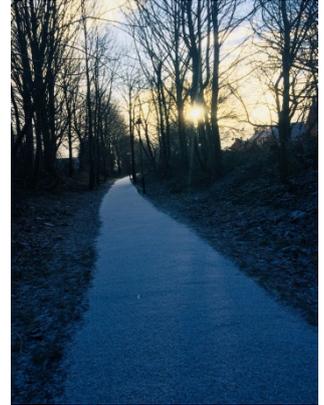


## **FEBRUARY 2018**

Brrr ... it's cold outside!

Baptism For Life – With You Always is a simple, effective way of reaching out to the families in your parish, those who are established and those, in particular, who are new to the parish. When they approach to request baptism for their child, a huge, enriched welcome awaits them when you are able to offer this lovely preparation course.



I'm busily looking for more parishes to take up the Baptism Prep project. If you're reading this and are such a parish, please let me know. I need a handful of willing people, who like to listen and share their faith with others, to be encouraged and equipped to provide this ministry to families.

Progress towards a Baptism Preparation Team event is underway. This was a suggestion from one of our team members to be able to share good practice and ideas with others recently trained or already providing baptism preparation in parishes.

### **Walking with Families**

We also want to reach out to parishes who wish to support their parents in gentle faith formation, while their children are receiving catechesis for their First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. If you are such a parish, please get in touch and I will help you to do this.

### **A Future Full of Hope – Year of Mission**

We aim to help strengthen marriage and family life and help 'cultivate joy - joy is a gift of family life, but it is also the mission of marriage and family life' (*from The Joy of Love*). In answer to the action 'families must be given the means to be aware of themselves as the "domestic church" from which all are sent out on mission', I urge you to take steps, if you haven't already done so, to provide family-friendly initiatives. This lovely resource will give you such an opportunity.

'The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church'

*Amoris Laetitia 31*

Stay warm, folks!