

OPENING OF THE PRESBYTERY GARDEN TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY PARISH GARDEN PROJECT: UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS

Valuable sources of Christian voluntary work and donations have enabled the clearing, burning, mulching, weeding, mowing, planting and maintenance of the Parish Garden to continue. The unearthing of two concrete platforms and concrete paths, one of which winds from the presbytery garden right down to the lower car park wall, have been discovered - giving yet more possibilities for creative planning.

The platform unearthed and exposed above the roof of the air raid shelter, allows for an altar to be erected, with a pergola structure and transparent screens, making outdoor Mass accessible to parishioners both from the Parish Garden and parishioners in their cars, in the lower car park.

Thanks to competitive quotations and generous donations beginning to come in, we are on course to start the next two significant stages of the Parish Garden Development:

- i) A boundary wall and fencing to be erected on the north side of the Parish Garden,
- ii) A main pathway and access pathways to facilitate the use of the garden by wheelchair users, motorised buggies and children's pushchairs, which will be laid with a self-binding gravel surface to ensure a sturdy, smooth surface for those using it.

The expense of the boundary wall and fencing, will be covered by the Parish finances, held by the Diocesan Finance Office as this is a necessary expense to clearly define the boundary of the parish property. Many, grateful thanks to Michael and Pat Hughes for negotiating an extremely competitive price for these works.

The cost of the pathways, will hopefully be met by further donations from the generosity of our parishioners.

Beyond these two imminent developments, there are many more ongoing projects, which will advance as the garden works progress.

Some of the future projects needing funding will be: the erection of an outdoor altar and screened pergola; a 'Peace Garden' for parishioners to enjoy the quiet and stillness of this area; a wild garden area to allow wild plants, birds and insects to thrive; a children's exploration and play area; a vegetable garden; (and possibly other ideas; the Stations of the Cross/a Rosary Walk).

Your suggestions would be welcomed, as would anyone fit and able to offer manual help in the garden – or, perhaps, to take responsibility for planting and maintaining a specific area?

The Parish Garden is intended for use by all parishioners, to enjoy the various designated areas.

To this end – we are launching a

'PARISH GARDEN DEVELOPMENT APPEAL'

Fr Jim would like to 'kick start' the appeal by donating £1,000 (as Fr Jim recognises that he will be enjoying the garden, too!)

No donation is too small and no donation is too large! All contributions will go towards the 'Parish Garden Development' which can then be used and enjoyed by all parishioners.

(These donations are a **GIFT** specifically directed to '**The Parish Garden Project**' (**NOT** a donation towards the normal running costs of the Parish).

If you wish to make a donation the Parish's Bank account is with Nat West:

Hythe Catholic Church

Sort Code: 52 41 42

Account: 5918 0412

Please mark all donations 'Parish Garden Project GIFT'. And if you are a UK tax payer – it would boost our funds tremendously if you can also mark eligible donations 'Gift Aid' – as this returns an extra 25% of the sum of money donated, towards the fund-raising efforts. (e.g.: £10 will return an extra £2.50 in Gift Aid; £100 will realise £25, £1000 an additional £250 etc).

MONETARY DONATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE:

£1000 ~ Fr Jim

£ 860 ~ Ann B (Gift Aided)

£1000 ~ Joanna Greene (Bequest to the Parish Garden)

£ 250 ~ Eileen Lydia Clarke (Bequest to the Parish Garden)

Other monetary donations received to date: £250, £100 (Gift Aided),

£40 (Gift Aided), £50 (Gift Aided), £20 (Gift Aided), £500 (Gift Aided), £500 (Gift Aided)

You might like to consider making '**a living endowment**' whereby you direct debit a monthly amount to go towards the ongoing maintenance and gardening costs for the continued upkeep of the Parish Garden, so it always remains a place for parishioners to enjoy.

OTHER DONATIONS INCLUDE:

- **Huge savings on works done in Presbytery and Gardens including favourable quotations (Michael & Pat Hughes) on major works;**
- **fencing paid out of Parish Funds held by the Diocese;**
- **32 hours of Professional Landscape Gardening Services: (Paid for by Ann B)**
- **96 hours of Professional Garden Services: (Paid for by Ann B)**
- **X2 Commemorative Fruit Trees (Apple),**
- **a Magnolia Tree, A Walnut Tree (for the Peace Garden),**
- **a Tulip Tree,**
- **several Hydrangea bushes, and numerous and various garden shrubs, climbing plants, rockery plants and bulbs have been donated and/or promised.**

There are many more proposed projects to be funded so all donations will be wisely used: bench seating around the garden; circular bench seating at the base of certain trees; a children's area – (children of the parish and of St Augustine's school are asked to be involved in the development of their garden with their parents) and other ideas will unfold as we discover new aspects of the garden!

(We would particularly like Clematis plants ~ to grow along the trellis of the south facing fence, bordering the presbytery garden and espalier 'ladder' fruit trees to grow against the south-facing, retaining boundary wall to be built on the north side of the presbytery garden).

Please be enthusiastic in your support of this parish project through your prayers, your good words shared amongst parishioners and an outgoing positive attitude of encouragement with other parishioners and possibly your offers of help from time to time (perhaps especially from our parents of school age children?).

Thank you ~ from 'The Parish Garden Project'.