

Activity at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, Huddersfield

This is activity organised or planned, within the Growing Old Grace-fully framework, and from other related ministries, together with a couple of developing initiatives for 2024.

The parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Huddersfield is centred around our two churches, English Martyrs' in Dalton and St Joseph's in Aspley.

As a background, each parishioner, is encouraged, to complete a parish registration form which when completed, allows Fr. John Carlisle, Deacon James Aitchison and a few parish leaders to process information where the parishioner has given permission.

Befriending at IHoM with the Growing Old Grace-fully Home Service.

In 2022, with Fr. John's approval, we ran a pilot scheme to get in touch with housebound elderly (anyone born in 1930's) who may benefit from a regular well-being telephone call. Following a recent parish appeal, we are now ready to launch the scheme with 2 respondents and myself, making up the team. The plan is to offer information about parish events, dates of Masses for the sick, offers of lifts with SVP support for those who otherwise would not be able to attend, the provision of a soup lunch & cake lunch and a chance to meet other's after the service. Offers of prayers, together with a regular well-being chat will take place with the aim of understanding through ongoing friendship, relating to a person's needs, that the parish maybe unaware of and with which if shared, the parish maybe able to offer assistance.

The calls will initially be made from the sacristy so recipients can be assured of their authenticity, however, once a relationship has been established, the caller may use their home phone to make the contacts, the work load will be fairly distributed between the 3 of us.

Silver Sunday October 2022/ hopefully again in 2024?



This successful event was last held in 2022 at both St. Joseph's and English Martyrs Churches led by Deacon James Aitchison and was well attended.

It is my hope that once Pentecost is over, Fr. John will agree to offering it again around the October 2024 launch day, enabling Deacon James and to begin gathering information and material to provide for this year's event.

The parish has also celebrated various relevant feasts days and national dates i.e. grandparent's day, and issued Saints Anne and Jochaim prayer cards. We ask St. Josephs School SVP Mini Vinnies, to produce handmade Christmas cards for distribution at the Autumn/Winter Masses for the sick and through home visits from SVP members.

Elizabeth Prout Bereavement Care

Since 2023, a colleague and I have provided a monthly drop-in group to support the bereaved through the diocese approved, Elizabeth Prout care. We have received training to stage 1 & 2 online at the Briery Retreat centre at Ilkley. Father John has requested that in addition, before the November deadline list 2024, we get in touch with the families of those who passed away since last year to invite them to attend the annual remembrance services of their loved ones in Church.

SVP Conference at IHoM

A well established SVP group supports many IHoM parishioners through weekly visits, shopping, providing company etc. We hold monthly meetings at English Martyrs Church to pray, share best practice and review standards to ensure compliance to National guidelines are maintained.

Thursday Group at English Martyrs - Catholic Care

A representative from Catholic Care hosts these weekly sessions which run from 11.30am to 1.00pm in term time for older parishioners including lunch and an activity. Usually 8-10 parishioners attend.

Please feel free to get in touch if you need any further information or have any queries.

Thank you,

Mo Crossley

Parishioner and Growing Old Grace-fully Trustee