

Stewards of the Gospel

2017

Recommendations from the three SG's for the parish of
Our Lady and All Saints, Basildon



Eileen Prizeman

Martina Lilly

Mary Sillett

The Parish of Our Lady and All Saints

Basildon

3/21/2017

**Overall Recommendations to be presented to Bishop Alan Williams
From the Stewards of the Gospel on behalf of the parish of
Our Lady and All Saints, Basildon.**

Eileen Prizeman - St Therese of Lisieux, Laindon, Martina Lilley – The Most Holy Trinity, Basildon -
Mary Sillett – St Basil the Great, Pitsea and agreed by the Parish Council.

We will enrich our parish by training people to be part of a team participating in Sacramental, plus general church and buildings duties. The more people involved will also help to ease the burden on the same few. The loyal few that have been doing the same jobs for many years will need to be prepared to train and pass on their knowledge, if we are to progress. We will make every effort to enrich our spiritual life and offer more adult religious education. Once Lay people are trained they will be able to support the priest in a variety of duties that lay people are allowed to do within the Catholic Church.

To help achieve this we will facilitate a new questionnaire listing all the parish roles and opportunities, and asking people which one(s) they would like to assist with. This will be accompanied by homilies and newsletter inserts hoping to “change the culture” where people feel the commitment to the parish is only about being a “Sunday Catholic”, to integrate service to the parish within the lives of all parishioners, for the good of all. On a designated “Recruitment Sunday” there will be representatives in the halls after Mass to advise what each role or opportunity entails.

We will continue to learn and integrate different cultural traditions of our diverse ethnic groups that make up our parish, for example music and food.

We will continue to reach out to our schools, elderly, poor and homeless and work with other local organisations for the benefit of all. Our children and youth will be encouraged to participate more in the Mass and work alongside the older generation. Our parishioners will be invited to visit our schools, help and participate in school projects. Parents will be invited to be more active in church and parish events.

We will continue to reach out to the community, through the sponsored sleep out and Christmas card deliveries and plan new opportunities. We will collaborate with our nearest churches (Billericay, Wickford and possibly Rayleigh) begin to co-ordinate Mass times, share publicity about what is happening in each other’s parishes, and share ideas. This may also include joining together of the Legion of Mary, SVP, KSC, Bereavement groups, Marriage Preparation, Counsellors, socials and even a joint Evangelical mission.

We must nurture and support vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Perhaps this is the right time to look at the training in Seminary and think about seminarians spending more time in parishes as part of their training over seven years, rather than one year in a parish or waiting until they have completed their training. You learn more about parish life on the job, not at a distance and they would be a help to the priest whilst training.

We see no reason to close any of our churches as we are already three churches working as one parish. We will do our very best to support our priests and evangelise the best way we can to pass on the Faith to the next generation.