

## Annual Report of Fr Simon Ellis to St Margaret Mary Parish 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

**Overview:** I have served now in this parish for nearly three years and Fr Leonard has served here for nearly two years. We have heard the gospel today: Jesus, who is the good Shepherd, knows his sheep. They belong to him and listen to his voice. His gift to them is eternal life. This should always be set before us, that our whole life's work should be to encourage people to live the baptised life, to be the sheep who know the Good Shepherd, to receive the sacraments and to live the truth of eternal life that they contain, in the hope of eternal life, of the eternal banquet, the marriage feast of the lamb.

**Prayer, liturgy, worship and music** Daily Mass - the mass times continue with the pattern of Monday 7pm (9.30am at the Convent of the Blessed Virgin Mary); Tues, Wed and Friday at 9.15am. We have introduced adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, 8.15am-9.15am and recently, 5.45pm-6.20pm on Saturday.

Rosary – this is every Tuesday at 8.55am. There is a small but dedicated group who say the rosary.

Pilgrimage - Fr Leonard helped to lead a pilgrimage with HCPT to Lourdes again this Easter.

A pilgrimage to Rome may be taken by some who will want to share in the celebration of the canonisation of John Henry Newman. A date for the canonisation is expected to be announced this summer.

In music I am very grateful to Einir Baxter for her work with our choir and as organist. Her retirement from this work was just before Lent this year. Since then we have had some different experiments with the liturgy, including singing 'A Capella', the Gambian choir of Birmingham and the Cardinal Wiseman School music group as well as being assisted by other musicians.

Our on Patronal Festival of St Margaret Mary in 2018 we had a beautiful mass, followed by a reception in the Presbytery. Our preacher was Fr Stephen Pimlott, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary, Aston.

A good number of parishioners attended, on 11 September, 2018, the *Adoremus* Festival in Liverpool, which reminded us that Eucharistic adoration is at the heart of the Church's life.

**Data for 2016-2018:** This is the data from our registers. Many thanks to Elaine Cummings and her team in their counting role. We will be able to build up a picture as we progress through the years. Many thanks to those who help count at our masses.

Year: 1st Jan- 31 Dec	Average attendance weekend masses	Baptisms	Confirmation	Receptions into church	1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion	Funerals	Weddings
2016	230 (from 27 August – 31 Dec)	24	18	1	21	11	0
2017	222	31	21	4	27	29	3
2018	210	54	33 (incl 12 adults)	3	37	26	1

**Deaths:** We note, in particular the death of Alex Hamilton, Mary McGloughlin, Lily Cooper, Sean Cooper, Mary Connolly, Joe Connolly, Patrick McGlone, Christopher Colgan, Paulo Lopes, Teresa (Queenie) Stones during 2018. May they rest in the peace of Christ. We had our second memorial service on 6 November for all the bereaved. 140 people attended and lit candles which burned in the sanctuary for a week in memory of loved ones.

**Christmas** – we had 320 people attend our services at Christmas, 2018.

**Sacraments, including Ordination** Leonard Cox was ordained priest on Saturday, 30 June, 2018 at the Oratory Church in Birmingham by Archbishop Bernard Longley. Father Leonard has made a great start in his ministry at St Margaret Mary Church and beyond in the Ordinariate and the Deanery.

Two seminarians -in training at Oscott College – Robert Dykes and Kieran Hamilton from Oscott worked here on placement and their pastoral groups attended worship on some Sundays. We are very grateful for all their work with and for us.

First Holy Communion celebrations this year comprise two masses, on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May, at 9am and 11am. The Confirmation with Bishop Robert Byrne took place in July, 2018 and this year Bishop William Kenney will ‘substitute’ and confirm on 12 June, 2019 at 7pm.

We ran ‘Transformed in Christ’ for 12 adults which was good in terms of the content and in terms of the relationships that grew in the 20 weeks that the course was delivered. We plan to run this course again in 2019.

#### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Many thanks to Gerard Boylan, Derrick West, Anne Forrest, Finola McConway, John Coffey, Tom Lafferty, John Kearney, Ted Ware and Hugh McConway for their service as Eucharistic ministers. They renewed their vows at the Maundy Thursday Mass. Many thanks for all they do in mass and in taking the sacrament to the sick and housebound. There is no more privileged or humbling work.

#### **Partnerships**

We are part of the partnership with Christ the King, Kingstanding and the Assumption Maryvale (which includes the Convent of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a community of Sisters who are part of the Ordinariate and were Anglican nuns in Wantage near Oxford). The partnership with all of these people, including Fr Eamonn Corduff is strong. We continue to provide a more systematic catechetical programme (Evangelium/Transformed in Christ) across the three parishes, so that anyone who comes to us at any time of the year, wanting baptism, reception, confirmation or simply to enquire after the faith can be slotted into a programme within a few weeks. Evangelisation is prior to (and post) catechesis.

**Outreach** We were part of the Community Festival of Fun in September, 2018 from 12 – 3pm at Witton Lakes. On this day there were donkey rides, a car boot sale, bouncy castles, ‘sea side’ fun and ice cream! St Margaret Mary Church will provide some of the refreshments. Many thanks for all for their work on stalls, refreshments and general welcome. This year a new-look festival will be based down at Wyley Birch and will take place on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 12-3pm.

Also we continue with a quarterly magazine which will scoop up news and look ahead a few months at our activities.

Many thanks to the ushers and churchwardens, Sandra Anyinsah and John Kearney, who welcome people to mass. There is opportunity to appoint new ushers over the next few weeks to assist them.

**St Margaret Mary School** Archbishop Bernard Longley officially opened and blessed the four new classrooms on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. This marks the completion of over three years of planning by Mr Aldred and is now a splendid resource, together with the new nursery built in the grounds of the school.

The Foundation Governors who attend or are connected with St Margaret Mary Church are Fr Simon Ellis, Mr Gerard Boylan, Mr Desmond Teague, Mrs Sandra Chidomba, Mr Adrian Walczak. Mrs Tanya Coney has begun working at St Margaret Mary School and helps with school-church liaison and Governors clerking. This is a much needed development. Many thanks to Mr Aldred, Mrs Logue and all the staff at St Margaret Mary School for their enthusiasm and commitment in building the strong relationship between the parish, school and community.

One of the biggest issues we face is academisation, the move to MAC (Multi Academy). The Archdiocese is still encouraging schools to join into a MAC. We continue to take soundings and discuss the issues.

Academic achievement at KS2 (% achieving national standard):

81% Reading	81 % Writing	81 % Maths
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New teachers this year: We welcomed Miss Keely Mochan, Miss Ivana Travers and Miss Ashleigh Williams on to the teaching staff.

Admissions: There were 336 children on roll in 2018, which now stands at 370.

- Reception 2018 admitted 58.
- Nursery 2018: 26 full time places. 70% are Catholic.
- 58 children will join Reception in 2019, (there were 159 applicants) and 60% are Catholic.
- Overall Catholic percentage for the school is 72% and rising.
- We have 33.3% of children for whom English is an additional language.

Finally we keep in our thoughts and prayers all the children taking their SAT tests early in the summer term.

**Child Protection – Safeguarding** We thank Mrs Virginia Okeke and deputy safeguarding officer, Nicola Brown, for all that they do for our young and vulnerable people. We await new proposals from the Archdiocese safeguarding department, which is having a reorganisation which coincides with the IICASA which took place during 2018-2019.

**Youth work** Our servers attended the St Stephen’s Guild annual mass in March at St Chad’s Cathedral. Well done to all those who attended that mass. The servers have had two outings to a local fast food establishment as a way of thanking them and their families for their sterling work. Many thanks to John Kearney for coordinating what they do, and to Derrick West, John Coffey, Anne Forrest, Ted Ware and Gerard Boylan for their work in keeping the daily mass served and readers and the organisation of daily mass taken care of.

**Charities/Second collection/The needy** - Many thanks to all those - in parish and school - who help with the St Chad Sanctuary collection of food and clothing. It is well supported and is a good cause. Our second collections are well supported, which include ££707.55 for two Cafod Collections,

£171.71 for the Johnson Association and £133.06 for the Apostleship of the Sea. We also collected £842.77 for the Pope's Charity APF (Missio) through the Red Boxes and through a second collection. We have enhanced our red box giving through a concerted focus and visit from APF over a weekend, which picked up new planned givers. Many thanks.

We also continue to support the foodbank in Kingstanding on Kettlehouse Road, run by Elim Church, which opens every Tuesday.

**Finance** - this will be introduced by Terry Brown in collaboration with the Finance Committee which meets regularly. Terry also reports to the Parish Pastoral Council which meets quarterly. Our established principles are for our giving to be regular, proportionate and generous. Parishes which don't attend to this end up on a continuous round of fund-raisers. Having said this, fund-raising is important for special projects, like our gallery restoration.

Many thanks for all your fund-raising efforts specifically for the gallery, which have raised £25,124.27 which goes nearly the whole way towards meeting the cost of the gallery rebuild (£29109.72).. Thanks also to Laura Hines from the Archdiocese for her help in securing grants.

We have been part of the 6 trial parishes in the Archdiocese having a contactless giving facility. This facility has raised over £240 and we now await the Archdiocese plan for 'tap terminals'.

**Fabric** – We refurbished the sacristy. We installed CCTV which covers the grounds and car park. We undertook an asbestos survey and management plan. We began to regularly monitor for Legionnaires disease. We have nearly implemented all the recommendations of our fire safety report, which includes signage, assembly point, evacuation procedures, fire marshals a heat detector and the provision of a fire door in the sacristy. As we witnessed the horror of the fire at Notre Dame in Paris, once more, the importance of fire safety procedures cannot be over-emphasised. Many thanks to Derrick West, our health and safety officer, for so much detailed work on this.

**Pastoral Care** – Our improved facilities in the gallery and elsewhere, will enable us to offer support to people who need long term help, e.g. advice, education, support, catechesis.

**Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2019.** It was a good season and we will remember the talks on themes of Luke's gospel, which mirrored the bible studies on Luke's parables undertaken throughout Lent. The walk of witness on Good Friday in the community with our ecumenical partners (Pentecostal and Anglican) was well attended and the Washing of Feet on Maundy Thursday and the baptisms at the Easter vigil and throughout Easter. We also will remember the Polish blessing of baskets, which drew 350 people to church. Many thanks for Magda and Adrian Walczak for their organising of this special service. We were blessed with the Legion of Mary who stayed with us for Holy Week, visiting and leaflet-dropping 3000 homes.

**Ordinate** – are working to produce a number of social events and visits during the year, to which all are invited. There is also the Divine Worship Mass on Monday evenings at 7pm, the Convent of the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Mass daily at 9.30am - Fr Simon celebrates on Mondays) and there are occasional services of evensong from the Customary, for example at Advent. Divine Worship is now more embedded in the life of the Church and is becoming an established part of the Latin rite.

**Year of Priests** as designate by the Archdiocese: this gave opportunity for reflection on the call to priesthood. We welcomed Fr Eamonn Corduff to speak on his vocation - and Fr Simon spoke at the Assumption parish - in February. Archbishop Bernard led prayers for the schools from his chapel. There was also a particular focus on vocation in the life of our school this year.



# St Margaret Mary Church dates 2019

**First Holy Communion:** Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. Masses at 9am and 11am.

Solemnity of the **Ascension** of the Lord. Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May. Day of obligation. 7.30pm Mass.

12<sup>th</sup> June, **Confirmation** with Bishop William Kenney, at 7pm

22 June Ordinariate **Pilgrimage** to Walsingham

29 June Ordinariate visit to St Joseph, Monks Kirby, CV23 0RF for 12 Noon Mass, followed by lunch, tour and video presentation. Minibus available to all.

30 June (transferred): Solemnity of **Saints Peter and Paul**, Apostles. Day of obligation. 10am Mass.

15 August: Solemnity of the **Assumption** of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Day of obligation. Mass at the Assumption Church, Maryvale.

Wednesday, 16 October. **ST MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE FESTIVAL.** Mass at 9.15am and 7.30pm (Sung). Preacher: Fr Jeff Woolnough, Southend Ordinariate.

1 November: Solemnity of **All Saints**. Day of obligation. 7.30pm Mass. Preacher: Fr Craig Davies, Parish priest, St Mary of the Angels, Aldridge. Fr Craig is a past pupil of Fr Simon's from Stoke on Trent!

**ST MARGARET MARY CHURCH, 59 PERRY COMMON ROAD, B23 7AB**

Fr Simon Ellis (0121)3730069 079 857 53391 Fr Leonard Cox: 07790 827184

NEW WEBSITE: [www.stmargaretmary.uk](http://www.stmargaretmary.uk) & Twitter: @b23margaretmary

Email: [margaretmaryperrycommon@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmaryperrycommon@gmail.com)

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham,

Registered Charity No. 234216

Working in collaboration with the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham & Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale and Christ the King, Kingstanding.

Safeguarding Officers: Virginia Okeke (0121) 382 4008

and Representative: Nicola Brown 07817 875018

