

THE CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER FOR SURREY & SUSSEX

FREE

A & B NEWS

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
No 276 January 2014 - Christmas



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A Happy and a Holy Christmas to all our Readers

Christmas greetings from Bishop Kieran

FOR MANY PEOPLE, especially the young, Christmas is a very exciting time. But there is a growing number of people in our country for whom Christmas is probably quite frightening. Suppose you are a family of parents and three children on a very low income: how are you going to meet the children's expectations, when they know what their friends are hoping or expecting to get in their Christmas stocking (and, yes, there are people who still fill Christmas stockings)? The prospect facing many people is the heavy burden of unmanageable debt into the new year, and the added stress of trying to hide this from other family members and friends.

Christmas puts great pressure on us all, to do our best and make it somehow 'right', to conform to what is presented as the 'traditional' Christmas. But it might be useful to ask where this tradition came from, and who is telling us to conform. At Mass on the First Sunday of Advent I suggested to one community in Crawley that instead of wondering how much they had to do to prepare for Christmas, they might think about how little they could get away with. And on top of that, could they perhaps think of cutting back on their planned expenditure on food and other luxuries (Christmas food is a luxury, not a necessity) by 10-25% and passing this on to the many families in the local community who now depend on food-parcels.

Pope Francis continually gives us examples and messages about poverty and humility. These are fundamental Christian gospel values. For some people poverty is not a choice, and humility is forced on them. For many of us, these things are an option, and that is a luxury. This is one time in the year when we can make that option both effective in terms of its benefit to others and also in terms of its effect on our own way of thinking and behaving.

I wish you all a very simple and peaceful Christmas.

+ Kieran



Diamond, Gold and Ruby celebrations in Rome

ONCE AGAIN, the staff and seminarians at the Venerable English College were pleased to welcome the group of priests celebrating the Ruby, Gold and Diamond Anniversaries of their Ordinations: this year fifty-six of them from all over England and Wales. Among them were our very own Frs Ken McCarthy, celebrating sixty years of priestly ministry, Seamus Hester and Tony Shelley celebrating fifty and Gilmour McDermott celebrating forty (a combined total of two hundred years between them!) These priests have given their lives in service to the Church and it was a privilege for all concerned to get to know them and to celebrate with them. All the seminarians they met said how encouraged they were to follow in their footsteps in giving witness to Christ in their home dioceses.

The Jubilarians enjoyed a few days' relaxing stay at the College's summer residence in the Alban hills, Villa Palazzola and visited the College itself down in Rome to concelebrate a Mass presided by Bishop Howard Tripp of Southwark diocese (himself celebrating 60 years of ordination). They also enjoyed plenty of good Italian dishes, wine and liqueurs courtesy of the College kitchen. Above all, the highlight of their stay was attending the Wednesday Audience with the Holy Father at which they received a special mention and were first on the list! Congratulations to them all, and as the song goes, Ad multos annos (To many more years!)

Story and picture: Tristan Cranfield



Pictured at the Venerable English College; l to r,
Fr Ken McCarthy, Tristan Cranfield, Fr Seamus Hester, Fr Tony Shelley
and Fr Gilmore McDermott



**COULD GOD
BE CALLING
YOU TO THE
PRIESTHOOD?**

Evening meetings and weekend
retreats are held for enquirers
into the priesthood

Further details are available from
Fr Terry Martin (Vocations Director)
terry-martin@dabnet.org
www.calledbyname.org.uk
Diocese of Arundel & Brighton

40th Anniversary of St Thomas a Becket Catholic Infant School, 1973 - 2013

2013 MARKED THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY of the opening of the school. We celebrated this milestone on Thursday 17 October with a special tree and daffodil planting ceremony.

Our special guest, visiting Artist Graham Carrick, generously donated two horse chestnut trees and was accordingly granted the honour of planting them in the school grounds (pictured are pupils at the planting). Pupils also planted daffodil bulbs which, it is hoped, will be enjoyed each spring for years to come. Pupils, parents and staff then shared refreshments, including a splendid 40th anniversary cake depicting an image of the school.

The school was built to replace St Joseph's Catholic Primary school in Seaside (older residents will remember the school as 'Holy Joe's'). Over the intervening years the school community has continued to thrive, celebrating many achievements along the way.

Our thanks to pupils, parents, staff and governors (past and present) for all your hard work and for being part of our school family!

Story and picture: Ruth Jones, Associate Head Teacher



THE TOWERS CONVENT SCHOOL

"Behaviour is exemplary and Pupils' personal development is excellent" - ISI Nov 2012



ENTRANCE EXAMS

Friday 7th February 2014



For further information please contact:

theoffice@towers.w-sussex.sch.uk

www.towers.w-sussex.sch.uk



01903 812185

The Towers Convent School, Upper Beeding, West Sussex, BN44 3TF

Our Schools support the Philippines

ST MARYS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CROWBOROUGH

held a whole school assembly on Monday 18 November when we watched the CAFOD video and spoke about the devastation in the Philippines. During the following week money was collected and on the Friday a runway of money was created on the school drive (pictured), making a path from the school to the Philippines. A little plane went along the runway as more money was added.

We are very proud to say that £355 was raised to be sent to CAFOD for the fund. The whole school participated and gave generously. One child gave her tooth fairy money, several children emptied their money boxes and parents agreed to give up one treat at the weekend and give the money to the appeal. A great community effort.

Story and picture: Madeleine Judge



TOWERS CONVENT SCHOOL sisters, staff and pupils galvanised into action to raise money for the Philippines. An emergency multi day was swiftly organised in response to the desperate needs of the people in the Philippines since the typhoon.

The theme was the colours of the Philippine flag, which inspired the whole community to raid their wardrobes in search of red, blue and yellow garments. Pupils instantly sprang in to action arranging games, activities, face painting, nail polishing and the like - activities which were all held in the gym over lunchtime. Staff and sisters entered in to the spirit, having their nails brightly polished or being adorned with temporary tattoos or hair braids. Pictured are Srs Mary Andrew and Consolata with headmistress Mrs Clare Trelfa having their nails painted in the colours of the Philippine flag. Quite a sight to behold!

During morning break a cake sale magically appeared and by lunchtime we had raised over £1000 from cakes and pupils' generous donations. By the end of the day a grand total of £2000 had been made and was ready to wing its way to relieve some of the suffering being experienced by the poor people of The Philippines. Go Team Towers!

Story and picture: Louise Crick



St Philip Howard Student wins National Prayer Writing Competition

EACH YEAR THE KNIGHTS of St Columba hold a prayer writing competition. It is a national competition with prayers being presented by pupils from across the country and is judged at the knight's Supreme Council Meeting in Glasgow at the end of October. This year the theme of the prayer was *A Prayer to the Holy Spirit for Guidance in Life*. For the first time this year 83 students from St Philip Howard Catholic High School in Barnham, at the instigation of the Bognor Regis Council of Knights composed prayers to be entered for this competition. Two were selected from those and were then entered with a further 80 entries from across the country.

The outright winner was from St Philip Howard Catholic High School. Many congratulations go to Erin Glenys Wade. She was presented with her certificate and prize money at Arundel Cathedral by Bishop Kieran (pictured) after the Mass for deceased Knights which took place on Sunday 10 November. Erin was then invited by the Bishop to read her prayer to the congregation. The prayer is below.

Story and picture: Charles Yarham

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit for Guidance in Life

Dear the Lord above and the Son of God.
I pray to you for all the good and the bad;
Achievements, failures and even small worries.

I pray to you for everything and anything
for I know you listen.

As I grow older, you stay.

As I follow my dreams, you support.

Even when I lose faith, you never stop loving me.

As I come forth to confirm,

I pray for your faith and support.

I pray that you will lead me on to the
right path

I pray that with your help I will achieve
happiness and be able to live my life.

After everything; obstacle, celebration,
breakdown and cheer,

I promise to keep my faith to you,

I promise to keep my love pure

I promise to never hold grudges.

And I promise to help others in times of need

For I know

That is what you would do.

Amen



New Head at St Wilfrid's School in Crawley

MICHAEL FERRY HAS BEEN APPOINTED as Headteacher at St Wilfrid's Catholic Secondary School in Crawley. He joined the school as Assistant Headteacher in 2007, being promoted to Deputy Headteacher in September 2010. Since his arrival he has played a key role in setting up and implementing a new House System and a Student Leadership Programme. Within this time he has also been instrumental in the improvement which has seen St Wilfrid's become one of the top 6% of schools nationally. During the last three years he has prepared himself for the step up to Headteacher by completing an MA in Catholic School Leadership through St Mary's University as well as completing the National Professional Qualification for Headship.

Michael, (pictured in the school) who is married with three children and worships at the St Hugh of Lincoln parish in Knaphill, Woking, says 'I am both delighted and honoured to have been appointed as the new Headteacher of St Wilfrid's Catholic School, where I shall have the privilege of leading an exceptionally well qualified, dedicated and caring staff. I will be looking forward to leading the school to *outstanding* results in the future'.



St Philip Neri School Governors visit Rome

ON WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER a group of Governors from St Philips Primary School in Uckfield including the parish priest Fr Stephen Hardaker went on a day trip. They had been working very hard during the summer term and considered that they should, with their own money, undertake this trip.

After discussion a suggestion that their day trip should be to Rome was agreed. The fare was amazingly low but it involved leaving the church of Our Lady and St Philip Neri at 4.40am returning at midnight!

During their eleven hours in Rome they visited the church which contained the remains in a glass coffin of their patron saint St Philip Neri; similarly the remains of St Catherine of Sienna also in a glass coffin; the Basilica of St Peters; had an interesting basic lunch in a very Italian trattoria; visited the Trevi Fountain; and concluded their day at Mass concelebrated by sixteen priests including the Archbishop Paul Gallagher, a priest of the archdiocese of Liverpool and Papal Nuncio from Australia, held in the English College. Certainly a day, literally, to remember.

Story: Clive Featherstone



STONYHURST

"Dear young people,
do not bury your talents,
the gifts that God has given
you! Do not be afraid to
dream of great things!"

Pope Francis

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Faith renewed by Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

SINCE THE APPARITIONS BEGAN in 1981 millions of people of all faiths, from all over the world, have visited Medjugorje and have left spiritually strengthened and renewed.

I felt Our Lady was calling me to go on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje so I booked one in March. Once I was in Medjugorje I felt the presence of Our Lady almost immediately.

The church of St James is the central focus point, with daily Masses in the morning and in the evening. This is followed by the Rosary prayed in several languages including English. At 5.40pm there is a pause for silence to focus on the Bible and pray to Our Lady of Medjugorje.

The Cross Mountain, Ascension Hill and Blue Cross Hill, are all hills to climb as acts of penance. Medjugorje has been an inspiration of faith, grace, love, peace and joy. What we have seen here will let that faith penetrate our lives. We all felt very close to Our Lady of Medjugorje and were pleased we made the effort to make this journey.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Pray For Us.

Story: Anita de Lacey

A & B NEWS

The official monthly paper of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Real Christmas values

WE ASKED WHETHER a young person would like to write our ‘Just a Thought’ for this Christmas issue and four of them immediately wrote for us. What is impressive is how much they all still value the companionship of family life much more than presents or expensive electronic gadgets.

At the other end of the age spectrum we celebrate the long service of some our priests and of members of the Knights of St Columba.

Stories about family life, too, are plentiful in this issue of A & B NEWS.

For those affected by the typhoon in the Philipines Christmas will not be about material goods, but about surviving at all. Our school children know this as much as adults and have responded accordingly.

Jesus’ birth certainly had no material goods around it, although presents came to him from the joy of others.

The A& B NEWS team send all our readers greetings for a Happy, Joyful and Holy Christmas, enjoying the simple warmth of the important people in our lives.

Pauline F. Groves

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PASTORAL LETTER OF BISHOP KIERAN CONRY

Read at all Masses on the weekend of 16/17 November 2013, 33rd Sunday of the Year

Dear brothers and sisters of Arundel & Brighton,

NEXT SUNDAY, 24 November and the Feast of Christ the King, marks the end of the ‘Year of Faith’ announced by Pope Benedict in 2012. The year began on 11 October 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Vatican Council.

As a diocese we have not really placed great emphasis on the celebration of this ‘Year of Faith’, mainly because what the Pope asked us to do was something we had already committed to; we already had in place our plans for the celebration of our diocesan Jubilee in 2015. These plans gave priority to a four-year programme of renewal, based on our study of the four major documents of the Council. This is what the Pope asked people to do during the ‘Year of Faith’. Many people throughout the diocese have joined groups to do this work together.

Studying Church documents can be hard work – the language isn’t always the easiest – and can seem unrewarding if it’s not clear why we do it. Is it just to learn more about what the Church teaches? Is it to be better informed about our Catholic faith so that we can either explain or defend it? I would suggest that, in the first place, it’s neither of these things.

If someone were to ask you – I’ll assume you’re Catholic, listening to this, though I know that this might not be the case – if someone were to ask you what the Church believes, what would you first answer be? Think for a moment.

Would it be about the authority of the Pope? Would it be about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, or the importance of Mass? Would it be about the Sacraments? It would be quite understandable if your response were about these things, because these are the things that are distinctly Catholic, the things that mark us out as different from other churches.

If you were to put this question about belief to someone from a pentecostal-evangelical church, you would probably get a very different answer. I suspect it would be a burst of enthusiasm about God’s love for us and how we are saved by Christ’s death on the cross. In other words, it would be about what God has done, not about what we are doing. It would put God in the centre of things, not ourselves.

At a talk I gave in Worth Abbey in September, I tried to look at this question of what we mean by ‘faith’ and looked at what was said in the first Vatican Council in its document Dei Filius (The Son of God) of 1870, which deals with revelation. There the text says, *This faith... is a supernatural virtue by which we, with the aid of the grace of God, believe that the things revealed by Him are true.* So faith is seen as an acceptance by the intellect or mind of things shown or said to us by God; it is agreeing to a

set of propositions. In the document on revelation in the Second Vatican Council, nearly a hundred years later, faith is seen not as the communication and reception of facts, but the giving of God himself, and our response is not an intellectual response, but, the document says, *by faith man freely commits his entire self to God.* In other words our faith is a personal response to God’s love and an acceptance of that offer of God’s friendship.

The gospel today speaks of the difficulties that will face believers. It is full of the worst threats of persecution and disaster, and we easily slip into the mistake of transferring this into our own situation. We are a Church that is persecuted, marginalised, misunderstood and threatened, so is it any wonder that it is difficult to believe? I would suggest that this is largely irrelevant. The reason that faith is a struggle for many people is that it is difficult to believe that God can really love me. We can be like the man in the gospel reading a few weeks ago, who stood at the back of the Temple and just said, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’ We can sit at the back and tell God that he must have more important things to think about, more urgent things to attend to. And anyway, if he really did turn his attention to me he’d see what a failure I am and what a mess my life is.

But faith is accepting all of this, that despite me and my mistakes, God loves me intensely and without reservation or condition. Faith is believing what the basic gospel message is: it’s not, ‘Do this,’ but see what God has done. God loved the world so much that he sent his Son to die for us and free us from our sins.

So as we come to the end of this ‘Year of Faith’ let’s try to shift our focus. Let’s not worry so much about all the things that confuse and mystify us about the Church, all the words we don’t understand. Let’s just try and grasp more and more each day that God loves and cares for me now. And, just as being loved by another person changes our life, so this love will change our life. It will take us out of ourselves, open our hearts to others, widen our eyes on the world and make us part of the gospel, not just observers at a distance.

Rejoice in your gift of faith, share it with others in conversation and gestures. Bring joy and peace to where you are, show that you know what it is to be loved by God. If you don’t get to pray today, at least say, ‘Hello, God,’ and ‘Thanks very much.’ Then say a bit more tomorrow.

With my prayers and good wishes for you all.

+ Kieran

Picture courtesy of CAFOD, Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, 30th anniversary



Funds for the Cathedral

ON SUNDAY 20 October Bishop Kieran gathered with many people from the diocese to celebrate the diocesan patronal feast of St Philip Howard with Mass in Arundel Cathedral. Afterwards they, together with the Knights of St Columba and The Friends of Arundel Cathedral continued the celebration with afternoon tea in the Cathedral. Following this, The Friends had their annual general meeting. At this, the chairman, Mr Patrick Burgess (currently High Sheriff of West Sussex) presented Bishop Kieran with a cheque for £45,000 towards the ongoing maintenance of the Cathedral and its associated properties. This coming year we aim to rebuild the Blessed Sacrament Chapel roof to stop the constant ingress of water, to rebuild some of the external walls at the rear of the cathedral and give better access to its gardens. We also aim to provid better and safer access to the cemetery and make a start on the five year plan to re-lead the south facing stained glass windows.



Pictured is Bishop Kieran receiving the cheque from Patrick Burgess, chairman of The Friends of Arundel Cathedral.
Story and picture; Canon Tim Madeley

What Christmas means to me

Four young people from Camberly and Bagshot parish share their views on the Christmas Season



What does Christmas mean to me?

Christmas is the best time of the year because it is when I spend 3 days with my family just messing about and having fun. We also tell stories and open our presents together. My family and I have dinner together and it's one of few times we all sit down at the table together.

It's also the time where we remember the birth of baby Jesus and go to church to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Also we decorate our homes with Christmassy things; Christmas tree, cards, presents, tinsel, lights etc... We send Christmas cards to our friends and family to wish them a very merry Christmas.

I really like seeing all the Christmas decorations not only in London but also in Camberly and in the shops. It gives the city and town a Christmas feel. Furthermore, it lights the cities/towns up and gets everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Overall, I think Christmas is a time for celebration and enjoyment. It is a time to spend with the most loved and the family. Also it is the time to get the house all decorated.

Jessie

Christmas is my time to see my family as they all live in France and it is one of the few occasions I get to see them. It's also a time for me to reflect on the year that has just gone by and what I've achieved or what I'd like to achieve for next year. I find myself thinking about my future quite a bit and what lies ahead. I love Christmas as I love all the festivities and the traditions like Christmas roast and the Christmas tree; however, Christmas is also a reminder of how lucky I am to be in my position. Donations to charity and such increase at Christmas which is why I often take part in fundraising or volunteering near Christmas as I see it as my time to give back to the community or just in general.

Juliette x

Christmas is a time when my whole family can come together and have fun celebrating the birth of Jesus. We often go to church together on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day, which is always nice because usually we don't get to celebrate Mass with them. Although Christmas can sometimes be quite stressful, there is always one point at which we are all sitting down together exchanging gifts or talking. Christmas has the word 'Christ' itself in it so to me it means celebrating Jesus' birth and our saviour coming down to us. The nativity is such a magical and special story so I love to hear that every year. Even though Christmas day is only 24 hours, I think the celebrations last for much longer and we should always celebrate Jesus coming down to us even if it's not on Christmas day.

Lauren

Christmas is important to me because it is a time for my family and I to come together and celebrate not only the good times with family, but also to celebrate Jesus' birth. Of course everyone gets excited about presents and the whole non religious side to Christmas, but in my family we do not forget the real reason of Christmas and about what happened in Bethlehem thousands of years ago. Ways that my family remember Jesus when all the other bustle of Christmas is in the way are just the small things. Things such as having an advent wreath, and setting up the Nativity at home. We also go to Mass on Christmas Eve which also feels very special. I thoroughly enjoy the non religious side to Christmas like everyone else. It is the one time of year when you don't have to worry about people judging you for over eating! Plus waking up to a full stocking is one of the best feelings in the world. Only 34 days till Christmas, it's exciting just to think about it.

Angelica

Diocesan Golden Jubilee

Preparing a way for the Lord

How to go about reading the Bible



ONE THE THEMES EMERGING from the feedback received from those who have already been through the Second Season material is how to go about reading the Bible. It is true that in the Liturgy we are able to work through the Gospels and many other biblical texts, but many people would

like guidance for personal reading. A question being asked is, Should I begin at the beginning of Genesis and simply work my way through to the Book of Revelation? There are many ways to approach the Scriptures. Perhaps, the first thing to remember is that the Bible is a library rather than a book, and some sign-posting may be useful as to where to find things in that library.

The poster appearing on this page gives details of several events which will help participants to engage with the Scriptures. You might like to note the dates and come along. Equally, there are other guides and written resources. The place to start may well be the Diocesan Bookshop at DABCEC in Crawley!

Andrew Bayes, Pastoral Team Coordinator

Quick A Journey Through the Bible

**Teaching input by DVD from Jeff Cavins
Renowned Bible Teacher & Evangelist!**

A Quick Journey through the Bible is an 8-part introduction to the Bible Timeline learning system. This study is designed to give the student a brief overview of salvation history, from Genesis through to the resurrection of Christ and the establishment of the Catholic Church. Students will learn about the spiritual benefits of Bible study and how to enter deeper into "His-story" as they begin their study of the Scriptures.

One-day intensive study days
Sat 25 January—St Dunstan's Woking
Sat 1 February—The Immaculate Conception, Peacehaven
Saturday 8 February – St John's, Horsham

For further information, please call David Wills on
01293 651157 or email david.wills@dabnet.org

A Quick Journey Through The Bible study will also be offered at The Friary Church of St Francis & St Anthony, Crawley on 8 successive Thursday evenings commencing 30 January 2014 from 7.45pm to 9.15pm. Booking is essential for the Saturdays and for the evening course and the charge in each case is £15 (for the evenings one amount for the 8 sessions) to cover the cost of the materials.

Contact Maja (01293) 414953
majajasko@blueyonder.co.uk
or Margaret (01293) 550682
mmreynolds1@hotmail.com



‘Fraternity, The Foundation and Pathway To Peace’

Fr Rob Esdaile, parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Thames Ditton

Siblings – Friends or Rivals?

Have you got a brother or a sister? How do you get on? Are you friends who delight in each other's company or, after however many years, still rivals for space and attention? Perhaps you are both friends and rivals; for we are complicated beings with complicated relationships and responses! Despite – or perhaps because of – that complexity, Pope Francis asks us to reflect on the theme of 'Fraternity, The Foundation and Pathway to Peace' as we celebrate Peace Sunday (January 19, 2014) this year. He's not asking us to idealise our relationships (whether with our natural relatives, our local neighbours or the people of foreign lands). Rather, he's inviting us to recognise the depth of connectedness which exists between us and the potential that is there, once we acknowledge others as our brothers and sisters.

Being My Brother's (and My Sister's) Keeper

The realisation of that depth of relationship can be traced in the Bible all the way back to the story of Cain and Abel and the question which the murderer, Cain, leaves unanswered when confronted by God: 'Am I my brother's keeper?'. (Gen 4.9) But his silence is eloquent: Yes, he is; and so are we! In the British literary tradition the same point was made beautifully by the seventeenth century writer, John Donne: 'No man is an islandAny man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.' [1] Within the Catholic tradition the vision of relationship and mutual responsibility has developed particularly over the last 120 years through Catholic Social Teaching, from the recognition by Pope Leo XIII of 'the new social order' [2] that had been brought about by industrialization in Europe to the consistent emphasis of Pope Francis on the need to become a Church of and for the Poor, defending the dignity and the rights of the most vulnerable. Blessed Pope John Paul II's focus on 'Solidarity', born of his experience of both Nazi and Communist persecution in Poland, has also helped to mould the Catholic understanding of the challenges we face and the way we must respond, always protecting the dignity of each individual.

The Christian Vision of the Person

Each person is a child of God and each person is my brother or my sister. That ought to be an awe-inspiring statement. Apply it to the people where you are now as you read this – in church or at home. Apply it to your street, your town, your region, your country. Apply it to the world and to all seven billion souls on this planet (not that we can really conceive what seven billion means ...). All reflect God's image (and we only get close to a true image of God when it's been refracted through seven billion faces: that is what infinitude looks like!). And yet all are One. All belong. All matter. And all, proclaims the Gospel, are redeemed by Christ. Be still now. Reflect on that truth. When we emerge from our contemplation of this wonder the world must be radically different. You are my brother or my sister, whoever 'you' are. We were separated at birth. Or, rather, we were separated by birth – by location, culture, language, history. But we must find our way back one to another, to welcome each other's gifts and to build together God's world, a world reconciled, a world at peace, a world where people tread lightly on the earth and not heavily on each other.

From Contemplation To Action

Yet it won't happen just through contemplation. It requires also action rooted in the realization of fraternity, communion, belonging. Peace is our task. Let us work for peace! Get informed. Get involved. Join Pax Christi [3] or another group working to address the injustices and violence of our world. Alone we can do nothing. Together we can become brothers, sisters, friends, prophets of a future not our own, God's Kingdom and Christ's Realm.

[1] John Donne (1572-1631), *Meditation XVII*

2 In Latin, *Rerum Novarum* – the title of the first papal encyclical on social ethics, published by Pope Leo XIII in 1891

3 Contact www.paxchristi.org.uk or write to Pax Christi, Christian Peace Education Centre, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London NW4 4TY (UK) / 020 8203 4884 / E-mail: info@pax-christi.org.uk

Can you help St Cuthman's?

FOLLOWING THE RETIREMENT of a long serving member, the Committee is in urgent need of a person with experience of historical buildings, project management and cost control in relation to the estate at Coolham, West Sussex.

We are also interested in hearing from people with other skills and disciplines appropriate to the operation, pastoral care and fundraising for the Diocese Retreat Centre.

These positions are on an unpaid voluntary basis, serving as committee members working closely with the Director providing a place of retreat and peaceful contemplation. "A still point in a turning world"

For further information please contact Chris Bleasdale, Chairman Management Committee: email littleholme1@btinternet.com

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The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Pastoral Team

Serving the communities of our Diocese



Synod: Family and Evangelisation

Katherine Bergin, Diocesan Advisor for Marriage and Family Life

AS YOU MAY HAVE SEEN in the media or parish newsletters Pope Francis has called a Synod of Bishops. The document outlining the work of the Synod says:

'The mission of preaching the Gospel to all creation, entrusted directly by the Lord to his disciples, has continued in the Church throughout history. The social and spiritual crisis, so evident in today's world, is becoming a pastoral challenge in the Church's evangelising mission concerning the family, the vital building-block of society and the ecclesial community. Never before has proclaiming the Gospel on the Family in this context been more urgent and necessary. The importance of the subject is reflected in the fact that the Holy Father has decided to call for a Synod of Bishops, which is to have a two-staged itinerary: firstly, an Extraordinary General Assembly in 2014, intended to define the 'status quaestionis' and to collect the bishops' experiences and proposals in proclaiming and living the Gospel of the Family in a credible manner; and secondly, an Ordinary General Assembly in 2015 to seek working guidelines in the pastoral care of the person and the family.'

As part of the process of collecting 'experi-

ences and proposals' the Bishops of England and Wales published the questions and invited responses. In our own Diocese we also had the option to use a reformatted questionnaire. The responses from both of these have been compiled into a response document and sent to the Bishops Conference. Here it will be synthesised with all the responses across the country into a document which will be presented to the secretariat of the Extraordinary Synod at the end of January. All the world wide responses will be used to compile the working document for the Bishops when they meet in the autumn of 2014.

We have had a staggering response and are very grateful to the large number of people who took the time and effort to complete these complex documents. Your views have provided an opportunity to have a valuable insight into the feelings and experiences of people living within our diocese.

We hope to be able to make use of this information in trying to provide support for one another as we strive to live out the Gospel, whatever our vocation.

Feast of the Holy Family



Picture: stephen.cuyos :courtesy of Patrick Q

POPE FRANCIS HAS DONE MUCH since his inauguration to highlight the importance of family life. He calls us to 'always live in faith and simplicity, like the Holy Family of Nazareth!' He speaks regularly of the daily challenges that face family life and appears to have a genuine understanding of the difficulties people may encounter. His teaching is based on the reality of his human experience and on the long history within the Church of recognising the family as an important unit which is often referred to as 'the domestic Church'.

This term was well explained by Pope Benedict in an address to the world meeting of families (2012) 'Your vocation is not easy to live, especially today, but the vocation to love is a wonderful thing, it is the only force that can truly transform the world. You have before you the witness of so many families who point out the paths for growing in love: by maintaining a constant relationship with God and participating in the life of the Church, by cultivating dialogue, respecting the other's point of view, by being ready for service and patient with the failings of others, by being able to forgive and to seek forgiveness, by overcoming with intelligence and humility any conflicts that may arise, by agreeing on principles of upbringing, and by being open to other families, attentive towards the poor, and responsible within civil society. These are all elements that build up the family. Live them with courage, and be sure that, insofar as you live your love for each other and for all with the help of God's grace, you become a living Gospel, a true domestic Church.'

This notion is one which is felt by many Christian families but not often put into words. The fact that in the messiness of our everyday lives we seek to live as Jesus taught us, the story of his life, death and resurrection demonstrating what it means to fully love others. However, the way we experience love within our families profoundly affects our own understanding of love and therefore our understanding of God. It also changes our hearts and lives by building our capacity to be more loving.

No one is implying that God's love is exclusive to marriage and parenting but most would agree that family love is particularly significant because of the way it forms us.... 'By virtue of their ministry of educating, parents are through the witness of their lives the first heralds of the gospel for their children. Furthermore, by praying with their children, by reading the word of God with them and by introducing them...into the Body of Christ—both the Eucharistic and the ecclesial body—they become fully parents, in that they are begetters not only of bodily life, but also of the life that through the Spirit's renewal flows from the cross and resurrection of Christ' (Familiaris Consortio, #39).

This special feast of the Holy Family offers us a beautiful image of the family with an invitation to mirror our lives on this most precious model.

We can be secure in the knowledge that within this loving environment God dwells and is active.

Katherine Bergin

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Some Dates for Singers and Musicians

Rite of Election

Saturday 8 March 2014, Arundel Cathedral,
2.30pm. Rehearsal at 1.00pm

Chrism Mass rehearsals

Saturday 22 March, Arundel Cathedral Centre, 1.30 – 4.00pm

Saturday 5 April, St Joseph's, Guildford, 1.30 – 4.00pm

Chrism Mass

Wednesday 16 April 2014, Arundel Cathedral, 6.00pm

To register your interest in joining one of these celebrations
please email catherine.christmas@dabnet.org

Marriage Encounter

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER OFFERS an opportunity to rediscover your dreams and hopes for your marriage or priestly vocation. During a weekend you will learn to communicate deeply and share your feelings away from the distractions of everyday life. It can revitalise your relationship, but it is not therapy or counselling. After the weekend you may continue to meet with other couples and priests who have already taken a weekend, to support you and encourage you in your life journeys. The community you join is worldwide and lives out the Catholic teachings on the vocations of marriage and holy orders. We support our parishes and diocese in promoting and aiding family life in whatever way we are able to, and welcome whole heartedly the Bishop's synod questionnaire on marriage and family life. If you have any questions or want to know more please visit our website www.wwme.org.uk or contact Russ and Deirdre Fairman on 0238 045 2094.

Awards to Knights of St Columba at Annual Provincial Mass for Deceased Members

ON SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER at Arundel Cathedral Bishop Kieran celebrated the annual provincial Mass for deceased members of the Knights of St Columba. This year at the end of Mass the Bishop decorated two of the brothers.

Brother Joseph O'Neil was awarded the Jubilarians Medal 2013 for 50 years service to the Knights of St Columba. He joined Council 237 in 1963. The family moved from Beddington to Whyteleafe and when Council 586 (Whyteleafe) was founded in 1967 Joe was one of the founder members. Joe served as Grand Knight of the Council three times. He left Whyteleafe in 2007 and they were very sad to see him go as he was (and still is) a great servant to the KSC to the Church and to the local community. Joe transferred to the Knights at Hastings and Rother 630 and has been active as 'Training' Officer as well as a regular member of the General Purposes Committee and a supporter of all their activities.

Brother John Burnett from Bognor Regis Council was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal for all his work in promoting the Knights in the parish of Bognor Regis. As administrator of the parish John has taken every opportunity to encourage the Knights in the work of the parish and thus helping the clergy.

Both Knights are pictured with the Bishop Kieran and their medals in the cathedral at the end of the Mass - Joseph in the picture on the right and John in the picture below.

Stories and pictures: Patrick Coates and Charles Yarham



Grandparents week

GRANDPARENTS' WEEK THIS YEAR was again a wonderful success with lots of schools and parishes finding the time to welcome grandparents into their communities. Further reports of some of the events can be found at <http://www.ab-diocese.org.uk/PastoralTeam/marfam/Grandparents>. If anyone is interested in starting a group within their parish to support the ever changing role of grandparents please contact Christine Evans at cevan-suk@btinternet.com <<mailto:cevan-suk@btinternet.com>>.

Triple celebration at St Gabriel's

ST GABRIEL'S PARISH in Billingshurst had a triple celebration on Sunday 29 September. It was the patronal festival of St Gabriel, our guardian angel, who has watched over us as the community spirit of our parish has grown from strength to strength.

On this special day five of our young parishioners made their First Holy Communion. This is always a great blessing for a parish and the visiting friends and relations were made to feel part of our community by the warmth of the welcome from Fr Carl Davies.

The beautiful Mass concluded with a surprise when Brian Richards was presented with the Bene Merenti medal that he had been awarded by Pope Francis in recognition of his forty years service to our parish and Catholic community. Brian has served the parish in various ways including over two decades as Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council. Brian is well known and respected both in and outside our parish especially as a strong supporter of ecumenical activities and of the Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage. It is a well deserved recognition of a great person.

Parishioners and extended families joined in a delicious shared lunch after Mass. In a happy and relaxed atmosphere we all enjoyed our triple parish celebration.

Pictured after the Mass are Brian Richards with his family.

Story and picture: Terri Griffin and Thomas Engelen



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Africa climb raises over £5000 for Lourdes



Dr Xerri writes
'The Kilimanjaro adventure' started on 2 October when I left Heathrow for Tanzania. The climb started on the 4th, the feast of St Francis. It started well but unfortunately on reaching 4000metres (13000ft), my lungs and my legs wouldn't allow me to go further and I had to be brought down. This was a great disappointment.

When I returned home I was encouraged to find that the donations for the A&B Lourdes sick fund was such a healthy figure.

I must thank sincerely all of you who have supported me with your prayers, encouragement and donations.

The figure today stands at £5040 - this will certainly help those sick pilgrims who wish to come to Lourdes but are unable to because of financial restraints.

THANK YOU all for your generosity and God Bless you all.
Salvo

Catholaity Fair at Hove Town Hall

BRIGHTON AND HOVE'S premier Catholic charity event, the 55th annual Catholaity Fair, took place on Saturday 9 November in Hove Town Hall. Despite single-digit temperatures and heavy rain showers, hundreds of keen shoppers queued outside the Hall before the 10.30am opening.

Inside, more than 50 stalls were occupied by a variety of groups; these included ten church parishes, national charities like the SVP (pictured), Mary's Meals, the A&B Deaf Service (pictured), the Scouts - including a Polish Scout Group, and local charities like St. Teresa's Kenya Project and the St Anne's Day Centre. Outside, a musical duo entertained the waiting crowd. A complete picture is included on page 12.

Once Brighton & Hove's Mayor, Councillor Denise Cobb, declared the Fair open everything was for sale. There were books, DVDs, games, bric a brac, tombola stalls, Christmas cards, bottles, cakes, clothing, shoes, wooden gifts, groceries, lucky dips and Polish doughnuts. To supplement the usual sweets and chocolates, this year Anna Hayward and her daughters from Sacred Heart Parish organised a candy floss machine (a temptation that proved irresistible to many, including her parish priest - who gallantly offered several parishioners a taste of his purchase).

The Fair is really about something much more important than raising money and awareness. It is about recognising, sharing and celebrating the selfless spirit that leads people to undertake charity work. The many young helpers at Catholaity felt its magic, and I am sure they will grow into caring people who give their time and talent to help others.

Story and pictures: Harry Robertson



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BISHOP'S DIARY

DECEMBER 2013 JANUARY 2014

Tue 24	11pm	Carols and Readings Followed by Midnight Mass, Arundel Cathedral
Wed 25	9.30am	Christmas Mass, Arundel Cathedral
Tue 7 – Thu 9		Southern Province Conference, DABCEC
Fri 10	7pm	Service of Introduction to Confirmation, English Martyrs, Goring
Sat 11	9.30am	Confirmation at HMP Coldingley
Sun 12	11am	Mass at Petworth Parish
Wed 15	1.00pm	Mass at St Francis Primary School, Caterham
Thu 16 – Fri 17		Trustees' Meeting, St Cuthman's
Sat 18	6.30pm	Mass at Holy Cross Convent, Heathfield
Tue 21 – Wed 22		Standing Committee Meeting, London
Thu 23	10.30am	Mass for General Chapter, Holy Cross Convent, Heathfield
Mon 27	12.30pm	Young Clergy Lunch, High Oaks
Tue 28		Episcopal Ordination of Mgr Mark O'Toole as Bishop of Plymouth at Plymouth Cathedral
Wed 29	12.30pm	Retired Priests' Lunch, High Oaks
Thu 30	11am	Keynote Presentation, Education Conference, London

50th anniversary of Peacehaven Church

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH in Peacehaven was built 50 years ago in 1963.

The 50th anniversary was blessed on the 20 October by Bishop Kieran, concelebrating a thanksgiving Mass with Fr Kevin O'Donnell and our previous parish priest Fr Tom Ryan (pictured). It was a very happy occasion and the bishop congratulated the choir and congregation on their singing.

The bishop also asked if there was anyone present who had attended the first Mass in the church, sadly there wasn't, and he explained how very different it would have been – all in Latin and no concelebrating was allowed.

There was a big party in the hall after Mass, with food supplied by parishioners with a multi-national flavour. We would like to thank Bishop Kieran for helping to make this a very special occasion and look forward to the next 50 years at the Immaculate Conception Church.

Story and picture: Cathy Greagan and Anne Farncombe



Youth Sunday in Walton-on-Thames

IN A FIRST for the parish, 23 of our young people took part in an amazing all-night vigil on 23-24 November, culminating in Mass on the Sunday morning to celebrate National Youth Sunday.

The event took place in the church, in the hall and around the town and involved lots of activities, fundraising and bearing witness. The group built a shelter outside the church to find out more about what life is like for the homeless. They baked cakes, decorated gingerbread houses and made cards and decorations which were sold after Sunday Mass (three of the young people are pictured), raising over £180 for CAFOD's Philippines appeal.

At midnight they walked around the town, stopping en-route to pray for the local community before returning to church to spend time in the shelter. Through the night they were woken in shifts of an hour spending time at various 'prayer stations' as well as keeping watch in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Mass on the Sunday morning was, according to one parishioner, one of the most moving and powerful Masses he had ever witnessed. The group enacted Christ's crucifixion during the Gospel and led the congregation in prayer and song. Our confirmation candidates were also enrolled at this Mass.

After selling their wares and running a raffle, and after tidying up the church and the hall, all went home to their families for a well-earned sleep!

Story: Stephen, Louise and Ellen Picture: Lucy



ARCAID in Farnham donates to Malawi

ARCAID, a charity based at St Joan of Arc's church in Farnham had their AGM on 18 November. It was followed by a most interesting talk given by Colin Andrews about the Tiyeni Fund which operates in Northern Malawi.

The purpose of the fund (Tiyeni means Lets Go) is to demonstrate good farming practices to prevent devastating soil erosion and encourage better crops. Villagers are encouraged to apply for help from the fund which then sends in trained people to show the villagers how to proceed. Also seed and tools are provided so that they have all they need to get started – no money is given. The fund also supports students at schools and colleges. Malawi (you may remember it as Nyasaland) is one of the poorest, but one of the friendliest countries in the world. ARCAID has supported the fund and the picture shows Colin being presented with a cheque for £500 for the Tiyeni Fund by ARCAID Treasurer Melanie Feibusch.

ARCAID is St Joan's own independent charity, started in 1989 with the aim of filling in gaps in the work of the larger agencies, by trying to reach people who would otherwise be neglected. It looks for individuals, families, orphanages, small health centres, schools, whose needs – though often desperate – do not come within the ambit of the bigger aid programmes. It finds trustworthy agents, on the spot, who know exactly what needs doing and where the use of a few pounds, at a critical time, can make a crucial difference to people's lives. This kind of small-scale aid becomes a very direct and personal thing. It brings the giver closer to the person in need, making that person a 'neighbour' and a particular subject of prayer. In the past year ARCAID has funded 22 projects across Asia, Africa and Central/South America. ARCAID works with trustworthy agents to bring help to those who need it. It's modest size allows all running costs to be absorbed by its committee, so every penny goes directly to those in need. To find out more about ARCAID please take a look at the website at www.stjoanofarcfarnham.co.uk/arcaid.html.

How Does One Join? Simply by giving, occasionally or regularly, in any amount one chooses. Most people give by banker's order, monthly, quarterly or annually, and most of these make covenants or Gift Aid declarations which enable ARCAID to obtain valuable tax refunds. Charity cheques and Give As You Earn are other tax-efficient methods. Parishioners of St Joan of Arc have the option of giving cash in envelopes placed in the church collecting plate. Click here for donation form which can be printed. Most projects are brought to ARCAID's attention through members of the parish or through contacts we have made on previous projects.

Story and picture: Tony Tunstall



Youth Interfaith Quiz in Woking

ON A FRIDAY EVENING in November, minds, hearts and smiles were being well exercised as young people from Youth Alive - St Dunstan's Catholic youth group in Woking - met up with their counterparts from Woking United Reformed Church (URC) and the Shah Jahan Mosque for a fun quiz night together.

As part of the Inter Faith group, in 2012, St Dunstan's and the mosque have previously each hosted youth members from the other two homes of worship and briefly shared the essence of their own faith. These visits were more on the formal side as the young people didn't know each other at the time.

This quiz night provided the first social platform for 35 of the youth members from all three places to interact and get to know each other. Being winter, it was decided to have an indoor event where both male and female members, ages ranging from 13-17, could take part and have some fun together. The teams of 6 were mixed, with two from the Mosque, two from the URC and two from St Dunstan's in each. The quiz night included an ice-breaker called 'the sun always shines on.....', with refreshments and nibbles and closing prayer written by youth members from Youth Alive.

Kauser Akhtar, youth leader from the Mosque and wife of the Imam, said: 'Everyone really enjoyed it and would love to do something similar again. I thought the ice breaker was just great! The questions were a bit tough but it's good to have a challenge! I was speaking to Fr Peter Andrews and he mentioned something about taking everyone bowling...so perhaps that is something we could do next. I noticed during the activities the young integrate really well, but during the break they were back in their own little groups. I think it will take time for relationships to form and it is a good idea to have regular activities so they became more familiar with one another. Thank you once again for a lovely evening, please thank everyone at St Dunstan's who helped make it a success.'

Two young ladies from the Mosque held a hand painting stall at St Dunstan's Christmas Fair on 30 November 2013, so while the children were having their face painted, mums had their hands painted!

Story: Mark Potter

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FROM THE PARISHES

ADUR VALLEY

CANON BRIAN O’SULLIVAN, our retired parish priest celebrated his 80th birthday with a special Mass at which a collection was made for the Parkinson’s Society.

A review of our parish administration has recently been carried out and it was encouraging to see how many people care so much for our parish that the lecture theatre at the Towers was filled to capacity to hear Bishop Kieran along with Fr Sean Finnegan and our Deacons.

The annual St Botolph’s Memorial service and the blessing of the graves in Shoreham took place recently.

The Secret Singing Club, who serve coffee after Mass on Tuesday mornings in addition to the usual Sunday coffee, all help to maintain our social lives in the parish.

Meetings for preparation for the Diocesan Golden Jubilee are being held in all parts of the parish.

The food bank scheme has started in Shoreham and St Peter’s are going to have a box to receive donations. St Peter’s jumble sale raised £160 and their Christmas fayre £934. Along with the almost £1,000 collected by the parish as a whole for the Philippines disaster the generosity of this parish is just amazing.

Penny Richardson

ARUNDEL

ARUNDEL PARISHIONERS have been busy putting the fun into fundraising this autumn. We sang and tapped our feet to the rhythms of the Salvation Army Band as they filled the Cathedral with praise while at the same time helping raise much needed funds for our local St Barnabas House Hospice. Later several teams enjoyed themselves pitting their general knowledge against each other in a brain baf-fling quiz night whilst raising a goodly sum for Catenian charities. We then packed lots of love for Christmas in the annual Love in a Box ap-peal.

Hilary Caws

CATERHAM

PREPARATIONS for Christmas and the New Year are well under way. The parish Christmas fayre held on 24 November was very well at-tended and a great success.

Members of the parish are actively involved with the Caterham food bank.

The meeting at the end of September of A Call To Action (ACTA) was very interesting, and Prof Tom O’Loughlin (a former curate of this parish) gave a challenging address.

Fr Kieran Gardiner gave a blessing at indi-vidual graves at St Mary’s cemetery on 17 No-vember and, sadly, there have been two recent deaths, Michael Taylor and Mary Matthews. Mary was 94 and had worshiped at the Sacred Heart since 1959.

Peter Patterson

CRAWLEY

Christ the Lord (LEP)
Broadfield & Bewbush

AT OUR MASS on 27 October we were thrilled to have the talented Blue Sash Choir leading our worship. The choir have been busy rehearsing, and this is reflected in their pol-ished performance and enthusiasm. Many thanks to all who have helped in any way. After Mass Fr Gerard Hatton welcomed Tobias Melia, the new headteacher of Our Lady’s school. Tobias invited us to an open morning at the school on 14 November and also joined us for coffee after Mass.

Barbara Winstanley

TO ALL OUR
CORRESPONDENTS

ITEMS for the February 2014 issue must reach the Editorial Office at Crawley by 10am on Monday 30 December 2013 and for the March 2014 issue by Monday 27 January 2014. Contributions may be sent by e-mail to abnews@dabnet.org and if so please include a contact telephone number.

It is helpful to us if Correspondents can type their contributions, keep them to no more than 200 words and include a word count. Original good quality digital pictures (which must be at least 300dpi) are very welcome. They should be sent as e-mail attachments. We regret we are unable to use photocopies or pictures stored on computer floppy disks. Please tell us that you have permissions for children’s photos to be published.

CRAWLEY

St Francis, St Anthony
and St Bernadette

WE HAVE HAD many opportunities to re-mem-ber our lost and loved ones, during the month of November. The annual blessing of the graves in Crawley’s Snell Hatch cemetery, saw 200 parishioners taking part in the cere-mony together with the clergy team.

On Remembrance Sunday the parish laid a wreath at St Edwards in Pound Hill. Then on Sunday 17 November parishioners were in- vited to a Memorial Service at the Friary Church. This was an opportunity, particularly poignant for those who had lost a loved one in the last 12 months, to pray and place candles on the graves of those buried in the Friary cemetery. Vespers of remembrance were sung and the graves were blessed. Afterwards there was a comforting cup of tea to warm the mourners on the cold afternoon.

A Book of Remembrance has been available in all the churches, for parishioners to write in the names of loved ones who have died and for whom prayers are offered.

Sue Fellows

EAST GRINSTEAD

ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, parish- ioners of St Bernards church, along with the other churches in Lingfield, gathered at The War Memorial for the annual service of Re- membrance.

The St Vincent de Paul Society at St Bernard’s raised £380 from their cake stall sale in aid of the Darfur baby feeding pro- gramme.

On Saturday 16 November The Friends of St Peters School celebrated and thoroughly en- joyed with a meal and dancing the 40th an- niversary of the formation of the association.

As part of Operation Shoebox 301 boxes were sent to Ukraine, of which 106 came from St Peters’ primary school and 45 from Our Lady & St Peter and St Bernard’s churches.

On Sunday 24 November, a Rich Man Poor Man lunch took place, raising money for The World Challenge 2015 to East Africa and St Catherine’ Hospice. Also on on this day, The Friends of The Holy Land at St Bernard’s held a fund-raising day by arranging for an expert to visit to value antiques.

Margaret Pond

BRIGHTON
St Mary’s Preston Park



ON SUNDAY 6 October the Social Con- cerns Group organised a harvest coffee morning to raise money towards the CAFOD harvest fast day collection. We raised £50.

A fundraising evening in aid of Mary’s Meals on 12 October raised £750 for the charity. There was a talk, presentation, curry meal and raffle.

At midday on Sunday 13 October Canon Oliver Heaney came back to a packed church to say a Mass of thanksgiving for his 16 years as our parish priest. Everyone brought food to share for a celebration lunch in the hall afterwards. It was a very special occasion. Fr Oliver said how grate- ful he was for the parish’s support and friendship over the years. He is enjoying his new role as a retired priest.

On Friday 22 November the Social Con- cerns Group organised a quiz night in aid of St Anne’s Day Centre for the Homeless, raising £95.

Claire Shelton-Jones

The picture shows Bernard Regan, on the right, presenting a cheque to Canon Oliver, with our new parish priest, Fr Bruno Witchalls on the left.

POLEGATE and HAILSHAM



LOVE-IN-A-BOX – our two parishes sent over 20 shoe boxes filled with toys, toiletries, gloves, hats and sweets to the Mustard Seed Relief organisation in Eastbourne for distribution to children of Eastern Europe at Christmas. The transport costs were covered by donations of £63 which we received with our thanks from generous benefactors.

Story: Tessa Truman Picture: Margaret Gearing

EASTBOURNE
Christ the King, The Holy Rood
and St Joachim

PARISHIONERS WERE invited to place pho- tographs of deceased family members and friends on the steps of the altar at Christ The King prior to a service of remembrance which took place on 24 November. Reflections on mortality and on the hope of Eternal Life by writers such as Ronald Rolheiser and Frank Topping were interspersed with musical inter- ludes and the singing of hymns during a very moving service. Two weeks earlier the parish held its annual service of remembrance for those killed in war.

Two members of the Lourdes redshirts team addressed congregations at weekend Masses during the third week of November, prior to a coffee morning taking place in the hall at Christ the King the following Saturday to raise funds to support the excellent work they do in assisting sick and disabled pilgrims at the shrine.

East Sussex LIFE group continues to meet at Christ The King and its AGM was held in the parish rooms on 19 November.

John Carmody

EGHAM

GRATEFUL THANKS to Chris Lynch who for 17 years has led the Sacramental pro- grammes for Reconciliation and Communion. She has retired from this role now. She was wonderful with both the children and parents.

We held another ‘Taster Day’ for catechists on the 26 November for those unable to attend on Saturday the 19 October, which was very enjoyable and we learnt a lot. There are lots of reasons for having many catechists in the parish. We need them to share the life of devel- opment and learning. The primary one is so that no-one is overburdened and secondly skills are shared.

Advent Groups began on Monday 25 No- vember. It is a useful way of building commu- nity as well as our spiritual growth, and is a good way of bringing single and older parish- ioners together to be inclusive in the life of our parish.

The travelling Nativity; this simple but meaningful Advent set of figures can visit parishioners’ homes for a night between 1 and 24 December. Inside the bag is a family Liturgy to welcome Mary and Joseph, to pray for the homeless, families and to focus on ‘the reason for the season’ with children.

Alice Mabbs

LEWES

AT OUR ANNUAL ‘Know Popery’ lecture on 4 November, Bishop Lindsay Urwin, the Ad-

ministrator of the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was our speaker. He gave a fas- cinating talk on the history of the Shrine, from its founding in the 11th century to its glory days when royal monarchs visited, up to the destruc- tion of the Shrine in the 16th century, and then the renovation of both the Slipper Chapel and the building of the Anglican Holy House. He ex- pressed sadness that there is a Catholic Shrine and an Anglican Shrine, but our shared love for Our Lady and the opportunities there for sharing our common faith is a beacon of hope to show to the secular world. Our parish is returning for a second year on pilgrimage next year, having been made so welcome there last year at both Shrines.

Ffion Wilkes

PETWORTH with DUNCTON

FOLLOWING THE ASSEMBLY in September for the parishes of Midhurst and Petworth , where two of the themes raised were prayer and the involvement of young people, it has been suggested that each person might try to say a Decade of the Rosary every day for the inten- tions of our young people - (perhaps even with young people). It seems a good and easy start- ing point for those not familiar with it as well as a regular focus for people who say the Rosary already.

The CAFOD Harvest Collection was, as al- ways, generously supported - even without the usual lure of a bowl of soup for lunch.

The annual blessing of the graves took place after the 8 o’clock Mass at Duncton on Sunday, 3 November. And for once it was not pouring with rain.

The last of this year’s Duncton breakfasts took place on Sunday, 17 November and was particu- larly well-attended, even though members of the Anglican church could not be there on this occa- sion. These popular social events take place quarterly after the 8 o’clock Mass and have now become firmly established as an ecumenical oc- casion; a real opportunity for people from dif- ferent churches to meet informally.

Sally Bohane

NOTICE

It would be of considerable benefit to the editorial team if contributors would **always** include their con- tact telephone number when submitting any copy. **Thank you**

FROM THE PARISHES

WADHURST

OUR RECENT successful quiz night, besides raising a very useful £700, gave us the interesting information that 'clowder' is the collective name for... cats! Not many people know this but Colleen's winning team did! Which set me thinking, what is the collective noun for Kiltegan priests? Perhaps on the evidence, a Smiling or a Holiness or a Charisma of Kiltigans? Last Sunday Fr Martin O'Connor invited two fellow Kiltegan Missionaries to address our Churches Together meeting on the subject of 'Missionaries Then and Now'. It attracted an audience from all the Churches including all the local clergy and their spouses. We heard some touching stories of the work done by priests and nuns especially in the field of education and the obstacles that some young people overcome to achieve an education. We saw an embroidered tablecloth as an example of the effort that one young woman made to support herself when her mother died so

as to continue in school. She is now a qualified lawyer contributing to her own country.

Fr Martin pointed out that much of their work was designed to do themselves out of a job! Young African men are now becoming priests and able to take on the work of evangelisation, but more tellingly fewer people from Europe are prepared to devote their whole lives as in the past but are happy to work for two or three years.

Peggy Purslow

WOKING

AN 'AFTERNOON CLUB' has been started in St Dunstan's running once a month; the aim is to have a guest speaker, ideally with some activity or skill to interest parishioners and attract other visitors, as well as an opportunity to socialise and enjoy some refreshments. Bishop Kieran was warmly welcomed as the first guest speaker who gave a very interesting talk about wines.

The 60 or so who attended seem very happy with this new venture, which will run each month.

St Dunstan's has also been running a film club in the function room once a month for a year now. Showing generally appealing modern and classic films (nothing 'X-rated' so far!), this has also proved a popular, daytime social event in the parish with people coming from outside as well. The contributions have, apparently, covered the cost of the licence needed.

Mark Potter

WORTHING

St Mary of the Angels

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER was our Harvest Thanksgiving. People brought their gifts of food and produce to our beautifully decorated altar. These were then donated to the day centre for the homeless. This Sunday also our First Holy Communion candidates were enrolled at the 10.30am Mass.

One of our young parishioners – Jennifer Boyes – took part in the GR20 hike the length of Corsica. The group raised £5,000 for Medecins sans Frontieres who provide medical treatment, consultations, operation and vaccinations in over 60 countries.

On All Saints day the church was lit with many candles, and the Litany of the Saints was said at both Masses.

On Remembrance Sunday a wreath was placed before the altar followed by a minute's silent prayer and the singing of the National Anthem at the start of the bidding prayers. After the 10.30am Mass a wreath was placed on our War memorial at the east end of the church.

On Saturday 23 November our Filipino community had their Mass for the Holy Souls, bringing votive candles and written names of departed loved ones. This was especially pertinent as many of them have family and friends affected by the terrible Typhoon Haiyan.

Astrid Gibson

REDHILL, REIGATE and MERSTHAM



NOVEMBER WAS THE SEASON of presentations in our parish. On Sunday 17 Bishop Kieran presided at the main Mass at St Joseph's, Redhill and presented both a Bene Merenti and a St. Philip Howard Medal. The Bene Merenti was given to Pat Conroy in recognition of his many years of service up to his recent retirement. He joined the finance committee in 1972, soon becoming chairman, a post he held until May this year. During this period two major projects were achieved; the building of the 'new' church in Ladbroke Road to replace the original one on the Brighton Road and the recently opened Parish Centre. He was also a Founding Governor of St Bede's School which was created through the amalgamation of St Joseph's Secondary School, and Bishop Simpson

Church of England School. He is also an active member of the Catenians.

The St Philip Howard Medal was awarded to Joe Welsby. He has been a stalwart of our parish for many years, reliable and conscientiously being a sacristan and key holder of St Joseph's church for 20 years. In 2010 he stepped down as his physical infirmity and impaired vision developed but he is

still the leader of the Advent Group, a group providing opportunities for senior citizens to meet and socialise.

It was a pleasure to welcome back for the occasion Fr Laurence Quin Morris, former parish priest, now living in Canada.

Earlier in the month at Holy Family Church, Reigate there was a surprise presentation to Mrs Marion Harris in recognition of 18 years service as local secretary of Missio. The certificate signed by Archbishop Vincent Nicholls and Canon James Cronin, National Director of Missio and the Superior General of the Mill Hill Fathers, was presented by Mrs Eileen Tomkins. Marion was recruited by her predecessor; she thought she was taking on the role of Promoter and only discovered it was a bigger job when files were handed over!



The picture to the left: Bishop Kieran after presenting the Bene Merenti to Pat Conroy, his wife, Maureen looks on.

The picture to the right shows Joe Welsby, his wife, Maeve Welsby with Fr Quin Morris and Fr Chris Spain

Story; Ann Lardeur; pictures Janet Franklin



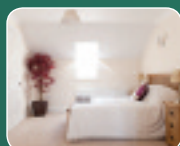
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Winter Assembly of the Society of St Gregory

WE MET IN WESTMINSTER Cathedral on Friday evening and all day Saturday 8/9 November. Firstly we attended a rehearsal of the Choristers in the Song School. This was impressive; they obviously had an excellent rapport with Martin Baker, Master of Music, their director and sang fluently in Latin and German. After this we attended sung Mass at which the Choristers were joined by the lay clerks

After Mass we were taken up into the apse to see the organ there and given a short talk by Ed Symington, Organ Scholar. Those among us who were organists were given the opportunity to play! Imagine their amazement when they realised the sound was coming from the great organ at the west end of the Cathedral.

We were then led along the galleries, high above the nave to visit the great organ at the west end. Ed played for us a piece which had been written especially for this organ. After this we adjourned for a meal and a chance to socialise and catch up with old friends.

Saturdays programme took place at the Church of our Lady St John's Wood. The morning started

with a lecture from Fr Francesco Donega, director of the Redemptoris Mater house of preparation for the Neo Catechumenate in London. The most striking thing was the length of time taken in preparing the Catechumens, up to four years!

Next a quick dash through the rain to rehearse for the Society's Annual Mass. Our Music Directors for the weekend were Catherine Christmas and Paul Inwood. At Midday Bishop Alan Hopes came and celebrated Mass for us.

A delicious 'sandwich' lunch was followed by the annual Crichton Memorial Lecture given by our own Bishop Kieran. The title was 'The year of Faith and the challenge of the new Evangelisation in the light of the constitution on the Sacred Liturgy'. Bishop Kieran spoke movingly about this and linked it into what we have been doing to prepare for our Golden Jubilee.

The day concluded with the AGM, the Trustees were re-elected en-bloc and after the shortest AGM on record the day concluded with Evening Prayer.

Gill Ness-Collins

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