able to offer some support and help where appropriate to the primary schools in the Deanery. This is an exciting new model: SPH is once again at the cutting edge! Please pray for our schools.

The Ascent Programme

'This programme, run from Worth Abbey, provides a three year programme for young people post-Confirmation. It enables those who take part to be well-formed in Faith and to develop a deeper prayer life. They are thus equipped for evangelisation, for a deeper commitment in the life of the Church, for leadership in the life of the Church and assisted in the discernment of Vocation (Marriage, Priesthood, Religious Life, the Single Life)' (WWIL 115).

The first group of twelve young people will be commencing the Ascent Programme this Autumn: two of them are from our Deanery. This programme will aim to help form young people to take pastoral and leadership roles in the future. It will give them the confidence that they know the faith well, which is crucial if we are to be able to share our faith. It will be a real benefit for the people taking part, and also for the rest of the Church.

Deanery Based Formation in Faith

'The Formation Team is now tasked with the delivery of programmes in Deaneries. This intentional

approach will be expressed in a number of measures and might be expressed as "Forming the few for the sake of the many" (WWIL 96).

The Formation Team will be visiting each Deanery to present to the whole Deanery (people from each parish, but the more the better) a taste of the courses that can be delivered locally in support of the pastoral, formation and evangelisation work of the parishes in that Deanery. Our Deanery has been chosen to be one of the first they will visit, and they will be coming to St Philip Howard School in Barnham on Saturday March 14th. Please write it in your diary now – more details will follow soon.

Adult Formation

'The CCRS [Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies], currently being delivered in some parts of the Diocese, will – in time – be delivered more widely. This will assist lay faithful in parishes who wish to take the course and also be available to those who recognise the call to be teachers in our schools.' (WWIL 110)

The first group of parishioners from across the Diocese began this course in Crawley in September. The course, which is taught over the period of a year, aims to give lay people a firm grounding in the Catholic Faith, so that they can be better equipped for leadership and catechetical roles in parishes, as

well as enabling them to explain and promote our beautiful Catholic faith when people challenge or criticise it, or even when people are curious and just don't understand it. A quarter of participants in the first group come from our Deanery, which is good news. If you are interested in following this course, it will run again each year, so to find out more contact Deacon Jon Harman at the St Philip Howard Centre: Jon.Harman@abdiocese.org.uk

A Prayer for Our Diocese from The Pastoral Plan

*Lord, the Word who is Life.
May all the people of our Diocese
grow in openness
to the power of the Holy Spirit,
so that through a growth
in understanding and courage,
and truly open to your call,
we may bear powerful witness
to all around us,
for you are Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Billingshurst & Pulborough

Amongst all the exciting news and developments of our Pastoral Plan for our Diocese, there are also some moments of sadness. There are a number of Mass centres that will no longer have Sunday Mass, and one of these is S. Crispin & Crispinian in Pulborough. The final Mass there is on the patronal feast of the church, October 25th. The church was opened in 1953 and has provided a focus of catholic life and worship ever since, so there is a real sense of loss for its regular worshippers. Please do pray for them. According to the Pastoral Plan Billingshurst will transfer to the Crawley

Deanery at some stage before 2025, but at present there is no definite timescale for this.

The website for our Diocese (you can download the Pastoral Plan from a button on the Home Page) is at:
www.dabnet.org

Parishes of The Cathedral Deanery

Arundel

arundelcathedral.uk

Billingshurst

www.st-gabriel-crispin.org.uk

Bognor Regis & Slindon

www.bognorcatholicparish.co.uk

Chichester with The Witterings

www.strichardschichester.co.uk

Petworth & Midhurst

www.petworthcatholic.org

Selsey

stwilfridselsey.co.uk

Storrington

ourladyofengland.parishportal.net

Catholic Schools in The Cathedral Deanery

St Philip Howard Catholic High School, Barnham

www.sphcs.co.uk

St Philip's Catholic Primary School, Arundel

www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bognor Regis

www.st-marys-bognor.co.uk

St Richard's Catholic Primary School, Chichester

www.st-richards.w-sussex.sch.uk