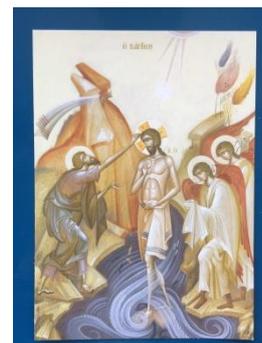


MAY 2018

We've had lots of requests for our baptism anniversary cards. If you would like some, just send me an email and I'll pop them in the post to you - anitra.rawlins@cliftondiocese.com



Our 'several other enquiries' reported in April's blog, have materialised into meetings with 'new' parishes, which is very exciting and means our project is growing! The first one in June is on the 10th with Fr James at St Theresa's in Filton, Bristol. I'm also going to meet up with Fr Jeremy at St Mary's, Bath the week after. It will be great forming teams in these parishes to help their families grow in their awareness of being 'the domestic church' with a clear mission.

We have also taken the initiative to present the project at deanery meetings and this has gained momentum. The Trowbridge Deanery meeting on 8th May was my first opportunity to do this and I thank Fr Martin (Dean) and all the Fathers present in giving me their time. I'm looking forward to attending the Bristol Deaneries meeting on 13th June and Cheltenham in October.

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.

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.

I'm writing this on the Feast of the Visitation and am reminded of the



wonderful visit to Ein Karem during our Holy Land Pilgrimage in 2016. Here I am pictured with Maureen Dyson from St Alphege's, Bath – who is now one of the Baptism Preparation Team there.

What a comfort Mary and Elizabeth must have been to each other in those months. I'm mindful of those people in my life who bring comfort to me, and I to them - praise be to God!