

JUNE 2018

This month, I had the opportunity to present the Baptism Preparation project at the Three Deaneries - Bristol meeting in early June. My thanks to all our priests who attended, patiently listened, and then asked questions and voiced support. I'm looking forward to attending the Cheltenham Deanery meeting in October.

I've also had opportunities to talk about building more teams with Fr James at St Theresa's in Filton, Bristol and Fr Jeremy at St Mary's, Bath. Fr James and I will meet again in late July to dot the i's and cross the t's as to how we will take this forward. Happily, Fr Jeremy is also keen to progress and we will meet again with his potential team in the very near future.

Recent fruit from my presentation at the Trowbridge Deanery meeting is a potential team of four parishioners at St Edmund's in Calne and we are just finalising dates for their training. 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 mission.



Our pilot parishes of St Alphege's, Bath and St Bernadette's, Whitchurch continue to build on their experience of baptism preparation and I attended a recent meeting of the Bath team to plan the months ahead – it was uplifting – well done guys!



The baptism anniversary cards are 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 anita.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.*