

Growing in Faith Summer Newsletter

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SEMINARY AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Mike Maguire, (right) a Seminarian at Allen Hall, reveals he quickly came to realize the importance of his ministry when he was helping minister at a prison:

"I was not simply expanding my own experience to help me in my future ministry. I was entering into a dialogue, a real encounter with Christ, in the relationships I made with each of these prisoners, for as long as you did it to the least of my brothers, you did it to me."

FIVE PRIESTS AND SIX DEACONS ORDAINED THIS JUNE

We have wonderful news to share with you! This summer we celebrated **five Ordinations to the Priesthood**. These were:

- * **Rev Dave Burke** was appointed Assistant Priest in Burnt Oak. He will also support the Diocesan youth chaplaincy
- * **Rev Bill Bowder** was appointed Assistant Priest in Highbury
- * **Rev Cyril Chiaha** in appointed Assistant Priest in Enfield
- * **Rev Daniel Humphreys** was appointed Assistant Priest in Kensington Our Lady of Victories
- * **Rev David Lucy** was appointed Assistant Priest in Islington.

We are truly blessed in the Diocese of Westminster with an increasing number of men called to the priesthood. Through the generosity of parishioners who have supported **Growing in Faith**, we are covering the costs of their seminary and spiritual formation.

We also celebrated **six Ordinations of Deacons** as they continue their formation for Priesthood!



Mike Maguire, a Seminarian at Allen Hall Seminary, speaks about the faith to young adults in a prison

Following the increase number of ordinations of 2014, this year Cardinal Vincent Nichols ordained 6 deacons and 5 priests this June





CARITAS WESTMINSTER CONTINUES TO HELP PARISHES OPEN SOCIAL PROJECTS

Caritas has helped five parishes offer an extended night shelter which runs up to the end of May, offering up to 15 beds per night for people who need a warm place to stay the night.

Based on the statistics provided by Greater London Authority, nearly 1,500 people use night shelters each year. Twenty-one night shelters cover the twenty-three London boroughs, offering over 42,000 bed places last year.

These are incredible figures; however, fewer than 450 churches and church halls offered their premises for use as night shelters. The evidence shows that there is a huge need and opportunity for using church facilities. One of Caritas' hopes is to work with parishes across the Diocese so that they have the resources and funding to open a shelter themselves.

Caritas provided the seed-funding, through *Growing in Faith*, for this project. Caritas has also teamed up with Housing Justice and West London Day Mission to help parish volunteers learn best practices.

“Churches are coming together as a body, as it should be, in the Body of Christ. I’m finding it really interesting that they are working together”
— a guest at the night shelter

HELPING RETIRED PRIESTS STAY ACTIVE IN THEIR MINISTRIES

They have been here for us, we are now here for them

As you know, caring for our priests in their later years and during illness is one of the pillars supported by *Growing in Faith*. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Bishops and the board members of the Sick & Retired Priest Fund are making sure these priests are able to continue their vocation well after they retire.

The board has been consulting with parish priests who are still in active ministry across the Diocese to find appropriate solutions for keeping these priests active among their communities.

Together, they have identified six parishes whose facilities can be adapted to house retired priests. These parishes include Eastcote, Berkhamsted, Cricklewood, Hitchin, Whitton and North Harrow.



Six parishes will adapt their facilities to accommodate retired priests, allowing them to stay active in the community



Cardinal Vincent visits Bakhita House and speaks with the staff who will run the safe house for young women who have been trafficked in London

BAKHITA HOUSE OPENS ITS DOORS TO OFFER A SAFE HAVEN FOR TRAFFICKED YOUNG WOMEN IN LONDON

Human trafficking is a shameful, growing, global problem. There are estimated to be 2.4 million people trafficked worldwide, with up to 13,000 victims living here in the UK. The Bakhita Initiative was launched last year in response to this problem. It expresses the Catholic Church's commitment to support victims of human trafficking.

An essential part of this initiative is St Bakhita House, which is run by Caritas Westminster. The house opened its doors in May 2015. Funds raised through **Growing in Faith** have provided the seed funding needed to purchase and renovate the house to be 'fit for purpose'. Located in central London, it will become a rescue centre for women who have escaped human trafficking and provide assistance to them as they begin the process of rebuilding their lives. In particular, the house aims to help those who currently fall outside the existing structures of support available from government and other agencies.

St Bakhita House will accommodate up to 12 women at a time, with one emergency bed available for victims rescued by the police. The women will have access to legal services, counseling, and education opportunities. More importantly, they will find the love and support needed to re-build their lives and transition into independence.

Thank you for your generosity in helping to make this happen.

“Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked”

- Psalm 82:4

MORE NEWS ON HOW PARISHES ARE STRENGTHENING THE FABRIC OF THEIR COMMUNITIES

Staines redesigns the parish kitchen

At Our Lady of the Rosary, Staines, the parish used **Growing in Faith** funds to help progress the refurbishment of the premises.

The funds raised so far have paid for the fitting out of a new parish kitchen which replaces the previous very cramped and outdated facility. The new kitchen and server area are now designed as an open plan. This allows the kitchen to be an important social hub for refreshments after Mass, parish groups and events, and the increasingly popular baby and toddler group.



East Finchley recruits a youth worker

Recently in St Mary's, East Finchley, you will have found the young people of the parish splattered with bright colours during a paint-balling excursion. Or you could have found them researching how micro-loans have enabled some of the poorest people to transform their lives. Thanks to **Growing in Faith**, and the generosity of parishioners, St Mary's has recruited Sandra Lipner, to become the parish 'Director of Christian Education and Youth Work'. Through her creative and imaginative work, the parish is already reaping the benefits. 29 children will make their first Holy Communion, the largest number in many years.



Willesden Green has renovated their sanctuary

Fr Kevin Jordan and his parish have used the money raised through **Growing in Faith** to restore the sanctuary to the beauty envisaged by its original re-decorator, Fr Eldridge, in 1972. The carpet was removed and all the marble on the floor and the walls have been polished. The walls and the tester were repainted, and all the gilding re-applied. The lighting was even updated to LEDs, providing more light and less consumption of electricity. The same was done in the Lady Chapel. People have really noticed the brightness of the whole sanctuary. One mother commented that her altar server son "now looks angelic" and one child thinks "the floor looks like an infinity pool"!

More often people say that the work has added to the prayerfulness of the church, especially during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before morning Mass. It certainly has made a difference when the Cardinal celebrated the 75th anniversary of the opening of the church earlier this year.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you for your generosity with **Growing in Faith!**

You gave of your time, money and energy – for the Catholic Faith. We appreciate your many gifts, building a stronger Catholic community.

We wish to keep you informed of all the great work that is happening across the Diocese. You can contact us via phone on (020) 7798 9099 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Growing in Faith updates can be seen at <http://rcdow.org.uk/growing-in-faith/>

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Gift Aid: If you signed a gift aid declaration for your donations to **Growing in Faith** and your status has changed, please contact the Growing in Faith office so that the necessary amendments can be made.