

## PARISH MISSION REPORT

For one week in July St. Helen's Parish was blessed to be visited by a Legion of Mary PPC team (Peregrinatio Pro Christo meaning travelling or adventuring for Christ). The team of 14 was made up of 10 Legionaries from Ireland and 4 from England. The majority of the team were very experienced in this type of missionary work and travel, often more than once, every year to participate in a PPC team.



In the lead up to the team's visit, Parishioners came forward to volunteer their services in the form of providing accommodation, meals in the hall, leaflet content and design, prayers, helping with the Mission Mass, to name a few. Without such generous service, the mission would not have been able to take place. We are so grateful and feel so blessed to have had such wonderful support and thank all who contributed in any way towards the mission.

The Parish of St. Helen's is large and includes many houses converted to flats and apartment blocks. Even so, and with the assistance of Legionaries based at St. Helen's, 5325 of homes within the Parish boundary were called on; that is approximately 80% of the Parish area! All of these homes were delivered a leaflet which contained an invitation from Fr. Joseph to look into the Catholic faith, to return if they had drifted away from the Church and to come along to the Mission Mass at the end of the week. The leaflet also contained further reading references, information on the Year of Mercy and expressed the love that the Lord has for them.

Of those called on, 1698 answered and spoke with the members of the PPC team who also offered them Miraculous Medals. Many faiths were encountered along-side people of no faith. The concerns and barriers to faith of the 165 lapsed Catholics met were listened to, encouraged and prayed with where possible. Some were in need of spiritual help and found the visit of the Legionaries very timely and emotional for them. There were also 44 people interested in the Catholic faith who will be followed up and invited to RCIA classes where appropriate.

**For some, an Alpha course ([uk.alpha.org](http://uk.alpha.org)) would be more suitable to begin with but unfortunately St. Helen's does not currently run one. We would like to appeal to any Parishioners who may feel called to the work of running an Alpha course to please come forward and speak with Fr. Joseph.**

The week of visits ended with the Mission Mass followed by a shared table event in the hall. This was a wonderful celebration. We pray that the seeds sown during that week will be brought to life by the Holy Spirit and that many hearts will draw closer to Christ Jesus and His Blessed Mother Mary.