



Almighty God and Father,

We praise and thank You for all that is being accomplished, by Your grace, in the *Walking Humbly* process through conversation and connections in our Pastoral Areas.

As we lay before You all our hopes and plans, may Your Holy Spirit, guide and direct us.

By the power of Your Spirit, may we grow into truly thriving Catholic communities, confidently and humbly proclaiming the Good News of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

This we ask through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.



LOCAL PASTORAL AREA  
**BULLETIN No. 3** July 2012  
[www.northamptonswpa.btck.co.uk](http://www.northamptonswpa.btck.co.uk)

**NORTHAMPTON SOUTH & WEST PASTORAL AREA**

*The Catholic churches and schools of south and west Northampton, Aston-le-Walls, Daventry and Towcester*

### ***A Brief Resume and an Update***

Four years have passed since Bishop Peter delivered his vision statement to the Diocese: 'To Act Justly, to Love Tenderly and to Walk Humbly with our God'. At this time, he also spoke of the three Cs, Confidence, Conversation and Connection; and three streams of effort and energy for the Diocese.

The first stream focused on revitalising our programme of ongoing formation for Diocesan Clergy; the second has begun to work on a more coordinated response to the needs of lay formation and training across the Diocese; and the third has involved practical and strategic pastoral planning. An image of a Thriving Catholic Community was created and Pastoral Areas were developed to help make it a reality.

A Steering Group was formed in each Pastoral Area whose first task was to develop a Groundplan. Northampton South and West presented their Groundplan to Bishop Peter in May 2010. This is available on [www.northamptonswpa.btck.co.uk](http://www.northamptonswpa.btck.co.uk). The Bishop meets each Pastoral Area annually. During his visit to us in October 2010, he advised that we should be looking more closely at how we would manage with three fewer priests across the area. This was our focus for much of 2011 and we sort the views of our parishes in the last newsletter. A report on the outcomes is featured below.

The parishes have continued to work in groups. Towcester and Hunsbury held a very successful Mission last November, run by the Sion Community. Daventry ran their own Mission in October which was well attended and included involvement from parishioners in Aston-le-Walls. Fr Mark Floody was welcomed to the Cathedral last September as Canon John Udris was appointed to Oscott College as their Spiritual Director. The Cathedral continues to work closely with Duston and Kingsthorpe Parishes, especially during Mgr Tony McDermott's sabbatical last autumn.

Fr Brendan Killeen has succeeded Canon John Udris as Dean of our Pastoral Area. Fr Benny Joseph has recently returned to the Cathedral fully recovered after his long illness.



*Fr Mark Floody*



*Fr Brendan Killeen*



### **Annual Pastoral Area Picnic**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012 12.30pm - 2pm**

Beginning at 3.30pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

In the gardens of **The Presbytery, The Sacred Heart & Our Lady Church, Main Street, Aston-le-Walls, Daventry, NN11 6UF**

*Bring along some food (and drink) and join in the fun! Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be provided.*

*(Follow the A361 from Daventry)*



### **Bishop Peter will Ordain Rev Michael Patey to the Priesthood**

**on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012 12noon**  
**at The Cathedral Church of Our Lady Immaculate and St Thomas of Canterbury Northampton NN2 6AG**

***Everyone in our Pastoral Area is warmly invited to Michael's Ordination***

## ***Outcomes of the Deliberations Concerning a Reduction in the Number Priests***

Having reflected on the Bishop's proposal that the Pastoral Area might have to function with fewer priests, it was felt that more work needed to be done in the pairings of parishes to reduce the numbers of Masses celebrated over the weekend. The Cathedral, St Patrick's and St Aidan's would need to see how greater synchronisation of their Mass times might be achieved. Daventry and Aston-le-Walls would need to close at least two Mass centres.



*Members of the Pastoral Area Council at a recent meeting*



## ***Our Faith—Understanding, Celebrating and Living it with Hope***

As part of our continuing efforts to support the Bishop, a questionnaire was circulated to all parishioners in early June. Its purpose is to assist our understanding of how your Sunday obligation is fulfilled and in what way you value and achieve a sense of belonging to the parishes within the Pastoral Area. We are particularly interested in those of you who have been affected by church closure or alterations to Mass times and availability during the last twenty five years.

It is hoped that everyone will freely take part by completing the questionnaire and that some of you will elect to take part in further exploration in the autumn. The research is being carried out by three members of the Pastoral Area under the guidance of Fr Brendan Killeen in conjunction with a small team involved with Action Research - Church & Society (ARCS) at Heythrop College, University of London.

## ***Year of Faith***

Pope Benedict has called a special year of Faith, starting in October, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. A number of initiatives are already planned such as a series of public lectures, possibly held at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre in Luton, given by well known speakers on the key documents of Vatican II. Bishop Peter is giving consideration to using his next visit of pastoral areas as an opportunity to give an address on the Second Vatican Council and its ongoing importance in the life of the Church. Parishes are being encouraged to engage imaginatively with the anniversary. One parish has already thought about having 'in-house' reflections on the documents that had had the greatest impact on parish life.

