

March 2017

We continue to make progress, especially with St Michael's, Shepton Mallet and St Mary's, Glastonbury. We have a training session planned on Sunday 2nd April with, I hope, seven people who have expressed an interest in the formation.

Fr Michael and the catechists at St Mary's, Swindon are giving some thought to the baptism preparation and other parental support programmes, particularly in regard to First Holy Communion parental accompaniment. It's been a challenge for them to know what to start with and we hope to meet after Easter to move forward.

The team at St Bernadette's is building and we have now held one training session. Our family completed their preparation formation and their little boy will be baptised in St Bernadette's on Easter Sunday! It has been a valuable opportunity to 'form' these parents so early on in the pilot, as it's enabled me to 'get a feel' for the material and know what helpful hints to pass on to my trainees!

I just want to say that I find the material prayerful, gentle and it encourages sharing rather than teaching. I have felt the transformative power of the Holy Spirit at work during these sessions, helping us to understand how to receive the immense love God has for us, his children. I have also witnessed exciting evangelisation during this time – God is good!

Thanks to all of you who continue to express an interest, show commitment, enthusiasm and encouragement. Once again, huge thanks go to Fr James, Fr Matt and Fr Michael (our pilot priests) for their support and enthusiasm for this project!

It's already the end of March, the clocks have sprung forward now and Easter will soon be here. May I wish you all a very happy and joyful Easter!