



Growing in Faith

Our parishes • Our priests • Our place in the world



***Growing in Faith* News**



Diocese of Westminster

Lord God, we thank you for the gift of our Catholic faith.

Bless us as we seek to live our faith each day and work for its future.

Bless our work for **Growing in Faith** for 'if the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labour.' (Psalm 126)

Give us all a generous heart and a sacrificial love for your Church.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Christ the Sower can be seen at our Seminary Allen Hall, and is reproduced with the kind permission of Stephen Foster.

Update on Allen Hall and the Seminary

We have much to celebrate this year. Four of our students were ordained as deacons and three have been ordained to the priesthood. At the same time, the number of men exploring their vocations continues to rise. In the coming year, Allen Hall will have oversight of the formation of over fifty seminarians. Of these, over thirty will be resident in Allen Hall. There was a time, just a few years ago, when there were just nine men living in Allen Hall. So we look forward with confidence!

We were very fortunate as a seminary to take over a former convent here in the heart of central London in 1975 and establish Allen Hall. The seminary is named after Cardinal Allen, our founder in the penal times of the 16th century. Our location enables our seminarians to live within striking distance of pastoral opportunities in parishes, hospitals, schools, and prisons. It is also close to Heythrop College, where they study for their theology degrees, and a short distance to the Cathedral.

Built in the 19th century, Allen Hall has its challenges as the fabric gets older. At its heart, it has a striking chapel erected after the Second World War when the original chapel was destroyed in the bombing of London. I say 'at its heart' for a very good reason. Our prayer life is at the centre of everything we do. It is the lifeblood of our community, indeed of any well-lived life, and it underpins a seminarian's discernment.

After 40 years the chapel has required some urgent work. Part of the concrete roof is falling down. The heating has all but given up. We found asbestos and, like any parish church, it needs a thorough general updating. This we have begun to undertake over the last year, so that it is safe at last and warm, bringing it modestly back to life.

There is always more to do in an old building such as this one. This summer we will begin work on the library roof which has fallen in and is now dangerous. We have also begun planning for the replacement of our classroom facilities. Currently these are housed in two old portakabins. Built 30 years ago with a life expectancy of eight years, they are now rotting away.

We have no funds of our own. So we are very grateful that much of this very necessary programme of work – and the support of the seminarians – is being funded generously by you, through **Growing in Faith**. Thank you for this. We are always struck by the great support we receive in every way.

I am confident that Allen Hall can train the priests we need in the years to come. Please continue to pray for vocations.

Fr Roger Taylor – Rector of Allen Hall



Three men were ordained at the Cathedral last week



The ceiling of the library in Allen Hall is currently being restored



Retired priests visit Allen Hall to speak about their experiences

Update on Our Sick and Retired Priests

The Sick and Retired Priests Fund and Committee is responsible for the care of all clergy in our Diocese who are either retired or ill. Priests normally step down from full-time active ministry when they turn 75. Some however, continue to serve in a supply capacity.

The number of priests retiring over the coming years is set to rise significantly. As a Diocese we are currently caring for 79 clergy, with a further ten on sick leave. Ten more are expected to retire over the next twelve months alone. Additionally, 44% of our priests – nearly 200 - in active ministry today will step down over the next 20 years.

Three priests have retired in the last six months. One of them requires assisted living. Another priest lives in a care home. And the third has returned to Ireland.

Last year, the annual collection raised nearly £185,000, with the previous year's collection bringing £180,000. We also received general donations of nearly £300,000, with one third coming from the generosity of a single parish.

Over the coming years, we recognise that there will be a shortfall in funds. The current level of donations, which have stayed relatively the same for the past several years, will not support the ever increasing number of sick and retired priests.

We thank you for your support in **Growing in Faith** which will allow us to plan and support our mission to look after our clergy, who have dedicated their lives to serve our parishes, when they retire. With your continued support, we are now in a strong position to take care of them.

Monsignor Martin Hayes – Vicar General



Fr Peter Stevens celebrated 25 years of priesthood this week, along with parishioners from his previous parishes of Chorleywood and Brook Green



Fr Seamus Nocter lives at St Anne's Care Home, Stoke Newington



We thank Sister Clement for all her hard work. She is responsible for the well-being of all our retired priests and regularly visits them

Update on Caritas Westminster

A team of Caritas project workers is attracting 'social action' volunteers, providing training, and supporting parishes and deaneries to work together. We invite expertise where needed, from Catholic agencies such as Housing Justice, the Cardinal Hume Centre and the Catholic Children's Society, to improve and sustain social outreach. We are working closely with colleagues in the St Vincent de Paul Society and Justice and Peace to bring together our respective strengths to achieve much more by working together.

We have identified seven key areas of work. They are:

1. *Supporting people who find themselves in food poverty and debt* - By the end of the year we will have doubled the number of schools we are supporting to provide free healthy breakfasts.
2. *Supporting lonely, isolated and vulnerable people* - Caritas is currently working with Contact the Elderly to support Sunday afternoon tea parties for over 75's. Three parishes are involved and we are looking to sign up more.
3. *Supporting the Catholic deaf community* - Our team of skilled interpreters ensure that the Catholic deaf community has accessible liturgies, faith sharing, Bible study, counselling and leisure activities.
4. *Supporting people with intellectual disabilities and their families* - Caritas at St Joseph's in Hendon provides life-long learning opportunities for over 200 adults with intellectual disabilities. In late 2014 we will launch a satellite centre in the parish centre of Hounslow.
5. *Supporting young people at risk of social exclusion* - Caritas is currently in conversation with partner agencies about how we could add value to this area of work in the future.
6. *Supporting victims of human trafficking* - With the support of a number of organisations including the Bishops Conference of England and Wales, the Metropolitan Police and religious orders, Caritas is launching Project Bakhita to support victims of human trafficking.
7. *Supporting people who are homeless* - We are working with Housing Justice to optimise coverage with the winter night shelter provision in our parishes.

Thank you for your support through **Growing in Faith**. The journey to spread God's love has only begun as we endeavour to build the Kingdom of God in London.

John Coleby - Director of Caritas Westminster



A Contact the Elderly afternoon tea party hosted by volunteers



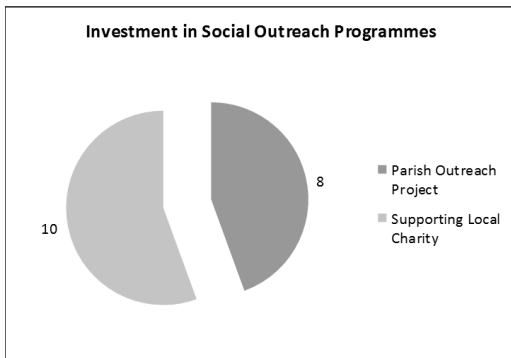
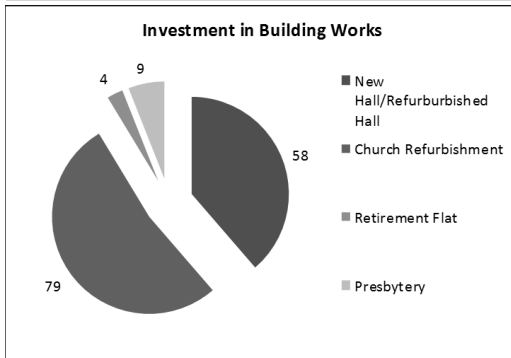
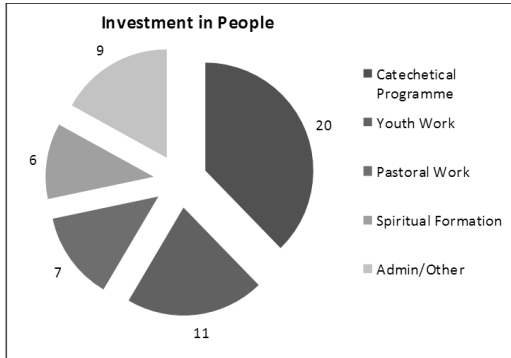
Cardinal Vincent Nichols discussing food poverty with a group of key leaders across London



St Joseph's Pastoral Centre's annual Sponsored Walk took place at the end of May

Update on Parish Projects

The following diagrams represent how parishes are using **Growing in Faith** to support their local communities.



Learn more today by visiting the side chapels after Mass

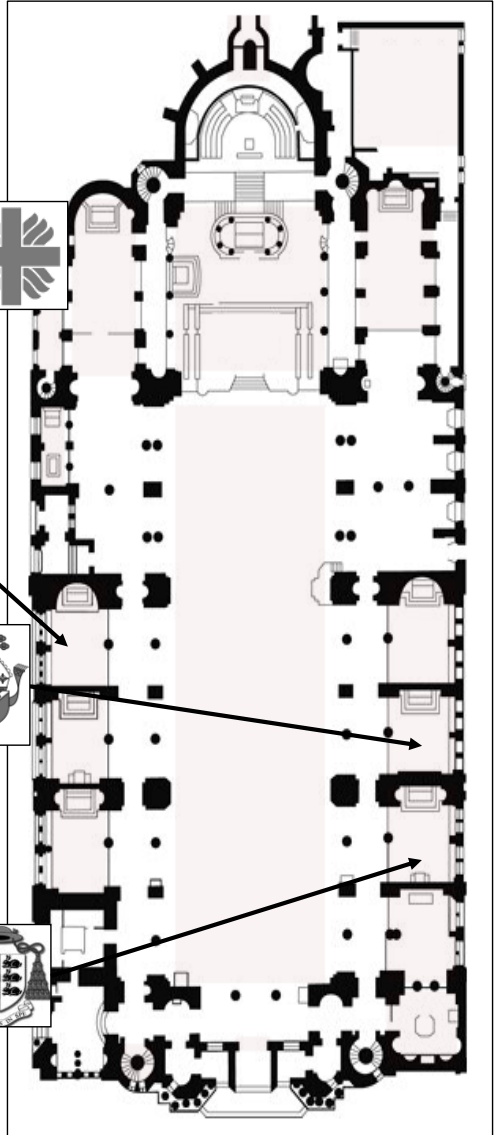
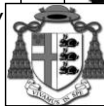
Caritas Westminster – The social action agency of the Diocese of Westminster set up to identify and address poverty and exclusion in our local community. Come by to learn more about each of the projects that Caritas is managing across the Diocese.



Sick and Retired Priests – Supporting priests who have dedicated their lives to serving God and caring for the people in their parishes. Please stop by to meet some of our retired priests.



Seminary and Allen Hall – Discover how priests are formed at Allen Hall, the seminary for the Diocese of Westminster. Please stop by to meet some of the seminarians and newly ordained priests.



Thank you to all who have already participated

Abbots Langley - St Saviour
Acton Town - Our Lady of Lourdes
Acton West - The Holy Family
Ashford - St Michael
Baldock - Holy Trinity and St Augustine
Barnet - Mary Immaculate and St Gregory the Great
Berkhamsted - Sacred Heart
Bethnal Green - Our Lady of the Assumption
Bishops Stortford - St Joseph and the English Martyrs
Borehamwood - St Teresa's and Ss John Fisher and Thomas More
Bow - Our Lady and St Catherine of Sienna
Bow Common - The Holy Name and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Brentford - St John the Evangelist
Brook Green - Holy Trinity
Bunhill Row - St Joseph
Buntingford - St Richard of Chichester
Burnt Oak - The Annunciation Church
Bushey - The Sacred Heart of Jesus and St John the Evangelist
Camden - Our Lady of Hall
Carpenders Park - St Joseph
Chelsea - Holy Redeemer
Chelsea I - St Mary's Cadogan Street
Chiswick & Gunnersbury - Our Lady of Grace, St Edward and St Dunstan
Clapton - St Scholastica
Clapton Park - St Jude
Commercial Road - St Mary and St Michael
Copenhagen Street - The Blessed Sacrament
Cricklewood - St Agnes
Cuffley - St Martin de Porres
Dollis Hill - St Mary and St Andrew
Ealing - Abbey Church of St Benedict
East Acton - St Aidan of Lindisfarne
Eastcote - St Thomas More
Edgware - St Anthony of Padua
Edmonton - The Most Precious Blood and St Edmund
Enfield - Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St George
Feltham - St Laurence
Finchley East - St Mary
Fulham I - St Thomas of Canterbury
Fulham Road - Our Lady of Dolours
Golders Green - St Edward the Confessor
Grahame Park - St Margaret Clitherow
Greenford - Our Lady of the Visitation
Grove Park - St Joseph

Hackney - St John the Baptist
Hampstead - St Mary
Hampton Hill - St Francis de Sales
Hampton-on-Thames - St Theodore of Canterbury
Harpenden - Our Lady of Lourdes
Harrow North - St John Fisher
Harrow on the Hill - Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury
Harrow Road - Our Lady of Lourdes and St Vincent de Paul
Hatfield - Marychurch
Hatfield South - St Peter
Haverstock Hill - Our Lady of the Rosary and St Dominic
Hayes - The Immaculate Heart of Mary
Hemel Hempstead - Ss Mary and Joseph
Hemel Hempstead East - Our Lady Queen of all Creation
Hemel Hempstead North – The Resurrection
Hemel Hempstead West – St Mark
Hendon - Our Lady of Dolours
Hendon West - St Patrick
Hertford - The Immaculate Conception and St Joseph
Heston - Our Lady Queen of Apostles
Highbury - St Joan of Arc
Hillingdon - St Bernadette
Hitchin - Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew
Hoddesdon - St Augustine
Holloway - Sacred Heart of Jesus
Homerton - Immaculate Heart and St Dominic
Hounslow - Ss Michael and Martin
Hoxton - St Monica Priory
Islington - St John the Evangelist
Kensal New Town - Our Lady of the Holy Souls
Kensal Rise - Church of the Transfiguration
Kensington - Our Lady of Victories
Kensington 2 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Simon Stock
Kentish Town - Our Lady Help of Christians
Kilburn - Sacred Heart of Jesus
Kilburn West - Immaculate Heart of Mary
Kingsbury Green - Ss Sebastian and Pancras
Kingsland - Our Lady and St Joseph
Knebworth - St Thomas More
Letchworth - St Hugh of Lincoln
Limehouse - Our Lady Immaculate and St Frederick
Lincoln's Inn Fields - St Anselm and St Cæcilia
London Colney - Our Lady of Walsingham
Maiden Lane - Corpus Christi
Manor House - St Thomas More
Marylebone - Our Lady of the Rosary
Mile End - The Guardian Angels

Mill End - St John the Evangelist
Mill Hill - Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate
Millwall - St Edmund
Moorfields - St Mary Moorfields
Muswell Hill - Our Lady of Muswell
Neasden - St Patrick
New Southgate - Our Lady of Lourdes
Northfields - St Peter and St Paul
Northolt South Harrow - St Gabriel and St Bernard
Northwood - St Matthew
Notting Hill - St Francis of Assisi
Ogle Street - St Charles Borromeo
Old Hall Green - St Edmund of Canterbury and English Martyrs
Osterley - St Vincent de Paul
Paddington - Our Lady of Sorrows
Palmers Green - St Monica
Parsons Green - Holy Cross
Perivale - St John Fisher
Pimlico - Holy Apostles
Pinner - St Luke
Ponders End - Church of Mary, Mother of God
Poplar - Ss Mary and Joseph
Radlett - Saint Anthony of Padua
Redbourn - St John Fisher
Royston - St Thomas of Canterbury and the English Martyrs
Ruislip - Most Sacred Heart
Ruislip South - St Gregory the Great
Shenley - The Good Shepherd
Shepherds Bush - Holy Ghost and St Stephen
Shepperton - St John Fisher
Soho Square - St Patrick
Southall - St Anselm
Spanish Place - St James
St Albans - Ss Alban and Stephen
St Albans South - St Bartholomew
St Charles Square - St Pius X
St John's Wood - St John Wood
Staines - Our Lady of the Rosary
Stamford Hill - St Ignatius
Stanmore - St William of York
Stevenage Bedwell - St Joseph
Stevenage Old Town - Transfiguration
Stevenage Shephall - St Hilda
Stoke Newington - Our Lady of Good Counsel
Stonebridge - The Five Precious Wounds
Sudbury - St George
Sunbury-on-Thames - St Ignatius

Swiss Cottage - St Thomas More
Teddington - The Sacred Heart
Tottenham - St Francis de Sales
Tring - Corpus Christi
Twickenham - St Margaret
Twickenham - St James
Uxbridge - Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael
Wapping - St Patrick
Ware - Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Joseph
Watford - Holy Rood
Watford North - St Helen
Wealdstone - St Joseph
Welwyn Garden City - St Bonaventure, Holy Family and Our Lady Queen of Apostles
Wembley 1 - St Joseph
Wembley 2 - English Martyrs
Wembley 3 - St Erconwald
West Drayton - St Catherine
West Green - St John Vianney
Westminster - Westminster Cathedral
Wheathampstead - St Thomas More
Whetstone - St Mary Magdalen
White City - Our Lady of Fatima
Whitton - St Edmund of Canterbury
Willesden - Our Lady of Willesden
Willesden Green - St Mary Magdalen
Wood Green - St Paul the Apostle
Yeading - St Raphael

We thank the Diocese of Westminster's Communications Department and St Joseph's Pastoral Centre for the use of the photos.



Diocese of Westminster

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