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# St Pius X

**The Catholic Church of Merrow & Burpham**

# *Help Us Grow in Faith, Community & Love!*

## *A Parish Alive!*

*'Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours.*
*Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good.*
*Yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now'.*

**St Teresa of Avila**

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## Clergy Team:

St Pius X is part of the wider cluster of Guildford Catholic Churches, together with St Joseph's, Guildford and St Mary's, Rydes Hill.

We share our Clergy and sacramental programmes, working together to help build our Community locally and to help manage our resources more effectively.

**Moderator: Fr Colin Wolczak**

**Fr Stanislaw Mycek**

**Fr Alex Hill**

**Fr Alan Sharpe**

**Rev. Charles Parker**

**Rev. John Lamb**

**Rev. Adrian Burnett**

**Parish Secretary:** Marian Ironmonger, 01483 572605 or email: stpiusx@guildfordcatholicchurches.co.uk

## St Pius X Parish Pastoral Team:

**Tony & Una Corning**

**Michael Wheeler**

**Sarah Beresford**

**Angela Sharpe**

**Nicolas Holst**

*Co-Chairs:* Tony & Una Corning, 01483 449593 or email: tonyandunacorning@gmail.com
*Finance & Property:* Michael Wheeler
*Liturgy:* Deacon Adrian Burnett
*Adult Formation:* Sarah Beresford
*Ecumenism:* Angela Sharpe
*Social Concerns:* Nicolas Holst

## Other Contacts:

*Gift Aid Coordinator:* Michael Steele, 01483 503875 or email: michael_a_steele@hotmail.com
*Choir & Music:* Sue Richardson
*Fairtrade Coordinator:* Michael Combes
*CAFOD Representative:* Peter Strode
*Social Committee:* Michael & Julia Steele
*Special Minister Rotas:* Laura Anderson
*Coffee Rota:* Sunday morning, Liz Combeer; Thursday morning, Stella Brereton
*Baby & Toddler Group:* Anna Calvert, Jane Della Maestra
*Bereavement Support:* Barry Macgowan, Frances Allen

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# Introduction

Our Community has been blessed by the hard work of a number of dedicated Parishioners who have given their time freely to the many Ministries and roles that support the spiritual and practical running of our Church, and for this we are extremely grateful. We depend heavily on voluntary support and, with a real desire to grow in faith, community and love, we are making an appeal for more people to become involved in supporting the life of the Parish, both now and in the future. This leaflet is intended to share some of the things that our own volunteers have said about why they give their help, and to illustrate to you just some of the opportunities that exist to become involved. Hopefully you might also feel inspired to help!

Indeed as the 'Games Makers' of the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics showed the world, being part of a joint effort, can bring much joy and happiness to many, and a sense of personal reward that is beyond comparison. A large percentage of the 'Games Makers' came from Church communities, including our own and other Faith groups, and they helped demonstrate how generosity of spirit can help make our society work for everyone, not just the comfortable and well off.

Waiting for things to happen around us may be a characteristic of human nature, but for our Parish to grow in love and community, this is not an option. We must all try to act in a way that might be counter cultural, if we are to continue to grow and develop in a meaningful way. We are made differently and have been gifted differently, but we are all called to serve.

Each of us have our own part to play, and we understand that this can only be in proportion to the time and means we have available. For some this might be to continue to serve as they are currently serving, for others to serve in a new way, or perhaps to meet an urgent, short term need. It may be that you are not in a position to help at present and thus your prayers for us as we appeal for help would be more than welcome.

However, more people offering to help, will mean that the Community can grow with a deeper sense of love, mutual support and gratitude. In the centre of this leaflet you will find a separate volunteering form in which you can indicate where you might be able to offer help. Please fill this in as soon as you can and return it to our Parish Office or email us on **stpiusx@guildfordcatholicchurches.co.uk**. We will then make contact with you over the next few months to take this forward.

With grateful anticipation of your positive response and every blessing for the coming year.

**Fr Colin Wolzcak**

*'Every person should walk unhesitatingly according to their own personal gifts and duties in the path of a living faith which arouses hopes and works through charity'.*
**Vatican Council II Lumen Gentium 41**

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# Liturgy, Worship & Formation

***Liturgy is the primary activity of the Church that brings us together and binds us as a community of faith, and consists of the Mass, the Sacraments and the other rites. You can help the Community in so many ways to bring our celebrations to life! We particularly need help as follows:***

**Children's Liturgy Sunday 9.30am Mass:** to help bring God's Word to life in a meaningful way for children.

*'The reason I am involved in Children's Liturgy is because it is a fun! This role involves explaining God's word in a way that is meaningful to the children. We take the week's Gospel and explore it in a fun, creative way which we hope the children engage with and gain from. When preparing I often ask myself: what is the key message of the Gospel? What is the message we need to share today? It encourages me to reflect and I find I am always learning at the same time. It is a privilege to work with our young people, walking alongside them during the early development of their faith. Each leader runs a group approximately twice a term, preparation isn't onerous - we have a good range of resources which really helps. We have a great team of leaders but we always need and would welcome new people. Please consider whether this is a role you might enjoy.'*
***Kate, Children's Liturgy Coordinator***

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 6pm Vigil Mass:** to help the Priest in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and to take it to the sick and housebound, more frequently than the Parish Priest might be able.

*'By being an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, I feel that I am helping to serve and participate in the life of the parish. I also think that this reflects my Baptismal call to serve the people of God and a commitment to Christ. It is a privilege and should be taken seriously, with participation at training and renewal sessions when required.'*
***Kate, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion***

**Sacristans 6pm Vigil Mass:** to help arrange the liturgical books, the vestments, and other things necessary in the celebration of Mass.

*'All the things that I do in the parish give me great pleasure, but to prepare the Church for Mass is a great privilege.'* ***Laura, Sacristan***

**Musicians & Singers:** to help bring the Liturgy to life, particularly from our younger Parishioners, who can play an instrument or sing! Practice evenings are required, usually on a Wednesday or Thursday at 8pm, weekly or fortnightly.

*'Playing music at Mass is a joy as it helps bring an extra dimension to the celebration.'*
***Ciaran***

**Ministers of the Word:** for the readings and bidding prayers.

**Mass Coordinators:** to help coordinate the different activities that take place before, during and after Mass including the collection, offertory procession etc.

*'Let the Word of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him'.*
**Colossians 3:16**

## *Help Us Grow in Faith, Community & Love!*

**Formation, Sacramental Preparation & Catechesis:** Formation is the ongoing, personal development of individuals living out their faith and deepening their relationship with God and one another. It starts with Baptism, and uses the sacramental life of the Church to form their faith, on their journey through life. We offer all the programmes for each of the sacraments, alongside the other Catholic Churches in Guildford.

We particularly need help at St Pius X in the preparation of our children for First Holy Communion. It would be great if you have prior experience in Catechesis! We would also like to offer more opportunities to develop reflection and prayer groups to help build our spiritual life at St Pius X.

**Audio Visual Operators:** to help project the words of the Mass and control the sound from the Lectern & Priest's microphones (training can be given). This is ideally suited for people who have confidence in using and a general interest in electronic and electrical equipment and an enthusiasm for creating great sound to complement each of our celebrations. You would be part of a monthly or 6 weekly rota and would be supported in terms of training.

*'I remember 3 years ago being asked to join the AV operators and was not sure what it entailed and how complicated it may be. I am a true testament to confirming the role is very straightforward especially with the helpful guidance from Chris and Nick, and it does not require any IT expertise. Whilst in the background and accompanying the musicians, it is extremely satisfying to know that I have contributed and enriched the delivery of the Mass and often get thanked by the Parishioners even when the occasional slide goes awry!'*
***William, AV Operator***

**Altar Servers:** being a server means serving God and his people at Mass. That is what makes serving Mass worthwhile, and worth doing well. What you do there and how you do it can help other people to understand the Mass better and make their love for God stronger.

*'I like serving at Mass because you get to serve God and to do important things for Mass. It makes Mass more interesting for me.'* ***George, 8 years***

*'Serving on Sunday is very rewarding and I find spiritual connection during the Mass which is very special for me. I am fortunate to be a part of a committed group of servers who help assist the Priest (including my brother and sister). I especially enjoy serving at Christmas and Easter when we are asked to do additional tasks which help enhance the Masses. I have served for 10 years and continue to enjoy and learn new things. Please consider joining our group of servers!'* ***Adam***

*'To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others'.*
**Pope John Paul II**

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# Pastoral Care

*The compassion of a Parish Community comes to life when it reaches out to others who are in need, whether through age, poor health, family situation, unemployment or special need.*

***We particularly seek a Pastoral Care Coordinator** who can help in the development of such work in the Parish. If you have a background in a caring profession, then this could be immensely helpful. Developments over the past year included the start of a Baby & Toddler Group on Tuesday mornings at 10.00am and a Bereavement Support Group for the Parish. We would love to offer more support groups!*

*'Since the Toddler Group started, we are seeing many 'regulars' and new friendships are developing. Even without children you can help, making the drinks or just welcoming newcomers. I look forward to Tuesday mornings when people come pouring into the Jefferies Hall - it's a happy place to be! For a few hours a week, I feel I'm doing my bit to bring people together from our community. You could be a part of that too! We are a small team of 4 and would like more help, even if just on a rota basis. I am positive you will enjoy it and find it rewarding too!'* ***Jane, Baby & Toddler Group Coordinator***

# Social Concerns

We all are a part of a wider world community, and thus we share the responsibility for promoting peace, justice and fairness for all people. At St Pius X there are a number of ways in which you can participate: donating to various CAFOD appeals; buying goods from the Fairtrade stall which holds regular sales at Church; bringing tinned donations or toiletries for the No 5 Homeless Shelter in Guildford; or fundraising for the efforts of the Guyana Support Group; donating to the 10% Christmas Charity Collection; or last but certainly not least, in becoming a member of the Justice & Peace Group, which plays a significant role in raising awareness of vital issues of justice or fairness for the poor and disadvantaged throughout the world.

*'I became involved in Justice & Peace as I think that it is important to try to make a difference in local and global issues, and the J&P Group provides a great chance to do so. I really enjoy being part of the Group as it makes me feel a part of the Parish Community, and we are always looking for more members!'* ***Alex, Justice & Peace Coordinator***

*'This is the fast that pleases me: to release those bound unjustly, to let the oppressed go free, to share your bread with the hungry and to shelter the homeless poor, to clothe those who are naked, not turning your back on your own kind. If you do away with the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness'.*

**Isaiah 58: 6-8**

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# Welcoming & Hospitality

*Do you have a love for and desire to serve people? Maybe at Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass, every 4-6 weeks, greeting people on arrival, offering help when trying to locate a seat or find information? Or by serving coffee after Mass, a great way to make friends, or supporting a regular Newcomers' Lunch? Or helping at the annual Children's Christmas Party?*

*'We are all part of God's family and so, when I welcome people to St Pius X, I hope they feel the warmth of our community and can feel they can fully participate in parish life.'* ***Stephen, Welcomer***

*'I am on the coffee rota, helping serve coffee and tea after Mass throughout the year. It is good fun and very sociable and you get to meet new and old parish members. I am fortunate to have been attending St Pius my whole life and feel very blessed to be part of such a sociable parish.'*
***Tiggy, Sunday Coffee Rota Helper***

*'We took over the job of organising a Children's Christmas Party a couple of years ago. 60 children and their parents came last year. The parents were able to have a drink and a chat whilst the children were entertained. It's a good way for new parishioners to get to know other families with young children and we are happy to be able to offer that opportunity.'*
***Liz & Nicola, Coordinators of the Children's Christmas Party***

*'I am one of a group who run the Newcomers' Lunch every year. We have many new families coming into the parish and our aim is to make sure they feel welcome, get to know others, so that they feel part of the community.'*
***Francine, Coordinator Newcomers' Lunch***

# Ecumenism

Building relationships with our fellow Christians and other faith groups will help us to develop better understanding and mutual support amongst our communities in Guildford, particularly in a world where having a belief is increasingly marginalised or indeed criticised. We have a small group who work with the other local faith groups in the area to foster closer relationships and any support you can offer to this effort would be most welcome.

*'Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well'.*
**Mother Teresa**

# Finance

Money is important, particularly how to pay for the ongoing operating costs related to the day to day needs of heating, light, property maintenance, cleaning, gardening for the buildings, general administration and to help contribute to the living and travel costs of our Clergy. It is hard to ask for more, in these difficult times, and we are very grateful for what we do receive, though inflation means that our costs rise annually. A simple way of increasing income to manage this, but without asking for you to give more, is that a UK tax payer can 'Gift Aid' their weekly contribution, adding up to a further 25% to our income, as the Diocese can reclaim the tax you have already paid on your contribution from the Inland Revenue. The best way to do this is by making a monthly standing order to the Church, with a gift aid mandate, which remains confidential to you and managed via a separate bank account. Our Gift Aid Coordinator, Michael Steele can be contacted on 01483 503875. Another benefit of making your contribution in this way is that it reduces the burden of work in counting the weekly collection and its banking.

Separately the management and budgeting of our income and expenditure is a huge responsibility, administered by our Finance Committee. If you have any professional experience in the area of finance or accounting, then please do let us know.

# Property

The caretaking of our buildings is a significant responsibility also, to ensure they meet the required standards of hygiene, health and safety and to protect the future fabric of the Church and Hall for the use of future generations.

Most of this work has been managed voluntarily, by Parishioners with a background in property or facilities management, construction or maintenance, who offer time during the week, at weekends or in the evening. With greater usage of our new Hall, we need help from anyone with relevant experience or who can offer some time in caretaking.

# Hall Audio Visual Equipment

We are blessed to have a fantastic AV system for the benefit of the Parish and our Hall users. If you have any experience in using this type of equipment, or an interest in electronics/electrical equipment, and would be prepared to help as part of a rota in operating the system, then this would be greatly appreciated.

*'I initially received the call to serve from Fr Michael, who had a leaky roof at the time, and was co-opted to the finance committee as a result. Since then have got involved in AV, Welcoming and as Mass coordinator. I don't however fit the usual stereotypes for these, and perhaps that's why each has taken me out of my comfort zone, however over time with the support of others have grown into the role. So if you have misgivings that you can't do it, suggest you give it a try and prove yourself wrong!'* ***Tim, Property, AV and Mass Coordinator***

*'Dear Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not count the cost, to fight and not heed the wounds, save that of knowing that I do your will'.*
**St. Ignatius Loyola**