

## **ALTAR SERVERS, JUNIORS**

*Parish Priest*

Once again we recruited new servers in September 2016, with a number of children who had recently made their First Holy Communion signing up to help. A second collection was taken on the 2nd Sunday of Advent to treat the Altar Servers for Christmas - they were all taken out to Nando's for a fun Saturday lunch, which was a big success. Large numbers of servers assisted with the Holy Week ceremonies, and these went very well, due in no small way to the time which the servers gave up to practice and take part. Those who have now completed a full year of serving will be enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen, and receive their Guild medals, very soon.

## **ALTAR SERVERS, ADULTS**

*Deacon John-Simon*

These adults have served for many years, and continue to do so at the various Sunday Masses, and on alternate days at the 7am & 10am daily Masses, as well as offering support to the younger servers.

## **BOOKSHOP**

*Maureen Sampson (Bookshop Manager)*

The team currently endeavours to open the bookshop after each Sunday Mass (including the Vigil Mass) and in addition on some Tuesdays and Saturday mornings after Mass. We could always do with additional volunteers to go on the rota to ensure that the Parish have as much access to this resource as possible.

Bernadette Tolley and Geraldine Bennett are responsible for ordering the repository items particularly supporting the major children's programmes of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in addition to being available for parents' evenings. We aim to provide good quality inexpensive gifts and cards to support these Parish programmes. They also make available cards, gifts, cribs etc for Christmas.

In addition we have a range of books, leaflets and pamphlets together with a range of Christian greetings cards to inform and deepen the faith of our Parish community, which Maureen Sampson is responsible for ordering. We also run a small bookshop, thanks to the efforts of Deacon John Simon, at the Seminary at Wonersh, once a month. This enables us to carry a greater stock of books than would possible if we relied on Parish sales alone.

A big thanks to all who help out in the bookshop.

## **CATENIAN SOCIETY**

*Michael Bennett*

The Association is a group of Catholic Professional men who meet socially at least once a month for the free exchange of views and to help encourage one another and their families in their religious, social and business lives. The members are particularly concerned with the care of widows and children of deceased members and all forms of benevolence to members in difficulty and need. The Association is non political. It is over 12,000 strong and has over 300 circles in Great Britain and overseas. Many Catenians have prominent roles in their local Parishes and Schools working very closely with the Parish Priest to provide much needed help and support.

Kingston Circle meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at Malden Golf Club, Coombe Road, New Malden at 8pm.

Everybody is very welcome and for further information, or if you are just curious, please talk to me after the 5.30pm Mass

## **CELL GROUPS**

*Mary Cruickshank*

Cell groups are a great way of getting to know people and deepening your faith. Cell Groups are formed of parishioners who meet fortnightly. We support each other in faith, read the Gospel for the following Sunday and pray together. We also aim to draw in more members, and so to grow and in due course divide into smaller groups which in turn grow. Cell groups have been meeting in St Joseph's parish for over 20 years and currently there are four groups meeting in each other's houses. One of these is a men's group which meets in the evening on the first Tuesday of the month.

For more information please contact Mary Cruickshank on 020 8949 0089 or Philip Cook on 020 8942 8588.

## **CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

*David & Marianne Roberts*

The St Joseph's Charismatic Prayer Group meets each Monday at 8.00pm in the Lady Chapel. Everyone is welcome. The average attendance over the past year has been around 16 out of an overall membership of about 30. The Monday meetings include Praise and Worship, a sharing element, usually on reflections on passages of scripture, and Intercessory Prayers

The Prayer Group is committed to playing a full and active part in the spiritual life and welfare of the parish. Many members of the Group are actively involved in other aspects of the life of the parish, including Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Eucharistic Adorers, Readers, Singers and Collectors and Welcomers.

The Prayer Group's overall mission statement remains as follows:

1. to increase the awareness of the Holy Spirit and to be open to His power working in our daily lives;
2. to encourage those attending the Prayer Group to maintain a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, praise and scripture;
3. to evangelise through witness, ministry and talks

Within that framework, and having regard to the overall parish priorities and the authority of the parish priest, the prayer group has drawn up the following specific short and medium-term aims and objectives:

- \* to strengthen the prayer group both collectively and as individuals by providing suitable teaching so as to foster the proper and orderly use of the charismatic gifts of the spirit during prayer meetings and at other appropriate times;
- \* to build up the prayer group as a powerful intercessor for individuals, the parish, the local community and the wider world, in particular by exercising and strengthening its ministry of healing prayer in conformity with the teaching of the Church;
- \* to foster diversity within the prayer group by providing a loving and caring environment where people of all backgrounds and nationalities feel welcome and are encouraged to participate fully;
- \* to develop the confidence, gifts and skills of those who attend the prayer group so that these may be used for the benefit of the parish and the wider community through individual assistance and specific training.

The prayer group does not have a single leader. Responsibility is exercised by a service team. The meetings are open to all.

## **CHURCH CLEANING TEAM**

*Teresa Elliott*

This is a very busy group of mainly ladies, but we do have some very hardworking men, which makes a big difference. There are 4 teams of between 4-6 people, who currently clean the church on Saturday mornings between 8 and 9am.

We vacuum the church and sacristy, sweep and wash the Sanctuary floor, and clean all the glasswork where possible.

This is a very rewarding task, and we would be pleased to see anyone, male or female, who would like to be part of this very worthwhile ministry.

If you would like to join us, please phone Agnes in the parish office for details, or just come along any Saturday morning and we will be very happy to see you.

## **CONFIRMATION**

*Anne D'Silva & Catechists*

This year we have 43 young people preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 16th July 2017. This year, we are using the Chosen Confirmation programme that provides everything to prepare students intellectually and spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The programme both catechises and challenges teenagers to fully embrace a life in Christ. Chosen is a dynamic learning experience centred around fully integrated video and workbook lessons.

We ask the parishioners of St Joseph to remember the Confirmandi in their daily prayer. Thank you.

## **EVANGELISATION GROUP**

*Philip Cook*

This is a small group set up at the request of Fr. Uche to foster a spirit of evangelisation in all that we do both as a parish community and as individuals.

The last instruction Jesus gave to his disciples before his Ascension was "Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News" and each of us, by our baptism, is commissioned to be a missionary disciple. We do this not by preaching, but by being "salt", and "light" and "leaven" in our families, in our workplaces and in society at large. We find the joy, courage and strength to do this through the power of the Holy Spirit and by drawing ever closer to the person of Jesus through prayer, reading the scriptures, and the sacramental life of the Church, especially in the Eucharist, the summit and source of all grace.

In his document "The Joy of the Gospel" (*Evangelii Gaudium*), Pope Francis has set before us a wonderful vision of the Church as a place of welcome for all, a place of healing (he calls it "a field hospital"), a school of love and a place of sending out. This last is the most necessary: Francis exhorts us to be a Church of the poor and for the poor and this outreach is the deepest expression of our Christian love.

How we put all this into practice is a task not just for the evangelisation group but for all of us in the parish. Much good work is already being done but often by a relatively small number of dedicated people who have been doing it for many years. Reviewing how we do it and refocusing on the missionary imperative - welcoming the stranger and meeting the needs of the poorest - will move us nearer to the model of Church called for by Pope Francis and change ourselves in the process.

The evangelisation group proposed to the Parish Council that we invite the Sion Community to lead a parish mission and this has now been booked for May 2018. There are various other initiatives being considered, including a training course from the Catholic Voices group to equip people to speak out confidently on Catholic issues and one from Aid to the Church in Need to encourage all Catholics to attend an extra Mass to pray for people who are prevented from practising their Catholic faith.

All ideas and suggestions for ways of fostering an evangelising parish are welcome!

## **EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Parish Priest*

Parishioners may nominate (in confidence) those whom they think may be suitable, who are then considered by the Parish Priest and may be invited to be commissioned by the Bishop, after the required training sessions. Extra-ordinary Ministers assist with the distribution of Holy Communion during Mass, and some also take Communion to the Sick & Housebound at home or hospital as needed. The rôta for this team is revised yearly. The Bishops require Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to attend an annual Day of Recollection (which our Readers are also encouraged to attend) which is designed as a time for prayer and focus on their special role in the Parish.

## **FINANCE & FABRIC COMMITTEE**

*Wendy Wentworth*

Canon law (Can.537) requires every parish has a parish finance committee; its role is advisory, rather than executive. The committee with the Parish priest share the burden of administration and efficient care of the material goods of the parish.

The duties of the Finance committee involve advising the parish priest on the following.

- Ensure proper books are kept and accurate annual accounts prepared and submitted on time.
- Preparing a budget and review with actual results
- Fundraising, Gift Aid etc,
- Banking and investment of surplus fun
- Maintenance of building and development projects
- Protecting and conserving all parish property
- Agreeing terms of employment for parish employees.

*From Parish Financial administration for Parish priests.*

*May 2017. Archdiocese of Southwark*

The St Joseph Parish Finance committee is made up of Fr Uche Njoku, Wendy Wentworth (chair, Treasurer) Deacon John-Simon Lawson (Vice Chair), Andrew Stables (Secretary), Dr Andrej Rejman (Gift Aid organiser), Ron Henstock (Health and safety), Doug Gibbons, Frank Keenan, Michael Barnes and Agnes Vella.

They meet 4 times a year. All queries should be submitted to a member for discussion at the next meeting.

*Please see back pages for Parish Finance Report Summary for 2016 and Jan-April 2017.*

## **FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME - I BELONG**

*Karen Neilson*

We follow a very successful programme at St Joseph's for the younger children who wish to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion. Over a period of 9 months commencing in October, the children meet in the Pastoral Centre on one or two Saturdays of each month. The children are split into small groups of 6 or 7 and around 8 catechists take the children through each stage of the Mass and what it means through the "I Belong" programme.

Prior to each session, the parents / guardians of the children meet with Fr Uche and myself on a weekday evening in the Pastoral Centre. The aim of this is to take the parents through each chapter that the children are to be taught so that they are able to understand and support their child, and for their own catechesis. In November, the children come to their first Reconciliation Service at St Joseph's and with the assistance of Fr Uche and other local priests, celebrate the Sacrament.

After each Saturday session, the children come together as a group the next day at the 9.30am Sunday Mass as a celebration of the latest stage in their journey. Over the course 2 of the groups would be involved in the Mass either by the reading of bidding prayers or by bringing the gifts up in the offertory procession.

The First Communion Masses are held over 2/3 Saturdays and are great celebrations with friends and families of all those concerned. With the help of the musicians, Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and the organisation of the catechists it is indeed a wonderful gift that the children have received. The children are encouraged to dress in their attire the next day at Mass so that the congregation too can take part in the celebration of our children here at St Joseph's.

After the last Communion Mass, the parents will meet for one more time and we ask for feedback for anything that we can do to change or improve things for future and of course, to encourage them to attend Mass and Confession with their child on a regular basis to practise their faith.

The children have one final short session and the day after they will come together at the 9.30 Mass in their Communion clothes once again for the "Going Forth" Mass and Communion breakfast which is held in the Pastoral Centre, prepared and organised by the parents of the previous year.

The children of Corpus Christ will be able to celebrate their day again at the Mass in school on their feast day.

My thanks go to the catechists, for the time, effort and preparation they put in to make every year the success it always is. My thanks also to Fr Uche for all the support and guidance he has given us all this past year. My personal thanks also to all those who have helped over the year.

## **FLOWER ARRANGERS**

*Jo Mackintosh*

We are a group of nine+ volunteer, self taught flower arrangers. We work on a two week rota, with three members in each group. Meetings are held three times a year to plan events at Easter, Christmas and any other significant occasions.

We are often asked to do weddings in the Church, and apart from payment from the bride and groom to pay for the flowers, all time and effort is freely given.

The Church gives us £20 per week for the flowers and additional monies for Christmas, Easter, Communion and confirmation - we do our best to keep within budget. On occasions we have been given the odd contribution which enables to purchase oasis and sundries.

We also contribute to the Lenten Project by holding a sale of arrangements on Mothers Day.

We would warmly welcome any other volunteers to assist with flower arranging, cleaning up or watering. We know the regular congregation appreciate our efforts.

## **MOTHERS PRAYERS**

*Mary Cruickshank*

The Mothers Prayers group meets in the Lady Chapel on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8pm. Mothers Prayers is a worldwide prayer group for women who wish to pray together - for their children, grandchildren and godchildren. All women who have a desire to pray for children are welcome. We follow the format of prayers in the 'Mothers Prayers' booklet, which includes a prayer to the Holy Spirit, praying for forgiveness, singing songs of praise, a bible reading and praying for our children. For more information, phone Mary on 8949 0089

### **MUSIC GROUP, 9.30 MASS**

*Jan Downes*

The music group consists of Musicians and singers to support the Liturgy of the Mass. We welcome all ages to join the group. We also support the First Communion Masses and Reconciliation Services. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month to practice for the next 4 weeks. Simon Lane and Jan Downes organise the group.

### **MUSIC GROUP, 11.30 MASS**

*Dr Matthew Ward*

This year has seen several developments in the provision of music for the 11.30am Sunday Mass, particularly through the introduction of new music books. Firstly, the introduction of the Samuel Weber-edited English Mass Propers before Advent 2016 has allowed the Schola to bring the music more successfully in line with the intentions and desires of the Church as expressed by the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the General Instruction of the Missal: the Entrance Antiphon is now sung (in English) at every Mass in a Gregorian style, and there is the opportunity in future to do the same with Communion and Offertory antiphons. The second new book to have been introduced is the Oratory-edited 'Catholic Hymn Book' to replace 'Laudate'. This excellent hymnal includes a good selection of hymns from the Church's treasury, many of which are absent from other modern hymnals; as well as providing access to these dignified and beautiful sung prayers, it further aids congregational participation through the printing of hymn melodies alongside the text.

During Advent and Lent in the past year an opening hymn after the Entrance Antiphon was omitted so as to reduce the amount of organ-playing in accordance with the penitential nature of these seasons. For several years now at St Joseph's each season of the Church's year has been defined by a different setting of the Mass Ordinary (*de Angelis* for feasts and solemnities, *Orbis factor* for Ordinary Sundays, *de Adventu et Quadragesimae* in Advent and Lent and *Lux et origo* for Eastertide); this year this practice has been extended to the Alleluia melody too, a new and more appropriate one being introduced for Eastertide. Over the past year at least seven new motets and several new hymn tunes have been added to the Schola's repertory, which brings the total number of pieces sung by the choir to nearly fifty. The membership of the Schola this year has remained fairly stable, with one new regular member in the soprano section and a returning member of the tenor section augmenting the numbers. However, recruitment in the coming years will be a priority.

I have considered myself privileged to be Director of Music for St Joseph's and in particular for the 11.30am Schola since 2013. As I leave my post at the end of June, I wish to express my gratitude to Fr Uche, and to Fr Peter Edwards before him for their support of my work here, and to the members of the Schola who have been unfailingly enthusiastic and hardworking, and have always offered their very best in sung prayer and praise to Our Lord in the Sacrifice of the Mass. I have little doubt that Helen and Peter Morrell, who take over from me, will do a wonderful job.

### **MUSIC GROUP, 5.30 MASS**

*Anne D'Silva*

*Ephesians 5:19: Sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs among yourselves, singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts.*

The 5.30pm Music group meet every Sunday to praise and worship the Lord and we love to praise Him. Our music style is contemporary using guitars and percussion. We practice before Mass at 4.30pm and also assist in providing music for the Confirmation Mass and First Holy Communion

Masses. Some of our members also provide music for the Monday Prayer Group, the Cell Celebration Masses, Occasional Healing Masses and Prayer Around the Cross.

We welcome new members. If you want to praise the Lord, just come and join us.

## **PARISH OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

*Agnes Vella*

The Parish Office continues to be open every weekday (during term time), from 9.15am till 12.30pm.

Apart from the Admin side, the office is usually the first port of call for parishioners seeking answers, advice, information, appointments with the Parish Priest, and sometimes just some pastoral care.

We work closely with the Sacristy Team, The Treasurer, Counters, those who allocate Mass Intentions, etc, to support our Parish Priest in the smooth running of the parish.

We prepare the weekly Bulletin, Parish Rotas, and any other literature that needs to go out to Parishioners. We keep Parish Registers, Narthex notice-boards and back of church updated, prepare Baptism certificates and generally endeavour to support Parish groups, especially where the Sacraments are concerned, mostly behind the scenes.

We are always kept very busy in such a thriving Parish, but we enjoy the challenge! I'd like to thank Fr Uche for his invaluable support and advice, Deacon John-Simon, Colette Lewis-Head and Carmen Lopez, for their Thursday/Friday support (and occasionally Karen Neilson and, in previous years, Maria Czermak) - for being such a great help to me personally in the office. I would also like to thank all parishioners for making our work very enjoyable and gratifying.

## **READERS**

Readers are members of the Parish who proclaim the Word of God at Mass. Parishioners can volunteer to read at the Mass which they usually attend, and are given specific training for this ministry. Please speak with Fr Uche, Deacon John-Simon, or contact the Parish Office. As with Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, the Readers' rota is revised regularly and Readers are encouraged to attend the annual Day of Recollection (with Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion) where they participate in on-going formation for their respective ministries, pray together and are helped to better understand their role in the Church.

## **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) TEAM**

*Maureen Sampson*

The RCIA programme continues to use Evangelium as a resource for the formation in the faith of our "new Catholics to be". This year we were very blessed to have eight people making that journey.

We continue to meet on a Monday night from 7.45 pm to 9 pm. The "countdown" to Easter begins at the Rite of Election held at St George's Cathedral Southwark with the Archbishop presiding at the service. Each year the service is held on the first Saturday in Lent. In this year celebration took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 with the Cathedral being packed with "new Catholics to be" and their Sponsors. It was a really uplifting celebration.

At the Vigil Mass of Easter three of our group were Baptised, confirmed and received First Holy Communion. Four received the Sacrament of Confirmation and one came into full union with the Catholic Church having been brought up in the Orthodox Church.

After the Vigil Mass there was a party in the pastoral centre which was enjoyed by all. A particular thanks must go to Annette Brown who was responsible for making the lovely cake and Teresa Elliott and her team for providing the refreshments.

Our team of Catechists currently comprises Father Uche, Deacon John Simon and Maureen Sampson. Anyone interested in joining the team is welcome and should identify themselves to Fr. Uche or Deacon John Simon.

### **ROSARY GROUP**

*Agnes Vella*

The Rosary Group meets in the Lady Chapel from Monday to Saturday (excluding Thursday when there is Eucharistic Adoration), straight after the 10am Mass. Some parishioners are regulars and some come when circumstances allow. Anybody is very welcome to do so as we are encouraged to praise our Blessed Lady in this special way, offering up intentions and asking for her intercession.

### **SACRISTY TEAM**

*Rowena Wittingbaker*

The sacristy team's duties start at 9am til 11.15am from Monday to Saturday each week. The members are responsible for the care and preparation of the the 7am and 10.00am Masses; making sure that after the Mass all sacred vessels are safely put away. After the Rosary they check and make sure nobody is left behind before locking the church. Ordering of various items for the sacristy when required is also a very important part of the job.

This team was formed in 2001, with six members working in twos on different days of the week. The team now has only 3 members, which makes it very difficult to cover for illness, hospital appointments, family commitments, an occasional day off and holidays. They perform a very valuable ministry "behind the scenes". They are a happy and smiling team and very dedicated. They are also members of other groups. If you do or could come to one of the weekday Masses and would like to commit yourself to one morning a week, please contact the Parish Office - you would be most welcome.

### **SACRISTY LAUNDRY**

*Teresa Elliott / Kitty Gilronan*

We are currently a small group of 4 ladies who take it in turns each week to launder the purificators and other linens needed on the altar at Mass. Thanks to all of you for your help.

This is the ideal opportunity to appeal for more volunteers to join us. It involves just a few hours only once a month at present, but less if we more team members.

If you feel you could help, please phone Teresa on 020 8942 2154 or Kitty on 020 8942 0206.

### **ST JOSEPH'S TODDLER GROUP**

*Toddler Group Leaders*

St Joseph's Toddler group re-commenced in January 2007 after a long break to allow for the building of our new Pastoral Centre. The group offers children under 5 the opportunity to play with a range of toys, participate in structured and unstructured art and craft activities and sing songs. It runs, during term-time only, on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, from 10am to 11.45am. Parents/carers are asked for a donation of £1.50 per family. The group has been a great success with a high level of attendance on both mornings. This has enabled us to make a financial contribution to named charities on behalf of the Parish. A big thank you to the team of volunteers who run the group, for their availability, organisation and efficiency. A special thank you goes to our "tea ladies" for their hard work and dedication.



We also have a Polish Toddler Groups, run by Polish mums and child-minders at the same time on Thursday mornings (term-time only).

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP)**

*Philip Cook*

Founded in France, the SVP is an international organisation with members throughout the world. In this parish, the SVP is an expression of our outreach to the poor, sick, elderly, lonely, homeless or distressed. Recent work has included supporting a widowed mother with three young children, providing carpets for a young single parent family, friendship and outings for a blind person living alone, support for a cancer patient also living alone, housing people with mental illness, visiting people in care homes and hospitals.

Nationally, the SVP runs week-long Catholic holiday camps for young children in July and August. We aim each year to sponsor one or two children from this parish whose parents would struggle to find the £145 cost.

Our parish SVP group is also twinned with two parishes in Kerala, India, which we support with small regular payments made through the SVP central office. We intend to tell you more about our twins in the coming year.

If you would like to help with this work, especially if you have time during the day, please contact Philip Cook on 020 9942 8588 or leave your name and details with the parish office using the form on the wall in the narthex which is also used to refer any people you know are in need of our help.

### **TEAMS OF OUR LADY**

*Anne & Menino D'Silva; Denis & Claire Maurin*

Teams is a world-wide organisation for Christian married couples who want to develop their relationship with God both personally and as a couple. For the past 21 years, we have been meeting with 3 other couples and a spiritual counsellor each month for a simple meal and discuss, pray and share the ups and downs of everyday life. There are also occasions throughout the year for all the Teams in the UK and further afield to meet through conferences, Quiz nights, Advent and Lenten evenings.

Last year we piloted a new Team in the Kingston area. If you are interested in knowing more about Teams, please contact us.

### **UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS (UCM)**

*Kristina Zaremba*

The Union of Catholic Mothers is open to all women who support its aims which are:

*'Prayer, Love and Active Witness to marriage, family and Christian life in the world'*

We visit the sick and housebound, help to raise money for the Parish and other charities; e.g. Lenten & Advent Fayres. In doing so, we put our faith into action.

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7.30pm for prayer, a short meeting and generally have a presentation on a subject of interest by someone invited from our Parish family or from outside charities. Other times we have social events including a meal in July and Carol Service in December where parishioners, male and female are welcome to attend. Please see a copy of our programme of activities.

As a member foundation of the Diocese of Southwark we attend UCM rallies at St. George's Cathedral, information days and an Annual Pilgrimage to Aylesford on 30th May.

Most of all we are a group of ladies who support each other and the Parish and enjoy some interesting talks and social evenings. We always welcome new members so why not come to our next meeting and see for yourself!

We like to be inclusive and welcome both Catholic and Non- Catholic ladies, married or single who support our aims of **'Prayer , Love and Active Witness to marriage, family and Christian life in the World.'**

## **WEBSITE**

*Agnes Vella*

Our website: [www.catholicnewmalDEN.org](http://www.catholicnewmalDEN.org) contains information and photos from our Parish activities and events, as well as from outside organisations we may have supported financially and by our prayers. The weekly Bulletin is uploaded onto our website, as is the Monthly Prayer Page, Continuous Parish Rota and other one-off publications. Our thanks go to Pat Heery, our new Webmaster, for keeping our website updated and current. Please let us have your feedback and any suggestions you may have.

## **WELCOMERS**

*Katharine Cook*

Most people rate a church by how welcoming it is. If people feel comfortable when they come to St Joseph's they will be better able to enjoy Mass and will tell others about it.

This is why we had an afternoon this Spring to discuss what Welcome means and to ask for more parishioners to get involved. We are very grateful that just over 10 new people are now getting to know the "job", which is just once a month, but more are still urgently needed.

All you need to be a welcomer is a smile! We give out the hymn books and sheets as people arrive for weekend Masses, which is not just a service to parishioners but very much a blessing to us because of the diverse and lovely people in the congregations every week at St Joseph's.

We are also there to talk to anyone who is new to the parish or who wants to know something. (If we don't have the answer, there is always someone else who does!).

We take the collections and hand out newsletters at the end of Mass. It is a great way to get to know people.

## SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

**YOUTH WORKER** - The last time we had one, many years ago, he made an enormous difference to the involvement, engagement in the Mass and with the parish, and also to the faith of our young people.

I believe we could fund one through asking for small but regular extra donations from parishioners and/or from gifts which we receive from time to time.

It would mean that a Youth Club could be started again and that we can nurture the faith of young people after Confirmation so that it remains rooted as a part of their lives. (*Katharine Cook*)

**CAR PARK** - Currently there is a space marked 'no parking' in the middle of 5 parking spaces. The paved walkway to the church is just behind the second space. It is difficult for people to get to this walkway from the carpark if a car is parked at the second space. It would make more sense to have the 'no parking' at the second space so that there is a clear path to church. (*Jannie Tan*)

*The following suggestions from Amanda Dickie:*

1. **TABERNACLE COVERS** - Please could we have tabernacle covers for each day - helps to identify whether saints day, martyr etc,- also for liturgical seasons of the year . . .

There were made several in the past - are they still around?

2. **SING REGINA CAELI** at Eastertide in Latin or English - or alternate

3. **SING MARIAN ANTIPHON** after mass on Marian feast days.

4. **HAVE A LECTIO DIVINA PRAYER GROUP** incorporating silent prayer (prepared to be involved with others in running one -maybe former Teresian members or others who would be interested and have some experience in this form of prayer.

# NOTES