

Annual Report for the Year 2019 from Fr Simon Ellis to St Margaret Mary Parish, written April 2020

Overview: I have served now in this parish for nearly four years and Fr Leonard has served here for nearly three years. We present this report in the midst of a global pandemic of Covid-19 virus. Many things we have taken for granted: work, travel, worship, shopping for essentials, meeting with family and even burying the dead have changed for now. Pope Francis addressed the world in a special *Urbi et Orbi* (to the church and the world) normally given at Easter on 28 March in which he said *“Like the disciples in the Gospel (the calming of the storm, Luke 4.35-41) we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are [in] the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other.”*

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 continue to gather for 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 another pilgrimage with HCPT to Lourdes again in Easter, 2019. Mary Joyce from our parish again volunteered. A pilgrimage to Rome by representatives of our parish, Deanery, Archdiocese and Ordinariate shared with Pope Francis in the celebration of the Canonisation Mass for St John Henry Newman on 13th October 2019.

Music I am very grateful to all our musicians, including Mike Sullivan, Jobe Sullivan, Ronald Crane, Maria Aldred, Nicky Brown, Rebecca Prentice and Louis Prom for their work, which includes mass, feast days, weddings and funerals and school/family mass.

Our on Patronal Festival of St Margaret Mary in 2019 we had a beautiful mass, followed by a reception in the Presbytery. Our preacher was Fr Jeffrey Woolnough, Ordinariate Priest with the Southend Mission Group.

Data for 2016-2019: 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: <i>1st Jan- 31 Dec</i>	Average attendance weekend masses	Baptisms	Confirmation	Receptions into church	1 st Holy Communion	Funerals	Weddings
2016	230 (<i>from 27 August – 31 Dec</i>)	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
2019	207	29	20 (incl 1 adult)	2	50 (incl 7 external)	27	7 (incl 2 conval)

Deaths: We note, in particular the death of George Reid, Geraldine Mathewson, Margaret Reed, Mark Gibbon, David Hipkiss, John Wesley, Harry Renshaw, James Reid, Jack Forrest Joyce Anderson and George Patrick Price-Parkes during 2019/20. May they rest in the peace of Christ. We had our second memorial service on 19 November for all the bereaved. 120 people attended and lit candles which burned in the sanctuary for a week in memory of loved ones.

Christmas – we had 415 (up by 95 on the previous year) people attend our masses at Christmas, 2019.

Sacraments, including Ordination

Two seminarians -in training at Oscott College – Rev Darren Jones and Rev Rob Davies - 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 comprised two masses, on 11th and 18th May, at 9am and 11am. This year Bishop William Kenney confirmed 19 children on 12 June, 2019. Monsignor Keith Newton (Ordinariate) confirmed an adult, Peter Watkins in October, 2019.

We ran 'Transformed in Christ' for 2 adults preparing for confirmation.

Fr Simon Ellis was appointed Dean for the North Birmingham Deanery.

Eucharistic Ministers

Many thanks to Gerard Boylan, Derrick West, Anne Forrest, Helen Nekesa, 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. Many thanks also to Danny Lafferty and Andrew Usowitz who drive the minibus every Sunday to pick up our senior citizens for mass. It really is a lifeline for so many people. We thank John Coffey for his work as ExtraOrdinary Minister as he has to retire at this stage for health reasons.

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 formerly Anglican nuns in Wantage near Oxford). The partnership with all of these people, including Fr The-Quang 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. We are part of the Witton Lodge partnership which will, during the coronavirus pandemic begun at the end of 2019, be an important local response for the needy and vulnerable. This partnership includes the Anglicans at St Michael's, the Net Pentecostal Church and Urban Devotion.

We are also exploring linking more with Stockland Green Methodist and Erdington town centre partnerships.

Outreach We were part of the Community Festival of Fun in 20th July,, 2019 from 12 – 3pm at Witton Lakes. On this day there were donkey rides, bouncy castles, 'sea side' fun and ice cream! St

Margaret Mary Church will provided some of the BBQ refreshments. Many thanks for all who volunteered.

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

Academic Achievement section:

At the end of Key stage 2 reaching the expected standard the results were:

Reading 80%

Writing 77%

Maths 74%

Reception currently has 47 children.

Nursery has 28 children in a full time capacity.

The overall Catholic percentage in school remains at 72%

On writing this report school has received the draft copy of the Ofsted Inspection report, the inspection took place on March 4th/5th, 2020 and whilst still unable to formally announce the outcome of the inspection suffice it to say school remains in a positive place.

I would also like to mention the work of the entire staff team, not only in their efforts in the lead up to inspection but also by the way they have responded during the current pandemic. Their support has been a real positive in a time of great uncertainty.

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 corresponds with the inquiry into sexual abuse (IICSA) which took place during 2018-2019 and will report findings this summer. We are very grateful to Mandy Cooney at school for preparing our new DBS packs for the parish.

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 £549.30 for two Cafod Collections, £132.19 for the Johnson Association and £138.54 for the Apostleship of the Sea. We also collected £xxxx for the Pope's Charity APF (Missio) through the Red Boxes and through a second collection.

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

Finance - The total income for 2019 was £56,311 (2018 £63,365). The decrease is largely due to receipt of two years Gift Aid in 2018. Also we had increased donations in 2018 for the gallery project. The other Receipts have remained broadly similar.

The expenditure was £65,418. (2018 £50,299). The increase is due to expenditure in excess of £25,000 on the gallery, we also saw a decline in Church and House Property Maintenance. Apart from that the expenditure is in line with last year.

The Loss for the year was £9,107.

Terry Brown states, 'if anyone wants a breakdown of any of the figures please let me know. Thank you again for all your support. '

Grants: We were awarded just under £10k from the Lottery Fund for a disabled access ramp and new toilet at the West entrance. Work will be undertaken once the Covid-19 crisis abates.

Fabric – We have 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. We plan now an expanded foodbank and a new disabled ramp and a new toilet at the West entrance. Michael Long has completed the art work depicting Blessed Dominic Barberi and St John Henry Newman and this will be installed in the gallery in 2020.

Pastoral Care – Our improved facilities in the gallery and elsewhere, have enabled 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.

Ordinariate – 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 the Word as designate by the Archdiocese was begun in 2019 and is enabling us to look creatively at the Ministry of the Word in the Liturgy, whilst also helping people to read their bibles and be given support with bible commentaries. There was a good uptake of the bible society Matthew gospels.

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham,

Registered

**Working in collaboration with the
Our Lady of the Assumption,
Safeguarding Officers: Virginia
and Representative: Nicola Brown**



Charity No. 234216

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