

Weekly Message from Fr William for Trinity Sunday 2022

Dear People of St Mary's

I think the ecumenical service in St John's Church last Sunday was a wonderful occasion. The Anglican, RC, Methodist, and United Reformed churches each took it in turn to lead a section of the service, and I think we each made a valuable and well lead contribution. Each of these four churches was well represented in this ecumenical (Christians Together) congregation, as well as other groups and unaffiliated Christians, and the church was full. I was delighted to see so many from St Mary's interspersed among the congregation, I would guess between 30 and 40 of us. Thank you for coming, and thank you especially to those who stepped up to lead a part in our section of the service.

As you know we had our own Jubilee Tea at St Mary's the week before. It seemed to me more like a banquet than a tea. Hats off to the organisers and volunteers. The motivation for this event was as a social event for the parish more than a fundraiser, our first since the covid pandemic. However, it was so well attended and so well supported financially that we made a surplus of £465. This is hugely helpful to our parish finances and will go into the Building Loan Fund.

At the time of writing, Friday afternoon, St Mary's is getting ready to put on another Bed Race Café for the people of Knaresborough. A team of parishioners has given up their afternoon, and I'm sure set aside other commitments, to get everything in place, and there's clearly a lot of work involved. Tables are being laid with everything from teaspoons to cake stands. Stacks of chairs are being made ready to deploy. A fridge is being hauled out. The bunting is up. And there will be a lot of unseen work going on behind the scenes – here at in multiple kitchens around the parish. St Mary's is set to put on another excellent service for the town. Thank you to everyone involved in organising, baking, preparing the venue and serving on the day, and the wash-up and clear-up afterwards.

This Sunday, Trinity Sunday, our fifteen confirmation candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Sunday 5pm Mass, with their families and sponsors to support them. Bishop Marcus has delegated to me with faculties to confer this sacrament. If you normally celebrate mass with me at 5pm please be assured that you are still very welcome at this Mass. It will be a bit more full than usual, but probably not much more. These young people and their families have been coming to the Sunday 5pm mass in recent weeks during the Confirmation preparation course and there hasn't been a problem with capacity. Let's pray for them.



Trinity Sunday, 12 June 2022