



The Vine

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January 2020
Issue No. 367

Northampton Diocesan News

FREE Every Month

**BISHOP
PETER
VISITS
AYLESBURY
SCHOOL**



**YOUNG
ADULT
BRUNCH**



**WINSLOW
TURNS RED!**



OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITS BEDFORD

The National Pilgrim Statue of our lady of Fatima and the relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco were in Ss Phillip and James Church in Bedford in December for a Fatima Devotional Day.



NEW DIOCESAN WEBSITE

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COMMUNITIES

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Berkshire north of the River Thames.

LATEST NEWS

CATHEDRAL LIVE

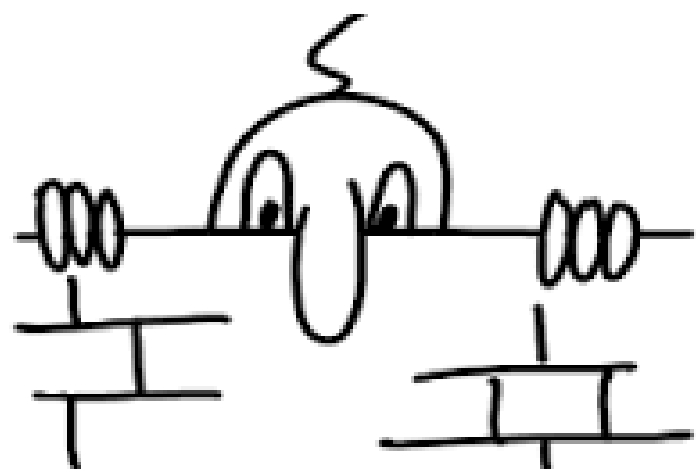
Our Diocesan communications team have launched a brand new Diocesan website. The Diocesan Communications Manager, Neil Roseman said "We hope the new website will better serve the priests and people of our Diocese. The old website, was built 15 years ago so has served us well but it is time for change"

DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON
THE YOUTH MINISTRY CONFERENCE



**20
20**

YOUTH MINISTRY CONFERENCE
SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2020
RE CENTRE, LUTON, LU48JD
WWW.NYMO.ORG/CONFERENCE



BE SAFE!

Recently we have experienced very cold weather. Please remember the weather could be 24 degrees lower than the summer months, so wrap up warm!

Our Diocesan health and safety team wish all our readers a very happy new year and offer these tips for staying safe in winter:

Wear good shoes/boots
Hands can be prone to frost bite so wear gloves.

Keep a path clear of snow/ice, puddles, can turn to ice increasing the risk of slips and trips make good any loose/broken tiles or slabs.

If possible keep an alternative power supply, eg an electric heater if you have gas/oil
If you notice something requiring attention please tell your parish priest.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2020

JANUARY

25th

Young Adults Brunch at the RE Centre in Luton, LU48JD

Contact Fiona@nymo.org

31st – 2nd Feb

LUX residential weekend for young Catholics of secondary school age.

Contact Fiona@nymo.org

FEBRUARY

26th

14th – 16th Faith Group Leader Weekend, Kings Park Centre, contact avril@northamptondiocese.com

29TH

Ash Wednesday

Come and See Session, 2–4pm, St Mary's Woburn Sands.

Contact avril@northamptondiocese.com

29th

Young Adults Brunch at the RE Centre in Luton, LU48JD

Contact Fiona@nymo.org

FR WILSON SEBASTIAN RIP

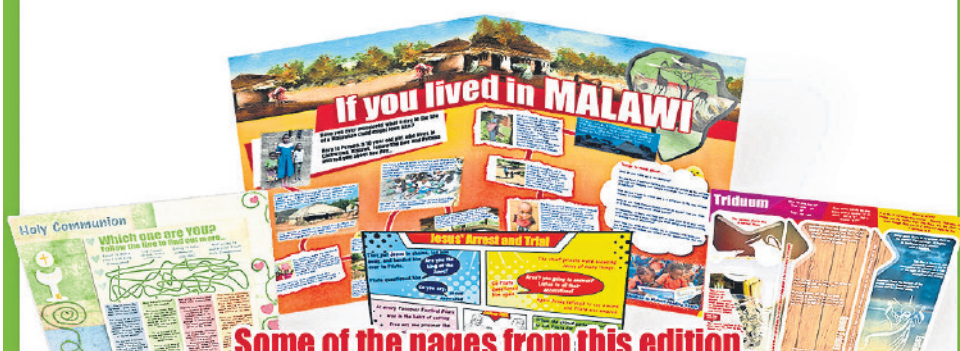
Please pray for Father Wilson Sebastian who died very suddenly in Kettering on Thursday 7th November. Aged only 51 at his death, his sudden passing came as a huge and unexpected shock. Fr Wilson had been Assistant Priest at Kettering since September 2018, prior to which he served the congregations at Our Lady's, Corby. Fr Wilson was from the Syro - Malabar Archeparchy of Changanacherry in Kerala, South India. Bishop Peter celebrated the Funeral Mass at St Edward's on Friday, 22nd November and was joined by priests and parishioners from across the Diocese and beyond.

"Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace! Amen."

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Getting into print

Send news reports, photos and other material to the Diocesan Communications Manager and editor Neil Roseman email - communications@northamptondiocese.com. We promise to print your news as soon as we can find space for it. Material should be emailed whenever possible. Send photographs in jpg format, as separate attachments, and not embedded in Word documents. All items should reach us by the first Sunday of the month before publication.

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 email 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

DIOCESAN ADVENT REFLECTION DAYS



A wonderful Advent Day of Reflection with folk from across the Diocese at St Joseph's Gerrard's Cross. The theme for the day was the "God Who Speaks" – linking to the Year of the Word 2020.

We listened to Fr Matthew Blake OCD who gave two inspiring and encouraging talks during the day, which provided an introduction and historical context to the "God who Speaks" by using references to scripture, the Lord's Prayer and Jesus's life – asking us to consider:

- Where is God in our lives ?
- How God speaks to us through the Word, forming a relationship with us
- How the Word of God changes us and has the power to transform our lives
- Trust God when we do not see the next steps
- Jesus in our hearts and minds...by our reading scripture He is forming us.

"The Freedom of Prayer – Face to face with God" prayer station displayed quotes from Jacques Loew and St. Therese of Lisieux – *"For me prayer is a surge of the heart..."* –, along with various prayer books and reflections. This was a moving and visually stimulating station with colours, lights and a grid of bars. *"You do not have to be in prison to be in prison"* (Bryn Haworth)

There was an Encounter Prayer station where those wishing to do so were accompanied in their prayers. Other prayer stations included a "Bible corner", "Scriptures to pray with", a station for "Welcoming God's Word into our hearts" in the words of Pope Francis, and the Light of the World and Holy Spirit prayer stations.

Overall the whole day was wonderful, a peaceful retreat to start Advent and by the shared feedback at the closing session everyone found the day enjoyable and helpful.

Thanks were expressed to all those involved with organising the day from the Diocese's Spirituality network, the St Joseph's Parish team who were great hosts and especially to Fr Matt for his enlightening talks.

The next Spirituality Network event is on Sat 18th Jan at Holy Ghost Luton when Nicholas King SJ, one of our foremost scripture scholars, will give a talk in the morning that will be followed by a meeting in the afternoon of the Network and anyone who might want to join it to plan events for 2020.



We were then able to reflect on the talks, questions and our own personal intentions as we visited the different Prayer stations in the adjoining Hall, Oratory and the Church. These stations had differing presentations and time was spent visiting them during the day.

The "O Antiphons" music prayer station and presentation of art was delightful and contrasted to the silent prayer in Adoration in the Oratory.

Littleway Healing Ministries

Littleway is a Holy Spirit-led approach to the healing of memories, founded by Fr Laurence Brassill OSA and Mrs Pauline Edwards. This gift of healing of memories prayer contributes to the physical and inner healing of the whole person.



HEALING OF MEMORIES FOUNDATION COURSES

Mon 03rd Feb to Sun 09th Feb 2020

Mon 17 Aug - Sun 23rd Aug 2020

Mon 19 Oct - Sun 25th Oct 2020

all at Carmelite Priory, Chilswell, Boars Hill, OX1 5HB

PARISH MISSIONS 2020

5th - 8th Nov 2020 at Churches of St Mary & St Joseph and St Mark, Hemel Hempstead Catholic Churches (West)

We run Parish Missions and Outreach Healing Days with times of praise, worship, teaching and healing prayer. We would be delighted to hear from you to discuss running a Mission or Healing Day in your Parish!

For individual Healing of Memories prayer please contact us on our information line: 07936 269 143

The Fifth Revised Edition of Pauline's book 'A Little Way of Healing' is available to purchase from our website below

To book your place on a course and for more information please go to our website:

www.littlewayhealingministries.com

2019

A Year To Remember



In February Mgr John Armitage and the team from Walsingham came to Northampton Cathedral as part of the Dowry tour.



In March, NYMO hosted over 350 young people preparing to make their Confirmation at Blaze.



The new cluster of parishes in Milton Keynes celebrated their feastday of St Barnabas.



In June a large group of pilgrims from all across our diocese travelled to Walsingham for the annual diocesan pilgrimage led by Bishop Peter and Deacon Michael Fleming



Fr Tony Brennan and Fr Patrick Hutton were among our jubilarians celebrating in June.



Hundreds of students gathered, once again in Dunstable for our diocesan schools Mass in October



A highlight of the year was the priestly ordination of Fr David Donaghue. At the end of the celebration, Bishop Peter announced that Fr David would be assistant priest in Corby.

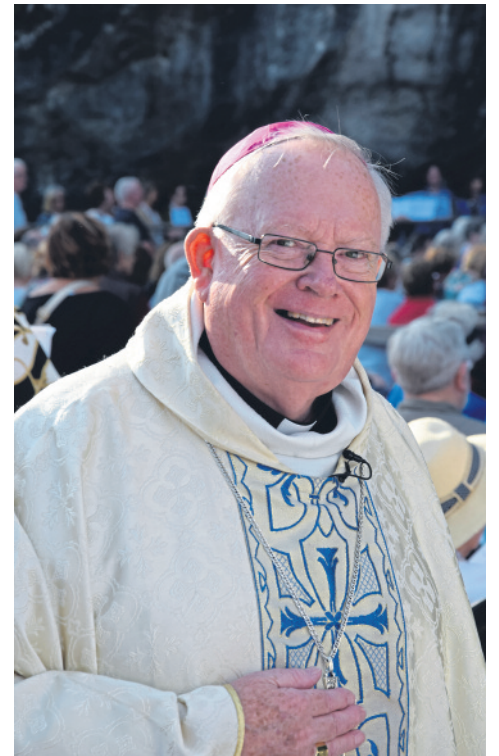


In the summer parishes from Gerrards Cross and Chesham hosted a group of Catholics from Ecuador. This lively gathering was uplifting for all involved



Building work began on our new Cathedral Centre. Thanks to donations from generous parishioners from across our whole diocese, the project will be finished in the first half of 2020 (hopefully!)

BISHOP PETER REFLECTS ON THE YEAR...



2019 has seen growth in many areas in the Church in the Diocese of Northampton. With the support of a Project Worker, Marriage and Family Life ministry is developing, the reorganisation of our Catholic schools is being implemented, there have been ordinations to the Priesthood and to the Permanent Diaconate, and in our parishes there is a focus on lay leadership and evangelisation.

Last July, I ordained a priest for the Diocese. How different will be the journey this new priest embarks on from my own experience. In a much more secular environment, the joys and challenges will be different but the call to priestly service is the same. There is a pressing need for vocations to the priesthood, and I am delighted that a young man began his seminary formation last September.

When we are thinking of vocations to the Priesthood, to the Consecrated Life or to Marriage, we have to begin with our families as schools of faith and love and as places of devotion where the culture of vocation is natural. God is calling each of us to something beyond ourselves. Our challenge is to pray and to listen to the voice of God as we discern the future together.

In May, I offered my resignation to Pope Francis as I have reached the mandatory retirement age of 75. It will be a new adventure for me but, more importantly, as I give thanks for my time as bishop, with the Diocese I am praying for the appointment of a new shepherd.

Safeguarding continues to be

a priority in the life of the Diocese. One very positive development is the opportunity to meet with victims and survivors, and for the first time there was a Diocesan Mass for the victims and survivors of abuse in October.

Together with our Catholic Schools, we are on a journey of transition towards new forms of multi-academy trusts. We are at our best when we work together, for each other, in service of the common good, embracing both solidarity and subsidiarity. Our Catholic Schools play a vital role in the life and mission of the Diocese. As ever, the annual Schools' Mass with representatives from most of our schools was a lively and joyous celebration. What a gift and what potential our young people and their teachers are!

Many people participated in a "Catholic Basics" course this year. It is an introductory course designed for those who wish to learn more seeking a bridge to the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. The four elements of the course; God, the Church, the moral life, and prayer have been well received. It is envisaged that the course will be repeated in the coming year.

The Bishop's Certificate for Catechesis was launched in the summer and will be offered at four levels along with a system of regional catechetical gatherings to provide a new way of offering Diocesan support for catechists.

Ministering to young people and young adults, our youth ministry team continues to support local youth ministry initiatives. Accompanying

young people through events such as Lux residential weekends, Blaze Confirmation day, leadership programs, pilgrimages, monthly young adult brunches and much more. They continue to support parish youth ministers through training, conferences, informal support and offering resources.

As we seek to develop pastoral ministry in our parishes, I was impressed by the response to our invitation for pastoral areas to spend a day together reflecting on the life of pastoral area. As we consider together our strengths and weaknesses, I am heartened by the generosity of so many volunteers who help to bring alive our faith in their local areas.

Looking ahead to 2020, there are many unknowns, not least, a new Bishop! We ask God's blessing on us all in the Year of the Word. We look forward to the completion of the new Cathedral Centre, hopefully, by Easter. In the Year of the Word, we ask God's blessing on us all and on the initiatives and developments taking shape across the Diocese. Above all, may we act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.

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The Prologue and Jesus' Birth and Significance

CHAPTER 1:18-25
The Nativity

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.

Three Wise Men

CHAPTER 2:7-12

CHAPTER 3:13-17
John Baptises Jesus

Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.

Simon Peter, Andrew, James & John

CHAPTER 4:18-22

The Church, the first fruits of the Kingdom of Heaven

CHAPTER 18:10-14
The Lost Sheep

CHAPTER 17:1-8
Jesus is Transfigured

Jesus Asks the Disciples
Who do you say I am?

CHAPTER 16:15-20

CHAPTER 15:22-28
The Daughter is Healed

The Coming of the Kingdom of Heaven

Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

CHAPTER 19:13-15
Jesus Blesses the Little Children

Mother of the Sons of Zebedee

CHAPTER 20:20-28

CHAPTER 21:1-11
The Entry into Jerusalem

CHAPTER 22:1-14
Parable of the Wedding Feast

Jesus Denounces the Hypocrites
Woe to you!

CHAPTER 23:13-36

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS



THE GOD

Bishop Peter has described the purpose of the Year in these words: "At Many Catholics feel that they don't know the Bible as they would like to schools and in our parish life. Look out for the "God who speaks" banner website for more details www.northamptondiocese.com

There will be a Diocesan festival day, WordFest 2020 with fantastic speakers wrote a pastoral letter about the importance of proclaiming and hearing the V most of this year, to grow in their own experience of the Bible, and to be able



JOURNEY WITH MATTHEW

WHO SPEAKS

"At heart we want to help everyone be prepared to hear the Word of God proclaimed in the liturgy." We to, so this year is a wonderful opportunity to open our hearts to the Word of God, at home, in banners and logo for themed events and to stay up to date with events this year, visit our new Diocesan

workers and a whole range of workshops to explore how Scripture impacts every part of our lives. Bishop Peter the Word in the liturgy for the First Sunday of Advent 2019. In it he invited everyone in the diocese to make the able to engage more fully with Scripture in the Mass.

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YOUNG ADULT BRUNCH

On the last Saturday of the month, NYMO hosted the first ever young adult brunch. More than 20 young adults gathered together in Luton to be fed by food and formation. Deacon Liam Lynch offered some teaching at the brunch as he encouraged those present to share and discuss their faith with each other. The next young adult brunch is on Saturday 25th January at 11.00am at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Luton.



MEMORIAL MASS FOR SR GENEVEIVE



In the early evening of 26th November over 150 Old Thorntonians, former and present staff, Governors and Community members gathered at Thornton College for a Memorial Mass to celebrate the life of Sr. Genevieve Devereux RJM. The assembly hall was full and there was a

special feeling of warmth and connection as those attending welcomed each other and shared their memories of Sr Genevieve.

Father Kevin McGinnell welcomed all following the opening hymn and the service was beautiful with former pupil Suzanne Brown and Head Teacher, Mrs Val Holmes, giving the readings, and Sr Claudine reading the prayers of Intercession. Following Communion, Sr Helen Mary Haigh RJM gave the Eulogy and those present received a fun insight into Sr Genevieve's life pre Thornton and of course all she achieved as Headmistress at Thornton College. Sr Genevieve, in fact, had the last word at the service as the congregation were invited to watch a video of her giving an

interview of her life at Thornton.

It was a special evening for a very special lady who inspired and meant so much to Thornton and all whose lives she touched.



FAREWELL FR PAUL!

Students, staff and members of the St Paul's community gathered to wish a happy retirement to their much loved School Chaplain, Father Paul Hardy, who has been a significant member of the community for nearly 30 years.

Guests enjoyed an afternoon tea and Mrs Jo-Anne Hoarty, Headteacher at St Paul's, spoke about the great contribution Fr Paul had made to the life of the school. She said: "Fr Paul dedicated himself to involving young people in the life of the Church through both parish and school activities. This has included organising celebration weekend retreats, visits to Taize, Buckden retreats, days of recollection and Mass of Celebration. We have all benefitted from these opportunities."

Mrs Hoarty talked about how, because of Fr Paul, the school can still celebrate Whole

School Mass together regularly throughout the year. She said: "He is very gifted in the way that he is able to make Mass accessible for children so that they are thoroughly engaged. This has meant that in our very diverse community, Mass has been very inclusive."

Fr Paul has also supported St Paul's staff behind the scenes including informal coffee chats at break times, leading Continuing Professional Development such as "everything you wanted to ask a Catholic but were afraid to", and supporting staff during challenging times of loss.

Many of the school's liturgical celebrations are in place and have become traditions because of Fr Paul. Our Year 11 exam liturgies

were written by Fr Paul years ago and are still in use today. In fact, the entire way that we celebrate the liturgical year at St Paul's has been shaped by Fr Paul.

Mrs Hoarty added: "We thank Fr Paul for all of the love, care and support he has given us all over many years and wish him a very happy retirement."



AWARDS FOR CATECHISTS

A wonderful evening in December rounded off a 5 week course for catechists in Luton. The dedicated group was awarded their Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis Level 1 certificates, completing their learning journey about what it means to be called and serve as a catechist in the Church today.

As well as the Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis, which is offered over 4 levels, there are also other opportunities such as a retreat for catechists and a session introducing the YouCat for Kids resource. A Catechist Brochure is now available from the Nores website (Catechesis section) or on request from the NORES office with full details about the support and training available for our wonderful community of catechists in the Diocese.



RED WEDNESDAY IN WINSLOW

For the first time, the three churches in Winslow, led by the RC parish of St Alban arranged for the parish church in the town to be illuminated in red, as part of the Red Wednesday commemoration.

Prior to the day, there had been publicity explaining the significance of Red Wednesday, so that people understood the red illuminations.

The churches also led a short act of reflection and prayer in the church that evening, which was well attended by all the churches' parishioners. Our thanks to the Vicar, Rev Andrew Lightbown for permitting this to happen.

The group now hope to repeat this each year.



VOLUNTEER WITH CAFOD

We all know that dreaded sinking feeling. It's 2nd January and, despite promising this year was going to be different, your New Year's Resolution feels hopelessly impossible. 2020 is the time to shake things up. Make a commitment to help others, not only will you gain new friends and skills, but you'll be integral in supporting our life-saving work.

From to through campaigning, this resolution will support our mission to ensure everyone can reach their full potential and live with dignity. We have a whole range of volunteering opportunities available, from parish to campaigning and events opportunities, to prayer writing. We are particularly looking for school volunteers (all training given) and those who can help with promoting CAFOD in local and social media.

It doesn't matter how much time you can volunteer for- it

matters that you're doing it!

There are already many people across the Diocese who are volunteering their time and using their talents to help, and we would love for you to join us.

One of these inspiring volunteers is Marie Pennell, a parishioner at the parish of St Teresa, Princes Risborough. She has been volunteering for CAFOD for an amazing 16 years, doing everything from raising awareness in her parish, to speaking up through campaigning to helping to organise events. She recently said of her volunteering experience: "CAFOD represents the catholic church and has a good reputation abroad. Stretching our hands across the ocean to help our fellow communities is the least we can do."

Want to get involved? Email us at northampton@cafod.org.uk or call Deborah on 01494 863 777

Monsieur Claude's Great French Adventure

By Julia Beacroft



Format: Paperback

Pages: 38 pages

Category:

Modern & contemporary fiction (post c 1945)

ISBN: 9781528905862

£10.99

Available online at Amazon, Book Depository And Austin Macauley Publishers - £10.99p

Monsieur Claude, the 'Beanie Baby' crab, is upset and worried. His family lives in France and he would dearly love to visit them because his mum hasn't been well. His owner, Jamie, is going on holiday to Paris but only two of Jamie's 'Beanie Babies' can go with him. And Monsieur Claude isn't chosen to be one of them... However, the rest of his 'Beanie Baby' friends devise a cunning plan to smuggle Monsieur Claude into Jamie's backpack! But disaster strikes at the airport when Monsieur Claude falls from the bag! Will he be rescued? Will he ever see his owner again? The little crab has a thrilling series of adventures along the way, but will he ever be re-united with his mum?

Age 6-8 years

BISHOP VISITS NEW SATELLITE SCHOOL

Bishop Peter recently visited a new secondary school in Aylesbury. St Michael's, a satellite school of St Michael's in High Wycombe has pupils in year 7 and year 8. Executive Head-teacher, Garret Fay and school head-teacher, Adam Palmer welcomed Bishop Peter and offered him a tour of the school. The exceptional facilities at the school include a high-tech

drama studio and theatre and beautifully designed sports hall. Bishop Peter thanked both Garret and Adam for all their hard work in designing, opening and organising the school to such a high standard. It is clear the difference the school will make to the whole Catholic community in Aylesbury and surrounding villages.



MASS OF REPARATION

The Romans carried out abortions and infanticide, so nothing much has changed from those times until now. The Romans were in a pre-Christian era, we are in a post-Christian era. This means that as Catholics, we need to do everything we can to defend Life. Our actions can have a lasting impact on those facing difficult decisions in their pregnancy. This was the theme of the homily given by Fr Patrick O'Donohue, FSSP, at the Solemn High Mass of Reparation for Abortion on Saturday 23rd

November at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bedford. 110 people had made their way to Bedford for the occasion, a significant increase on the same event last year. Some of whom had travelled from London and further afield; some were attending a Latin Mass for the first time and commented on its beauty and reverence.

A Solemn High Mass needs three priests; Fr Patrick O'Donohue was the celebrant, Fr Gabriel Diaz the Deacon and Brother Al-

bert Robertson the Subdeacon. Two of our Bedford servers were joined by three from London and Oxford and the chant was provided by visiting singers. The Knights of St Columba as always were on hand to help.

In pride of place at the front of the church was the Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This is one of 220 copies of the original in Mexico City and has touched the original, enabling it to confer the same graces and blessings. Many miracles of

conception and healing have been reported by those who have venerated our copy of the Image, and many of those attending the Mass of Reparation came forward at the end of Mass to venerate the Image.

This is the second visit by the Latin Mass Society to Bedford and hopefully they will be back next year. Meanwhile, for those in Bedford who appreciate the Latin Mass, this is celebrated at Christ the King, Harrowden Road, every Sunday at 8.30 am.

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The Vine January 2020

OUR DIOCESAN PATRONAL FEAST



Bishop Peter was joined by priests, deacons and laity to celebrate our diocesan patronal feast of Our Lady Immaculate in December. The Mass also marked the opening of the year of the Word; The God Who Speaks.

In his homily, Bishop Peter said "The struggle to respond to the call of holiness in our lives is a struggle to put our trust in God and in his grace, rather than in our own efforts".



Many people were present in the cathedral and many more watched the Mass on the live stream through our Diocesan website. Bishop Peter told them all "You and I are built to be interactive, first of all with one another. Our relationships are key, with all their ups and downs. Part of being human is relating to one another. And, as we are made in the image of God, then surely God, too, must be interactive".



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Pictured here is a shoebox mountain at Thomas Becket, collected with the help of children and staff from St Gregory's, St Mary's and the Good Shepherd Primary Schools, a great service from the young people of the Saint Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Academy Trust, not just for their schools but in terms of showing compassion to those in need around the world.



JOYOUS CELEBRATIONS IN LUTON

Parish Priest Father Simon Penhala-gan, his parishioners and the local Knights of St Columba were very happy to have the Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in their midst on a joyous four-day pilgrim-age visit to , Luton from 15th to 18th November.

Special thanks go to Chito Contr-

eras and his team who organised a full programme of events including a Healing Mass, Praise and Wor-ship, Holy Rosary and school visits, which attracted crowds of pilgrims of all ages to a church resplendent with beautiful flower arrangements and sashes and ribbons in the colours of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

There was even a magnificent dis-play of blue and green balloons in the hall, and a large paper rosary in front of the altar with a prayer on each bead made by the pupils of nearby St Martin de Porres Primary School.

Special thanks, too, to Mrs Maureen Malone who led a wonderful and

tireless catering team who provided constant meals and refreshments for the Guardians, Knights of St Columba, parishioners and visitors alike. Parishioners, too, contributed to a delicious variety of traditional bring and share foods, uniting the whole community in celebration.



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