





Northampton Diocesan News

FREE Every Month

Marking St Barnabas

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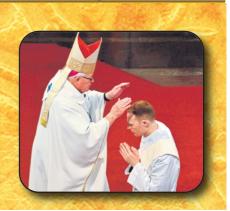
Bishop Leo's story

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A new priest

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See the story on page 5



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for the SANCTITY of LIFE

led by

Bishop Mark O'Toole

FR. JEREMY DAVIES,
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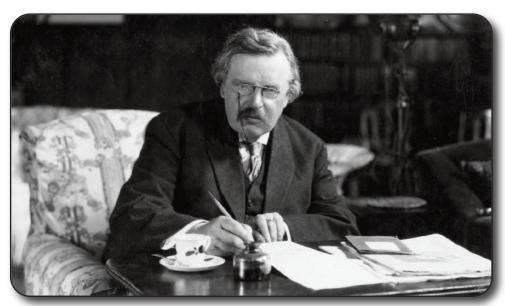
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Chesterton's goodness and his ability to evangelise



A cause for the canonization of the pipesmoking, plain-talking, mustachioed and beloved Catholic author Gilbert Keith (GK) Chesterton will not be opened, announced Bishop Peter Doyle of Northampton, the late Chesterton's home diocese.

Despite Chesterton's inspirational writings and his role in the Catholic revival in England during the early 20th century, several obstacles stand in the way of advancing the author's cause for canonisation, Doyle said in a letter read to the opening session of the American GK Chesterton Society conference. "...I am unable to promote the cause of GK Chesterton for three reasons. Firstly, and most importantly, there is no local cult. Secondly, I have been unable to tease out a pattern of personal spirituality. And, thirdly, even allowing for the context of G K

Chesterton's time, the issue of anti-Semitism is a real obstacle particularly at this time in the United Kingdom," he said in the letter.

"I am very conscious of the devotion to GK Chesterton in many parts of the world and of his inspiring influence on so many people, and this makes it difficult to communicate the conclusion to which I have come," the bishop said.

Chesterton was born in 1874, and became a prolific writer and staunch Catholic apologist after his conversion to the faith. He died in 1936.

Doyle praised "Chesterton's goodness and his ability to evangelise" but said he could not open the cause at this time.

News beyond Northampton

Scotland



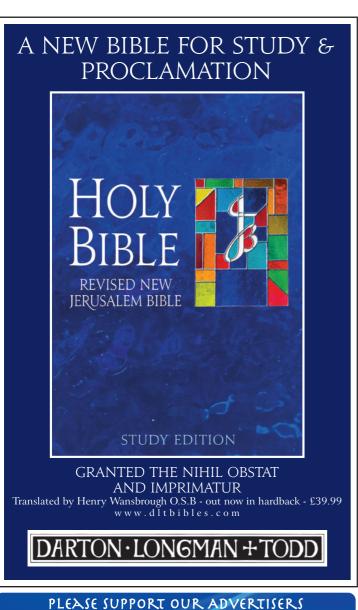
The Friends of Divine Mercy Scotland (FODMS) are taking the Mercy Bus back out on the road for the third year this summer, thanks to an overwhelming response in the past two years.

To date they have touched over 2,000 people on the streets of Scotland, over 400 people have boarded the Mercy Bus and over 2,000 Miraculous Medals and Divine Mercy Chaplets and many rosaries were given to the people the team met on the streets of Scotland.

Organiser Helen Border said: "Pope Francis has urged the church to 'leave her four walls behind and to go out in search of those who are distant, those essentially on the outskirts of life.' We are taking up Pope Francis's invitation in taking the Church to the people. Everyone is welcome to come along and visit our 'Church on wheels!".

"Taking the church to the people shows them that the Lord loves, cares and wants them to return to him. People think that they cannot be forgiven for what they have done. No sin is too great for the Lord to forgive as long as there is repentance from the sinner. Stepping on board the bus could be the first step in changing their lives for the better and leaving the guilt on the bus. There will be priests hearing confessions on the top deck of the 'Mercy Bus' and the FODMS team will be welcoming visitors with tea, coffee and home baking."

Commenting on the initiative, Bishop John Keenan said: "Up and down the UK the Mercy Bus has been a great initiative of the New Evangelisation Pope John Paul II hoped for. Its presence in the heart of town centres is welcomed by shoppers and workers of all faiths and none, as a joyful and hopeful presence of God in their midst. They see the Church coming to be among them with the Good News of God's mercy very close at hand, so they can reach out and touch it, or simply rejoice in its nearness.





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Getting into print

Send news reports, photos and other material to the editor, Fr. Paul Hardy, St. Edward's, Burchard Crescent, Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes MK5 6DX (vineo1@btopenworld.com).

We promise to print your news as soon as we can find space for it. Material should be emailed whenever possible. If this cannot be done for digital pictures they should be sent to us on disc. Send photographs in jpg format, as separate attachments, and not embedded in Word documents. Urgent and dated items should reach us by the first Sunday of the month before publication.

A booklet of advice on writing news reports for The Vine is available on request.

Parental permission must be sought before photographs of children are sent for publication. While we accept unsolicited feature articles, we reserve the right to edit the text or not to publish. Letters for publication must include a name and address, which will be omitted on request.

The content of each issue is decided by the editor.

Views expressed in The Vine are not necessarily those of the editor or of the diocese. The publisher of The Vine deals with all advertising. To place an advert ring 01440-730399. For difficulties with distribution contact the editor.

Publisher: Bellcourt Ltd, N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7BN Telephone: 0207 112 6710

New boys on the block

Bishop Leo joined the priests and deacons of Milton Keynes to celebrate the feast of St. Barnabas. marking the cluster which takes his name.

Six parishes in the centre of the new city are now

run by a team of four priests, with Fr Francis Higgins as the leader. Soon the priests will all share newly-built accommodation at St. Augustine's.

Mission to pastures new

Bishop Peter has announced the following clergy news, and moves to take place in September.

Father Tony Brennan to become Parish Priest of St Mary's, Dunstable with St Vincent de Paul, Houghton Regis Father Andy Richardson to be Parish Priest of Holy Family and St John's, Luton Father Joseph Udoh MSP to be Parish Priest of Our Lady of Peace, Burnham with St Andrew's, Cippenham Father Mirek Misiura to be Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, Stopsley, Luton Father Benedetto D'Autilia to be Parish Priest of Blessed John Henry Newman Parish, High Wycombe Father Lijo Payikkattu MSFS to be Priest in Charge of St Teresa's, Princes Risborough upon Fr Joseph Kuttivayalil's return to

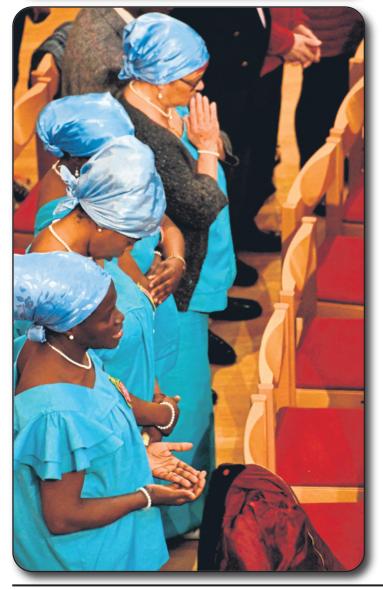
Father Emanuel Okami (who has been at Burnham) to be Assistant Priest of St Thomas Aquinas and All Saints, Bletchley Canon John Koenig is moving to Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Lawrence, Olney as Parish Priest.
Father Nathaniel Onwuekwe from St
Joseph's, Bedford, is joining the St.
Barnabas Cluster in Milton Keynes.
As an interim measure, Father Gregory
Marchwinski is appointed priest-in-charge
with the support of Father Wilson Sebastian
MSFS

Father David Donaghue who was ordained priest in the Cathedral on Saturday, 20 July. has been appointed as Assistant Priest with Canon Michael Harrison serving Our Lady of Walsingham, Corby together with the communities in Thrapston, Raunds and Oundle.

Bishop Peter added: 'We wish all our priests on the move this summer well in their new parishes. We especially pray for Fr Christopher Whitehous .,Fr Malcom Bull and Fr Paul Hardy who are retiring this summer. Fr Alessandro Reno, who has been on loan from the Diocese of Portoviejo in Ecuador, is now incardinated into the Diocese and will continue to serve at Chesham and Great Missenden'.







The Sunday Word for September

The Sunday gospels for September challenge us to accept the newness of Christ's way. Our society admires winners, and often gives little value to the unnoticed people. Yet Jesus' gospel for the 22nd Sunday of the Year (1st September) offers us a different set of values. At a public function, we are called not to occupy the place of honour, but rather to politely take the lowest place. Then perhaps the host will notice us and summon us to move higher. And instead of inviting rich neighbours so as to win their friendship, we are called to invite the needy who cannot repay the favour, because God will provide the reward.

A strong challenge appears in the gospel for the 23rd Sunday of the Year (8th September). Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, where he will be crucified. He sharply challenges the crowds with the stark choice of the gospel. We cannot be his disciples without "hating" father and mother, spouse and children, brothers and sisters. To be sure, he wishes us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and hence does not wish us to hate our families. Rather, he wishes us to put God first in our lives. It can be easy to be lulled into a sense of comfort, surrounded by our loved ones, without facing the challenge of carrying the cross.

Jesus tells two parables about counting the cost. The builder needs to sit down first to calculate the cost, to avoid going bankrupt in the middle of a construction project. A king wishing to launch a war needs first to check if his forces are superior, so as to avoid being defeated by a stronger enemy. We need to reckon up the cost of following Christ. When we give him our heart, will we also give him our time, talents, and treasure?

Our society today can sometimes be judgmental. But Jesus challenges our harshness by his mercy, as we hear in the beautiful gospel for the 24th Sunday of the Year (15th September). A farmer leaves his 99 sheep to seek the lost one. A woman sweeps out her whole house to find the lost coin. After putting in great effort to find what was lost, both of them rejoice when they find what was missing. Yet in our society today, there are many people who are lost. Some are lost from the church, others are lost from their families, and others again are lost from their own sense of self-worth.

Jesus' story of the Prodigal Son is as relevant today as it ever was. Young people have so many choices today and often see better possibilities far away from their families. Yet the big world is often unfriendly and exploitative. Without support, a person can often make bad decisions and end up in a vulnerable state. The parable celebrates the moment when the prodigal son recognized that he could return home. Yet he did not expect to be welcomed wholeheartedly by his father. But sometimes, like the elder son, we can find it hard to forgive and forget. Let us pray for the grace to be forgiving and welcoming.

A different kind of challenge appears in the gospel for the 25th Sunday of the Year (22nd September), when we hear the parable of the Unjust Steward. Today we sometimes learn of company accounts being fiddled, and we are perhaps glad when the perpetrators are convicted. But in this parable, the steward facing dismissal is praised for cutting the debts owed to his master. It is unlikely that Jesus is commending dishonesty. Instead, he praises the steward for his smartness in recognizing that his stewardship is finishing. We realize that our stewardship of earthly things is coming to an end, because life is short. Surely, it is best to use our money generously on earth.

We can also reflect on human stewardship of the environment. Our life on this planet could face a catastrophic future after our wasteful use of the earth's resources. Like the dishonest steward, we need the astuteness to see that our time of stewardship could come to a disastrous end. Hence, we need to take drastic action now to ensure a better future.

The gospel for the 26th Sunday of the Year (29th September) contains the terrifying story of Dives and Lazarus. While the rich man feasts sumptuously every day, the poor man at his gate longs to fill his belly with scraps. On a worldwide scale, we can read this parable as a comment on the global inequality between the wealthy and poorer nations.

Everything changes in the afterlife. There, the rich man vainly begs Lazarus to come and cool him from his burning agony. When this is impossible, the rich man asks if Lazarus can return from the dead to warn his brothers. Abraham responds that they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead. We believe in the resurrection and the life of the world to come, but sometimes we can be very attached to the comforts of this earthly life. We can pray for the grace to respond to the needs of the poor today

Fr Jeremy Corley.

Three cheers for St. Paul's

Students and staff from St Paul's Catholic School are delighted that their School has scooped three awards in Milton Keynes Council's Celebrate MK Education Awards held at Jury's Inn on Wednesday 12th June 2019. St Paul's was a winner in the Changemaker, Inspirational and Post 16 Team of the Year categories.

Mrs Jo-Anne Hoarty, Headteacher at St Paul's Catholic School, said: "It's wonderful that St Paul's has been recognised in this way. This is a very proud moment for us all and acknowledges the hard work and dedication of our students and staff."

The Changemaker Award, won by St Paul's Communication Department (part of the School's Learning Support SEND Department), recognised a sustained commitment and dedication to the education of children, young people and communities with whom they work, making a tangible difference to both achievement and aspiration. A parent who nominated St Paul's said: "The Learning Support team is incredible – they see each child as an individual with unique needs and challenges and creatively find ways to ensure their specific needs are met to allow the child to fully engage in education."

The Inspirational Award, which exemplifies how a young person has the ability to inspire those around them, recognised the achievements of Year 9 students Paige Pilkington and Megan Head. The nomination said: "These two young women have worked incredibly hard in setting up and running Girl Pack, a community charity aiming to make sure that girls stay in school and have a decent education." Girl Pack provides care packs to girls who are unable to afford or are too embarrassed to ask for sanitary wear. The girls fundraise throughout the year, have successfully lobbied Milton Keynes Council to provide vending machines in schools offering free sanitary products and have even met with a Minister at the Houses of Parliament.





tutors and management, as they were considered to fully encapsulate the School's mission statement "Love, Serve and Do the Best that is Possible". The nomination also praised students for being collaborative and supportive and highlighted their active participation in an extensive volunteering programme where they contribute hundreds of hours to local charities and fundraising. Fiona Nodwell, Head of Sixth Form, said: "We are extremely proud of our Sixth Form and feel very privileged to be a part of it."

The Post 16 Team of the Year Award was won by St

Paul's Sixth Form team, including students, mentors,

Pictures show
Above
The St Paul's Sixth Form team receiving the
Post 16 Team of the Year Award
Below
Jenny Major and Julie Cawthorpe receiving
the Changemaker Award
Left
Ruth Holmwood receiving the Inspirational
Award

Farewell

With this issue Fr Paul Hardy, editor of The Vine since its foundation in 1989, has retired.

He wishes to pay tribute to those who have actively helped him over the years, especially Mrs Margaret Busby.

He says 'thank you' to those who have sent him news and articles during the last thirty years - and to those who have read The Vine each month.

For the moment Neil Roseman, head of communications, takes over.



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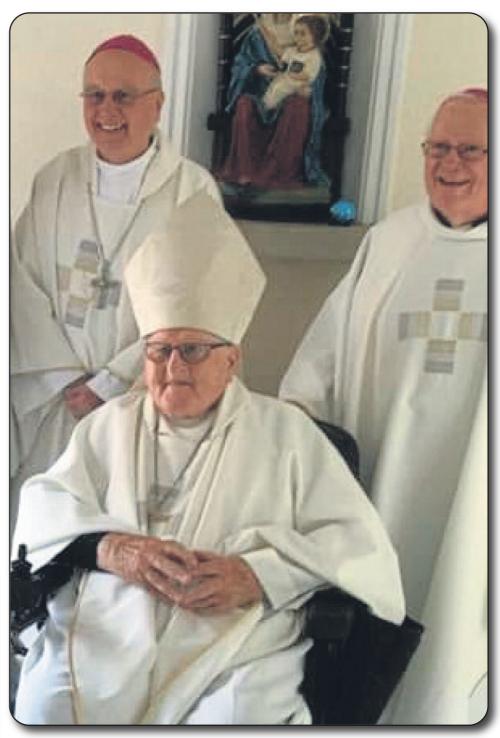
Three score years and ten

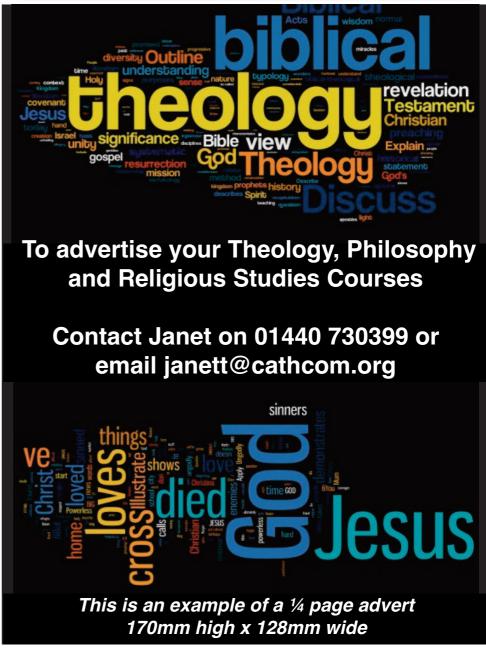
Bishop Leo McCartie KC*HS was ordained priest on 17 July 1949. On 17 July 2019, he celebrated the 70th anniversary of his ordination. This tremendous achievement was celebrated by the Archdiocese of Birmingham at Bishop Leo's home at The Little Sisters of the Poor in Harborne. There were nine other bishops present. These bishops included Archbishop Kevin McDonald KC*HS (former Bishop of Northampton and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy of KHS in England and Wales) and Bishop Peter Doyle KC*HS (Prior of the Eastern section of KHS), Bishop Leo's two successors as Bishop of Northampton, who, at the lunch after Mass, both congratulated Bishop Leo on his achievements. The Lieutenancy was represented by Joe Smiles KCHS and Christine Hughes DCHS President and Secretary respectively of Midlands Section and by Bernard Waddingham KSG KGCHS, President of the Eastern Section of KHS, of which Bishop Leo was once Prior. As is usual on such occasions, the clergy sang ad multos annos.

Bishop Leo led the celebratory Mass from his wheelchair. He was in good voice and his care for his flock shone through his words. As Bishop Leo told the gathering, he is proud to be the oldest Catholic Bishop in England and Wales (he will be 94 in September) and to have the longest tenure as a Bishop in the United Kingdom and Ireland since the restoration of the hierarchy in 1850 (he has been a Bishop for 42 years). Bishop Leo then showed us all how a cake should properly be cut!



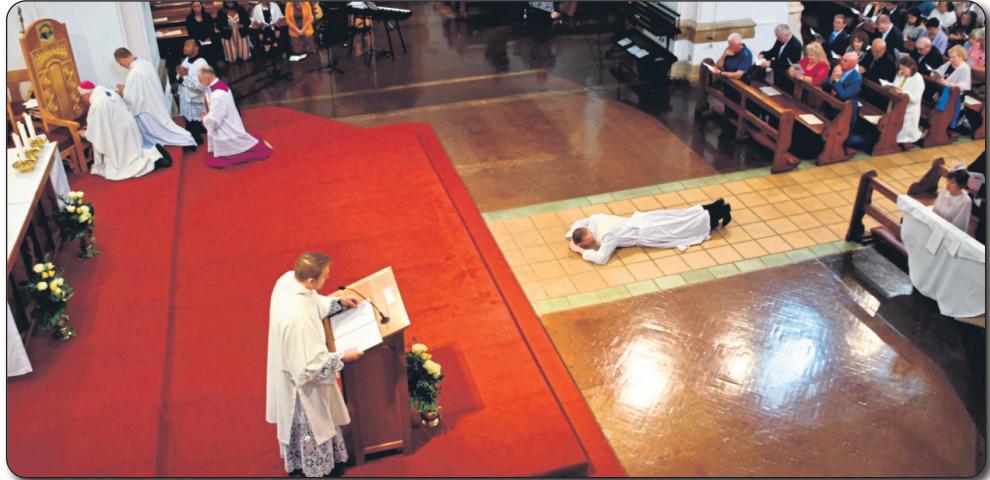


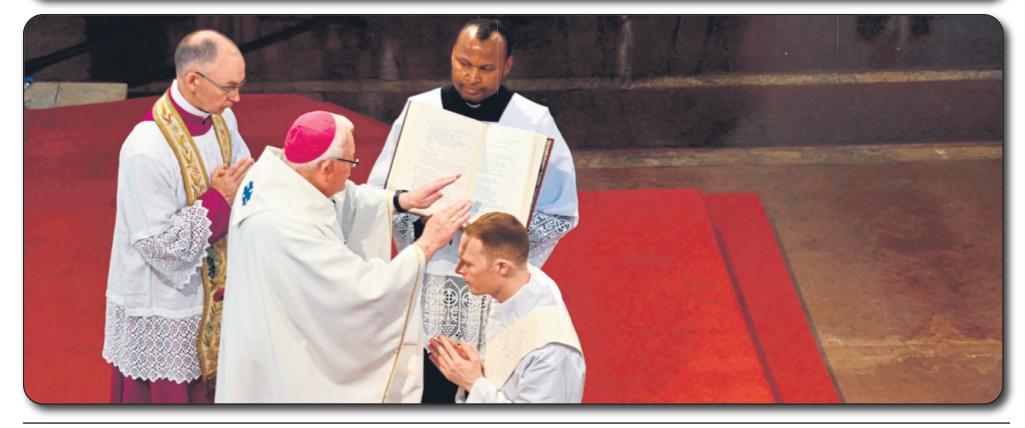




A day to remember







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Father David Donaghue, a native of Northampton, was ordained priest in the Cathedral on Saturday, 20 July. He studied for the priesthood at Oscott Col lege.

Father David has been appointed as Assistant Priest with Canon Michael Harrison serving Our Lady of Walsingham, Corby together with the communities in Thrapston, Raunds and Oundle.







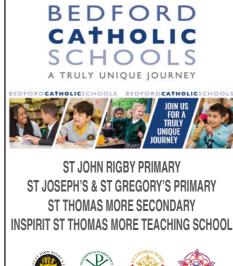
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May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world, now and forever.

Say six times a day for nine days.

Cardinal Newman marks fifty

Saturday 6th July saw a gathering of 300 current and former staff, students, families, clergy and governors at Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Luton to celebrate Mass for the 50th anniversary of the school with Bishop Peter.

Mass took up the theme of light from Newman's writings and the school motto 'Ex umbris in veritatem', with readings from the prophet Baruch and the prologue to John's Gospel. The music was led by current students from the choir and orchestra. In his homily, Bishop Peter re-

ferred to the recent announcement of the canonisation of Blessed John Henry Newman to take place in Rome on 13 October. It was a wonderful coincidence that this had been announced just a few days earlier.

Headteacher Joe Richardson said of the occasion, "It is always a privilege to bring a community together and none more so than the community at Cardinal Newman. I cannot think of another school where so many past students, parents and staff remain so committed to the ongoing wellbeing and success of the school and the children it serves.

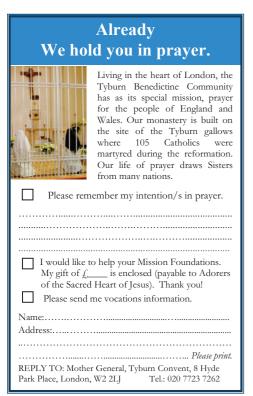
Cardinal Newman deserves its fine reputation thanks to all those who have invested their care, service and love into the school over the last 50 years. We owe a debt of thanks to the local clergy and Sisters who have been a constant in all that we have done in God's name since September 1968. Here's to the next 50 years!"

The five readers each represented a decade from the school's history and we were sent out with the Act of Commitment based on Newman's most famous piece of writing, which had been adapted for the Big Assembly at Twickenham with Pope Benedict XVI in 2010.

At the end of Mass, Bishop Peter blessed our new building, Maryvale House, before returning to the hall for speeches. Following this, all adjourned to the Dining Room where there was an opportunity to share memories and stories over tea and cake. Many then took the opportunity to wander round the school seeing what has changed, before the afternoon drew to a close.

School Chaplain







Jane Porter

Jubilarians celebrate

The major anniversaries of priestly ordinations were again marked with a cathedral Mass and lunch in the bishop's garden.

Father Tony Whitfield was celebrating his 40th anniversary, Father Tony Brennan celebrated his 25th anniversary and Father Patrick Hutton celebrated his 10th anniversary in what would have been his 50th anniversary year in the Anglican ministry.

The Mass bgan with a tribute to Bishop Leo McCartie, who this year celebrates seventy years of priesthood.



Tribute to Fr Tony Brennan

Hundreds of folk from all over Luton, Northampton, Bedford, Caddington, Hitchin Milton Keynes were at St John's RC Church in Sundon Park to celebrate Fr Tony Brennan's 25 years as a priest.

Bishop Peter Doyle presented the Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis to Fr Tony granting him the abundance of divine graces.

After the Mass had ended it was into the parish hall were Fr Tony thanked everyone for a great turnout.









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Feast of the **Nativity** of the Blessed **Virgin Mary**

You are invited to a Rosary procession/gathering

Monday 9th September 2019 at the Angelus time of 6pm.

Meeting at Christ the Cornerstone church 300 Saxon Gate West

Central Milton Keynes MK9 2ES **Our Lady promised:** "The Rosary shall be a powerful

vice, decrease sin and defeat heresies. For more information please phone Monica on 07401 366 330

armour against hell, it will destroy

News from the Pastoral Ministry office



Christ in this place

Do you visit the sick or elderly, maybe in their homes, in hospital or in a nursing home? There is a day of reflection specially for you on 9th November, at Christ the King Church in Milton Keynes. A joint project of the Pastoral Ministry Office and the SVP, this day will offer input on best practice, prayerful reflection, and most of all, a chance to meet lots of other like-minded people, to ask questions and to learn some new skills.

We are delighted to have four excellent speakers

Brian Purfield, Bible scholar, on the healing ministry of Christ

Deacon Jim Hannigan,
hospital chaplain, on
tales from the wards
Danielle Dixon, safeguarding,
on keeping our elderly safe
Paul Davies,
retired nurse, on praying with
dementia sufferers

This is a free event, paid for by the Together in Faith Adult Formation Fund. Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring lunch with you. To book, go to www.pastoralministryoffice.org or ring the Pastoral Ministry Office on 07823 788 310.

Pastoral Area Reflection Days

Over the past year, the diocese has been consulting on the best way forward for our parishes. We know that our priests are really stretched, and in other parts of the world, lay people play a much greater role. Parishes without resident priests rely heavily on lay people to act informally as leaders, making sure the churches run from week to week. Bishop Peter announced at the gathering of Pastoral Area Councils in March that we would be developing more formal models of lay leadership for parishes, with a training programme, diocesan authorisation, and ongoing support.

At the same time, Pope Francis is asking us to be more outward looking, more missionary in our approach. We are to be a 'field hospital' in a broken world. However, it has been hard for us to think about evangelisation when we are dealing with changing

structures and an uncertain future.

Therefore, each of the Pastoral Area Councils has been asked to run a local Reflection Day. This day has two purposes:

To reflect prayerfully on the needs of our local communities, and to develop some concrete proposals to meet these needs.

To reflect on where these new roles could help us to be more outward looking by providing local leadership and energy.

Each Pastoral Area will develop a mission plan to be presented to Bishop Peter outlining what they would like to do. The Pastoral Area Councils will meet together with Bishop Peter again in March 2020 to share ideas and plan future steps.

For more information see www.pastoralministryoffice.org.

Towards Healing and

Reconciliation

A Mass for victims and survivors of any form of abuse, their families, supporters and all those affected

For any further information regarding this event, please contact the safeguarding office on 01604 723514 or safeguarding@northamptondiocese.com

Venue: St Mary's Church, Aspley Hill, Woburn Sands, MK 17 8NN 12th October 2019

12pm Mass

Followed by light refreshments in the parish hall

The parish hall will be open between 11.30am-3pm

You are invited to attend....

a Mass for victims and survivors of any form of abuse, their families, supporters and all those affected

As a Diocese, we want to improve the way that we respond to and engage with victims and survivors of abuse. Bishop Peter is fully committed to this and very supportive of the safeguarding efforts within our Diocese. As well as Bishop Peter continuing to meet with anyone affected by abuse, it was decided that holding a Mass for victims and survivors, their families, supporters and all those affected would provide an important way of raising consciousness in the Church, an opportunity to publicly demonstrate a sign of reconciliation and show our commitment to the spiritual and emotional well-being of victims and survivors.

The purpose of the Mass is to provide a space and opportunity for people to come together and pray, around the theme of healing and reconciliation. Many people are impacted by abuse and the impact can be profound and far reaching. It is our hope that this will be a positive way of bringing people together, in prayer, for healing and renewal. The Mass is intended for those directly affected by abuse as victims or survivors, their family members, friends or supporters and also for those who have been indirectly affected by abuse and who want to come together

in a positive way to show understanding, care and support.

Whilst the Mass is being held at St Mary's in Woburn Sands, due to its central location, as this is a Diocesan wide event, the Mass is open to anyone from across the Diocese to attend and be part of.

Please, come along and support what we are doing, which is a positive way of bringing people together to focus our minds and hearts on those affected by abuse, to assist with their healing and also the healing of the Church. We very much hope to welcome as many people as possible at the Mass, including clergy and parishioners or just come to the parish hall.

In terms of an outline for the day, St Mary's parish hall will be open between 11am and 3pm. Mass starts at 12pm and will be celebrated by Fr. Francis Higgins. Light refreshments will then be available after Mass in the parish hall, where we will be joined by Bishop Peter, who will be available for anyone who may wish to speak with him on the day. Please free feel to join us for the Mass and light refreshments, to attend only for Mass or simply to spend time with us in the parish hall. Organisers for the day will be noticeable as they will be wearing orange flower brooches and will be available during the day to respond to any queries or enquiries and offer any assistance.

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Marian Pearce's career actually started in London at St Joseph's school In High Hill followed by a stint at Our Lady of Lourdes in Finchley when the family moved to Milton Keynes in 1992 and Marian started work at Bishop Parker School in Bletchley. Marian was guided by her Parish Priest Fr Paul to find her way to Bishop Parker School. We are very grateful that she did apply all those years ago and decide that it was a great place to do God's work. During her prestigious career at the school she has made many valuable contributions to improving school life. She has been the steady matriarchal presence over all that time, providing much needed stability and support.

Her excellent work in the early years has ensured that hundreds of children have received the best possible start to their education. Some of whom now bring their own children back to Bishop Parker, creating a family tradition of being taught by Mrs Pearce.

Her competitive nature and love of sport have driven forward our PE department, with children from our school going on to represent Milton Keynes in National competitions. Bishop Parker School recently came first in the small school sports day at Stantonbury.

Taking on the role of Key Stage One and Early Years Lead and later becoming Assistant Head, provided her with a platform to have a wider impact across the school. She has supported many teachers in the early stages of their careers, ensuring they have gone on to be successful in other schools. She is a role model for living the Catholic mission and well respected by staff, governors and parents. Parents are always reassured after speaking to Marian regarding any concerns they have. Children and staff are inspired by her enthusiasm and drive. She ensures that all children who pass within her care not only are well supported

but know that they are loved. Marian's dedication to Catholic Education has left a lasting legacy of wellrounded individuals sharing God's love. Marian feels that one of the greatest strengths of Bishop Parker School is the 'warm and welcoming atmosphere' and how proud she is when some parents say that the school is like one big happy family. She feels that Bishop Parker School is like her 'second home.'

In the last few years there have been some massive changes at Bishop Parker School with the big building programme and upgrades to the outdoor play areas and nursery accommodation. There has been a change in branding with a

new school badge and uniform. Marian has overseen all of it and loves to see the school improve and develop. She was very pleased when Ofsted graded Bishop Parker a strong 'good' last year and the Diocese inspection grade was also 'good with outstanding features'. Marian was pleased that her role as RE Co-ordinator and all the hard work and high standards throughout the school were recognised. Marian has hosted Ofsted 8 times in her long career and said she won't be missing Ofsted at all in the future!

In the last week of the school year there were many celebrations of Marian's career. These included a special assembly and Bishop Peter and Fr Christopher celebrated a special retirement Mass. At the Mass

Robert Munday, the headteacher told some funny anecdotes about Marian to everyone's amusement. The biggest surprise was the announcement by Bishop Peter of a very special award - the Bene Merenti Medal for Marian. This is awarded by Pope Francis for service above and beyond to the Catholic Church. Everyone was thrilled for her! Marian is normally hard to surprise but she said

We all wish Marian a well deserved retirement. We also want to sincerely thank her for her very successful teaching career and the incredible contribution she made to Catholic life of Bishop Parker School.

she 'was completely taken aback by this. It

is a huge honour and something I never

ever expected to get'.

Fidelity and grace

There was a special Celebration of Marriage at Our Lady of Lourdes, Aylesbury at the Sunday Mass on the 21st of July. This event is one of the several celebrations in the parish this year to mark the Golden Jubilee of the parish. In this instance the sacrament of marriage was being highlighted. The attached photograph captures some of the couples who received a special Blessing at Mass from Fr Jude Iroh MSP, PP at Our Lady of Lourdes. The collective years of marriage of the couples in the photograph exceed 340 years, a testimony of the commitment and the power of the sacrament of marriage. Fr Jude presented



each of the ladies with beautiful roses to signify fidelity and grace.



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