

ARCHDIOCESE OF GLASGOW Southern Deanery Newsletter No. 5 - Summer 2025

GENERAL

The Southern Deanery continues to work towards the greater goals of evangelisation for Church members, and the evangelisation of all God's people. This is a plea to reach out to encourage and enable the Church in its sacred and profound mission in forming an active community of care and refuge for all.

In these troubled times in our world this care would take various forms. This is not just a care for "the needy" – although they may be a primary concern. We are trying to urge everyone to be a person of kindness and care. Everyone, yes everyone, is carrying some worry or concern. We would not be human if we did not have any cares. It is finding a person, or group or place where these worries can be allayed. That is part of evangelisation.

The basic structure within the Deanery is the parish. With changing demography and numbers attending services in parishes the Deanery has set up 5 Pastoral areas. These are clusters of adjacent parishes that could come together to coordinate, share and plan activities within and across the parishes. The Deanery Council wishes to encourage more active engagement of the Pastoral areas in support of the work of parishes.

There is no doubt that the resources available in each parish are considerable, and the active coordination will enhance the capacity of the Church in its mission.

YOUR PASTORAL AREAS

- 1 St Helen's, Blessed Duns Scotus, Holy Cross, St Brigid's
- 2 Christ the King, St Bartholomew's, St Margaret Mary's
- 3 Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady and St George's, St Constantine's, St Albert's St Leo's, St Anthony's
- 4 St Mary Immaculate, St Gabriel's, St Vincent's, Holy Name
- 5 St James's, St Conval's, St Robert's, St Bernard's, Mill Hill

PARISH DEVELOPMENTS

There has been a number of developments in the Southern Deanery over the past months, and a number of developments are planned for the coming months.

Among the changes taking place in parishes are several mergers and amalgamations of parish councils. This is taking place following some of the suggestions from the Archdiocese when considering the relative viability of parishes. Much of this is occurring through a natural process of change and not by any decisions taken beyond the parishes. This is a healthy environment of change for the Church, and we are immensely grateful to priests and parishioners for continuing to work in this way.

The areas which are notably work like this include Castlemilk (St Bartholomew's and St Margaret Mary's parishes); Pollock (St James's, and St Conval's and St Robert's and St Bernard's parishes); Govan (St Constantine's and St Anthony's parishes), Mansfield/Pollokshaws (Holy Name and St Mary Immaculate parishes); Pollokshields (St Albert's and St Helen's parishes).

A Guidelines for Parish Mergers Paper has been presented and discussed within the deanery councils and parishes. The paper outlines best practice when moving towards the mergers of parishes. It covers areas such as Pastoral, Administrative and Financial.

EVANGELISATION

The Evangelisation committee continues to meet on a regular basis. It provides encouraging updates on some parish-based faith-sharing initiatives. One of the key highlights was the increasing use of small group gatherings where parishioners come together to share and deepen their faith. These are not dissimilar to the faith sharing groups during the era of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan.

It was suggested that the committee would look at people who were distant from the church, young people, people who had left the Church perhaps after COVID, and those who were on the margins; etc. It was noted that evangelization was not just about bringing people back to Mass but that there was a much wider consideration and an emphasis should be placed on practical activities rather than teaching dogma.

The group also spoke highly of the Sycamore programme, describing it as a valuable pastoral tool with excellent material that can help revitalise parish life. A parish recently ran the introductory Sycamore course and reported very positive feedback, indicating strong interest and engagement from participants. It was run at three different times in the day to accommodate people.

Alpha Youth is also a positive programme for Evangelisation within parishes. It is considered an important part of evangelisation that we look at how we promote RCIA and evangelisation beyond the internal structures of parishes and into the wider community. Projects such as Sycamore and Alpha can be utilised for RCIA and parish faith development.

Another initiative that some parishes are keen to explore is Divine Renovation. This is a programme of coaching and tools to help your church escape maintenance mode, reclaim its purpose, and get back on track for mission

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

There are a number of activities planned for the remainder of the year. It is expected that the Deanery will put in place a series of “Advent Reflections.” These will be worked on over the coming weeks and an early indication will be given to parishes. We are also planning a Deanery Mass and social gathering later in the year. We hope you all have a good and restful summer.

ST CONVAL’S SYRO-MALABAR Feast Day of St Alphonsa: Holy Qurbana Mass and procession 1pm then gathering in hall, Sunday 10th August. All welcome.

AGAP: PILGRIM OF HOPE. A comedy about one man's search for hope. Friday 15th August 2025 at 19.30. Blessed John Duns Scotus, 270 Ballater Street, Gorbals, Glasgow G5 0YT

RADIO ALBA: Morning Hour Prayers at 7.00: repeated hourly until 12.00. Lunchtime hour 12.00/1.00/ - 6.00/7.00: 12.15/1.15/ - 6.15/7.15: The office of readings. 12.30/1.30/6.30/7.30: 2.00 - 5.-00: music hours. Evening Hour vespers at 8.00 - repeated at 9.00 and 10.00

OUR LADY AND ST GEORGE’S: We are concluding our yearly celebration with the creation of a Memory Box and are looking for short stories of events – Baptisms to Marriages or other family events spanning the 75years of the parish. If you have one send to us to be included in our history.