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PARISH EXTRA



NEWS, VIEWS AND INFORMATION FOR ST PETER'S,
ST JOSEPH'S AND THE STONYHURST COMMUNITY

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the eighth issue of your Parish Extra; this is the news, views and information for your Parish by your Parish.

Our previous editions have been well received and we hope that you will continue to be involved with news ideas, articles and requests for any information or requests in the future.

We try to increase the articles and news in each edition but we rely on you to keep in touch with your questions or requests, or articles you would like to submit for future issues.

Getting in touch could not be easier; Contact anyone on the committee by leaving your details in one of the blue post boxes which are placed at the back of each Church.

ISSUE NO. 8

DECEMBER 2016

A message from Father PETER GRIFFITHS SJ PARISH PRIEST

One night, before Christmas, I was driving down Fishergate in Preston through the decorations which were in full glow. I was captured by its beauty! I suppose it is natural that as I grow older and older and further away from my childhood and as the delight of Christmas is tarnished by the nervous anxiety of all the preparations that need to be made, a certain cynicism creeps in and I can look on all these decorations with a certain Scrooge-like distaste, but this year, I am determined to change and hopefully forestall the ghosts of Christmas past, present and yet-to-come!

This year I am going to enjoy the decorations, wherever they appear! After all, what are they trying to do? To cheer us up! To make our normal, sometimes dismal and often sad existence, at least more cheerful for a few days. They say to me, 'Look, see how wonderful and beautiful we can make our world appear!' And isn't that the Christian message of Christmas? After all, what message did Christ come to bring us all? He came to tell us that we are good and loveable and indeed, worth dying for!! He came to brighten up our dismal, sinful world and to make us all happier and more joyful!

Make sure, this Christmas Tide, to make a visit to 'see the lights', walk through the decorated walkways and streets of a city or a town near you. Offer a prayer of thanks for the good people who put them up and let their message of light, beauty and peace enter your heart. Then thank the good Lord who sent His Son into our world to brighten it with his love.

A very Happy Christmas and all the blessings of the New Year to you and your families, wherever you are.



Please take this Newsletter home with you at the end of Mass



The Nativity





THE YEAR OF MERCY REVIEW

Holy Years in the Church come and go and hardly cause a ripple to Catholic every-day existence, but Pope Francis' call for a Holy Year of Mercy certainly made an impression in every quarter of the globe and shone a light into every nook and cranny of the Church's daily life. There were two aspects to its celebration - mercy received and mercy given. 'Mercy received' is summed up in traditional Catholic language as 'going to confession'. The Pope invited everyone to look at their practice of this sacrament and to make a special effort to, where necessary, renew our approach to its reception, or if necessary, start going again after a lapse of some time.

Here at St Peter's Parish, we began the Year of Mercy with our traditional Advent Penance service with invited confessors from St Wilfrid's in Preston on December 17th which was well-attended and followed by 'Seasonal Refreshments'! During Lent, the Parish Priest led a programme of four talks-with-prayer entitled 'Praying Mercy the Ignatian Way' and was a look at the subject of God's love through the eyes of St Ignatius and his method of prayer. Brothers and sisters from our local Anglican churches were invited and the attendance at the four talks was good.

On March 4th/5th Pope Francis asked for "24 Hours for the Lord" with continuous exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunities for Confession. We ran a shortened 'day' with Exposition and Confessions on Friday 4th from 5.30pm to 7.30pm finishing with a Penitential Service and on Saturday 5th Exposition from 9.00am until 5.30pm with a chance for Confession if desired.

A pilgrimage is a way of finding the Lord in so many ways and was taken up especially in this Year of Mercy. To encourage participation, parishioners were encouraged to join in with the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Lourdes. One parishioner joined in with the pilgrimage through the aegis of the Parish, but a more numerous response was given to the day-Pilgrimage, walking from St Mary's, Osbaldeston to the Chapel of St John Southworth on June 25th. At the Chapel, refreshments were available and the parishioners received us with great hospitality. In the Chapel, Exposition and a Holy Hour were conducted and confessions were heard with about four confessors hard at work at any one time. Fortunately, the weather was good, and our direction secured by Mgr. Corcoran going ahead chalk-marking the way!!

The year was brought to an end with a special mass. The last Sunday of the church's year is always in honour of Jesus Christ, Our Universal King, but the 10.00am mass in St Joseph's that Sunday, was marked by the award from Pope Francis of the Bene Merenti ('well-deserved') medal to Mary Agnes Cardwell to say 'thank you' for her work over the years looking after the sacristy side of St Joseph's Chapel, but also for her good works over many years in Hurst Green carrying out the works of mercy for so many needy villagers. And that is what it is all really about.



Hopefully, everyone will have taken something from the year to sharpen their awareness of mercy as God's gift to weak and sinful people and that we will have learnt also to show that same mercy to others.

PATRICK HOUGH SJ, THE STORY SO FAR



Dear Parishioners of St. Peter's,

For the last four years I have been assigned to the Jesuit High School in Tampa, Florida. This All Boys school has been serving the location Catholic communities of central Florida (about an hour and a half west of Disney) since 1899. Today the school has nearly 800 students, with a strong Jesuit community of six men, with the President at the helm. In American Jesuit High Schools there is a distinction between the President (more often than not a Jesuit) who is in charge of the overall mission and identity of the school and the Principal (in charge of the day to day running of the school) who is directly responsible to the president. This model means that the Society of Jesus is well placed to ensure that the Catholic, Jesuit ethos of the school is well taken care of.



Since arriving at Jesuit in Tampa, I have been the Head of the Theology department, a History teacher and also in charge of the retreat and formation programme of all faculty and students. These are great tasks that require a good deal of prayer and patience to ensure that the Lord stays firmly in the centre amidst so much necessary work and preparation. It is good work and enjoyable.

One aspect of my life in Tampa then is directly with the formation of young men, of their cultural, spiritual and personal growth. My current class on Christian Discipleship and Prayer for the Seniors (Year 12) is a clear example of this. We focus on discerning God's plan for them (using St. Ignatius' rules for discernment) and also discuss pertinent ways to prepare as good husbands and fathers or learning how to be evangelisers in their families and amidst their friends. Conversations often centre around the best way to prepare for marriage, overcoming obstacles to intimacy, fostering healthy courting patterns that lead to dating and then to marriage. The young men I deal with are more often than not dedicated to growing in their Catholic faith. I have found that our formational programmes for them support their desire for example to attend Mass on Sundays. In fact my students are sometimes the ones encouraging their parents to fulfil this important weekly obligation.

Formation takes on other guises that reflects a Jesuit education where we readily identify areas to give God the greater glory not only through direct theological enquiry and religious practice. I help to run the Christian service component of our students' education. Each young man at Jesuit High School is required to complete a certain number of service hours in the community. These hours increase as the student progresses up the school. For the past several years I have taken groups of students to a Franciscan friary in to the mountains of Nicaragua. Activities such as feeding the homeless children and the poor, providing bed sheets for the new mothers in hospital as well as going to give clothing to the families living at the rubbish dump all provokes much needed personal reflection as to how to combat such levels of poverty and to bring them Christ's healing touch.

Perhaps a highlight this year was bringing a group of students to World Youth Day in Poland. We brought a group of 113 people (88 students; 13 alumni and 12 teachers) on pilgrimage through Rome, Krakow and Vienna to help them in their lives of faith and to grow, to change and to bring back the Gospel message to their peers. We had done a similar thing in 2015 when a group of students came for the pilgrimage to England in the footsteps of the Jesuit martyrs. Such trips, pilgrimages and retreats take care of the souls of these young men that in turn make them great joyful witnesses of God's plan for our lives.

I wish you all a Christmas filled with the joys of faith, family and friends. In the Lord,

Fr. J. Patrick Hough, S.J. (Former Parish Altar Boy, ex-St-Joseph's, ex-St Augustine's, ex-Stonyhurst pupil, and with family still in the locality)



ST JOSEPH'S YOUTH CLUB



The Youth Club team would like to take the opportunity of this Parish Magazine to tell you something about our group and encourage people to get involved.

It was started back in 1991 by Agnes Eccles and was held at that time in the "Upper Room" at St. Joseph's, now of course our beautiful new Chapel. Many of you reading this will have fond memories from those days of being taught snooker and billiards by Tom Eccles and football skills out in the Yard by Stephen Clarke. There were popular events outside the village too, such as Martine Clarke's Lightwater Valley trips and, more recently, Blackpool Lights with Steven Whalley, complete with "chippy tea".

Thank you to all those who have helped with Youth Club over the years and made it such a great asset for our community. A big thank you too to Father Griffiths and the Parish for their continued support, helping us to fund trips and the delicious summer barbecue with which we round off every year.



Youth Club now meets in the Memorial Hall and, as the photos here show, it continues to provide a great place for our young people to socialise, with regular activities such as table tennis, crafts, badminton, and, in summer, football out on the Bailey Field. Last year we had a trip to Pendle Ski Club and this year we have done an obstacle course at Waddow Hall ... in a wood, at night and blindfolded! Perhaps not everyone's idea of a good night out but our young people enjoyed it and it was great for teamwork! We also have a lively Christmas Disco every year, courtesy of Dan Wilkinson, and we do fund-raising activities for charity.

The Youth Club is open to all young people aged 9 – 16 and we meet in the Memorial Hall, Hurst Green every other Friday in term-time from 7.30 – 9.00pm. Entry costs £1.50 and there is a Tuck Shop selling sweets and drinks. Do come and join us! We would also be grateful for additional adult helpers.

For more information, please contact our current Chair or Secretary.

Guy McLennan (Chair) – Tel: 01254 826824; email: guymclennan@yahoo.co.uk

Darren Turner (Secretary) – Tel: 07837 565148; email: dpt@dkturner.com



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME AND THE CHURCH REPOSITORY

Children's Liturgy

The children in the parish are continuing to enjoy their own liturgy during the 10am mass on Sundays in St Joseph's Chapel.

We do a variety of activities to try and help the children remember and understand the words of Jesus. Sometimes this is the Gospel with 'minifigures', acting out, watching videos and making items to take home.

Any volunteers to help with this would be very welcome.

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

In the summer five young members of our parish made their First Holy Communion.

Congratulations to Sofia, Tobias, Florence, Michael and Alice.

At the beginning of this month, having explored the joy of mercy and forgiveness, eleven children received the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time. They are now preparing to make their First Holy Communion next year. Please pray for Uma, Lucy, Esther, James, Lucas, Georgia, Ava, Millie, Bert, Lilly and Jack as they continue on their Holy Journey, understanding and receiving the gift of the Eucharist.



Repository

St. Peter's repository is situated at the back of the parish church and for many visitors may just go unnoticed. But for the local parishioner it has long been a source of Mass cards and small gifts for children making their sacraments at both the local village primary school and Stonyhurst St Mary's. In recent years we have tried, to stock a few more items - wedding cards, birth congratulations, retirement, new home, birthdays to name but a few.



There is a good selection of rosary beads, children's books, crosses, saints medals and candles. Sacramental gifts are also stocked. Seasonal gifts such as advent calendars, diaries, Christmas cards are available at both St.Peter's and now at St. Joseph's Chapel.

The Catholic Truth Society book stand is also situated at the back of St. Peter's and is stocked with some beautiful titles written especially to deepen your faith. Please take a moment to visit these parish resources and if there are any items you would wish to see stocked please let Father know



ST JOSEPH'S CHAPEL/SCHOOL



2016 has seen many changes at St Joseph's. The highlight of the year was the opening Mass and blessing of the new school chapel by Bishop John Arnold and Father Provincial, Dermot Preston on Wednesday 25th May 2016. The event was well attended by friends of the school and parish and was very much enjoyed by all. The blessing of the Chapel was followed by Mass the following Friday for parents of the children at school and Mass on Sunday with an open afternoon to welcome parish and visitors to the school.

The chapel is now fully operational and has provided the school with some much welcome quiet space for prayer and reflection. In May this year five of our year three children celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion with their families in the chapel. Later in the year we had a farewell Mass to say goodbye to the children who were leaving to go to high school.



The additional classroom space has been equally welcome, providing a modern teaching and learning environment for our KS2 children. The children have loved using the new purpose built dining room and we have now got space for the Early birds and Late owls before and after school clubs.

At the start of the autumn term we welcomed our new teaching assistant, Fiona Kinder, to our Early Years class and Ema Leyland who is managing the late owls after school club. Ten children joined our nursery class this year and have settled in very quickly. We also welcome Lucas, Lawrence, Sebastian, Matilda, Rohan and Uma who have joined us during the year.



The children have enjoyed a number of visits outside of school this year. The key stage 2 children travelled to London for a theatre visit and Tower woods for a week of outdoor pursuits. They also enjoyed a day at the Manchester science museum

and an evening performance of Wind in the Willows. The reception and KS1 children went on a train ride and picnic at Bolton Abbey. All the children went to Clitheroe Castle for a Remembrance day event in November and to the pantomime at Christmas.

Four of the year six children visited Donhead preparatory school for the annual Ignite conference and retreat. It was an opportunity for them to meet with children from other Jesuit schools and share ideas. The children joined in a wide range of activities based on the school's response to the year of mercy and an afternoon visit to the All England tennis centre and museum. The conference finished with a joint Mass in the newly refurbished Chapel at Donhead, which is almost as lovely as our Chapel.

We are very grateful to the friends of St Joseph's have been extremely active organising fun events throughout the year to support the school. This concluded with the very successful Christmas fair which was very much enjoyed and raised valuable funds for the school. Thanks also to David Jacques who undertook a sponsored coast to coast bike ride to raise funds for our link school in Chishawasha.

Our Cemetery



Following discussions with Bernard Holden, the lead for the cemetery maintenance and grass cutting, the Parish Finance Committee has authorised spending parish funds on tidying up the trees within the cemetery. The aim of both the professional work and the volunteers is two-fold:

Firstly, to allow more light into the ground, which in turn will promote stronger grass growing; and secondly, because we have open access for both parishioners and visitors, we need to keep an eye on the health and safety aspects of the cemetery.

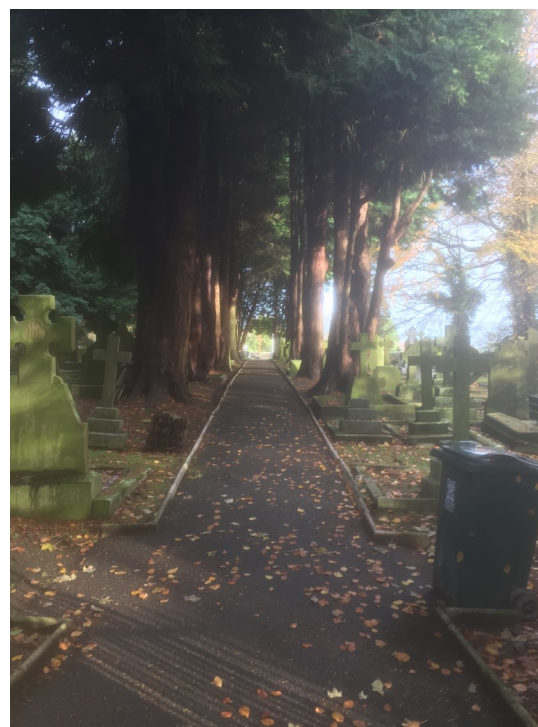
The work started with the two main parallel paths from the Avenue Road which have had lower branches of the Yew trees loped off to allow more sunlight.

To illustrate the changes, we have two photographs below which give you a flavour of the improvement:, and the left hand one hand one from a Google photograph taken in 2010, and the right hand one a photograph taken in November 2016. Hopefully you can see the difference!

Future work will be focussing on the cross paths between the two main pathways and the inner clump of trees. Laurels and other non-Yew trees will be cut down or severely pruned in the older part of the cemetery.

Burial trends nowadays are increasingly in favour of crematoria but parishioners still want to return the loved ones' ashes to St Joseph's, so the Finance Committee has also authorised a new pathway which will lead towards the area of the cemetery which caters for the burial of ashes. It allows access on a hard standing surface rather than over a slightly damper part of the cemetery.

The grass cutting crew are all volunteers who enjoy their work and take great pride in doing a good job for the Parish (and former Parishioners!). All assistance and co-operation during the busy mowing season is greatly appreciated!





A BIT OF FUN!

What do you call a snowman in the summer?

A Puddle



Help Frosty get through the maze and to his gift!




Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?
Because they were two deer!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsilitis!

What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas?
Cross Mouse Cards!

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?
The elf-abet!





PARISH VOLUNTEERS



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Parish life has many facets and responsibilities: with the shortage of clergy being the reality of Diocesan life, the involvement of the laity is key in running the Sacramental programme, the Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Youth Club and so forth.

We rely on volunteers supporting our Parish Priest so that his job is made easier and we have the opportunity to put our faith into action.

New blood is always welcome. It allows us to refresh some of the regular activities, promote new ideas and ensure the delivery of some of the important routines.

So what is on offer?

We need volunteers in the following areas: (we have added the current Lead volunteer name)

Children's Liturgy (Sarah Hodkinson)
St Joseph's 10am Mass set-up / cleaning (Mary Bailey)
Readers at St Peter's (John Thomasson)
Pastoral Committee (Niall Macfarlane)
St Joseph's Cemetery grass cutting (Bernard Holden)
Eucharistic Ministers (Julie Macfarlane)
Music (Fr Peter)
Occasional assistant to Fr Peter at funerals (Fr Peter)
Finance Committee (Les Bury)

If you feel that you can contribute in some way, please do not hesitate to speak to Fr Peter, or any of the people involved in the various roles within our Parish.

Thank you







**Please take this Newsletter home with
you at the end of Mass**



L.D.S.