

A parish in the Care of the Salesians of Don Bosco – Northeast Hampshire Pastoral Area
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth - Registered Charity Number 1199568

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PARISH ANNUAL REPORT



2023 - 2024

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Introduction

Dear Parishioners,

I am happy to present the Annual Report from September 2023 to August 2024 for our parish of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Dominic Savio.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of our parish's activities, achievements, and financial health over the past year. It is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our parish community, the interim Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance committee, including parish staff - Dawn Barhan, parish administrator, Hana Harrison and the so many volunteers who give generously of their time, gifts and resources.

I took up the leadership of this parish on 4th September 2023, amidst some reluctance but in obedience to my religious superior, Fr. Gerry Briody, Salesian Provincial of the GBR Province. There was an urgent need of the province to cater to the pastoral needs of the Parish of OLSD due to Fr. Tony's ill health and it was a call for me to step out of my comfort zone. God often presents us with missions that challenge us, ensuring HIS WILL is done in the continuous work of building the DIVINE KINGDOM.

Firstly, I'm very grateful to my religious Salesian community of Farnborough, where I live and who take care of my every need. I get a lot of support from my community, led by my Rector, Fr Patrick Sherlock and whom I keep abreast of all my pastoral undertakings in the parish.

It was very clear that Fr. Tony Sultana SDB left a lasting impact on the parish community as its Parish Priest for 28 years, and stepping into his shoes will always come with its own set of challenges and expectations. Fr. Tony Sultana SDB made OLSD a vibrant community and I'm very grateful to him. Over time parishioners get accustomed to certain pastoral models and governance modes.

The Holy Spirit always renews, and change can be difficult in pastoral processes. It was also challenging for me to leave my Salesian parish and community in Battersea, London. Change can indeed be difficult, especially in a close-knit community, but your openness to the Holy Spirit's renewal and your gratitude towards me for taking up this pastoral task and supporting me in setting up structured pastoral processes have surely guided us through this transition.

Throughout the year, we have strived to live out our continuous mission of faith, service, and community. This report highlights the key events, initiatives, and programs that have helped us grow spiritually and support one another. From our liturgical celebrations and sacramental life to our outreach efforts and community-building activities, we have much to be grateful for.

We also present our financial statements, which reflect our commitment to open governance, transparency and responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. These statements provide insight into our income, expenditure, and financial position, ensuring that we remain accountable to our parishioners and benefactors.

As we look back on the past year, we are reminded of the many blessings we have received and the challenges we have overcome. We are grateful for the unwavering support of our parish community and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our endeavours.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. We hope it inspires you to continue participating in and supporting the life of our parish as we move forward together in faith and unity.

1. Parish Overview

1.1 Mission-Vision-Goal Statement

Right through the year of 2023-2024 we have been working on identifying our mission, vision and goal to align ourselves with the broader church-diocese-Salesian goals and we were able to launch our pastoral plan for the beginning of the year 2024-2025.

Our Mission

Our journeying together is to build on the pillars of Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation where we recognise the vital role of young people and create a privileged space for them and make the Laity indispensable partners in the mission of the parish.

Our Vision

To be a synodal parish church, where we walk and collaborate to create a more engaged, vibrant, inclusive parish community, reflecting the vision of Pope Francis, the mission of the Diocese of Portsmouth and the Salesian Spiritual Identity.

Our Goal

Collaborative Empowerment Ministry -This model proposes a leadership structure where the pastor empowers twelve volunteers to lead 12 parish ministries. Each minister then forms a team of six parishioners - as in the Gospel of 72 disciples being sent on a mission. These volunteers were chosen by the Pastor and have generously been giving of their time, talents, gifts, and resources for service of the mission in building the parish community. Emphasis is on shared decision-making through prayer, discussion, and discernment. Leaders empower their ministry teams.

Alignment with Broader Church Goals

- The plan aligns with Pope Francis' vision for synodality, encouraging laity to take more responsibility and work collaboratively with clergy.
- It also supports the Portsmouth Diocesan Plan "You Will Be My Witnesses," focusing on being a Christ-centred church, a missionary community, and prudent stewards.
- Additionally, it incorporates the Salesian Educative Pastoral Plan, emphasizing youth engagement.

1.2 Parish Demographics

To date, **242 households have registered - a total of 361 adults and 133 children**. Based on Mass count statistics, we believe that this represents about half of the parish. We will continue to encourage parishioners to register in order to gain an accurate picture of the parish.

242

households

361

contacts

133

children

494

people

2

avg. occupants

2. Worship and Sacraments

2.1 Worship

2.1.1 Mass Attendance

Averages **460** at the weekend masses and **30** at the weekday masses

2.1.2 Daily Mass

From Tuesday to Friday at 9.30am presided by Fr Anthony

- **Appropriate hymns:** Fr. Anthony selects hymns from Amazon Music that align with the day's readings, enriching the liturgical experience and helping parishioners connect more deeply with the themes of the Mass.
- **Daily reflections:** He prepares a short reflection on the readings each day, offering insights and spiritual guidance that many parishioners have found meaningful and inspiring.
- **Bidding prayers:** Fr. Anthony also prepares the bidding prayers for each Mass, ensuring they are relevant and reflective of the community's needs and intentions.

2.1.3 Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm and Sunday Masses 9.00am and 10.30am (Family – Sung Mass) presided by Fr Anthony.

The Liturgy & Worship team of the parish has been very active in ensuring that our weekend liturgies are well prepared and are meaningful, prayerful services for the parish.

- **Choir Leadership:** Martin Wood leads the parish choir, bringing over 20 years of dedicated service. The choir serves the parish by leading the congregation in sung worship. The choir sings at the 10.30am family mass on Sundays and at all important parish liturgical occasions eg Holy Week services.
- **Organist:** Johann Diaz, also with over 20 years of service to the parish, provides beautiful organ music that enhances the liturgical celebrations.
- **Reading Rota:** James Fitzpatrick-Ellis diligently prepares the reading rota for all three Masses, giving many parishioners the opportunity to proclaim the Word of God.
- **Service Coordination:** The team coordinates various roles, including the rotas for welcomers, readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and collectors, ensuring that each Mass runs smoothly and that everyone feels welcomed and involved.
- **Deacon Paul Evans:** The deacon serves at the Sunday morning masses. He preaches once a month at all the three weekend masses.
- **Penitential Rite & Bidding prayers:** Fr Anthony prepares the penitential rite and bidding prayers for the weekend masses.

2.1.4 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The parish has a wonderful team of dedicated Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC).

On Saturday 23rd March 2023 there was a Formation Morning in the church from 9.00am and 12.30pm conducted by Deacon Paul and Martin Wood.

The roles:

- **Ministers of the Table** - Assist the Priest and Deacon in giving out the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass (especially at weekend Mass but also on weekdays).
- **Ministers of Home Visiting** – Our ministers go out in pairs to visit the sick and housebound of the parish with Holy Communion, in their houses or in care homes. We have a list of people to visit which with a rota means they currently receive every fortnight, usually on a Thursday, but with more Ministers we could see more people. This is a pastoral role and a real lifeline for the people we visit.
- **Co-ordinator** – Mary Pole-Baker has taken up the coordination of the EMHC from Martin Wood.
- Fr. Anthony goes to visit the sick especially when anointing has been requested.

[Ministers of Holy Communion Formation Morning – OLSD](#)

Our EMHC were also commissioned and recommissioned during the Maundy Thursday 2024 Mass and Holy Communion was offered under both kinds (both bread and wine) for the first time since COVID

[Maundy Thursday – Washing of the Feet – OLSD](#)

2.1.5 Children's & Toddlers' Liturgy

The Parish successfully conducted Children's Liturgy led by Erica Huntley and Toddlers' Liturgy led by Rebecca Keating during the Sunday 10.30am Mass. A whole team of volunteers very generously gave of their time and gifts in organizing these liturgies for our young church.

2.1.6 Altar Servers

The parish has a current team of 27 Altar Servers, and we thank the youngsters for their dedication and service in contributing to the worship experience at OLSD and in helping Fr. Anthony at the Altar. The servers are regular in serving at the weekend masses.

The Altar servers are mentored by Deacon Paul and led by head Altar Server, Guillaume Thompson.

The Altar servers had three training sessions in the year during Advent, Lent and before the end of the pastoral year when we recruited new servers from those who received their First Holy Communion in June 2023.

<https://www.olsd.org.uk/2023/12/23/altar-servers-formation-christmas-party/>

2.1.7 Appointment of Ray Harden as Head Sacristan

Ray was already doing the service of taking care of the sacristy and helping Fr Anthony in many aspects of taking care of the Church. He was appointed head sacristan to oversee all the sacristy work along with the help of Hana Morrison, parish staff.

2.2 Sacraments 2023-2024

2.2.1 Baptisms - 45

Fr. Anthony conducted baptism courses twice a month for Infant Baptism and Children up to seven years of age through the year preparing parents for this beautiful sacrament of initiation. A total of **45 baptisms** were administered in the pastoral year of 2023-2024. However, 10 of these children were between the age of seven and 11. They had special multiple sessions in preparing for their Baptism and were enrolled for the First Holy Communion programme. Many of these children above the age of seven originated from Hong Kong.

2.2.2 First Holy Communion & First Reconciliation - 46

The first parents meeting took place on Tuesday 3rd October 2023, from 8.00 to 9.00pm in the Church. The programme for the children began on Tuesday 17th October 2023 4.45 – 6.15pm (Children Introduction) using the children's preparation book "**I Belong**". The programme was conducted through the year on every alternative Tuesday, comprising of 14 sessions and four parents' meetings conducted by Fr. Anthony. The programme included celebration Masses with the parish community.

Over two weekends in the month of June we celebrated the First Holy Communion of 46 of our young children.

- Sunday 9th June 2024, 12 noon – first group
- Sunday 16th June 2024, 12 noon – second group

On Sunday 30th June 2024 10:30am, the children had their Going Forth Mass.

An immense gratitude to Mary, the lead catechist, and the entire team of catechists, Vicky Ryan, Ann, Beth, Sharon, Michelle, Jasmine, Katy, Alyssa, Marcela, Manamalage, Debbie and to our young catechists, Daniel Alphonse, Deacon Maynard, & Petronilla Namwanje, for their dedication and love shown in preparing the children for such a significant moment in their spiritual lives. Receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus for the first time is a profound experience, and the support and guidance from the catechists was invaluable.

For more information on some of the programme activities click on the links below:

[Session Two – God's Forgiveness and Love. – OLSD](#)

[Session Three – Celebrating Our Rescue – OLSD](#)

[Session Five – Glory to God in the highest. – OLSD](#)

[Session Seven – Bread to Offer \(Liturgy of the Eucharist\) – OLSD](#)

[Session Eight – The Fruit of the Vine – OLSD](#)

[Parents Meeting – The Eucharist – OLSD](#)

[First Holy Communion – OLSD](#)

2.2.3 Confirmation - 42

The Sacrament began on Friday 24th November 2023 with 42 youngsters being enrolled. The programme comprised of 10 sessions that took place on every alternate Friday from 7.00 to 8.30pm in the parish hall and comprised of two full day retreats conducted by Fr. Anthony on the themes of the Eucharist and Forgiveness.

On Saturday 8th June 2024 at 11am, 39 of our youngsters along with other youngsters of the Northeast Hampshire Pastoral area received the Sacrament of Confirmation by Rt. Rev. Philip Egan, Bishop of Portsmouth at Portsmouth Cathedral. Three youngsters received the sacrament in the parish due to their commitment with DoE programme.

A BIG THANK you to the lead catechist, Anthony and to the team of catechists, Mandy, Michelle, Enrico, Aaron, Guillaume, Rachel, Ethan & Josh for leading the programme and preparing our youngsters over the past seven months for the sacrament.

For more information on some of the programme activities click on the links below:

[Session One – Is there more to life than this? – OLSD](#)

[Session Three – Who is Jesus? – OLSD](#)

[Session Five – Spiritual Gifts – OLSD](#)

[Confirmation Candidates Retreat – OLSD](#)

[Session Six – Human Dignity – OLSD](#)

[Session Seven – Why Did Jesus Die? – OLSD](#)

[Confirmation Retreat on 'Forgiveness' – OLSD](#)

[Holy Spirit, Languages and Confirmation – OLSD](#)

[Confirmation Mass at Portsmouth Cathedral – OLSD](#)

Catechists Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal

On Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, all Catechists from the First Holy Communion and Confirmation programme had a Thanksgiving fellowship meal organized by the Parish.

2.2.4 RCIA (Reception - 1)

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and Adult Christian Formation programme was conducted through the year on every Wednesday for 8.00 to 10.00pm in the Parish. The programme was **coordinated by Deacon Paul Evans** and the 'Symbolon' material of 20 sessions from the Augustine Institute was used to facilitate the formation.

Christiane Maria e José Del Fresno (Christy) was received into full communion with the church and confirmed at the Easter Vigil on Saturday 30th March 2024. Christy had been attending weekly RCIA sessions since last September and has quickly become a familiar face in the parish helping with social media. Many thanks to those who came along to the RCIA sessions, this really helped make the discussions a lively, engaging and spirit-filled encounter.

[Easter Vigil Reception – OLSD](#)

2.2.5 Marriages - 2

The parish celebrated two marriages, with significant contributions from various members of the community.

- **Fr. Michael Hynes:** Fr. Michael, Salesian Parish Priest of OLHC played a crucial role in preparing the couples for marriage, ensuring they were well-supported and ready for this important step. He also conducted the services, bringing his experience and pastoral care to the ceremonies.
- **Yvette MacLeod:** Yvette served as the registrar for these marriages, handling the necessary legal documentation and ensuring everything was in order. She also initiated the process for Fr. Anthony to be enrolled as a Registrar, which will be beneficial for future ceremonies.

2.2.6 Funerals & Cremations - 20

We were very unfortunate in the past year that so many of our dear parishioners were called back to the abode of the Divine. Fr. Anthony was instrumental in providing pastoral care and support to the bereaved families in the parish. Over the course of conducting 20 funerals/cremations, a lot of compassion and counselling was provided to the families.

- **Meeting with Bereaved Families:** Fr. Anthony took the time to meet with each family, offering comfort and understanding during their time of loss.
- **Preparation of Order of Service:** He meticulously prepared the order of service, ensuring it reflected the wishes and needs of the families.
- **Conducting the Funeral/Cremation Services:** Fr. Anthony led the funeral services with dignity and respect, creating a solemn and supportive environment for the mourners.
- **Emotional Support:** His presence and pastoral care provided much-needed emotional support to the families, helping them navigate their grief.
- **Personalized Services:** By tailoring each service to the family's preferences, Fr. Anthony ensured that each funeral was a unique and meaningful tribute to the deceased.
- **Community Strengthening:** His efforts helped strengthen the sense of community within the parish, as families felt supported and cared for during their difficult times.
- **Parish Choir at Funeral Services:** The parish choir led by Martin and organist, Johann has played a role in supporting some of the funeral services conducted by Fr. Anthony. Their contributions have added a deeply moving and comforting element to the ceremonies.
- **Feedback from Families:** Many families expressed their gratitude for Fr. Anthony's kindness and the personalized attention he gave to each service. His ability to listen and provide comfort was highly appreciated.

In the future we look forward to forming a Bereavement (Bethany) Group for the parish to support our parishioners mourning the loss of their dear ones.

2.2.7 Sacrament of Reconciliation

- **Scheduled Reconciliation Hour:** Fr. Anthony introduced a dedicated hour for reconciliation every Saturday from 4:15 to 5:15pm. This initiative has been very well attended, indicating a strong response from the parish community.
- **Availability:** Fr. Anthony made himself available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation before or after every Mass, as well as by appointment. This flexibility ensured that parishioners could receive the sacrament at a time that suited them best.
- **Monthly Confession Habit:** Fr. Anthony has encouraged parishioners to get into the habit of confessing once a month. His commitment to being available for confessions highlights his pastoral care and dedication to the spiritual well-being of the community.
- **Advent and Lent Community Reconciliation Services:** The parish conducted Advent and Lent community reconciliation services led by Deacon Paul. Many Salesian priests from Reading Road made themselves available to hear confession enabling parishioners to prepare themselves for Christmas and Easter and to have different priests to listen to their confession. These services were designed to help parishioners spiritually prepare for the significant seasons of Christmas and Easter, fostering a deeper sense of reflection and renewal. The strong turnout for these services indicates their importance to the community and the value parishioners place on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

2.2.8 Anointing of the Sick

- **Advent Retreat** (December 2023): During this retreat, Fr. Anthony offered the Sacrament of Anointing to the members present, providing spiritual and physical healing.
- **Mamma Margherita Fellowship** (April 2024): Similarly, he offered the Sacrament of Anointing during this fellowship, ensuring that members received the sacrament's graces.
- **Care Homes and Hospitals:** Fr. Anthony has frequently visited care homes, Frimley Park Hospital, and the homes of sick parishioners to offer the Sacrament of the Sick. His availability and willingness demonstrate his deep pastoral commitment.
- **Future Organization:** There are plans to better organize this pastoral care, ensuring that all parishioners in need receive timely and consistent support.

Impact:

- **Spiritual and Physical Healing:** The Sacrament of Anointing provides comfort and healing to those who are ill, reinforcing their faith and connection to the parish community.
- **Community Support:** Fr. Anthony's visits along with the EPMC weekly visits strengthen the bonds within the parish, showing care and compassion for all members.

2.2.9 Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration

As requested by some parishioners, from October 2023 Fr. Anthony introduced Eucharistic Adoration in the parish.

Thursday Evening Holy Hour:

Time: Every Thursday from 7:00 to 8:00pm.

Format of Monthly Themes: Fr. Anthony prepares themed booklets each month, including prayers, meditations, litanies, and hymns/songs. These resources help parishioners engage deeply in prayer and reflection during Adoration.

Purpose: This Holy Hour provides a dedicated time for parishioners to be lifted up in prayer and experience the peace of being in silence before the Blessed Sacrament.

Friday Morning Silent Adoration with Benediction:

Time: Every Friday morning after Mass, from 10:00 to 10:30am.

Format: Silent Adoration followed by Benediction, offering a serene and contemplative environment for parishioners to connect with their faith.

Well-Attended Services: Both the Thursday evening and Friday morning Adoration services have been very well attended, indicating a strong desire within the community for these moments of prayer and reflection.

Spiritual Enrichment: These services provide valuable opportunities for Fr. Anthony to pray along with his parishioners to deepen their spiritual lives and find solace in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

2.2.10 Recitation of the Holy Rosary

From May 2023, the month of our Blessed Mother, Fr. Anthony introduced the recitation of the Holy Rosary at 9:10am before every weekday Mass.

The recitation has been well attended, indicating our love for our Blessed Mother and appreciation from the parish community.

Intentions: Each decade of the Rosary is dedicated to different intentions, allowing parishioners to pray for various needs and concerns.

Leadership: Constance has shown great dedication in leading the daily Rosary, providing consistency and spiritual guidance.

3. New Structural Pastoral Processes of 2023-2024

3.1 Parish Pastoral Action Plan – Think Tank

It is often tempting just to repeat what has been done before, or to focus primarily on implementing the things that are practical, procedural, and governing. These latter things are important, but, as the new priest, Fr Anthony and Deacon Paul invited on Thursday 14th September 2023, in the Church Hall from 8.00pm onwards any parishioner interested in sharing their thoughts (think tank) on Pastoral Priorities and encouraged every parishioner to think with a missionary heart; to look at our parish and community in being able to discern how things might grow and move forward in new ways. We can, and need to, put mission front and centre of all we are about.

Very many parishioners turned up for this first meeting to get working on a Parish Pastoral Action Plan. Every parishioner present had the opportunity to share their DREAMS for the parish. The emerging theme of the meeting was, 'Our Lady and Saint Dominic' is my HOME and my COMMUNITY, where I feel welcomed. We needed to build on this pastorally to attract the younger generations. It was a wonderful opportunity for Fr. Anthony to get to know the long-serving parishioners who are the pulse, and very heart of the parish.

3.2 Weekly Newsletter – New Design

Fr. Anthony introduced the parish newsletter with a new design to be circulated weekly to around 900 existing emails in the database. The new design included elements of the Sunday readings, a brief reflection on the Sunday readings, publishing of weekly income, agenda of Mass services, intentions and events taking place during the week. The newsletter has been a wonderful instrument of communication to the parish detailing all that is happening and with an editorial policy of open governance and transparency aiming to keep the parishioners informed.

3.3 Parish Finance Committee

During the months of September and October 2023, Fr. Anthony set up the Parish Finance Committee by inviting Paul Swallow to be the Finance Chair and Deacon Paul to preside over the Finance Committee. Since then, the committee has met (meets) every month and comprises of six members.

- Paul Swallow – Chairman
- Paul Evans – Deacon (Presides)
- Fr Anthony Lobo – Priest
- Dawn Barhan – Parish Administrator
- Jo Wood – Secretary
- Paul Bryanhill
- Steve Macey (Fabric Lead)
- Vicky Ryan

Steve Macey took up the task of taking care of the Fabrics of the Church/hall and to follow up on the quinquennial report. The mission of the Finance & Fabric ministry is to offer advice and guidance to the Parish Priest on financial matters, making the best use of the generous donations given to the parish to ensure that they are used to support the parish mission, vision, and strategy, and to progress work on the parish estate.

The mission is based on the principle of 'Responsible Stewardship' in compliance with the Diocesan Terms of Reference and Operating principles. Success is measured primarily in spiritual fruits, however at the same time the aim is to ensure that the parish is financially robust so that we can continue and sustain the important work of building God's Kingdom here in Farnborough. [Finance & Fabric – OLSD](#)

Health & Safety: Within our parish we have adopted a best practice approach to this important task. All equipment, (boilers, smoke detectors, fire alarm etc) is serviced on a routine schedule as part of good practice, also fire prevention forms part of the inspection. Any faults found in the three buildings are rectified in a prompt manner. Evacuation of church and hall (should it ever be necessary) is made easy as we have a good number of exit doors. Ongoing improvements are made, the latest being Defibrillator Training and an additional Safety Hand Rail on steps outside main door to Church. All of this is monitored and documented on a regular basis.

The parish is very grateful for this important work of inspection, reporting and follow up done by the late **Maurice McSharry** and aided by his wife Alma. We lost an important parishioner who took such good care of the Health & Safety of our Church for so many years. May his soul rest in peace.

Basic Life Support Course: On Friday 17th May 2024 we welcomed Tom Taylor, a Paramedic Practitioner from Salus Medical Services, who delivered a Basic Life Support Course to a group of parishioners.

<https://www.olsd.org.uk/2024/05/21/basic-life-support-course/>

3.4 Interim Parish Pastoral Council

After a long period of discernment, the Interim Parish Pastoral council was established by Fr. Anthony on Maundy Thursday 2024, symbolized by the washing of the feet of 12 council members. This act marked the beginning of a new collaborative pastoral approach.

On Thursday 7th March 2024, the inaugural meeting took place of the OLSD Interim Parish Pastoral Council, comprising 12 appointed members plus Fr Anthony and Dcn Paul.

The PPC were invited to follow a collaborative Ministry Empowerment Model where each member leads a Ministry (area of responsibility which may include a variety of parish activities (sub-Ministries) and Lead Volunteers). A team of a minimum of six members will compose each ministry.

In this way, lay ministers will lead all activities of the parish under the overall leadership of Fr. Anthony, who is ultimately responsible to Bishop Philip and to his Salesian Provincial, Fr Gerry.

Over the next few months, the PPC developed a Pastoral Plan aligned with the Portsmouth Diocesan framework and Salesian Spirituality. The PPC plans to implement this plan starting from September 2024.

The Interim PPC:

Name

Martin Wood – Chair

Michelle Friend – Vice Chair

Paul Swallow

Jacquelin (& Marijan) Hubert

Ann Paton

Erica Huntley

Role

Liturgy & Worship Ministry

Youth Ministry

Finance and Fabric Ministry

Safeguarding Ministry

Catechetical Ministry

Children Ministry

Matt (& Liz) Rose
Johann Diaz
Yvette MacLeod
Enrico Ramos
Jo Wood
Sharon Boylett

Family & Life Ministry
Spirituality & Prayer Ministry
Seniors Ministry
Diversity and Culture Ministry
Media Ministry
Social Ministry

For more information about the Interim PPC, click on the links below:

[Parish Pastoral Council](#)

[Maundy Thursday – Washing of the Feet – OLSD](#)

[Interim PPC Meeting – OLSD](#)

Parish Pastoral Plan

[Launch of Parish Pastoral Plan – OLSD](#)

3.5 Diocesan Institutional Emails

With the setup of the Interim Parish Pastoral Council, after its second meeting, Fr. Anthony made some thoughtful decisions to enhance communication and organization. Each ministry lead was given access to the diocese's intranet so that everyone could stay informed of the diocesan policies, organization and news. This decision also meant that all official correspondence from ministry leads would be via a diocesan email address and all the ministry documents would be stored on the diocesan OneDrive. This will facilitate handover and continuity of the ministry roles.

Role

Chair
Liturgy & Worship Ministry
Youth Ministry
Finance Ministry
Safeguarding Ministry
Catechetical Ministry
Children Ministry
Family & Life Ministry
Spirituality & Prayer Ministry
Seniors Ministry
Diversity and Culture Ministry
Media Ministry
Social Ministry
Fabric Ministry

Email

ppc-chair@olsd.org.uk
liturgy-worship@olsd.org.uk
youth@olsd.org.uk
finance@olsd.org.uk
safeguarding@olsd.org.uk
catechetics@olsd.org.uk
children@olsd.org.uk
family-life@olsd.org.uk
spirituality-prayer@olsd.org.uk
seniors@olsd.org.uk
diversity-culture@olsd.org.uk
media@olsd.org.uk
social@olsd.org.uk
fabric@olsd.org.uk

3.6 New Dynamic Website of the Parish olsd.org.uk

Fr. Anthony set up a working website using WIX in September 2023 to make the parish activities more engaging. With the forming of the Media Comms Team with Jo Wood taking the lead, a new parish dynamic website for the parish was launched on Maundy Thursday 2024 using WordPress. It was expertly designed by Mat Augier who spent countless hours over Lent getting it just right. A new logo was also designed by Mat for the parish. The website content was produced by Jo Wood and members of the Media Comms Team.

Things on the website included:

- The Mass live stream straight from the website (no YouTube or Facebook required)
- A testimony from a new parishioner
- The model for the new Parish Pastoral Council
- Latest news - a quick and easy way to see the newsletter
- Register yourself
- Details of our 90+ years of history
- Parish calendar of events
- Blog posts of parish events to have a memoir of our activities.

3.7 Mamma Margherita Thursday Fellowship (Seniors Ministry)

The **Mamma Margherita Thursday Fellowship** began with a request from Maureen Buckley and Teresa Regan to Fr Anthony. A core team of six was formed in November 2023 to get this group up and running. The Core Group was led by Yvette MacLeod, with Maureen, Teresa, Val Cooper, Fina and Ian Ledgerwood.

The elders of the parish have been meeting on the second Thursday of the month since November 2023. The idea behind the group is to provide a warm welcoming space where the semi-retired, retired and elders of our parish can meet for friendship and fellowship. Throughout this last year they have welcomed a mixture of parish and outside speakers, have enjoyed quizzes and games, have celebrated Mass together and have benefited from the wise words of the committed Christians who have led their Thought for the Day.

For more information on some of the programme of activities click on the links below:

[Bringing Joy and Support to Senior Parishioners – OLSD](#)

[Friendship, Fellowship and Fun with a Christmas theme – OLSD](#)

[Ivan and Peter from Citizens Advice speak about 'scams' of all kinds, and how we can fall prey to them. – OLSD](#)

[Dukes Ukes entertain the Mamma Margherita Club – OLSD](#)

[Game of Countdown – OLSD](#)

[Anointing & Holy Land Talk – OLSD](#)

[Blue Lamp Trust – OLSD](#)

[Mr Sean – "soldier of love" – OLSD](#)

[Flower Arranging Workshop – OLSD](#)

[Empress Eugénie and Farnborough – OLSD](#)

3.8 Young Adults Group (Youth Ministry)

On Sunday 26th November 2023, World Youth Sunday we began the process of launching the Young Adults group of the parish. The age group of 23 to 35 met after the 10.30am Mass, i.e. at 12.00 noon in the parish hall with Michelle Friend volunteering to lead the Young Adults group. Michelle then went on to become the Vice-Chairperson of the Interim Parish Pastoral Council.

The 'Young Adults' faith-based group, aged 23-35 gave themselves a name, 'The Devereux Club', inspired by our very own hero of Farnborough, Sean Devereux and they meet every second Friday of the month from 7.30 – 10.00pm in the Parish Hall.

3.9 Parish Safeguarding Ministry Team

Safeguarding is at the heart of who we are at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Dominic Savio. As a community, we are called to protect the vulnerable, including children, young people, and adults at risk. Doing so is a reflection of our faith in action and a key part of our commitment to promoting safe practices in all our parish activities.

Safeguarding is, of course, our legal responsibility as a charitable institution, but no less importantly, it is a foundational aspect of our Christian identity – it is an act of love and service to one another, rooted in our faith and the Good News of the Gospels.

The Parish thanks Angela Martin who has been the safeguarding lead for many years and stepped down from her role in December 2023.

In December 2023 the parish began the process of setting up a Safeguarding ministry team. The parish has four Safeguarding officers, Jacquelin and Marijan Hubert (Marek) are the lead safeguarding ministers and form part of the Parish Pastoral Council. Marian Mulligan and Valerie Strange are members of the team. The team acts as a central point for safeguarding concerns to be shared, immediately referring concerns and allegations to the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator.

3.10 ChurchSuite

In February 2024 the parish started subscribing to ChurchSuite. This is a professional church administration system used by many churches nationally and locally. Its initial aim will be to replace the existing paper-based system of registration which each parish family filled out and which was last updated before COVID. It also provides a lot of other useful functions such as a parish calendar, resource bookings, liturgy planning, online forms and communications. The first modules to be implemented were the parish calendar (which automatically links to the ['Events'](#) page on the parish website) and the bookings module to manage Church Hall bookings. Registration of parish families, implementation of rotas for ministries operating at Mass and use of the online forms facility are planned for 2024-2025. Jo Wood manages the ChurchSuite Database.

3.11 Parish Wednesday Coffee Hub

Every Wednesday morning in the Church Hall from 10.00am to 11.30am parishioners are invited to grab a coffee or stay the morning. Thank you to Angela Norman, Gina Morrison and Sharon Boylett for taking the initiative to begin the Wednesday Coffee Hub.

4. Parish Community

4.1 Parish Groups

The Parish has three groups independent in their pastoral organization and status which meet monthly and are not under the responsibility of the Parish or the Priest.

1. **OASIS - Women's faith group**
2. **HARVESTERS - Men's faith group**
3. **KNIGHTS of ST COLUMBA**

4.2 Parish Outreach

4.2.1 School Collaboration

In September, Fr Anthony was appointed foundation governor to our primary schools of St Bernadette and St Patrick by Bishop Philip. We have a close collaboration between the church and the local schools, especially St. Bernadette's. Fr Anthony makes himself available to say mass and attend other school activities at St Bernadette's. Most of our parish community children attend our Catholic primary schools. We have maintained strong ties with other schools like Farnborough Hill and All Hallows. Fr Anthony has been invited by the school chaplain to say mass for the girls at Farnborough hill. Nearly all our confirmation candidates frequent All Hallows Secondary School.

4.2.2 Social Ministry Report

During the pastoral year of 2023-2024 a lot of community fellowship activities were organized by the Social Ministry and other ministries of the Parish. A Big Thank you to Sharon Boylett and her dedicated team in organizing these events (see Social Ministry report below).

Over the year the role of the social ministry has changed with the formation of the PPC and new ministry roles. The aim of the social committee is to support welfare and fellowship in the parish and local community.

The social committee communicates via WhatsApp, with people suggesting and volunteering for events as they arise.

The social ministry supports the tea and coffee fellowship after Sunday masses and the 'Hub' on a Wednesday morning. It ensures tea, coffee, milk and biscuits are available for all parishioners meeting in the hall and parish house. Other regular activities include keeping the birthday chocolate and sweet basket fully stocked.

Below are the events the ministry has organised or supported during the past year.

Main events

10th September 2023: **Welcome lunch following 10.30am mass Father Anthony first weekend.**

25th November 2023: **Tabletop sale.**

16th December 2023: **Children's Christmas party**
[Children's Christmas Party 2023 – OLSD](#)

17th December 2023: **Christmas Dinner for the Elderly**
[Christmas Dinner for the Elderly](#)

17th December 2023: Refreshments after carol concert.

- **Christmas Carol Concert**

[Christmas Carol Concert – OLSD](#)

23rd December 2023: **Altar servers Party**

10th February 2023: **Pre lent social event.**

4th May 2024: **Parish 70's Disco evening.**

[70s Disco](#)

18th May 2024: **Refreshments for Confirmation retreat day.**

19th May 2024: **Pentecost Sunday – International Agape Shared Meal.**

[International Agape Shared Meal – OLSD](#)

20th/21st July 2024: **Father Tony Golden Jubilee celebrations.**

[Fr Tony's Golden Jubilee – OLSD](#)

The whole parish celebrated Fr.Tony's Golden Jubilee with two very special Masses followed by receptions attended by many parishioners, clergy, family and friends.

14th September 2024: Celebration for Confirmation candidates.

Thank you to the stalwart team of helpers who regularly ensure refreshments are available after masses every weekend, and to everyone who has volunteered and helped at any parish event since September 2024.

4.2.3 Ecumenism

Come to the Table

Mosaic Arts, a Cove-based not-for profit Christian ecumenical arts group, put on a Christian musical: Come to the Table based on the parables of the Wedding Feast and the Prodigal Son. The cast members (singers, dancers, actors, musicians) were from local Christian parishes - mainly Cove CofE parish but including some from OLSD and involving local school choirs too. Our parish hosted performances on Wednesday 13th March 2024 (with St Patrick's school choir) and Thursday 14th March 2024 (with St Bernadette's school choir).

[Come to the Table](#)

4.2.4 Church Flower Arrangement

The Parish thanks Rita, Irene and Aquina for their dedication in setting up the sanctuary, the altar and our Blessed Mother's statue with wonderful flower arrangement right through the year and especially for special liturgical occasions.

[Easter Flowers – OLSD](#)

4.2.5 OLSD Cricket Team

The Parish has its own cricket team which has been playing against other local churches and teams for many years. It plays Twenty20 format in local parks on summer Wednesday or Thursday evenings in June and July.

[Start of the Cricket Season – OLSD](#)

4.2.6 Ray Harden receives KSC Golden Jubilee Award

[KSC Golden Jubilee Award – OLSD](#)

4.2.7 Music Summer School

At the end of July, Michelle Friend and Martin Wood attended the four-day 2024 Summer School of the Society of St Gregory (SSG) in Liverpool.

[Music Summer School – OLSD](#)

4.2.8 Parish Community Outreach

Farnborough Foodbank

We take a regular collection of food to [Farnborough Foodbank](#) which is seeded by the Trussell Trust. Monthly the parish contributes around 80kg to Farnborough Foodbank. Thank you to Monica and John Banner for leading the initiative.

Missio

Missio is the magazine of the Mill Hill Missionaries and their name used for the Red Boxes which are available to all parishioners as a means of providing financial support for the Mill Hill Missionaries in their work they carry out spreading the faith across the world – particularly in the developing areas where the word of God struggles to get through to the people. Their aim is to share the love and compassion of Jesus with the world. Thank you to Andrew Docherty for leading the campaign in the parish

Cafod

As a parish we support the work of CAFOD which is the official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales, and part of Caritas International. CAFOD works through the local Church to reach people and places that others can't.

The CAFOD reps at OLSD aim to promote the charity's fundraising initiatives in our own parish and in particular the Lent and Advent Family Fast Days. In Lent 2024 the parish raised over £600 in this way.

Anne Walsh – Saturday 5.30pm Mass

Monica Banner – Sunday 9.00am Mass

Jo Wood – Sunday 10.30am Mass

Bethlehem University

Over Christmas the parish collects funds to support the Bakery at the Bethlehem University.

Rushmoor Voluntary Services (RVS)

The parish became a member of RVS which will help us to carry out community outreach activities in the future.

5. Financial Report

A sincere thank you to Paul Swallow the Finance Committee Chair and to the team for presenting the Income/Expenditure report for 2024 and for preparing the 2024-2025 budget.

5.1 Income and Expenditures

OLSD Income and Expenditure report for 2024

Income	2022-23	2023-24
Non-Gift Aid Income	27,035	33,689
Gift Aid Income	42,808	41,859
Income Tax Reclaimed	9,317	17,749
Hall Income	18,142	3,070
Fundraising, Donations, Legacies	47,281	218,502
Other Income	3,851	10,405
Total	148,434	325,274

Notes:

Offertory income increased by 8%

Income Tax reclaimed is received quarterly and can fall into different years

Hall income decreased by £15k due to pre-school moving out

Fundraising for the Church roof in 2023-24 amounted to £35k

Legacies were received in both years

Expenditure	2022-23	2023-24
General costs and Repair & Maintenance	66,045	121,489
Diocesan Levy	20,315	24,071
Projects (Church roof)	0	73,865
Donations	0	80,000
Total	86,360	299,425

Notes:

The recording of some items of expenditure changed between 2022-23 and 2023-24

Increase of £55k in General costs and R&M, mainly due to one-off work such as hall and church repairs and purchases of equipment (about £46k)

There is a small retainer yet to be paid on the Church roof project

Donations:

- i. £60k to the Diocesan 'Closer to Christ' campaign to support priests**
- ii. £20k to the Diocesan Cathedral appeal**

Bank balance at 31 August 2024 was £196k

5.2 Facilities and Maintenance

Improvements and Repairs:

5.2.1 Photocopying Machine

In November the parish purchased a brand-new Sharp Photocopier @3553 +vat. This purchase has helped the parish significantly in all its pastoral activities and is accessible to all ministry leads.

5.2.2 Dishwasher

The parish has purchased a new commercial dishwasher for the kitchen @£4560 to speed up the washing for so many of our social pastoral activities.

5.2.3 Exterior Painting and Roofing Refurbishment Works

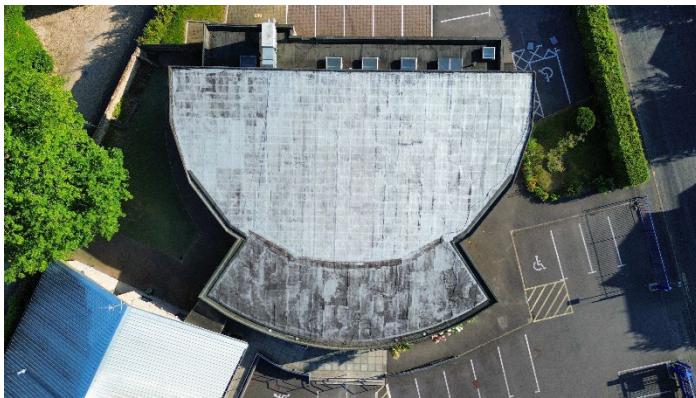
In June 2024 all the window frames were stained and soffits painted. Any rotten timber frame areas were cut out and replaced and the entire window frames in the Side Chapel and Confessional were rebuilt. Our thanks go to Ashley Rees Decoration for the excellent standard of the work.

The roof was refurbished by removing the existing waterproofing where necessary, checking the timber decking below, making good and installing a single layer roofing system.

In addition, the six rooflights on the flat roof at the back of the Church were replaced.

The roof is now guaranteed for 12 years, but providing we carry out six monthly maintenance inspections we are hoping it will give us good service for much longer than that.

Overall, we are very happy with the excellent standard of workmanship and our thanks go to Joe and Richard of JR Roofing for their fine work. We should also mention Garlands who were the Roofing Consultants, for specifying, monitoring, ensuring quality and signing off the installation.



Roof before refurbishment works



Roof after refurbishment works

Total Expenditure

Roof refurbishment -	73819.98
Church External Painting -	6132.50
Supply/Install/remove old window frames replace Cills/Soffits and cladding works -	<u>3435.66</u>

The total collected for the Church Roof Fund from September 2023 to 22nd August 2024 is **£35301.85**

We sincerely thank so many parishioners who over the year have been so generous towards the Church roof fund. The total cost of the roof refurbishment was £75,713 so the remaining deficit is £40,411.15

A sincere thank you to the Parish Finance Committee, to the late Maurice McSharry, Health and Safety lead, and to Steve Macey our Fabric lead for undertaking this enormous project and for bringing the works to a completion.

5.2.4 Future Plans

- The Hall Audio/Visual project is under way for 2024-2025
- Upgrading the CCTV and Security Audit of the Parish and Hall
- Upgrading Church Heating and Lighting

6. Looking Ahead

Goals for Next Year 2024-2025:

- To form teams within each parish ministry, a minimum of six members to be able to plan, collaborate and coordinate with the PPC.
- To promote an active participation of young people within the life of the Parish.
- To offer systematic proposals for evangelisation, catechesis and formation to all parishioners.

Please refer to the Parish Pastoral Plan published in September 2024.

[OLSD-PPC-Plan-2024-2025.pdf](#)

7. Acknowledgements

[End of Year Message from our Priest – OLSD](#)

Dear Parishioners, as we conclude the pastoral year 2023-2024, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. Your prayerful spirit, active participation, hard work, and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in enriching our parish community and to be truly a house of God. It has helped me so much to come 'Closer to Jesus' through the celebration of the Eucharist/Reconciliation/Adoration with the community. I have always prayed for Jesus and HIS LIGHT to be the Centre of our Parish in all that we do. Many of you are such great examples of true holiness to me.

Thank you to our Ministry Leads for embracing the collaborative empowerment model and taking ownership of our parish. Your involvement and dedication are transforming our parish into a second home for many.

To our Liturgy and Worship team, thank you for your unwavering dedication and for the countless hours you invest in planning and executing our worship services. It is a true testament to your commitment to creating a space where we can connect with our faith and with each other. The thoughtfulness and care you put into every detail truly enhance our worship experience, making it a time of reflection, joy, and spiritual growth.

To our catechists, thank you for guiding our children, youngsters and adults in their faith journeys. Your patience and wisdom have sown seeds of faith that will grow for years to come.

To all our volunteers, your selfless service in countless ways has been the backbone of our parish activities. Your generosity of time and spirit is deeply appreciated.

To our children's and toddlers' liturgy catechists, thank you for nurturing the faith of our youngest members. Your efforts are laying a strong foundation for their spiritual growth.

To our welcomers, your warm greetings and hospitality have made everyone feel at home in our parish. Thank you for your kindness.

To our musicians and choir, your talents have lifted our spirits and brought us closer to God through the beauty of music. Thank you for enhancing our worship experiences.

To our extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, thank you for your reverence and dedication in serving the Eucharist and the sick and home bound. Your service has been a blessing to our parish.

To our altar servers, your assistance during Mass has been invaluable. Thank you for your dedication and service.

To our youth and young adults, thank you for your energy and enthusiasm. Your involvement is vital to the vibrancy of our parish which really needs you.

To the various clubs, thank you for fostering community and fellowship within our parish. Your activities have enriched our parish life.

Heartfelt thanks to the flower arrangement team for the stunning floral displays created for the sanctuary. Your creativity, and hard work have truly brought beauty to our services. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

Deepest gratitude to the Media, Fabric, Social teams for the incredible dedication and hard work you have shown over the past year. Your ability to take on numerous responsibilities and see them through to professional completion has been truly remarkable.

To all our ministry leads, you are the lay apostles of the parish. Your leadership and vision have inspired us all. Your efforts have ensured that our ministries thrive and serve our community effectively.

To the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee, a very sincere THANK YOU. Your guidance, discernment and stewardship have been crucial in navigating this year. Your dedication to the well-being and growth of our parish is truly commendable. Thank you immensely for advising me and taking responsibility for so many pastoral needs of the parish.

Thank you, my dear parishioners, for giving me all the support, love, and prayers through the year, for making our parish a vibrant, inclusive, and a praying community. May God Bless you and your families with abundant graces.

As Don Bosco beautifully said, **"Everything disappears except our gratitude. Let us pray that God will abundantly bless those who have been so good to us."** Your work is a blessing to our community, and I am profoundly grateful for all that you do.

Dear Jesus and our Blessed Mother, we thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon our parish community this past year. We are grateful for the dedication and service of all our members. We pray for our parishioners who were called to your abode in the past year, may their souls rest in peace. As we move forward, we ask for Your continued guidance and grace and to protect us from every evil and harm.

With gratitude, love and prayers,
Fr. Anthony Clifford Lobo SDB
Priest-in Charge
01-12-2024

OLSD

Our Lady of Lourdes + St Dominic Savio

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