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A&B News

The Catholic Newspaper for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

APRIL 2020 EASTER - No.351

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The Rite of Election 2020

Accepting the Invitation to a New Life



Catechumens sign the Book of the Elect in Arundel Cathedral on Saturday 29 February 2020

OH! HOW THE WIND BLEW around Arundel Cathedral on Saturday 29 February. It was the occasion of the annual Rite of Election, traditionally held in the Diocese on the first Saturday after Ash Wednesday.

Watching the 46 Catechumens, 76 Candidates, sponsors and families being blown in through the west door was a sight to behold – a mixture of excitement on faces for the expectation of the service to come and a degree of relief that arrival at the Cathedral had been safely achieved.

Proud parish priests from 21 parishes met their flocks. Many acquaintances were quickly renewed and many were made.

At the registration desk Catherine Christmas and Ruth Gerun from the Diocesan Formation Team were on hand to welcome the RCIA candidates and to distribute orders of service. Much to the surprise of the arrivals, an unexpected bonus was Bishop Richard lending a hand!

After many weeks of planning, the duo helped direct everyone to their correct seats, not an easy task, with nearly 400 people attending the service.

It was a busy time and the Cathedral was beginning to fill up.

By the sanctuary, Anne Ward was enthusiastically conducting her musicians and choir. Then the time came when the musicians and singers commenced the Gathering Song by Bernadette Farrell, and the entrance procession started.

Bishop Richard welcomed the congregation from the sanctuary, saying what a wonderful day this was with such a large number of people preparing to be baptised and so many coming forward to enter full communion with the Church.

He said 'The Readings today (Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7 and Romans 5: 12, 17-19) may seem rather daunting, but they should give us the great hope of salvation given to us by the Lord. We are called to walk with Him. The Gospel (Matthew 4: 1-11) talks about how Jesus was tempted in the desert.

Was it easy for Jesus to turn away? Today we are all encouraged to follow Him and to turn away from temptation. We must not forget that God loves us all.'

(continued on page 4)





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POPE BLESSES PAINTING OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM FOR RE-DEDICATION OF ENGLAND



POPE FRANCIS has blessed the 'Dowry Painting' of Our Lady of Walsingham, which is the Catholic National Shrine dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God, in Norfolk.

Present at the blessing on 12 February were Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, Monsignor John Armitage, Rector of the Walsingham Shrine, and Amanda de Pulford, painter of the Dowry Painting.

The painting will be at Walsingham for the Rededication of England as Mary's Dowry on 29 March 2020. After the Rededication it will begin a journey to every Catholic parish in England.

Cardinal Nichols said: 'The blessing of the icon of Our Lady of Walsingham by Pope Francis is a great encouragement to us all as we prepare for 29 March and our act of

Rededication. I assured our Holy Father of our prayers and affection and thanked him for his blessing.'

Mgr Armitage said: 'Yesterday was a truly blessed day, when the Holy Father blessed the new Dowry Painting in Rome which was presented to him by Cardinal Nichols. The painting, which will visit every Catholic Church in England, was then taken to the tomb of St Gregory the Great in St Peter's Basilica, the Pope who sent St Augustine to evangelise the people of England. Before his tomb we prayed for his intercession to strengthen our faith to continue this mission to the people of England.'

More details on The Rededication, the Walsingham Shrine or the Dowry Painting can be found at: www.behold2020.com

Story: Jack Valero

Picture: EWTN, Vatican

GENERATIONS UNITE SPEAKING UP FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

CLIMATE CHANGE and the pollution of our lands, oceans and forests are destroying homes, food and people's ability to earn a living.

Around the world young people are speaking up and leading the way in making change. But they can't do it alone.

This year, CAFOD is calling everyone to come together and support environmental defenders around the world. Each diocese in England and Wales has been partnered with a specific group who are fighting for climate justice on their doorstep.

The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton has been linked with the Atrato River Guardians, a group of young people from Colombia who locally raise

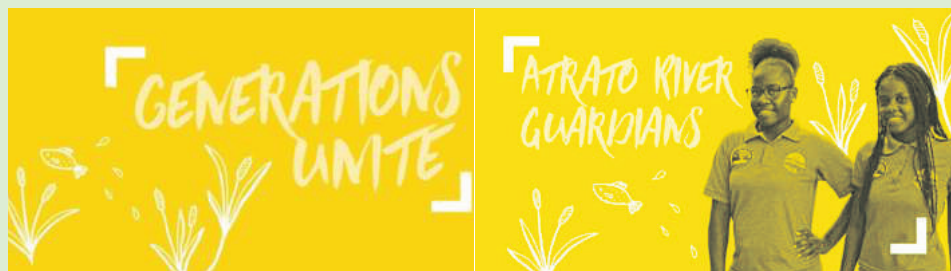
awareness about the importance of the river and organise rubbish collections and clean-ups of local ravines that flow into the river.

Heylis, 15, a young guardian, explained the importance of everyone standing together - in prayer, in solidarity and in action. She said: 'I have a message for the people of the UK and I want you all to listen to me. Look after the environment, look after what you have and make good use of what God gave us.'

This year show your support for creation by joining the Generations Unite campaign.

More at cafod.org.uk/Campaign

Story: Elouise Hobbs
CAFOD Regional News Officer



REST IN PEACE

It is with much sadness that we inform you of three recent deaths:

Archbishop Peter Smith, Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark, died peacefully just before midnight on Friday, 6 March. Many readers will recall in particular his tenure as Apostolic Administrator of the Arundel & Brighton Diocese from 2014-2015, prior to the Installation of Bishop Richard on 28 May 2015.

Tony Evans, in Formation for the Permanent Diaconate, and who was in his second year, sadly lost his battle with cancer on 18 February. His funeral mass was held in Cobham on 11 March.

Michael O'Shea, KSG, Secretary to the Secular Clergy Common Fund died on 3 March 2020, following a short illness.

Please pray for the repose of their souls. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



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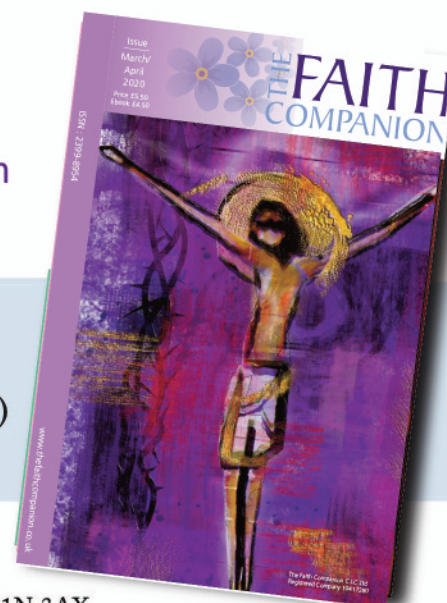
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First Choristers in the UK to Qualify for New Award



IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE of A&B News, an article with the title 'A New Year First for Arundel Cathedral Choristers' reported how young choristers in Arundel were to be the first in the UK to receive a new examination award from the Guild of Church Musicians (GCM).

Pictured above are the twelve choristers, aged 10 to 14, who have now been presented with the guild's new Archbishops' Chorister Medal by GCM President Dame Mary Archer during a

special ceremony at the Cathedral.

The aim of the Archbishops' Chorister Medal is not only to develop practical skills in performance but also to encourage attentive listening and reflection on the role of music in worship. It differs from other examinations in that it is not solely a performance assessment; instead it seeks to test skills which are central to a chorister's development and evolution as a musician.

The concept of a new chorister medal, created specifically for those under the age of 18, was proposed and developed by the organist and master of the choristers at Arundel Cathedral, Elizabeth Stratford.

Commenting on the syllabus for the examination, Elizabeth said: 'I very much hope that this will appeal to other choir trainers with young singers as it is suited to those of all religious denominations in schools and churches.'

Among those attending the award ceremony were the Mayor of Arundel, Councillor Wendy Eve, and Patrick Burgess MBE, Chairman of the Friends of Arundel Cathedral.



Elizabeth Stratford, Master of the Choristers at Arundel Cathedral, was one of the first girl choristers in this country.

For more information about:

§ **The Archbishops' Chorister Medal** and the awards offered by the Guild of Church Musicians contact Dr Hugh Benham, chairman of the guild's Academic Board, telephone 0776 500 7708 or email h.benham@soton.ac.uk

§ **Arundel Cathedral Choir** contact Elizabeth Stratford, telephone 07971 090724, email elizabethstratford@msn.com

§ **The Guild of Church Musicians** contact the guild's office at 93 Croydon Road, Beddington, Wallington, Surrey CR0 4QF, telephone 0208 395 7949, email gcmregistrar@blueyonder.co.uk or visit www.churchmusicians.org

Story and pictures: Tim Stanley

National Board of Catholic Women Report

AT THE BOARD MEETING on 22 February members were pleased to welcome our episcopal liaison with the Bishops Conference: Abbot Hugh Allan. Abbot Hugh is Apostolic Administrator of the Falkland Islands and introduced himself with an amusing and illuminating potted biography and expressed his keenness to support us.

Ideas from around the Dioceses

We have all heard of food banks, but at the meeting we heard the inspirational story of how Louise Cook sought to help reduce clothing poverty and meet the call: 'I was naked and you clothed me.' (Matthew 25:36)



Her response was to introduce a clothes bank in Nottingham in 2016. With the help of volunteers she has built up a service called Sharewear which receives good condition clothing that is then given to individuals and families to help combat crises e.g. from fire, sudden financial crisis, escaping violence, the long-term hospitalised, etc. Now covering a large area in the north of England, 60% of those helped are referrals from other agencies.

Nottingham diocese organised a 'Blessed is she' brunch with a group of ladies coming together to share food, faith and fellowship, while an international women's day 'Women and Peacemaking' is to be hosted by Pax Christi.

Laudato Si project

The Bishop of Salford, John Arnold, has given over extensive grounds of the Bishop's residence to be transformed

into an eco resource for the community - a place where schools, parishes and local community groups can visit and learn about sustainability whilst enjoying the spiritual benefits of an outdoor retreat environment.

For those with an interest in **science and bioethics**, there are briefing notes from the Nuffield Council. Board members attended a recent conference on decision-making at the beginning and end of life, which focused on birth plans for pregnant women and midwives and 'advance directives' for those approaching death and their families and care teams.

Looking ahead

NBCW will have a group present at COP 26 in Glasgow and the diocesan links will be co-ordinating volunteers in their dioceses.

CAFOD will hold an interactive day for volunteers and supporters led by Bridget Fenwick in Leicester looking at Laudato Si and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Study Days May 20-24 in Baden Baden on the theme 'A vulnerable world calls for creative women'. The focus will be on sustainability and the four days will include excursions to visit sustainable projects, practical workshops, guest speakers, debate and cultural exchange on a practical level as well as social gatherings. <https://www.andante-eu-ropa.net>

These are just a few of the areas reported. All Board members are happy to share resources and provide further information if a topic is of interest to you or your parish group. **If any group is interested in having a presentation about Sharewear do contact Sue Petritz, Diocesan Link, on nbcw@abdiocese.org.uk. Also please do give me your news and forthcoming projects so I can share them with other Board members. Reports can be seen on www.nbcw.co.uk**

Story: Sue Petritz

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God calls to us constantly, longing to guide those who yearn for life and desire to see good days into the way of peace. The Rule of Saint Benedict helps us to hear God's voice, in the Holy Scriptures, in the sacred liturgy and in our brothers in community. If you are a single man longing to live your Catholic faith in a way which brings great joy as it demands the best of you, consider whether God is calling you to be a Benedictine monk at Buckfast Abbey. Please reach out to us, and we will do all we can to help you.

A & B NEWS

The official monthly paper of the
Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

AS WE APPROACH EASTER and commemorate the Resurrection of our Lord on Sunday 12 April, there are a series of unique milestones on our 2020 journey.

Following a 33-day personal Consecration to Jesus through Mary, pilgrims will make their personal Consecrations on Wednesday 25 March, the Feast of the Annunciation.

This will be followed by a Triduum of Prayer from 26-28 March, including a recitation of the Litany of the Saints and Martyrs of England, and the Rosary Prayer.

On Sunday 29 March hundreds of thousands of devout people from all over England will make their personal rededication as the Dowry of Mary – including A&B representatives gathered in Arundel Cathedral.

For most of the population, there will be another consideration in April – the intensifying of the coronavirus disease; the time of joy when we recall our Saviour's Resurrection is also likely to be a time of alarm and worry.

I was thinking about St Padre Pio's famous but challenging saying: 'Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.'

In view of current concerns, maybe the saying can be tweaked to read: 'Prepare, pray, hope and don't worry... excessively.'

With best wishes for a happy, holy - and healthy - Easter.

Harry Robertson

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The Rite of Election 2020

(continued from page 1)



BISHOP RICHARD CONTINUED
'You have been journeying to get to this moment. You may not have realised it, but the Holy Spirit has been working with you, even before your journey started.'

We rejoice today that you have said 'Yes' and that the Catechumens (those not yet baptised) will soon sign the Book of the Elect, to show your commitment. You put your life on the line – hopefully, not as in the early years of the Church. When people signed the Book they could become martyrs! We pray that will not happen to you,' he

concluded.

After reading the Presentation of the Catechumens, Deacon Jon Harman invited them and their godparents to gather in front of Bishop Richard in a large semi-circle around the sanctuary. So many Catechumens were at the Rite of Election this year, the central aisle also came into use.

Now, the Bishop addressed the godparents and asked for their affirmation that their charges were sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the elect. A hushed Cathedral eagerly waited for the response. 'They have' was the resounding reply to the four questions put to them.

Moving forward to be greeted by the Bishop, each Catechumen turned to sign the Book of the Elect; after which it was formally presented to the Bishop.

For those already baptised, the Presentation of the Candidates took place; each name was called out by Deacon Jon and they were asked to stand in their places with their sponsors.

Bishop Richard then addressed the 76 Candidates (those already baptised) by saying it was recognised that their desire is to be sealed with the gift of the

Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ's Eucharistic Table. 'Hear the Lord's call to conversion and be faithful to your baptismal covenant' he said.

Then, addressing the assembled sponsors he prayed that these Candidates will look to us for an example of Christian renewal. Finally, as one Diocesan family, he asked if we were all ready to support the testimony expressed about these Candidates and to include them in our prayers and affection. From the whole congregation, in unison an assuring 'We are!' was heard.

After the Solemn Blessing and Dismissal, this great service was over. Well, not quite, as Catechumens, Candidates, sponsors and families were invited to come forward and have their photos taken with Bishop Richard.

As the choir sang the Sacred Songs while all this was going on, one remembers the words of Bishop Richard 'It is especially significant today as you prepare to be part of the sacraments. It is an invitation to a new life – in this world and in the world to come.'

Story: Peter Burholt
Pictures: A&B News Team,
Laura Maydew-Gale

Andrew and Valendra's Story: a Religious Upbringing now Fulfilled by the RCIA

WHAT EXCITEMENT, being together as a family with their twins David and Elizabeth, at The Rite of Election! Quite clearly, by the looks on their faces the excitement was shared equally by Andrew and Valendra and their children. They had travelled from Weybridge for the occasion. But how did the parents' journey start? Although from a Christian background, they had missed out on a religious upbringing. Let them take up their story.

'After the birth of our twins we decided to build our family on Christian values, so we got in touch with Fr Con Foley at Christ the Prince of Peace Weybridge. He immediately made us welcome and he was so kind, particularly arranging assistance during Mass. We were soon introduced to the RCIA programme and we began to get involved with the parish. Everything started to make sense.

'Our RCIA coordinator, Carmen, took us through every step and was always ready to help and answer any questions we might have had. We greatly enjoyed the weekly sessions, which brought a spiritual warmth and a great resource of knowledge. We found it a wonderful opportunity to learn and discuss a wide range of



subjects, including the Mass, the Eucharist, prayer and pilgrimage. It certainly expanded our understanding of the Holy Trinity and the Bible. Receiving rosary beads was a special moment for both of us.

When our twins both got baptised, it helped us to enrich our experience of the RCIA journey into a spiritually rewarding one. It felt like we were wearing a new personality, fortified by the sacred tradition and Faith.'

So, now The Rite of Election was over, did Andrew and Valendra's minds change about their journey to Easter Sunday?

Andrew responded: 'It was a wonderful experience being in this great

Cathedral. It gave our journey an added sense of importance.'

'With all these people here, we feel we have now become part of the Diocesan family. We would like to thank everyone for their help in our journey for both of us to come into full communion with the Catholic Church,' concluded Valendra.

The twins were just as excited as before as the family packed their bags to head back to Weybridge with a renewed spiritual energy.

Story: Andrew & Valendra,
with Peter Burholt
Picture: A&B News Team

JUST A THOUGHT

DOWNSTREAM FROM THE GROTTTO in Lourdes along the north bank of the Gave, there is, or used to be, a set of Stations of the Cross made of local stone. On the front of each pillar there is an etching into the face of the stone, depicting a Station of the Cross. With the sound of the river nearby, it is a tranquil place for reflection and contemplation to pray the Way of the Cross.

Just after the fourteenth Station (Jesus is laid in the tomb), there is another showing an outline of Our Blessed Lady with the inscription: 'With faith and certain hope, Mary waited for the third day.'

On one occasion, praying this way of the Cross with a group of pilgrims, we reflected on this station and agreed

that when someone dies there is a time of waiting, and a time of deep emptiness and mourning. There are family and friends to tell, arrangements to be made; it is exhausting. We are overcome with grief, but together with Mary, we too can have faith and a certain hope in the Resurrection.

The final station depicts the Resurrection of Jesus and as we stood there in silent prayer, a little boy called out: 'Three cheers for the Resurrection.'

Out of the mouths of babes! Children often have a simple wisdom beyond our adult minds.

John Sexton

The Rite of Election 2020 - Journeys

Raj's Story: Saving Life through Prayer

BORN IN MAURITIUS, an Indian Ocean island nation east of Madagascar and more than 6,000 miles away from the UK - just a little further than Hong Kong - Raj has also made an extensive physical and spiritual journey.

His Hindu parents valued a good education so Raj was placed in a Roman Catholic school, where he was first exposed to the faith. His fondest memories are of a priest, Fr Adrian Whieh, who was very caring to his family and made a point of praying for him; they still keep in touch.

In his late 20s, Raj emigrated to England to study nursing. Over the next ten years his study and work took him to the south coast, particularly to Eastbourne and Brighton, where he was a regular attendee at Anglican and Catholic churches, but without feeling the desire to formally join any congregation. He married in 1995 and has a son.

Raj's spiritual side continued to develop and he was in the habit of going to pray in the hospital chapel during his lunch break - a habit that saved a life, according to hospital doctors...

In February 2001 - as reported in the Brighton Argus newspaper - Raj went to pray in the hospital chapel during his break. He heard a baby crying and assumed it was from somewhere else in the hospital. When it continued, very loudly, he moved the altar cloth aside and discovered an abandoned baby, a couple of weeks old, in a plastic carrier bag. Fortunately, the child was unharmed and was taken to the children's ward while police searched for the mother.

Ten years ago he started attending Our Lady of Ransom in Eastbourne (Parish Priest Fr Raglan Hay-Will) and felt increasingly drawn to the Catholic faith, to the extent that in 2015 he decided that it was time he was baptised.

The next four years were a time of increasing immersion in the faith, attending an Alpha course and beginning the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for two years. Raj fondly remembers Adoration and Mass at Our Lady of Ransom, as well as the well-run RCIA programme. In fact, next month he will be helping to run the next Alpha course.

Raj says that in the Catholic Church he feels close to Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and treasures the Saints. Although in recent years he has battled with his own health issues, he believes that his involvement with the Church makes him a better person: more disciplined, with a stronger and continually growing faith, happier and comfortable with the friends he has made and the sense of community at Our Lady.

Story & Picture: A&B News Team

INVITATION Saturday 30 May 2020

Bishop Richard invites all new Catholics of the Diocese, together with their godparents, sponsors, family and friends to join him for the **annual Diocesan Families' Day** at St John's Seminary, Womersley. The day starts with a picnic lunch and concludes with the celebration of a Pentecost Mass of Thanksgiving at about 4pm. More details to follow, but make a note of the date.

Mei-Mei's Story: I Have a New Life

FROM STEAMY SUB-TROPICAL HONG KONG to the quintessentially English climate of Surrey, Mei-Mei's journey has been climatically varied - and even more spiritually diverse.

Her English Anglican father and her Chinese atheist mother placed her in Good Hope Convent School - which was most unusual as the family was not Catholic.

One of Mei-Mei's earliest school memories, aged seven, is of entering the school chapel and being transfixed by the sight of a cross and the words 'God is Love.' Fifty years later the memory is fresh and powerful.

Arriving in England at the age of 11, Mei-Mei was enrolled in a state school in West Molesey but - as she admits - 'I was very rebellious' and was swiftly transferred to Notre Dame School in Cobham, Surrey, where she 'found Jesus.'

Inspired by her RE teacher, she remembers that she once prayed for about 20 minutes 'asking Jesus to come into my life.' In fact, at age 14 she had a powerful vision of a radiant Jesus, arms outstretched, standing before her.

If this was a story book or a Broadway play, we might expect Mei-Mei after that episode to disappear into a convent for the remainder of her life.

Not a bit of it. She admits she did not become exceptionally 'holy.' Rather, she lived a very normal life, joining the RAF for four years after college, getting married and having her first child, then going to work for her parents who ran several shops specialising in Oriental arts.

The first marriage ended - as did a sec-



ond - and Mei-Mei found herself a single mother with two young girls. For 29 years she attended several churches from the Protestant mainstream as well as other non-denominational ones. She threw herself into church activity, serving in several roles, including street pastor and missionary.

Then, just before Lent last year, one of her daughters had a problem, so Mei-Mei fasted for 40 days. Then an American friend suggested she attend a Catholic church for Lent. She then googled Catholic churches and, on the second attempt, she found a Catholic church but arrived too early.

Coincidentally, two ladies arrived and led Mei-Mei back to Claygate, to Holy Name and, to this day, she never saw them again; 'they were Angels'.

So, on Ash Wednesday 2019, she attended her first Catholic church - with many misgivings, as she was positively anti-Catholic, not believing the Church was divinely ordained. She regarded the sight of ash on foreheads as weird and alien.

Mei-Mei says the Lord left her in no doubt that she had to return. She did, fell to her knees, prayed harder than ever, attended Mass six days a week - and finally felt the peace and contentment she had been searching for all her life. 'I know God wanted me here...He was bringing me home,' she said.

She says it has not been easy; the last 12 months were the toughest of her life, having transformed her thinking and stripped away much of her past, realising this is just the beginning of a new journey with God.

Now, after almost a year of attending Holy Name Church in Esher (Parish Priest Fr David King) how does Mei-Mei think she has changed? 'I am more gentle, open, understanding, tolerant, patient and loving,' Mei-Mei says - and looking forward to Easter 2020 when she will complete her Christian Initiation through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Story & Picture: A&B News Team



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Catching Up on Earlier Website Submissions

Articles sent to us via the website are notified to us by a system-generated email. Due to an IT glitch, some articles were missed from recent editions of the paper and we include several of them on this page.

A Diary from the Pilgrimage of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in Frimley to Banneaux

I PLANNED our parish pilgrimage to Banneux and Beauraing in Belgium for the 25 to 29 of April 2019, days before the main pilgrimage season on the 1 May 2019. One disappointment was that Fr John our parish priest was booked for a wedding in this period and therefore could not go as the family requested him as their celebrant. I asked Fr John if I could bring a retired priest friend of mine of the Vincentian order by the name of Fr Kevin O' Shea. Fr John had met Fr Kevin at my 50th wedding celebration and he said that was a great idea. Fr Kevin was a clone of Fr John as both priests are Cork men and lived within 18 miles of each other back home in Ireland.

After many months advertising in our parish newsletter and other nearby churches we ended up on departure day with a nice number of 28. We were seen off by family, friends and parishioners after the 9.30am Mass and made our way to Banneux arriving at 10pm to welcome teas and sandwiches.

The following day our pilgrimage took off in full swing with Mass at 10am, then free time to walk around the beautiful grounds to see the places where Our Lady appeared, especially the holy well where Our Lady spoke to Mariette, telling her to put her hands into the water, as she came to relieve sufferings.

After lunch we were shown a video of Our Lady's eight apparitions in Banneux, the same number as at Lourdes. Mariette, an eleven year old girl, saw Our Lady from the 15 January 1933 to her last visit on 25 March 1933.

At 3pm we walked The Way of the Cross starting from St Michael's chapel where Fr Kevin asked all to be reflective and prayerful in between each station. After the stations of the cross we had more free time to visit other chapels and side monuments given by many countries across the world. Each evening after dinner we gathered in our own chapel of Chaityfountaine in our shrine hotel and said the rosary.

On Saturday 27 April 2019 we made our way after breakfast to the shrine of

Beauraing 90km from Banneux where Our Lady appeared to five children from 29 November 1932 to 3 January 1933, a total of 33 times. This shrine the locals call their Fatima because Our Lady appeared to more than one child. On arrival in Beauraing we were met by Sr Benedict who Fr Chris Butaye, Rector of the Shrine, had asked to be our guide.

Mass in the apparition chapel at 11am commenced with Fr Chris giving the group a short welcome and told us how pleased he was to welcome pilgrims from OLQH in Frimley, England. After Mass Sr Benedict took us on a tour of the shrine, to the grotto, and the other chapels, especially the lovely Basilica. We had an hour's break for lunch and at 2pm we met at the information office for a video presentation on the apparition and the children's own story. All five married and gave a Christian upbringing to their family. The children died in the following years: Andree in 1978, Fernande in 1979, Gilberte and Albert Vosin in 2003, and Gilberte Degeimbre in 2015.

On Sunday 29 April our group was up early and after breakfast we once again were given the opportunity to have Mass in the apparition chapel at 10am, with confession available. At 12pm we all gathered at the holy well about the beautiful statue of Our Lady on the spot where she appeared to Mariette and where Saint Pope John Paul II washed his hands and prayed, a custom offered to all pilgrims. Our official group picture (below) was taken at the well.

At 3pm we gathered again in our Chaityfountaine chapel for prayer and anointing of the sick, a privilege offered to all on pilgrimages. The group ended up with a great sing song, and sad good-byes as we all got on well and knew the coach for Frimley would be leaving for home after early Monday morning Mass. We arrived back safely at OLQH at 6pm to the same cheerful smiles of those who waved us off with Fr John having the biggest smile.

Story: Philip McDonnell



Celebration of Candlemas at Our Lady of Ransom Parish in Eastbourne

THE YOUTH GROUP FOR YEAR SIX/SEVEN celebrated Candlemas in a special way. It began with a short discussion about Candlemas led by Nick Harden, a seminarian from St John's Seminary at Womersley, who is on placement at Our Lady of Ransom. Nick then led the group in a liturgy, praying for all the vulnerable children in the world.

The children, and adults too, then made glass lanterns (pictured) and St Brigid prayer crosses which were all blessed at the end of the session by Fr Raglan.

It was a lovely afternoon praying, creating and enjoying time together.

With very grateful thanks to Vale-



ria, Jane, Claire, Malcolm and Fr Tristan for all their support; a positive session for all involved.

Story and picture: Sr Mary Rose

Carol singing and fundraising in Henfield

PARISHIONERS AT CORPUS CHRISTI Parish in Henfield were able to participate in a new event to celebrate the Christmas season. A large number gathered in the parish hall on 16 December to sing carols. This new community carol singing event featured everyone's favourite carols and parishioners entered into the spirit of the event with lots of enthusiasm.

Naturally for this time of year, mulled wine and mince pies also featured on the agenda. These were served throughout the afternoon and the mulled wine helped to lubricate the vocal cords as even those who would be normally reticent found that they were enticed by the wonderful atmosphere to sing to their hearts' content, joining in with the other parishioners and musicians.

An 'everyone wins' raffle was held in aid of parish funds, and donations - amounting to over £200 - were made in aid of the homeless in Worthing.

Story and picture: Neville de Moraes



World Apostolate of Fatima Five First Saturdays Devotion

ON SATURDAY 22 February 2020 Holy Mass was celebrated at Westminster Cathedral to launch the Centenary of the request for the Fatima Five First Saturdays Devotion. This is part of the work of the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) in England and Wales to promote this devotion, which was requested initially by Our Lady in July 1917, and then in more detail when she appeared along with the Child Jesus at Pontevedra in Spain to the Servant of God Sr Lucia, one of the three seers, on 10 December 1925.

This Mass was celebrated three years after the very successful Visitation of the National Pilgrimage Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to Westminster Cathedral, when Cardinal Vincent Nichols presided at Mass and reconsecrated the country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and when up to 3,000 pilgrims were able to venerate the statue and show their love and devotion to Our Lady.

The Five First Saturdays devotion is a devotion of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and involves going to confession, receiving Holy Communion, reciting five decades of the Rosary and keeping Our Lady company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with all these being done with the intention of making reparation to her.

If a person does this on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, then in return Our Lady promised to assist them, at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation. In other words, this is a promise of the grace of final perseverance which is a great grace and a guarantee of Heaven.

The centenary of this wonderful promise will occur in December 2025, and WAF is commemorating this event with a five year programme of preparation, with each year having a different point of reference and theme.

For this year, the theme is taken from the greeting of the Angel Gabriel to Our Lady at the Annunciation, 'Hail full of Grace' (Luke 1:28,) and the point of reference is a remembrance of the need for reparation against the blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The catechetical focus for the year is the importance of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, a dogma which was promulgated by Pope Pius IX in *Ineffabilis Deus* in 1854.

It is, therefore, providential that three years after the centenary of the Fatima apparitions in 2017 we have the chance to celebrate the Five First Saturdays devotion, which is of great importance for our times. This is because not only is it an excellent practice in itself, but also because it was linked by Our Lady to the conversion of Russia and the promised period of peace for the world.

In addition, for those who take up the devotion and then carry it on beyond the initial five first Saturdays, it means that they develop a commitment to frequent confession, attendance at Mass, and a meditative way of reciting the Rosary. If enough people around the country can be persuaded to take up this devotion, then it will surely lead to a great spiritual boost for our parishes and dioceses and help to bring about the renewal of England as Mary's Dowry.

Story: Donal Anthony Foley, Board Member, WAF England and Wales

An Invaded Life

A Few More Poems by Fr Rob Esdaile

Half Way to Easter

Half-way to Easter, not a bad place to be,
between the ashing and the paschal flame,
journeying from the old life to the new.

Then Christ set out resolute for Jerusalem
and appointments with both Cenacle and Cross,
the last meal and the Gibbet on Skull Hill.
Dead farewells these, but leavened by *Adieux*,
entrusting all the brokenness to God
and handing to the Twelve himself as bread.

So now our heavy-footed slog at winter's end,
that age-old scarcity of food and warmth,
is leavened by religious fast and prayer,
gets overlaid with Saxon *Lent*,
the hint of springtime and the hope
of greenness and new growth.

Outside sap rises, crocuses unfurl
and birds resume their melody.
Within our hearts, we also catch
a first glimpse of the Risen Life.
Half-way to Easter, a good place, this, to be.



Photograph © Olivia Fabb, used with permission.

AN *INVADED LIFE* is the title of Fr Rob Esdaile's latest book of poems, published just before Christmas, which gathers reflections on a rather disparate series of themes, as he explains in the introduction:

'At the heart of the book are some poems recording the gradual failing of my dear mother's health over several years and the privilege of accompanying her on that journey. (She died last August.)' It didn't feel appropriate to put them into print while she was still alive but Fr Rob hopes they might encourage others facing the challenges of ageing or of 'parenting the parents'.

Another section is the fruit of his custom of writing a reflection for the parish 'Advent Carols and Readings by Candlelight' service each year, trying to tease out what the Christmas feast is really celebrating. There is also a series of moments from Lent, Holy Week and Easter-tide that have caught his eye. He asks: 'What is this Passion thing about – this great surrender, this fruitful dying and new life born of loss?'

Reflections on his own experience of ordained ministry (which gave the book its title) lead in turn to some sidelong glances at contemporary life before some final thoughts on 'End Times' and dealing with change. A poem of the Lent season is reproduced on the right.

This is Fr Rob's fourth little volume of poetry and is available from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Hampton Court Way, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0LP, priced £7 (including postage and packing).

A Blessing of the Painting 'The Calling of Simon Peter'

DURING THE MASS OF THE CHAIR OF ST PETER on Saturday 22 February 2020, Fr Alexander Lucie-Smith, parish priest of St Peter's Church Hove, blessed the painting called *The Calling of Simon Peter*.

The simply framed oil painting measuring 60 x 32cms shows the standing figure of Simon, who is dropping his fishing net into a basket at his feet (pictured right). It was painted and given to St Peter's by the artist John Armstrong, who is an established member of the national Society of Catholic Artists (SCA). John is pictured below with Fr Alexander after the blessing of the painting.

The feast of the *Chair of St Peter* dates from the time of the second Council of Tours which met in AD 567. The special blessing was also attended by members of the Regional group of the Society of Catholic Artists (SCAR), which was founded in 1976.

As a supporter of the arts, Fr Alexander Lucie-Smith has recently blessed the magnificent stained glass Rose Window of his church by SCAR member Debbie Forsdyke of Southwick.

Some years ago, another SCAR member, Barbara Fanning, made two stained glass windows for the narthex, showing St Joseph and Our Lady.

Also by John Armstrong, is a pictorial sign outside the church, illustrating St Peter healing the lame man at the Beautiful Gate at the Temple. (Acts of the Apostles Chapter 3)

Story: John Armstrong Pictures: (below): Louise O'Kelly and (right) A&B News Team



Bethany - a Place of Prayer, Hospitality and Spiritual Nourishment

There are probably few readers of A&B NEWS who are aware of the existence of the Bethany Community in East Preston. Who or what are they? Sr Mairead, founder of this community, explains.



OUR STORY BEGAN back in 1986 when Janet Turner who suffered from MS and I became good friends. Janet had expressed a desire to be a religious; she was already a Carmelite Secular, but longed to be able to share the prayer of the Divine Office with others in the community.

I felt called to help her achieve this and shared my vision with my Congregation i.e. the setting up of a community especially for people who for one reason or other were not acceptable in the established religious communities. After all, God calls at any age and invites people to follow Him more closely no matter what their health conditions are. Holiness isn't reserved for the strong and healthy.

Discerning God's Will

However, I was sent to Ireland to a new foundation and Janet went into a nursing home. While I was completely resigned to this being God's will for me, from time to time a word of Scripture or something I read or heard would make

me feel that He had something different in mind for me. It was a very difficult time of discerning, as I truly loved my Congregation and did not want to leave, but if God wants something done He keeps nudging us.

When the staff at Janet's nursing home decided that it was not the right place for her and suggested she find somewhere else, I felt that it confirmed what I needed to do. I requested and received 'leave of absence' from my Congregation in November 1992, when Janet and Iris, her mother, and myself moved to East Preston **and Bethany Community was born**. So that is the story of our beginnings.

A Bethany Welcome

Bishop Cormac Murphy O'Connor was our Bishop at the time and was supportive of our community and after a couple of years gave permission for us to have the Blessed Sacrament in our little Oratory.

In 1996 we were joined by Ann Boyle who at the age of 76 felt called to community life. We also had Sr Christina from South Korea staying for 6-9 months while studying English. Sr Margaret, Janet's best friend from Oxford days and a Carmelite in Mafeking, spent about a year with us when looking for a Carmelite Monastery here to accept her. We also welcomed Sr Bridget for a period of time when she was recovering from a breakdown.

So Bethany, as well as being a house of prayer, became one of hospitality like the original one. Anyone who knocked on our door for whatever reason was welcomed and given shelter and food, or spiritual nourishment.

Bethany in the Gospels

Bethany is often mentioned in the Gospels: Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist near Bethany and He often went to relax with his friends there; He praised Mary for listening to His Word and gently chided Martha for her 'flapping about'; Jesus comforts the sisters in their sorrow: He weeps there, showing his deep humanity and compassion. He raises Lazarus to life, and finally, according to Luke (Luke 25), it was in the vicinity of Bethany that He returned to His Father. These are texts that we must meditate on often and allow ourselves to be imbued with their spirit.

The Community Rule

Our first rule of Community is to Love God. This we do by a prayer life centred on the Eucharist and on the Divine Office recited daily; Rosary and Adoration is part of our daily routine.

The second rule is to love and care for one another with special attention and care going to the one who suffers the most.

The third rule, never turn anyone in need away from our door but see them and treat them as our sisters and brothers. 'Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me' (Matthew 25). That is how we will be judged when we are called home to the Lord.

'Human Writes' Organisation

This passage of Scripture also inspired us to become penfriends with people on Death Row in Texas by joining the Human Writes Organisation. **We have visited Death Row on two different occasions and spent time with our penfriends.**

Very sadly, we lost three good friends

to lethal injection. This was a harrowing experience especially as they had become such humble and love-filled people, who believed in God's love and mercy for them, and asked forgiveness of the families they had hurt.

It is true to say we received much, much more than what we gave. Bethany still writes, and continues to hope and pray for an end to this violent way of punishing crime.

Friends of Bethany

My first Sisters and companions have been called home to the Lord now but we have set up an association known as Friends of Bethany, fellow Christians who share our ideals. Bethany continues to be a place of prayer with daily adoration, an ecumenical faith sharing group on alternate Fridays and a mental health support group called WED (We Embrace Depression) on the Fridays in between. We have also been known to party together!



So, hopefully, you now know a little more about this relatively new community in your midst.

For more information see: www.bethanycommunity.org.uk

PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION AND CONSECRATION

SATURDAY 18 July 2020

Church of Our Lady of Consolation & St Francis,
West Grinstead, West Sussex, RH13 8LT

12 Noon

Holy Mass

Celebrant Fr Terry Martin

Followed by personal consecration to Our Lady

- 1.00 Lunch break (please bring packed lunch)
- 2.00 The Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
- 2.30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 3.00 Chaplet of Divine Mercy - Adoration & Silent Prayer
- 3.30 Benediction
- 4.15 Departure

There will be opportunities for Confession in the afternoon

For further information:

Linda C-Dominguez 01273 463463
Jozef Bubez 01444 232974
Jayne Lock 07816 422851
Email: jaynejock1@gmail.com

CCRS Course

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies
Available from September 2020

Following a successful year in 2019, the CCRS is again available starting September 2020. Based at the St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley on Saturdays, this course offers flexible studying.

The CCRS has been established since 1991 and provides an introduction to Catholic theology and an understanding of the central truths of our Faith. It is open to teachers working in Catholic schools, Catechists, people involved in pastoral and liturgical work and other interested adults. Full details can be found at www.brsccrs.org.uk/index.php

For more information and to express an interest in attending the course, please email jon.harman@abdiocese.org.uk

Ignite:

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8-10 May 2020 at Worth Abbey

For those in school years 7-9

We would like to invite you to our next Ignite teen retreat....

Ignite retreats are faith filled, fun packed weekends for teenagers and are held at Worth Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Sussex.

The weekends are all about exploring faith, getting to know God better whilst having lots of fun and getting to know other young Catholics. Expect talks, workshops, prayer, silly activities, games, sports, drama, a space for silence and stillness, yummy food and lots of fun and laughter!

The weekends are run by myself (Jess) a member of The Wellspring Community in collaboration with Worth Abbey. I've been a part of The Wellspring Community for the past seven years and work as a paediatric nurse in my local children's hospital in Brighton. As a teenager I participated for many years in similar retreats. These played a significant role in my own spiritual journey in allowing me to explore my faith and meet God at a young age.

This year we have a great team of leaders who will be with me on the weekend, all committed Christians. We're all very excited to see what God has in store for this years group!

Hope to see you there.

For more info please email
Worth Abbey: toc@worth.org.uk

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ADVANCE NOTICE

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton - Formation Team
Marriage & Family Life

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with Bishop Richard

for those who support the bereaved in their Parish

Wed 20 May, 9.30am to 4pm,

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Information from Simon South mfl@abdiocese.org.uk

Bookings rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk 01293 651161

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Tel: 07714766608

** This is not a drop-in course as it's most beneficial for the group to build on the practices we explore each week. You'll be offered a free 30minute 1:1 before the course starts and another, if you need it, during the five weeks, with ongoing support in your mindfulness/meditation practice.*



The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Formation Team

Serving the communities of our Diocese



'It's beautiful to be old.'

A reflection on the pastoral conference 'The Richness of Many Years of Life' led by the Dicastery of the Laity, Family and Life in Rome

THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE that we have a global population that is growing in its elderly sector. There are statistics from a United Nations report that predicts that by 2100 over 65% of the world's population will be over 65. The Church has long realised that it must play an important role in addressing this situation and a report under Saint Pope John Paul II drew early attention to the needs of the elderly. Pope Francis has spent much of his ministry pushing for a greater dialogue about the value of elderly people and the support we can offer them.

It's not true that this increasing elderly group provides us with a problem. Rather perhaps we need to look to them to see the gifts and spiritual maturity they can share with us. It requires fresh eyes to look at this and discover the riches this stage of life offers. If we reflect on Shakespeare's understanding of the seven ages of man, we note that the middle stage sees man as strong, healthy and vital. This is the age we are told is the ideal, the prime of life. However, if we consider new insights into the gifts of very young children - particularly their latent spirituality - we need to realise that we must explore also the other end of the spectrum to reveal its wealth.

Being old

There was much discussion over when *being elderly* begins. Is being elderly the same as having longevity? Does it occur when we retire? When we lose a partner? When we lose our mobility? When we lose our independence?

The point was well made that we have a pope who is 83 and a Queen who is 93, both of whom are continuing to make hugely valuable contributions to society. Living a long life can imply success - yet the current understanding of being elderly implies fragility or of being a burden on society. And indeed for some older people, their mental attitude or giving up hope can lead to premature ageing regardless of their chronological age. Rather, this stage should offer an opportunity for a refocusing and an acceptance of new challenges.

The concept of ageing or 'being old' is not an easy one for those entering this phase of life with all the contemporary connotations. Society tends to see such people as being at the 'end of the road', having had their lives and now being in a transitional period, just waiting to die.

"We must reinvent old age."

Pope Francis

The current debates about assisted dying can give credence to the notion that the end of life is a waste of time. And in light of the frailties accompanying old age, some might view this stage of life as a time of mere waiting for nothing more than death. Yet these frailties have often been present throughout our lives in different guises and they have served to make us more human.

Perhaps the reason we have never really explored the wealth of old age before is because we have an inherent fear of what it might mean for us. Current culture encourages us to view it as a negative experience. However, with an increasing population in this sector perhaps older people can lead us in this exploration. They really are the experts on being old and of life! As they become a more numerous part of our society, we must look to them for their support.

Consumer culture

Our consumer culture - where living for the moment is prized - fails to look sympathetically at old age. It's true that older people do take a little longer than

younger people to respond to situations: whether it's what's being said to them or getting themselves ready to go out or perhaps cooking supper. Our speeded-up existence sees this as failure but perhaps we should view it as a lesson to learn. What do we gain in our haste? Overtaking cars, one after another on a motorway, may get us to our destination seconds earlier but how much more pleasure is there in a leisurely drive, enabling us to appreciate the journey we are making. Perhaps it is in these moments that we can see the beauty and value that we often overlook when racing to the finish.

The cultural understanding that only the perfect is aspirational also has implications for our fear of ageing. Constantly we are told that smooth skin, slim agile bodies, glossy thick hair are all measures of achievement; that perfection is freshness and newness. Why then do we admire the pyramids - ancient monuments that have stood the passage of many years?

Why do we look to collect antiques, appreciating in them the knocks and bumps that make them unique? Do we not see in them a sense of history, of stories they can tell, a wisdom to be gleaned? Yet we look at old people as worn out, useless, a waste of space and energy with nothing to offer, because they are no longer perfect; they have become worthless.

Many people fight against this exterior ageing and the world has a growing market in facelifts, hair replacements, cosmetic surgery breakthroughs which offer us new and countless ways of staying young. It's almost as if we are not permitted to reveal this ageing - as if it is faintly impolite and should remain hidden.

New chapter in life

When the moment of transition to old age arrives one becomes acutely aware of one's own mortality and facing the future as a finite experience brings real challenges. Often a lack of worth is prevalent as people feel ill at ease in this new phase and may rail against the concept - as they may see it - of being a burden or of entering a waiting room.



Delegates listen to the Pope's presentation at the conference

Others on the other hand may experience gratitude for a life well lived and an opportunity to embrace new challenges ahead. The spiritual aspect vital to this new chapter in life involves recognising God in our lives and that we can fundamentally change our approach to our situation.

We know that we have lived in the Kingdom of God here on earth and now - as we prepare to enter the Heavenly Kingdom - we take time to prepare ourselves. Pope Francis said, 'Granting old age, God the Father gives us time to deepen our knowledge of Him, our intimacy with Him, to enter ever more into His heart and surrender ourselves to Him. This is the time to prepare to deliver our spirit into His hands - definitively - with childlike trust.'

Being elderly does involve a handing-over however as the older generation steps back to allow the next generation to take on a leading role; to make space for new parents to parent new children, for new innovators to change the world. However, this doesn't imply that the elderly of phase of life is one of nothingness, of no value. At the conference it was said repeatedly that old people were the dreamers, the holders of dreams. It is their reflections on life's significant events that make them wealthy. As Pope Francis said, 'We must re-invent old age.'



Katherine Bergin chats with Cardinal Kevin Farrell

Cardinal Farrell used the image of the mustard seed to represent the image of those who started life as small and insignificant but who grow into strong sturdy trees, often pushing out shoots and branches as our families grow, yet still being the strong constant presence that binds them together. He recognised that those who were able to perceive their ageing in a positive light generally fared better. Indeed it was having a broad base of interests and being active in all areas of life that enabled most elderly people to live in a more joyful manner.

Brazilian Church experience

Brazilian delegates shared their initiative of creating a vast network of 25,000 volunteers who visited 175,000 housebound at least once a month and ensuring their needs were met, medically, physically, emotionally and pastorally by being the conduit for engaging with services. This mission was evangelical - bringing communities together - yet also reaching out to those separated by great distance and embracing them. We had the sense that in demonstrating such strong, practical care this was a strong church. The volunteers very clearly saw themselves as living witnesses to the teachings of Christ, visible in a real and practical manner. 'If we don't respond practically,' the delegates said, 'God is nothing more than an ideal, a theology. Through our actions we see the reality of faith.'

Keeping active is crucial

There was much reflection on the gifts that grandparents and elderly people brought to our families. Pope John Paul II called them 'custodians of a collective memory, an important resource for our faith. Without this memory we have no roots, no real understanding of our identity. The Church must see in them the value of appreciating our history.'

"If there are no old people in your life, buy one. You will need one."

Pope Francis

For those who retain physical dexterity, activism in the church can be a positive reality; supporting the Church in many of the ministries that the younger generation need and are too busy to provide. Some communities are experimenting with encouraging young couples - just beginning their lives - to rent a room from an older person, providing a shared wisdom and support. The older person has a large house and little company, the young are great company but have no house!

Pope Francis noted that in the example of Elizabeth and the old Zechariah, John the Baptist was born and that the elderly person - even when he is weak - can become an instrument of salvation history. In his address to the conference audience, Pope Francis concluded with words of encouragement saying, '**Do not be afraid. Take initiatives. Help your bishops and dioceses to promote pastoral service to and with the elderly. Do not be discouraged. Go forward!**'

(Continued on Page 15)

The Rite of Election at Arundel Cathedral



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KEY

PAGE 10

LEFT - Deacon Mike Thoms reads the Gospel

RIGHT - Bishop Richard preaches the homily

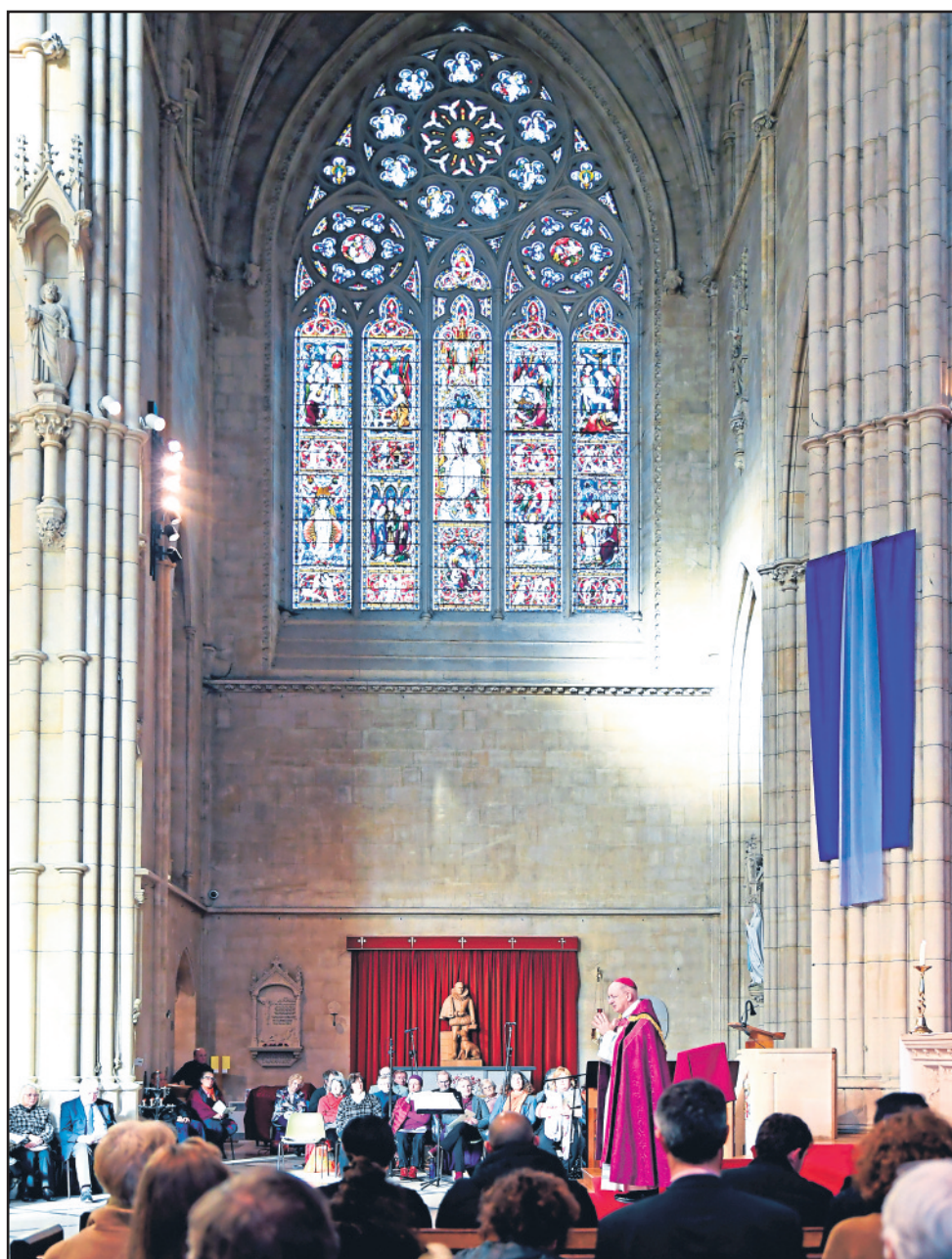
TOP - Deacon Mike Thoms presents Bishop Richard with the Book of the Elect

BOTTOM - Left to right, server David King, Bishop Richard, Deacon Mike Thoms and Deacon Jon Harman

PAGE 11

TOP - The Catechumens gather in front of Bishop Richard, facing the altar

BOTTOM - Bishop Richard addresses the assembly in front of the Shrine of Saint Philip Howard and the beautiful window of royal saints



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Ministers of Religion



NOTICE BOARD

Signed mass is held at 1pm on the first Saturday of every
month at St John the Evangelist, Springfield Road,
Horsham RH12 2PJ - next mass is 4 April - Vigil Mass of
Palm Sunday with Fr Paul Fletcher SJ

A&B Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages celebrate 45 years! Join us!

Mini Pilgrimage 'The God who speaks' 7-10 May 2020

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worshipping together, the journey as important as the
destination. New Pilgrims Welcome.

St Thomas Way Pilgrimage 'Walking in a Spirit of
Thankfulness' 15-30 August 2020

Swansea-Cardiff-Abergavenny-Hereford

Join us for 2 weeks £210. You need to be over 16 or accom-
panied by an adult, able to walk at least 15 miles a day at a
moderate pace. Luggage is transported by van; a daypack only
is needed to carry supplies. Meals are included in the price.
All overnights must be booked and paid for in advance; day
pilgrims welcome without prior notice. Diocese of Arundel &
Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimages are organised by
past pilgrims on a voluntary basis. For details and bookings:
www.thepilgrims.org.uk

One Good Friday in Horsham



On Friday 10 April 2020 the
Passion of Jesus is coming to
Horsham. Two 90 minute
performances will take place at
12noon and at 3:15 pm in
Horsham's Carfax. Produced by
agreement and with the permission
of Wintershall.

Free of charge for everyone. All
day event starting from 10:30am -
trail, stalls and music. Come and
join us.

Details at onegoodfriday.com/horsham



Easter Triduum Retreat for Young Adults (18-35s) Worth Abbey Benedictine Monastery

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Feast!

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To book: please contact The Open Cloister at Worth Abbey
toc@worth.org.uk for a booking form.

If you have any questions or concerns, do drop us an email
youngadults@wellspringbrighton.org.uk
We look forward to seeing you there!

RCO National Organ Day

On Saturday 18 April 2020 explore the
magnificent organs of Caterham!

10am United Reformed Church Harestone Hill CR3 6SX (3
manual Bishop) with Barry Williams. Enter by the West doors.
Park at the church or in Morrisons car park

11.15am St John's Clareville Road CR3 6LA (3 manual
Walker) short recital by John Woodhouse and a chance to
play. Refreshments in church

1pm St Mary's Church Hill CR3 5RA (3 manual Norman and
Beard) with Chris Buck. Plenty of parking

2.15pm Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Essendene Road
CR3 5PB (3 manual digital Viscount Prestige 80) with William
Higgins. Park nearby

Children are very welcome but must be accompanied by an
adult. If you would like to play please bring music and register
on [www.eventbrite.com/e/explore-the-organs-of-caterham-
national-organ-day-tickets-95431216337](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/explore-the-organs-of-caterham-national-organ-day-tickets-95431216337)

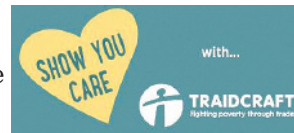
Otherwise just come along and enjoy!

Contact John Woodhouse johnwoodhousecat@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/events/183834182882657

FAIRTRADE NEWS

TRAIDCRAFT wishes all of you
a very Happy Easter! They are
offering 'organic, Fairtrade and
plastic-free Easter Eggs' and
vegan friendly ones in their ex-
tended range. There are cards to send best wishes: Spring
flower and floral bouquet, furry friends, fun and ray of light.
Gifts of olivewood crosses come from Bethlehem. Farmed
from the trees of Olea Europaea, olivewood is a hard and
rich in colour wood that is prized all around the world for its
appearance. These hand carved, little treasures are more
than just a thoughtful gift, but a symbol of hope and faith
which the receiver can carry around with them.

Cocoa and chocolate have a fascinating
history you may wish to research on the
internet or at www.fairtrade.org.uk. It
began in South America; now over 60% of
the world's cocoa is sourced from Côte
d'Ivoire and Ghana alone. Around six
million people depend on farming cocoa
for their livelihoods around the world.
Sales of Fairtrade cocoa include a
premium. The premium may be invested
in various programmes to improve productivity and quality
as well as community programmes such as schools, medical
centres and clean running water. Please buy products with
the Fairtrade Mark. Thank you.



BISHOP'S DIARY

March

Sat 28 9am Mass at HMP Coldingley
Sun 29 11.15am Mass at Arundel Cathedral including
Rededication of England as Dowry of Mary
Mon 30 2pm Palm Sunday Liturgy at St Joseph's
Specialist School, Cranleigh
Tue 31 3pm Adoremus Meeting, London

April

Wed 1 11.30 Meetings at Eccleston Square
Thu 2 10.45am Diocesan Trustees' Meeting at the St Philip
Howard Centre, Crawley
Fri 3 11am Province Meeting at Archbishop's House,
Southwark
Sun 5 11.15am Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord,
Arundel Cathedral
2pm Lewes Passion Play
Wed 8 10am Safeguarding Commission Meeting,
Bishop's House, Hove
6pm Chrism Mass, Arundel Cathedral
Thu 9 8pm Mass of The Lord's Supper, Arundel
Cathedral
Fri 10 3pm Closing prayer at The Passion of Jesus,
Guildford High Street
8.30pm Easter Vigil Mass at Arundel Cathedral
Sun 12 8.15am Mass at HMP Lewes
Wed 15 10am Meeting at Lewes
Tue 21 10.30am Episcopal Council meeting, High Oaks
Wed 22 3.30pm Meeting at Eccleston Square
Thu 23 8.30am 150th Anniversary celebrations at
St George's College, Weybridge
Fri 24 11.30am Mass with Augustinian Hospitallars,
Addlestone
3.30pm Meeting at St Mary's University
Sat 25 11.30am Worth School Confirmations, Worth Abbey

Lewes Passion Play 2020



Palm Sunday, 5 April - 'Onwards, my friends....'
Harvey's rear yard (Harvey's Way, Lewes BN7 2JW)
Outside Jerusalem - 2pm, Procession - 2.30pm
Cliffe Precinct (BN7 2AD) - Jerusalem - 2.45pm
Procession 3.10pm
Harvey's Front Yard (BN7 2AH) - The Temple at Jerusalem -
3.15pm

Maundy Thursday 9 April - 'Events in the night....'

Town Hall, Lewes, (BN7 2QS)

The Last Supper, Betrayal, Arrest - 8pm

Entry by pre-booked ticket only

Order Free from thelewespassionplay@gmail.com

Good Friday 10 April - 'What is truth...?'

Cliffe Precinct (BN7 2AD) - 1pm - Trial of Jesus

Procession 1.30pm

Grange Gardens (Eastport Ln, Southover Rd, Lewes BN7 1TL)
- Crucifixion - 2pm

Easter Sunday 12 April - 'I am with you... Always'

Grange Gardens (Eastport Ln, Southover Rd, Lewes BN7 1TL)

- Resurrection Day - 3pm

More information : www.lewespassionplay.org

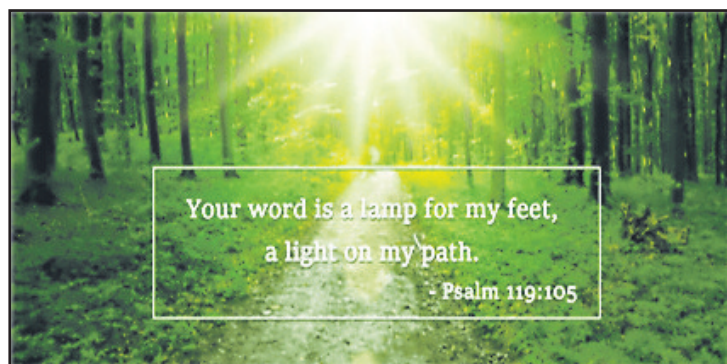
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DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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Primary Headteachers' Conference



**'YOUR WORD IS A LAMP FOR MY FEET,
A LIGHT FOR MY PATH'**

ON TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2020 Primary Headteachers from across the diocese gathered at St Dunstan's Church in Woking for their annual conference. Headteachers were warmly welcomed by representatives from the Woking Deanery - Alison Walshe, Headteacher at St Augustine's Frimley and Kate Licence, Headteacher at the Marist in West Byfleet.

The day opened beautifully with a reflection presented by Marie Ryan, Director of the Education Service, on the theme of the day 'Your Word is a Lamp for my feet, a light for my path'.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

All who attended gave feedback that the day was full and engaging. There was a presentation from Sarah Feist, Primary Adviser, on The Year of the Word. Sarah shared with colleagues, resources and activities that could be delivered in school to mark the Year of the Word. She also spoke to headteachers about the forthcoming conference on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and its significance for all of our diocesan schools and she promoted training, soon to be delivered, on Mental Health and Wellbeing for staff and pupils.

THE PASTORAL PLAN CHAPLAINCY IN A PRIMARY SETTING

In addition, the day provided an excellent opportunity for Primary Headteachers to gather and discuss Bishop Richard's

vision for Chaplaincy in a Primary School setting. Julianne Birch, Headteacher at St Dunstan's in Woking, Gill Askham, Headteacher at St Catherine's in Littlehampton and Claire Franke, Chaplain at St Wilfrid's School in Crawley, opened the session providing case studies on models of current, effective chaplaincy in some of our primary school settings. Headteachers were then asked to reflect and debate issues like:

- What should be the key roles and responsibilities of a Chaplain in a Primary setting?
- How could the role of Chaplain complement the work of the RE Coordinator? Who would do what?
- How would the Chaplain contribute to the work of developing parish/community links?



THE NEW OFSTED INSPECTION FRAMEWORK

Headteachers were also treated to an informative presentation from heads of diocesan schools that have recently been inspected under the new Ofsted Framework. Joanna Sanchez, Headteacher at St Philip's, Tobias Melia, Headteacher at Our Lady Queen of Heaven and Gemma Irvine collectively shared their recent experiences, which provided an excellent and invaluable insight into the new Ofsted inspection process.

Headteachers' Conferences are always a fantastic opportunity for our school leaders to gather, network and debate important educational matters. It was marvellous to see so many of our school leaders come together for this important day. *We look forward to welcoming Headteachers, Senior Leaders and Governors next term to Arundel Cathedral for our Celebration and Mass of Thanksgiving on Friday 26 June, 2020.*

Ofsted Success for St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Worthing

ST MARY'S in Worthing are rightfully celebrating the outcome of their most recent Ofsted inspection, which judged the school to be 'Good' in all areas. It was a little over two years ago that St Mary's joined forces with St Philip Howard School, Barnham, to form the Bosco Catholic Education Trust and began an exciting journey which has transformed St Mary's from a school judged as 'Inadequate' in their last inspection to now being deemed as 'Good'. Whilst an Ofsted inspection only tells a small part of the story and our Catholic schools represent so much more, it is still a considerable achievement and one to be commended.

The latest Ofsted report is now published. Inspectors praised school leaders for their ambition for what they want pupils to learn and their ability to enrich the learning experiences of the children; something that all Catholic schools care deeply about. The report comments that 'pupils enjoy their lessons and love finding out as much as they can', with teachers 'capturing their imagination'. The children were observed to be eager to 'rise to their teachers' expectations and always do their best'. They described their school as 'a place where they felt cared for'. The school was felt to be 'a warm and welcoming community where pupils and teachers work in a happy and harmonious way. Its motto of 'living, loving, learning' sums up the school's values very well'.

Gemma Irvine, Headteacher, commented: 'It is a great joy and privilege to work at St Mary's and we are all so delighted with the progress made over the last two years. I am very proud of our school community and want to thank the wonderful staff, governors and parents who make all this possible. Most importantly though, it is our children who



make St Mary's the community that it is. They are a credit to the school and the best possible advert for Catholic education'.

Of course the improvement journey is never 'done' as all Catholic schools seek to enable all those entrusted to their care to fulfil their God-given potential. Fresh challenges and new opportunities face all schools and the collaborative working between our Diocesan

schools is as important now as it always has been. Indeed it has been a combined effort between the Diocesan Education Service, St Philip Howard School and staff at St Mary's to get to this point. Other Diocesan schools such as St Mary's, Portslade,

Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Crawley, St Wilfrid's, Angmering, St Peter's, Shoreham and St Philip Howard, Barnham have also played their part, providing advice, seconding staff and offering training opportunities. Both Bosco Catholic Education Trust (Sussex) and Xavier Catholic Education Trust (Surrey) go from strength to strength, serving and enabling the schools within them to draw upon central resources, collaborating to share best practice and providing professional development and support to staff.

Please do keep the work of all our Diocesan schools and their teachers in your prayers. If indeed you feel inspired to get into teaching, please do contact one of our Teaching School Alliances who will happily provide guidance, support and help you get into what we know to be one of the most inspiring and worthwhile of professions.



Story and picture: David Carter, Bosco Catholic Education Trust



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EASTBOURNE

Our Lady of Ransom, St Gregory and St Agnes
WE CONTINUE to remember Emma Moulding RIP in our prayers. Proceeds of a bacon butty sale at St Agnes went to the Emma Moulding Fund which continues to help sick children and adults go to Lourdes.

As part of England: Mary's Dowry, Mass was celebrated at OLOR in the extraordinary form with a public act of Consecration by the parish to Mary with hymns and devotions. Furthering this, as part of the rededication, Fr Tristan gave a talk in the parish centre in March on 'Anglia Dos Mariae: Why England needs Mary', about the spiritual meaning of the consecration.

Prayers were asked for Raj who received the 'sending forth' from Bishop Richard at Arundel Cathedral's Rite of Election, in preparation for his reception into the church at Easter.

Mary Staffiere

RYE

AS I WRITE these few lines from our Parish of St Anthony of Padua, we are at the very start of Lent at a time when we look beyond the 40 days ahead to the glory of the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life in Heaven with God for those who love Him.

The Scripture Discussion Group is a popular weekly event and we are all enjoying the discovery of so many connections between the events in the Old Testament and the New. The discussion is always lively and provides much food for thought and prayer.

Jocelyn Rowe

WEYBRIDGE

WE'RE GOING GREEN, or rather greener! Like many other parishes we try to do our bit for the environment through recycling, insulation and LED lighting wherever possible. But now we have taken a major step forward by installing a large array of solar panels.

Those of you who know Christ the Prince of Peace will remember that we have a lovely parish hall adjacent to the church with a large pitched roof, much of it conveniently facing south. An array of over 50 panels should ensure that we generate more electricity than we use and we will be able to boast our 'carbon neutrality' when installation is complete. Meanwhile parishioners and other friends are being invited to sponsor the project by buying a panel or part-panel. As Pope Francis wrote in Laudato Si, 'It is our duty to protect the earth and ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations'.

FROM THE PARISHES

We have a new parish overseas charity: the Don Bosco Ashalayam project, helping street children in Kolkata (Calcutta) - and new funding initiatives are already getting underway. We have initiated a baking club, a chess club, and of course a variety of social events starting with a St Patrick's night extravaganza!

Peter Clapham

REDHILL - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

THE MEDAILLE TRUST grew out of the work the Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy were doing among women sex workers on the streets of Southampton. Founded in 2006, it works to bring restoration and freedom from modern slavery and is the largest provider of safe house beds for victims in the UK. The parish will be supporting it for the next two years.

A basket was placed by the cribs in our three churches for gifts for babies such as nappies and clothes. Gathered together there was layer after layer piled on a parishioner's spare bed: delightful rabbit slippers, knitted cardigans, and blankets to name just a few contributions.

To find out more or to book a speaker see www.medaille-trust.org.uk

Ann Lardeur



ST LEONARDS-ON-SEA - THE GOOD SHEPHERD
STANDING ROOM ONLY as our teachers and pupils from St Mary Star of the Sea Primary School attended the 10am Holy Mass on Ash Wednesday in St Thomas of Canterbury and English Martyrs Church. Fr Miceal Beatty followed the blessing and imposition of Ashes by presenting Years 4, 5 & 6 with three balloons as an unusual visual aid to remind the children throughout their journey of the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving - PFA. It was a wonderful end to a beautiful celebration. The balloons were well received and will be passed around the whole school.



Pictured are Fr Miceal, Deacon Ian and school children from St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School.

Elizabeth Fitch

GUILDFORD

THE THURSDAY CLUB in the Catholic Parish of Guildford were delighted to present Shirley West, a representative of the British Heart Foundation, with a cheque for £75 as a donation. The money was raised by the Club members at their annual Bring & Buy sale. The month of February is the British Heart Foundation's month for fund raising and this, said Shirley, was 'a wonderful contribution to start the campaign off.'

Mary Lawrence



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FROM THE PARISHES

WEST BYFLEET

THE QUIZ NIGHT for the Cardinal Hume Centre was a great success, raising over £1100.

The regular Ecumenical Morning Prayer meeting included the blessing of throats under the intercession of St Blaise. Friday Afternoon Tea was provided for the Seniors of the Parish.

Despite the weather we made a five mile Parish Walk followed by a pub lunch.

On Ash Wednesday we welcomed our friends from the local Anglican and Methodist Churches for evening Mass including the blessing and distribution of ashes.

We are preparing an illustrated history of Our Lady's, and seek photos of the church from yesteryear, particularly of the interior.

Paul Tipple

WOKING

INSTEAD OF concentrating on 'giving something up' for Lent, St Dunstan's decided to get the parish thinking about how everyone could do something that is not 'me' focused, but for 'others'. Perhaps someone we could commit to pray for, someone we could commit to help in some way or some cause that we could commit to give money or time to over the weeks in Lent?

To help the parish focus on 'giving' as well as 'giving up' a wooden cross was erected in the narthex of the church, to stay up for the whole of Lent, with sticky paper strips available to form paper chains. (see picture below).



Everyone has been encouraged to write their commitment on a paper strip and join it to the chain hanging from the cross. As the chain gets longer (at the time of writing it is only the beginning of Lent) it will fill the box at the base of the cross. Families can take strips home and create a chain which they can bring back and add to the rest.

On Easter Sunday the box will be processed into church in a very public affirmation of prayer and loving outreach to all.

Story: Mark Potter

Picture: John Sexton

'It's beautiful to be Old'

Continued from page 9

Ways ahead for the diocese

Certainly, for us within our diocese we can look at the role our Grandparents Network provides and see how we can develop it (perhaps in conjunction with our Eucharistic ministers and our SVP groups which are often made up of a majority of elderly members.) There is much potential for developing links with the housebound and ensuring they have what they need and are remembered within the community.

It is often the case that those who have been stalwarts of our communities in their earlier days, disappear from view and are forgotten as a new generation comes through. These people who have done so much for our church must be respected and supported.

Some of our groups are making connections with young families, holding joint celebrations and developing those bonds that will be mutually beneficial. A new opportunity might present itself in terms of the elderly giving witness in catechetical programmes, talking about their journeys of faith to the confirmandi and those on the RCIA route; that would be inspirational. It's also easy to see the benefit of supporting parents in the Baptism and First Holy Communion programmes.

Certainly, the conference was excellent in its thought-provoking nature and we will be acting on some new initiatives as Pope Francis requests. *If anyone would like further information on our thriving Grandparents Network or on developing this work in their deanery, please do let me know.*

Story and pictures: Diocesan conference delegate, Katherine Bergin
katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

East Grinstead Parishioner now Mayor

Apologies for the incomplete picture on page 11 of the March Edition - our Publishers cropped out

Fr Stephen Purnell but retained the title:

Mayor Danny, Mayoress Maribel and Parish Priest in 2019, Fr Stephen Purnell



NOTICE - TO ALL OUR CORRESPONDENTS

ITEMS FOR THE May 2020 issue must reach the Editorial Office at Crawley by 10am on Monday 30 March 2020 and for the June 2020 issue by Monday 27 April 2020. Contributions may be sent by e-mail to abnews@abdiocese.org.uk and if so please always include a contact telephone number.

It is helpful to us if Correspondents keep them to no more than 200 words and include a word count. Please use the highest resolution possible when taking photographs and do not reduce the quality when you send them to us.

Original good quality digital pictures should be sent as e-mail attachments. We regret we are unable to use photocopies or copies printed from computers.

Please tell us you have signed written and/or email CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION of pictures of all IDENTIFIABLE persons. This includes all Adults in addition to Children and Vulnerable Adults.

In addition if photos are to be taken at an event please confirm that: PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE TAKING PLACE was advised with a verbal announcement at the commencement of the event; that our standard Photography Notice was displayed on the day of the event; and identify to us anyone who advised they did not wish to be photographed.

Our Photo Consent Form and Photography Notices will be sent on request.



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Easter Mass Times

Holy Thursday: 7:00pm

Good Friday:

3:00pm: Passion of the Lord

6:30pm: Stations of the Cross

Easter Vigil at 8:00pm

Easter Sunday: 8:00am
and 10:45am.

Divine Mercy Day



Sunday 19th April 2020 at 2pm

St Peters RC Church,
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For thousands of years leprosy has been the scourge of poverty-stricken communities across the world and, sadly, it still exists in many countries today. The disease frequently leads to severe, life-changing disabilities and those who suffer from it are often excluded by their community, and struggle to fend for themselves.

124 years dedicated to the relief of suffering

St Francis Leprosy Guild has been dedicated to the relief of suffering caused by leprosy



for more than a century, during which time many religious sisters, brothers and priests have made it their life's vocation to care for those with the disease. Today we are determined to build on their legacy and seize our opportunity to help beat leprosy once and for all.

A leprosy-free world is finally within sight

Just a few decades ago, more than five million people were being diagnosed with leprosy every year, their lives destroyed physically, emotionally and socially by the disease. Today, this number has reduced significantly but remains stubbornly at over 200,000 new cases annually, worldwide. St Francis Leprosy Guild is committed to achieving a leprosy-free world and we genuinely believe that it is now within sight, if only people like you are prepared to help.

Early detection can stop leprosy in its tracks

Leprosy is curable and since the World Health Organisation made multi-drug treatments freely available 16 million people have been cured of the disease. New cases of leprosy tend to

be concentrated in isolated communities where people are still living in dire poverty and have little or no access to healthcare. If leprosy is to be stamped out for good, your support is needed to train local healthcare workers who can reach out to these communities. By supporting early detection and treatment - before the disease takes hold - you can help to prevent untold suffering.



If you are able to send a donation of just £30 today, you will help us support around 30 inspirational partners, such as the Bombay Leprosy Project. This is training local healthcare volunteers to work both in the slums of Mumbai and surrounding rural areas, so they can monitor people for early symptoms and provide prompt medication.

Help to beat leprosy for good

St Francis Leprosy Guild and its partners are working with remote and marginalised communities across Asia, Africa and South America. Please send £30 today using the form below or donate online at www.justgiving.com/stfrancisleprosyguild. Together, let's seize the opportunity to create a leprosy-free world and help put an end to people's suffering at last.

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