

Our Lady and St Aidan & St Bernadette's Parish Communities

Parish Priest Fr John McElhone

Resident Priest Fr Pat O'Connell

www.staidanschurch.uk or www.stbernadetteschurch.uk

E Mail : staidans.parish@btconnect.com 0191 2623820

Dear Friends,

To date for our Christmas collection I have received donations of £750 from St Bernadette's and £1250 from St Aidan's. We are closing the collection this weekend and all monies donated will go to North East Homeless, which provides support to those who are vulnerable and homeless in the North East. Thank you again for your amazing generosity. *Talking about generosity I have received an average of £25 –£30 per week from one of our parishioners for the Food Bank since lock down began last March. I don't know who this parishioner is but his/her God will know and that 's what giving is all about. No one else needs to know do they?*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Abiding in Christ

The week of prayer for Christian Unity begins on 18th January and the theme this year asks us to reflect upon the Christian life and what it means to belong to the Body of Christ. *"When it comes to our spiritual life, what is it that is most important for our well-being? As Church life was to a large extent paused (during lockdown) for the first time for most people, what does it mean to be part of the one Church, the Body of Christ when all we see of our sisters and brothers are on the screen of a laptop?"*

The Sisters of the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in producing the material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year invite churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

To mark the week we will upload simplified versions of the Service for use at home to our webpage.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST?

Do you have a "Red Mission Box" in your home? If you are in St Aidan's Parish Tony Stopher would be grateful if you could bring it along to church so he can empty the box and send your donations off to support the work of Missio.



Thank you for your continued support of the Foodbank– week after week during Advent I have seen bins of food donations taken from our churches. You are making a difference! As things tighten up in the country and jobs are lost as a result, the need for support in a whole variety of ways is going to be underlined as time goes by. Lets go on being generous!

MASS INTENTIONS

Several people have asked me how they go about having Mass celebrated for the intention of family or friends who have died.

There are special envelopes available at the back of both of our churches—simply fill in the details as requested—the name of the person, the preferred date etc, pop your donation in the envelope and drop it in to church. Where possible I will celebrate Mass on the date requested but where several people request the same date it is on a first come first served basis. It is best to get your mass intentions in as soon as possible in the year.