

Bede Partnership Celebrates Patronal Feasts



We are conscious that if partnership is to be meaningful it is important that parishioners in the worshipping communities that form our 'Bede Partnership' have opportunities to become partners by getting to know each other: to find out where the

church buildings are situated; to learn about the history and the present of the parishes; and, to appreciate the people forming the Church. To gently support this relationship building, we extended a practice that had developed in our clusters. On the patronal feasts of the churches in our partnership, only one Mass is concelebrated that day in that church, which is a celebration for the whole partnership.

Mass in the church is followed by refreshments, which encourages the celebration to continue in conversation, sharing and meeting new (and old) friends. Often connections are discovered across the generations and between the parishioners so that within a few minutes it seems everyone is related, but is that just a North East thing?

This started in a small way last year but has been helped this year with special celebrations. On 21st June, St. Aloysius Church marked the 450th anniversary of the birth of St. Aloysius, which coincided with the 130th Anniversary of the Church in Hebburn. Obviously there are always complications. One of our Churches is named for Ss. Peter and Paul, so the partnership celebration moved to the Saturday following the Holy Day of Obligation. Also, we have two churches named for St. Bede, so the South Shields church celebrated with Mass on the 25th May Feast, while the Jarrow parish celebrated at the weekend with Mass at St. Paul's the Monastery where St. Bede's spent much of his life. Our next celebrations are on 25th July for St. James in Hebburn and St. Oswald's in South Shields, on 3rd August.

John Hardy (PDG Chair)