

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE DEANERY VOCATIONS PROMOTIONS GROUP

The North Staffordshire Vocations Promotions Group was started in 1988 by Fr. Seamus Gilroy. Fr. Gilroy was the Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Birmingham at that time and was aware of what a large geographical area the diocese covered and of his inability to be able to be in all places at once to help promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

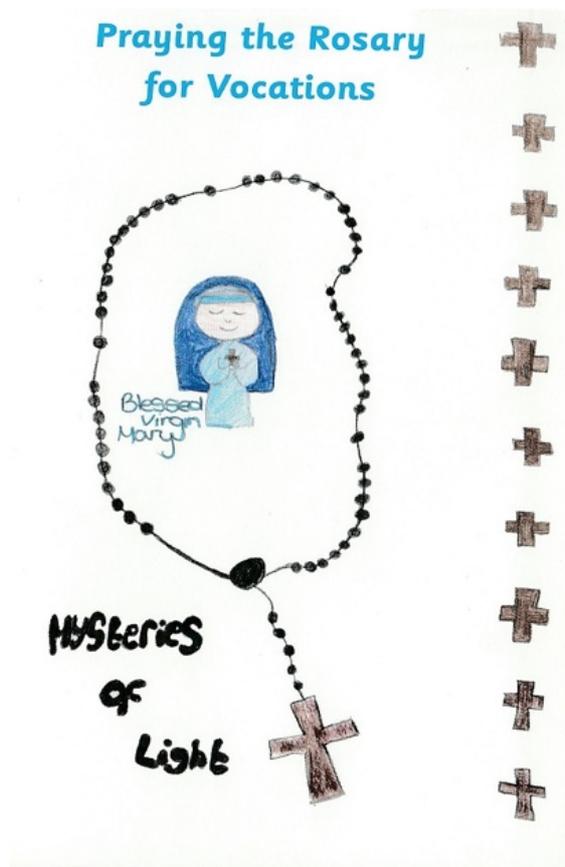
Fr. Gilroy's vision was to have a group of people (clergy, religious and laity) in each deanery of the diocese, who would be willing to help him in his work of promoting vocations.

The North Staffordshire Vocations Promotions Group is still meeting 32 years on. There have been over 140 meetings and many an event or competition to help to promote awareness of vocation.



Peter Lucas, the Chairman of the group, encouraging vocations to the priesthood.

Over the years, the group has facilitated prayer rotas and discussion days, as well as involving schools in poster design competitions, prayer writing and producing a rosary booklet. A recent initiative was a two-year programme, during which a simple wooden chalice moved from parish to parish, along with a specially produced book of prayer resources, enabling each parish to focus their prayer for a month on vocations.



Rosary prayer card for vocations, an initiative carried out by the group.

At one time, the group was instrumental in organising school vocations days. These still continue, organised by the schools themselves. In the past, the group has arranged tours of St. Mary's College, Oscott, and football competitions between seminarians and secondary school students.

The group helps to organise an annual deanery Mass for vocations, supported in turn by the five secondary schools of the deanery.

We thank all those who have been members of the group this past 32 years, as well as all who work with the ideas and events we come up with.