

Weekly Message from Fr William for Octave Day of Easter 2022

Dear People of St Mary's, I hope you're having a wonderful Eastertide!

We said goodbye to Chris Wood at her funeral on Wednesday. She had been a member of the parish community for many years with a tremendous sense of service. She was a skilled seamstress and made some of the altar cloths we use at Mass, beautifully embroidered. She was a Eucharistic Minister. She was a member of SVP. She helped with the church garden, taking responsibility in particular for the little triangle of garden on the right as you come down the garden path, and I think other acts of care and service that may have gone largely unnoticed.

Fifteen young people are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. The preparation course is well underway and in fact with the end in sight. We've done 12 out of 15 sessions of the course. We took a break over Holy Week and the Easter Octave and reconvene next Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, for the last three sessions. No date is set yet for the celebration of the sacrament but we have it in hand. Please keep these fifteen young people in your prayers.

In the Parish Pastoral Council in February there was a suggestion that I look for someone in the parish that could advise me and help me with managing, monitoring, and maybe even modifying our parish carbon footprint. If you think you might be able to help with this I'd love to hear from you. Or you may know someone in the parish that could help with this and might be encouraged to get in touch with me. It seems to me there are now multiple reasons for reviewing our energy consumption or our energy sources: our own expenditure with the hike in energy costs, our responsibility to the world for the sustainability of the planet, our energy independence as a nation. We're only a small parish, but we can still do our bit.

Or if there are any other skills that you think might be of help the parish and that you think you could offer, then I'd love to hear from you.

We also discussed in the February council our parish fundraising activity. A formal and huge thanks was recorded to the outgoing Fundraising Team for all the work they have done over the years, raising so much for our parish and putting on so many fantastic community building events. The team all agreed that it was now time for them to step down and for others to take over. It is a demanding responsibility and a demanding workload for the same parishioners to be constantly putting on all the events. So, with the support of the council I'm looking to move to an alternative way of doing things. The idea is that an individual volunteer or a group might put on an individual event for the parish that would be either fundraising, or social, or ideally both. So please get in touch with me if you think you might be able to offer something.

Happy Easter !



Octave Day of Easter, Sunday 24 april 2022