

January 2018

Happy New Year!

We are hitting the ground running and submitting our Annual Report for further funding on the project and are thrilled that the baptism preparation project is into its second year already!

Our pilot parishes are amazing ...

- St Alphege's have begun flying solo with the preparation and I had the pleasure of meeting their most recent family a couple of Sundays ago – they also have another enquiry
- St Bernadette's will also welcome their first 2018 family at the end of the month
- St Michael's are ready and waiting ... as are St Mary's and we hope to welcome our families soon!



I am thrilled to say that we have 11 people now trained to deliver the preparation within our four pilot parishes.

Project Update

With the baptism project now in its second year, we have teams trained and in place in all our pilot parishes. We have welcomed families into our parishes and offered this beautiful, enriched welcome which has been warmly received and appreciated by families asking for baptism for their children.

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.

The project has helped to illuminate other areas needing development, including marriage preparation, and we have made progress in developing a 'process' rather than just a 'course'. This is another project for development during the first half of 2018.

'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good news to all creation'.

We already nourish and support families, but let's go a step further! We can make the most of this Mission year by refocusing our attention on the family; every family who try to live out their faith day after day, through the Sacrament of Marriage and through the Baptism of their children. We need to help enrich and reaffirm the core values that are essential for every family to grow and flourish. At the heart of mission, our marriages and families need to operate with a generous attitude to sharing their love and gifts and they will always have a privileged place in evangelising and passing on the faith today, because that's where we find our new members of the community! 'For this reason, the family does not only impact on the future of society, it also has and will always have, a tremendous impact on the future of the Church' (*taken from Family is Sacred resource*). With fantastic resources available to use and by involving as many parishes and families as we can, let us help them to build a life-giving and lasting legacy of outreach, inclusion and love for everyone within our Diocese and beyond!