

**Blackfriars Partnership – ‘Space for Grace, Our Call to Holiness’
A Partnership Reflection Day
Saturday 16 March 2019**

On Saturday 16 March, 32 people from some of the parishes across the partnership gathered for a day of prayer and reflection at St. Cuthbert’s Primary School, Kenton. The day offered an opportunity to explore Pope Francis’ document ‘Rejoice and Be Glad’, which is an invitation to explore our call to holiness. The day was led by Sr. Sheila McNamara RSCJ and Chris Smith. In the opening liturgy a candle was lit for each parish in the partnership and everyone in the partnership was held in prayer throughout the day.



Each of the four sessions, through word, music, image, prayer and silence, explored the themes Pope Francis offers us for reflection; all are called to holiness, the name of God is mercy, in the light of the Master, signs of holiness in the world. Each session was followed by 20 minutes silence, which enabled people to reflect, with some questions, what being holy in our everyday lives can mean for each of us. The quality of the silence was very prayerful and profound. People went away with a sense of being holy is about being yourself; we don't have to do great things to be holy, pay attention to the little details and the Beatitudes are a 'road map' for our journey to holiness.



Here are some of the comments from the participants:

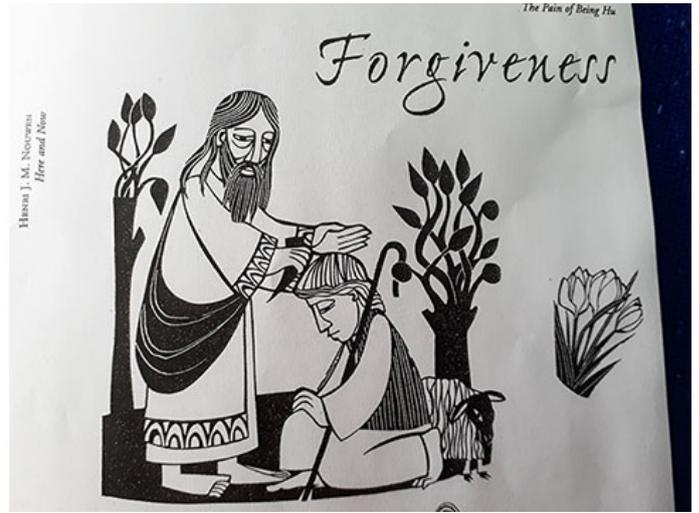
"Nice to see both elderly and young together sharing our thoughts and prayers."

"It is lovely to spend a day with others of 'like-minded' because we all need encouragement and we certainly got that today. God Bless you x"

"I am so grateful for such a Holy and inspiring day. Absolutely wonderful! xxx"

"Thank you for a lovely wonderful day with so many blessings. God Bless you all xxx"

"Thank you. I've learned to stop trying to become holy by praying more or better by being compassionate and kind."



Article submitted by Susan Picola