



The Vine

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October 2019
Issue No. 364

Northampton Diocesan News

FREE Every Month

Fr Paul Hardy steps down as editor after 30 years page 4



Mission Month of Mission more on page 4



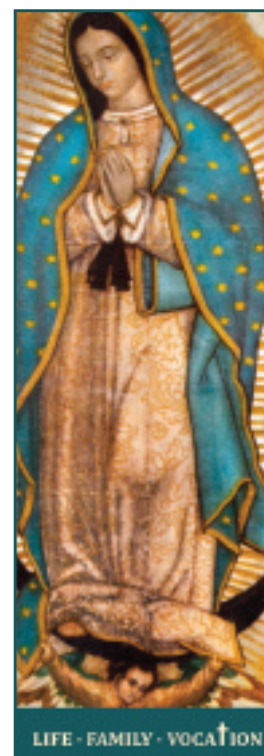
Papal Award for 40 years service in Lourdes More on page 3



Young People from across our Diocese travelled to Alton Castle, Staffordshire for this years Summer Camp organised by NYMO. A mix of activities including abseiling, biking, trekking, climbing and survival skills kept our teenagers busy. The camp is a mix of these activities, beautiful liturgies and celebrations of the Sacraments as well as engaging times of teaching and formation. Fr Brendan Seery, who joined our young people said "Our youth are incredible, they are an inspiration for us all". Read more on page 6.



Our junior clergy enjoyed some formation time in September as they went 'Beyond The Wild'. Pictured here are one of our seminarians Jithu James, Frs Brendan Seery, David Donaghue and Gregory Marchwinski and Deacon Kevin Ryan along with survival expert Will Hince. Full story on page 5.



SHRINE OF THE MIRACULOUS
RELIC IMAGE OF
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
THE HOLY CHILD AND ST JOSEPH
MIDLAND ROAD
BEDFORD
MK40 1HU

SHRINE EVENTS 2019

LATIN MASS SOCIETY

Mass of Reparation
Saturday 23 November 12.00 Noon

DIVINE MERCY RETREAT
Sunday 8 December 12.30pm – 5.00pm

FEAST DAY MASS
Thursday 12 December 7.30pm

THE SHRINE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2012 TO ALLOW
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PRAYER AND PETITION

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OUR LADY'S WORDS TO JUAN DIEGO -
1531—MEXICO

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LIFE - FAMILY - VOCATION



Bishop Peter led our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of August alongside the Catholic Association.

FAITH AND SERVICE IN LOURDES

Pilgrims from across our diocese joined with other pilgrims from the diocese of Southwark, Clifton and East Anglia for the annual Catholic Association pilgrimage to Lourdes. Many of our pilgrims serve in the Accueil, the hospital in Lourdes, helping the assisted pilgrims to experience the beauty of this wonderful pilgrimage. One of those who serves in the Accueil is Mary Fielding. Mary has been helping at the Lourdes Accueil for 40 years and received a papal award in recognition of this tremendous service. Mary was taken aback by this award saying “It is the love and friendships I make that bring me back every year, this award was a complete surprise!”.

A highlight of the pilgrimage each year is the Grotto Mass. It was at the Grotto in 1857 that Mary appeared to a young Bernadette. Bishop Peter celebrated Mass at the Grotto this year and spoke of the need to use our faith for action in his homily. Bishop Peter said of Lourdes “This pilgrimage to Lourdes is really precious to me. It is a reminder that we are on our way to Heaven and meeting pilgrims from all over the world who are on that same journey”.



Deacon Michael Fleming and Bishop Alan Hopes of East Anglia present Mary Fielding with a papal award for 40 years service



Fr Mark Floody, who travelled with a group of pilgrims from Northampton Cathedral said “In Lourdes, God reaches out to every person. Whatever our challenges He supports us and works powerfully through us. Seeing the assisted pilgrims as a focus of our pilgrimage was a contrast to the messages we receive in society. Being part of the wider pilgrimage with our diocese was a joy and the times of prayer and bonds of friendship were mixed with moments of great fun!”

If you are interested in travelling to Lourdes on pilgrimage contact the pilgrimage director, Deacon Michael Fleming by email mvf@btinternet.com

Ministering to people with special needs is often such a gift and we can be blessed in many ways we do not imagine. Our safeguarding office would like to invite you to a CPD certified entitled ‘Autism Awareness. The course takes place on Saturday 30th November from 10am-2pm at St Mary’s in Woburn Sands. Contact Lorraine by phone on 01604 723516.

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Fr Paul Hardy, creator and editor of The Vine

THANK YOU FR. PAUL

EDITOR OF THE VINE STEPS DOWN AFTER 30 YEARS

The editor of The Vine, since the first edition in 1989, Fr Paul Hardy has decided to step into retirement.

Although it has not always been easy, Fr Paul has often spoken of his joy to be able to play such a vital role in communications across our diocese.

Fr Paul has also taken the opportunity to step down as parish priest of St Edwards in Milton Keynes. Bishop Peter has thanked Fr Paul for his generous service to our diocese, especially his work through our diocesan newspaper. It was Fr Paul's vision that bought The Vine into existence and his determination that has meant that an issue has never been missed throughout those 30 years.

Celebration

Teenagers from three Milton Keynes parishes spent the August Bank holiday weekend at Thornton convent. In the annual Celebration weekend they were asking the question 'Who am I?' They explored their inherited background; looked at the meaning of their first name and wondered why their parents chose it. But then the focus changed to their baptism. Over the weekend they watched all the stages of the baptism ceremony. The youngest member of the group, Joshua, had to be the baby. The temperature of the water made him jump, and he regretted that his new given name was Fifi.

The tropical heat of the weekend encouraged them into the swimming pool. The lifeguard, a member of the group, taught the non-nautical ones how to swim and show off. Despite the reluctance of the adult team they insisted that flour-throwing was an indispensable element of Celebration.

'We are deeply grateful to the Sisters at Thornton' said co-ordinator and chaplain Fr Paul Hardy. For forty two years they have welcomed us to their school and its grounds. When we started Celebration we never imagined that it would still be thriving four decades later'.



World Mission Sunday - the one Sunday in the year when the entire global Church comes together in support of mission - will happen on 20 October this year. And this year, it is running alongside another exciting global event!

His Holiness, Pope Francis, has declared October 2019 to be a special month of prayer and action, to strengthen and grow God's mission through the Church. And the Extraordinary Month of Mission (EMM2019) is nearly here.

EMM2019 marks the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter Maximum Illud, which Pope Francis describes as 'a milestone in the evolution of the Church's missionary work'. And a century later, the call to missio ad gentes is as urgent as ever. This is an incredible opportunity for all of us to reflect on and pray for the Church's mission, and for the whole Church to fully realise that in our rapidly changing world the Gospel is needed now more than ever!

Missio invites everyone to get involved in EMM2019, joining our sisters and brothers around the world in faith and renewal. Find out more about EMM2019 at missio.org.uk/emm and see how you can get involved - personally and as a community - in this special celebration of mission. You can find out more about World Mission Sunday (October 20) at missio.org.uk/wms

Bishop Peter writes "The extraordinary month of mission is an opportunity for us to increase our prayer and financial support for the missions whether it is through individual mission projects, which many parishes have or through the agency of Missio."

JUNIOR CLERGY TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE



The newly ordained Fr David Donaghue celebrates Mass in the wild flanked by Frs Gregory Marshwinski and Brendan Seery



Fr Gregory and Jithu James, a seminarian studying at Oscott college prepare supper



The meal of Venison is cooked on the fire, admired by Fr Gregory!

For three days at the start of September, three priests, a transitional deacon and a seminarian took to the woods in the open countryside of Dorset to live off the land and fend for themselves. This brave group of brothers, joined survival expert Will Hince on the ‘Beyond The Wild’ course. Jithu James, a fourth year seminarian is on an extended placement at Our Lady of Walsingham in Corby and ‘Beyond The Wild’ participant tells the story of their adventure:

“I was asked, by Fr Brendan Seery who coordinates the junior clergy formation program, to join some of the junior clergy from the diocese on the ongoing formation days away, and this time it happened to be a course on surviving out in the wild conducted by Will (Hince). It was for two nights away, I went to this course anticipating that I am not going to like what I experience. However, to my surprise I loved these few days away with young clergy as we get to know God and come close to Him in fraternal brotherhood. The experience has helped to build a stronger fraternity among us. Being away from the world is sometimes essential and spending that time with God is very significant for the ongoing configuration to Jesus. For us this was in the nature on this occasion. Through this privileged experience of living with nature all of us appreciated things that are considered small in the world, so for me it was a learning experience about being grateful to God and His creation.”



Deacon Kevin Ryan collects wood for the fire



Deacon Kevin puts the kettle on, watched by Jithu, Fr Brendan Seery and Fr David Donaghue

OCTOBER 2019
**WORLD
MISSION
SUNDAY**

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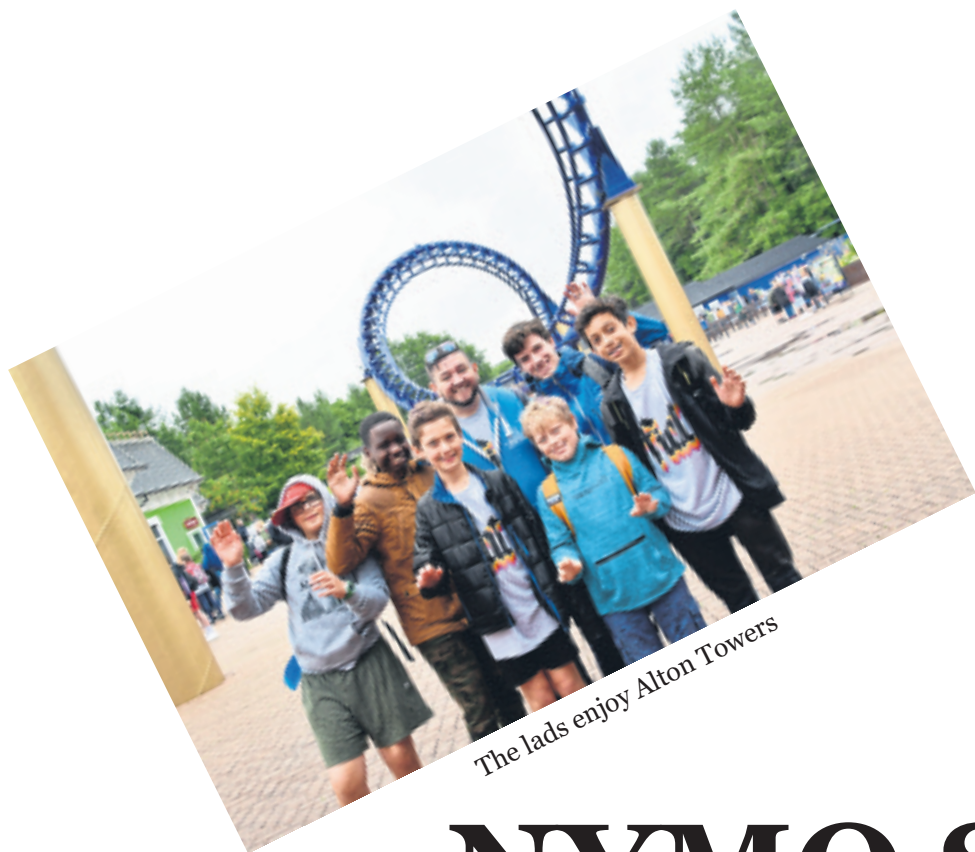
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The Vine October 2019



The lads enjoy Alton Towers



Outdoor activities, like climbing are very popular

NYMO SUMMER CAMP 2019

At the start of the summer holidays, 54 young people, their youth leaders and some of our clergy travelled to Alton Towers, Staffordshire for the NYMO Summer Camp. This popular event for young people aged 11-18 is a mix of outdoor activities, daily Mass, Adoration, messy games and a day at Alton Towers.

NYMO are partners in the camp with the Archdiocese of Birmingham and LifeTeen, an American organisation working to lead teenagers closer to Christ.

With worship led by Sarah Kroger, whose album 'Bloom' is a very popular mix of prayerful and relaxing songs and her husband Dominic making us laugh and think in catechesis every evening. One young person even said "I have been to New York, but Summer Camp is better!"

Highlights include a group of 16 year old boys praying for each other during the break time, our clergy getting extremely messy during the messy games and our outdoor Mass in the grounds of the castle in the beautiful evening sun.

Next year's camp is on 2nd - 6th August 2020. If you can't wait that long, you can join the NYMO team at the latest in the series of Lux weekends, 31st January - 2nd February.



Deacon Daniel Rooke and Frs Gregory and Brendan got stuck into messy games



There is so much fun to be had!



Above: There are some incredibly beautiful moments of prayer



Not for the faint hearted! Abseiling down the castle



Left: Camp was blessed this year with clergy ministering alongside our worship leader Sarah and our speaker Dom

CENTRE TAKES SHAPE!

Our diocesan centre based at our Cathedral in Northampton is beginning to take shape. After years of planning, fundraising and most of all praying the fruits of this project are beginning to show.

Fr Mark Floody is delighted by the progress and looks to the future as he dreams big, "I hope that this will be a centre for the whole diocese. I know it will make a big impact here in Northampton and especially for our visitor and friends. To be able to show true Northampton hospitality is so important our mission here at our Cathedral."

"So many people have given generously, to make this dream a possibility and it is beginning to look like a reality, we are all so grateful" Fr Mark said before adding swiftly "But there is still more time to give!"

To make a donation to our centre appeal please contact Angela Madge by email cathedralcampaign@northamptondiocese.com.



CATENIANS ANNUAL GOLF CHALLENGE



Held this year at Bedford & County Golf Club on 9th August and organised by Bedford Circle of the Catenian Assoc, this annual golf challenge, between Northampton, Milton Keynes, Luton and Bedford Circles has been running for the past twenty-five years. Ladies and guests joined the golfers for a very good evening dinner and prizegiving. The first prize was awarded to Keith Allen, a new member of Bedford Circle, who also won the Neil Ward Trophy (donated by Pat Ward of Milton Keynes Circle and his late wife Laura in memory of their son). The runner up was Carlo Laurenti of Northampton Circle. The four Circles compete for the Catena 4 Cup, won this year by Bedford Circle.

Organiser, Bernard Waddingham, commented, "The weather forecasts included potential thundery showers, so a postponement was always possible as it poses a significant danger on a golf course. In the event there was plenty of sunshine and although windy conditions kept the scores down, the golf was very enjoyable, helped, by the course's excellent condition".



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

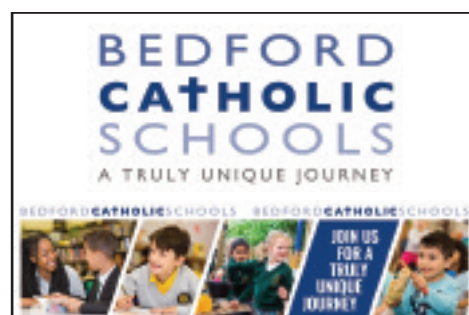
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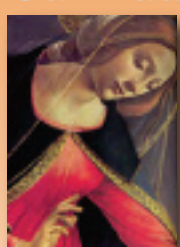
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GOLDEN CELEBRATION FOR WALTER



Walter is presented with his scroll by province 14 Director, Denis Murphy



Walter Giles, brother of Luton Circle (216) was presented with his fifty year scroll by Director of Province 14, Denis Murphy at the joint circle meeting with Mid Herts on 14th August 2019.

In a moving acceptance speech, Walter recalled not only his time as a Catenian but childhood memories from his native Belfast and his war time evacuation to England.

It was during the war that Walter adopted Blessed John Henry Newman as his soul mate. He had wandered into a library in the protestant part of Belfast and pulled out possibly the only Catholic book he could find, 'Apologia Pro Vita Sua' by John Henry Newman. On one of the pages someone had scribbled 'rubbish' and other similar negative comments. This encouraged Walter to read the book and thus it began his devotion to the now soon to be made saint. At a time of serious illness, Walter was comforted each day, knowing he was being watched over and helped by Blessed John Henry. He expressed great joy at the impending canonisation.

He went on to recount, when being appointed as General Manager in 1964 of a packaging company in Kent, he attempted to unite the separate male and female dining areas, thinking it an enlightened and positive move, only for the females to object as they didn't want to listen to the men!!

Reflecting on membership, Walter wisely counselled assembled brothers that being a Catenian, with its ethos and fellowship, was very important. He was confident that Catenianism has an even greater role in an increasingly secular world and commended the association to all those present.

Walter joined Maidstone Circle in 1969, a job move saw him join Southport Circle in 1976, before returning south to join Mid Herts Circle in 1979, and then transferring to Luton Circle in 2000 when moving to live in Harpenden. It was fitting that he was presented with his scroll, with brothers of his last two circles present.

Walter married his wife Marjorie in Maidstone in 1962, are parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes, Harpenden and have three children and six grandchildren.

Walter is pictured left with Peter Ward, President of Luton Circle. Walter Giles, with his 50-year scroll. Denis Murphy, Director Province 14. John Blackburn, President; Mid Herts Circle

NYMO WELCOME JAY

Our diocesan youth ministry office, NYMO, welcomed a new team member in September. Jay Caracciolo, from Dunstable joins the team as Youth Ministry Coordinator. His main task is supporting youth ministry and formation across the whole diocese. Jay spoke of his delight on joining the team saying "I can't wait to meet all the amazing youth ministers in our parishes. Whether they are full-time paid staff or generous volunteers giving their time for our young people. I want to meet them and see how we can support and encourage them". You can contact Jay by email on jay@nymo.org or call the youth office on 01582720627.



CAFOD SUPPORTERS DAY



What an exhilarating day! Over 35 CAFOD volunteers and supporters from 21 parishes (mostly in the north of the Diocese of Northampton) joined in the CAFOD Supporter's Day in St Mary's Woburn Sands on Saturday 7 September.

The day was packed with very interesting and engaging topics from various people. Education Volunteer, Peter Haddon, shared with us what inspired him to volunteer in schools. "Children and young people are passionate about Justice and Peace issues and it is great to be able to raise awareness of it and witness how they want to do more".

Ged, our campaigns coordinator, spoke about the value of campaigning and our voices and choices can make a real change. He mentioned about the success of the London march on 26 June on climate change and gave examples of the very successful Creation Masses held in many parishes with so many parishioners signing the petition to the Prime Minister re Climate change. He also urged us to take forward Bishop Peter's encouragement to be a LiveSimply parish.

Our Main speaker, Jessica Michelmores (CAFOD Latin American team), shared her experience from a visit to Peru where she witnessed first-hand the work of our partner organisation Warmi Huasi.

Parish volunteer, Oliver Larkin (from St Augustine – Milton Keynes), shared what inspired him to become a CAFOD volunteer. He said, "After Debbie asked for volunteers, I felt I had to put my faith into action in this way. It amounted to righteous anger – why should we have so much whilst others had so little?" His parish has since formed a CAFOD group which has been involved with fundraising, prayer and campaigning. Currently, they are making a Virtual Village from CAFOD's World Gifts. Parishioners can see at a glance how their contributions are supporting our brothers and sisters in developing countries. A major contribution to this village was from the First Communicants who donated a total of about £1700 to 'their' village! Fantastic! Another Supporter's day is being held in Beaconsfield for those in the south of the diocese on 21 September.

Written by Maggie Osgathorp – Volunteer coordinator – Milton Keynes

SURPRISE FOR PAT

When Pat King retired from teaching, she knew that something else was calling her; she was not to put her feet up. And on Sunday 11th August, missionary priest Fr Vincent Oates, presented her with a long service medal and certificate for all her work for Missio.

Pat has been the promoter of the work of Missio in the parish of Sacred Heart, Flitwick for many years. The work of Missio in supporting missionaries across the world and its little red boxes is well known to us but at times we may well take our parish promoters for granted. Like so many of them, Pat has worked quietly and diligently, keeping in touch with people, collecting and counting money and distributing the quarterly Missio magazines.

She has been so effective that the relatively small parish of Sacred Heart, has become one of the largest contributors of funds in the Diocese and so it was no surprise to many, but a big surprise to Pat, that the long service medal and certificate came her way.

It all happened during an appeal on Sunday 11th August when Pat was asked to come forward and receive her reward. No one knew about it except Fr Oates but all the parish share in Pat's joy. And we all hope that she will keep up the good work for many more years.



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O Virgin defend me all pure and sweet

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary



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**Monday 7th October 2019
at the Angelus time of 6pm.**

Meeting at

Christ the Cornerstone church
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Our Lady's promise:
"I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary."

For more information please phone
Monica on 07401 366 330

DEMENTIA AWARD FOR FR. TONY



Shortly before he made the short move from Holy Family and St Johns in Luton to St Mary's in Dunstable, Fr Tony Brennan received an award in recognition of his ministry to those suffering from dementia.

His former parish is well known locally for the 'Young at Heart Cafe' and Fr Tony has supported the cafe in its growth, allowing it now to support 120 people with dementia and their carers each week!

Fr Tony also supports other clergy to minister to those with dementia through visits to the cafe and learn more about the dementia alliance.

The dementia friendly awards are part of the Dementia UK initiative to create dementia friendly environments across the UK.

Congratulations Fr Tony!

Prisoners' Sunday 14th October



Every week, Catholic chaplains and chaplaincy volunteers provide spiritual and pastoral support to the thousands of prisoners housed in seven prisons across our diocese. They work with prisoners to help them come to terms with their lives, and to offer hope and support to change, through weekly prayer services, Mass and confession, small groups and RCIA. Chaplains also provide pastoral support to the whole prison population, for example when a family member is ill or dies. Prisoners' Sunday raises awareness of those impacted by the prisons system, not just inmates themselves but their families and children too. There are lots of ways that parishes and individuals can make a difference, through prayer, but through practical support as well.

Ways that parishes can help

Often when prisoners leave, they are not able to access the same spiritual support and community that Chaplaincy provided. Welcome Directory parishes have had the training and support to offer welcome ex-offenders. There are not many Catholic churches in the directory in our diocese and it would be great to have a network. For more information, go to <https://welcomedirectory.org.uk> Parishes can also sign up to the Angel Tree project, which provide gifts that prisoners can give to their children at Christmas. <https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/our-work/angel-tree/>

For more information on how you can support prisoners visit www.pastoralministryoffice.org.

Opportunities for volunteers

Prison chaplaincies depend heavily on volunteers, and there are lots of different ways that you can get involved as an individual too:

- At Grendon (near Bicester), the therapeutic prison community, we are looking for a Eucharistic Minister that could lead a Service of Word and Communion for the men once a month.
- At Springhill (near Bicester), an open category D prison, it would be good to develop a catechesis team to lead prayer groups, rosary circles or classes.
- At Aylesbury Young Offenders, we are looking for volunteers who can give at least half a day a week to visiting the young men and participating in the liturgies with them. The team there often operate like temporary surrogate aunts/uncles/grandparents for the young men who come from very difficult backgrounds.
- At HMP Onley (not far from Rugby), it would be great to develop a team of musicians who could provide music for a lively Mass once a month.
- At HMP Milton Keynes, the chaplaincy team would love some office support, 2-3 hours a week.

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SPIRITUALITY DAY @ TURVEY



The Spirituality Network of the diocese gathered once again in the hospitable space of the Monastery of Christ our Saviour to reflect on the theme of “Alive in Christ”. The day centred on an address by Brother John which stimulated spiritual thinking. We were invited in his remarks to “look for things which are above” there was a strong focus on the mystical. The day provided

spiritual spaces to allow a space for God to be present. Different rooms created this space with a focus on the Gospels as well as an invitation to enter into the hospitality of God by accessing creative activities. These activities were centred on the idea of a garden in which our inner growth in holiness takes place. The Labyrinth gave the opportunity for walking towards our centre with God so that all the barriers we put up could be left by the way. The sense of movement and prayer gave a chance for reflection on our spiritual journeying. It was lovely to see Bishop Peter present as part of the gathered group. It gave a strong message that we travel together as a pilgrim people. Highlights of the Day for me were to be found in the space on the Marriage Feast at Cana which asked people to become part of the ministry of intercession which is so needed in our world. The reflection too on shoes and the theme of journey spoke powerfully to many people. It invited us to spiritually empathise with those who walk with us through life in so many ways. It had a strong echo in the words spoken by Brother John about “Stumbling towards holiness”. This is echoed in the words of Pope Francis as he warns of a society that we live in with a “Blunted Conscience” where there is often no place for the poor. The day gave a pause and a rest in the “Hospitality of God” whilst challenging us too to listen to the journey of those who walk alongside us in our Churches and in our communities.





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