

Update from Cluster Parishes Together



St John's,
St Mary Magdalene's,
St Mary's Star of the Sea Leith
St Ninian's and
St Teresa's

Cluster Corner – Parish newsletters May 2018

'If two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, He will be there'

Welcome to this short summary of joint activities from our Cluster Parishes of St Mary Magdalene's, St Ninian's, St Mary's Star of the Sea Leith, St John the Evangelist and St Teresa's. During the last two years our congregations have journeyed together in faith and in getting to know one another. The Cluster planning group continue to meet regularly to continue strengthening relationships, in addition to sharing information and expertise across the Cluster.

The Cluster Parishes continue to work together both spiritually and socially and some highlights from the past three months are outlined below:-

The Battlefields Experience, April 2018

Twenty-nine parishioners and friends from the east of Edinburgh cluster of parishes comprising St John's, St Mary Magdalene's, St Ninian's, St Teresa's and St Mary's Star of the Sea Leith have just returned from a five day pilgrimage to the battlefields of World War 1 in Belgium and France. The participants found it very moving to visit the scenes of carnage around Ypres and the Somme. They walked in the footsteps of the soldiers in the trenches at Sanctuary Wood, and Newfoundland Park, laid poppies at soldier's graves and attended the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres. Visiting relatives' graves was particularly poignant and it was possible to reunite three families with their grandfathers and three others with their great-uncles. The pilgrimage culminated with the celebration of Mass by Fr Jock Dalrymple at New Irish Farm cemetery near where his great uncle had been killed in 1915.

It was five days of emotional experiences as we visited the largest British and German cemeteries and memorials in the world, but the group felt that with dignity and respect - *We Did Remember Them*.

A number of the participants have also expressed interest in a possible future visit to the D Day Normandy beaches. Parish Councils may wish to explore the possibility with their parishioners.

Youth Groups

Talks are being planned between St Ninian's and St John's/St Mary Magdalene's with a view to sharing resources and working together within the cluster to provide an opportunity for the youth in their parishes to meet and join in social and spiritual programmes. Watch this space?

Dates for your diary in the weeks ahead

CLUSTER PICNIC at Nunraw Sunday 27th May 2018. A bring and share picnic at Nunraw Abbey, Coach travel cost £5 for adults and £2 for children.

FIGHT THE FAMINE - A CHARITY MUSICAL CONCERT – 7pm on Friday 15th June in St John's Church Portobello – with Fr Elephtherios, the Russian Choir, and the St John's and St Mary's Star of the Sea Leith Primary School Choirs.

The Greek Orthodox Priest and Classical Pianist, Father Elephtherios will be back for another Piano and Choir Concert performing this time with the St John's and St Mary's, Leith, Primary School Choirs plus the Russian Choir. This concert is free but there will be an opportunity to donate on the night to the Yemen Relief Fund - The United Nations Refugee Agency is appealing for emergency funds to help tackle this major humanitarian catastrophe. There will be free refreshments and nibbles during the interval.

And in planning phase....

- Leadership event for Parish Pastoral Council representatives from all 5 Parishes - 1st-2nd June hosted by St Mary's Star of the Sea Leith
- Harvest Social event in October,
- Possible Remembrance event in November (at St Ninian's)
- Advent Retreat (hosted by a Cluster church)

Other ongoing activities

- May Processions: The Missionaries of Charity's annual procession takes place on Saturday, 26th May, starting at Missionaries [Sisters] of Charity, 18 Hopetoun Crescent, Edinburgh at 2.30pm and making its way to the Cathedral.
- St Mary's Star of the Sea Leith have their Mary Procession on Sunday 27th at 10am, beginning at Giant's Brae on Leith Links, all welcome.
- Mass for Loss: Friday, 8th June at 7pm Mass on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart to reflect and stay with the losses we are living with in our lives, all welcome to join us.
- Taize Prayer, Tuesday 12th June at 7pm, St Mary's Star of the Sea Leith, all welcome

If you would like to know more or contribute in any way, then contact Laura Tweedie or Jennifer Morris.