

May 2017

I hope you're having a joyful Eastertide and the weather is warming up!

Our first baptism enquiry has come into St Michael's, Shepton Mallet. The team is eager and ready to start the baptism preparation sessions and it's an exciting time as we begin to reach out to families, improving our welcome and interest in them being a part of our parish family,

Further progress is being made; the parish of Our Lady and St Alphege in Bath is interested in forming a team and, following an initial meeting, I now hope to start training them sometime in June. I am also very happy to have received an enquiry from the parishes of Matford and Tuffley and hope we can look at forming a team there too.



On Wednesday 17th May, a Familias Day was held at Holy Family, Patchway. Fr Chris Thomas from the Iraneus Project in Liverpool gave a talk about Pope Francis' exhortation 'Amoris Laetitia' or 'The Joy of Love', which helped us to understand it more fully and we were able to take away practical steps to share with others.

A quick round-up of where we are at the end of these first five months:

- St Bernadette's, Whitchurch – fledgling team in place
- St Michael's, Shepton Mallet & St Mary's, Glastonbury – fledgling team in place
- Our Lady & St Alphege, Bath – start training in June
- St Mary's, Swindon – start looking at parental support for First Holy Communion Programme 2018

Thanks to all for continuing encouragement and enthusiasm which really helps!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Diocese Family Day on Saturday 1st July when I will be able to answer any questions, provide information and encouragement on how to initiate this wonderful formation in your parish!