



Annual Report of PPC 2014-2015

The Parish Pastoral Council has met 5 times since our last Annual Report to the parish. At those meetings it sought to co-ordinate and to encourage the pastoral activities of the parish. The Parish celebrates and rejoices in the wonderful work of all the parish groups. We give thanks for all the people who get involved and make our Parish a vibrant, welcoming and active community working to bring about God's Kingdom here on earth and in particular in Olton Friary. We are conscious that as a community following the work and example of Our Lord Jesus Christ; we are witnesses locally in Olton and our witness should always be one of joy, enthusiasm, kindness and openness.

This final year the Parish Pastoral Council has been given fresh impetus by Pope Francis's Encyclical "The Joy of the Gospel". In it the Pope pays particular attention to the importance of the Parish, meaning a community not a building, in the work of evangelisation. He reminds us that the Church must not be about customs. Ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures must be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for the Church's self-preservation.

I would like to share our list our accomplishments, while being humbly aware of our limitations. With God as our shepherd, may we all grow in His love each day! These are the main highlights where the Parish Pastoral council made attempts to inspire the mission of the church here in our Parish. They are;

1. Multicultural event: an Evening of Music and Food on 26th April 2014 organised by Parish Social Sub Committee. It was a successful event and have decided to hold this event again in 2015.
2. Memorial Day: 12th June 2014, a day remembering our departed souls was held in our Friary cemetery, an open air Mass and blessings of graves was observed. The general consensus was that this was another successful event which should be repeated next year with a suggested date of 11th July 2015.
3. Parish Open Day on 13th of July: This day was primarily focused on sharing the mission that our parish groups carry out daily to support and enhance our parish life here at Olton. It also provided an ample opportunity to welcome new members to our parish groups. After each Mass on this Sunday all of the congregation were invited to the hall to see the displays of each parish group. Once again it was considered to be a successful event in which the PPC made a real effort to celebrate richness of our parish groups.

4. "Can you help us" and "Upcoming Events" board in the Narthex.
5. A Welcome Pack: A general information leaflet about our parish and the times of services and contact information about parish office. It is solely intended for newcomers and guests to the Church and it is available in the Narthex.
6. New Parish Website: A page specifically dedicated to PPC and each parish group is up and running.
7. The Renewal Group of the Friary Parish organised an evening with David Payne from Café on 16th April 2015. It was a successful event.
8. Parish Summer Fayre and Christmas Fayre held here in the Friary grounds and in OLC School has always been a successful event and raised funds for the parish and for the school.

Planned forthcoming parish events:

1. A multicultural evening with music and food on 25th of April 2015.
2. This year we invited a speaker, Mary Scott from SVP to give a talk at the Annual Open PPC meeting on 17th of April.

Pastoral Statistics 2014

Baptisms:	60
Receptions:	05
First Communion:	38
Confirmations:	42
Marriages:	24
Deaths:	15
Mass attendance:	507 (Based on Sunday mass attendance in October 2014)

Thanks to all members of the parish council for their contributions. Thanks most of all to the people of the parish for their support in making this a happy and special place with a rich and faithful past, a committed and active present and with an enthusiastic and hopeful future.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Wilfred Pereppadan SCJ (Parish Priest)