



Our Lady of Sorrows and St Bridget of Sweden Catholic Church

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Priest in Charge: Father Stewart Hasker

9th December 2011

Dear Parishioner and Friend in Christ,

St Bridget's Stewardship Campaign 2011/2012

I am pleased to announce the launch of the St Bridget's Stewardship Campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to recruit voluntary helpers for the parish. It follows on from the highly successful Planned Giving Campaign where your overwhelming generosity has made a huge difference to the parish finances. Now we are looking for people to offer their time or talent to the church. We know people are busy and have families to care for, but we are sure that there is a willingness to become more involved in the work of the parish.

The Stewardship Campaign will be split into two phases; **Phase I: Faith and Church** which will aim to attract ***Readers and Ministers of the Eucharist, Catechists and helpers with tasks in the Church*** and **Phase II: Service** which will recruit helpers for ***Parish Groups, Social Events and Church and Building Maintenance***.

Phase I: Faith and Church is taking place this weekend on the 10th and 11th December. **Phase II: Service** will be held during Lent 2012.

The essence of the Stewardship Campaign is that we will be inviting you to become a "**Friend of St Bridget's**" and consider what time you can give to the parish and what tasks you might be able to undertake. The parish has been blessed with many dedicated helpers but there is already more to do than they can manage and their numbers are gradually shrinking due to age, infirmity and moving away from the area.

Our Centenary celebration in 2009 was a great success – almost everyone in the parish took part in one or more of the special events. It was a success but it also exposed a weakness – although large numbers worship here each week, the work of planning and carrying through the events and the refurbishment of church and hall was undertaken by a comparatively small number of people.

The purpose of the Stewardship Campaign is to remedy that weakness.

Phase I: Faith and Church

Catechists for First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Children's Liturgy, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Legion of Mary, Church Repository Shop, Church Cleaners

There will be an opportunity to discuss what each task involves after every Mass. Descriptions of the tasks have been produced to give you more information so please ask for details. Do come and enjoy the hospitality on offer after each Mass.

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It is easy to take the services that the church provides for granted. Our church was built entirely by private donation. To maintain the church and its services, we rely **entirely** on the generosity of our parishioners.

We are especially keen to encourage parents to get involved with all the tasks and activities being recruited for in **Phase I** and **Phase II** of the Stewardship Campaign.

This year there is a particularly large group preparing for First Holy Communion while Confirmation is always well attended. Our classes attract children from all over the local area not just from St Bridget's. Children are the future of the Church and their faith and commitment will grow if they see their parents giving a lead. The gift of faith fruitful in good works is the most precious gift we can give our children. The parish has an obligation to prepare the children properly for these Sacraments and unless more parents become involved the quality of the preparation will inevitably suffer.

Please browse through the voucher booklet attached to this letter, choose a particular task which is of interest to you, and sign and pledge your commitment to carry it out. Vouchers will also be produced for **Phase II**.

In recognition of your support and commitment to the parish community, everyone who pledges their support will be entered into a prize draw to win a private tour of Westminster Cathedral and afternoon tea with myself for up to four of your guests.

We are challenging each member of the parish to consider what help they can offer in maintaining the liturgy, the pastoral care and the buildings and plant of the parish. This is a great opportunity to give something back for all the blessings that flow from belonging to the parish community.

Stewardship allows you to discover a personal spiritual fulfilment and the camaraderie which comes from active participation.

All details can be found on the St Bridget's website.

Yours in Christ,

Father Stewart Hasker