

OLK needs you!

As we are all aware, COVID has taken its toll on the parish, with numbers attending Mass lower than ever before. As we go forward & try to rebuild, we are in need of people to get involved. Things have changed for many people over the last couple of years. Many of our previous volunteers, as they get older & their health deteriorates, have decided that they can't continue in roles that they have fulfilled for many years.

Now is the time for you to become more active in our parish. We desperately need volunteers for following roles:

Baptism Preparation

Who? Couples – can be a married couple, two friends/relations. Don't be put off if you're an individual, we can partner you with someone else.

What is involved? Leading a group of up to 6 couples wishing to have their child baptised. 2 sessions of around an hour & half each – full & easy to follow programme provided. At the moment, these are held on Wednesday evenings in Holy Name Hall. You will probably lead 2 sessions each year.

Where is it needed? Whole Parish. We would especially welcome people from St Mary's to get involved.

1st Sacraments (Reconciliation & Holy Communion) Preparation

Who? Anyone at all, but experience working with children & their parents especially welcome.

What is involved? The children follow a Diocesan programme, with their parents. There will be 3 sessions led by the catechists for each of the Sacraments. You will need to undergo DBS checks.

Where is it needed? Whole Parish

Marriage Preparation

Who? Married couples

What is involved? Leading engaged couples through a course for couples planning to marry in church, focussing on relationships, listening, resolving conflict etc. Each course runs over 3 sessions & is very enjoyable for all involved.

Where is it needed? Whole Parish

Holy Communion for the Sick/Housebound

Who? Current Eucharistic Ministers. Training will be given

What is involved? Visiting a sick/housebound person, usually weekly, to take the Blessed Sacrament to them & lead a brief Eucharistic Service.

Where is it needed? Whole Parish

Readers

Who? Anyone who reads aloud well & has a good, clear voice.

What is involved? Reading the scriptures at Mass, including the Bidding Prayers

Where is it needed? All Masses, but especially at the Vigil & 11.15am Masses.

Eucharistic Ministers

Who? There is a commitment from Eucharistic Ministers that they will endeavour to live according to the rules of the Catholic Church. Sadly, this excludes anyone whose marriage/relationship is not valid in the eyes of the Church. If you need any advice about this, please speak to one of our priests.

What is involved? Distributing Holy Communion to the congregation at Mass.

Where is it needed? At the moment, as we are not receiving Holy Communion under both species, we do not have an urgent need for Eucharistic Ministers at most of our Masses. However, we are short of Ministers at the Vigil & 11.15am Masses at HN & both Masses at SM. We will also need many more Ministers in the future, so it would be really helpful to have a list of people who are willing. Full training will be given.

Musicians

Who? Anyone who can play an instrument & would be willing to play at Sunday Masses. Anyone with a good singing voice who would be willing to lead the singing at Sunday Masses.

What is involved? Choosing the hymns for Masses & playing/singing in turn, based on a rota

Where is it needed? All our Masses

Counters

Who? Anyone with good basic numeracy! Counting is done by 2 people

What is involved? Counting & recording the collection, money given for votive candles, second collections, etc. on a rota basis, after all Sunday Masses at each church

Where is it needed? Each of our churches.

Children's Liturgy

Who? Anyone who is willing, but especially primary teachers, child-minders etc.

What is involved? Taking the children (& some parents) out of Mass during the Liturgy of the Word, reading the children's version of the Gospel & helping them to understand. A small craft activity/colouring sheet, to be presented on the return to Mass. Volunteers to help are needed, but leaders especially needed. You will need to undergo DBS checks.

Where is it needed? All churches

Flowers

Who? Anyone who enjoys arranging flowers in a vase

What is involved? Purchasing flowers (funds provided at SM, repaid at HN & A), cleaning vases & arranging flowers for display on Sanctuaries.

Where is it needed? Assumption & St Mary's

Altar Linens

Who? Anyone willing to help

What is involved? Collecting altar linen, servers albs etc to wash, iron & return

Where is it needed? All churches

Gardening

Who? Anyone willing to give their time

What is involved? General gardening duties, tidying borders, ensuring planters are tidy, on a rota basis.

Where is it needed? All churches

Welcomers

Who? Anyone!

What is involved? Greeting people with a smile as they arrive at Mass.

Giving out bulletins/handouts

Where is it needed? All churches

As you can see, we do need many people to come forward. Please ask yourself if God is calling you & answer "Here I am Lord".

Please email: hnooffice.ourladyofkirkstall@dioceseofleeds.org.uk with your name and phone number. Saying that you are willing to help our parish by volunteering for your preferred role from the list above.

Thank you!