

St Josephs Parish Newsletter

Edition 1

December 2010



Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural Christmas edition of the St Josephs Parish newsletter. We held our Parish Congress in May 2010 and since then there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes in drawing our parish closer together. This newsletter was just one of many aspirations, we hope to continue and produce it on a quarterly basis going into 2011.

In this edition we are providing a summary of all 19 groups and an introduction to the school which all operate within our Parish. We aim to tell you a little bit about each one and provide contact details. As we face the Winter you may be wondering what to do on these long nights, so why not have a look at what is going on in St. Josephs and join one (or more!!) of the groups. We can proudly write that there truly is a diverse community of activities within our Parish.

For those of you with access to a computer please see our internet site.
<http://www.catholicchurchcolwynbay.co.uk>

The Parish Pastoral Council

The interim Council have had numerous meetings since May. Our aim is to represent and respond to the needs of the Parish. We aim to facilitate communication across the Parish and we now have one of the council members attached to each Parish group so we know what is going on and hopefully can let everyone else know. We also want to take everyone's suggestions and ideas forward, so we really make St Josephs 'our' Parish. We have already had a number of suggestions which we are currently looking at e.g. ensuring the parish centre meets the needs of our community. The communication group has also put forward a number of suggestions for improving communication and we are working on these.

Members of the interim council are, Anne-Marie Furse, Chris Iwobi, Fr Declan, Garth Butcher, Heather Tracey, Moyra Carlson, Paul Braid, Shelagh Murray, Sr Clare.

The Council was set up in response to the congress in May as a temporary measure until a full council will be formed. It is aimed that another full Parish meeting will occur in May/ June 2011 to review where we have travelled to as a Parish.

Food Share

A big achievement following a suggestion from a parishioner has been the introduction of

Food Share. There are many families in Conwy who don't have enough money for food. This could be because of many reasons including redundancy and illness. It is often a temporary measure until benefits start. Since October the Parish has donated approximately 500 items of food. This is a fantastic achievement. Thank you so much to everyone for this. The Food Share will be ongoing so please keep the donations coming in. The food is taken to "FoodShare" volunteers on a weekly basis and they are extremely grateful. We will be having updates in the future about "Foodshare."

The Parish Lending Library

The aim of the library is to have books available of a spiritual/theological nature to enable those who so wish to have a means to deepening their faith and understanding. The library began about 12 years ago with just a few paperbacks. If you have any up to date paperbacks on religious topics please bring them along. A big thank you to those who already have. Unfortunately we cannot accept hard backs, magazines or old books.

Contact Sr Joy via the presbytery

Adult Faith Group

On the 25th November 2010 The Adult Faith Group, with Fr. Martin and Sr. Catherine from the Oblate Retreat Centre

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hosted our first Parish all day retreat.
Between 40 and 50 parishioners attended and actively participated, and the feedback – apart from the coldness in the church- was universally positive.

Encouraged by this success, the AFG are keen to organise another, most likely at Lenten time. In addition, we are actively considering a programme of evening sessions on a range of topics, of interest to parishioners keen to broaden their knowledge and faith.

Early in January AFG members will be asking parishioners to complete a short survey to guide these and other plans.
Contact Information
Coordinator: Brian Tehan
Email: AFF@gmail.com

Altar Servers

There is a wish and a need to recruit more altar servers both Adults and younger parishioners who have received their first Holy Communion are welcome to join and assist the Parish and the School in celebrating Mass. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm. We plan to represent our parish at the special St. Steven's Guild mass at the Cathedral in Wrexham on new year's eve. Anyone interested, in Altar Serving including adults, may contact Bill Fortin at (01492) 535476 or email altar@ysbryd.plus.com.

Altar Society

The Altar Society offer their dedicated service and are involved in the life of the Church in a special way. Their work includes vacuuming the sanctuary, dusting the altar and the areas around it, cleaning and polishing the sacred vessels and generally tidying the sacristy. The washing, ironing and folding the altar linen is also part of this work,
The small group of helpers meet on Saturday between 9 and 11am and they would welcome more help, particularly from younger people.

Childrens Liturgy

The group is formed by parents and children who attend the 9.30am Sunday mass. There are two separate groups ages: From “babes in arms” to First Communion age and after they have done their First Communion to early teenage years.

At the start of mass after the greeting, we go to a separate room in the presbytery for the children’s liturgy session. The aim of this session is for the children to experience the liturgy in a way that is meaningful to them e.g. reflect on their week, have a better understanding of the gospel. The contact person for this group is Claire Fuller and she can be contacted via:

Claire.fuller@neuro-rehab.co.uk

Choir

The choir meets for practice after Mass on a Sunday and more often in the run up to special performances. The Choir performs the sung Mass each week at 11am. They also perform during specific periods, especially at Easter, Christmas and special services throughout the year.

New choir members are always required and would be very welcome.

We would ask that anyone who might have the slightest interest in singing in/with the choir to either contact parish office or preferably our contact and organist:

John Williams on 01492 517038 or you may prefer to email him at the following email address: tigga49@hotmail.com

Church Cleaning

The church cleaning group meets four times a year to give the church a good spring clean. Each session takes about 2 hours .

We are a small group of regular members who are steadfast in their efforts to keep the church as spotless as possible BUT they hope that others will come forward to ease the load and make light of the work in hand. If we could just double our numbers, to 8 helpers, we could halve the time to 1 hour, four times a year and of course, the younger the group member, the quicker we are likely to be able to clean the church and it would be nice to see some younger faces.

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If you can spare the time, even if only for half an hour, it would be a great help.

There is a sheet on the church notice board with the dates in case you forget. They will also be posted below from Sunday this week so you can always check by browsing our website page for Church Cleaning

Church Flowers

The purpose of the ministry is to celebrate the sacramental aspect of the Mass and to reflect the life of the church and its changing seasons. The liturgy requires us to see in the seasons signs that point towards the reign of God.

Flowers bring their own mystery, a sense of passage of life, of the goodness of creation; flowers bring festivity; it is as if they are to shout Gods praises and to lift up our own spirits to do the same.

In the scriptures, flowers represent the things that are here today and gone tomorrow, which at dawn spring up anew but by evening wilt and fade. (psalm 90:6) calling to mind our hope for the things that are eternal; for a place of endless springtime and everlasting life. Fresh flowers are arranged on the altars every week by Rosemary Turton.

There are two collections each year for church flowers and these are very generously supported for which we thank you all.

Donations of flowers or money for special intentions are always welcome.

Rosemary may be contacted through the parish office (01492 532670)

Communication Group

The group was set up as a working party following the parish renewal meeting in May. Our purpose is to review and consider ways of improving communication within the parish and outside of the parish.

The group meets approximately 6 weekly and feeds into the parish pastoral council. The Comm's group have established and host the parish website, and organized the parish centre redecoration. The contact is Simon fuller 01492 545540

Knights of St. Columba

The Knights of St Columba are an Order of Catholic Laymen dedicated to the Service of the Church and fellow man. The Organisation, which is non-political and essentially democratic, exists to support the mission of the Catholic Church and at the same time to work for the spiritual and material good of its members and their families. Our Parish Contacts are Paul Braid on 01492 516260 or Jim McColl on 01492 518101

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary was founded on 7 September 1921. We are a lay catholic organisation of men and women whose members are giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country in the world.

Here in Colwyn Bay, as do other groups elsewhere, we hold a weekly meeting which allocates a weekly apostolic task to our members, who generally work in pairs. After a successful period of probation, new members are called to make the Legionary Promise (this is only applicable for members over 18 years) which is directed to the Holy Spirit. We also have Auxiliary members, who undertake a service of prayer. Our administration is carried out through various councils (local, regional and national).

The spiritual and social welfare of each individual is our priority.

We play our part in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and through apostolic and missionary undertakings sponsored by the parish. Every legionary member is normally required to carry out a weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in union with Mary.

We usually meet on a Thursday – during the Summer it is usually in the evening and in Winter it is in the mornings.

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We hope that you will be interested in joining us and for more information contact the Presbytery.

Mercy Associates

The Mercy Associates are a prayer group who meet at 11.15am on the third Tuesday of every month at the Sisters of Mercy Nursing Home. They have sponsored education for children abroad.

This group would like more people to get involved and younger members are most welcome.

The contact for the Mercy Associates is Sheila Williams. Contact can be made via the Parish Office or the Sisters of Mercy contact number is 01492 532788

Music Group

The Music Group meet and provide music at the 9.30am mass on the first Sunday of the month with the exception of August.

This group is organised by Mary Lüdenbach (This is not the choir) The aim of the Music Group is to help the congregation with their worship and to make it a more fulfilling event. It is not a performing group.

If you have any interest in this group please enquire through the church office.

Social Committee

The aim of the social committee is to organise events and activities for all age groups, our diverse cultures and different interests.

We aim to improve both the community spirit and feeling of belonging within the church and encourage people from the outside to come and join in our different events.

We are hoping to organise one event each month for the next year, with the exception of August

We held a series of very successful coffee mornings in the parish centre as well as very popular quiz nights (everyone likes to exercise their brainboxes now and then).

A picnic in the park was held for the children and most recently a group of 50 went to Manchester to visit the international Christmas Markets held there annually. All came back loaded with Christmas goodies.

The committee would like to revive the Summer Fair and it is anticipated that a date in July 2011 would be suitable."

Our next event s on the 14th January – ten pin bowling at Llandudno 7pm. Contact Margaret Batty on 01492 518487 or email: maggiebatty@hotmail.co.uk

St Beuno's Outreach

We meet on a weekly basis at the Presbytery in St Joseph's, to consider the readings for the next Sunday mass.

There are two groups that meet at the Presbytery:

1. Tuesdays at 8pm
2. Mondays at 11.00 am

The meetings' purpose is to help those who attend, to pray and reflect on that week's Mass reading. The meetings are held by Fr Damian Jackson from St Beuno's Ignatian Centre in Tremerchion - Nr St Asaph. Who provides a weekly prego which can be found on the website. St Beuno's is a spiritual centre is run by Jesuits where many retreats are held.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

We are a pro-life campaigning organisation founded to uphold the right to life of each individual from conception to natural death, in particular the most vulnerable in our society: the sick, the elderly, the disabled and the unborn.

We meet at 6pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month in the presbytery at St. Joseph's. We join in national campaigns relating to Pro Life issues and raise awareness of changes in legislation which affect the right to life in the UK. If you are interested in joining SPUC, we welcome you to please come along and attend.

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We also run a monthly draw called the 'little feet club' for which the entry is £2 per month, with £50 per month in prizes and £50 per month to central funds. If you wish to join the club and have a chance of winning £50 then please contact Brian Smith at 9.30 or leave a message in the Parish office

Sunday Coffee & Refreshments

The Sunday Coffee group have been providing refreshments after masses etc., At present coffee, tea, juice, cakes and biscuits are served in the Community Centre after the Sunday morning masses. This would be a good time to see the difference the recent painting session has made on the Community Centre.

The coffee/refreshments area has been split so that the children have their own area to socialise with minimum supervision.

A rota is posted on the notice board for if you would like to get involved ask one of the group serving refreshments.

Please come along and support the group whilst enjoying a nice cup of coffee, tea, whatever your fancy and please note that everyone is welcome - parishioners and visitors alike.

SVP - St Vincent de Paul

We hold regular Conference Meetings (A conference is a small group of committed

members meeting regularly to help the needy in a particular locality), we work with those in need in our Parish, we co-operate with local support services.

Visiting those in need and sitting side by side with them remains the core work of the Society. In Colwyn Bay there are for example many lonely old people who would appreciate a friendly face and enjoy a chat over a cup of tea, knowing that someone cares. But the local conference group of members are committed to supporting all who need help, maintaining confidentiality. In some cases support may extend to doing shopping, decorating, gardening, filling in official forms and ensuring they are receiving their statutory benefits. Regular visiting and personal care, with relationships based on trust and friendship are what gives the SVP its unique character.

As part of an international organisation, the SVP for England & Wales is particularly aligned under the SVP Twinnage Scheme to supporting needs in India, Romania, Sudan, Grenada and Guyana.

Within Colwyn Bay (Rhos on Sea) we run the one of the 29 SVP shop's in the UK. We have a number of voluntary roles which include drivers, help within the shop through to electrician's and PAT (portable appliance testers) certifying gifted electrical items.

The shop offers disadvantaged individuals and families, a listening ear, and where

appropriate, arranging for local SVP members to visit those most in need. Local Community Shop contact details are:

Mr Bruno Chessa (Manager) - 29 Colwyn Avenue' Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, Conwy, LL28 4RB - Tel: 01492 541 395 - Email: svpabbey@tiscali.co.uk

St Josephs School

St Joseph's is a Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School maintained by the Diocese of Wrexham.

It is a Catholic school with a happy, caring family atmosphere, where each individual's all round development can be monitored and assisted by a hard working staff, full of ideas in keeping with the demands of today's Education system.

The school was officially opened on Tuesday 17 January 1933 with the admission of 49 children. Today the school can admit up to 240 pupils.

We believe the Catholicity of the school permeates all we do with the children. On entering the school a visitor should be able to feel the caring nature both through staff and the children. Above all, St Joseph's as a school recognises that the message of Christ, through the Gospels and the Church, is the foundation of the educational experience for all those attending.

The Head Teacher is Mrs Williams and the contact no. for the school is 01492 53239.

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EXPOSITION, ROSARY AND QUIET PRAYER

Saturday 11-00am to 12-00noon

SATURDAY CONFESSIONS

11-00am to 11-30am

5-00pm to 5-30pm

SATURDAY MASS

5-30pm

SUNDAY MASSES

9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m.

Monday 12.00 noon Mass

Tuesday 7-30pm Mass

Wednesday and Thursday 9-30am Mass

Friday 24th December

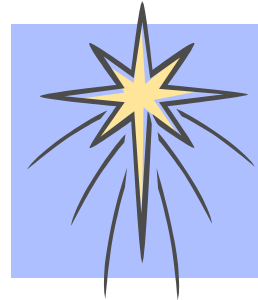
Confessions

5-00pm till 6-00pm

11-00pm till Midnight

6-00pm Children's Mass

Midnight Mass



Christmas Day

9-30am Mass

11-00am Mass

Sunday 26th December

9-30am Mass

11-00am Mass

Monday 27th December

- 31st December

No services

1st January 2011

Normal services resume

**May the peace and Joy of Christ be with you
this Christmas**

Produced by the Parish Pastoral Council & the
Communications Group