



CENTRAL & WEST READING PASTORAL AREA NEWSLETTER

PASTORAL AREA COUNCIL

The communities of St Joseph's, St William of York, St James and English Martyrs together form the Central and West Reading Pastoral Area. These four communities along with the schools have come together to help fulfil the mission of the Pastoral Plan; GO OUT AND BEAR FRUIT (see overleaf). The role of the Pastoral Council is to find ways to strengthen and reinforce our ability to live as Catholics. Specifically, the Pastoral Council looks at ways in which we can share resources, utilise the gifts of the community, collaborate on liturgical events and celebrate the grace of God.

In 2010 the seeds were sown to develop the delivery of **Catechesis** in the Pastoral Area and collaborate on appointing a Youth Ministries Co-ordinator. This year a theological project to consider how we reach out to those who no-longer feel part of – or never have been part of our community has started. (See article on OutReach).

What does the future hold for our Pastoral Area beyond 2011? What would you like that future to be? Perhaps one day we shall become one parish, as has happened in some Pastoral Areas, or perhaps not. Whatever happens, we must all listen to God and seek His plan for us.

Your views matter, and if you would like to share them with us, please contact any of the members of the council via the Parish Office.

Who is the on the Pastoral Council?

St James & St William of York
Ben Awuah, Ginika Okoye, Canon John O'Shea Tom Martin

English Martyrs
Tim Wright, Chris Burton, Angela Crawley, Charlie McArthur, Frances Atherton, Mgr John Nelson

University Chaplain
Sabine Schwartz

St Joseph's
Ann Epps, Harry McSoley, Carmen Ibanez, Fr Joseph Awoh

"Talking, walking, knowing, sharing"



CATECHISTS WORKING TOGETHER

Across our Pastoral Area we have many gifted people who travel with others on their journey of faith. From Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage and Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), our Catechists give their time to develop the seeds of Catholic faith. Last year the Pastoral Council held a "Day for Catechists" as an opportunity to share experiences, ideas, prayer and lunch! There was a sense of excitement in the room at the thought that what can be "achieved is greater and richer than could be achieved separately."* This year Catechists (and anyone interested in becoming a Catechist) are invited to attend a course run by the diocese starting at the end of January. If you are interested in the mission of Catechesis, then please contact your parish priest or get in touch with the



DIARY DATES 2011

- 7 March – Pastoral Council Meeting**
 - 9 March – Ash Wednesday**
 - 17 March – St Patrick's Day**
 - 27 March – British Summer Time begins & Census Day**
 - 3 April – Mothering Sunday**
 - 13 April – Penitential Service St Joseph's**
 - 16 April – Penitential Service English Martyrs**
 - 17 April – Passion Sunday**
 - 18 April – Penitential Service St James**
 - 22 April – Good Friday**
 - 24 April – Easter Sunday**
- Check Parish Newsletters for more details**

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PASTORAL AREA RESEARCH PROJECT OUTREACH!

Our Pastoral Council has been invited to do a small research project with ARCS (Action Research Church and Society), a group based at Heythrop College. ARCS help all sorts of church groups and agencies to reflect on some aspects of their current work: what they do and why they do it. We have agreed with them to explore within this Pastoral Area, the Pastoral Plan's focus on outreach and mission.

So, over the next few months, we hope to look specifically at a) how effectively we prepare our young people for the sacrament of Confirmation and b) the various ways in which many of our parishioners are involved in taking the Good News of Jesus Christ into the wider community by helping others.

If you would like to know more, please contact us via your parish office.

The team working on the project are:-

Sabine Schwartz, Fr John O'Shea, Ben Awuah, Dave Turner (CIRDIC), Chris Burton, Michael Robinson, Tom Marek and Angela Wills.

GO OUT & BEAR FRUIT



In 2005 Bishop Crispian asked that each parish participate in a consultation to translate the Vision for Catholic life in the Diocese into action and into a Pastoral Plan. The 2 foundation stones of the Plan were "the centrality of the Sunday Eucharist" and the "development of larger Pastoral Areas". Since then each Pastoral Area has sought to develop the themes

(Liturgy & Sacraments, Ongoing Formation for All, Outreach: The Mission of the Church, Working Collaboratively, Stewardship: Making the Best use of our Resources and Supporting Each Other) of the Pastoral Plan in a way that is appropriate to their communities, resources and geographies. You can find the Pastoral Plan on the Diocesan Website, as well as many other useful resources and information. www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/

Reading Youth Ministries Co-ordinator



One of the Church's great concerns is its ministry and support of young people. In the Reading area, we have been blessed with outstanding catholic schools which provide formation in the faith. However we need to do more. I am pleased to tell you that the parishes in Reading are currently exploring the possibility of employing a full time Youth Ministry Coordinator. The Youth Coordinator will act as an animator and consultor, someone with suggestions and ideas about youth initiatives in our parish communities. This project will be funded by the seven parishes in the Reading area and based at Blessed Hugh Faringdon School. The Working Party co-ordinating this initiative have arranged a series of 'Road shows', the aim of which is consult with our community on their expectations of a Youth Co-ordinator. The road-shows all start at 8pm and I hope as many of you will attend as possible.

Fr John O'Shea

YOUTH MINISTRIES – ROADSHOWS

Tues 8 Feb - St John Bosco, Woodley

Thur 10 Feb - English Martyrs and St Joseph's

Mon 14 Feb - Our Lady of Peace, Earley

Thur 17 Feb - St Anne's, Caversham