

# **St Teresa's Parish, Morden**

## **Report 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

### **Fr John's Report September 2009 – September 2011**

#### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2009**

Fr John arrived in St Teresa's, Morden.

Thanks for the great welcome received.

Presbytery refurbishment – Sept – November 2009.

#### **St Teresa's School**

Our primary school is now progressing very well. Mr Justin Dacltler has been appointed Headteacher at St Teresa's. The school is oversubscribed with 461 children on roll. In 2010 we were sad to lose Michael Edwards as Governor. We welcome the appointment of Mr Tom Gately as a new Foundation Governor. He brings lots of experience and insight as a retired Head teacher himself. Staff, governors, parents and children are all working hard for the good of the whole community. We can be very proud of St Teresa's School. It lives at the heart of the community.

#### **St Helier's Hospital**

Fr David is the full time Chaplain and we are grateful that he can assist with some Masses at St Teresa's on Sundays. Thanks too to all the volunteers that continue to visit the hospital to befriend the patients and bring communion. Please note the necessity of CRB checks for all concerned.

#### **The Sisters of St Joseph**

In December 2010 we said farewell to the Sisters of St Joseph who had to leave St Teresa's after 75 years. Vocations are declining and the two remaining sisters have now gone to Wales. We acknowledge the tremendous contribution they have given to our community over the years including 7 Head teachers to our School. Bishop Pat Lynch presided at the farewell celebration. The parish presented the Sisters with an engraved Chalice and Ciborium to honour their time in Morden.

#### **St Teresa's Church Refurbishment**

The refurbishment of the church dominated the weeks leading up to Christmas 2010. The whole place was re painted after 26 years and the lighting system was replaced including the installation of a new emergency lighting system which was essential. The floors were cleaned and re carpeted and some work was done to the sanctuary. The roof of the Lady Chapel was also replaced. It has to be acknowledged that the cost of this was met by the generous legacies received from two parishioners of St Teresa's who will be remembered for making such a difference to the whole place. Works carried out by Con Diver. Con was on time and on budget. Architect: David Haswell.

## **Parish Pastoral Council (Canon 512#2)**

In January 2011 we established a Parish Pastoral Council with 17 members representing the whole community. The group will meet every 6 – 8 weeks and review the whole parish landscape. The value of the group is that it has the personnel and expertise to reflect critically on the whole place. The PPC was formally commissioned on Sunday 2 October 2011.

Martha Afreh, Marcial Albaniel, Charles Amponsah, Mary Cadd, Paul Carter, Justin Dachtler, Con Diver, Brendan Gilbert, Theresa Goldband, Mary Lee, Margaret Malone, **(C)** Mary Mandryk, Fred Mandonca, **(C)** Andrew O'Connor, **(C)** Kenneth Pires, Finoula Quinn and Fr John.

## **Parish Finance Group (Canon 537)**

This is now reconstituted. Mary Cadd, **(Gift Aid)** Hugh Botting, Clemence Kudiabor, David O'Connor, **(Treasurer)** Linda Sam-Yorke, Adri Wells **(C)** Rene Wong and Fr John.

## **Gratitude**

Our thanks and appreciation to Vera Donovan, Avey Pounder and Lionel George Howard for remembering St Teresa's in their Wills. These people have been extremely generous and the redecoration of the church was met from their legacies.

## **Youth Activities**

Both Youth Groups continue to flourish at St Teresa's. Gratitude to Rob Mobile and his team of workers for such tremendous work. Numbers tend to climb and there is a waiting list for membership. We hope that parents understand the situation as we have only one space for activities to happen.

## **Safeguarding**

Everyone involved with young people or vulnerable adults **MUST** be CRB checked.

**Designated Safeguarding Officers:** Bernie Murphy, Stephen Smith-Brix, Rob Mobile. On-going training and formation sessions are planned.

## **Tuesday Club**

Our senior citizens are delighted that the Tuesday Club continues to provide fun and friendship to all those who come out every week. Special thanks to Winnie Mann, and John Mooney for their great organisational work.

## **Holy Week and Easter**

The Holy Week services 2010 / 2011 were very well celebrated and attended. Thanks is due to everyone involved; readers, servers, lay ministers, musicians, cantors, decorators and ushers. The Children's Way of the Cross and the Ecumenical Procession were well attended and appreciated. So too was the young people's prayer around the Cross on Good Friday evening.

## **Servers**

We seem to have about 40 young people who continue to serve Mass on Sundays. Thanks to Pat Doherty for his work, time and training.

## **Sacramental Celebrations**

IN 2009, we had 54 children for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation & Communion. In 2010 we had 65 children. IN 2009: there were 37 candidates for Confirmation. 2010: 45 (includes RCIA) They had an excellent weekend retreat at Carotty Wood in preparation for the Sacrament. Thanks: Margaret Malone & Team – Fred Mendonca & Team.  
RCIA: Andrew O'Connor & Team.

## **Gifts to St Teresa's**

Our thanks to the Howard family for providing the Roland keyboard / piano for use in the church with children and young people celebrations. The Advent Wreath Stand. Hall Projector. New Roman Missal. Presbytery CCTV.

## **Merton Deanery Connections**

The eight parishes of the Merton Deanery – of which we are one – have now established a Deanery Adult Faith Development Group. They arranged two very successful reflection days on the new translation of the Mass. On June 4<sup>th</sup>, St Teresa's hosted a day for divorced and separated people in the Deanery, facilitated by Dr Helen Costigane from Heythrop College. On the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011 we host a formation day for Catechists involved in Children's Liturgy.

## **STATISTICS**

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Baptisms	42	46
Weddings	2	3
Confirmations	34	45 (includes RCIA)
Funerals	22	33
First Communions:	54	71 (Includes 9 adults)
Catechists &		
Other volunteers	120	124

## **Thanks**

Readers – Lay Ministers – Servers – Ushers – Collectors – Counters – Bankers – Flower Arrangers – Church Care Team – IT People. Visiting Team  
*Margaret O'Donovan.*

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **Sunday Evening Mass**

Finishing 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** In 2012 St Teresa's will be 75 years in Morden. Group appointed to coordinate the celebrations led by Paul Carter. Archbishop Peter will celebrate Mass with us on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 at 11am.  
Parish Calendar. History of the Parish. Time Capsule.

### **Parish Office**

Awaiting planning permission. Architect: Michael Betts. Front of house location.  
Funding: Lionel George Howard.

### **Transform Garage space**

### **Extend Parish Community Centre**

**Pastoral Worker:** School and Parish activities. One year pilot project:

### **Evaluation & Pastoral Planning**

Fr John Mulligan  
Parish Priest  
October 2011