

**South East Edinburgh
Cluster
St Catherine of Alexandria
St Gregory the Great
St John Vianney**



**Bereavement
Befriender**

**“ Many of the Judeans had gone
to Martha and Mary in order to
console them about their
brother.”**

Luke 11

The 3 parishes of St Catherine's, St Gregory the Great and St John Vianney's value the contribution of all our parishioners. We believe that everyone has their part to play in enriching the life of our church community.

One of the ways that some people serve in our cluster is by responding to the invitation to be a member of our Cluster Bereavement Group.

The group exists to offer support to parishioners who are going through a grieving process, whether a recent bereavement or one which has happened many years ago.

There are two branches to this ministry:

1. Members will visit, in pairs, any bereaved person/parishioner on request.
2. All members participate in the preparation and leading of bereavement services and are available afterwards to spend time with anyone.

A bereavement befriender commits to:

- Meetings 3-4 times a year and whenever necessary to prepare liturgies, discuss any other business, and to arrange home visiting if requested.
- Attending the bereavement healing and anointing Mass in St Gregory's on the 2nd Saturday of the month when possible.
- Attending Remembrance Masses and service during November and the Remembrance Service during Eastertide.
- Committing to befriending initially for 6 months and then reviewing that commitment with Father Jock

A bereavement befriender commits to: (Continued)

- Attending Child & Adult at Risk Protection Awareness training (2 hours, initially, and update training, as required).

What Gifts and talents might a member need?

- Good listening and empathetic skills
- The ability to listen without judging or trying to solve problems
- Sensitivity and approachability
- Compassion and understanding.

What support is offered?

- Bereavement befriending training, offered through the diocese.
- Support from the parish priests and parish co-ordinators.
- Peer group support.
- New members would always be accompanied by a more experienced member during home visits.
- Visiting is normally done in pairs.
- Support in complying with the Diocesan Vulnerable Adult Protection Process and Disclosure Scotland.
- Annual supervision/reflective evenings on the ministry of bereavement befriending.

If you would like more information contact persons are:

St Gregory's : Jacinta Flockhart 664 5581

St John Vianney's : Ethel Ferguson 664 6614

St Catherine's : Mary Thomson 258 0677

St Paul encourages us, as he did the early Christians, to serve one another and to use the gifts and talents we have all been given:

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

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