

## PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART, NORTH GOSFORTH

Notes of a Centenary Planning meeting held in the parish hall on Monday 9 November 2009

Some of the groups identified at our meeting in July have met and are making plans:

**Liturgy group** is working on devising a Mission Prayer for the Centenary, which may be reproduced on a laminated card possibly incorporating a picture of the church or the east window. The year will begin with Mass celebrated on Saturday 28 January using the current rite but with music more appropriate to 1912 – plainchant and traditional hymns. The area dean and deanery clergy will be invited. It may be that one of the schools might be interested in some research about Mass at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In Lent we might focus more on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; wishing to be sensitive to an ecumenical dimension where possible, ideas are for a cross (possibly designed and made in the parish) moving from church to church (Sacred Heart, the four local Anglican parishes, the Methodist and United Reformed churches), taking the light of our paschal candle from the Easter Vigil to the Anglican churches, a Lent study course. The Bishop will be the principal celebrant at Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart on 15 June; the area dean and clergy, and clergy of other denominations will be invited to this.

We would like to celebrate Married Life, but are aware of the possible hurt this could cause to those whose marriages have failed, and those who remain single. Marriage is only one of the Sacraments and we might also celebrate Baptism and Ordination. There will be Confirmation in July 2012; there will probably be two Masses specially for the sick and housebound, and the Service to remember those who have died will be reintroduced in November.

During the Autumn there will be a Parish Mission; preparation for this will probably start in Spring 2012. And the year will end with a special Mass on the evening of Sunday 30 December 2012 which will be followed by a parish party.

**Social Group** have received a number of suggestions of events people would like, and will welcome more. So far the young people have asked for a one-off Youth Mass, and those confirmed this year and in 2007 would like to have an outing; the 2010 confirmation candidates would be involved in this as well. The Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart will be followed by a parish barbecue. There may be a cheese and wine evening, a parish walk, Summer and Christmas fairs, a Quiz Night, a ceilidh, an Old Time Music Hall and a Dinner Dance. The hope is that there will be something happening each month, and that there will be something for everyone.

**History** Although no one from the history group was able to attend this meeting, we discussed how we might celebrate the clergy who have served this parish for the last hundred years. One idea is that we construct a memorial garden including a Celtic Cross on which the names and dates of the parish priests would be carved. We are looking into this, but there are cost implications and any proposals would require approval by the Diocesan Trustees and the Council.

**Charity** is being led by the Justice and Peace Group who are looking to select a theme with a clear identity, such as Homelessness, that we can focus on throughout the year.

**Publicity** In the New Year an appeal will be sent out via the local press and radio for anyone who has photographs and reminiscences of the parish to get in touch; there will be a designated e-mail address for this and a special Centenary page will be added to the parish website.

Shelagh Watson hopes to design and create new vestments to mark the Centenary, and would welcome offers of assistance from competent needlewomen (or –men!).

The general discussion generated some interesting points which have nothing particular to do with the Centenary celebrations:

- ❖ We need a larger board to display hymn numbers; perhaps we actually need two larger boards, one on each side of the sanctuary.
- ❖ The hymn books are very unevenly distributed amongst the pews and in the gallery at present; we would like some way of storing them at the back of church so that they could be handed to people on arrival together with the Bulletin.
- ❖ At some point in the not too distant future we will need new Missals, when the new translations are finally approved.
- ❖ The plaque commemorating those men from the parish who lost their lives in the Great War is now situated in the Blessed Sacrament chapel; it would be good to move this to the Day Chapel, possibly in time for Remembrance Sunday 2010.

The committees will continue to meet as necessary, and we hope to be able to publish dates and contact details for each in the Bulletin, so that anyone who would like to, can be involved or offer their suggestions.