

October 2014

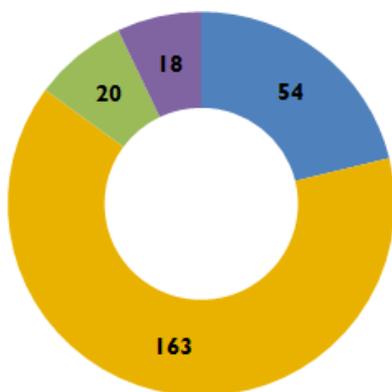
“As *Growing in Faith* enters its final phase in our parishes, I want to thank all of you who led the way. You have my prayers and blessing.”

Cardinal Vincent Nichols



Fr. Guy Sawyer and his **Growing in Faith** volunteers at Harrow-on-the-Hill

Enhancing Parish Life



■ Investment in people ■ Building work ■ Social outreach ■ Other

By design, parishes will be the largest beneficiaries of **Growing in Faith**. More than £12 million has already been raised for local projects. **Growing in Faith** is giving parishes the opportunity to achieve things that are beyond regularly available resources. Some parishes are working towards large, ambitious projects and others have identified up to six smaller projects. Every single initiative will help transform parish life, benefitting current and future generations.

More than 250 projects have been identified, many of which are in the planning stages or are underway. The following parishes have already applied to receive their share of the funds raised: Abbots Langley, Ashford, Borehamwood, Bunhill Row, Burnt Oak, Commercial Road, Hampstead, Hayes, Hemel Hempstead, Hendon West, Homerton, Hoxton, Kingsland, Knebworth, Lincolns Inn Fields, Manor House, Marylebone, Moorfields, Neasden, Northfields, Pinner, St Albans, St Margaret on Thames, Stanmore, Sudbury, Ware, Wembley Preston Road, Westminster Cathedral, Whetstone and Wood Green.

Latest Statistics

17,000 supporters

1,200 volunteers

250+ parish projects

80+ retired priests

6 new seminarians

1st Caritas hub

New Caritas Projects on the Way



Thanks to your support and together with parishes and other organisations, *Caritas Westminster* is already making a genuine difference to people who are in need in our society. And this work is growing every week.

- The first pilot Caritas ‘hub’ will support parishes in the St Alban’s and Watford deaneries. The aim is to have a number of hubs spread across the Diocese. Each will have its own Caritas Development Worker who will help lay leaders and parish priests to identify the biggest needs in their local communities, train volunteers and find appropriate solutions. Two Development Workers were recruited last month. For more information, please contact the *Caritas Westminster* Team at caritaswestminster@rdcow.org.uk
- The number of schools involved in the Magic Breakfast initiative will double.
- Contact the Elderly will be expanded to four new parishes: Chelsea, Hillingdon, Kensington and Ruislip. Parish volunteers will host monthly tea parties for lonely and isolated individuals, helping to replace loneliness with companionship.
- By early 2015, a satellite centre of St Joseph’s Pastoral Centre will be opened in Hounslow. Local people will have access to activities and lifelong learning services. Catechists will receive training and materials to share with those with intellectual disabilities.



Six New Seminarians for Our Parishes

As vocations continue to increase in the UK, we are blessed to have 32 seminarians. Ranging in age, with the youngest aged 22, they come from a variety of backgrounds including a doctor, a teacher, and a policeman. In September, we welcomed six new men to our seminary. Each one is on a journey of formation, the purpose of which is to form the whole person. This takes four to seven years.

Growing in Faith is allowing us to support our seminarians, men who are answering God's call to serve where they are needed. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners across our Diocese, the Priest Training Fund is being replenished and we are confident we will be able to fully guide and form all these men until, God willing, they are ordained, and begin serving our parish communities.



On Wednesday 3rd September, our seminarians gathered in Welwyn Garden City for a first opportunity to reflect on the upcoming academic year. Eleven are studying in Rome, one is taking part in a propaedeutic year to discern his vocation at the Royal English College in Valladolid, Spain, and 20 live at Allen Hall in London. At the latter, they will undertake their academic studies both at Allen Hall and Heythrop College, and pastoral placements in nearby hospitals, prisons, schools and parishes. Please keep all our seminarians in your prayers.

“Candidates need to be educated to love the truth, to be loyal, to respect every person, to have a sense of justice, to be true to their word, to be genuinely compassionate, to be men of integrity and, especially, to be balanced in judgement and behaviour.” Saint Pope John Paul II

Parish Spotlights

Sudbury



A part-time youth worker is supporting more than 100 young people at St George's. Children of all ages come together and take part in a variety of games, activities and discussions to better understand, and become more confident in their faith.

Kensington



A new, spacious parish hall situated below the church at Our Lady of Victories is allowing the parish family to come together more regularly, enhancing parish life and building local community. This is the second phase of major re-development work at the parish supported by **Growing in Faith**.

They Have Been Here for Us, Let Us be Here for Them

Where Do Our Retired Priests Live?

Independent living

Many of our priests remain very active in retirement. There are different places where they live independently supported by the Diocese:

- A flat within a presbytery
- Houses or flats across the Diocese
- Sheltered accommodation such as St Joseph's Society, Brook Green
- Some return home to Ireland

Continuing to live in the Diocese means they can still say Mass in a supply capacity, be close to the communities they have served and attend clergy and deanery meetings.

Care

Some of our priests need additional help. There are various care homes across the Diocese where they can live, such as the Larmenier Centre in East Finchley, which is run by the Sisters of Nazareth.

Nursing care

We know people are living longer and full-time care is necessary for some of our priests as they get older. Pastoral care must always be provided. Our aim is to find our clergy homes where they can easily attend Mass.

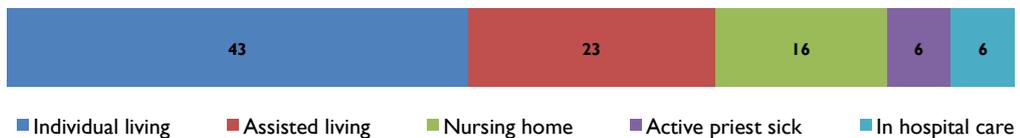
These include:

- Larmenier Centre, East Finchley
- Nazareth House, Hammersmith
- Orione House, Hampton Wick
- St Anne's, Stoke Newington
- St Peter's, Vauxhall
- St Vincent's, Pinner
- St Wilfred's, Chelsea



Today, a quarter of our priests are retired. In addition, we are caring for 12 active clergy who are unwell.

In the coming years, we will need to provide increased care, not only to these men, but to those who are approaching retirement. More than half of our priests in active ministry are over the age of 60. We have an obligation to provide adequately for their welfare. Your support through **Growing in Faith** is helping us to plan for their accommodation and nursing needs. Thank you.



Rebuilding Lives with Project Bakhita



Human trafficking is the second most profitable crime in the world. At any given time 2.5 million people are trafficked. Over half of those trafficked to the UK come through London. Forced to work against their will, victims live a life of fear, abuse and isolation. They are in need of our love and friendship.

Our Diocese is taking the lead to put an end to this 'open wound on the body of contemporary society.' Working together with the Bishops Conference and the Metropolitan Police, Project Bakhita will support victims of human trafficking who are rescued and help them to rebuild their lives. Pastoral care, education, reintegration and prevention will be the key areas of focus. We will give a voice to the voiceless. We look forward to sharing more on this in the months ahead.

“An evangelising community embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others.” Evangelii Gaudium, § 24

Parish Spotlight

Westminster Cathedral



The Guild of St John Southworth is currently being developed. A co-ordinator is recruiting 50 - 100 volunteer members who will act as the first-point of contact for those visiting the Cathedral. They will offer short tours to those interested in learning more about St John Southworth, Martyr Saint of our Diocese, the Cathedral and our Catholic Faith. The co-ordinator is also available to speak to parish groups. For more information, contact Anne Marie Micallef on 020 7931 6067.

Allen Hall: Our Seminarians' Home

Since 1975, Allen Hall has been 'home' to many of our priests during their years of formation. The staff and students who live there are immersed in a rich heritage, surrounded by history and have easy access to important learning and pastoral experiences.

The building itself, a former convent, is over 100 year old and plays a crucial role in educating our future priests. The chapel, at the heart of a deepening relationship with Christ, was recently renewed. The library and aging portakabin classrooms are now in urgent need of attention. The roofs are leaking and the rooms are cold and damp. Your generosity and ongoing support will help to pay for this essential maintenance. Thank you.



“As I begin the next stage of my journey for priestly formation, it is humbling to know that the people of the Diocese are offering their prayers and support for me and my fellow seminarians. Thank you: we can't do this without you.” – Tim Mangatal, the youngest of our six new students

Parish Spotlights

Bunhill Row



St Joseph's is now accessible to everyone. A lift has been installed to give access to both the church and the hall.

North Harrow



St John Fisher's is part-way through major re-development work that includes:

- Rebuilding and reordering the Sanctuary
- A designated area to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism
- A new room for catechetical work

Burnt Oak



New cameras and screens have recently been installed at The Annunciation Church allowing everyone to fully engage in the Mass.

Thank You for Your Continued Support!

If you are paying by cheque or cash, the **Growing in Faith** office will send you email reminders. Please let us know your email address if you are not already receiving these and would like to.

If you require more envelopes to make your donations, please contact the **Growing in Faith** office via email growinginfaith@rcdow.org.uk or call (020) 7798 9099 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Growing in Faith Office, Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN
<http://rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith/>

Registered Charity Number 233699

Parish Dashboards

Last month, parishes received their latest 'dashboard'. They detail the total number of pledges committed, the amount paid in cash already and the share your parish could expect to receive if all pledges are fulfilled at the end of the five-year period. Every pledge is vitally important to realising the vision we have for our future.

Please watch out for **Growing in Faith's** new video coming to our website soon.