

JULY 2018



Following the fantastic Diocese Day on Saturday 30th June, my husband, Chris, and I disappeared off to Cornwall for a week to walk The Saints Way. This ancient pilgrimage route from Padstow to Fowey is well signposted and we enjoyed every minute of it and the weather was fabulous! I'm finding an interest growing for baptism fonts that can vary so much – here are some photos to illustrate what I mean ...



Back to reality and our Baptism Preparation project!

We've made significant progress and now have a plan of action to develop the team with Fr James at St Theresa's in Filton, Bristol and the update from Fr Jeremy at St Mary's, Bath is positive with one person keen and we are praying for more people to come forward to help. I've realised that these things take time – more time than I originally expected, but the learning element in this for me is to be patient and gently persistent!

The training format now has shape and structure, consisting of four sessions for the formators/catechists. These sessions mirror the sessions that are covered with parents and are reflective, simple and prayerful and will allow them to come to a growth of understanding in order to hand on and encourage faith in others. In our Year of Mission this is a massive opportunity for our parishes to reach out to their families, parents in particular, and help them grow in their awareness of being 'the domestic church' with a clear and particular mission.

Our original pilot parishes of St Alphege's, Bath and St Bernadette's, Whitchurch are now firmly established; we have a team waiting to be trained at St Edmund's, Calne and two new teams forming in Filton and Bath and I have been overjoyed to find parishes who are already established with baptism preparation for parents – praise be to God!



Some Rawlins Family news ... our youngest, Freya, graduated on 17th July so we had our fill of being proud, happy parents - how time flies as I remember very clearly her baptism as a tiny baby – she's taller than me now and a budding lawyer!

Don't forget – we have some beautiful baptism anniversary cards available to buy at just 5p each. If you would like some, just send me an email and I'll pop them in the post to you - anitra.rawlins@cliftondiocese.com – a great way to stay in touch!



*Pope Francis reminded the parents of those who presented their children to him for baptism: 'You have brought your children for Baptism, and this is the first step in that task that you have, the task of transmitting the faith.' (Pope Francis, Homily, 7 January 2018). Parents need that support and that help in handing on faith to their children. We allow them to reflect upon their own faith so as to give them confidence to hand it on to their children, so that they might be authentic and living witness of faith to their children. In seeking to implement **A Future Full of Hope**, the desire is to walk with families in all they do to hand on faith to their children, to provide a real welcome for those who seek to belong and to allow them to feel a real sense of belonging beyond one particular day and so enable them to live their mission and their vocation as a holy family and a living community of Christ's presence among us.*