

THE VISION FOR OUR PARISH

**“To be with Christ, to deepen our relationship with Him,
to be sent by Him to relieve the suffering of the world”**

INTRODUCING YOUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Over the course of the last few months, your Senior Leadership Team has been envisaging the future of what we can do as a community together. There are a number of different areas of focus. Each member of the team is responsible for building plans, working with you, ensuring that we're serving everyone within our community and beyond. In the next few weeks, each member of the team will introduce themselves to you at each Mass, offering insights and asking for you to get involved!



Fr. Danny McAvoy - Parish Priest

The Rite of Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood makes it clear that ordination is a step down into service. A Parish Priest has the added delight of being a leader. A kind of holy juggler! In my experience, I can only be faithful to both when I create the right spaces for others to celebrate the gifts that God has given them, and then support them to be confident leaders in the community. Finally, your priest is also a powerful focal point for unity both inside and outside the boundaries of the parish. This is why I am delighted to be at the forefront of a new pull to work closely with people of other traditions, faiths and people of goodwill. Please come and join us in this exciting adventure. Perhaps the urgency for a new vision and a new faithfulness in the hearts of disciples of Jesus, is greater now than it has ever been.



Mary McNab - Director of Evangelisation

Often, the word 'evangelisation' causes alarm bells to ring in our heads! It can sometimes be perceived as imposing one's own beliefs upon others, being pushy, judgemental or intrusive. Evangelisation is indeed bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation, but for me, it has to be in a way that bears witness to the Gospel values of love, gentleness, patience, mercy and reconciliation. I am passionate about parish renewal and reconnecting with our identity as a missionary church, working together to create space in our church and in our hearts for people to come to know Jesus; a parish that is known as welcoming, a community of authentic love and service where people feel they belong, are accepted and valued.



Bernadette Fisher - Director of Justice and Peace

The vision of my team is to offer sanctuary, support and pathways to help alleviate the suffering of anyone in need, linking in with organisations and initiatives already in place, as well as developing new ideas and solutions. The scope is broad and aims to include areas such as lack of education, homelessness, addiction, mental health problems, modern day slavery, prejudice, unemployment, poor pay and poverty generally. We also wish to reach out and support those who feel invisible, both within and outside our parish community, offering support and the opportunity for those who feel lonely or isolated to come together to pray and meet new friends.



Paula Read - Director of Catechesis

Catechesis is a life-long process of initial conversion, formation, education, and on-going conversion. My goal is to bring people to a full and loving relationship with God through the Sacramental Journeys, by listening to each person's story, and meeting them where they are. I hope that soon we have many people to act as mentors and to walk with those who are preparing for the Sacraments. We are a community of faith and through catechesis we can all develop and mature in our spiritual lives and be fruitful.



Emmy Bieniek - Director of Contemplative Life

What is the Contemplative way? Briefly, it's a path of silent prayer, biblical study and meditation which allows us to open our hearts and minds to God, to "rest in God" as St Gregory described in the 6th century. I moved to Bracknell in November 2015 after a lifetime of travelling the world, and became a member of St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow parish. Being welcomed so warmly and invited to hold hands at Love's Table, I knew I'd found a spiritual home. My goal is to spread understanding and practice of the Contemplative way, to encourage others along this path, and to offer resources so we all can connect to "the knowledge of God that is impregnated with love (St Gregory)".



Claudia Wing - Chair of Senior Leadership Team

My role is to facilitate and guide the meetings we hold as a Senior Leadership Team, keeping us on track to deliver the short-term priorities we have set ourselves, and at the same time keeping an eye towards planning for the longer-term ambitions. I will also be working collaboratively with the rest of the team, and lending my support where it is needed. I pray that our community will be inspired to join this journey, coming forth with their valued ideas and feedback, and volunteering their unique talents and service to help us realise our parish mission.



Maura Holt - Director of Pastoral Care

Jesus calls us to care for and to be “present” to others. Pastoral Care is about reaching out and walking alongside those in our midst who are sick, bereaved, lonely or in need and offering our love, support and practical help. My vision is of a parish where everyone is known and loved, where we are each willing to share our gifts, talents and charisms for the benefit of others, where we see God's love expressed in quality relationships and, through pastoral care, restoring individual lives. I would love to see parish community hubs in every neighbourhood in Bracknell where people help and support each other practically and spiritually and reach out beyond to the wider community.



Clive Elkington - Director of Pastoral Care (Disabilities)

My particular area of focus is to support people living with disabilities, their carers and their families. I am committed to helping people with any special needs to access our Parish and to help them to fill out forms and ensure they are looked after by the parish community in the best possible way.



Sarah Birch - Director for Youth

I would like our Parish to be a place where young people feel welcome and excited to be part of our community. Somewhere where they feel fully supported in their faith journey, encountering God's grace and coming to know Him on a personal level but always at their own pace and with no expectation or pressure.



Mike Watson - Director of Communications

I'm focused on improving the way we communicate with each other as a community, how we support our evangelisation work across the area, and how we can engage with the rest of the world! My vision is to ensure we're inclusive and accessible, enabling all of us to participate fully in parish life, as easily as possible. I'm keen to review and improve how we communicate via our newsletter, website, social media and in person. I'm also passionate about looking at new ways to communicate - we live in an increasingly “digital” world, and, where appropriate, we should make use of technology to enhance our Sunday experience, and our ability to share the Good News!



Ed Carroll - Director of Social Activities

The two most important lessons I have learnt is that people need to feel valued and be supported. If we are to develop a true community in our parish, we need to take these values on board. We need to get to know each other better. I feel strongly that social events and gatherings are so important. But, we cannot achieve this without your support and participation.



Liz Fisher - Director of Administration / Parish Secretary

My overall vision is to make our beautiful church a very safe environment for everyone at all times, warm, welcoming and comfortable, peaceful for those needing peace, informative for those needing help or care, where the Holy Spirit will enter all who enter here and they will feel the power of the Holy Spirit around them. The joyful experience of our vibrant Masses to resonate long after Mass has ended. I often come into the church when Mass is over and everyone has left, the church is warm, the many lit candles have their own incense-type smell and I can feel the vibration in the air of all the prayers - silently said and aloud - the singing, the music and I sit and absorb all this beauty. You just know the Holy Spirit is here.



Ozohu Adoh - Director for Schools

We are truly blessed to have two catholic schools within our parish. Not only do they provide rigorous academic formation for our children, they are also a means of spiritual formation which is crucial for the future of the church. My team's vision is to create a collaborative and supportive relationship between the Parish and our schools to ensure that with the outstanding academic formation our children receive, they also receive a firm and lasting formation in our catholic faith. We want to ensure an education of confident, well-rounded Christians who will do much good in the church and in society.



John Weeks - Director of Music

Music, of course, has such an important place in worship in our parish and, indeed, throughout the whole of the Christian church. In our parish today, I sense and feel that we should keep much that we are already using in our music, but with an eye constantly open for new material. We have a large congregation and I would like to encourage you to come forward to support the choir and other music groups. I am sure with prayer and effort we can rival anything suggested in Psalm 150!

WOULD YOU HELP?

We have such bold ambitions for everything we do as a community, and there are many different opportunities for you to be involved. Do you have a talent or passion for any of our focus areas? Could you spare some time to work as part of a small team to really make an impact across our parish community and beyond? Should you realise Father Danny's call of "many hands make light work"?

COME AND SAY HELLO!

Each team member will wear a parish lanyard, and be available before and after Saturday evening/Sunday Mass. Alternatively contact the parish office 01344 425729 or email stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk We're really keen to work with you so that together we can make our parish the best that it can be!