

Mission imPossible

A Monthly Update on the preparations for the Parish Misson:

8th - 24th October 2024

Meet a Missionary: Joanne Lawrence

1. *You are a Minister of Music at Christ the King and a member of the Mission Working Party. Why do you think it important that the mission is supported by both parishes?*

I feel that both parishes should support the mission because at CTK we have a lively and busy parish with many different ways for parishioners to contribute to the communion of faith. It will hopefully benefit OLAM to be able to use that enthusiasm and vibrancy to support the mission to rekindle the faith of the parishioners and revitalise attendance at Mass.

2. *What, would you say, is the most important contribution the congregation at OLAM can make to the Mission at the present time?*

The most important contribution that members of OLAM parish can make to the Mission at this time is to be open to the ideas and initiatives that the working party are proposing and to consider how they could support their parish in this endeavour.

3. *What do you hope will be the most enduring fruit of the Mission within OLAM?*

I would hope that the most enduring fruit of the Mission will be a continual growth in participation in parish life and an increase in the numbers attending Mass weekly. I hope that the Mission will be the start of a journey for the parish which will lead it to becoming once again strong and active in the faith.

Mission imPossible is a monthly update sponsored by the Parish Mission Working Party. For more information please contact either Deacon Gary [dcn.gary.obrien@rcaob.org.uk] or Deacon Dominic [dcn.dominic.fahey@rcaob.org.uk] or Sister Miriam [smsfbirmingham@gmail.com].

News

- The Sion Community has made a proposal for extending the Mission to Cardinal Wiseman and Maryvale Primary School which the members of the Mission Working Party is considering.
- Father Peter Conley will be returning to the parish on 9th October 2024 to preside at a Mass for the Feast of St John Henry Newman at 7 pm. He will also preach.
- We want to encourage members of the parish to volunteer for the numerous “back-office” jobs necessary to support the front-line missionaries. All and any help will be most welcome. Please speak to a member of the Parish Mission Working Party if you feel moved to offer your help or email using the addresses below.

4. You are particularly involved in the discussions about extending the Mission to the schools in OLAM. What do you hope the Mission will achieve by that?

In extending the Mission to the schools I hope that OLAM will benefit from the addition of more young people being a part of weekly Mass and the energy and enthusiasm that young people bring to the faith.

From the Vatican document entitled: **"The pastoral conversion of the Parish community in the service of the evangelising mission of the Church"**.

"Mere repetitive action that fails to have an impact upon people's concrete lives remains a sterile attempt at survival, which is usually welcomed by general indifference. If the Parish does not exude that spiritual dynamic of evangelisation, it runs the risk of becoming self-referential and fossilised, offering experiences that are devoid of evangelical flavour and missionary drive, of interest only to small groups".

A few challenging questions:

Mere repetitive action ... sterile attempt at survival

- Does our Mass have an impact on our lives?
- Does our Mass nurture our daily living of our faith?
- Does our Mass prepare us for heaven?

general indifference

- Judging by the numbers at Mass, can we see that the Mass is not important to a large number of those who "officially" are parishioners?

devoid of evangelical zeal and missionary drive

- When we leave Mass are we full of the joy of the Gospel?
- When the deacon says: "go and announce the Gospel of the Lord" at the end of Mass is he speaking to someone else but not you?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, the Parish Mission offers a chance to turn things around.

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CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

When?

2nd June 2024 beginning at 4 pm?

Where do we start from?

St Margaret Mary with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

What's the route?

Subject to approval from the police, the route will be:

Perry Common Road, Dovedale Road, Hurstwood Road, Jackdaw Road, Broomhill Road, College Road. Cross the College Road. Brackenbury Road, Warren Farm Road. Conker Island and into the Church of Christ the King.

How long is it?

1.3 miles. We estimate a 20 minute walk but a minibus will also follow behind for those that might need a lift.

What happens at Christ the King?

Benediction finishing at 5 pm followed by refreshments in the St John's Centre.