

Pastoral Assistant for St Mary's Tottenham, September 2021 - July 2022

St Mary's is an exciting parish with lots of opportunities through which to explore God's plan for you. Since the November lockdown we've rebuilt the numbers attending Mass on a Sunday to over 140 and are continually welcoming back more people from the congregation to our shared worship of Almighty God. We hope to build on some of things we've learnt during the pandemic about our social media presence and the need for organised pastoral care. Joel, our current Pastoral Assistant, has played a key role in these areas and we we hope very much that his successor will continue that great work.

Tottenham is a dynamic place to live with people from a rich diversity of backgrounds. Our congregations are particularly drawn from the West Indian and African members of the local community but not exclusively so. There are needs associated with economic deprivation but there are also local parks to enjoy and good connectivity with central London in one direction and Hertfordshire in the other.

Opportunities for the Pastoral Assistant at St Mary's

- To work alongside Fr Morris and the assistant (retired) priest as part of a community that prays together and with others daily.
- To be part of a team with other lay people, including our part time administrator and organist.
- To help oversee and support a team of loving volunteers with great gifts of faith. These volunteers particular focus on maintaining our churches and ensuring our worship is welcoming and beautiful.
- To help with the provision of our Sunday Schools and weekly Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association activities (currently on Zoom but hopefully face-to-face again soon).
- To bring your own ideas, interests and expertises to begin new initiatives that would interest you.
- To be involved (once legal to do so) in visiting the sick at home and taking them Holy Communion.
- To be engaged in pastoral work ensuring members of the congregation feel connected to their worshipping community.

Features of our parish life

- A daily Mass with a good number coming along to join in with the prayer life
- Outside of the pandemic, there are two lunch clubs every week and a night shelter in the winter for the homeless, the latter overseen by the Pastoral Assistant
- As well as Sunday Schools and Boys' Brigade we hope to start again our regular holiday provision for primary school children.
- We reopened our daughter church, the Good Shepherd, in 2010 and continue to build up a congregation there.
- We have an excellent organ at St Mary's and a very talented organist, with a committed choir leading the singing of hymns at Sung Masses.
- There's a weekly Study Group for adults, which has recently covered C S Lewis' Mere Christianity and the book of Jeremiah.

Are you the right person?

We'd love a Pastoral Assistant who was keen to get involved with parish life. We're an Anglo-Catholic parish and a willingness to work within the tradition is important, though it doesn't need to be something you're necessarily familiar with already. The Pastoral Assistant should be keen to explore God's call further and to help others do the same.

Accommodation

The Pastoral Assistant lives alongside two others in a lovely Edwardian house in a quiet part of our parish, next door to the Good Shepherd Church. There's a communal kitchen, garden, dining room and bathroom. Bills are paid for by the Scheme on top of the allowance you receive for living expenses.

Support

There are eight Pastoral Assistants each year in the North London Pastoral Assistant Scheme and they come together for monthly formation sessions which take a variety of formats and topics. This is a good way of providing support and ensuring you can explore further God's plan for you. The Pastoral Assistant also has regular supervisions with Fr Morris and should have a Spiritual Director. Previous pastoral assistants have benefited from this support: one is serving as a curate in the Diocese, another is about to be ordained deacon. Others have gone on to explore their vocations in different spheres of life, having grown during their time here.