

FREE

# A & B NEWS

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton  
No 317 JUNE 2017



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£7,000 raised and backpacks provided for Mary's Meals - Page 7



Listen out for the Call to Priesthood that is vital for the life of the Church - Pages 4 & 9

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## Rejoicing in the Commitment of our Priests



### People, deacons, religious, priests and bishop - a community of Mission

ARUNDEL CATHEDRAL WAS FILLED for the annual Chrism Mass, held this year on 12 April.

In an ancient rite, Bishop Richard blessed special oils to be used in baptism, confirmation of young people and adults, anointing of the sick and of the priest at ordination. He also accepted the renewal of promises made at ordination by the more than 90 priests who were present at the Mass, together with 35 deacons and a number of servers.

During his homily the Bishop spoke of how the Diocese must be a place of welcome - 'especially for those who, for whatever reason, have become



a little detached from the community of faith' - and also a serving church. In a society that is so often driven by a secularist agenda, and at the present time when so many are experiencing uncertainty, he said that the message of the Gospel - calling people into unity as children of the Father - offers the only real answer.

Bishop Richard invited everyone in the Cathedral and throughout the Diocese to pray for our priests as we rejoice in their commitment and also to pray for vocations to the priesthood. Then, on Sunday 7 May, prayers were said for vocations throughout the Diocese.

On page 4 we have an article on vocations in the Diocese and an appeal from Bishop Richard to be open to the call to be a priest - *'for the call to men to be preachers of the Word and ministers of the Sacraments is vital to the life of the Church, for our parishes and the Mission of our Diocesan Family.'*

Are YOU being called today? Visit pages 4 and 9.

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## The Saints' Relics are Coming to Arundel Cathedral



THE NATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE of Our Lady of Fatima and the Relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco will be travelling around the country, visiting various cathedrals, abbeys and churches this year, 2017, the centenary year of the apparitions at Fatima. They will be at Arundel Cathedral on 1st and 2nd July this year, in 33 days' time.

However...by the time the relics reach Arundel, Jacinta and Francisco will no longer be referred to as 'Blessed' – they will carry the title 'Saint.' It was announced in April that the Holy Father will declare the sainthood of Blessed Jacinta Marto and Blessed Francisco Marto during his visit to Fatima on 12-13 May this year.

On canonisation they will become the youngest children (apart from martyrs) ever to be recognised as saints by the church. A year after the apparitions the children succumbed to the influenza epidemic

and died, Francisco at the age of 10, Jacinta aged nine.

The declaration of sainthood is only made at the end of a long and extraordinarily detailed and rigorous examination of the life, character, beliefs and actions of the deceased – as well as the veracity of miracles attributed to their intervention.

Francisco has been described as someone who loved games, was kindly and uncomplaining, and played a reed pipe to which his sister Jacinta would sing and dance. He was a little mischievous but loved nature, was kind and gentle, a peacemaker, but also courageous.

Jacinta was energetic, charming, loved to dance, had many friends and seemed to have a special affinity and love for animals. A little wilful at times, she also had a great love for Jesus and was moved to tears on first hearing the story of His Passion at the age of five.

What is clear is that, following the apparitions in 1917, the lives of Francisco and Jacinta changed in a profound way. Francisco played truant from school so he could spend time praying to Jesus (the 'hidden Jesus' as he referred to the Blessed Sacrament) and to Mary, seeking to console them. His strongest desire was to go to Heaven – and he did, shortly after receiving his first Holy Communion.

Jacinta was particularly affected by the vision of hell that the children received; she became quiet and withdrawn - but determined to rescue sinners from hell. She practised voluntary mortifications such as giving up lunch and refusing to quench her thirst with water. Forewarned by the Blessed Mother that she would suffer for the love of God and reparation for sinners, Jacinta spent much of the remainder of her short life in pain, suffering bronchial pneumonia, an abscess on the lung, sores, and then tuberculosis. Wasted to a virtual skeleton, without the presence at her bedside of her beloved parents, sibling or cousin, she even offered up her loneliness as a final offering for sinners.

Two very young - but very special - Saints.



## Good Friday with Horsham Churches Together

HORSHAM'S CARFAX WAS PACKED with around 1,000 people joining together to mark Good Friday with a service at the Bandstand arranged by Horsham Churches Together. Before the service, Horsham Churches Together's Walk of Witness started from two locations: St John's Catholic Church and Brighton Road Baptist Church, with over 300 Christians walking along West Street and East Street, converging at the Bandstand.

An innovation for this year was the distribution of hot cross buns along with serviettes explaining why there is a cross on a hot cross bun: 'Traditionally eaten on Good Friday, when Jesus Christ was put to death, the bun's cross reminds us of what Jesus did for all mankind – even you!' and 'Just a story or the most significant event in all history?' which was a question echoed in the readings and the address by the Revd Peter McIntosh, Interim Moderator of the Horsham United Reformed



Church. Prior to the service, the general public was encouraged to place prayers for Horsham on chalk boards in front of the Bandstand – and these were prayed during the service.

Horsham Churches Together brought the hugely popular 'Messy Church' to The Forum to create 'Messy Easter' as part of Horsham's Piazza Italia family entertainment day. More than 400 children and their families enjoyed making bracelets with crosses, Easter plates explaining the true meaning of Easter, Venetian masks, decorating cakes and 'rolling the stone away' using marbles and paint!

The Activity Tent was decorated with posters of Italian paintings telling the Easter story along with Bible verses. Children were delighted to take away their very own Bible Society booklets called 'The Easter Poem' or 'The Easter Story'. Leaflets of prayers in Italian and English were given out, along with Messy Easter leaflets giving details of future 'Messy Church' events taking place in churches and schools in and around Horsham – find out more at [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk).



If you would like to find out more about Horsham Churches Together's 32 churches, please look at the website [www.horshamct.org.uk](http://www.horshamct.org.uk) and click on 'churches' to find out more or contact Rosemary Couchman, Horsham Churches Together Development Co-ordinator.

([rosemary.couchman@horshamct.org.uk](mailto:rosemary.couchman@horshamct.org.uk))

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Email [ashelton@stmarysworthing.org.uk](mailto:ashelton@stmarysworthing.org.uk)  
Telephone No 01903 234115  
Required From January 2018 or earlier  
Contract Permanent, Full-time

The Governing Body of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Worthing wish to appoint a talented and inspirational Headteacher or Head of School from January 2018 (or earlier). St Mary's is at a significant and exciting stage in its development, having joined the Bosco Catholic Education Trust in April 2017 and continues its journey towards 'outstanding'. It is immediately obvious to anyone who visits St Mary's that it is a very special faith community, with tremendous potential. The advertised role presents an excellent opportunity for the successful candidate to make a difference and improve the life-chances of the children entrusted to our care.

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Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the school office (01903 234115) to arrange a visit and discuss the role further.

**Closing date for applications:** Friday 9 June 2017  
**Interview Date(s):** Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 June 2017

To download the information pack, please visit:  
[www.stmarysworthing.org.uk](http://www.stmarysworthing.org.uk)  
For further information please contact:  
**Anita Shelton, Clerk to the Governors**

*St Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.*

**Volunteer Treasurer Needed**

Christian Arts is a national, ecumenical group of artists who are looking for a new treasurer.

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## Activities at Arundel

### More 'Friends' Needed

**A**N APPEAL HAS BEEN LAUNCHED for new members to bring vigour and enthusiasm to the Friends of the Cathedral. Bishop Richard is particularly keen for younger members and families to become involved.

The group was set up to create an endowment fund to support the maintenance of the building but the Friends have also provided scholarships for talented choristers, welcomed visiting parishes, and provided help with annual cemetery clear ups. The Chairman, Patrick Burgess, comments, 'It can be hard work but it is always great fun'.



Members are free to choose the extent to which they are involved. Newsletters publicise events well in advance making it easy to select those of interest. In addition there are beautiful liturgical celebrations in the summer and at the beginning of Advent. This summer vespers will be sung by the truly inspiring Schola Cantorum from Lewes on **Friday 14 July at 6.30pm**. Tickets at £25 will include a champagne reception afterwards in the private gardens of the Castle by kind permission of His Grace, The Duke, who, with Bishop Richard is Honorary President of The Friends.

If the group is to remain strong its membership needs constantly to be replenished. The Cathedral is a magnificent monument to our Faith, proclaiming the gospel to the thousands who pass along the A27 every day. It attracts pilgrims from all over the world who come to worship there and admire its splendour. It needs to be cherished by everyone in the Diocese.

The annual fee is very modest (£20 or £30 for a couple). Corporate membership is also available at £50. Over the next few months

Trustees will try to visit as many parishes as possible to talk about the

Friends but in the meantime more information may be obtained from Lindsey Stratford in The Friends Office on 01903 884567 or via email at [aruncathfriends@btconnect.com](mailto:aruncathfriends@btconnect.com).



### Friends Cemetery Clear Up

**F**RIENDS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS enjoyed an energetic day tidying up the cemetery of our beautiful Cathedral. Chairman Patrick Burgess congratulated everyone for their hard work, adding, 'It was a great day out and great fun. We all enjoyed ourselves and Monica's delicious soup, sandwiches and scones were particularly appreciated. It was lovely being able to share such a sense of achievement uncovering long buried and neglected monuments to the lives of so many of our Parish predecessors'. He noted the heroic contributions of young Thomas and William and hoped their enthusiasm would encourage more families to become members and take part in this and other special events associated with supporting the Cathedral. Members are routinely invited to special liturgies and other activities held throughout the year.

### The Turin Shroud

**O**UR LENTEN JOURNEY this year has been given a real focus, bringing us face to face with the reality and horror of Roman Crucifixion. When a touring exhibition of the Turin Shroud arrived in Arundel, little did we realise the profound effect it would have on both visitors and parishioners.

All were wrapt in silent attention as we walked alongside the images, explanations and exhibits. We were shocked and stunned at the size of real Roman nails, and horrified at the disfigurement caused by spear and flagellation. While caught in the gaze of His eyes, it seems we all made mental comparisons with our own dimensions, both interior and exterior, as we imagined meeting Him on the road. As we touched and smelt myrrh and aloes, used in the burial by the disciples, the Gospel accounts leapt off the page and became a reality. Our thoughts are now with the people of Warrington as the exhibition has moved on to them.



Story and picture: Hilary Caws

### CORRECTION

We have been requested to correct the caption for Fr Gerard Hatton that was supplied to us for the Sehion UK Catholic Retreat & Healing Service advert included in our May edition. It should read 'Assistant priest at Our Lady of Ransom Church, Eastbourne'.

### Scout's St George Day Parade

**T**HE WEATHER WAS KIND as over 640 members of the Arundel & Littlehampton Scout District paraded through Arundel and up to the Cathedral to hold their annual St George's Day service on Sunday 23 April 2017.

The parade was led by the District Scout Band and the District standards. This year 1st East Preston had the task of organising the Service for District members, invited Mayors, Chairmen and Councillors together with past leaders and friends of the Scout District. During the service members of Scouting past and present renewed their Scouting Promise including Bishop Richard (Bishop for Catholic Scouts in England & Wales) who presided at the ceremony aided by the Dean, Canon Tim Madeley and the Reverend Deacon Pam Swadding, Scout Chaplain.

After the service, District Commissioner, Mark Hewson, clergy and guests took the salute as the whole District marched past down into town.



### Coming Soon - the Corpus Christi Festival

**F**OR OVER 100 YEARS, Arundel Cathedral has celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi with a festival of flowers, which includes a magnificent carpet of flowers in the central aisle of the Cathedral and a procession of the Blessed Sacrament from the Cathedral to the courtyard of Arundel Castle, where Benediction is given.

In 2017 the Carpet of Flowers will be open to public view on Wednesday 14 June from 9.30am to 8.00pm and on Thursday 15 June from 9.30am until celebration of Mass at 5.30pm and the Blessed Sacrament procession to the Castle.

### Enjoy a dose of good reading

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It all adds up to an enjoyable blend of news, ideas and intellectual nourishment, giving you a deeper understanding of what's really shaping the Church and the world. As a subscriber, you can also browse the whole *Tablet* website. Its 176-year old archive gives you a fascinating window onto history – such as the awed response to the photos of the Turin Shroud in 1898.

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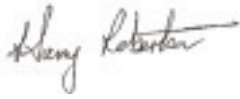
The official monthly paper of the  
Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

The theme for this month's edition is clearly 'Vocations.' There is a lot that could be said - but not in the space available. One view is expressed by St Teresa of Calcutta: 'There is only one failure in life - not to become a Saint.'

An alternative view is given by Thomas Merton, an American monk whom Pope Francis described as 'a man of prayer, a thinker who challenged the certitudes of his time and opened new horizons for souls and for the Church.'

Merton said: 'Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling towards some prize just beyond reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice 'out there' calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice 'in here' calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfil the original selfhood given me at birth by God.'

Best wishes for discovering, accepting and pursuing your own vocation.



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Distribution enquiries: Ruth Gerun, Editorial Office

Publication date: Last Sunday of the month for the following month. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Diocese. The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a registered charity: No. 252878.

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Advertising: Janet, [janett@cathcom.org](mailto:janett@cathcom.org)

### JUST A THOUGHT

#### Placing Our Cross Between Pentecost And Trinity

The General Election falls neatly between Pentecost and the Feast of the Holy Trinity this year. That's entirely appropriate because the Spirit is (as the beautiful chant, Veni Sancte Spiritus, reminds us) the One who bends what has become rigid, warms cold hearts and corrects distortions. The Trinity, on the other hand, is the perfect vision of community - a community in which the gifts of each are freely given and freely received in a flow of life and love which is at once energetic, gracious, creative and harmonious.

Between these two feasts we must make our cross. And that cross should be what the cross should always be, the focus of our prayer. It symbolises all the brokenness of our society, and all the hope which the Gospel brings as well. Before that cross we must discern.

The Spirit who, at Pentecost, rattled the doors and windows, testing the foundations, is also the Spirit who drew forth life and light from the waters of Chaos on the first day of Creation. One and the same Spirit is the outspoken Spirit of Prophecy and the Paraclete, quiet Comforter of the afflicted. Which facet of the Spirit is most needed now in our nation's life?

We were made for communion, not isolation. That's what the Feast of the Trinity celebrates. This is the divine image and likeness we bear.

So the question is: How can our vote best serve the Common Good and create a pathway of hope and healing in our divided world? 'Let anyone who can hear listen to what the Spirit says to the Churches' (Rev 2.7).

By Father Rob Esdaile,  
Parish Priest of Thames Ditton

## Fostering Priestly Vocations in the Diocese



SUNDAY 7 MAY IS SET ASIDE for World Day of Prayer for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life and, in recognition of this day, Bishop Richard issued a Pastoral Letter (see page 9) together with a special prayer for vocations, included below his Letter. Here, we reflect on the life of the priests of our Diocese and how each of us has a role and an opportunity to live the Gospel message.

For the majority of readers, contact with a priest takes place in the parish. This leads to a tendency for people to live in a parish 'bubble' - perhaps being quite insular to matters concerning the wider Diocese. Do we have a tendency to think 'Father will always be there for Mass on Sunday, he'll be there to help solve my problems?'

The reality today is that most people will have been affected by a change in Mass times - indeed, some will be living in parishes where one priest serves communities in a number of churches. However, the good news is that all of us can join in the celebration of Mass on a Sunday. While changing circumstances mean that there will be some 'rationalisation' and changes to Mass times and structures, we are greatly blessed in this country to have a high ratio of priests to people. In some parts of the world, a parish might be the size of our Diocese with the Mass only celebrated in some places very rarely.

#### Our Priestly Team: the numbers

If you were in a social gathering answering questions on the Diocese at a quiz night how many of us could answer some very basic questions? How many priests do we have; how many are retired or sick; how many men are in formation for priesthood?

The Diocese is greatly blessed to be served by 131 diocesan priests, of whom 92 are serving in parishes (10 serving outside the Diocese and 29 being retired). It is important to recognise that many of those serving in parishes carry out more than one role in the life of the Diocese; multi-tasking is a way of life. Further, the generosity of those who continue to work in parishes beyond the retirement age of 75 is a great blessing; only fourteen of our priests are under 50 years of age.

In past years, the Diocese has been blessed by priests coming from Ireland and, in more recent times, we have also seen a number of former Anglican clergy ordained.

Currently, we are blessed to have six students in formation for the Priesthood. One of them is due to be ordained to the Priesthood this year and we will report on the ordination in our July edition. The Selection Conference for the 2017/18 Academic Year has taken place and Bishop Richard has met those who have put in applications. In addition, the "St. John Vianney Group" for those considering a vocation to the Priesthood meets regularly - and the numbers attending these meetings are encouraging.

#### Priests dedicated to supporting Priesthood Candidates

Bishop Richard has appointed Fr. Con Foley, Parish Priest of Weybridge, as Vocations Director. He is assisted by four Vocations Promoters: Fr. Aaron Spinelli, Fr. John Inglis, Fr. Simon Hall and Fr. David King. Fr. Aaron has commented on the positive effect of having such a group of priests in the Diocese. Bishop Richard has in addition asked a number of

priests to be available to offer spiritual direction to those who are considering a vocation to the Priesthood.

#### Not Just Priests - we are ALL Called to Live the Gospel Message

Bishop Richard has spoken often about the Mission of the Diocese. Priests are intrinsic to that Mission, for the Eucharist is the centre of the Church's life and the Priest is called to be minister of Word and Sacrament. It is only when we are rooted in the Eucharist and formed by the preaching of the Word that the whole Church can be effective in Mission. The Priest is not ordained to be a 'service-provider'. Rather, his role as minister of Word and Sacrament enables all whom he serves to take up the Mission to which they have been called. Looked at in these terms, it becomes possible for the whole parish community to evangelise, to live the Gospel message.

Being a member of a parish community, even if you are a Deacon, is not so much about 'helping Father' but about taking a rightful place in the Mission of the Church, served by a priest who is able to fulfil the role for which he is ordained.

#### Are YOU Called to be a Priest?

Bishop Richard talks of the importance of prayer in developing priestly vocations. This is critical and the Lord will use our prayers in ways that will be beyond our understanding.

Echoing Pope Francis, he comments that being open to the possibility of a priestly vocation involves both good will and a certain risk, for the decision to reflect further on Priestly Vocation and to offer oneself for Formation and Ordination is a step into life-long commitment and service. He ends his Pastoral Letter with the assurance that 'You are needed and valued by the whole of our Diocesan Family and can be assured of the prayers and support of all.'

Vocations to the Priesthood come from within our families, from our parishes, from amongst our altar servers, schools, universities, youth groups, Red Shirts and Pilgrimage experiences - of which our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is a very special moment. While those whom God calls to priesthood must ask themselves the question "Is God calling me?", perhaps we might ask the question of others: "Is God calling you to Priesthood? Have you ever thought of being a priest?" Sometimes, the call to be a priest comes in the midst of a busy work life - an insistent 'tug at the sleeve', a question that just has to be answered.

**Be open to the possibility of Priesthood. Do not close the door on it - for the call to men to be preachers of the Word and ministers of the Sacraments is vital for the life of the Church, for our parishes and the Mission of our Diocesan Family.**

**Priesthood or Religious Life:** If you believe you have a call to the Priesthood or Religious then contact Diocesan Vocations Director, Rev Con Foley, Christ the Prince of Peace, Portmore Way, Weybridge KT13 8JD. Email: [Vocations@dabnet.org](mailto:Vocations@dabnet.org) or [foleycon@gmail.com](mailto:foleycon@gmail.com) or Tel: 01932 842643. See <http://www.ukvocation.org/> and <http://ukpriest.org/> for more information.

**Diaconate:** If you believe you have a call to the Diaconate whether as a single or married man then contact Diocesan Director of Deacon Formation, Rev Tim Murrill, 20 Batts Hill, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2DH. Email: [deacontim@ymail.com](mailto:deacontim@ymail.com) or Tel: 01737 761017. See <http://www.diaconate.org.uk/> for more information.





## A 'Stations Crawl' In Thames Ditton

THE LOCAL CHURCHES TOGETHER group in Thames Ditton wanted to encourage visits to each other's churches this Lent. Someone came up with the idea of each of the churches creating 'prayer-stations' to illustrate the traditional Way of the Cross, so that, by visiting all six churches, pilgrims could pray all 14 - a sort of 'Stations of the Cross Crawl'! As an added (not very Lenten!) incentive, tea and cake were offered in each church on the Tuesday of Holy Week.

Our Lady of Lourdes parish was entrusted with Stations 3-5. An old wooden cross leaning against the altar above a 'scene of crime' body outline with a series of words about 'Fallen-ness' (moral wrong, physical accidents, persecution and depression) radiating outwards illustrated *Jesus Falls For The First Time*. The old baptistery (pictured) with its metal bars was turned into a Roman 'Condemned Cell', on the assumption that if Jesus were being executed today, *Jesus Meets His Mother* would be played out in such circumstances. Visitors were invited to 'come and sit where Mary sat' before an icon of the Holy Family and all her memories of her child.

Finally, St Paul's Primary School, next door to the Church, collected children's reflections on the fifth station and invited people to tie a label to a cross indicating how they could help someone else, as *Simon of Cyrene Carries Jesus' Cross*.

Story Fr Rob Esdaile



## Sr Mary Colette Celebrates her Diamond Jubilee

FR STEPHEN HARDAKER and the parishioners of St Mary Magdalene's in Bexhill concluded Morning Mass on Friday 21 April with heartfelt congratulations to Sr Colette of the Rosminian Sisters (Sisters of Providence) on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee, marking 60 years in Religious Life, the date also being her 78th birthday. Sr Colette was presented with a congratulatory letter from Bishop Richard and also a beautifully framed personal citation from Pope Francis, along with a warm round of applause from Fr Stephen (parish priest), Fr Rajesh (assistant priest) and the congregation.

Joan Elizabeth Davison (Sr Colette to be) was born on 21 April 1939 in Cardiff. At the age of 11 she went to Grammar School where she first encountered the Rosminian Sisters who were to have a profound impact for her future life. At age 17 she entered the Rosminian Convent in Loughborough where she took her Novitiate as Sr Mary Colette. Three years later she went to teacher training college and in 1971 was sent to Tanzania to teach African children. Not only does she speak a range of languages from Welsh to Italian, but also Swahili which was essential for her time in Tanzania.

After a few years in Tanzania serving God and His People, Sr Colette had to return to England due to ill health and then spent the following 27 years at the Rosminian Convent in Ely Place, London, teaching in local schools and helping, supporting and feeding the homeless. On leaving Ely Place she moved to Wisbech in Cambridgeshire for her final three years of teaching before retiring in 2004 and coming to the Rosminian Convent in Bexhill-on-Sea. Since coming to Bexhill, Sr Colette has tirelessly served the Catholic community here and at 78 still takes part in many community and social activities within the parish and the diocese.

Finally, Sr Colette made it clear that she did not wish to publicise her Diamond Jubilee widely within the parish, but we did manage to persuade her to join a few friends for a private lunch at the Cooden Beach Hotel, where she was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a special celebration cake, which was enjoyed by all! The parish wishes to now record its appreciation for all the kind work Sr Colette does, especially in visiting the elderly and to mark this amazing milestone in her service to God by simply saying 'thank you Sr Colette.'

Story and picture: Frances Haragan

## New Superior for St George's Retreat



AT EVENING MASS on 24 April Bisop Richard welcomed Sr Monica as the new Superior of the Augustinian Sisters at St George's Retreat, Ditchling Common, Burgess Hill.

The Augustinian Order was founded in 1842 in Bruges, Belgium by Reverend Canon Peter John Maes who devoted his life to the care of the mentally ill.

The Sisters of St. Augustine order was re-formed in 1866 when it established its first home, St. George's Retreat in Burgess Hill, Sussex, principally to care for the mentally and physically ill.

The Sisters have continued to care for those that need it ever since.

## Semana Santa - Holy Week in Spain

THIS YEAR, instead of following Holy Week in the solemnity of our home parish of Epsom, we were invited to stay with family in their Malaga apartment, to see how the Spanish did it! From Palm Sunday till Easter Sunday, the narrow streets of the Old Town throng with crowds watching processions, sometimes eight or nine a day, starting and finishing at different destinations, during the day and night, all over the town.

The tradition goes back over 500 years, when Brotherhoods in the town, representing many trades and professions (similar to Guilds in the City of London) have designed floats which are carried around the town by members of the brotherhood, followed by penitents carrying candles, whose heads are covered, apart from their eyes and whose headgear points to Heaven, a symbol of asking for forgiveness from sin. Some are even barefoot, which is indeed a penance when these processions last up to seven hours! Following some of the processions are people dressed as priests, acolytes, servers, with clouds of incense rising from thuribles. Strangely, priests don't seem to take these roles; all are taken by lay people. Musical bands always bring up the rear.

Each larger than life sized float represents an aspect of the last days of Christ's life and all are different. On Palm Sunday a statue of Christ on a donkey is followed by children with palms. On other days, numerous representations of the grieving Virgin Mary wearing opulent capes in white, black or blue brocade or, in one instance, a cape made of real flowers, stretch behind the statue and lighted candles and fresh flowers precede the statue. As Holy Week progresses, we see statues of Christ being tortured, standing in judgement before Pilate, seeing Barrabas released, carrying His cross, being crucified, entombed and rising on the third day.

On Maundy Thursday at 5pm we were on a balcony overlooking an extra narrow street. To our right the Puerta Nueva (the home of the float) opened and about 300 men manoeuvred a float of the Last Supper into the street! Yes, Jesus at the head of the table with 12 apostles seated at the table, to start their 8 hour procession through Malaga - ending at 1am on Good Friday.

On Good Friday at 10.30pm the church door opens. Out is carried a float of the weeping Virgin Mary all in black, carried on the shoulders of people all in black, followed by penitents and silent drummers all in black, watched by about 200 people all in silence. Mary is in mourning, the world has momentarily stopped. When the float is turned to leave the square, the drummers start their dirge of drumming. This scene really captured for me the despair of Christ's death.

Easter Sunday Mass for us was in the Cathedral - an elderly priest as celebrant, with a strong speaking and singing voice, a single nun with a powerful singing voice leading us from a lectern, an organ somewhere behind us and Mass in Latin. This former convent girl found she remembered nearly every word! Thank you, Malaga, for a totally new experience of Holy Week.

Story: Gabrielle Richardson



Pictured from left to right are: Fr Rajesh Minz, Sally, Elizabeth, Barrie, Sr Colette, Fr Stephen and Fr Paul (Loughborough Rosminian priest and former Bexhill schoolboy and Music Director of St Etheldreda's, Ely Place)

The Medaille Trust was founded in 2006 by a number of religious congregations in response to the plight of thousands of people who are being trafficked into the UK each year. The Trust was established as a charity and opened its first safe house in January 2007. A major part of the Trust's work is to raise awareness of the plight of those who enslaved and exploited in the trafficking industry, and campaign on their behalf.

**Medaille Trust**

The Medaille Trust is looking to recruit to the following positions:

**DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES**  
 16 hours per week, flexible hours to include weekend and evening working  
 Work from home and must have access to own vehicle  
 Fixed Term Contract until 31/3/18  
 £6,364.80 per annum

Do you want to be part of the Church's fight against Modern Slavery? Could you help us raise awareness of Human Trafficking in our midst? Want to be part of a growing Catholic Charity?

The Medaille Trust was formed in 2006 by Catholic Religious Orders and now has 9 safe houses providing support for over 80 men and women at any time.

We are now looking for Diocesan Representatives with good people skills, the ability to make presentations in schools and churches, plus sympathy with our charity:

**We have vacancies in these Dioceses:**  
 Northampton, Middlesbrough, Hexham & Newcastle, Arundel & Brighton, Southwark, Clifton

The post holders require a current clean driving licence and use of a car. Also the use of a telephone and a personal computer with internet access is essential.

Closing date: Friday 23 June 2017  
 Interviews: TBC

For an application pack please visit our website, [www.medaille-trust.org.uk](http://www.medaille-trust.org.uk) or email [recruitment@medaille-trust.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@medaille-trust.org.uk)

Strictly **NO** Agencies. Please note that CVs will not be accepted

## Refugee Crisis Newsletter



LOOK OUT IN JUNE for the latest edition of the Refugee Crisis Newsletter. This third newsletter details how, as a diocese, under the guidance of Bishop Richard, we are responding to the ever growing challenge of the global refugee crisis.

The newsletter includes the latest information available to us and highlights some tremendous work that is ongoing with the partners we are choosing to work with.

Please take a copy from your parish or download from our website and share with your family and friends.



# The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Pastoral Team

Serving the communities of our Diocese



## INVITATION TO Support and Celebrate Faith in Action

We have a vision of how we want to work and we are looking to strengthen the network of Diocesan Social Action activities.

We plan to celebrate and affirm the Social Action work already taking place, offer support, and help facilitate development of new activity where appropriate.

*'It is the road of mercy, on which we meet so many of our brothers and sisters who reach out for someone to take their hand and become a companion on the way'.*  
Pope Francis, *Misericordia et Misera* [16].

If you want to be a part of this project by either sharing information, learning more, or getting involved please get in touch with Aidan Cantwell, Social Action Adviser, 01293 651154  
[aidan.cantwell@dabnet.org](mailto:aidan.cantwell@dabnet.org)

## The Joy of Marriage – get involved!

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR we may go to church on a Sunday and find an array of beautiful flowers or a smattering of confetti in the carpark. These clues help us to realise that a couple has celebrated the wonderful sacrament of marriage. The sadness with this is that we very rarely know them or feel that we are truly participating in this important step on their journey.

### CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

The Pope's recent document *Amoris Laetitia* encourages us to refresh the way we celebrate marriage and our support of couples. *The complexity of today's society and the challenges faced by the family require a greater effort on the part of the whole Christian community in preparing those who are about to be married.* AL206

Our Diocesan guidelines have been rewritten in light of this and reflect some of the important changes. We encourage couples to take more seriously the opportunities offered to them in this time of preparation, to see it as a journey of discernment, a time when they can truly reflect on their understanding of the sacrament, its lifelong nature alongside the practicalities of the actual day. Feedback from couples who have participated in this type of preparation is always positive and most appreciate the fact that they are encouraged to step away from the frills and trimmings and asked to reflect on the love they have for each other and the commitment they are about to make.

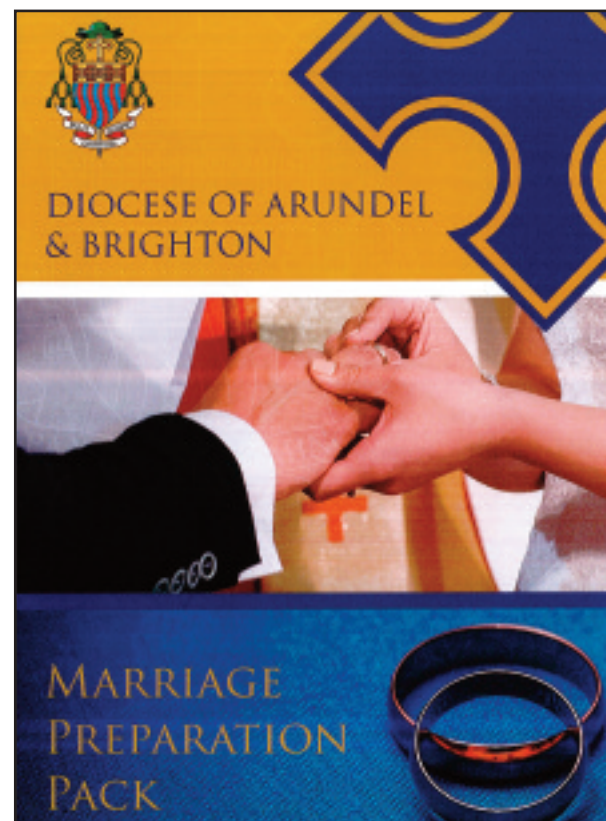
The journey begins when we ask them to make contact with the parish a year before their wedding day. This is to enable them to have adequate time to reflect on all aspects of marriage. *It is a profound spiritual experience to contemplate our loved ones with the eyes of God and to see Christ in them.*

*This demands a freedom and openness which enable us to appreciate their dignity. We can be fully present to others only by giving fully of ourselves and forgetting all else. Our loved ones merit our complete attention. Jesus is our model in this.* AL32

### SUPPORTING COUPLES

In order to support them in this journey we are beginning to develop a network of support couples, couples from within each parish who will welcome them and walk alongside them for the year, sharing their own joys and worries and helping them become more integrated into parish life. The engaged couple are asked to also attend some structured preparation such as a deanery or parish training programme and possibly a course led by Marriage Care. Pope Francis calls for: *specific programmes of marriage preparation aimed at giving couples a genuine experience of participation in ecclesial life and a complete introduction to various aspects of family life.* AL206

The Pope encourages us to continue to support couples, those he calls 'courageous' enough to enter marriage after their wedding day. He says we should be *offering welcome, closeness, accompaniment, discernment, and integration into the Body of the Church. It is of great importance that those in the Church work to save marriages.* For couples, he gave three words, *'words of gold in married life,'* to aid in building up a marriage: *'can I?'* (in regards to asking their spouse's opinion), *'thank you,'* and *'forgive me'.* He encouraged married couples to quickly make peace with each other when ar-



guments arise, and to remember his three phrases, which are crucial for marital growth. *'Georgia 5 October 2016*

### GETTING INVOLVED

In his closing paragraph Pope Francis states *'no family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love'.* In light of this we would like to invite families to become more involved in the process of preparing other couples for marriage. Many different opportunities exist for you to get involved, all of which offer excellent training before you begin. You could offer your time to walk with couples during their preparatory year, befriending them and welcoming them into your community. People have asked *'what can I offer?'* but reflecting on the Pope's words in Georgia offers us all an ability to share ourselves. You could become more involved and train as part of your parish/deanery marriage team or you could offer to train to be part of Marriage Care who offer excellent relationship preparation before marriage. All training is thorough and will provide you with the skills and resources you need to support couples at this stage of their journey. Each deanery has different requirements about the level of commitment required - but nothing is onerous. All of these actions would greatly benefit those preparing or in the early stages of marriage and are rewarding in their ministry.

If you are interested in any of these please do contact Katherine Bergin, Marriage and Family Life Adviser, 01293 651152 [katherine.bergin@dabnet.org](mailto:katherine.bergin@dabnet.org)

**Marriage & Family Life  
Annual Grandparents' Reflection Day**  
**How to Support your Grandchildren in dealing with Perceptions of failure**  
**Thursday 21 September 2017 Worth Abbey, RH10 4SB**  
**Led by Fr Stephen Ortiger and Elizabeth O'Shea**  
Coffee from 9.45am Day ends at 3.00pm  
Booking essential please at [rosie.read@dabnet.org](mailto:rosie.read@dabnet.org) or 01293 651161  
*Donations welcome to cover the costs of the day - Thank you*



Dublin in Ireland has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families to be held in August 2018. Started by Saint John Paul II, and held every three years, this major world event celebrates family as the cornerstone of our lives, and the fundamental building block of society and the Church. Families, and others, from all over the world will gather in Dublin from 21-26 August 2018 to celebrate their lives together, to share their experiences from different parts of the world, to reflect on the different challenges they face and to grow together in faith.

For further information please contact: Katherine Bergin, Marriage and Family Life Adviser, 01293 651152  
[katherine.bergin@dabnet.org](mailto:katherine.bergin@dabnet.org) or [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

## Parish Family Groups

THE FIRST NATIONAL GATHERING of Parish Family Groups met for a celebration in Northampton Cathedral on Saturday 6 May. Groups from all over the country travelled to acknowledge the difference being in a group has made to their sense of belonging and joy in their parish. There are a growing number of these groups springing up across the Diocese, anyone is welcome, widowed, single or a family to join together to become a mini family within the parish. Some parishes have several, creating different communities of support and friendship! If you would like more information on the way these can transform your parish please do get in contact with Katherine Bergin, Marriage and Family Life Adviser, 01293 651152 [katherine.bergin@dabnet.org](mailto:katherine.bergin@dabnet.org)  
Pictured is Karen Goldsmith collecting a candle from Bishop Peter Doyle, bringing the light from the event back to our Diocese.





## Fundraising and collections for Mary's Meals and a local Food Bank

STUDENTS AT CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL have been holding a number of events to raise money for Charity during the Lent period. They have succeeded in raising over £8,000 for some very worthwhile charities including Mary's Meals and the Hangleton & West Blatchington Food Bank.

Each class had to think of fundraising ideas and put together the activities themselves. Events included cake sales, Mr Hart's Magic Show, a mini fete, a bazaar, sponsored hula hoop and skipping, a sponsored walk, a sponsored read and a number of Staff v Student events including a bleep test, netball and dodge ball.

Mary's Meals will receive £7,000 which means that, combined with the £3,800 raised at Advent, the school has raised enough to feed every child in their linked school in Malawi for a whole year. The charity reaches over 1.2 million impoverished children with a nutritious meal in a place of education every day that they attend school. By providing food in a place of education, Mary's Meals attracts hungry children into the classroom where they can learn, thrive and work towards a positive future.

The Hangleton & West Blatchington Food Bank will receive £1,300 as well as food donations. The aim of the foodbank is to provide food to individuals and families living in the local area who find themselves in crisis or urgent situations. They believe that everyone should have the right to food to feed themselves and their families and help dozens of local families every week.

Dr James Kilmartin, Headteacher, said: 'These charities have become a very important focus for the whole school community. It has been great to see that by acting together we can make a difference. This has been spectacularly demonstrated by the students of Cardinal Newman Catholic School this Lent and shows the 'caritas' spirit of the school. It has been a real team effort with all staff, students and parents getting involved.'

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Mary's Meals founder and CEO said: 'Today, around the world, 57 million children miss school because of poverty. Instead of sitting in a classroom getting an education, they are working in fields, begging on street corners, or scavenging among the garbage to survive.'

Our vision is that every child should be able to receive one good meal every day in a place of education. Working together with people who share our ideals, we believe that our vision can be achieved in this world of plenty, where there is enough food for everyone.'

Colm Lennon, Chairman of the Hangleton & West Blatchington Food Bank (pictured above, receiving the cheque from Dr Kilmartin) said: 'We have a fantastic relationship with Cardinal Newman, who provide us with food collections and financial assistance through the dedication of their staff and students. Without the support of Cardinal Newman and other schools and organisations we would be unable to continue to support local families. We have also been invited to talk to the pupils about the work we do and bring awareness of the poverty that exists in our local community.'



Story and picture by Corinne Allen

## Adur Valley Supports Mary's Meals

EARLIER THIS YEAR an appeal was sent out from Mary's Meals to all our parishioners asking for help with their back pack appeal to provide all the essentials so even the poorest child can go to school, receive an education as well as a hot meal.

Items needed for the back packs were such simple things as toothpaste and brushes, cutlery, pencils and pencil cases, notebooks, small balls, towels, school clothes and flip flops. A box was left in the porches - and the response was amazing; there were enough donations to fill 56 back packs and a further 22 ready to be completed. The children came to help pack the bags. In addition a breakfast morning and a cake sale were held for donations.

We were told that it only costs £12.50 to feed a child for a whole year which really moved everyone to donate and donations so far have reached over £400 with more pledges to come.

Should you wish to donate monies or goods contact Nikki Pearce or Tessa Ricketts at [spoffice@olqp.net](mailto:spoffice@olqp.net)



Story by Penny Richardson

*Editor's Note: Since The Backpack Project was started by Mary's Meals twelve years ago almost half a million filled backpacks have been distributed from supporters across the UK and Ireland to children in need - many of whom do not have basic learning tools such as pencils and notepads - or even receive a gift in their entire lives! To participate or for more information: [www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/the-backpack-project](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/the-backpack-project)*

## St Edward the Confessor Sutton Park Bids its Organist Farewell

THE PARISHIONERS OF ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, Sutton Park recently bade farewell to their organist Maureen Gallea after over 14 years of loyal service.

Maureen first came to St Edward's when she was a student in the Music Department of the University of Surrey and during her many years with the parish she not only played the organ but acted as choir leader.

In addition, Maureen organised a number of memorable musical soirees and concerts at the church for various charities, calling on the talents of her wide circle of musically gifted contacts and fellow students. Now with a Doctorate in Music and being much in demand as a singer, pianist and organist it is time for her to move on.

The parishioners marked the occasion with a presentation following Mass at which Maureen was given a cheque and other gifts. Rachel Brennan, a member of the choir, baked a magnificent cake topped naturally with a chocolate organ.

We wish Maureen every blessing and good fortune in the next stage of her career and hope to welcome her back from time to time for special occasions at St Edward's.

Story and picture by Terence Nagle



## St George's Junior School, Weybridge, Welcomes Bishop Richard to their 'Ark'



PUPILS AND STAFF at St George's Junior School have warmly welcomed Bishop Richard Moth, whilst on a special visit he made to the School today (24 April 2017) to celebrate St Georges Day, which took place yesterday.

Bishop Richard celebrated Mass at the Junior School and then joined two special school assemblies held for younger and older pupils along with Junior School Headmaster Mr Antony Hudson, with much of the visit taking place in the School's new building for the Lower Years called 'The Ark'.

Bishop Richard was able to tour The Ark and the rest of the Junior School as well as speak with many of the girls and boys.

The Bishop's visit was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone at St George's.

Story and picture by Richard Morris

## School of the Annunciation Centre for the New Evangelisation

Four-day residential schools in 2017 at Buckfast Abbey, Devon

Science & Religion:  
27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July

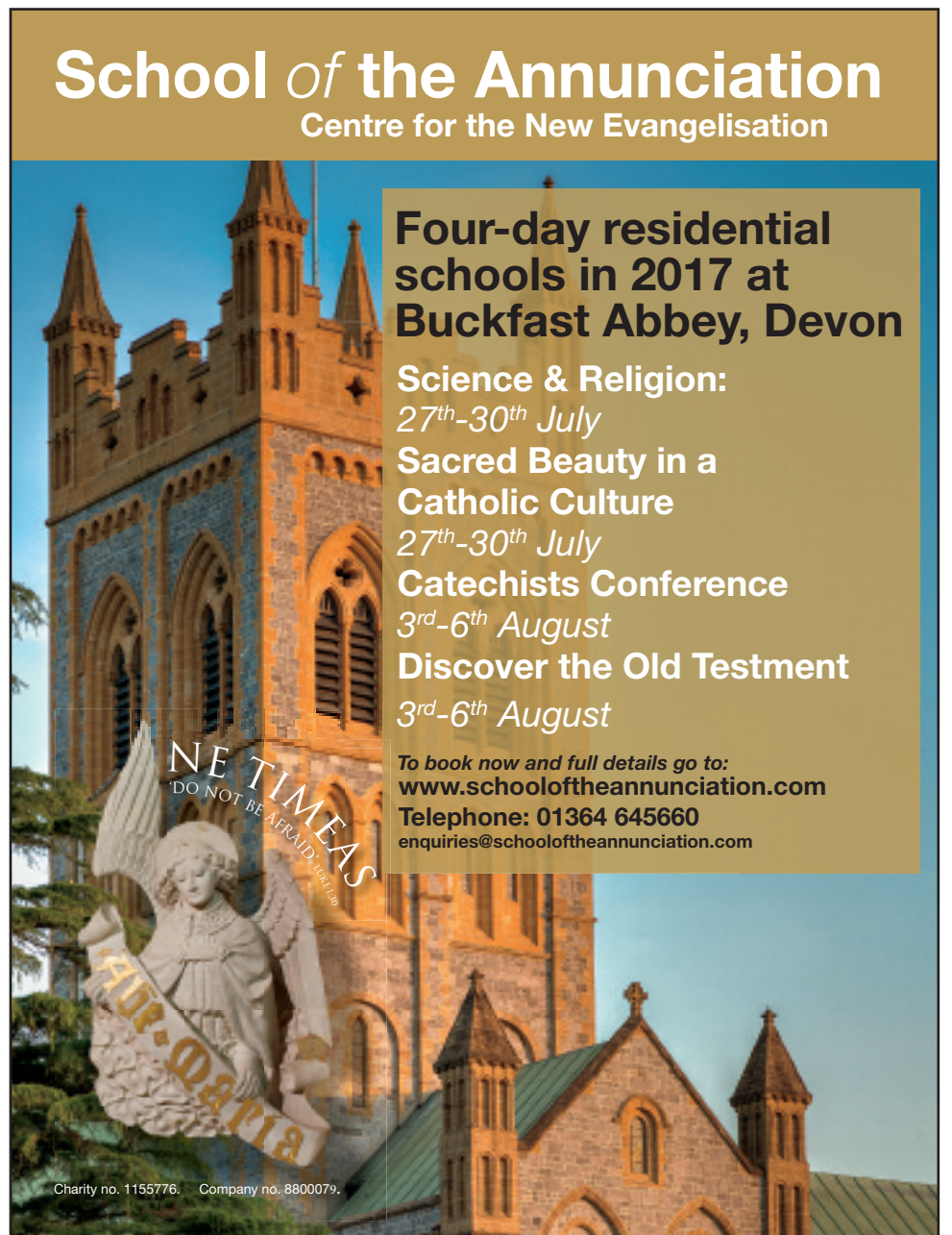
Sacred Beauty in a  
Catholic Culture  
27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July

Catechists Conference  
3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August

Discover the Old Testament  
3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August

To book now and full details go to:  
[www.schooloftheannunciation.com](http://www.schooloftheannunciation.com)

Telephone: 01364 645660  
[enquiries@schooloftheannunciation.com](mailto:enquiries@schooloftheannunciation.com)





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**OBITUARY**

**FR** PATRICK (PADDY) KENNY died on 15 April at the age of 94. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 11 June 1977 at The Cathedral of the Assumption, Co Tipperary. He served in several parishes in our diocese, including Weybridge (1977) and Eastbourne (1978). He also served as Priest in Charge in Broadfield, Peacehaven and Staplefield before retiring in 1995.  
May he rest in peace.

**CAFOD**  
Just one world

CAFOD A&B tel:01483 898866, email [arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk)

**Three top things to ask this General Election 8 June 2017**

**WE** HAVE A VITAL opportunity to speak up for the poorest communities and work together for the common good. As Pope Francis said in his encyclical Laudato Si Care for our Common Home, 'Love is civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.'

This election must look to the kind of society we wish to create for ourselves and to pass on to our children. It is also about the world we want to see for our brothers and sisters worldwide, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable. So that is why, at this crucial moment, CAFOD is inviting you to ask an election question to your parliamentary candidates:

1. For more than a decade, there has been cross-party support for spending 0.7% of national income on aid. UK aid saves lives every day, and must always be focused on the needs of most vulnerable. What will you, and your party, do to continue to tackle poverty overseas?
2. In 2015, Britain joined with 195 other nations to agree urgent global action on climate change. How will you, and your party, make tackling climate change a priority and prevent more people being pushed into poverty because of the changing climate?
3. Whether it is in agreeing new trade deals or addressing the needs of refugees worldwide,

**Britain must recognise the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. How will you, and your party, ensure that Britain is an outward-looking, tolerant and welcoming nation in years ahead?**

**CAFOD NEEDS YOU**

CAFOD A&B is currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us visit Catholic schools in all parts of the diocese but especially in Surrey. If you are a good communicator and interested in global issues please get in touch. The role aims to empower children and young people to make a difference in today's world. Full training provided.  
Please contact Martin Brown on 01483 898866 or email [arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk) for more information.

**BISHOP'S DIARY**

**MAY/JUNE**

Sunday 28	3.00pm	Visits Big Church Day Out, Steyning Lewes Deanery Confirmations, Worth Abbey
<b>JUNE</b>		
Saturday 3	1.00pm	Afternoon of Reflection with New Catholics, Arundel Cathedral
Monday 5	11.00am	Meeting for Congress Representatives, Vaughan House, London
Mon 5 – Tue 6		Overnight Meeting with Clergy, St Cuthman's
Wednesday 7	8.30am	Meeting, High Oaks
	11.30am	Grandparents' Meeting, West Grinstead
	3.00pm	Bishops'/Staff Meeting, St John's Seminary, Womersley
Thursday 8	11.00am	Council of Priests' Meeting, Dabcecc
	7.00pm	Mass at Moulescoomb, Brighton
Friday 9	2.00pm	Mass for St Columba's College, St Alban's Abbey
	6.00pm	KHS Vigil, Southwark Cathedral
Saturday 10	9.30am	Visit HMP Coldingley
	5.00pm	Annual Deacons' Mass, Arundel Cathedral
Sunday 11	3.00pm	Redhill Deanery Confirmations, Caterham
Monday 12	1.00pm	Day for Bereavement Supporters, St Bernadette's, Tilgate
	7.00pm	Mass for the Silver Jubilee of Fr Chris Spain, Redhill
Tuesday 13	10.45am	Education Committee Meeting, DABCEC
	2.00pm	Meeting, DABCEC
Wednesday 14	7.30am	Mass at Gossops Green, Crawley
	11.00am	Lourdes Chaplains' Day, DABCEC
	3.00pm	Meeting, St Mary's University, Twickenham
Thursday 15	5.30pm	Corpus Christi Mass and Procession, Arundel Cathedral
Friday 16	9.00am	Mass at St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill
	12.30pm	Mass at The Towers, Lower Beeding
	7.30pm	Brighton Deanery Confirmations, St Theresa's, Southwick
Saturday 17	11.00am	Guildford Deanery Confirmations, Cranleigh
	2.30pm	Guildford Deanery Confirmations, Guildford
Sunday 18	3.00pm	Cathedral Deanery Confirmations, Arundel Cathedral
Monday 19	10.30am	Deans' Meeting, DABCEC
	3.00pm	Meeting, London
Wednesday 21	11.00am	Good Shepherd Celebration, Worth Abbey
Thursday 22	12 Noon	Jubilarians' Mass, Arundel Cathedral
Friday 23	12.30pm	Meeting, High Oaks
	7.00pm	Vespers and Te Deum at Sacred Hart, Caterham
Saturday 24	11.00am	Brighton Deanery Confirmations, Hove
	3.00pm	Brighton Deanery Confirmations, Preston Park
Sunday 25	3.00pm	Crawley Deanery Confirmations, Worth Abbey
Monday 26	12.30pm	Recently Ordained Clergy Lunch, High Oaks
Tuesday 27	10.00am	Visit Combat Stress Charity, Leatherhead
	2.00pm	Mass of Thanksgiving, St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School, Guildford
Wednesday 28	2.00pm	Cross Phase Mass at Worth Abbey
Thursday 29	10.30am	CSAN Criminal Justice Forum, Romeo House, London
	3.00pm	St Mary's University, Twickenham
Friday 30	9.00am	Deanery Teachers' In-Set Day, Chatsmore School, Worthing

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**NOTICE BOARD**

**MASS FOR THE DEAF**

On the first Saturday of the month at 1pm at St John the Evangelist, Springfield Road, HORSHAM RH12 2PJ

**Pilgrimage of Reparation and Consecration Saturday 22 July 2017**

Church of Our Lady of Consolation & St Francis, Park Lane, West Grinstead RH13 8LT  
Led by Fr. David Goddard, Priest Custodian of the Shrine

**St Martha's Convent**

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S.A.E. for brochure to St Martha's Convent, Rottingdean, East Sussex BN2 7HA  
Tel: 01273 302354

**St Joseph's Nursing home**

East Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex. BN17 6AU

All denominations welcome. Mass everyday. Within view of the town centre. Caring and supportive environment.

Contact: Home Manager Sarah Etherington 01903 - 711325

**Our Lady of Fidelity**

The church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignation spirituality. Daily Mass is the centre of community life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses to the consecrated way of life. If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette. Late vocations up to the age of 46 welcomed.

**COVENT OF OUR LADY OF FIDELITY**  
Central Hill, Upper Norwood, LONDON SE19 1RS  
Telephone: 07973 6002563 or Fax: 0208 766 6579  
Mobile: 07760 297001  
Ministers of Religion

12 Noon - Holy Mass - Personal consecration to Our Lady

1.00 pm - Lunch break (please bring packed lunch)

1.45pm - The Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary

2.15pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

3.00pm - Chaplet of Divine Mercy - Adoration & Silent Prayer

3.45pm - Benediction

4.15pm - Departure

There will be opportunities for Confession in the afternoon  
You are invited to pray a Novena 13-21 July, to Our Lady of Consolation, in preparation for this Pilgrimage.

Let us thank God for the Re-Consecration of England and Wales to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, at Westminster Cathedral, on 18 February 2017.

**All Welcome!**  
For further information please contact: Linda 01273 463463;  
Jozef 01444 232974;  
Jayne 07816 422851  
[jayne.lock1@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.lock1@gmail.com)



# Diocese of Arundel & Brighton



**Richard**  
**Bishop of Arundel & Brighton**  
**PASTORAL LETTER**  
**for the 4th Sunday of Easter**  
**7th May 2017**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On 5th January this year, Pope Francis said, in an address to the Bishops of Italy:

“The doors [of vocation] are opened through prayer, through good will, through risk,” he said. “Jesus told us that the first way to have vocations is prayer, but not all are convinced of this... Pray with the heart, with your life, with everything.”[1]

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, the Church throughout the world is called to reflect on the theme of Vocations to Priesthood and the three themes given to us by the Holy Father – prayer, good will, risk – provide an ideal path for our reflection.

As we look to the future of our Diocese and the ways in which the Mission given to us by Christ will be continued, the Eucharist will always be the centre of our lives. The encounter that we have with the person of Jesus, the Word who is Life, is the pinnacle of our worship and the source of our activity in His Name. While the Diocese is blessed with many wonderful priests, I call on each and every person in this Diocese to join with me in prayer for vocations – for we need priests. Pope Francis’ insistent words – “pray with the heart, with your life, with everything” – must find a home in us in every aspect of our lives, and our prayer for vocations to the priesthood is no exception.

To assist us in this work, a new Vocations Prayer Card has been produced and is available in every parish today and will be available in our schools. I ask you to join with me in praying this prayer each and every day.

The praying of the Rosary is a part of many people’s lives of prayer. I invite parishes to form groups of people who will commit to praying the Rosary for Vocations to Priesthood.

The practice of Eucharistic Adoration is an aspect of parish life in many parts of the Diocese. Times of Adoration provide excellent opportunities for prayer for Priestly Vocations and I ask every parish to hold a Holy Hour each month for this intention. Materials to assist in this are available on the National Vo-

cations Website.

The Holy Father speaks of good will and risk. For the one whom God calls to Priesthood, both of these are necessary. Good will leads to an openness of mind and heart that enable us to listen to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit. The call to Priesthood, more often than not, comes in quiet ways: the example of a priest; the example of parents and family members as they persevere in Faith; a thought about service to the Church; a renewed experience of God’s presence when on retreat or at a day of prayer and celebration; a reawakening of awareness of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. These are some examples, but good will is a prerequisite if we are to open our minds and hearts to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

There is also the element of risk – for the decision to reflect further on Priestly Vocation and to offer oneself for Formation and Ordination is a step into life-long commitment and service; of “following Christ the Head and Shepherd, not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls.”[2]

To those of you who sense these stirrings of the Holy Spirit, calling you to service of Christ and his Church, I say this: be open to the call, pray, take the risk. Be a part of the Mission of this Diocese as a Priest. You are needed and valued by the whole of our Diocesan Family and can be assured of the prayers and support of all.

With every Blessing

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Arundel & Brighton



**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

*The harvest is rich  
 But the labourers are few*

*Lord, grant to our Diocese  
 The gift of priests  
 Filled with zeal for your Word,  
 And with dedication  
 In the service of your people,  
 That your Church may be nourished  
 Through the Sacraments  
 And strengthened for the Mission  
 To which you have called us.  
 For you are Lord  
 For ever and ever  
 Amen.*

**My own Call to the Priesthood**

*We asked Fr Simon Dray (pictured left, on the prayer card) to tell us about his own calling, whether it developed suddenly as the result of one experience or whether it developed gradually over time.*

**P**UT SIMPLY, my vocation to the priesthood developed because a priest (during World Youth Day 2005) asked me whether I had ever considered priesthood. I had not but, looking back, the seeds were there: the quiet witness of my own parish priest; a love for Holy Mass; the privileged access to the Altar that I had been granted as an Altar server; along with a growing recognition that life was a question of not ‘what did I want to do with my life’ but ‘what did God want me to do with my life.’

The first question was what might make me ‘happy’ and the second was what would allow me and others to be blessed! As the prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi (our patron in Crawley) says ‘it is in giving that we receive.’

As is understandable, I had a natural desire for fatherhood, but, after prayerful consideration, I realised that God wished to fulfil that fatherhood supernaturally, to a particular community of his in the body of Christ.

Seeing other Seminarians ordained, I could see that I wasn’t giving up a family, but was gaining one in a different way, a brotherhood of priests. Perhaps the most moving moment of my ordination was the sign of peace with my brother priests.

It was amazing to have their spiritual support this year when my mother died. Although difficult, it was a blessing to celebrate her Requiem Mass knowing that I and my brother priests were ‘knocking on Heaven’s door’ that she be admitted swiftly among the mansions of the saints.

This year I celebrate my fourth anniversary. Please pray for me, my brother Priests, and for vocations within your own families.

*Fr Simon Dray*

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## FROM THE PARISHES

## ADUR VALLEY

SO AS TO HAVE our churches looking beautiful for Easter, both churches organised a great spring clean where many volunteers came along and helped.

We are sorry that our Lent Groups have now come to an end for this year as they have been well attended and inspirational.

On Good Friday as well as the usual Stations of the Cross for adults and the Good Friday liturgy there was a children's Stations of the Cross at St Peter's.

At the Easter Vigil we celebrated with great joy the reception of five new parishioners. We had children's activities and an Easter egg hunt after the Mass on Easter Sunday. Finnley Pearce was running a raffle for Easter Eggs as part of his fund raising for his pilgrimage to Lourdes as a red shirt.

Eucharistic Adoration now takes place every week at both Christ the King in Steyning as well as St Peter's at Shoreham.

*Penny Richardson*

## ARUNDEL

AS OUR EASTER CANDLE was raised high during the singing of the Exsultet we saw a 'glowing fire ..... fed by melting wax drawn out by mother bees.' It joined harmoniously with the work of mind, hands and heart of our own Deacon David Clifton.

In the past David has even made the whole candle as well as the decoration. His artistic ideas are encapsulated within the prescribed motifs as he brings the curved surface to life. This year, amid precise measurements, he has created a red diamond-shaped background which blends perfectly with the gold, red and black of the huge base in which it sits. In doing so it announces to all who enter our Cathedral 'Christ is Risen!'

*Hilary Caws*

## CATERHAM

## CRAWLEY

Christ the Lord (LEP)  
Broadfield and Bewbush

FR CHRIS DOBSON celebrated our Mass on Mothering Sunday and the brilliant Blue Sash choir led our singing.

On the fifth Sunday of Lent Fr Simon Dray celebrated our Mass and our children's liturgy group created a splendid poster depicting the miracle of the raising of Lazarus.

Fr Chris celebrated our Palm Sunday Mass, on the warmest day of the year so far. We startled passers-by as we processed up out of the church, along the pavement and back into the church, enthusiastically waving our palms and singing, led by our wonderful Blue Sash choir!

*Barbara Winstanley*

TO ALL OUR  
CORRESPONDENTS

ITEMS for the July 2017 issue must reach the Editorial Office at Crawley by 10am on **Monday 29 May 2017** and for the **August 2017** issue by **Monday 3 July 2017**. Contributions may be sent by e-mail to [abnews@dabnet.org](mailto:abnews@dabnet.org) and if so please always 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. 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 (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 copies printed directly from computers. **Please tell us who gave permission and what evidence do you have for children's photos to be published.**

## EGHAM



*Fr Hugh Flower with the baskets of eggs*

AT OUR PARISHES of The Assumption of our Lady in Englefield Green and St John of Rochester, we carry on the tradition of Easter basket blessing. It has been our tradition to have our food blessed on Holy Saturday and this is exactly what Fr Hugh Flower did this Easter Weekend. After the fasting of Lent and from Maundy Thursday onwards, the foods of Easter have a special place.

The baskets full of eggs were painted by one of the Polish families from our parish who brought baskets for blessing on Holy Saturday. The food is traditionally eaten the following morning for breakfast and, as part of that tradition, foods such as smoked meats, breads, eggs, cheeses and special-shaped cakes were placed in the different family baskets and decorated with flowers and ribbons. The whole family usually gathers on Saturday to paint the eggs together and catch up on family news. Items in each basket included Easter eggs to symbolise new life and the resurrection of Jesus.

On Palm Sunday, some beautiful crosses, hand made by a Swiss parishioner by the name of Michael and his family and friends, were brought to both churches. The crosses were then used on Palm Sunday for the processions.

It was also a time during the Easter Vigil for some of our parishioners to be baptised during the Easter Vigil Mass. We welcomed new members to our Catholic faith and growth in our Catholic Church.

*Janice Rodrigues-Mendes*

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS of our age is having sufficient volunteers to carry out the manifold needs of a parish community and we are fortunate that, on the whole, we do have parishioners able and willing to take on these roles, even though, from time to time, we could do with some more helpers. This is especially so when older helpers have to give up through age or ill health. Many prefer to keep a low profile, but we are grateful to Jo Waiton for organising the monthly lunch for the senior members of the Parish and to the S V P for all that they do with practical help for transport, food and furniture and the monthly film show. And to Elizabeth and Mike Wood, and Biddy and Peter Lovat and Elizabeth Hubbard-Brown for all that they do.

Our thanks to Fr Richard Biggerstaff (currently in charge of the St Barnabas Society) for hearing confessions at the Masses on 30 April. Hilary Meyer's choir made a very valuable contribution to the Easter services.

*Peter Patterson*

## EASTBOURNE

## Christ the King, and St Joachim

OUR PARISH EXTENDS a welcome and congratulations to Sue Stevens who was received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday.

The Offertory collections during the Easter Masses raised the sum of £2,810.40 which will be shared equally between the work of the Sisters of Mercy hospital at Mutomo, Kenya and the school managed by the Infant Jesus Sisters in Nigeria.

The parish has received a communication from Mutomo which, in common with much of East Africa, is suffering crop failure as a result of severe drought. The sisters have informed us that famine in the surrounding area has resulted in people queuing every day to beg for food. Funds provided as a result of collections held at Masses in the parish have, however, helped to keep the hospital running despite enormous difficulties and the sisters have expressed appreciation of our continued support.

The CAFOD lunches held on Fridays during Lent raised the sum of £1,484.25.

In the meantime our parish is seeking someone to help in the summer by making a commitment to care for the flowers and small trees in the Remembrance Garden.

*John Carmody*

MERSTHAM  
REDHILL and REIGATE

WITH THE PASCAL TRIDUUM being celebrated at the town churches of Redhill and Reigate, parishioners living in Merstham were able to make a significant contribution to the village's annual Ecumenical Witness of the Crucifixion. They joined people from the Baptist Church and the Anglican Gatton Team Ministry, walking at noon to the new Co-op Store close to St Teresa's Church.

With the Cross held high, hymns were sung, accompanied by a guitarist from the Baptist Church. Easter eggs and bible readings were handed to passing shoppers.

At 1.00 p.m. around 30 people entered St Teresa's. Immediately inside a Cross of Greenery rested before the font. It had sprigs of bay leaves, an ancient Rome symbol of glory, and variegated holly. Holly was chosen to link back to the lines in Christmas carols 'to be born and to die for mankind', 'Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying sealed in a stone cold tomb'.

For the Way of the Cross, volunteers from the congregation read at each station. Then followed nine short meditations on Distrust, Unpopularity, Desertion, Fear, Abandonment, Betrayal, Indifference and A Sorrowing Mother. Between each was space for silent prayer and Taize chants. On the high altar small votive lights were burning, and a large plain wooden Cross had been laid on the steps. People were invited to place votive lights around it. The service concluded with 'Ubi Caritas' after which all left in silence.

*Liz Braines, Janet Franklin, Ann Lardeur*

## PETWORTH with DUNCTON

DURING LENT a series of simple lunches were held in various parishioners' homes intended as a social occasion for people to meet and chat. This was a new and popular initiative which hopefully will be repeated.

Also during Lent there was a weekly discussion group based on the book 'Divine Renovation' by Fr James Mallon with a view to forming a vision of the future of our parishes. These were well-attended and intensely interesting evenings with a lot of useful input and ideas.

The churches of our parish looked beautiful for Easter - cleaned, polished and decorated - such a wonderful contrast to the austerity of Lent and Holy Week. The services of the Sacred Paschal Triduum were equally uplifting, each one different and powerful and culminating

with an overflowing church in Petworth on Easter Sunday.

On 24 April the feast of St George was celebrated with evening Mass at the church in Duncton which is dedicated to St Anthony and St George, followed by the parish AGM and a further opportunity to engage in the process of planning for the future of our parish. Afterwards there were drinks and a finger buffet in the village hall.

The parish has a new website: Visit us at [petworthcatholic.org](http://petworthcatholic.org).

*Sally Bohane*

## POLEGATE and HAILSHAM

THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY family Stations of the Cross held at St George's on Saturday 18 March was a great success, attended by over 40 children, parents and grandparents from both communities. The children processed around the church following the leader and cross bearer, stopping at each Station for prayer and meditation. The feedback from the adults was that the children were attentive and prayerful, and that they, too, appreciated the experience. This was followed by a very enjoyable Lenten lunch in the church hall. A collection was made for CAFOD.

*Tessa Truman*

## WADHURST

SACRED HEART Wadhurst prepared for Easter in an Ecumenical spirit by inviting our fellow churches to a Sacred Space service in our church. Organised by Clare Kent and Susan Martin, this was a prayerful and reflective time interspersed with music and readings to concentrate our minds during Holy Week.

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday morning started at the Sacred Heart church, processed through the village and finished at the Anglican church. Our 'money man' Greg O'Higgins, who shoulders the burden of our finances all year, volunteered to carry the heavy wooden cross some of the way through the village, sharing with one of the Anglican parishioners.

On a practical level a wonderful Lenten lunch was held at Noel and Clare Kent's home on the warmest day of the year so far. Noel's home-made soup and home made bread were much appreciated and they raised £240 for charity, half going to our food bank Nourish and half to help refugees.

On Easter Sunday the sad and bare altar we had seen during Lent burst into life thanks to our talented and dedicated flower ladies. In spite of a slight hiccup in the Easter flower collection they performed a miracle in producing such a beautiful display - a symbolic reminder of the miracle of Easter.

*Peggy Purslow*

## WEST BYFLEET

OUR EASTER celebrations included the following events - a Passover meal on the Monday of Holy Week - the traditional Polish/East European blessing of Easter Food Baskets - a Walk of Witness on Good Friday morning, processing behind the Cross from our Church to St John's in West Byfleet, with joint prayers, readings and hymns with our fellow Christians from other faiths; a further ecumenical service at Dawn on Easter Sunday at the historic ruins of Newark Abbey in Ripley (photo below).

On the social side, before Easter the parish centre was packed for a 70th Birthday party for Fr Malachy Keegan. We are also planning a social event commemorating Father's 45 years since his ordination, and expressing our formal thanks for his valued leadership. He hands over to Fr Alex at the end of May.

*Paul Tipple*





THE CHRISM MASS - PREPARATION OF THE HOLY OILS



**THE CHRISM MASS**

**B**LESSING OF OILS is very ancient with documented evidence of this liturgy from the fourth century, but it is certainly of earlier origin. Olive oil is used as the basis for the three holy oils, and is mixed with balsam, an aromatic resin, for consecration of the Holy Chrism. At the Chrism Mass the Bishop blesses the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick as well as mixing the oil and balsam for the Oil of Chrism. He then breathes over the vessel containing the Oil of Chrism, to invoke the Holy Spirit and, as he says the consecration prayer, the concelebrants extend their right hands towards the chrisms, signifying their unity with him. At the end of the ceremony the three vessels containing the oils, each in its distinctive coloured cape, are processed out. The holy oils will then be decanted into sets of three small vases for distribution to each parish for its use over the following 12 months.



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