

FREE

A & B NEWS

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
No 321 OCTOBER 2017



Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor
Bishop of Arundel & Brighton 21 December 1977 to 22 March 2000
Died 1 September 2017
May he rest in Peace

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Pilgrim Blessings at Lourdes

EACH YEAR, MANY OF THOSE TAKING PART IN THE A&B PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES ARE REGULARS FOR WHOM THE EVENT IS AKIN TO AN EXTENDED FAMILY RE-UNION - BUT WHAT IS IT LIKE FOR FIRST-TIMERS? Veronica Peppiatt reports



A&B News reporter Veronica Peppiatt talks with a group of Red Shirts

Picture: Mike Wells

THE RED SHIRTS

BEING A FIRST-TIMER on the Pilgrimage is not so unusual for Red Shirts; probably about half of these students in Years 10 & 11 are there for the first time. Not surprisingly, many admit to having felt a certain amount of apprehension. I asked Meg, Chloë, Abi and Becca, 15 & 16 year olds in Lourdes for the first time, what they had been worried or unsure about before coming.

'Going to *so many Masses* in one week – I thought that would be boring', said one, 'but actually they haven't been boring at all! *Each one has been different, the music is amazing - and even the sermons are interesting!*'

'I wondered who I'd find myself sharing with and whether I'd get on with them OK' said another of the girls, which met with a chorus of agreement. But all agreed that the building of new friendships, and the sense of belonging to and being supported by the group, was greater than they could ever have imagined.

'I came to Lourdes knowing only one of the 77 people in this year's Red Shirts group', said Abi, 'but now I honestly feel that I could go up to any one of them and happily start a conversation with them, whether it was to share a joke or share a worry.'

The girls felt that their time in Lourdes had increased their confidence, their inner strength and self-awareness. High points of the week? '*The Anointing Mass*', said Becca and Chloë, '*the sense of unity, of togetherness was so strong. It's hard to describe - you had to be there!*'

'*The visit to the baths*', said Meg, 'which was weird because it was one of the things I'd been worried about, but I actually enjoyed it. I found it very emotional, but came away feeling kind of... renewed.'

A visit to the Accueil also made a lasting impact on the girls, particularly the happiness, joy and positivity they wit-

nessed there – something they had not expected to find amongst Assisted Pilgrims living with very challenging conditions.

THE HELPER

WANTING TO TALK TO A FIRST TIME HELPER IN THE ACCUEIL, I met one evening with Caitlin and Megan, both 18, and awaiting 'A' Level results. Megan had actually been to Lourdes last year as a helper in a hotel group and although she said she had had a great time then, she stressed that the teamwork of all those working in the Accueil is something special. '*The most intense bonds are created - you can't really imagine the sense of community there is unless you experience it for yourself - you just have to do it!*' she told me, positively fizzing with youthful energy.

For Caitlin, this was a first time in Lourdes. 'I'd been thinking of coming with the Red Shirts in Year 11 but didn't really get my act together, then again in Year 12 various things got in the way. This year I thought if I'm ever going to do this thing, I need to get on with it before I'm off to University.' Although initially taken aback to find herself allocated to the Accueil team, she found the experience intensely rewarding. Like Megan, she referred to the strong emotional bonds created and particularly the effect this had on her at the Anointing Mass. 'We were told that it can be very emotional and that many are moved to tears, but I didn't think I would be. I mean, I hadn't even met any of these people until three or four days before. But as I stood there in the circle formed by the Accueil group, near a lady with advanced Alzheimer's whom I had become very fond of, I saw her husband, in a wheelchair by her side, tenderly take hold of her hand with such love that I felt as if my heart was breaking and the tears just poured down my face.'

Continued on page 3



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Sacred Heart Monday Club

THE MONDAY CLUB is a social and friendship club that meets weekly at Sacred Heart Church Hove, from 2 to 4pm each Monday.

Twenty to thirty people attend each week for a cup of tea, a chat and to participate in occasional raffles, outings and quizzes, and to listen to interesting and entertaining speakers. Chairlady Bridget Daly has been running the club for the last ten years and promises a warm welcome to anyone who wants to come along and make new friends.

The photo shows the club's recent outing to Raystede animal rescue center and sanctuary near Lewes in Sussex. Established in 1952, the centre now cares for more than 2,000 animals a year, rehomes over 1,000 and provides sanctuary for more. There are hundreds of different species at the sanctuary, from alpacas to parrots, gerbils to geese. For more information, see <https://www.raystede.org/>.

Story: Bridget Daly



Hello from Fr Barry



FR BARRY ANDERSON (pictured above on the left) greets some parishioners (in this case Rodney and Linda) in his usual delightful manner on a warm sunny day at St Joachim's in Hampden Park, Eastbourne.

Story & Picture: Mrs.S.A.Donohue

Peace to all from St Joseph's



Vous avez trouve votre message!

Bless d'Esprit Catherine

Vous avez envoye un mail sans réponse (peut-être une mauvaise adresse?) donc nous vous envoyons ce courrier! Peace be with you!

STUDENTS AND STAFF at St Joseph's Specialist School and College joined together in May to celebrate the Ascension and Pentecost Liturgy in the school chapel. Students and staff then went into the garden for the ceremonial release of a huge number of red balloons filled with helium gas. Tied to their strings was a message saying 'Peace be with you', hoping and praying that as the balloons eventually came down to land, the message of God's peace would bring comfort to those who found them.

So we were absolutely delighted to receive and open a package from Catherine, Alain and Clemence who had discovered one of our red balloons amongst the rock pools on the beach in Blanquet, Northern France and sent us a joyous message of peace in return!

Story & Picture: Hilary Clark

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Lourdes cont'd

THE HELPER (CONT.)

At the opposite end of the age range for a first time helper was Mike (apologies, Mike, but you are 69!) who after a 30-year career in the police force was similarly surprised to find himself moved to tears at the Anointing Mass. Mike had visited Lourdes with his wife Janet in 1983 and had said then that he thought he would like to come back as a helper. 'Somehow I never got round to it,' he told me.

Last year, Janet and Mike joined the A&B Pilgrimage, but Mike was having trouble with his knees so thought he shouldn't risk being a helper. This year, 34 years later, he achieved his ambition. So how was coming as a helper different? 'There are greater demands on your time', he acknowledged, 'but the rewards are great too. I feel it has helped me grow as a person. I must admit, on the first day when I met some of the Assisted Pilgrims in our hotel group, some with severe physical and communication difficulties, I wondered how I was going to interact with them and whether I was up to it. Father Peter (Andrews) said in his homily at the Grotto yesterday that Lourdes takes you out of your comfort zone – well, I was definitely taken way outside mine that first day or two! And I've learned that being a helper isn't just a question of pushing a wheelchair around – *you're forming relationships not just with the Assisted Pilgrim but with their family member/carer, who, I've come to realise, sometimes needs your help and support more than the person in the wheelchair.*'

THE ASSISTED PILGRIM

Seeking an Assisted Pilgrim who would not mind being interviewed, I was introduced to Christine who was on Pilgrimage with her husband John and son Samuel (pictured below). Samuel has a severe learning difficulty and a range of complex physical conditions for which he requires 24/7 care. Christine was his main carer for 14 years until 7 years ago when she became critically ill herself and was left with severely reduced mobility and chronic pain, so John became the full-time carer.

'We'd been to Lourdes 10 years ago when I was fit', Christine told me, 'and stayed in the family group hotel. When I became ill I never thought it would be possible for us to travel again as a family, but it was my dearest wish to come back to Lourdes and somehow Marie Jackson and her fantastic team in the Pilgrimage Office made it all possible.

'John was very apprehensive – he didn't see how it could work. Two adults in wheelchairs together with their carer in one hotel room? When we arrived in Lourdes he was still worrying and seeing problems, but Marie and her team got everything sorted and on the morning of our first full day he woke up and said "This is good. It's better than good – this is fantastic."

For the first time in years John felt able to

relax and to trust others to look after Samuel. Christine described how the Eliseo Hotel group had really 'taken Samuel to their hearts.' Samuel loves music and hearing that Abba was a favourite, the young helpers had played 'Dancing Queen' at the hotel's party night. 'Samuel was in his element, joining in with the singing and dancing', said Christine, who was keen that I should get hold of a photo of the occasion.

Was this the high point of her week in Lourdes? Well no, that would be the Anointing Mass. Sitting in the hot sunshine two days later, Christine seemed to relive her experience in the cool, dark underground Basilica. '*When the priest laid his hands on my head, I felt such a wonderful lightness, as if I was floating. There was a feeling of such love - surrounding me, supporting me. I've never felt such all-encompassing love. And then Bernadette was there and she was smiling at me ...*'

THE FAMILY GROUP

In the Family Group hotel I met with 11 year old Michael, with his parents and younger brother Christopher, all first-timers in Lourdes. He had had a great time making new friends, playing football, etc. but the high point for him had been the torchlight procession. 'I loved seeing all the different flags and banners from around the world. So many different languages being spoken, you could hear the Hail Mary said in all these different languages over the sound system. Then everyone joined in together singing 'Ave, Ave.' As it got dark more and more people came into the square, all lifting their candles on 'Ave', and we had a great view from the steps.'

What would he say to someone his age whose family might be considering joining the Pilgrimage? 'It's brilliant – just go along with things and be positive.' And what about a memo to himself from Lourdes? Michael thought carefully, then: 'Be friendly. Just a simple hello and a smile might mean a lot to someone.'

My conversation with Michael covered quite a range of issues, topics other than Lourdes, and whilst in many ways he was a typical eleven year old, in others he was wise beyond his years and full of sound advice.

Marxa, one of the 'mature' first time helpers I met, when asked what she would be taking away from Lourdes, said: 'Hope for the future. The young people I've met here have been so amazing – they're inspiring.'

I would certainly echo that. But I'll leave the final word to Michael's dad, Matt, who said: '*We all bring something to Lourdes. Each of us carries our own baggage, but we also contribute to supporting others. Our contribution becomes part of what others take away from Lourdes and ultimately, each of us takes away more than we came with.*'



Anne Ward is Honoured

A FREQUENT COMMENT about the A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage is how wonderful the music is, so it was fitting that at the opening Mass on the Esplanade tribute was paid to the huge contribution made by Anne Ward who has decided it is time to step down from her role as Music Coordinator for the Pilgrimage, a role she first took up in 1988 and has carried out for most of the years since.

Bishop Richard surprised Anne with the papal award Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, explaining that it was in recognition of her distinguished service to music in the Church, not only through her life-time of teaching music in Catholic schools, her dedication to the Lourdes Pilgrimage and to music in the Diocese generally, but also in recognition of her considerable achievements as a composer of church music.

As a composer Anne is remarkably generous, offering her music to others freely; for her it is reward enough that it should help people pray.

The calibre of her work is recognised throughout the anglophone world, her compositions having been published in all the major RC

modern anthologies, so one may hear the Ward Gloria sung at Masses from the USA to Australia.

But for the A&B Diocese, it is surely in Lourdes that Anne's contribution has been truly immeasurable. It has added a dimension to the Lourdes experience which it is difficult to put into words, but which I know has been felt by so many. Music can open up hearts and minds, taking us to places where words alone cannot.

Asked what she would like her legacy to be, Anne replied: 'If through the music just one person has been able to find a spiritual connection, that's

enough.'

I think we can safely say, Anne, that you have achieved that in spades.

Story: Veronica Peppiatt



Redshirts take well-deserved time off Picture: Mike Wells

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A & B NEWS

The official monthly paper of the
Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

THERE ARE TWO MAIN SUBJECTS in this month's paper, the passing of Cardinal Cormac and the charitable works carried out by members of the SVP.

I only met Cardinal Cormac once, when I was one of many Mass-goers briefly introduced to him after Mass at the Sacred Heart Church in Hove. My impression was of a genial giant, a man whose natural warmth and attentiveness was as impressive as his stature.

By all accounts, he was a man of extraordinary talents and vitality who achieved much, inspired many people and was greatly loved.

I am more familiar with the charitable works of the SVP and with the volunteers who give up their time to help others in need, without any fanfare or hope of reward. Their works are impressive and the volunteers are admirable - dedicated and caring people, the sort you would be happy to befriend.

Matthew says '...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' (5:16).

Thanks be to God for Cardinal Cormac and all who let their light shine and, doing so, glorify their Maker.

Harry Robertson

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JUST A THOUGHT

AUTUMN IS WELL WITH US NOW. The leaves on the trees have turned golden and are beginning to drop to the ground to manure next year's growth - a beautiful sight! Fruits have ripened and been gathered in and root vegetables are becoming more prolific in the shops. The days are shorter and at the end of the month the clocks will change to the timing of the sun's day. ...

Gradually nature dies off as we herald winter. But we know that by January a few brave shoots will spring to life from the ground. This can only happen if new life has been buried underground.

And this is so also in our spiritual lives. We have to be buried with Christ and mature quietly in the depths of our hearts so that we can rise again.

On the nineteenth of this month we celebrate one of our Diocesan Pro-Principal Patrons, a martyr of the Reformation - St Philip Howard.

The martyrs buried their human lives, usually in much pain, in order to grow again in their new lives in heaven. We are also called to die to ourselves, mostly in quieter ways, in order to grow again in our new life of heaven.

Pauline Groves

The SVP : Special Works - Special People



LIKE MANY LARGE, LONG-STANDING ORGANISATIONS, the SVP has developed its own coded language or shorthand for the work it does. Most SVP volunteers are involved with person-to-person befriending of those in need, and are organised in local SVP groups or 'Conferences'.

'Special Works' is the description given to projects established to meet specific needs in the community - usually too large or complex to be

managed by individual Conferences - and includes activities like soup runs, furniture supply, food banks, holiday camps and caravans, minibuses, community shops, community centres and so on.

Here, we look at a variety of the Special Works carried on by the SVP in A&B.

While some are exclusively SVP-run, others may be initiated by SVP members but grow into true ecumenical initiatives.

Feeding the Hungry: Hangleton Food Bank

'Some haven't eaten for a few days....'

'ST GEORGE'S HALL is a fine space and you make a good income from hall rentals, but are you using it for the benefit of the local community?'

Newly-arrived parish priest Fr Alistair Simmons directed the question to Colm Lennon, stalwart of the parish council, local SVP Conference President and human dynamo. That query sparked an idea for a food bank that led to Colm and members of St George's Church joining with Zoe Smith, wife of the Rev Daniel Smith, plus other volunteers from the neighbouring Anglican church of St Peter's, to turn the idea into reality. The Hangleton & West Blatchington Food Bank opened its doors in December 2014.

Almost three years later, I met with Ros Morris, Vice-Chair and trustee (fourth from right in photo), to learn more about the Hangleton Food Bank, which was registered as a charity in April this year. It is one of 17 food banks in Brighton & Hove, the numbers having tripled from July 2013 when there were only six food banks in the city.

As we spoke, a team of 10 volunteers unloaded fresh produce donated by Tesco, under the watchful eye of Coordinator Anna (on right in photo). The volunteers were joined by several young people from the Prince's Trust who helped fill the carrier bags with fruit and vegetables. Depending on the household needs, clients can also select tinned goods and other items from a menu of donated provisions. The Food Bank is open once a week, on Wednesdays from midday to 2pm, when clients arrive to discuss



their needs and collect their bags of supplies.

Eighty percent of the fresh food comes from the charity Fare Share Sussex, which redistributes unused and unwanted food from supermarkets to organisations in the city. More fresh food is donated by Tesco and Waitrose, while tinned and packet supplies come from collections by local Catholic and Anglican churches, schools, and other local shops and organisations.

Clients are referred by a variety of sources, including social workers, schools,

churches, and other welfare or community support organisations. Around two-thirds of the clients are families and each week between 16 and 25 families are referred for help. A referral provides four separate weekly visits to the food bank and, occasionally, clients have to ask for another referral. When multiple referrals are needed, a volunteer case worker sits with the client to see how the situation can be addressed, perhaps by wise budgeting advice, application for grants or professional support.

'We never turn away anyone in the community who needs our help' Ros stressed. She added that the Food Bank is about more than just distributing food. 'We begin our work with a prayer. ...it is important to listen to and talk with our clients...the café style environment we use is helpful.'

St George's Hall is light and airy with several sets of small tables and chairs set out - like a small restaurant. Clients are offered a cup of tea or coffee, hot soup, sandwiches or even a light lunch.

'Some haven't eaten for a few days before coming - often they give what food they have to their children' Ros said. 'We send them off with a carrier bag of supplies. Then, the next week, when they come back it's marvellous, they are totally different persons - glowing!'

We live in a society and at a time when, for many, hunger is uncomfortably close. When a family has little in the way of savings, then a delayed benefit payment, unemployment, sickness, no overtime, unanticipated school costs or increased housing rent cost can tip the balance from 'just getting by' to needing a food bank referral. Thanks to the good people of St George's and St Peter's, and the 30 people who volunteer at the food bank, that option for a referral now exists in Hangleton and West Blatchington.

Story and pictures: A&B News Staff



Brighton & Hove Soup Runs

FOR ABOUT 30 YEARS the homeless in Brighton & Hove have been guaranteed a hot drink and something to eat, every night of the year.

There are two soup runs, staffed by volunteers, and initially managed by a single committee of the SVP, which operate from locations on the seafront.

One is near the Peace Statue that separates Brighton from Hove, and was started by Fr Mark Elvins and run for many years by Ann Roberts, a SVP member. It is now organised by the dedicated parishioners of St Mary Magdalene Church, led by the redoubtable Karla. The other soup run was started by John Remers of the SVP and operated in various locations on the sea front, east of the Palace Pier.

In order to guarantee service to the hungry patrons every night, a robust organisation is in place. For example, there is a coordinator for the Kemptown run who directs 31 four-person teams (one for each day of the month). Volunteers include members from local churches, SVP members and those whose qualification is simply a desire to help.

The basic fare of hot soup, hot tea and bread is often supplemented by additional food that has been donated. Preparation starts at 7.15pm, guests are served from 8.00 to 8.30pm, and washing up is done by 9.00pm. In winter, 20-40 people turn up each night for sustenance, in summer the numbers double or triple.

When I visited, it was still warm, the sun had just set and the sky was a beautiful mackerel pink. Around 25 men and women were queuing patiently as Ann Knox from Our Lady of Lourdes SVP group and her four volunteers trundled the cart of supplies to the shelter of the Madeira Lift (the building on the right in the picture below).

Continued on page 5



The SVP's Special Works and its Special People (continued)

The Soup Runs (continued)



Ann, Bill and Maureen sorting our supplies on arrival at the Madeira Lift building

Jonathan, Bill, Barbara and Maureen set out the food. It was hot minestrone soup (donated every night by a well-known Brighton family-run Italian restaurant), tea, bread, fried sausages, bananas and small cakes. It was eagerly received and some guests came back for seconds.

Several of the guests were regulars, one or two had been attending for years and there was the easy banter of old friends with the volunteers. Volunteer Jonathan told me several stories about his experiences, including a young man who had a drug habit, but was determined not to use benefits or go into care and had successfully weaned himself off his habit, relying solely on the soup run for food; he has been drug-free for the last two years.

By 8.30pm most of the guests had gone, with farewell calls of 'thanks, good night.' In the depths of winter when there is icy rain, freezing cold and a chilly wind, they know that there will be hot soup and a cheery welcome at the Kemp Town's Madeira Lift and at the Peace Statue.

If you would like to volunteer on the Soup Runs, contact: souprunbrighton@gmail.com (Kemp Town Soup Run) or stmarymagoffice@googlemail.com (Peace Statue Soup Run)

Story and picture: A&B News Team

The Community Shop



NINE YEARS AGO the first SVP community shop opened in A&B. Situated on Lewes Road in Brighton, an area with heavy student footfall, it quickly proved to be the SVP's most successful shop throughout the whole of England & Wales. Now, there are four shops in A&B Diocese and we visited the newest in Portland Road, Hove, to see if it had the same magic touch as its neighbour in Brighton.

Although the Hove SVP shop only opened three months ago, there are already 100+ visitors a day according to manager Jason – a figure I can readily believe as there was a constant stream of customers during my brief visit.

Sandwiched between a Sainsbury's Local supermarket and a Costa Coffee, the shop benefits from a steady footfall. Clothing of all sorts, and shoes, chinaware, bric-a-brac, books, costume jewellery, prints, books, DVDs, CDs, lamps and such like – even a small kitchen sink – the shop has it all.

The stock is donated by locals, about half of whom regularly frequent the shop, and a Gift Aid scheme is operated. Seventy percent of sales are clothing, especially women's clothing. There are ten volunteers, plus four students who do short sessions for their Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Like all the SVP's community shops, the intention is that the Hove shop will serve as an outpost for the SVP, signposting any enquirers to the support services it provides and using its surpluses to help serve those in need. There are posters and brochures explaining the Society's work by the till.

Volunteer Carrie emerged from the store room at the back of the shop and was quite clear about why she had volunteered to help: 'It's the people, they're really really nice people.' Yes, they are Carrie, and they are doing a worthwhile job too.

Story and picture: A&B News Team

Helping Overseas: the Twinning System

IT WAS POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII who suggested that the (relatively wealthy) SVP Conferences in the developed world set up a scheme to aid their fellow Conferences in developing countries.

The outcome was the Twinning system whereby SVP groups in developed countries provide support to SVP groups in developing countries. Twinning involves mutual prayer support, correspondence and regular financial support. SVP groups in England and Wales can currently twin with almost 1,800 separate Conferences in India, Sudan, South Sudan, Grenada, Guyana and Romania.

Each SVP Conference is encouraged to twin with at least one overseas Conference, and the annual financial support of £150 per Conference is used by the overseas SVP group to carry out its local charitable works. In addition, the English Conference may also choose to support particular projects, such as sponsoring students for school or college attendance or for technical or vocational training (such as nursing, engineering and the like), or for longer term projects designed to make local communities self-sufficient.



For example, my own Conference recently bought several pigs and cows to help small farmers in India support themselves and also paid for sewing machines so that local women could learn a trade and establish small businesses to support their families (see picture). Similarly, it purchased bicycles to enable parents to commute to work, and give children the means to enable them to travel several miles each day to school.

Story: A&B News Team Picture: SVP India

The Embrace Project

THIS IS A NEW PROJECT that the SVP is piloting in Brighton & Hove. It works by liaising with parishes and deaneries (as well as with other charities and a variety of local authority bodies) to identify isolated older people who may be in need of help. This may be a simple need for companionship and befriending, help in accessing benefits or other support services, bereavement or other forms of counselling, transport, shopping, small repairs or gardening and so on.

Project leader Vicky Hill is looking to recruit up to 40 helpers over the next two years. She stresses that the opportunity is very flexible as to time commitments and there will be a minimum of form-filling and bureaucracy. She plans to offer volunteers the opportunity to also work with the SVP's Brighton Tower House Community Centre, which will be opened by Bishop Richard on 19 September.

To volunteer or just to learn more, contact Vicky on 07557 562718 or vickyh@svp.org.uk

Story: A&B News Team

Weybridge Small Furniture Scheme - see page 11

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The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Pastoral Team



Serving the communities of our Diocese

THE BIG ENCOUNTER 2017

Youth festival for 15 to 30s

WE ARE NOW ONLY A MONTH AWAY from the first BIG ENCOUNTER youth festival for 15-30s, and we're expecting somewhere between 100 to 200 people!

It's all happening at Newman College in Hove on Saturday 11 November, 7pm to 9.30pm, and we've got a great programme. Our keynote speaker will be Maria Rodrigues from Premier Christian Radio, and music will be led by One Hope Project, one of the biggest Catholic bands in the country right now. Bishop Richard will also be there, as well as a few other organisations.

The ENCOUNTER programme has been running for a few years and is now active in four different places around the diocese, where there are local ENCOUNTER evenings every month. This is the first time that there has been a big diocesan-wide festival however, and it promises to be a powerful evening.

The aim of ENCOUNTER is to give 15 to 30s a chance to encounter God and explore their faith in a relaxed, friendly environment with people their own age. So, if you haven't been before, make this your first one. Alternatively, if you're not in the 15 to 30s bracket, but know somebody who is, give them a nudge! If you've got any questions – contact Jack Regan at DABCEC jack.regan@dabnet.org - 01293 651158.

Entry is free, and there's no need to book. Doors open at 6.30pm and the programme starts at 7pm on 11 November, and we'll be in the Sixth Form centre at Newman College BN3 6ND



HOPE 2017

Festival Day for 11 to 14s

THERE IS QUITE A BIT going on for young people these days in the diocese and beyond (see yaab.co.uk for details) but one thing I'm very conscious of is that since *Youth Gather* came to an end in 2014, there hasn't been a dedicated festival in the diocese for younger teenagers.

This autumn, that changes as we have looked at how we serve those in need. We're putting on a fantastic event at the Cathedral, and what's more, it coincides with the first *World Day of the Poor*, Pope Francis' new initiative announced earlier this year.

We're pleased to announce a great line-up, including CAFOD, RISE theatre, Bishop Richard, and a few other guests.

To register your group – or if you've got any questions – contact Jack Regan at DABCEC jack.regan@dabnet.org - 01293 651158.

The festival will be held at Arundel Cathedral, running from 2pm to 5.30pm on Sunday 19 November. With only a limited space in the cathedral and the hall numbers are limited, so **booking is essential. Please register your group. It's open to anyone aged 11 to 14.**



The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
Pastoral Team
Serving the communities of our Diocese



Grandparents

Celebrate Arundel and Brighton Grandparents' week!

30th Sept. to 8th October 2017

Find out what's happening in your school or parish.....

for further information please contact Katherine Bergin 01293651152
or email katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

ADVANCE NOTICE

Ongoing Formation for Marriage Preparation Catechists

You are welcome to attend a morning with Bishop Richard Moth
On Saturday, 25th November from 10 to 4 pm
(Coffee from 9.45 am)

At The Christian Education Centre (DABCEC),
4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, RH10 6RP

To book and/or for information contact Katherine Bergin,
Diocesan Adviser, Marriage & Family Life:
katherine.bergin@dabnet.org 01293 651152

Supporting the Bereaved Course 2017/18

Could you support your parish priest by becoming a friend to those parishioners who are bereaved?

Could you walk beside them in their grief?

Why not talk to your Parish Priest about joining the next Supporting the Bereaved Course?

Introductory Session at DABCEC, Crawley, on
Wednesday 11 October, from 9.45am to 3.30pm
For further information contact Katherine Bergin
01293 651152 katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

Couples for Christ

European Mega Conference in Brighton

COUPLES FOR CHRIST (CFC) is a growing movement across our diocese. It encourages families to get together on a weekly basis for faith sharing and family time. The CFC European Mega Conference took place in Brighton on 28 to 30 July 2017 when over 1,700 members of Couples for Christ Europe gathered. Bishop Peter Doyle, Bishop of Northampton Diocese and Episcopal Vicar for the Family in England and Wales had a warm reception when he celebrated Mass on the Sunday. Fr Aaron Spinelli, parish priest in Horsham, officiated at Adoration as well as the Youth for Christ Ministry. Both are shown in the various pictures.

CFC was founded in the Philippines in 1981 and established in UK in 1988. The website is www.couplesforchristglobal.org and more information is available from Marren Eye marren.01atam@gmail.com or our Diocesan Adviser for Marriage & Family Life: katherine.bergin@dabnet.org 01293 651152

Story: A&B News Team and Marren Eye, Pictures: Marren Eye




Advent Small Group Material - Advance Notice
This will be available at the end of October from the DABCEC bookshop and online - more details to follow

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor 1932 - 2017

Pope Francis offers Condolence

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

Deeply saddened to learn of the death of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster, I hasten to offer my heartfelt condolences to you and to the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese.

Recalling with immense gratitude the late Cardinal's distinguished service to the Church in England and Wales, his unwavering devotion to the preaching of the Gospel and the care of the poor, and his far-sighted commitment to the advancement of ecumenical and interreligious understanding, I willingly join you in commending his noble soul to the infinite mercies of God our heavenly Father.

To all who mourn his passing in the sure hope of the Resurrection I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of consolation and strength in the Lord.

FRANCISCUS PP.

Bishop Richard pays Tribute

In Cardinal Cormac we had a Priest, Bishop and Cardinal who gave dedicated and wonderful service to the Church and the wider world for so many years. He was much loved by the clergy and people of this diocese and will be greatly missed.



BISHOP RICHARD celebrated Mass in London's Royal Marsden Hospital with Cardinal Cormac, just five days before the Cardinal's death.

On parting, Cardinal Cormac said to Bishop Richard that this would be the last time that they said Mass together. On the afternoon of Friday 1 September, surrounded by family and friends, Cardinal Cormac departed this life.

The Cardinal's composure and thoughtfulness are well expressed in the letter below that he wrote shortly before his passing.

My dear Bishop Richard,

I would be very grateful if you would convey this short message to the priests, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese, of which I as well as you have been privileged to serve as their Bishop.

At this time, the words I pray every night are never far from my thoughts: "Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit". Please tell them that I am at peace and have no fear of what is to come. I have received many blessings in my life, especially from my family and friends. I thank God for the many priests, religious and lay faithful who have helped and sustained me in my Episcopal life. Nor should I forget the many Anglican and Free Church colleagues whose friendship I have valued very much. Above all, as I now commend myself to the loving mercy of God, I ask them all to pray for me as I remember and pray for them.

*Fraternally in the Lord,
+ Cormac*

Cardinal Cormac: A Life of Service

- 1932 Born in Reading
- 1950 During the Holy Year begins to train as a priest for the Diocese of Portsmouth at the Venerable English College, Rome
- 1956 Ordained as priest
- 1956-63 Curate at Corpus Christi, Portsmouth
- 1963-66 Curate at Sacred Heart, Farnham
- 1966 Appointed as Private Secretary to Derek Worlock, Bishop of Portsmouth
- 1970 Parish Priest at Immaculate Conception, Portsmouth
- 1971-76 Rector of the Venerable English College, Rome
- 1977 Consecrated as third Bishop of Arundel & Brighton by Archbishop Bowen
Served as Co-Chairman of the Anglican and Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC)
- 2000 Appointed tenth Archbishop of Westminster in succession to Cardinal Basil Hume
- 2001 Created a Cardinal Priest with the titular church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva.
He was appointed to the:
Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments; Administration of the Parsimony of the Holy See; Pontifical Council for the Study of Organisational and Economic Problems of the Holy See; Problems of the Holy See
Pontifical Council for the Family
He also served on Pontifical Councils for Culture and for Laity and was secretary of Vox Clara
- 2007 Retired at age of 75 and was succeeded by Archbishop Vincent Nichols in 2009.
Continued his work in Rome, taking on new posts in the Congregation for Bishops and the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples

Memorial Masses:

Arundel Cathedral - Sunday 1 October 3.00pm
Westminster Cathedral - Wed 4 October 5.30pm

As we were completing the paper and preparing to go to press the sad news arrived of the death of Cardinal Cormac, much-loved former Bishop of Arundel & Brighton. Our thanks to those who have already contributed recollections of the Cardinal.

Please send us your recollections by 2 October for inclusion in our November edition. Thank you.

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1.00 Lunch (refreshments can be purchased or bring a picnic)

2.30 Blessing of roses

2.45 Mass—Celebrant: Fr Robert Colaresi, O. Carm.

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or Fax: 0208 766 6579
Mobile: 07760 297001
Ministers of Religion

BISHOP'S DIARY

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Sat 23 September	10am	Day for Religious, Worth Abbey
	2pm	Equipes Notre Dame Regional Gathering and Mass at Arundel Cathedral
Sunday 24	3pm	SVP Mass at the Friary, Crawley
Monday 25	11-4pm	Chapter Jubilee Celebration, Arundel Cathedral
Tuesday 26	9am-2pm	School Chaplains' Day at DABCEC
	3.30pm	Meeting with Diocesan Adoremus Team
	7pm	Induction Mass for Crawley Team at the Friary, Crawley
Thursday 28	7pm	Induction Mass for Fr Eamonn Monson, Hastings parish
Friday 29	10am	Headteachers' Retreat Day at Worth Abbey
	5pm	Meeting at St Cuthman's, Coolham
	7.30pm	Induction of Fr Alan Sharpe as parish priest at St Gabriel's, Billingshurst
Saturday 30	11.15am	KHS Section Mass at Arundel Cathedral
	5.30pm	Induction Mass for Fr Stephen Hardaker at Oxted & Warringham parish
Sunday 1 October	9am	Visitation to The Sacred Heart parish, Caterham
Monday 2	8am	Ordination at Parkminster
	7pm	Future planning meeting, Eastbourne deanery
Tuesday 3	1pm	Mass to celebrate 60th anniversary of St Peter's primary School, Shoreham
	7pm	Future planning meeting, Crawley deanery
Wednesday 4	7.30am	Mass at Gossops Green Convent, Crawley
	10.30am	CSAN Criminal Justice Forum, Romero House, London
	2.30pm	Mental Health project meeting, Ecc. Square
	7pm	Dinner with Guildford Catenians, Guildford Golf Club
Friday 6	3pm	Judges' Service, Parham Park, Pulborough
	7pm	Diaconal Ministries Mass at St Richard's, Chichester
Saturday 7	12 noon	Marriage Anniversary Mass, Arundel Cathedral
	2.30pm	Animal Blessing Service, Arundel Cathedral
Sunday 8	8.30am	Visitation to Our Lady & St Peter's parish, Leatherhead
Monday 9	2pm	Council of Reference meeting, House of Lords, London
	7pm	Future planning meeting, Weybridge deanery
Tuesday 10	7pm	SERFCA Lord-Lieutenants' of Sussex Awards ceremony, Long Furlong Barn, Worthing
Wednesday 11	9am	Visit to St Wilfrid's primary school, Angmering
	12 noon	Visit to Crossbush Convent
	7pm	Future planning meeting, Brighton deanery
Thursday 12	12.30pm	On-going Formation meeting, High Oaks
	7pm	Future planning meeting, Cathedral deanery
Friday 13	11am	Meeting at Arundel Cathedral
	3pm	Deacons' Weekend Retreat, St Columba's, Woking
Sunday 15	3pm	St Philip Howard Mass, Arundel Cathedral
Monday 16	10.30am	Diocesan Trustees' Meeting, Bishop's House, Hove
	4pm	Episcopal Council meeting, Hove
	7pm	Induction Mass for Canon Colin Wolczak at Sacred Heart parish, Hove
Tuesday 17	10.30am	Council of Priests' meeting, DABCEC
	2pm	Interfaith Conference at Worth Abbey
	7pm	Future planning meeting, Lewes deanery
Wednesday 18	7.30am	Mass at Gossops Green Convent, Crawley
Thursday 19	6pm	Lectio Divina evening at St Dunstan's parish, Woking
Friday 20	11am	Adoremus Meeting at Ecc. Sq., London
	7pm	Future planning meeting, Woking deanery
Sunday 22	11am	Induction for Fr Carl Davies at St Catherine's parish, Littlehampton
Monday 23	7pm	Future planning meeting, Worthing deanery
Tuesday 24	7pm	Future planning meeting, Guildford deanery
Wednesday 25	7pm	Mass at St John the Evangelist, Horsham
Thursday 26	9.15am	HEFCE Meeting, Royal Society, London
	7pm	Future planning meeting, Epsom deanery
Friday 27	7pm	Future planning meeting, Redhill deanery
Saturday 28	2pm	Ukrainian Jubilee, Westminster Cathedral
Monday 30	9am	Visit to St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill
	7pm	Future planning meeting, St Leonard's deanery
Tuesday 31	8.30am	Churches Together in Surrey meeting, Chertsey
	5pm	Confirmation at HMP Send

OBITUARIES

Deacon Joe Crane
JOE DIED ON 2 SEPTEMBER. He lived in Woking and had been ill for many years. Further details in next months A&B NEWS. May he rest in peace. MW

Kath O'Brien - A Listening, Faithful Heart
FRIENDS from across the diocese and beyond gathered at Holy Family parish, Addlestone, on 25 August to mourn the sudden death of Kath O'Brien. Despite her evident intelligence and drive, Kath opted to leave school at 16 and went to work for an insurance company in her home city of Manchester. Then she joined the Daughters of the Cross of Liège studying theology and training as a teacher. However, she felt called beyond the confines of the order, leaving to pursue her interest in Ignatian spirituality. She came to work for the diocese at the Christian Education Centre in 1993, developing the seasonal booklets for prayer, amongst other things, but left in a round of staff cuts in 1996. Nonetheless she continued to pursue her spirituality work, as well as resuming her teaching career. For many years she worked as a retreat director and prayer guide at Loyola Hall, near Liverpool, until it closed in 2014, while retaining her home in Ottershaw, where she received a steady stream of people for spiritual direction and accompaniment. This was her true gift, which she shared also with those establishing the A&B Spirituality Network in recent years. Her quiet patience and kind welcome were themselves a sacrament. She gently encouraged us to dare to sit honestly before God and to seek to discern our calling amidst the busy-ness of life. We are stunned at her sudden loss, yet comforted by the assurance that she has fully given the gift it was hers to give. Now we entrust her to the Lord she loved so deeply. May she rest in peace. RE

CAFOD
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CAFOD A&B 01483 898866 arundlandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

CAFOD Harvest Fast day Friday 6 October

MANY THANKS for all your support this Harvest. Parishioners across the diocese have been busy fundraising for CAFOD, from quiz nights to cake sales, to support our brothers and sisters in El Salvador.

This Harvest parishioners have learnt about Edelmira, a farmer in Cachagua, El Salvador. Weak seeds, extreme weather events and pests can make harvest a challenging time for farmers in this small Latin American country; if crops fail, it is no longer a time of celebration, but one of sacrifice. Without the money from selling produce, land may be lost or animals sold.

Thanks to CAFOD harvest has become a time of joy for Edelmira. With CAFOD partner Solidarity CVX, Edelmira has been trained on how to keep chickens and farm more effectively. She has also attended gender awareness workshops and received basic financial training.

It is thanks to CAFOD supporters, including those in Arundel & Brighton, that Edelmira has been able to enter this new chapter of life, something she is well aware of: 'If it wasn't for your support, we wouldn't have the same enthusiasm to see what we can achieve ourselves. It's like a tiny child who, if you don't take their hand, won't start to walk'. Edelmira and her family are pictured below.

For more information on Harvest fast day go to cafod.org.uk
Story: Jess Coffin, CAFOD SE Region media intern
Picture: Louise Norton



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

Watch RISE Theatre's new play about Blessed Oscar Romero

THE SACRED HEART PARISH is delighted to welcome RISE Theatre, a professional Christian theatre company, who will be performing their original play 'Romero - Heartbeat of El Salvador' at the Centenary Hall, Essendene Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5PA on Saturday 21 October at 7.30pm.

The production tells the true story of Blessed Oscar Romero and his heart for the oppressed people of El Salvador. Romero chose to challenge those in power and stand up for social justice. He demanded respect for human rights. Come and experience this exciting new play, performed with energy and passion by the RISE Theatre team. Performance lasts approximately 75 minutes and is suitable for adults and children 11+ www.risetheatre.co.uk.

'A challenging and moving production about the life and legacy of this great man of justice.' Bridget Fenwick, CAFOD

For tickets contact Marion Copley 07983 384385 or visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre

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IGNATIAN GUIDED RETREAT
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Join us for an Ignatian Individual Guided Retreat in December. The House will be in silence, there will be an opportunity for daily spiritual direction and the opportunity to learn about, begin or continue the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. Alternatively, guests can use the time for their own personal retreat in the stillness of the house. The retreat runs for nine nights. Guests are able to stay for the whole retreat or book within these dates. The Spiritual Exercises are a compilation of meditations, prayers and contemplative practices developed by St Ignatius Loyola to help people deepen their relationship with God.

For more information, please contact 01403 741220 or email enquiries@stcuthmans.org

Support for Prisoners

We Press on – together- In Hope: Support Pact this Prisoners’ Sunday, 8 October

‘My upbringing was very dysfunctional; at the age of ten I found drink and drugs. I’m a person who has spent 19 years of my life in prison and Pact support gave me hope, not only to stay out of prison but to help me find meaning in my life. It helped me when I had no food, no travel, and no job. The mentoring service has built my self-confidence, has given me a life worth leading and given me a future.’



AT THE AGE OF 45, David had spent almost half of his life in prison. With no support network David was anxious about falling back into old habits. He met with a Pact Worker whilst in prison who set him up with a group of volunteer mentors, motivated by their faith, who could offer him practical and emotional support for the first crucial months after release. This gave David immense hope, helped him find his feet, resettle back into the community and build a life. Thousands of men like David leave prison every day, many of whom are homeless with no support network. They are often some of the most marginalised people in society, and yet most in need of hope for a fresh start. Without support, men like David may not have the chance to get back on the right road.

On 8 October this year we mark Prisoners’ Sunday, the national day of prayer and action for prisoners and their dependants. Our theme, *We Press on - together - in Hope*, recognises the vital

role we all play in coming together as a Catholic community working to bring light and a fresh start to people affected by imprisonment. We ask you to put your faith into action and help us to support more people like David.

A resource pack will be sent to every parish priest across England and Wales with more information. Please encourage your relevant celebrant to make use of the resources to mark the day. Additional resources such as children’s activities & liturgy and discussion group topics are available on Pact’s website from early September. If you would like to get involved or host a talk on

Pact’s work in your community, please get in touch with Naomi: www.prisonadvice.org.uk parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk ‘Pact is the major Catholic charity providing support for prisoners and their families, working in most prisons across England and Wales. This work is a direct expression of our discipleship and a very concrete expression of our desire to serve the Lord in those who are most vulnerable.’



Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Pact’s President

Bishop Richard Moth welcomes Lord Farmer’s Report on Prisoners’ Families

THE LEAD CATHOLIC BISHOP for prisons, our Bishop Richard Moth, welcomed the publication of Lord Farmer’s report on the importance of strengthening prisoners’ family ties.

This landmark report highlights the vital position of families in supporting people’s rehabilitation. It outlines practical recommendations in areas including family visits, video communications and parenting classes.

Responding to the report, Bishop Richard said: ‘As the lead Catholic Bishop for prisons, I strongly welcome Lord Farmer’s report, which highlights clearly the central role that families can play in helping prisoners to turn their lives around and making our society safer.’

‘It is also encouraging that this report recognises the importance of

supporting families themselves, including the great number of children with a parent in prison, who are all too often the forgotten victims of crime.

‘I hope that the government will begin implementing the report’s recommendations as a matter of priority. The Catholic community will, of course, continue to play our part and I am grateful to Lord Farmer for recognising the contribution of faith groups.’

‘We know that around one in four Catholic prisoners has received direct support from a chaplain concerning family issues, while charities and volunteers linked to the Church provide invaluable support both inside and outside the prison gates.’

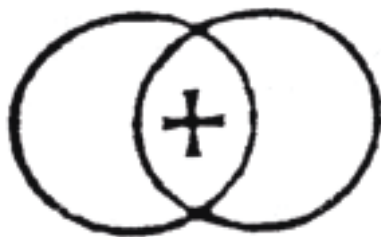
Who are SCAR? Come and join us

WE ARE THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL GROUP of the Society of Catholic Artists (SCAR). Within this diocese, we are based around Brighton. The Society was formed in 1929, originally called the Guild of Catholic Artists and Craftsmen. The President was Glyn Philpot RA, and Graham Sutherland was an early member.

The aims of the Guild were *to raise the standard of church art by arousing popular interest, and by educating public appreciation and understanding of art, and to bring together Catholic artists and interested Catholic laymen in spiritual fellowship and social intercourse.*

I joined SCAR in the 1970s. When I met Barry Huntbach, together with my wife Helen and another two Catholic artists, Veronica Travers and Clare Ford, we started meeting at our house in Hove for discussions about our faith and art. We asked the artist/priest Fr David Weston to be our chaplain and so the Regional Group, for professional artists, came into being in 1975.

We met monthly to express the Gospel and show our work in public, starting in the Brighton Festival. We showed in the Chapel Royal for 25 years, where we explained our work and belief to the visitors. Other artists joined, bringing the membership now to eight.



We feel that we continue the tradition of the Guild of St Joseph and St Dominic at Ditchling. Our work can be seen in churches in the diocese and we are pleased to meet commissions from the clergy and laity alike.

Members have met commissions in sculpture, paintings, stained glass and other crafts for Diocesan churches, including work by John Glazier, Barbara Fanning, Romola Jane and Balavendra Elias. Barry Huntbach painted murals for Portslade’s Town Hall and Emmaus Community.

One early successful show called *The Eye and the Cross* was shown first at Arundel Cathedral in 1984 and then at the University of Brighton.

We took part in the Diocesan Jubilee celebration at AMEX stadium, in July 2015, where our display was seen by Bishop Richard Moth and met with some encouraging comments. We have regularly shown work with the annual Brighton and Hove Arts Council Spring exhibitions at Friends Meeting House. Today SCAR calls to renew itself, so we do welcome Catholic artists and students who feel committed to our aims.

Come and join us.

Contact us online at www.johnarmstrongartist.wordpress.com, www.catholicartists.co.uk or www.christianartists.org.uk

Story and picture: John Armstrong



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Fr Cristian Sabau celebrating the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

WE WERE PLEASED to have the Italian students with us again this year. They have been visiting us for over 20 years.

On Friday 25 August our parish priest, Fr Sean Finnegan, welcomed Fr Cristian Sabau for the service of the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom according to the customs of the Greek Catholics of Romania. It was a longer service than we are used to but very prayerful and moving with much singing and was enjoyed by our parishioners. It is always interesting and instructive to have the opportunity to participate in a service from another Christian tradition.

Peter Patterson

ARUNDEL PARISH

IN THE MIDST of the Arundel Festival it may be said that heaven and earth have come together in our Cathedral in a very visual and tactile fashion. As part of the Gallery Trail two of our parishioners have exhibited their work, revealing the faith and belief of their interior lives in an engaging manner.

While the dramatic, earth coloured, organic shapes in the ceramic sculptures of one demand an immediate response, the work of the other provokes a rather more meditative approach, where angels and Christ figures speak in silent gestures.

In their hands natural materials such as clay and cherrywood are transformed, giving us new insights into the world around us.

Hilary Caws

CRAWLEY

MANY THANKS to Fr Alex of Worth Abbey who celebrated our Mass on 13 August.

Our French-speaking community continues to play an active part in parish life, reading the second reading in French every Sunday and taking part in the French rosary every Tuesday and French prayer and praise on Thursdays, while English prayer and praise meetings take place on the last Wednesday evening of each month and English rosary on Thursdays.

Barbara Winstanley

MERSTHAM, REDHILL and REIGATE

A BEAUTIFUL ICON has been presented to Reigate to be hung in the new hall alongside the church. 'Written' by Sr Aelred Erwin, a Benedictine nun from the ancient Abbey of St Mildred at Minster in Kent, it has been donated in memory of Sheila and Ted Bentall by their family. It was anointed, in the presence of family and friends, by Bishop Richard who explained that icons are very different from statues. The purpose of a statue is to remind us of the saint to whom we are praying. Icons are the product of much prayer and fasting too; hence they are written as a result of contemplation and spiritual experience rather than being the product of imagination. They lead us deeply into heavenly presence. This is why rather than being blessed they are anointed with chrism on the back in recognition of their holiness.

The icon shows the child Jesus holding the hands of Mary and Joseph in front of the Holy Family Church, Reigate, and above the entrance, the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove.

Story and picture: Ann Lardeur



Sr Aelred and the Holy Family Icon



MOLESEY

ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO our teenagers asked if we would start a Duke of Edinburgh Award group in the parish. We were willing to give this a go. Our youngsters have achieved some 43 Bronze awards, 38 Silver awards and - pictured above - some of our 20 Gold award achievers. We are very happy to say that our recent final expedition in the Brecon Beacons has enabled six more of our group to come to the end of their Gold awards. Many of these great young people are altar servers, readers and youth leaders at St Barnabas and we are very proud of them indeed!

Jean Casha

EWELL

WE RECENTLY celebrated the 80th birthdays and 55th wedding anniversary of two stalwarts of St Clement's. Lil and Mick Ryan have been active in the parish for well over 40 years. Our Saturday evening Mass was dedicated to them and Fr Graham Bamford invited them to renew their marriage vows. It was easy to see that they are loved and appreciated by us all. After Mass the church hall was bursting with close on 100 people, including their son Mike, friends and parishioners. We tucked into a hog roast with numerous accompaniments. The food table was groaning! For once Lil was not allowed to organise or contribute to the event. This was a first, as every single gathering at St Clement's has seen Lil at the helm: in the kitchen cooking and serving, setting up her stall at the parish fairs, being the mastermind behind the jumble sales - you name it, Lil did it!

Lil and Mick chose the music they would like to be played in the background and as the evening advanced their favourite Irish tunes came into their own. There was silence as our lovely songbird, Betty Lynch, began to sing 'The Fields of Athenry' and then an enormous wave of voices joined in the choruses. Finally Lil and Mick cut the cake (or cakes - one for their birthdays and one for their wedding anniversary). It was a truly lovely evening and a great tribute to two wonderful people.

Story: Charlotte Gregory Picture: Lesley Squibb



EAST GRINSTEAD and LINGFIELD

PARISHIONER LES WHITTAKER has returned from his cycle ride to Fatima, having left prayer intentions from the parish with Our Lady. Les has assembled images of the journey in a display at Our Lady and St Peter, East Grinstead.

Two Syrian families have arrived in or near East Grinstead, settled under the United Nations HCR/British government agreement to help vulnerable people from Syria. Other families from the same country have been resettled in Crawley. The Crawley Refugee Welcome Group (CRWG), of which East Grinstead is part, needs funds to help these families. Our parish Catholic Women's League held a cream tea fundraiser in Lingfield for CRWG on Sunday 20 August. A raffle and generous donations increased the amount raised.

Clive Carpenter

WEYBRIDGE

THE SUMMER MONTHS are generally quiet in our parish, with parishioners and clergy alike taking well-earned breaks. But we were fortunate to have two contrasting events to enliven us. The first was a wonderful garden party hosted by a couple in our parish with musical entertainment by our own songstress, Hermione Thomas. The sun shone on the righteous, and a stunning £4,600 was raised for our overseas charity, Parishes for Peace.

Our second event was equally uplifting - a production of Oliver (the musical) by our very own youth. Incredibly they only came together four days before their performances yet put on faultless displays of their talent to the delight of the packed audiences. We have often remarked on our good fortune in having such a vibrant youth group in our parish and this certainly made the point. Please can we have some more!

Peter

TO ALL OUR CORRESPONDENTS ITEMS for the November 2017 issue must reach the Editorial Office at Crawley by 10am on **Monday 2 October 2017** and for the **December 2017** issue by **Monday 30 October 2017**. Contributions may be sent by e-mail to abnews@dabnet.org and if so please always include a contact telephone number.

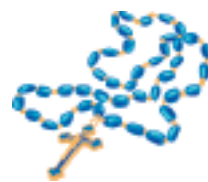
It is helpful to us if Correspondents can type their contributions, keep them to no more than 200 words and include a word count. Please use the highest resolution possible when taking photographs and do not reduce the quality when you send them to us. Original good quality digital pictures (which must 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.

October: The Month of the Rosary

THIS PAST WEEK has been typical in terms of the life of the parish and of my specific pastoral ministry. Last Sunday I baptised a baby boy; on Monday, I heard of the birth of a parishioner's first grandchild. On both of those occasions, I shared in the joy that new birth brings to a family.

On Wednesday, I took Holy Communion to an elderly member of our church community, together with her husband. Although always a delight to visit them, there is no greater privilege than to take the Blessed Sacrament to them in their home. On Thursday I paid a pastoral visit to another member of our parish: an elderly lady who has just lost her last surviving sister. We sat together, prayed together and shared Holy Communion in her little flat in Cowfold, knowing that at the same time her sister's funeral Mass was taking place in a London church. We shared the passage from chapter 14 of St John's Gospel: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God still and trust in me - in my Father's House there are many mansions.'

As I reflected on these aspects of my week (not to mention, of course, the various visitors and the two pilgrimage groups that have passed through the Shrine in the last few days) the realisation came to me that we had lived out the Rosary together - in the fullness of its Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries. In this month of October, we are reminded again that the life of the Holy Family reflects the life of every human family. At the heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ's Incarnation lies the reality that he came from heaven to share our human lot in all its fullness. 'Though his state divine, Jesus Christ did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but rather, he emptied himself and assumed the form of a servant.' [Phil.2:6]. In those fifteen mys-



teries of the Rosary, we not only glimpse the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of his Blessed Mother, but we also discover truths about our own lives, the lives of our family, our friends, our parish and community, indeed of our world.

Those who do not understand accuse us Catholics of indulging in nothing more than a vain repetition of words. How sad that so many cannot look beyond the mantra of the Rosary, to a prayerful vision of life in all its reality and fullness, and to prayer offered to the Father, in union with Mary, Mother of God, Mother of all Christians.

Upon hearing of the terror attacks in the United States on 11 September back in 2001, Pope John Paul was reported to have left what he was doing and retreated to his private chapel to pray. The next day thousands of people joined the Holy Father in St Peter's Square for a prayerful vigil. They were joined in spirit by millions of others throughout the world, who instinctively turned to prayer when confronted by the unspeakable horror of terrorism. Since then, many countries have been caught up in a tragic and insoluble cycle of violence.

Pope Francis continues to earnestly call on us all (yes, all of us, not just the elderly widows of the Catholic community) to recite the Rosary each day. It was Alfred Lord Tennyson who reminded us that 'more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of!'

Saturday 7 October is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary: an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to the life of family prayer, inspired and supported by Our Lady of the Rosary.

Fr David Goddard

Custodian - the Shrine of our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead

SVP Weybridge's Small Furniture Scheme

WOULD YOU IMAGINE that a donated chest of drawers could change someone's life? Well, in one case it did. It was through the SVP team, who organise the Small Furniture Scheme in Weybridge. The team are pictured.

Reflecting on this incident, SVP President Brian Watt explained the story behind this happening. 'There was a person referred to us by our local Social Services group, who said they had a client suffering from deep depression and with no inclination to have order in her life. We went to the flat and saw that she had little furniture and that most of her possessions were left scattered on the floor. The first thing we did was to provide her, among other items, with a chest of drawers. So what, you might say? But, in order to get this item of furniture into her room we needed to clear away some of the scattered clothes. This we did and put the moved clothes, folded, into the chest of drawers. Later, Social Services told us that this triggered off a complete change in their client's attitude to life and she quickly regained the order she had so desperately lacked.'

How the Small Furniture Scheme works is fairly straightforward. People contact SVP and say they have spare furniture. The team goes along and makes an assessment of its suitability – sometimes it is quite difficult to decide what to take, as some offerings are really worn out and only fit for the dump! Then the furniture is transported back to the garage at Christ the King Church in Weybridge for sorting and storage, sometimes spilling out into members' garages. Requests come in from a number of organisations, including Social Services, refugee organisations and a number of large charities. Furniture is then delivered to the deserving causes – job done.

However, behind this simplicity hides a great deal of effort SVP puts in to making this happen, always involving many hours of voluntary work. 'We now have to be careful where we are delivering furniture to, as often it's upstairs to flats with narrow doors' reflects Brian. 'We are not as young as we used to be!'

As SVP will say *it is turning concern into action.*

Weybridge can be perceived as a fairly affluent area, especially with ex-pats from places like St George's Hill. It has a number of expatriates who may only stay for short periods which means, quite often, it is easier to donate furniture rather

than transport it back to another country. The items are normally of good quality, usually far better than would be expected by those less fortunate who receive the furniture.

The impact of the work performed by SVP can be considerable. The A&B News led this article with the story of the woman with deep depression; however, the team can remember one particular case where Social Services were dealing with a woman with three children - they had lost their way in life. But the mother was so delighted to receive such generous and essential gifts, she sent a Happy Father's Day text to them. SVP have helped one family move to three different locations. At another time, the team came to the aid of a desperate family who were evicted by their landlord one week before Christmas. And so the stories continue...

From the Small Furniture Scheme have come a number of spin-offs: SVP arranges visits to the elderly, monthly parties and food parcels at Easter and Christmas. One grateful recipient told the team that she had had a horrible day. Arriving home to see the food parcel '...made my day and lifted my gloom'

Unsurprisingly, this service comes at a cost, mainly in the cost of transportation. The good news is that a local hire company lets SVP have special concessions and sometimes the team can use vans at weekends at greatly reduced rates. In addition, the parishioners are very supportive. 'We had an appeal some time ago and we received sufficient donations to keep us going' informed Brian.

With the scheme so closely linked to the Weybridge parish, might there be concern that another priest may not hold this as an essential part of

parish life? 'We are quite confident that we will always have support from our parish priest – it makes good use of the parish garage and follows the Catholic ethos of helping those in need. Also, we always make sure we are invited to have a member on the Parish Council!' smiled Brian.

This scheme, in action for over ten years, certainly shows that a great deal of effort can bring a great deal of practical help and happiness to the many often forgotten in society. Is there an SVP small furniture scheme lurking in your parish garage?

Story: Peter Burholt



Major International Award

FR JONATHAN HOW, PARISH PRIEST OF Sacred Heart in Cobham and National Catholic Scout Chaplain, has been presented with the Bronze Wolf Award, the highest international award for adults in World Scouting, for his contribution in the area of spiritual development and Interreligious Dialogue in scouting. In particular Fr Jonathan had been responsible for the Religious and Spiritual Programme at the 2007 World Scout Jamboree in the UK and for its subsequent development and growth. He has also helped the movement in its important work in interreligious dialogue. Fr Jonathan (centre) is pictured with his award presented at the World Scout Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Fr Jonathan said: 'Scouting is a major international movement with over 50 million members from all over the world and from every religion and none. It is a real privilege to be able to support their efforts to create a better world through the spiritual and religious development of their members. I was quite shocked when I received a letter last month telling me about the award. They are really rare - in fact the list of recipients is short enough that there is even a Wikipedia page of them. Most of us know how much Scouting is part of our lives and we try to beaver away quietly; so it's only when someone tells us, that we realise how much our scouting is part of other people's lives too and that our efforts have been noticed.'

Bishop Richard Moth, Fr Jonathan's Bishop and Liaison Bishop for Scouting said 'This award is a testimony to all that Fr Jonathan gives to Scouting and to his witness to so many young people and the leadership of Scouting round the world. It is well deserved.'



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