

Introduction

My dear Parishioners,



It is with great pleasure that I would like to welcome you to our new parish report for 2014. Another successful year has passed as you can see and I am so pleased that, as a parish family, we continue to work hard to build up our community, uniting together in spiritual and in social endeavours. And all for the glory of God.

Everyday at Mass I give thanks to God for you and for myself for all that He has given us, and I pray that the Lord, in his love and goodness, continues to keep us and protect us all in his loving care. We are blessed to have so many good parishioners, here in Holy Trinity parish, who have worked tirelessly for the benefit of others and for the whole community. Our Christmas lunch last year for the lonely proved clearly that we live for the Lord and for others.

Suddenly this year, we are better known to the nation due to the "Songs of Praise" programme. Our parish can now be seen flourishing alongside other Christian faiths with many different talents and musical skills, with which we give praise to our Heavenly Father.

As I am writing these words, I am thinking of our dear fellow parishioners of Sacred Heart's Parish in Four Oaks, who will be joining in with us as one family. I would like to offer the warmest welcome to our brothers and sisters from this lovely Parish and I am sure we will sit happily together to worship the Lord and look after one another, as we make our journey of faith and life side by side together.

I have to say, I felt a little nervous at first as the vineyard grows larger and wider, but at the same time I gain confidence remembering that I am not alone, because I am not working all by myself. Fr. David Lacy, and Rev Deacon Daniel Hurd are invaluable supports to me in my Ministry, as are so many others in their many different ways. They know how much I value them. At this point I would like to take this opportunity to thank Monsignor David Cousins for his many faithful years of service and wish him every happiness in his retirement. He will always be welcome in Holy Trinity Church.

As Easter draws near, may I wish you all a very joyful and Blessed Easter. May the Risen Lord keep us all in his love.

Father Michael

Sacramental Statistics

During the year we have together celebrated many different sacraments together:

Baptisms:	58
1st Holy Communions:	45
Confirmations:	32
Weddings:	22
Funerals:	48



Benemerenti Medal awarded to Carol Martin

On the First Sunday of Advent Father Michael presented the *Benemerenti* Medal award for dedicated service to the Church to Carol Martin a parishioner of Holy Trinity Church for over 30 years.

Carol's many contributions to Catholic education and service included being headteacher of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School in Quinton, conducting Baptism preparation classes and as Secretary to the Priests' Training Fund.

Parish Groups

There are many Parish Groups working, often quietly away silently in the shadows, without whom the parish would be so much the poorer. If you would like to join in with any of these groups please feel free to do so at any time:

- Senior Choir - Ken Mackey (308 0845)
- Youth Group Folk Group - Andrew Ross (0778 9347 136)
- Altar Servers - Mike Gaffney (354 7557)
- Flower Ladies - Maureen Kettell (241 3424)
- Church Cleaners - Margaret Daly (378 4925)
- Church Wardens - Patrick Malcolm Davis (355 3157)
- Church Gardeners - Mike Gaffney (354 7557)
- Christmas Hospitality - Helen Smallwood
- Catenians - Mike Gaffney (354 7557)
- SVP - Martin Turner (0791 871 5549)
- Ladies Guild - Barbara Hadcroft (0121 355 5961)
- Flower design - Maureen Kettell (641 3424)
- RCIA—Journey in Faith - Father David
- Prayer Group - Father Michael
- Finance - Frank Cookson
- Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund - Anne Howles
- Marriage Preparation - Joe Steve Clements Pat and Phil Clarke
- Children's Liturgy - Laura Stridgen (07792 015757)
- First Communion/Confirmation Classes - Margaret Moore
- Hospital Visiting Team - Liz Fruer

Deacon Daniel's Ordination



It was really a great joy for me alongside my wife, Azora, and family after all of the formation training, to be Ordained by Archbishop Bernard on 21st July 2014 at St Chad's Cathedral, and then to celebrate this new beginning with all of the parish as a new Deacon a few days later.

I am deeply indebted to Father Michael and Father David for their care and encouragement, and to so many of the parishioners who have taken such an active interest in supporting me with their prayers throughout this journey.

Currently, I have been able to reduce my normal working week to 4 days so that I can devote Friday's to working in the parish—visiting the sick and elderly and assisting with the hospital visitations.

I have already had the privilege of sharing with you in many different sacramental celebrations and look forward to the many further opportunities that will come in the future.

Flower design



Holy Trinity Church Annual Report

www.htrc.org.uk

Editor: Daniel Hurd

2014

Christmas 'Jesse Tree' presents

By Mike Williams

As part of the Parish's outreach, families in the parish have, for a number of years, donated Christmas presents for many less well off children in and around Birmingham. These presents are all placed under the Advent 'Jesse Tree' and, this year, over 300 presents were collected and delivered to school children in Nechells, a group of mostly young children and babies in Balsall Heath, and many children in central Birmingham around St Chad's Cathedral. The response of the people of the parish continues to be wonderful. A big thank you to all who contributed.



The Ladies Guild

by Barbara Hadcroft

2014 was a good year, with a variety of speakers covering a wide range of topics including Queen Victoria, New Zealand and Middleton Hall.

The 2 meals at the Toby Carvery in May and November, were well attended and enjoyed by all. Visits were arranged to The National Memorial Arboretum, Oscott College, and Middleton Hall.

We raised £800 for our charities, the money was divided between the Fireside Centre for homeless and disadvantaged in Birmingham and Vietnamese orphans. Members bring food, clothing, toiletries and bedding every month to our meetings for the Fireside Centre. We raise money by our yearly parish raffle, sales tables, a lottery and donations.

On average 22 members attend our meetings which are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, excluding January and August

We welcome new members to our meetings.



RCIA - Journey in Faith

by Father David Lacy



There was a meeting of people interested in helping with the catechesis of both children and adults on 15th June, which set out how the parish could respond to the desire of those who want to become Catholics, or who want to know more about their faith perhaps after being away for a few years.

There was hope that the Sunday morning Children's Liturgy would have more support and that parents would be more involved. A number of new catechists offered to help, and Sr Gillian who works through a Diocesan team came to give a talk and guidance about how to run the classes. Their coordinator has arranged a rota for those who take the classes each week. Vincent the organist at 0900 Mass has rearranged his hymn repertoire to fit in with the children's focus of the Mass.

Those who have been active in preparing children for the sacraments were pleased with the offer of help, and the First Communion class began in January. We are grateful to those who give of their time to serve the Lord in this way. Margaret Moore and Mary O'Brien and Anne Bell.

There are 5 adults who have been following the journey of faith using a comprehensive programme called Evangelium, based on the Apostle's Creed, the Catechism and the Scriptures. Led by Deacon Daniel and Fr David each Wednesday. The enthusiasm and lively discussions that take place are an inspiration, and we hope that this programme will run each year.

On Saturday 22 February the Rite of Election was celebrated at St Chad's, when the candidates were presented to the Archbishop and area bishops and made their commitment along with several hundred from parishes around the archdiocese. They will be baptised and received into full communion with Church at Easter. Please keep them in your prayers.



Church Flowers by Maureen Kettell

Do you enjoy Flowers? Then why not consider joining the team of Flower Ladies.

We work in pairs, so you would not be expected to work alone.

Just come along and assist with the clearing of 'past their viewing date' and we will willingly advise on simple arrangements – its easier than you might think.

Please contact: Maureen Kettell 0121 241 3424 for more information.



SVP

The core work of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is visiting the elderly, sick and housebound members of the parish and wider community. The SVP group (or "Conference" as it is termed) at Holy Trinity has 11 members who have in the past year accomplished almost 400 visits to individuals, whether in their homes, hospital or residential and care centres. The hope is that the individuals we have visited and supported will feel valued and remembered, despite their difficult circumstances.

In addition to its visiting role Holy Trinity Conference has continued to reach out to those in other forms of need. Supported by the generosity of parishioners we have provided clothing, food and gifts to the refugees and asylum seekers at St Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham, and to homeless youngsters in hostel accommodation in Erdington. Fund-raising is another necessary task and, once again, the support of parishioners has enabled financial help to be given where local needs have arisen – as well as support to be given to the Society's national projects and initiatives.

If you wish to be part of this work and are able to contribute as little as an hour or two of your time each week, then you are welcome to attend a Conference meeting on a "finding out" basis, and without commitment. The nature of our work is such that Diocesan Safeguarding Procedures require all members to have formal clearance in order to participate fully in the work of the Society. Holy Trinity Conference meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month at 7.30pm in the Conference Room. Alternatively ring tel: 07918715549, for more information.

Church Wardens by Patrick Malcolm Davis

The role of the Church Warden often goes unnoticed as they are always there at the back of the church, but are they? We are all getting older and need younger people to help us to welcome people into church.

This was highlighted by the death of Denis Kelly at the end of last year. Denis had been a stalwart of the Church Wardens for many years. He was always there on his favourite left hand side of the church and talked to many people every week. They miss him greatly.

What is the role of the Church Warden? The main task is hospitality - meeting and greeting people and providing information when requested. Taking the collection and giving out hymn books are routine roles but we sometimes have to be car park attendants (usually when somebody has parked badly), inevitably tidy the church after Mass and occasionally look after people who feel unwell.

We really do need new Church Wardens! If you would like to volunteer please speak to any of us at Mass or telephone me on 0121 3553157.

Poets Corner - John Henry Newman

*Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home,--
Lead thou me on!
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene,--one step enough for me.*

*I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
Shouldst lead me on:
I loved to choose and see my path, but now
Lead thou me on!
I loved the garish days, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.*

*So long thy power hath blessed me, sure it still
Will lead me on;
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since, and lost
awhile.*

Church and Presbytery Gardens

by Mike Gaffney

During the summer of 2014 with the help of parishioners the gardens surrounding the church and presbytery were cleared out, which has enabled the two sites to become more manageable, and has also enhanced the appearance of both sites particularly with seasonal flowers being planted in the front church garden.

For summer 2015 seasonal flowers will again be planted, but volunteers are needed on a regular basis to undertake mowing and border maintenance. Please contact Mike Gaffney (0121 354 7557) if you are able to assist. Our church is on a main road site and we want to keep up our appearance so please assist us if you can.



Catenian Association

The Catenians are an international association of catholic laymen who meet monthly to pray and benefit from each others' company. Our social calendar includes wives, children, grandchildren and widows, so that the whole family can form friendships that often last a lifetime. Catenians are committed to their families, their Faith, their parishes, their careers, their communities, those less fortunate and, above all, to each other. There is a circle (group) of the Catenians that meet in Sutton Coldfield to which a number of laymen in the parish belong. Why not come along to one of our meetings and find out how you can benefit from meeting fellow Catholics and joining in our activities.

Contact: Mike Gaffney 0121-354 7557
e-mail gaffneym@btinternet.com



Special Parish Celebrations

The First Communion preparation class and Sacramental celebration was again a great parish occasion and success, as was



Remembrance Sunday.



Preparation for Baptism

It is a great joy that so many parents request baptism for their children at Holy Trinity. The second Sunday of each month sees the gathering of parents whose request baptism for their child (Conference Room, 3 p.m.). This, the first sacrament, is so important and parents who have requested baptism should attend a Preparation meeting. There is an opportunity to ask questions and understand more about the meaning and significance of the sacrament, what the service involves and meet other families. Parents should first request and book a baptism through the parish office (see form at the back of church), which is usually conferred on Sundays at 12.30 p.m.

Carol Martin martin.carol@btinternet.com



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Accounts

Year to 31st December 2014

2013					
£			£	£	£
		INCOME			
91,625		Offeratories- Gift-Aid	59,975		
17,862		Offeratories- Non-Gift-Aid	29,522	89,497	
9,923		Tax refund from Gift Aid		17,316	
20,770		Chaplaincy		8,720	
7,284		Donations		11,920	
		Parish Hall (Net)		10,043	
371		Repository	1,560		
		(Expenses)	1,318	242	
-315		Newspapers	1,784		
3,600		(Expenses)	1,398	386	
3,531		Votive Candles		3,673	
1,360	156,011	Diocesan Unit Scheme - Income		3,690	
		Legacies		1,000	146,487
		EXPENSES			
		LEVIES			
30,203		Diocesan Levies	30,799	30,799	
		CHURCH			
		Liturgical & Pastoral	4,838		
		Establishment & Maint'ce	16,834		
40,712		Clergy Salaries, Expenses & Supply Priests	9,798	31,470	
		PRESBYTERY/OFFICE/CONFERENCE ROOM			
		Domestic	6,604		
		Personnel costs	10,770		
29,570		Establishment & Maint'ce	21,283	38,657	
		GENERAL EXPENSES			
		Office Expenses	2,133		
		Interest paid to Bank	448		
6,922	107,407	Sundries	120	2,701	103,627
	48,604	OPERATING SURPLUS			42,860
		EXCEPTIONAL			
	14,259	<i>Tower Fund</i>			12,684
	62,863	OVERALL SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			55,544
		Second Collections (Diocesan & Charitable)		£7,316	
	£8,621	Average Weekly Offertory Collection			
	£1,181	Gift-Aid	£1,153		
	£580	Non - Gift-Aid	£568		
	£1,761	TOTAL	£1,721		
		* Relates to Tax Year 2013/2014			
		Bank Overdraft		£38,366	
		Loans by Parishioners		£35,000	
		Total Liabilities as at 31st December 2014		£73,366	
		All Church Property is vested in the Diocese			
		F.C			

Financial Report

The surplus for last year is down by £7,300 compared with the previous year due to an exceptional donation received in 2013. However, the Bank overdraft has been reduced by a further £50,000 together with Loan repayments of £6,000 – again thanks to the very generous response of Parishioners.

All things being equal therefore and on the basis that the present level in income continues we should clear the Bank overdraft later this year.

Gift Aid

We currently have 193 gift aiders in the parish and in the tax year 2013/14 qualifying donations totalled £73,700 approx.

This gave us a tax refund of £17,316 after diocese commission to which we added a tax claim of £1,250 arising from the Government's new Small Donations Scheme, which enables each parish to treat up to £5,000 of NON gift aided offertory as if it were gift aided.

The tax we reclaim is a significant part of our annual income and clearly the scheme should be supported by all tax payers in the parish. It costs nothing to join other than using a weekly envelope or a regular bankers order and higher rate taxpayers can actually benefit by a small additional personal repayment.

Contact: Howard Drake

Tel: 0121-323 4205

Red Box Mission

appeal raised over £2,300

Fred Kettell

241 34324



HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Summarised history of Parish Accounts

	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Operating Surplus	£ 28,851	£ 14,747	£ 14,725	£ 58,352	£ 43,621	£ 48,604	£ 42,960
Tower Repairs/Retention	-£402,998	-£ 9,555					
Legacies		£ 1,149		£ 2,000		£ 1,360	
Tower Fund Collections	£106,506	£ 21,838	£ 20,551	£ 15,565	£ 15,860	£ 14,259	£ 12,684
Overall Deficit/Surplus	-£267,641	£ 28,179	£ 35,276	£ 69,223	£ 59,481	£ 62,863	£ 55,544
Bank Overdraft	-£417,623	-£294,613	-£260,328	-£190,189	£138,773	-£ 87,910	£ 38,366
Annual Reduction of borrowing		£ 32,236	£ 34,285	£ 70,139	£ 51,416	£ 50,863	£ 49,544
Loan Repayments						£ 12,000	£ 6,000