## THE CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER FOR SURREY & SUSSEX



## A&BNEWS

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton **No 325 FEBRUARY 2018** 



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## Serving Our Parishes in 2018



N 26 DECEMBER 2017, the Parish of Guildof ford celebrated St Stephen's Day at St Joseph's Church by enrolling 12 new servers from across the parish's four churches.

Congratulations are also due to George, Christian, Guillermo and Alex who received silver medals of the Guild of St Stephen for 10 years service.

The Guild of Saint Stephen

THE GUILD OF ST STEPHEN, an international organisation of altar servers, was formed in London in 1904. Its objective

was to encourage the highest standards of serving at the liturgy in

order to enable a more fruitful worship of God by the community. Altar servers are encouraged to develop a greater understanding

of what they are doing and to serve with increasing reverence and

the Apostles. Stephen's role was to take care of widows and or-

speaking with such wisdom and grace that he converted many

hearers to become Christians. Stephen was also the first martyr

and died, like his master, asking God not to punish his enemies

phans and he was blessed by God, performing many miracles and

Well done!

for killing him.

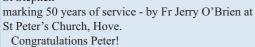
Pictures: (Main picture: Joseph Chan, and below: Pierre Bamin)

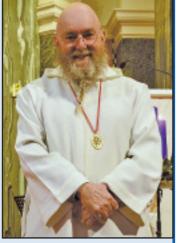
#### Peter Fishenden's Gold Medal

TT IS ALWAYS a pleasure to hear of the enrolment

Lof new young servers with a life of serving ahead also take great pleasure in the recognition of the many years of service of experienced and dedicated servers, such as Peter Fishenden.

In December 2017. Peter was presented with the Gold Meal of St Stephen -





witness to worshipful loving care and service to the community, and today's altar servers are encouraged to emulate his sense of service – but not to the extent of laying down their lives!

St Stephen's life was a great example of





## The Giving Tree at Our Lady of Ransom

THE EASTBOURNE conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul 1 (SVP), a Roman Catholic charity that is dedicated to serving the needy, decided in November to try a new approach to supporting those in need within our community at this special time of Christmas.

This approach was new to us in Eastbourne but we knew that it was used very successfully in various parts of the United States. It is called The Giving Tree and is based around placing a tree hanging with gift tags, each of which describes a gift that would help a disadvantaged person, in the church during Advent. The gift tags are chosen by those charitable parishioners who wish to help those in need, and the present is purchased, wrapped and the tag attached to the gift. The labelled present is returned to the church to be distributed by the SVP to those who were identified as in need of that specific gift.

The SVP in Eastbourne identified a total of eight organisations who care for children and adults who could benefit from this approach. Initially the SVP decided on a grand total of 105 gift tags to be hung on the tree which would cover it completely. Those groups chosen included: St Wilfrid's Hospice; Demelza Hospice Care for Children; Hazel Court Special School;;The Matthew 25 Mission;Eastbourne Winter Night Shelter; Refugee Drop-in at the Sanctuary Cafe; Eastbourne Foodbank; and Eastbourne SVP's own parishioners in need.

The Giving Tree was initially planned to be a Christmas tree, but the idea of using a Jesse Tree instead (the first example dates from 1086 AD) was

given by Fr Raglan, our parish priest. This has often been used as an Advent Tree and we were in the season when we wait for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. So, rising to the challenge, the SVP team designed and built a Jesse Tree as a base for The Eastbourne SVP Giving Tree!

The Giving Tree was built (pictured) as a very large brown tree image on a beige banner, the 24 Jesse Tree symbols attached on the upper branches and the gift tags around the base of the tree. The Giving Tree was hung very high to the side of



the altar in our church & blessed by Fr Gerard at the first Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass on Saturday 2 December and immediately opened to the parishioners for tag selection.

Well, the team woefully underestimated the demand for Gift Tags by our wonderful parishioners! The Gift Tags all but vanished after two Masses, so we had to move fast to create more tags on that first Sunday afternoon in time for the 5:30pm Mass. The first rush is pictured. This was not the last occasion that we had to top up the Gift Tags! The initial 105 Gift Tags

attached to The Giving Tree grew to a total of over 230 Gift Tags deployed - all of them chosen.

The many gifts/presents arrived quickly over the next two weekends and we had originally planned to have them stored in a cupboard BUT that quickly had to become the large conference room in the Presbytery! Altogether we received a massive total of 232 gifts from our parishioners!! Many large plastic sacks were needed by the SVP team to carry the gifts to the various organisations in the week before Christmas. In fact new organisations had to be added for receiving gifts – the Blind Society and the Salvation Army. A thank

you from one of the organisations is pictured, right.

Many thanks are due to the parishioners of Our Lady of Ransom for their kindness and generosity, but also thanks are due to Eastbourne SVP Team for enabling the giving. Special thanks are to be given to the Purvis family who led the design and creation of The Giving Tree as well as the Gift Tags and also to Mary Rose Bracuti for the creation of the Jesse Tree sym-

All in all, it was a great parish result demonstrating real charity and love for those disadvantaged in our community. This looks like the start of an annual event! ...and perhaps the SVP will be spreading the idea across the

FREEMAN

www.freemanbrothers.co.uk

Story and pictures: Robert Dixon

Holly Lodge,

25 & 27 Brighton Road,

### 50th Wedding **Anniversary**

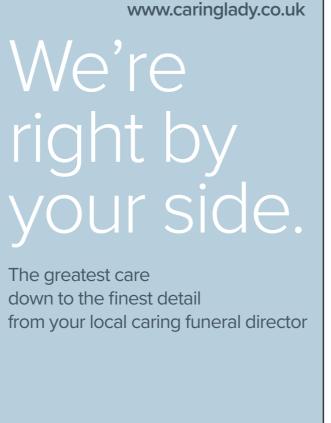
PICTURED at their 50th Wedding Anniversary party at home are David and Carol Grant of St Edmund's Parish in Go-

They attended the diocesan Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at the cathedral in

By mistake, we titled a duplicate picture of another couple with David and Carol's names in the article on the Anniversary Mass in the December Edition of the A&B NEWS. We are now happy to correct the situation and wish them a happy Valentine's Day!







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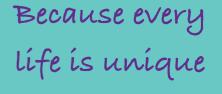
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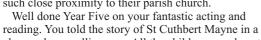
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#### **Celebrations at St Cuthbert Mayne Primary**

N WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER we celebrated the Feast Day of St Cuthbert Mayne, Cranleigh. Thank you to those parents, carers and governors who were able to join us. It was a truly wonderful celebration. We were delighted that Bishop Richard was able to fit us into his busy schedule and lead us in Mass. Thank you also to Father David for all he did to make the Mass a very special occasion and also for inviting us to use the church. Not all schools are blessed by such close proximity to their parish church.





clear and compelling way. All the children sang beautifully and played an active part in the Mass During the Mass, Bishop Richard reminded us what an excellent example of faithfulness St Cuthbert Mayne was. He told us to have 'stickability' and to stick to God. At times in our lives this may prove hard but we must always remember the role model of St. Cuthbert Mayne.

After Mass, we all processed into the school driveway where Bishop Richard blessed our school



(and us) with quite a lot of holy water. After this he cut through the special paper chain which had been created by Year 6 and announced our new school entrance officially open. The whole school then entered the building through the entrance.

We were delighted that Bishop Richard was able to stay on and tour classes to meet children, parents and staff at our Open Classroom work share. To round off the celebrations, Bishop Richard and Father David joined staff and governors for tea.

Story and pictures: Natalie McCarthy

#### YCW Celebration Mass

NEARLY 200 MEMBERS, past and present, celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the YCW in England & Wales in November at Salford Cathedral. The day began with Mass, presided over by the Bishop of Salford, John Arnold, and over a dozen priests, including the YCW National and Assistant Chaplains, Fr John Marsland and Fr Mark Connolly.



National Team member Marc Besford said: 'It was great to see the young people show their talents and confidence to all those gathered, with many former members commenting that they were happy to see a new generation of young people taking the lead.' National President, Kate Wilkinson, thanked all those who came along to support the event and took the opportunity to share the YCW's upcoming campaign on Young People and Mental Health, called *Mind! The Gap*'. It is important to take time to celebrate all the good work that has gone on, but it is even more important to keep looking to the future and seeing where the YCW can make a difference to the lives of young people.

Story: Mark Besford

## **Supporting Christianity in the Holy Land**

MAINLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CLOAKS worn on formal occasions, members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (known as 'Knights - and Dames! - of the Holy Sepulchre') are committed to tasks of a very practical nature in the Holy Land as well as prayer and pilgrimage.

During a recent pilgrimage in Israel and the West Bank, the pilgrims, including a group from Arundel and Brighton and Portsmouth dioceses (main photo) had many opportunities to meet and talk not only with Catholics living in the area but also Muslims and Jews. At Ein Arik Primary School (photo), near Ramallah in the West Bank, there was a chance to tour the school. One pilgrim commented that 'The staff in these schools do an amazing job with tiny resources. The teachers are paid a pittance compared to the Israelis.' The children enjoyed dressing up, and refreshments were provided for the guests.



A visit to Bethlehem University provided the opportunity for the pilgrims to speak to the staff and students, described as 'wonderful students with unexpected optimism'. And breaking new ground for the Order, Dr Paul Worthington gave a well-received formal talk, attended by both students and faculty, entitled 'Being an effective professional in the modern workplace'. Paul is a petroleum scientist with an international reputation, with an important message for able Christian high-flyers in the West Bank.

The Order has a long history but in the nineteenth century was given its current role of supporting the Latin Patriarch's work for the maintenance and advancement of Christianity in the Holy Land. A visit to the seminary at Beit Jala for Mass and dinner, and discussions with the seminarians, left a sense of optimism that, despite the difficult circumstances, there are still young men wishing to be ordained.

Money to support the Latin Patriarchate (equivalent to a diocese) from the Order in England and Wales comes from regular donations from members, from crib collections and from the generosity of those parishes who support the Order and its aims. Worldwide, groupings of the Order (called Lieutenancies) support its objectives in the Holy Land in similar ways. It is, however, important to meet and talk with the local people and to see at first hand how useful is the money we raise.

For further information please look at our website: www.khs.org.uk, or the website of the Latin Patriarchate: www.lpj.org

Story and pictures: Dianne Woodham, President of Southern Section KHS



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### **New Film on Mary for A&B Parishes**

CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLORATION (CaFE) have been producing TV-quality film courses on all aspects of the Faith since being launched by Cardinal Hume in 1996. Many parishes have run CaFE courses in the Diocese to great effect over the years.

A new course and book on Mary for parishes and individuals called **LET IT BE** has recently been launched. Cardinal Nichols is one of the well known experts who powerfully share about Mary's vital role in our discipleship today. The inspiring travel journey through Mary's life past and present begins at our National Marian Shrine in Walsingham, where Monsignor John Armitage sets the scene, before the five session series takes viewers to the wonders of the Holy Land filmed at all the key Marian sites.

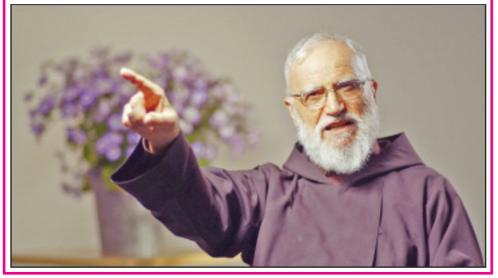
After that, the traditional place of Mary's older life in Ephesus is explored before visiting Rome, Montserrat near Barcelona, and Knock. One of the highlights is the beauty of Lourdes with filming of the Cardinal and several diocesan pilgrimages.

Let It Be also features moving testimonies from Mary's Meals, ex-gangster John Pridmore and many others from around the UK plus an interview with the Papal Preacher, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa (*pictured below*).

David Payne, the film's director, says; "The time is ripe for a fresh and inspiring film about Mary's life, her inspiring witness of faith and her powerful intercessory prayers. We need all the help we can get."

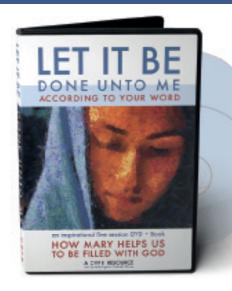
Cardinal Nichols says; "Mary's 'Let it be' was a clear, deliberate and definitive act - powerful, strong, free and life-giving. It was Mary's commitment to the Word of God as the supreme value of her life which needs to be at the very core of our discipleship today."

Full details of the very affordable five session film & book plus a short trailer are available at www.faithcafe.org or by calling CaFE on  $0845\ 050\ 9428$ .



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## A&B NEWS

## The official monthly paper of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

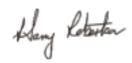
EVERY PAGE of this issue has something to rejoice over; from the contribution of our servers, the numerous instances of charity and fund-raising, pilgrimages, well-deserved medals and awards, a variety of Advent celebrations across the Diocese, plus courses, plays and reflections to strengthen the faith and develop the mind.

To come are two huge events: the three-day World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August, and then Adoremus, the National Pilgrimage and Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool in September.

In the last issue, Bishop Richard identified the key challenges that the Diocese faces in the years ahead - but he also talked about it being 'a wonderful moment to be a Christian and a Catholic.'

That chimes with what St Francis de Sales said: 'Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul except sin. God commands you to pray, but he forbids you to worry.'

So, while we are justified in celebrating the many wonderful things that are already happening, let us also pray and plan with confidence for many more in the coming months and years.



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#### **JUST A THOUGHT**

#### **Our Transient World**

FEBRUARY is in many ways a month of transition both in the Church and beyond.

In the Church we can continue to keep Christmastide until the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2 February.

In nature, in our climate, transitions begin to show. The days are lengthening and we begin to have some warmer, brighter times. Ever since Christmas some brave plants have begun to show their leaves and even flowers. And the birds are very busy with their courtships. In the Northern Hemisphere nature aligns so well to our liturgical journey of the next 40 days.

In keeping with Jewish custom, Jesus, a first-born was formally presented to God 40 days after his birth. When Jesus was brought to the Temple, the holy man Simeon declared that he had seen the Messiah. Simeon then declared his desire for perhaps the greatest transition of all and which all of us will make some time - to meet God face to face.

Very quickly after the Feast of the Presentation we begin our celebration of Jesus' work as Messiah. The transition into Lent begins on 14

What do all these transitions mean to us as we contemplate the transition for the human race which Jesus wrought through his death and Res-

4non

## Crawley and Eastbourne on Pilgrimage to India



TWO PRIESTS FROM A&B DIOCESE, Fr Chris Dobson from Crawley Catholic Churches and Fr Gerard Hatton from Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne, lead a small group on a pilgrimage to some of the Christian sites in this vast country.

#### St Thomas Cathedral

First, in Chennai, we went to Saint Thomas Cathedral, one of the three great Basilicas in the world with a relic of one of the Apostles (the others being St Peter's in Rome and St James in Compostella). St Thomas, who acknowledged Jesus as God with the words 'My Lord and My God', travelled to India and lived there for 12 years until he was murdered during religious strife.

We were privileged to have our own Mass in the Crypt Chapel containing the relic and were joined by people from the local community and by Fr Gerard's Facebook friend, Dr. Beatrice (spices and recipes being the common interest!) who came along with friends and family including her brother, a missionary priest in Liberia. After Mass, Fr Chris and Fr Gerard were presented with prayer shawls in the Indian tradition.

#### Eight Hours by Coach to Vailankanni

A brief visit to St Thomas Mount where the Saint was martyred, then, late in the day we left for the 8 hour coach journey to Vailankanni; in times past, a miracle of healing occurred here and a shrine to Our Lady of Good Health gradually developed. Now, there is a large Basicila, smaller chapels, facilities for confession, counseling, permanent Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the whole beautifully maintained and laid out to take account of the thousands of pilgrims who come here on special occasions, many in the hope of healing.

We attended Rosary in the Basilica followed by Mass in Tamil - an unexpected and overwhelming experience with vibrant musicians and singers, Sister on keyboard, all expressing their faith joyously, riotously, noisily - 'Bombay Dreams' style! The following morning, Fr Chris celebrated Mass, Fr Gerard giving the homily, in English, in the Basilica - what a privilege!

## Resting in Puducherry (formerly Pondicherry)

A rest day in the beautiful French former colonial town of Puducherry with Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception said by Fr Gerard then off to Kolkata, by plane this time, for the highlight of our pilgrimage - 4 days volunteering with Saint Mother Teresa's Missionary Sisters of Charity.

#### With Saint Mother Teresa's Sisters

Volunteers from all corners of the globe start the day at 6 am Mass with the Sisters in their Chapel; then breakfast of bananas, bread and hot chai, finishing with a prayer for the day ahead and the 'thank-you' song for those about to complete their final day.

All then leave the Mother House, and, using public transport (buses and tuk-tuks - an experience in itself!) make their way to the assigned House - Khalighat - to care for the sick and dying; Premdan for adults with profound problems, and Daya Dan for children and young adults with severe learning and/or physical dis-

abilities.

What did we do? Well, household tasks such as washing clothes and bedding in huge tubs on the flat roof, hanging it out (you need a sun hat), washing up, therapies such as massage, physio, singing (under supervision), helping those unable to eat or drink without assistance, sometimes simply smiling or just sitting quietly holding a hand.

Everyone in the care of the Sisters comes from the poorest of the poor and with the Sisters they find a place of safety, care and above all, love.

And this is the overwhelming feeling that I, and I think all of us, took with us when we left the Sisters of Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta - Love shining brightly, manifest in care and tenderness alongside a firm determination to find answers.

Story: Mary Oakshott
Pictures:

top: Fr Chris and Fr Gerard with Facebook friends, taken in the Crypt Chapel, St Thomas Cathedral, Chennai

bottom: Sister, Ebby Joseph and Peter Oakshott with some of the boys at Dayan Dan Home, Kolkota



## Journey to Justice at St Cuthman's with CAFOD



THE CAFOD RETREAT 'Journey to Justice' took place at St Cuthman's in our diocese on 2 December. Pictured are most of the participants.

It was the final presentation of this programme of the twelve held throughout England and Wales. CAFOD presenters included the following: from A&B Diocese Martin Brown; from Portsmouth Diocese Jo Lewry, and from CAFOD Head Office Sarah Croft.

The morning session comprised an

opening liturgy, a presentation on Blessed Oscar Romero, followed by personal reflections.

After a soup lunch, the concentration was on Human Rights Defenders, the support they give in their own countries, and CAFOD's assistance to them. It concluded with final sharing and prayer.

The CAFOD video clips used during the retreat may be accessed via the following link: www.youtube.com/cafodtv

Story & Picture: David White

## How can we best prepare for 'ADOREMUS'?

The National Eucharistic Congress: 7-9 September 2018

THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS meeting in Liverpool this September opens up a chapter of special graces not only for the delegates chosen from parishes all over England and Wales, but for the whole Catholic Community. As we prepare for the Congress in these coming months we have a wonderful opportunity, as Bishop Richard tells us, to 'focus our minds and hearts on the Lord's gift of Himself in the Eucharist – the source of our life and our mission'. [Advent Pastoral message]

The often-quoted words from Vatican II remind us that the Eucharist is 'The source and summit of the Christian life' [Lumen Gentium II]. What exactly does this mean? How does the Eucharist influence my life? Is my belief in the Real Presence obvious to other people? What more should I be doing?

The words of St John Paul II come down to us as both an invitation and as a challenge: 'Jesus wants you to do more than go to Mass on Sunday. Our communal worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration in order that our love may be complete. Eucharistic Adoration takes many forms, whether as a guided holy hour with benediction or a prolonged watching in silence before Our Lord's true presence in the monstrance or tabernacle.

In May 1986, **the Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration** was established with the endorsement and blessing of Pope John Paul, for the specific purpose of benefitting parish life. Its participants are required to commit themselves to one hour's Adoration every week, with the two-fold intention of praying for the conversion of their own parish and for the ministry of the priest(s) and deacon(s) who serve them. A much desired fruit of the Apostolate would be vocations to the priesthood and re-

ligious life from that parish in the coming years.

Rather than seeing the hourly pledge as an added demand from the parish, participants are encouraged to hear the Lord's voice calling them as He called his disciples in Gethsemane: 'Could you not stay awake with me for one hour?' (Mt 26:40)

Belief in The Real Presence, generosity and commitment, are the hallmarks of the Apostolate. The announcement that the Archdiocese of Southwark has decided to join the Apostolate of the Eucharistic Adoration as part of their preparation for the Congress is most welcome. We joined the Apostolate in 2013 when our own Diocesan Team was formed; however, some of our parishes have enjoyed membership for a number of years, notably St Ann's in Banstead, which last spring celebrated their twentieth anniversary.

As we prepare for the Eucharistic Congress in September, this would be an excellent time for other parishes to consider joining the Apostolate. Not only would this consolidate the generous commitment to Adoration already taking place in the parish, but it would also have the benefit of linking that particular parish to a world-wide Apostolate which has the support and blessing of the Pope.

For more information please contact The Secretary of the Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration: Mrs Rosemary Westcott Telephone: 07905 565395, Email <a href="mailto:raw21@talk21.com">raw21@talk21.com</a>, See A&B Directory under 'Vocations'

## Day of Reflection for our Clergy Wives at Worth Abbey

Pictured are the wives of our priests and deacons invited by Bishop Richard for a Day of Reflection at Worth Abbey on Saturday 9 December

Picture: Mary Purchase



## St Joseph's Pilgrimage to Rome

A SLEEPY AND ENTHUSIASTIC band of 30 parishioners from St Joseph's Church in Dorking set off by coach to Gatwick bound for Rome early on 17 October. Led by Fr Tony Milner and Deacon Tony Kinal, the pilgrimage was five days during which time some great sights and tours were organised for us. By lunchtime, our brilliant guide, Giorgio, had us on another coach heading into Rome and the Vatican City. The parishioners, clergy and Giorgio are pictured below.

A busy and fascinating schedule ensued with early morning departures from the guest house either on foot or by coach. We, and an estimated 100,000 others, were in St Peter's Square on day two by 9am, with high security and queues for entry, to have an audience with Pope Francis. The joy and enthusiasm were palpable. Visits over the next few days included St Peter's Basilica, St Paul's Basilica outside the Walls, the Coliseum, the Forum, Circus Maximus, Palatine Hill, the Catacombs, and the Pope's cathedral - St John Lateran.

The weather was warm by day and with a very harmonious group, spirits remained high throughout. We walked miles and Deacon Tony did a sterling job in organising us and ensuring that he brought up the rear - a bit like herding cats!

We had Mass daily with Fr Tony presiding and in amazing locations including the Crypt in St Peter's and also the English College where Fr Tony spent 12 years. Not surprisingly, he had many insights and was of great assistance to Giorgio who was impressed with Fr Tony's recounting of detail to enhance Giorgio's commentary. We were let loose on the last day for the morning, to explore and soak up the wonderful atmosphere that is Rome and, of course, the flamboyant Italians!

All the pilgrims are deeply indebted to Fr Tony for the inspiration and Deacon Tony for a significant amount of backroom activity to make everything run smoothly. We arrived back in Gatwick on a cool Saturday lunchtime, tired and replete with wonderful memories.

Story and picture: Colin Hughes



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## The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton **Pastoral Team**



Serving the communities of our Diocese

#### The Gospel of the Family Joy for the World

THE THREE-DAY CONGRESS will include an enriching pro-I gramme for adults of keynote speakers, workshops, talks, testimonies and discussions; an engaging and exciting programme for young people as well as fun activities for children. The Congress will also include daily celebration of the Eucharist, prayer, exhibitions, cultural events and musical performances.

On the Saturday there will be a Festival of Families, comprising a reflective concert style event within a prayerful and joyful atmosphere, in which personal stories of faith will be shared by families from all con-

WMOF2018 will close on the Sunday with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration that will gather thousands of people from Ireland and all over the world. It is very likely that this Mass will be celebrated by Pope



#### Join us on Pilgrimage! 21-26 August 2018

Bishop Richard is leading a pilgrimage to Dublin to participate in the World Meeting of Families. Participants will have access to the 3 day conference led by world renowned speakers with age appropriate streams available for children and young people. The festival of families will be a joyful celebration of the gifts of family life and on the final day we will share in the wonderful experience of Mass, presided over by Pope Francis. The Diocese will cover the cost of registration and other sponsorships may be available.

For more information please contact Katherine Bergin on 01293 651152 or katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

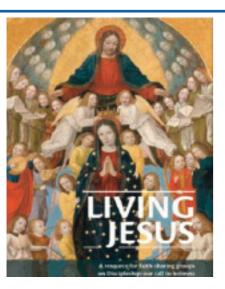
#### The Eucharist

In order to give a flavour of Adoremus - National Pilgrimage and Eucharistic Congress, Liverpool 2018, and the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, the diocese is hosting three morning sessions focusing upon the Eucharist within a family setting. Come and join Bishop Richard for a series of talks and workshops revolving around the theme of the Eucharist, with particular focus on its relevance to us within our family lives.

All are welcome, whether you hope to go to the events or just want to find out more about the topic.

> St John the Evangelist, Horsham, 10 February St Dunstan's Woking, 24 March Holy Cross Priory, Heathfield, 19 May All sessions run from 9.00-1.00

Booking essential via rosie.read@dabnet.org



## **LENT** 2018 **Small Group**

**Materials** 

in partnership with House on Rock

Living Jesus contains six group sessions on discipleship and the call to holiness for small group faith-sharing. The booklet also contains prayers and artwork as well as pages dedicated to helping parents share the themes with their children.

These booklets can also be used for individual meditation and includes Daily Prayers inspired by the Divine Office

> Booklets (£2 each) can be ordered directly from House on Rock Publications

houseonrockbooks@gmail.com www.houseonrock.co.uk Alternatively please email the Christian Education Centre: ruth.gerun@dabnet.org

The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Pastoral Team Marriage & Family Life Department Serving the Communities of our Diocese

#### A Celebration of Married Life for Couples and All Who Seek to See Marriage Flourish

Worth Abbey, Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, RH10 4SB, on Saturday February 10th, 2018, 1.30 pm

#### **Intentional marriage**

A LL MARRIAGES, no matter how wonderful, can always be enriched. A 'good' marriage always has some similar basic qualities. Both partners are totally committed to the relationship and are willing to invest time and energy in keeping their love alive. They usually communicate effectively with each other and know how to resolve their differences. Ensuring our marriage doesn't become stale and floundering requires giving it attention. It requires recognising that the gift of the marriage bond itself must be recognised as precious yet vulnerable. Accepting it as a static state does not encourage growth or sustainability. To be married we should not use the word as a noun, rather see it as a verb, an ongoing action.

Making a choice to become intentional about our marriages is more than a good idea, as Catholics it's part of our reason for being. Christian marriage is a vocation, a calling from God to live our lives in a certain way to bring him glory by imitating the love he has for us.

For people interested in exploring how they can invest more into their marriage please join us at: Worth Abbey on 10 February at 1.30pm for inspiration from organisations that support marriage, followed by Mass with Bishop Richard.

#### A prayer for married couples

Lord God,

I praise you for the gift of my spouse, And I thank you for the blessings I have had through him/her. Forgive me for the times I have failed to love my spouse the way I should, and help me to do better in bringing your love and acceptance to him/her.

©Smart loving

For further information and/or bookings please contact; Katherine Bergin on 01293651152 or katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

## Day of Reflection

for Readers













#### **Led by Bishop Richard**

- Talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, preparing to read, using microphones
- Lectio Divina
- Mass

## Saturday 3rd February 2018

at St Bernadette's Church, Crawley (Tilgate Way, Crawley, RH10 5BS)

11.00am - 4.00pm

Arrivals, tea/coffee from 10.30am Please bring a packed lunch

Booking is <u>essential</u> as places are limited! To book: ruth.gerun@dabnet.org or phone: 01293 651164



## **Celebrating Young People Awards**

CELEBRATING YOUNG PEOPLE AWARDS recipients for 2017 have been announced and awards presented at a glittering ceremony in Central London. The awards – now in their third year – were organised by Million Minutes, partnered by St Mary's University, Twickenham. Hundreds of young people were nominated in six categories, each celebrating a different aspect of Catholic Social Teaching lived out in action. At the awards ceremony on 23 November around 60 of the young nominees, gathered from around England and Wales, were asked to stand up and to be applauded.

Danny Curtin, the CEO of Million Minutes, said the judging panels were 'very impressed by all the young people nominated'. The guest of honour, Archbishop Malcom McMahon, gave the Pope Francis award on the night, the overall youth award.

**St Edward's Youth Catholic Council from Keymer Parish** in our diocese, whose ages range between 12 and 14, were winners of the Cardinal Hume Award for **Living out the Option for the Poor**. They have thrown a spotlight on the issue of rough sleeping, asking how they as young people can improve the situation for homeless people. Their *big sleep out* fundraiser obtained sponsors online and after Masses. They built shelters out of cardboard boxes and slept rough for a night on the church patio to raise awareness. The response from the parish has been enthusiastic, with one person commenting that, 'these young people keep our Catholic community fresh and vibrant'. They are pictured below at the event.



St Wilfrid's School, Crawley in our diocese nominated three groups for awards and the One World Group were shortlisted for the Barbara Ward Award, Caring for the Environment. 'We were delighted that our One World Group were shortlisted for the work that they have done in school. They are incredibly dedicated and proactive, meeting regularly to discuss and pray about Justice and Peace. This is a wonderful way for them to get some recognition of the impact of their work', said Michael Ferry, Headteacher. Two of the Group are pictured at the event with the Headteacher.

Stories and pictures: Ellen Teague and Sarah Gildea



#### Frances (Fran) Rourke RIP

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE the death of Fran. Her funeral will be at Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne on Friday 23rd February at 12 noon. We hope to publish an obituary next month.

## **British Empire Medal Awards**

DEACON ROGER STONE's award is for providing services to and the pastoral care of seafarers as Port Chaplain for the Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), and Jean Watkins is recognised for her work for the Silver Circle, providing services to elderly people in Frimley and Camberley - both Roger and Jean are from A&B diocese.

Roger has served as port chaplain for the seafarers' charity since June 2010 and has provided pastoral, spiritual and welfare support to hundreds of crew members who arrive on ships at ports along the South Coast of England. Roger says he is truly honoured and humbled to receive the British Empire Medal. He said, 'I am proud to work for the Apostleship of the Sea, the greatest and most effective maritime charity in the world. I am privileged to serve so many wonderful seafarers from so many countries around the world. I will always regard the medal as a symbol of the love I have for

seafarers who rely on AoS port chaplains and volunteers for pure pastoral care. Without the Apostleship of the Sea, seafarers would simply not receive the love and care they need'.

Describing his seven-year role as Port Chaplain, which in 2012 included supporting three Filipino men living in slave-like conditions on a boat, Roger said he felt 'very privileged' to be able to help. One of the men stayed with him while temporary accommodation was organised and the three are now safe and working near London, after he guided them through the government process for identifying victims of trafficking: the National Referral Mechanism.

National Director of A0S, Martin Foley, said: 'The British Empire Medal is a fitting recognition of Roger's work and ministry with seafarers, and testimony to the vital support and assistance that AoS provides to seafarers and the wider shipping and maritime community'.

Story and picture: AoS



**Jean** has been an active member of the Silver Circle Club for the past 30 years and has been managing it consistently as the key person for the last 20 years in spite of her own advancing years. The Silver Circle provides a nourishing and free cooked meal for anything between 20 to 50 senior citizens on Mondays. She is the key person and works relentlessly hard both in the preparation of the food and in ensuring that the elderly - some very frail - are well looked after. Her selflessness has

earned the respect of her small team as well as that of the elderly for whom they cater. Jean continues to give sterling service to an often neglected section of our community in spite of her own advancing years and her husband's medical difficulties. The Silver Circle Club is funded entirely by contributions and donations. It is run by a small and varying team of volunteers and has now been running for the last 33 years. Any funds remaining over and above requirements are donated to worthwhile charities - recently a donation has been made to the Air Ambulance Service.

Jean is picture with the Lord Lieutanant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneaux, who presented the medal on 18 September 2017.

> enquiries@parishpump.co.uk www.parishpump.co.uk

Story and picture: Edward Sant



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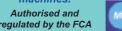


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life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses to the consecrated way of life. If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette.

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

#### **NOTICE BOARD**

Closure of DABCEC Bookshop

WE ARE SORRY TO REPORT that the DABCEC Bookshop ceased

trading to the public as of the public as trading to the public as of the end of December 2017. Parishes and Schools will still be able to order some material (sacramental programmes, course materials, bibles, hymnals and the like) by contacting bookshop@dabnet.org. Advice about material and suppliers can also be obtained by contacting the same email address.

Any repositories interested in buying remaining stock can also contact bookshop@dabnet.org in order to arrange a date to view the available material. Current stock includes CTS booklets, cards (including Mass cards, sympathy cards First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards), children's books, rosaries, gift items for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, bibles, prayer books and some missals. We would ask that you please do not visit without a prior appointment.

#### MASS FOR THE DEAF

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

#### The Passion of Jesus in Guildford and London

T WILL BE PERFORMED on Guildford High Street on Saturday the 31 March 2018 at 12 noon and 2:30 pm. This an authentic retelling of the story of Easter and each performance is free, lasts for 90 minutes and all are welcome. The play starts outside Marks and Spencer and finishes at Holy Trinity Church at the top of the High Street. The performances are produced by Wintershall and feature a large cast in period costumes. WINTERSHALL

The play will also be performed in London's Trafalgar Square on Good Friday the 30 March

2018 at 12 noon and 3.15 pm, this is also free. Wintershall also perform the Life of Christ (19-23 June 2018) and the Nativity (12-16 December 2018) at Wintershall near Bramley in Surrey. Please see their website for details: www.wintershall-estate.com.

The story commemorating the day Jesus is believed to have been arrested, tried and crucified by the Romans, two days before miraculously rising from the dead on Easter Sunday is brought to life by a cast of over a hundred, all in resplendent costumes, along with horses, doves and donkeys. Featuring realistic scenes and a heart moving crucifixion and resurrection, The Passion of Jesus is an unforgettable Easter experience.



#### National Board of Catholic Women

TOMEN AS SOWERS OF HOPE was the message given by the representative of World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) to UNESCO 39th General Session in November 2017. The December Newsletter and full report is at

mailchi.mp/e58ce9622f4f/newsletter-de-la-umofc-diciembre-

141237?e=[UNIQID]. You can also see their video on ecology which was shown at the Climate Change Forum.

The National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) is a member organisation of WUCWO and sends a representative to its meetings. This is just one of the national and international organisations to which the NBCW has links. As a forum for all Catholic women it wants to hear our hopes and concerns; how to help women to develop their full potential, and to provide information on current initiatives.

Women's World Day of Prayer is on 2 March 2018. Ideal to prepare a special time of prayer, try a mini marathon or a prayer relay. To hear more or share news do contact: NBCW Diocesan Link, Sue Petritz  $\underline{NBCW@rcdab.onmicrosoft.com}$ 

#### **Diocesan Education Service**

Serving in partnership, developing excellence, with Christ at the centre

#### **Courses for February 2018:**

Thursday 1 February Primary Headteachers' Conference Formation for Mission, 9.30 – 15.15 at DABCEC

Thursday 8 February Aspiring Catholic Leaders – Development Day for Middle Leaders, 9.30 – 15.15 at DABCEC

Friday 9 February Primary RE through the Creative Arts

9.30 – 15.15 at DABCEC Tuesday 20 February School Business Managers' Forum

10.00 - 12.30 at DABCEC Friday 23 February RSE / PSHE Conference, For Headteachers, Senior Leaders, RSE / PSHE Subject Leaders 9.30 - 15.15 at DABCEC

#### **Future Events to look out for in 2018:**

Friday 18 May Secondary Schools' Pilgrimage, at Arundel Cathedral Wednesday 20 June, Good Shepherd Celebration, 11.30 at Worth

Wednesday 27 June 9.30 – 15.15 Cross-Phase Catholic Leaders' Conference for Headteachers, Deputy/Assistant Headteachers, Heads of RE, Chaplains and Chairs of Governors

#### Fr David Weston RIP

It is with much sadness that we inform you of the death of Fr David Weston who died on 10 January. May he rest in peace. An obituary will be included in a future edition of the A&B NEWS



Miss a Meal this Family Fast Day and Help Children like Svondo HAD NO STRENGTH AND NO POWER IN MY BODY. I was shivering like someone with malaria. And I thought, if I'm feeling hungry, what about my children? It must be worse for them.' Marian lives in rural Zimbabwe and has had to miss countless meals. She recalls the impact hunger had on her son who was seven at the time. 'There were times when I had to leave Tawanda in the morning to find work. I'd come back in the afternoon and I'd find him still sitting in the same place. He hadn't played, or even walked. It was very painful to see him like that.'

Our Partners, the local Catholic diocese where Marian lives, heard about the struggles the family were facing and they decided to help. After advice and support, Marian and 46 other families enjoy the blessings of a community vegetable garden. Marian is pictured standing with other members of Chinyama vegetable garden with her two-month-old baby daughter Talent 'I believe she was a gift from God.'

Marian has another child, Svondo. 'Svondo was just a baby when the vegetable garden started properly. We had a variety of vegetables, a variety of fruit. He is healthier than Tawanda.'





You have helped make this change with your generous support. Could you choose to miss a meal this Family Fast Day, to pray and to give generously? Could you help arrange a simple lunch in your parish or school, bringing your community to-

gether in solidarity and support?

Your donation will be doubled by the UK Gov-Fast, pray and give

ernment giving us the ability to reach far more families like Marian's and help many more children grow up healthy and strong.

Family Fast Day is on the 23 of February. Thank you for your generous support.

Picture: Thom Flint, CAFOD. CAFOD A&B 01483 898866 arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

Matching your

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#### **FAIRTRADE NEWS**

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT

TRAIDCRAFT!

massive thank you from Traidcraft to all who A "stalled out" in all weathers during December to promote their work and sell Traidcraft products! Some amazing news to start the New Year -

thanks to UK Government, donations to Traidcraft Exchange (Traidcraft charity), will be DOUBLED from 12 January to 11 April 2018, offering a better reason than ever to bring our communities together and hold a Big Brew! Experienced Big Brewers may be lucky to receive a beautiful event pack in the post. Anyone joining the Big Brew team for the first time can order one online at <a href="www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/resources">www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/resources</a>. This is a great way to raise funds for Traidcraft producers, some of the

poorest of the poor in the developing world. FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION – HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND THE PRODUCERS

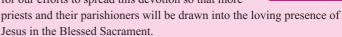
'COME ON IN'....Is the theme for FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2018, from 26 February-11 March. Over recent Fairtrade Fortnights thousands of breakfasts, breaks, bake-offs and more have opened doors to Fairtrade. This year we are asked to invite new people to

come on in to Fairtrade in whichever way suits them – from pop-up cafes to tasting events. Resources are available to order from: www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight.



'The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: by praying before Our Lord we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace.' Pope St John Paul II

THE MISSION OF THE APOSTALATE is to help I parishes throughout the diocese establish and maintain viable weekly Eucharistic Adoration programmes. Can we help in your parish? Please pray for our efforts to spread this devotion so that more



'Let us take time, in the course of the week, in passing, to go in and Pope Benedict XVI spend time with the Lord who is so near.' For more information contact the Apostolate Secretary: Rosie Westcott, email: raw21@talk21.com telephone: 079 0556 5395



**JOE WALSH TOURS** 

# Diocese of Arundel & Brighton



#### **PASTORAL LETTER for the Feast of** the Holy Family, 31 December 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

 $E^{\rm VERY\,DAY}$  provides us with opportunities to reflect on the wonder of God's love for us and the Gospel of today's Feast enables us to see that love reflected at every age of life.

Simeon is an example of patient waiting and trust. He has lived his whole life in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah and, as he takes the Infant Jesus in his arms in the act of Presentation, his life's work is complete. His eyes have seen salvation. His expectations and hopes are fulfilled. Anna the elderly woman, who is always at prayer, rejoices and her joy spills over as she tells everyone she meets that the Immanuel – God-with-us – is here.

Mary and Joseph, carrying out their responsibilities as devout Jews, have offered their firstborn to the Father. The Word made flesh is offered to the God who spoke the Word at the very dawn of time. Just as Mary ponders in her heart at the birth of her Son, so must we. To realise that this infant child, reliant upon Mary and Joseph, is the 'Word that was with God...in the beginning' is a most wonderful truth. Simeon, in his own way, expressed what John writes: 'The Word was made flesh. He lived among us'.

As we gaze upon the Holy Family, gathered with Simeon and Anna in the Temple or in their home in Nazareth during the thirty hidden years, our first response must be 'to look, listen, to meditate and penetrate the meaning...of this very simple, very humble and very beautiful manifestation of the Son of God.'

Such reflection will draw us closer to Jesus and enable us to understand more deeply the wonder of our own family life. No matter how small or large our family may be, 'the family is the original cell of social life.' It is in the family that the 'foundations [are laid] for freedom, security and fraternity within society'. It is in the context of the family that we are trained 'to live together in this greater home [society]. In the family, we learn closeness, care and respect for others'.

Family life is never without its struggles and difficulties, but it is in the midst of these struggles – perhaps sometimes even because of them – that we grow in our witness to the One who is God-with-us. The family is a community of action, a place where the Gospel is proclaimed and where witness to Christ is given through 'solidarity with the poor, openness to a diversity of people, the protection of creation, moral and material solidarity with other families, including those most in need, commitment to the promotion of the common good and the transformation of unjust social structures, beginning in the territory in which the family lives, through the practice of the corporal and spiritual works of

All must be modelled on the person of Jesus and when we look, listen and reflect on the Holy Family we also learn to imitate. On this Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth and on every day, may we rejoice with Simeon that the Messiah has come; may we listen to the Holy Family and reflect, as Mary did, on the wonder of God's love; may the love of the Saviour, whom the Father placed in the care of the Family of Nazareth, transform our families, that we may truly be his witnesses to the World.

With every Blessing,

Yours sincerely in Christ, Bishop of Arundel & Brighton



BISHOP'S DIARY  JANUARY/FEBRUARY		
January	0,114	
Saturday 27		Justice and Peace Day, DABCEC
Saturday 27	4pm	Meeting, High Oaks
Monday 29	12 noon	Clergy lunch, High Oaks
	7pm	Weybridge Deanery Future Planning
		meeting
Tuesday 30/31	10am	Diocesan Trustees meeting, St Cuthman's
Wednesday 31		Brighton Deanery Future Planning
,	•	meeting
February		Č
Thursday 1	1pm	Lunch with Verona Fathers, Sunningdale
	5pm	Governors' Meeting, St Mary's University,
		Twickenham
Friday 2	11am	Mass with Religious – Worth Abbey
Saturday 3	7pm	Evening of Reflection, St John's
		Seminary, Wonersh
Sunday 4		Parish Visitation to Sacred Heart,
		Caterham
Monday 5	10am	Meeting at Bishops' Conference, London
	Lunch	Baroness Cumberlege, House of Lords
	7pm	Cathedral Deanery Future Planning
T 1 6	1.1	Meeting
Tuesday 6	11am	St John's Day, Wonersh
Wednesday 7	12pm	Retired priests' post-Christmas lunch
Thursday 9	7pm 10pm	Lewes Deanery Future Planning Meeting St Cuthman's Day, St Cuthman's
Thursday 8	7pm	Lectio Evening, Epsom
Friday 9	9.30am	Mass at St Francis of Assisi School,
1 Hddy 5	7.50um	Crawley
	2pm	Meeting at High Oaks
	7pm	Woking Deanery future planning meeting
Saturday 10		9am-1pm Eucharist and Family Event,
Ť		St John the Evangelist, Horsham
	3pm	Marriage Week Mass, Worth Abbey
Sunday 11	3.30pm	Installation as Ecumenical Canon,
		Chichester Cathedral
Monday 12	2pm	Meeting re: Mental Health Project, St
		Mary's University
	5pm	Dinner Meeting at St Mary's University
Thursday 15		Governors' Away Day, St Mary's
F.1. 46		Twickenham
Friday 16	9am	Meeting at High Oaks
	7pm	Worthing Deanery Future Planning
G 4 1 17	0.20	Meeting
Saturday 17	8.30am	Baptisms and Confirmations, HMP Lewes
Monday 10	2.30pm 10am	Rite of Election – Arundel Cathedral
Monday 19	TUaiii	Churches Together in Surrey & Sussex Retreat, St Cuthman's
1	7	Call 16 and Danner Factors Planning

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## **Mayfield School Traditional Live Crib**

Tuesday 20

Wednesday 21

Thursday 22

Saturday 24

Monday 26

Wednesday 28

Friday 23

 $T^{
m HIS}$  WONDERFUL Mayfield School Christmas tradition, now well into its sixth decade, was performed by girls from Year 7 through to Year 13 over the nights of the 11 to the 14 December.

Each evening, the Christmas story was enacted with Mary and Joseph's journey along the village High Street, guiding a donkey and accompanied by a procession of candle-lit angels singing carols.

Turned away at the Middle House Inn, the procession wound its way to the School's 14th-century Chapel. With the infant Jesus cradled in their

arms, Mary and Joseph sat at the foot of the altar, with angels perched all around on the Chapel's gothic window sills.

Meeting

Mayfair

Meeting at High Oaks

11.00am Episcopal Council Meeting, Hove

Lectio Day, East Molesey

7pm

7pm

7pm

7pm

7pm

2.30pm

8.30am

6.15pm

Guildford Deanery Future Planning

CVOC AGM + Dinner, Naval Club

Epsom Deanery Future Planning Meeting

Lectio Evening, St Michaels's, Worthing

Redhill Deanery Future Planning Meeting

St Leonard's Future Planning Meeting

Refugee Steering Group Meeting, High

With the Archangel Gabriel singing from the gallery, Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior visited baby Jesus bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Chapel overflowed each evening with an enthusiastic congregation of all ages who joined the choir in a series of well-known carols. Story and pictures: Katie Chamberlain







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#### FROM THE PARISHES

#### **ARUNDEL**

EVERY YEAR as Christmas approaches, visitors and parishioners alike catch their breath as they enter our Cathedral church. Our Christmas trees have arrived!

As an annual gift from the Norfolk Estate they are set up at the east end of the Cathedral. They stand erect, reaching as high as the pillars, quiet, green, waiting...but to so many who enter our doors, breathtakingly beautiful and meaningful in their green simplicity. At Midnight Mass they are amazingly transformed with light, and become sparkling beacons of hope. Even when the shops have moved on they continue until Epiphany, sparkling...

Hilary Caws

#### **BANSTEAD**

THE PARISHIONERS of St Ann's are going through a great change. We have said goodbye to our much loved parish priest of 12 years Fr Míćeál Beatty and pray that his Ministry continues to flourish in his new parish of the Good Shepherd. We have welcomed our new Priest in Charge Fr Alban Aquezeala who joins us from Nigeria via Athens. We hope that he will find a great welcome here at St Ann's.

We have, in the last days of Advent, a great honour bestowed on one of our parishioners. The Papal Benemerenti Medal was presented to Margaret Lester for her love, reverence and total



dedication to the Eucharistic Adoration. For 20 years Margaret has co-ordinated this great gift to our parish. Letters were read out from Bishop Richard, Canon Tom Treherne and Fr Míceál Beatty congratulating her and thanking her for her encouragement and dedication, not only to St Ann's but also to other parishes by reaching out to them. Margaret was joined by her husband Alan, her sons,daughters,grandchildren and family from Ireland and also fellow adorers and parishioners on this joyful and blessed occasion. Her shocked reaction was a joy to behold. Thank you Margaret for all your years of prayer for us, our Parish and our world.

Christine Gilbert

**CATERHAM**THE SACRED HEART parish magazine has now been created and the first edition was very impressive thanks to Edna Fernandes Atkinson

and Fr Sean Finnegan. The history of our church

## TO ALL OUR CORRESPONDENTS

ITEMS for the March 2018 issue must reach the Editorial Office at Crawley by 10am on Monday 29 January 2018 and for the April 2018 issue by Monday 26 February 2018. 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 and keep them to no more than 200 words. 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 should be at least 300dpi) are very welcome. They must be sent as e-mail attachments, and as we cannot receive emails exceeding 5Mb it may be necessary to send several separate emails. Please tell us who gave permission and what evidence do you have for children's photos to be published.

and the visit by Eliz and Mike Wood to Madaba, Jordan, were particularly interesting. The Christian refugee problem is heartbreaking. The Sacrament Diaries covering honest testimonies of faith from members of the Sacred Heart family were very moving.

As always at this time of year the parish is very busy with extra Masses and other activities. The Christmas market was well attended and raised £3,200 which was shared between CAFOD, SVP, the parish Scout Group and Madaba.

Sadly two valued members of the parish, Susie Labonte and Patrick Power died during this period.

The ecumenical Carol Service at St Lawrence's Ancient Church was well attended despite the icy weather and St Francis School had their Carol Service in the Sacred Heart on 18 December. Peter Patterson

#### **CRAWLEY**

WITH SIX CHURCHES and 17 Masses to celebrate over the Christmas weekend, our three priests certainly earned their Christmas pudding! The Friary Church looked radiant, with Christmas trees brightly twinkling behind the altar and an equally sparkling crib on the right hand side. Aloft on the left hand side, stood the three kings awaiting the Epiphany for their turn beside the manger. Fr Chris Dobson gathered the children round the crib during his homily. They came up with amusing responses to his Nativity questions. After Mass, we wished Father a Happy Christmas and just like Santa himself, he gave us a 'Ho, ho, ho' chocolate!

St Theodores celebrated their Christmas in fine style. Carols prior to the service were led by Nina Williams, our organist. The congregation rose to the occasion and sang the first verse of 'Silent Night' in German. Fr Louis Ezeilo brought the Christmas message to life with his lively homily in his inimitable style concluding the service by thanking everybody who had taken part and for the gifts to the Clergy team.

New Years Eve provided the opportunity for the parishioners to get together for refreshments after the 6.30pm Mass and to look forward with hopefulness to 2018. We were again fortunate to have Fr Louis with us and to wish him a 'happy holiday' in Nigeria.

The parishioners of Christ the Lord were all very saddened by the sudden death of our dearly loved parishioner, Ken Brown. At his Requiem Mass, celebrated by Fr Chris and Fr Simon Dray on 19 December, the Friary church was packed out. Our Mauritian choir sang during the offertory procession. Ken and Ann's daughter Mary gave a moving tribute.



Broadfield, celebrated the Feast of Christ the King with a shared ecumenical service. The worship was themed around Psalm 23 'The Lord is my Shepherd'. Our Blue Sash children's choir sang the verses, with a break after each verse for an offering from all three communities. We listened to the young Church of England musicians accompany 'I just wanna be a sheep' while the adult musicians were a joint effort.

Dave Evans adopted the role of resident artist and started to draw his interpretation of Christ the Good Shepherd. At the end of the Service, he explained how a Shepherd would take off his outer clothes before heading down into the deep to rescue a sheep and Christ too was derobed when he offered his life to save us.

Story: Sue Fellows, Barbara Winstanley and Sheila Ranson. Picture: Sue Petritz

#### EAST GRINSTEAD and LINGFIELD

A CHRISTMAS FAIR was held at St Peter's School on 2 December. Attractions included stalls, games, arts and crafts and a café. On Thursday 7 December, the school held a carol service in Our Lady and St Peter's church.

Lingfield parishioners generously provided a traditional Christmas lunch for the parish at St Bernard's Hall on Sunday 3 December.

The choir of Our Lady and St Peter, accompa-

nied by instrumentalists, sang carols to commuters at East Grinstead railway station one evening before Christmas, raising over £600 for charity for St Catherine's Hospice.

Clive Carpenter

EASTBOURNE
Christ the King and St Joachim

THE YEAR 2017 was a special one for our parish as it marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of Christ The King.

On 7 November Bishop Richard was the principal celebrant at a Mass to mark the anniversary. One of the priests concelebrating with Bishop Richard and Fr Barry Anderson was Fr David Foley who had been present at the opening of the church in 1967. The joyful occasion concluded with a buffet supper in the church hall

An Irish disco night and bacon and cabbage supper raised £450 for Emma's Lourdes Fund, set up in memory of Emma Moulding, a young teacher who loved Lourdes and spent the last days of her life there. The fund has enabled many other sick people to follow in Emma's footsteps.

At the end of November parishioners attended a remembrance service to pray for their deceased friends and relatives. Starting in the memorial garden at Christ the King we processed into the church, some of us placing photographs of deceased loved ones at the foot of the altar as we prayed for the repose of their souls.

Offertory collections at Christmas raised a record sum approaching £5,000 to be divided equally in support of the Sisters of Mercy hospital in Kitui, Kenya and The Infant Jesus Sisters' school in Nigeria.

John Carmody

#### EASTBOURNE Our Lady of Ransom

BISHOP RICHARD visited Our Lady of Ransom and celebrated or preached at the Masses, on the last weekend of November. Afterwards he met with many parish teams and also visited the sick and housebound; it was a wonderful opportunity for many people who had not had an opportunity to meet and talk with him. His positivity about the future was very reassuring and has boosted everyone's resolve to work together.

The children from St Thomas a Becket came to the church for their popular annual Carol Service. The parish held a Festive night in aid of the Redshirts of which the highlight was Irish Curry(!), raising over £1,000 which rewarded all the hard work.

Mary Staffiere

MERSTHAM, REDHILL and REIGATE SEVERAL HUNDRED people attended the Redhill & District Churches Together Carols in the Belfry service on Sunday 10 December. This annual event, which includes Bible readings and prayers, has been taking place for over 20 years. Money from donations is shared between three local charities.

The Saturday Get Together Group, went out for their first Christmas Tea at a local garden centre on the outskirts of Reigate. Entering the garden centre, all bedecked for the festive season, one only had to listen for the sound of happy chatter to find the café and the group. 19 people enjoyed an afternoon of convivial company, a truly elegant tea, pulled crackers, and went home with the surplus food neatly packed up by the obliging staff.

Christine Newbury and Ann Lardeur
MOLESEY

HERE AT ST BARNABAS much has happened in the last couple of months. Our lovely church

has had a makeover. Two of our statues have had a facelift and look very beautiful (St Anthony, right). On the feast of the Immacu-

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception we celebrated with an evening Mass procession to our Marian shrine and fireworks, followed by a viewing of the presbytery which has undergone a much needed transformation.

It has been good to see the introduction of Evening Prayer on Tuesdays and a Latin Mass on Saturday

mornings. During Advent we had an early Mass on Mondays to enable commuters to attend before work. This will happen again in Lent.

ean Casha

#### **MIDHURST**

AT MIDHURST we have been using the dynamic Catholic resource, 'Keeping Advent Well' and 'Magnificat Advent Companion'. We held a holy hour and Fr Peter Newsam was always available for confession.



Advent began with the sad news of the death of Sr Maria Goretti, who taught at St Margaret's school (the now closed convent school here in Midhurst), and at Shoreham and St Richard's school in Chichester.

For the children, there was a children's crib service and party. This was a special event, a lovely start for the Christmas celebrations.

As usual, the Christmas services were packed. The church was beautifully decorated, the bells rung and the carols were sung with gusto.

On 1 January, Mass for Mary, Mother of God, we had a parish party; a parish celebration for the dedication of our church. Many thanks to the team organising the event at this special time of year.

Paula Dempsey

#### PETWORTH with DUNCTON

ON 26 NOVEMBER there was a joint meeting of the parishes of Midhurst and Petworth to see the Bishop's presentation of 'The Word Who Is Life', and to discuss this as well as future clergy provision and lay participation in the life of the parishes. The parish room in Midhurst was pretty full and much lively debate took place. The traditional evening service on the First Sunday of Advent was the perfect way to start this Season with thought-provoking readings interspersed with hymns and prayers and, as usual, was well attended. It is a very special event in the otherwise frenetic run-up to Christmas.

Each month there is a prayer group meeting at the home of a parishioner where people get together over a simple meal, discuss many diverse topics and end by praying together. It is a great way to put things in perspective and meet new people in the parish.

This year's Advent appeal has been more local than usual as we have focussed on the Crisis Fund the Bishop wants to establish for families within the Diocese who are in desperate need. As always, people have responded with enormous generosity.

Sally Bohane

#### POLEGATE and HAILSHAM

THE 'LAS POSADAS' event held on Friday 15 December for St George's, Polegate, children's liturgy was a very enjoyable, well attended and successful evening.

On arrival everyone was directed by 'the innkeeper' dressed in a gallabiah to the 'stable' in the back garden because there was no room in 'the inn'. They were greeted on arrival at 'the stable' by the innkeeper's wife, also dressed in a gallabiah, who gave each child and adult a set of rosary beads. A book on Las Posadas was given to one family to read and then pass on to another family at Children's Liturgy sessions. so that each family will be able to read the story about the Mexican celebration. While waiting for everyone to arrive the children were able to watch an old video of The Christmas Story where the even animals talked to each other about the events of that wonderful night. Fr Rory Kelly and one side of the room led a decade of the rosary with the other half answering, followed by us all singing two carols, Away in a Manger and Silent Night. Everyone then went into the house for well earned refresh-

It was lovely to see all the children, who attend several different schools, and the adults enjoying each other's company, knowing that the one thing that unites us all is our faith.

The children were given gold chocolate coins as they left for home.

Tessa Truman and Anne Sullivan

#### FROM THE PARISHES

#### **RYE**

FR MATTHEW CHADWICK suggested we should have a Bring and Share supper on 4 January; an opportunity for parishioners to spend time together celebrating the Epiphany and for a discussion about future planning within the diocese, following Bishop Richard's meetings with diocesan representatives, and his request for comments and information from his flock. We all enjoyed the evening and some interesting matters relating to evangelisation, liturgy and catechesis for future discussion were raised.

The Scripture Discussion Group, led by Fr Matthew and Simon South, our Deacon in training, is proving popular and we have learnt much about the connections between the Old Testament and the New.

The monthly Rosary Group is also well attended and provides another opportunity for our

parishioners to spend time together both in prayer and then in lively conversation over coffee and cake. *Jocelyn Rowe* 

#### SEAFORD

AS WELL AS opening their little chocolate advent calendar goodies, parishioners at St Thomas More, Seaford undertook the 'Reverse Advent Calendar'. Each day during Advent, they gave something in thought for others. Some gave food, some gifts, others made that long needed phone call or cleared their wardrobe to the charity shop, some prayed. All goodies received went to refugees, St Anne's Centre for the Homeless and the Seahaven Foodbank. *Carmel Keller* 

#### **WADHURST**

EARLY IN DECEMBER Jennie Whelan spoke about Tear Fund's Toilet Twinning Scheme. The parish responded generously and raised enough money to provide toilet facilities for three villages. Karen Collins, who runs the Tunbridge Wells Mayor's Christmas Toy appeal, encouraged us to donate gifts for children and teenagers whose families find

Christmas an especially difficult time of year. Our parishioners contributed to gifts for over 400 young people.

Donations to Sunday morning coffee were used to purchase a Marvelous Moo Cow, Chirpy Chickens and a Net that Protects through CAFOD. The children enjoyed choosing the gifts and hearing about how they would be used.

A Sacred Space service took place on 7 December. This beautiful and thought provoking service, organised by Clare Kent and Susan Martin, helped us to focus on the true meaning of Advent.

On Christmas Eve the Church was packed as families gathered for a short service of carols and readings prior to the First Mass of Christmas. Children, toddlers and Mums with babies were all invited to join the procession to the crib and received a special Christmas blessing from Fr Martin O'Connor.

St Peter's Church at Rotherfield was beautifully decorated for the festive season and had a big increase in numbers over the Christmas period.

\*Toni Buckley\*\*

#### **WEST BYFLEET**

OUR CHRISTMAS SEASON started with a Carol Service and Benediction on Sunday 17 December, and on 22 December there was a beautiful Choral Concert by the Icosa Choir conducted by Luke Mather.

Leaflets detailing Christmas Services were distributed by the parishioners to houses in the area, helping to swell the large numbers attending the Services.

Epiphany celebrations included a parish Catenian dinner on Saturday 6 January, and at the weekend Masses Fr Alex's sermon included a sung litany of the various Ecclesiastical dates (Ash Wednesday 10 February, Easter Day 1st April etc) in the year to come. In accordance with an old established Catholic tradition, blessed chalks were distributed so that parishioners could mark the entrances to their houses for an Epiphany blessing.

Paul Tipple

### **A&B Climate Champion at Brussels**

TAM VOLUNTEERING with CAFOD as a 'Climate Champion'. Climate Champions support CAFOD's work overseas by spreading awareness of those affected worldwide by climate change and habitat destruction. A group of us visited Brussels recently to find out what CAFOD's sister organisations get up to on such issues as sustainable living and other topics addressed in *Laudato Si*. As well as working together to provide aid to those suffering from global injustices, we found that they work through *Advocacy in the EU*. We met Fr Martin Maier, a Jesuit with an infectious optimism, who campaigns in the EU for human dignity, placing it over purely economic concerns.

My experience in Brussels has convinced me that, as well as our donations, in order to tackle poverty we must become actively involved in its prevention. We can support poor people through reducing our own consumption and waste; this helps prevent habitat destruction and the ensuing climate change that endangers so many.

As part of our visit we took part in a sustainability camp where we learnt about how our consumption of goods affects people globally and how we can reduce its impact on our common home.

I'm now looking forward to leading workshops around A&B Diocese on what I have learned. The group are pictured below in Brussels with Fr Martin - from left to right: Kate Eastmond, Fr Martin Maier, John Paul de Quay, Tom Beal and Julia Corcoran.

Story and picture: John Paul de Quay



#### **Induction of Parish Priest at St Edmund's**

THE INDUCTION MASS for Fr David Parmiter as the new parish priest of the parish of St Edmund's in Godalming, was celebrated by Bishop Richard Moth on 1 November, the Feast of All Saints. The service was well attended, including clergy from sister churches in the parish and from Fr David's former parish in Bexhill. After Mass a party was held to celebrate the occasion. A special cake (pictured) was made and shared by all.







## A chance to share the good news

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year. The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. To date, we have sold more than one million eggs with 750,000 of these sent through the post directly to churches and schools.

#### Gifts for individuals and groups

There are five types of Real Easter Eggs available in 2018, all with new content. The Original, Dark and Special Edition Eggs are designed to be a personal gift for people of all ages. For people looking to buy for Children's Easter events, Messy Church or for outreach give-aways, we have our Egg Hunt and Sharing Boxes.

#### How your church can be involved

To allow us to continue to make The Real Easter Egg, we need people to switch and buy. We need a champion (maybe you) to spread the word, collect orders and buy directly from us.

\*delivery is free if you spend more than £45 (that's just 12 eggs) and order by 6th March 2018.

#### Original (RRP £3.99)

The 2018 design includes a large 24 page Easter story-activity book, a bag of Swiss Chunky Buttons (25g) and a milk chocolate egg (125g) with a lovely creamy taste, 35% cocoa – Palm Oil free.

#### Dark (RRP £5.50)

Includes a large 24 page Easter story-activity book, a chocolate egg made from dark Belgian chocolate (165g) and 3 dark chocolate squares (3 x 5g). Delicious, smooth and fruity. 71% cocoa - Palm Oil free.

#### Special Edition (RRP £9.99)

Inside this specially crafted edition you will find a simple guide to Easter, an olive wood holding cross keyring from the Holy Land, an orange milk chocolate bar (80g), and a luxury milk chocolate egg (200g). 35% cocoa – Palm Oil free.



#### Sharing Box (RRP £30)

Contains 30 high quality midi Fairtrade Belgian chocolate eggs and 30 cross shaped Easter story - activity booklets. Foil reads 'Christ is Risen'. 600g (20g x 30 midi eggs). 35% cocoa - Palm Oil free.

#### Egg Hunt Box (RRP £5)

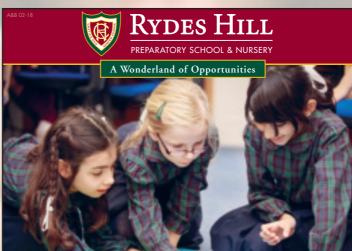
Have fun with enclosed Easter story and activities, then hide and hunt the eggs. Includes a 12 page cross shaped Easter story-activity booklet, and six Fairtrade Belgian milk chocolate eggs with a lovely creamy taste. 120g (20g \*6) 35% cocoa - Palm Oil free.



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WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SCHOOLS ON THIS PAGE FOR SUPPORTING THE PAPER





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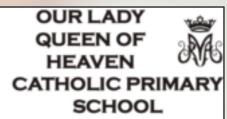
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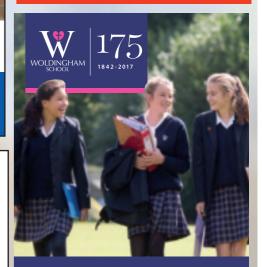


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