

Mission imPossible

A Monthly Update on the preparations for the Parish Mission:

8th - 24th October 2024

Meet a Missionary: Gennaro Romano

Gennaro is a parish council member for OLAM. He regularly attends the 11.30 Mass on Sundays at OLAM if you want to talk to him about anything mentioned below or any other mission or parish-related matter.

1. *You have recently joined the Mission Working Party, why did you decide that it was important for you to do that?*

I joined to hopefully to understand more about the mission and what I can contribute to others.

2. *What do you hope to contribute to future discussions at Mission Working Party meetings?*

To put across my ideas to help further the parish.

3. *Judging by the numbers at Mass, can we say that the Mass is not important to a large number of those who "officially" are parishioners (because they have been baptised in the parish)?*

I would try to highlight to the people that don't go to mass that it is important to take the holy Eucharist to enrich their daily lives.

4. *What would you suggest we say to them to encourage them to come back to Church?*

Church is a welcoming place and to reflect your faith.

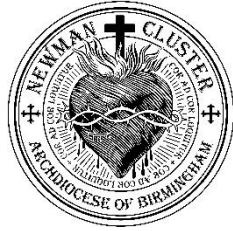
5. *How would you suggest that we try to reach them and attract them?*

To go tell family and friends that church is important part of our lives.

Mission imPossible is a monthly update sponsored by the Parish Mission Working Party. For more information please contact either Deacon Gary [dcn.gary.obrien@rcaob.org.uk] or Deacon Dominic [dcn.dominic.fahey@rcaob.org.uk] or the Sisters Minor of St Francis [smsfbirmingham@gmail.com].

News

- The Sion Community has confirmed that it will be running an extension of the Mission in Maryvale Primary School from **8th October to 11th October inclusive**.
- There will be a special service with a celebration of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick on **Monday 14th October**. Please consider whether you can offer a lift to members of the parish who would benefit from that sacrament but cannot so easily get to Church on their own. Please also give some thought as to who you could specifically invite to come.
- **Are you willing to be part of the back office team supporting this mission? If so please speak to any of the mission working party to offer your time and services.**



Letters to the Editors:

In last month's supplement we asked some challenging questions based on a document from the Vatican giving detailed advice on parish renewal. Thank you to those parishioners who read those questions and reflected on them. They got in touch to say that it might help everybody get to grips with the issues raised if the questions were rephrased as follows:

- How does Mass, weekly or daily, impact the lives we live?
- How does the liturgy of Mass nurture our daily living of faith as we are in family, relationships, communities?
- Where do we see moments of Heaven and grace in the daily tasks and reality of our lives?
- What can we do in our personal actions and devotions that would help us to live our lives in such ways that others feel engaged and encouraged to share in Mass, and other forms of spirituality?
- Where do we open ourselves to others in the right relationship so they feel encouraged to speak of their challenges?
- As we leave Mass, what are the actions and also challenges of taking the messages and joy of the Gospel to the workplace, to our homes, to our communities?
- How can we live in a positive and right relationship, in the joy of the gospel in our families, communities and workplaces?

The Editors were very grateful for this feedback. Please think and pray about this version of the questions and let us know your thoughts. Finding good answers to them is vital to the success of the Mission so the editors are really keen indeed to hear from you. Contact details are given below or you can talk to any member of the Parish Council about the points raised.

Cluster News

This weekend we begin to use the new Cluster logo. Our thanks go to Sister Miriam who designed it. It features the famous saying of St John Henry Newman: "*cor ad cor loquitur*" which means: "heart speaks to heart". At the centre of the logo is the Sacred Heart from which the flames of the Holy Spirit and the Cross of Christ emerge. The names of our respective parishes do not change. The logo portrays the essence of the Cluster's unity and mission.

There will be two general meetings of the Cluster. These will take place on **7th July 2024** at 4 pm in the St John's Centre and **22nd September 2024** also at 4 pm in the St John's Centre.

The agenda for the first meeting will mainly be:

- Redesign of our newsletters so that they give Cluster information effectively as well as parish news.
- Programme of Cluster Masses leading up to and including Midnight Mass at Christmas 2024.
- Debrief on the Parish Summit and implications for the Cluster.

The agenda for the second meeting will mainly be:

- Joint programmes
- Setting up a Cluster pastoral council
- Other opportunities to gather socially as a Cluster.

Deacon Gary – Cluster Clergy Coordinator

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