

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Third Sunday of Easter 2023

Dear People of St Mary's

This Sunday is our own SVP Sunday. It's not a fundraising event but an information sharing event, giving the parish the opportunity to learn and understand more about what our wonderful amazing SVP is all about.

The SVP is an organisation that makes itself available to provide spiritual and financial support to those in need in our local community. It also provides friendship. The members meet together on a regular basis to share information and discuss what help is needed for the people we support, and to plan the delivery of this help. This involves visiting local residential homes, visiting people in their own homes that need extra support, and supporting refugees.

The SVP is an international organization but at the same time parish based, with local links. Our SVP currently has seventeen volunteers.

Here are some of the highlights of our SVP's recent activities:

- visited local residential homes
- bought and fitted curtains for a local family in need
- organised a community garden party
- delivered cards and gifts for inmates of a local prison
- offered lifts to hospital appointments
- referred people to the food bank
- sourced furniture for those in need
- took people home from mass
- supported with English lessons
- supported our twin parish in India
- organised and hosted a service of anointing
- held a November remembrance service
- helped with shopping
- supported the SVP shop

So here's celebrating our SVP on this SVP Sunday and the care and support they give to those who need that extra support in our parish and in the wider local community. I for one am very proud of them and all they do. And I'm looking forward to hearing from some of them in person at the end of each of our three Sunday masses on this Third Sunday of Easter.

Happy Easter!



Third Sunday of Easter, 23 april 2023