

## Introduction

My dear parishioners,  
I am so pleased that we  
are once again able to  
have our Parish  
Meeting.



Because of COVID-19 and the Lockdowns  
the community has been scattered and  
celebrating Mass in an empty church was  
quite unreal, but knowing that many  
people from the parish and around the  
world were watching on-line was a great  
comfort.

When we were able to open the church  
for mass and other services, I was very  
grateful that Christine and Leslie Sheldon  
were able to step into the breach and  
organise the many Stewards, and also the  
live streaming for each mass and for  
funerals & weddings, 1st Communions  
and Confirmations.

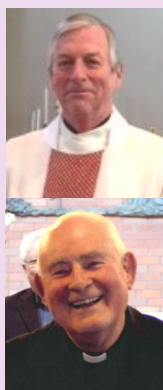
I would like to thank them and all the  
volunteers publicly for their on-going  
dedication to the people of the parish.  
I thank God that we have many such  
parishioners at Holy Trinity and Sacred  
Heart working hard for those in need.  
Tragically we lost many long-standing  
parishioners to COVID but with your help  
and support the parish is once again  
growing and we are pleased to welcome  
so many new parishioners from many  
countries around the  
world.

May God bless you and  
keep you safe.

*Fr. Michael Ho— (Parish  
Priest)*

## Assisting Priests

We give thanks too, for the  
assistance and support  
given by Fr. David Lacy and  
Mgr. David Cousins,  
without whose help and enthusiasm so  
many of the good works undertaken could  
not be achieved.



## Fotherley Hall

The work of the Sisters at Fotherley, who  
give a 24 hour service of care for the  
residents of their Care home, is also  
greatly appreciated. In their lovely chapel  
there is a daily celebration of the Holy  
Mass which is attended by residents and  
the Sisters.

Contact: [www.sistershospitallers.org/fotherley.php](http://www.sistershospitallers.org/fotherley.php)

## Sacramentals 2020—22

<b>Baptisms:</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>1st Holy Communions:</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>Confirmations:</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Weddings:</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>RCIA—Converts:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Funerals:</b>	<b>145</b>

## Covid Pandemic

As we reflect back on the last two  
years of the Covid pandemic and its  
impact on our lives, we thank God  
for bringing us through these diffi-  
cult and sometimes tragic moments.  
We remember especially all those  
who have suffered and continue to  
suffer to this day, as well as all those  
who have died because of this de-  
cease.

During these testing times, the  
Church itself needed to adapt—we  
thank all who offered their service  
as stewards and cleaners to ensure  
our safety and that of the church  
environment with the need for con-  
stant cleaning and sanitising. The  
introduction of the live-streaming  
too, which Les Sheldon steered  
through, has been an amazing suc-  
cess with literally thousands of peo-  
ple zooming in to participate in the  
Mass. And even today, this new  
advancement continues to provide  
a valued service for those who are  
housebound as well as linking us to  
a truly international context—a sign  
of the Universal Church in action  
(see Mass attendance statistics with  
the Finance Reports).

As we return to more normal times,  
let look with renewed hope to the  
future.

## Good Hope Hospital Ministers of Holy Communion

During the pandemic, access to the  
hospitals for volunteers was denied  
for obvious reasons. Today, the op-  
portunity to restart this vital and  
important ministry is particular ur-  
gent.

Please let us know if you would like  
to join a small devoted group of  
ministers to visit Good Hope Hospi-

## Synodality

In January 2022 the parish  
participated in its first experience  
of coming together in synodality  
with over 160 people attending 3  
meetings and a further 210 people  
viewing on line. In doing so, we  
joined with other parishes across  
the country to share in the  
experience of a living church.  
Listening to one another and  
expressing views on various  
questions and topic areas has  
helped contribute to a world wide  
dialogue, that Pope Francis desires  
to see so that we might walk  
together in greater harmony and  
dignity as followers of Jesus our  
Lord and Saviour.

At the same time, in our diocese,  
this journey has been linked to the  
Archbishop's Pastoral Vision with a  
focus on greater participation in  
the Liturgy, Evangelisation, Social  
Outreach and Formation.

It is our task now, as a parish, to  
continue to work together, to listen  
and share our experiences and to  
take co-responsibility—in other  
words, to involve ourselves as  
much as is possible in the life of the  
parish and Church.

Included in this report is a copy of  
the Parish Directory, which lists the  
many areas of activity as well as the  
many groups—please, if you have  
not yet got involved, think about  
joining a group. Or if there is a new  
project you would like to develop,  
then please tell us about it.

Further meetings will be arranged  
to help us along this synodal and  
vision pathway—to continue this

tal on a Sunday morning, bringing  
Holy Communion to the sick (and  
sometimes relatives or staff mem-  
bers who can't get to Mass that  
day).

The ministry is run on a rota basis,  
and ministers make four or five  
visits in a quarter. It is not necessary  
to be an Extraordinary Minister of  
Holy Communion already, as train-  
ing will be given.

If you would be interested in help-  
ing to re-start this work of mercy  
and kindness, **please contact Fr.  
Michael.**

# Holy Trinity & Sacred Heart Parishes

[www.htrc.org.uk](http://www.htrc.org.uk)

Editor: Daniel Hurd

# 2022

## Parish SVP



There are now 12 members in the combined Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart SVP Conference.

During the pandemic, the two SVP Conferences at Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart church merged together. Their core works continue to be visiting the sick and the lonely, as well as helping in other situations and circumstances that may even benefit from financial assistance where there is a clear need. All of this work is greatly appreciated. Further afield – and like many Conferences in England and Wales – we have links with an Indian “twin” conference and the financial support we provide each year is valued enormously.

We have channelled material assistance in the way of clothing & dried food to refugees at St Chad’s Sanctuary, as well as clothing, cosmetics and comfort food to the young residents at Reach House in Erdington. All of which items are donated by you, the parishioners. Thank you.

As we move forward, we are being asked to help especially with the Archbishop’s Pastoral Plan to help promote greater participation in the parishes in social action works.

We now have a notice board in the porch—Please contact us if you would like to know more or become involved.

*Jo Clements—joclembini@me.com*

## Reading in Church

Each week, when we listen to the Scriptures at Mass, we are hearing words that were written thousands of years ago, some of the words were written by those who walked with the Lord. I recently read that the oldest book in the world still in existence with its paper and cover intact is the St. Cuthbert Gospel, a leather-bound edition of the Latin translation of St. John’s Gospel.

In the Church today, lay people are privileged to take part in the liturgy of the Mass and to read from the Sacred Scriptures for others to hear. Perhaps you could consider becoming a reader in the parish? You would be very welcome.

*Pat Salter*

## The Ladies 232 Circle

We are a group of Catholic ladies who meet for friendship once a month. Meetings are normally held at Aston Wood Golf Club on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm.

We enjoy a meal together and usually have

a speaker following the meal.

Each year, we also have a Guest Evening and a Charity Night as well as an outing in the summer to raise money for local charities.



We are always happy to welcome new members. Why not come along and enjoy an evening yourself? Just give me, Barbara Robb, membership secretary, a call on 0121 353 8855 or Diana Mees, secretary and treasurer, on 0121 355 5764. It is better than sitting at home watching television!

*Barbara Robb*

## Linen Rota

In addition to the Church Cleaning Team, there is also a group of eight ladies who take it in turn to wash and iron the linen – primarily purificators, corporals and towels – used during Mass. More volunteers would be very welcome.

We give thanks to the many years of faithfully service by Anne Howle who is retiring soon.

If you would like to help please contact Elizabeth Fruer

## Parish Deacons

Deacons Owen and Daniel wish to express their sincere gratitude to everyone for their kindness and generous cooperation with the work of the diaconate in the parish. We are always especially thankful to the unstinting support we have from our wives and families—this ministry is as much theirs as it is ours.

We were able to re-start the RCIA last September and were so happy to see 3 new candidates received into the Church at Easter—Many congratulations to Liz, Alec and Clifford (see photo below).



Assisting Fr. Michael at the Altar, proclaiming the Word of God and preaching is always a great joy and privilege for us. So too,

serving the needs of the parish with various parish works, such as hospital chaplaincy, visiting the housebound, weddings, baptisms, funerals and in school governance at St Joseph’s. It’s wonderful too, to help develop and enrich the children’s liturgy and participation in the 1st Sunday family Masses, sacramental programmes and in the May procession to Our Lady.

Just recently, we give thanks for being able to start a new monthly, 1st Friday, Cenacolo Community Adoration holy hour to pray for young people and their families who suffer from addiction problems.



*Deacons Daniel Hurd and Owen Gresty*

## Lourdes Fundraising Group



Following a 2 year hiatus due to COVID, the Lourdes bazaar was back in full swing in 2022. Despite some initial concerns that it might be quieter and less successful than previous year, we were quickly proved wrong when we saw the generosity of the Parish through donations of raffle prizes, gifts, bottles, bric-a-brac, cakes, jams amongst many other items. The team worked incredibly hard in the weeks leading up to the day, making and gathering items to sell, setting up the stalls, sorted the donations and making it all presentable and suitable for selling.

*Stephanie Holden*



## Holy Trinity Prayer Group

There is a prayer group in the parish, which meets for an hour of meditation and prayer fortnightly, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. We are now meeting again so please come and join us—there are no formalities.

Contact - [joclembini@me.com](mailto:joclembini@me.com).

## Lourdes Pilgrimage

2022 saw the welcome return of the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes following Covid. Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart Parishes had an eager group of pilgrims, though smaller in number than previous year but that did not detract from what was a spiritual, and inspiring week. We had a number of returning pilgrims and a few new faces which made for a lovely blend getting to know people and we adopted a few extras within our hotel - extending the spirit of pilgrimage to ensure all felt included.

The group shared Mass in the grotto, as well as joining scheduled services with the pilgrimage such as Blessing of the Sick and Holy Hour. And of course we joined the major processions that occur every day in Lourdes such as the Blessed Sacrament Procession and the torchlight Marian procession.



During the Marian procession, this year our very own Marion Daniels had the privilege to read part of the rosary from the basilica steps as we all processed. At the end of the week, we brought all the petitions we had carried from the Parish, along with our own, to a Parish evening prayer and candle service. The candle was bought from donations from pilgrims and from people back home. Following the service, we processed the candle, lit and placed it opposite the grotto, leaving the petitions to be burnt the following day.

*Stephanie Holden*

## Churches Together in Four Oaks

Sacred Heart is a member of the group,

which also consists of All Saints, The Ark, the Baptists, St. James, Harvest Fields and the Methodists.



The photo above shows a great crowd of witnessing gathered to celebrate a Walk of Witness on Good Friday, which was a tremendous turn out.

*Liam Tomlinson*

## Marriage Preparation

In 2022, we were able to hold two marriage preparation days, with several couples attending each. These are always fun days, where the couples can take some time to concentrate on the two of them, rather than on all the other details of the wedding. We share a meal together too, which gives all the couples a chance to get to know one another and share their experiences.

Our next date is 27th May 2023.

*Jo Clements*

## Church Flowers

All through the pandemic, flowers never failed to be displayed in the church thanks to the whole team, but often one member working singularly to achieve this. Bringing the beauty of the natural world into the liturgical seasons elevates them and extends their meaning and blessings to the whole community of faithful.

If you would like to sponsor the flowers for an anniversary, please let Mary Holden know in the Parish Office. Typically, the flowers are between £30—£50 per week to arrange.

Why not consider joining the team? It's easier than you might think; we try to work in pairs. Why not give me a call: it can be very satisfying—and Fr. Michael serves good coffee and cakes!

*Maureen Kettell - 0121 241 3424*



## The Catenians

The Catenian Association is an international association of Catholic men who meet locally, once a month at local branches known as 'Circles' to share common faith and values, create friendships and support families. Our local Circle is Sutton Coldfield—meetings are held every 2nd Monday of each month at Moor Hall hotel. Members are drawn from all walks of life and consequently, have a vast range of differing talents and experience but all have a common bond as practicing Catholics. Sutton Coldfield Circle has an interesting and varied programme of events, many of which includes our ladies, families and friends - all are welcome!

Please contact Mike Gaffney 0121 354 7557 or visit our website:

[www.suttoncoldfieldcatenianscircle232.com](http://www.suttoncoldfieldcatenianscircle232.com)



## Parish Meal

A bold attempt to arrange a Parish Meal at the School House, Weeford, was made in January 2022 just as the pandemic was edging to what we all thought at the time was the end.



The occasion was wonderfully supported by the parish, and we all gathered in the celebration marquee with appetites ready for a splendid meal, when the venue suddenly announced that due to the pandemic, its gas supply had not arrived and all that could be served was the starter and pudding! This was quite a shock, but the silver lining was that all would be freely provided without charge. John Cheal and myself were so pleased that everyone took the disappointment in such good spirit and a great time was still had by all.

*Let's try again, Deacon Daniel*

## Holy Trinity Altar Servers

We have a dedicated team of Altar Servers for our Sunday Masses and who are also available for serving at weddings, funerals and major ceremonies e.g. Christmas and Easter. Regular training sessions are held to maintain and improve standards. We welcome any boy or girl who has made their first Holy Communion to join us in this important ministry within the church.

*Please contact parish M.C Mike Gaffney - 0121 354 7557.*

## Knights of St. Columba

The Knights are an Order of Catholic laymen dedicated to the service of the Church and the wider Catholic community. Membership is open to all practising Catholic men over 16 years of age.

The Order celebrated its centenary in 2019. Members belong to local groups at parish or deanery level, and the local council meets in the Conference Room at Holy Trinity on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 8pm.

The Order assists and supports the clergy in their duties in a variety of ways, which might differ greatly from parish to parish.

The local Council supports local charities both practically and financially by fundraising. Currently, the main charity is Sifa Fireside Centre in Digbeth. The Council is very grateful for the generous support received from both Sacred Heart and Holy Trinity parishes.

The Order also organises youth competitions where local schools are encouraged to participate.

The Council is looking for more active members and any gentleman interested in learning more about the Knights of St. Columba is welcome to contact a member of the Council for more information.

*Nicholas Bartleet - 0121 355 5980*

## Church Cleaning

Each week, Holy Trinity Church is kept neat and tidy by group of volunteer parishioners. There are four teams, who carry out general cleaning duties in the church on a rota basis each Saturday morning. More volunteers - who might be able to spare one hour every four weeks - are always welcome.

*Margaret Daly - 0121 378 4925  
margaretdaly1@hotmail.co.uk*

## Holy Trinity Church Gardens

The church gardening team continue to maintain all the church and presbytery gardens with floral displays for both spring and summer. This has been made possible with donations received from parishioners and a contribution from church funds. As the church is located on a major route into the town centre we want our gardens looking attractive and adding to the local environment. We are always looking for volunteers to join our team.

*Mike Gaffney - 0121 354 7557.*

## Preparation for Baptism

Why does the Catholic Church baptise babies? Aren't they too young to understand what is happening to them? A fair question. The easiest and perhaps best answer would simply be that this was the constant tradition or teaching of the early Church, right from the time of the Apostles.

St. Peter makes it clear that children were included in the call to be baptised, as he gave the first great sermon of the Church on the day of Pentecost, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children." (Acts 2:38-39)

It is a privilege that so many parents request baptism for their children at Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart parishes. Each month, we hold a preparation meeting (usually at 3 pm on Sunday). There is an opportunity to ask questions and understand more about the meaning and significance of Baptism, what the service involves and to meet other families. Parents should first request and book a baptism through the parish office using the form at the back of church.

*Deacon Owen*

## Ladies Guild

The ladies guild are a parish friendship and support group. We welcome new members of any age from both parishes. Currently,



we have 42 members and an average attendance of 25. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month 1pm-3pm, and have various social events including meals – carveries, fish and chip lunches, afternoon teas. These events often include speakers that vary from light-hearted to the serious. All rounded off with a wonderful Christmas party. Various chosen charities local to the parish and or relevant to the members are supported each year.

Contact: Heather Wisniewski  
heatherwis@icloud.com

## Church Maintenance

Numerous improvements have been made to the Church, Halls and Presbytery during the last three years.

Works include:

- 1). Removing the old gravity fed boiler in the conference room kitchen and linking the system to the new presbytery boiler. Consequently, all the central heating boilers have now been replaced with modern efficient condensing gas boilers;
- 2). The installation of wifi to cover the church, conference rooms and Halls has enabled remote control of the boilers making it easier for management to change programs and to meet client's requirements;
- 3). Replacing the church halogen and hall lighting with LED lights has reduced electric consumption and maintenance costs;
- 4). Re-upholstering the hall chairs (in progress);
- 5). installation of new hall blinds and curtains and redecoration;
- 6). New shower and enclosure in the presbytery guest bathroom with plans to do the same for Fr Michael's bathroom;
- 7). Replacement of the carpark boundary wall is now in hand and will soon be commencing;
- 8). Installation of the live streaming system, and dealing with the aftermath of a direct lightning strike which caused extensive damage — ably assisted by Les Sheldon.

*Jim Phillips*

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Income and Expenditure Account  
Year to 31 December 2022

2021		INCOME	2022	
£	£		£	£
47,788		Offeratories- Gift-Aid	44,197	
19,180	66,968	Offeratories- Non-Gift-Aid	27,734	71,931
	391	Tax refund from Gift Aid		27,331
	9,153	Chaplaincy at Good Hope		9,861
	14,827	Donations		15,500
	1,919	Parish Hall		13,973
	-	Maintenance Fund		
1,539		Repository	1,330	
(604)	935	(Purchases)	(873)	457
-		Newspapers	-	
(579)	(579)	(Purchases)	(484)	(484)
615		Votive Candles	2,229	
-	615	(Purchases)	(238)	1,991
	2,644	Diocesan Unit Scheme - Income		2,711
	6,320	Rental Receipts-Sacred Heart Presbytery		6,000
	2	Interest Received		373
	100	Legacies		500
20,581		Insurance Receipt	-	
(20,981)	(400)	(Insurance Claim) - Excess	-	-
		<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>150,144</b>
<b>102,895</b>				
		EXPENSE		
£	£		£	£
	38,591	<b>LEVIES</b>		
	-	Diocesan Levies		28,622
		Parish Donations		11,551
		<b>CHURCH</b>		
5,861		Liturgical & Pastoral	6,830	
18,795		Establishment & Maint'ce	42,128	
12,878	37,534	Clergy Salaries, Expenses & Supply Priest	14,100	63,058
		<b>PRESBYTERY/OFFICE/CONFERENCE ROOM</b>		
1,190		Domestic	1,878	
23,269		Personnel costs	15,484	
(5,500)		Youth Worker Grants	-	
2,092		Parish Hall Costs	13,128	
7,154	28,205	Establishment & Maint'ce	7,470	37,960
		<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>		
1,944		Office Expenses	1,427	
295		Bank Charges	362	
200	2,439	Sundries	159	1,948
		<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>143,139</b>
<b>106,769</b>				
(3,874)		<b>OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>7,005</b>
-		<b>EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS</b>		-
(3,874)		<b>OVERALL SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>7,005</b>

Prepared by Les Sheldon FCA -Parish Treasurer  
Signed by Fr Michael Ho Feb 8 2023

## Notes to Accounts

### Holy Trinity Parish

The parish, despite the covid hard times and increasing living costs, continues to operate within its annual income and operational expenditure costs. The increased expenditure due mainly to the more extensive maintenance and renewal works has been wonderfully met by a large increase in donations. Consequently a modest surplus at the year end has still been achieved.

Thank you for your on-going generosity.

### Attendance

Please see below the church attendance records which includes the on-line numbers as well. The on-line attendance remains an extraordinary success with much of the attendees zooming in from around the world—Holy Trinity is truly a global phenomenon!

		MASS ATTENDANCE		
		HOLY TRINITY		SACRED HEART
		In person	On line	In person
OCT 2020		1,449	1,574	477
NOV 2020		415	1,981	273
DEC 2020		1,716	2,397	486
CHRISTMAS		534	613	76
JAN 2021		1,005	2,685	430
FEB 2021		1,132	3,087	480
MAR 2021		1,475	2,219	577
EASTER (Thurs to Sunday)		672	1,129	194
APR 2021		1,936	3,400	621
MAY 2021		2,266	2,541	636
JUNE 2021	inc FHC	1,483	2,141	625
JULY 2021		929	1,226	276
AUG 2021		1,310	775	355
SEPT 2021		1,172	688	272
OCT 2021		1,625	1,141	269
NOV 2021		1,323	1,195	281
DEC 2021	inc Christmas	1,800	1,402	329
JAN 2022		1,606	1,477	352
FEB 2022		1,380	976	244
MAR 2022		1,380	968	273
APR 2022	inc EASTER	2,087	1,801	293
MAY 2022		1,663	1,288	362
JUNE 2022	inc FHC	2,058	1,085	283
JULY 2022		1,623	1,066	352
AUG 2022		1,258	793	264
SEPT 2022		1,507	751	262
OCT 2022		1,949	1,037	372
NOV 2022		2,043	988	334
DEC 2022	inc Christmas	2,502	1,600	454



**SACRED HEART RC CHURCH**  
**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**Year to 31 December 2022**

2021				2022	
£	£	INCOME	£	£	£
21,673		Offeratories- Gift-Aid	24,884		
4,609	26,282	Offeratories- Non-Gift-Aid	115	24,999	
	5,280	Tax refund from Gift Aid		5,280	
	0	Legacies		0	
-		Parish Bazaar proceeds	2,888		
-		(Charity Donations)	(2,166)	722	
	7,485	Chaplaincy		6,358	
	200	Donations		-	
	1,835	Parish Hall		4,065	
370		Repository	612		
(215)	155	(Purchases)	(231)	381	
119		Newspapers	228		
(142)	(23)	(Purchases)	(170)	58	
	5,362	Diocesan Unit Scheme - Income		5,500	
	1	Interest Received		157	
	690	Rental Income		2,400	
	47,267	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>49,920</b>	
		<b>EXPENSE</b>			
	18,449	<b>LEVIES</b>			
		Diocesan Levies		12,527	
		<b>CHURCH</b>			
848		Liturgical & Pastoral	1,944		
16,670		Establishment & Maint'ce	8,354		
4,300	21,818	Clergy Salaries, Expenses & Supply Pries	4,800	15,098	
		<b>PRESBYTERY</b>			
-		Domestic	246		
6,572	6,572	Establishment & Maint'ce	974	1,220	
		<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>			
160		Office Expenses	100		
161		Bank Charges	161		
-	321	Sundries	500	761	
	47,160	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>29,606</b>	
	107	<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>		<b>20,314</b>	
	-	<b>EXCEPTIONAL</b>		-	
	107	<b>OVERALL SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>20,314</b>	

Prepared by Les Sheldon FCA  
Signed by Fr Michael Ho Feb 8 2023

## Notes to Accounts

### Sacred Heart Parish

The increase in the surplus for the year follows the Diocese taking on the responsibility for maintenance of the presbytery and running costs, which has contributed to a health surplus for the year end.

### Christmas Bazaar at Sacred Heart

Our bazaar was held in November and was another wonderful success given the ever increasing costs of living. A fantastic total was reached again which has enabled us to continue to help various chosen charities - St.Chad's Sanctuary, Brushstrokes homeless charity in Smethwick, foreign missions via Footherley Convent and parish funds.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the day such a great success and who have promised to come back and do it all again this year!

*Patrick Carbery*



### Clergy at Rest

Just occasionally, after a parish reconciliation service, the clergy (with the visiting priests) get a chance to rest and enjoy a well earned meal together.