

Reports from parish organizations/activities Feb 2018

SVDP – Fran Good

As regards SVDP the Mass for the sick and elderly in Dec, it appeared to be enjoyed by attendees. Enforced use of church v Gillis reasonably successful although some people were cold (despite heating being put on early and turned up! Fr Kevin may have feedback re ease of distributing Communion and Sacrament of the sick). Parish room filled to capacity - especially given a number of wheelchairs and there were some difficulties re small size of kitchen (afternoon tea and cakes served post Mass) Overcome with care and patience!

Enquiries have been made by SVDP re alternative venues with good access, parking and hall size ie: Fairmilehead Church. Costs for hiring may be prohibitive.

SVDP Conference are interested in involving young church members. There is supportive material and ideas available from National Office (Mini Vinnie groups). Adult support to take this forward a necessity. We believe Fr Kevin and Scally are working towards welcoming and including the young more in Parish life. Maria Corretge will liaise with Fr Kevin to see if Mini Vinnies could be part of any initiative as opposed to competing for time and supervision.

Facebook – Trish Dolan

Perhaps on this occasion it'd be appropriate to give a wee initial report to the PPC, so that people can confirm they're happy with what I've been up to, and of course make suggestions for improvements :-)

1. My approach to content publication has been to link closely to what is in the weekly parish newsletter and on the parish website.
2. I also share content from the Archdiocese and neighbouring parishes, in particular Sacred Heart and St Columba's. Other key sources are interest groups with which the parish is associated in particular Eco-Congregation, SCIAF and Fresh Start.
3. I'm still trying to figure out what posts attract the most interest. It's often social events, but also posts with more spiritual content e.g. linked to a feast day, can attract interest.
4. My main concern has been around responsiveness to direct messages to the FB page: I only log in to FB a few times a week and I don't use the FB app on my phone. So I have now set up an instant response to all messages received: Thanks for messaging St Peter's. Our page and messages are monitored infrequently.

For more information about our parish and contact details please go to our website at <http://www.stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk/>.

But overall I've been having fun learning the ropes, and I hope it is helpful in some way!

Children's Liturgy Report - Joyce Cullen

- The CL team is now up to strength with 10 active volunteers and a new recruit who is in the process of having the PVG and Archdiocesan checks completed.
- The numbers regularly attending CL continue to be encouraging, with between 20 and 30 children each week.
- Some of the team had a very useful discussion with Fr Kevin last term, explaining our usual routine on a Sunday and gathering some new ideas from him for presenting the Gospel message in an age appropriate way, given the very young age group.
- The children enjoyed taking part at the Christ the King Family Mass, donating toys for less privileged children at the beginning of Advent, and performing their traditional "nativity" carol in appropriate costume, at Mass on Christmas morning.

Safeguarding Report – Joyce Cullen

- The Parish continues to have a very healthy number of volunteers, through all the ministries. We have had a number of new volunteers completing or updating their PVG registrations as well as some retirees.
- The annual audit report for St Peter's has been completed for 2017 and submitted in time for the 17 February 2018 deadline (brought forward this year to allow the Independent Review Group chaired by Baroness Helen Liddle to review and comment on the submissions). Each year, following the review, two of the dioceses will be selected for a more in-depth review by the Review Group, before publication of its annual report on the Church's safeguarding arrangements.
- Training sessions for volunteers are offered from time to time at other parishes and all new volunteers must agree to undertake training before they begin, with existing volunteers being required to undergo updates on a regular basis. We are being encouraged by Gillis to organise another update session at St Peter's this year, since we have so many volunteers (following the update session which we had at St Peter's in May 2017). The next update sessions available for volunteers are as follows;
 1. Saturday 10 February 2018 2pm (Duration approx 2 hours)
Venue: St. Mary's Cathedral Hall, Broughton Street, Edin. EH1 3JR
Trainer: Deacon Peter Traynor

2. Tuesday 20 February 2018 7pm (Duration approx 2 hours)
Venue: St. Mary's Cathedral Hall, Broughton Street, Edin. EH1 3JR
Trainer: Deacon Peter Traynor

Outreach Group – Norma Daniels-Emm

It has been a busy time for the Outreach Group

During Nov:

We sold Christmas Cards in aid SCIAF.

Ask parishioners to sign a petition requesting that the Scottish Government lift children out of poverty by increasing child benefit by £5 per week per child
Shared an Alternativity lunch with parishioners as preparation for Advent.

We also put a box at the back of the church to collect used stamps in aid of the Kiltegan Fathers at the request of John Riederer from St. Columbia's.

In January:

We marked World Day of Migrants and Refugees by having the Bidding Prayers read in Welsh, Polish, Spanish and Luganda a Bantu language of Uganda. The offertory procession was taken up by one of our Italian families.

We also marked Homelessness Sunday by Pat Cairns giving a brief talk on the work of FreshStart at the end of Sunday Mass which was followed by short accounts of how two of their clients have benefited from FreshStart. There was also a collection of groceries for the homeless.

Liturgy Links/Liaison Group – Reporter Ian Stewart

Since our last meeting, the main focus of the Group has been on the possibility of a 2nd Sunday Mass in the parish and the organisation of a survey/questionnaire to obtain parishioners' views on this matter.

This has been done at 2 Sunday Masses and the full results from the questionnaire will be available for the Parish Priest and PPC at the February meeting.

The Group also applauds the recruitment of additional Altar Servers; the numbers now are very impressive.

