



Palmer Partnership News—November 2019

As you will be aware the Stewards of the Gospel and Parish Priests have been meeting for some time now to formulate a proposal which will enable the Parishes of St Bede, St Cedd St John the Baptist SS Peter and Paul and St Teresa to continue to serve their local communities. This will be against the challenge of an expected reduction in the number Priests along with significant changes to the local Catholic Community. We have been asked by the Diocese to plan for a time when there will be a total of four priests serving the existing five parishes. Our proposal will be submitted to Bishop Alan by the first Sunday of Advent (December 2019). The changes proposed will not happen instantly, but we are already working more closely together. The work and discussions continue as we all try to work together in the best interests of developing our Church and the important work of Evangelisation

Our proposals can be summarised as follows:-

St John the Baptist. So long as the Syro-Malankara community can continue to serve this parish then there will be little change. However, it is recognised that there are some issues concerning the future works required to keep the church fabric intact which will need significant spend. We hope that this will be enabled so as to give the church buildings a further, albeit limited lease of life. It is intended that in the future and when the time is right, that the parish will be served by the Parish of SS Peter and Paul.

SS Peter and Paul. Due to the size of community, location and existing site it is proposed that this Parish continues as a single Parish served by one priest. In the future is anticipated that the neighbouring Parish of St John the Baptist will become linked directly with SS Peter and Pauls.

St Teresa's and St Cedd's. It is proposed that these two parishes eventually become formally merged and served by the two Missionaries of La Salette Priests resident at St Cedd's. It is anticipated that the Mass schedules will continue as present, allowing for some changes during the summer months.

St Bede's. This Parish would continue to be served as a single Parish with one priest resident with little or no changes to the existing schedule. There is an alternative proposal which could mean that St Teresa's would be served

by St Bede's. The viability of this alternative continues to be evaluated as this will mean changes to the existing mass schedules in both parishes.

Mass times in the Palmer Partnership.

Some Mass times have already been changed during the Summer. We will continue to look at these on a 'partnership wide' basis. We will also take into consideration the relative ease of transport etc. to ensure that everyone is able to attend Mass at another parish if required and with minimal disruption.

Other Partnership Initiatives. We recognise that as a group we are able collectively to provide funding and support for those issues close to the heart of the local Catholic Community.

Project Malachi. This project, based in Central Ilford, aims to give support to local homeless people. It consists of a number of units in Clements Road which will provide shelter and support for individuals. Our Partnership has pledged to support at least one of these units at a cost of £5k per year for the next five years.

Ilford Citizens. Following Diocesan and Local membership of London Citizens we have pledged, collectively, to become part of Ilford Citizens. This will enable us to have a voice in the way that the proposed Regeneration of Ilford Centre will be carried out.

Youth Worker. Our Partnership recognises the importance of our young people. We hope to start the process to develop this role in the New year. Again, working together we hope to be in a position to employ someone in the future for this important area of Ministry.

Please keep the work of the Partnership in your prayers

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