

My name is Jane Everett and I am a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace congregation.

I am contacting you all to let you know what is happening at OLQP as part of our centenary celebrations and to extend a warm and friendly invite to you and all those in your Churches, to any of the events that take place.

As you know, we had a small celebration in February on the actual anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in the Parish of OLQP. This was quickly followed by the Diocesan Mass for Our Lady of Lourdes,

We, ie members of the church, thought that it would be better to have our main celebrations during the summer months to allow more people to participate in events. Our main Mass, followed by a buffet refreshment, will be held on Tuesday 9th July. This day is celebrated in many countries as the feast of Our Lady Queen of Peace, so this seemed the appropriate day for us to choose.

Following on from the Commemoration of the end of WW1, we decided that we would like to celebrate Peace as part of our centenary. I think you will all agree we need to continue to pray hard and work hard to achieve peace both here and in other counties. Every little bit we can do to reach out to those in our own communities will help towards achieving and maintaining peace.

We therefore decided to have a larger celebration, a Festival of Peace. OLQP church will be open 2 hours a day from 30th June to 14th July. During that time we hope to have on display pieces of artwork, poems, short stories, all with the theme of peace. Schools in the whole Parish have been invited to participate. The church will have plenty of doves on show as well!

The festival will start with a strawberry tea after Mass and will end with a family picnic in the school grounds

We are also having a Peace tree outside Church with Peace symbols that we hope passers by will take into their home. The tree will also be a place where prayer intentions can be left (in a box)

Thursday 4th July will be Songs of Peace and Praise, an ecumenical event with invitations being sent to other faith groups, the Mosque, Synagogue. Local schools have been invited to sing a song but we would also like local choirs, individuals and groups to join in as well.

Olive trees have been bought for each of our Churches, so you will be able to decide where, when and how they are planted, ceremony or not.

We hope that you will see these events not just for OLQP but as whole Parish events.

If you would like to add to the activities during the festival, then please do so. You know you will have our support and help to organise anything that you might decide to do. It would be lovely, if like the Poppy event, that we could all be involved in the Peace Festival with activities, no matter how big, small, prayerful, unusual, floral etc, etc. This time let's use all our churches, if you wish, so that peace can be spread further.

Best wishes and God Bless

Jane