

NOVEMBER 2018

The fledgling team at St Edmund's, Calne had another session of training this month - Session 3 'Become what you receive': reflecting upon the Eucharist' and we are due to meet for the last session on 9th December for Session 4 'The Resources: making them happen'. We have five willing volunteers who are all keen to share their faith and listen in conversation with parents asking for baptism for their children. We will be looking at the material in more detail in this coming session and talking about how to progress this within their parish context, ie how often will they be running the sessions, etc.

If you are reading this and are interested in joining us in Calne, or have an interest in being trained to deliver baptism preparation for parents, please get in touch with me via my email anitra.rawlins@cliftondiocese.com.

On Wednesday, 6th December, I will be at St Bernadette's, Whitchurch to run some refresher training. And I'm very happy to confirm that we now have a date to start training at St Teresa's, Filton and this will be on Saturday 26th January 2019.

Cheltenham Deanery are hoping to begin training a team in the new year, Fr David from St Gregory's has confirmed. They are hopeful that willing volunteers will come forward and then we can get started!

St Mary's, Bath are also waiting on a date to start training.

Recently, I attended the annual Marriage & Family Life Conference and the subject was Family Ministry and Catechesis as Accompaniment. What better place to start than at the beginning – it starts with Baptism! Other conversations across the diocese have included how to support parents when their children are being prepared for their First Confession and First Holy Communion. There are resources available to enable parishes to accompany parents in their own faith journey at this time too, so please get in touch if I can help.

In our diocesan vision *A Future Full of Hope* we will soon be entering our *Year of Prayer* with St Luke at Advent. With this in mind, the baptism preparation formation will:

- Equip those who are walking with the families, improving their confidence to share their faith and help develop prayer within the family
- Gently challenge parents, affirming their role and mission as a family - the 'little' or 'domestic churches'
- Equip and sensitise the parish family in its mission to be a welcoming and prayerful community
- Help to retain families, encouraging them to become part of the parish family.

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 with your families!

