

Update on the Blessed Virgin Mary statue project:

-to replace the missing statue on the seawards facing - born out of the desire of some of our parishioners to replace the missing statue; honouring our Blessed Lady; and comfort those who see the statue (countless seafarers, Clevedon locals and visitors alike, including people on the pier).

With the oversight of Fr. Reg and the PPC, a small team is currently preparing the project for the Parish (Maureen Geis, Patrick Dillon and Deacon Mario). It is a project from the Parish, for the Parish (except that the funding will not come out of the Parish budget, but from specific private donations). That is why each parishioner will be able to vote for one or several of the proposed statues, and otherwise have the opportunity to provide feedback, whether they wish to contribute financially to the project or not.

Next steps:

1. Selection of a shortlist of possible statues by a small number of internal and external experts and project team.
2. Awareness meeting on Zoom or in Greyfriars (depending on the evolving Covid-19 situation) and awareness information via all Parish communication channels to reach all those who have no access to a computer and/or social media, with opportunity for all to vote for one or several of the proposed statues.
3. Those who wish to contribute financially to the project are very welcome to do so. There are already some anonymous donors who offered to pay for a substantial part of the project. No usual parish funds will be used. Any surplus money (not needed for project) will go to the San Damiano fund.
4. Based on the selected statue, and as soon as the necessary costs can be met, the parish will use an experienced, qualified, local contractor to prepare and carry out the installation. Prior to the actual installation there will be a dedication ceremony; and following the installation there will be a Parish celebration.
5. Once the statue is in place, very low consumption lighting will be installed, to illuminate the statue during the night.

In the meantime, please do not worry, or listen to any of the wild rumours or gossip you may have heard. You will soon be contacted regarding the awareness and voting (see point 2) opportunities. We will not rush the project, but want to ensure that everyone who wants to have a say can do so. Many thanks for your kind interest.