



Northampton Diocesan News

FREE Every Month

Fr. Tony's Golden

Fr. Tony Harris celebrates sixty years

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Thomas Becket returns

Revival of initiative for the handicapped.

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MPs greet CAFOD

CAFOD campaigners are guests of Parliament

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Blaze, Spirit blaze

Confirmation candidates quiz the bishop

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Three score and ten

Bishop Peter celebrated his 70th birthday on May 3 with receptions in Northampton and Winchester. Following a meeting of the Council of Priests on May 1st he entertained the priests and Permanent Deacons of the diocese to lunch. Vicar General Mgr Sean Healy paid tribute to the kindness of the Bishop, looked forward to more years of his ministry among us and presented him with a 'thank-you' cheque from the clergy. Bishop Peter was equally generous in his tribute to the clergy.



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Getting into print

Send news reports, photos and other material to the news editor, Mrs Margaret Busby, 1 Bewcastle Close, Bedford, MK41 8BQ: e-mail: vine02@

globalnet.co.uk We promise to print your news as soon as we can find space for it. Material should be e-mailed 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 minors 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 by request.

The content of each issue is decided by the editor, Fr. Paul Hardy, email: vine01@btopenworld.com

Views expressed in The Vine are not necessarily those of the editors or of the Diocese. The publisher of The Vine, Bellcourt, deals with advertising. Those wishing to place advertisements should telephone 01440 730399. Difficulties with distribution should be referred to Mrs Busby.

Rome

Two twentieth century popes are canonised

Half a million people attended the ceremony held this morning in St. Peter's Square for the canonisation of the "two Pope saints": John XXIII and John Paul II. Since it was opened to the public at 5 a.m., the square and its environs were filled with faithful from all over the world; Polish pilgrims, however, constituted one of the largest groups. The event was also attended by delegations from over a hundred countries, more than twenty Heads of State and many figures from the world of politics and culture, including the King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium, Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein, Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, the ex-president of the Republic of Poland Lech Walesa, the president of the Argentine parliament Julian Dominguez and the presidents of the European Union, Herman Van Rompuy, and the European



Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso. The celebration was also attended by Floribeth Mora Diaz and Sister Adele Labianca, the carer of Caterina Capitani – the two women who experienced the miracles attributed to John Paul II.

Banners with portraits of the two saints – the same ones used for their respective beatifications – were displayed on the facade of the Basilica. In the square, adorned with more than 30,000 roses from Ecuador, and in Via della Conciliazione, hundreds of thousands of faithful prepared for the celebration by reciting the chapel of Divine Mercy, intercalated with texts from the magisterium of both pontiffs and preceded by the Hymn to Blessed John XXIII, "Good Shepherd of Christ's flock". The prayer ended with the Hymn to Blessed John Paul II, "Open the doors to Christ".

Under intermittent rain, and during litanies invoking the protection of the saints, there began the procession of concelebrating cardinals and bishops who, before taking their places, greeted Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, who also concelebrated alongside the Holy Father. A few minutes after 10 a.m., Pope Francis entered the square and, before proceeding with the rite for the proclamation of the new saints, greeted and embraced the Pope emeritus.

Moments later Cardinal Angelo Amato S.D.B., prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, accompanied by the postulants, asked Pope Francis to inscribe the names of the two Blessed Popes in the Book of Saints, and the Holy Father pronounced the formula for canonisation:

"For the honour of the Blessed Trinity, the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the

Christian life, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and own own, after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother Bishops, we declare and define Blessed

John XXIII

John Paul II

be Saints and we enrol them among the Saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole Church.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen".

This was followed by the presentation to the Pope of the relics of the two saints, which were displayed on the altar throughout the ceremony; these were a phial of the blood of John Paul II, which had been displayed on 1 May 2011, and a piece of skin removed from the body of John XXIII when it was exhumed for his beatification on 3 September 2000.

To the delight of the crowds packing St. Peter's Square and the adjoining Via della Conciliazione, Pope Francis concluded Sunday morning celebrations with a slow ride right to the end of the avenue and up a side street in his pope-mobile, smiling and reaching out to all. After greeting the many official delegations present for the canonization ceremony, the Pope invited Rome Mayor, Ignazio Marino, to jump onto the pope-mobile for a few minutes for a quick embrace and a thank you to the city of Rome for doing so much to host the event. The Pope in the pope-mobile then proceeded all the way down Via della Conciliazione, received by the wildly cheering faithful with outstretched arms.

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Diamond for Fr Tony

Sacred Heart Parish, Leighton Buzzard, hosted a special evening to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Fr Tony Harris on Friday 25th April – the exact anniversary of his ordination.

Parish priest Fr John Danford and the parish offered to hold the evening for this much loved priest in recognition and gratitude for the friendship and help he gives us when he comes to supply.

Bishop Peter, Fr Mark Floody, Fr John Beirne, and Fr John McArdle joined Fr Tony and Fr John on the altar.

Fr Tony did not want the evening to be in competition with Bishop Peter's Jubilarians' Mass to be celebrated later in the Cathedral, but we were delighted to welcome many of his friends from parishes in Luton where he also supplies. Apologies were given by Mgr Kevin McGinnell who attended the same school as Tony – but a few years apart!

Fr Tony's brother, Chris, gave the first reading from Isaiah.

Bishop Peter's homily outlined the 60 years of priestly ministry, making the point that when Fr Tony was ordained, it was a few days before the his own 10th birthday! He recounted how Tony's Mother and Father were very devout Catholics, and his mother later admitted that on the sanctuary at her Nuptial Mass she prayed that the marriage would result in a son and that son would be a priest. They were not slow in suggesting this to him as a child, and when he was asked what he would be when he grew

up he used to respond "I am going to be Pope Harris the First!"

The family lived in a Redemptorist parish in Birmingham, and Tony sought to become a Redemptorist. He had a taste of the Order's junior seminary at the tender age of 10, but later gained entrance to the local Catholic Grammar School, enjoying the social life of his teenage years and learning – he thought – what he was giving up by becoming a priest.

Tony entered the Novitiate of the Order at the age of 17 and spent a year there before taking temporary vows and going to the seminary for 6 years before ordination on April 25th 1954. His first appointment was to the monastery in Liverpool and gave missions in and around the area. He then went to Perth and really enjoyed the work in Scotland, especially in Glasgow.

The Redemptorists had recently started publishing a magazine called Novena, to spread devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Succour. Tony submitted a couple of articles aimed at teenagers. They were liked and he joined the staff in London, at St Mary's at Clapham Common.

Tony and another priest started what they called the Sunday Bulletin, which is still going strong, and used by many parishes as the Sunday Newsletter. Tony wrote the homily for over 3 years. He was then sent to America to their confreres in St Louis, where they had a huge and successful publishing concern, to learn the trade. While there he was asked to go at weekends to parishes all over the US



to preach about our Mother of Perpetual Succour. At one parish the priest asked him to stay over the following day to speak to the Mothers' Club, which he did, and after his speech the lady sitting next to him said "Father, you speak English real good. Did you learn it before you came to America or have you picked the language up since you have been here?" Tony saw 32 of the 50 States in the 6 months he was there.

On returning to England he helped to found Alphonsus House in Hampshire for publishing work – which is still thriving today. He was contacted one day by a freelance journalist in London and this resulted in Tony being interviewed a few times on Southern Television.

Tony later decided to leave the Redemptorists, and Bishop Leo Parker accepted him into the Diocese of Northampton. Tony spent happy

years serving in Kettering, the Cathedral in Northampton, Bletchley and St Clare's in Aylesbury. He particularly enjoyed being a "Father" to the parishioners and feeling that he belonged.

While at Bletchley he was sent by the Bishop on a radio and television course, and in consequence was invited on occasions to record the late-night Epilogue for Anglia Television.

After 15 years in Aylesbury, Fr Tony had to take early retirement for medical reasons. He went to his family's holiday home in Spain. He enjoyed this for about 10 years, doing a programme of music and chat for a local radio station, then asked to come home to the diocese. He was offered an apartment in Luton and has now been there since 2005 enjoying the supply work in Luton and Leighton Buzzard. He says it keeps him happy, and keeps him young!

Palm Sunday partners



Palm Sunday in St Teresa's Church in Beaconsfield would not be the same without a visit from Polyanne, the donkey rescued from the 'Knackers Yard' in 1997.

Polyanne is pictured making her regular Palm Sunday visit to the Church with her handler Linda and Fr. Francis.

Picture Kevin Broderick

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Slavery by another name

30 women from across the diocese met at Sacred Heart, Leighton Buzzard, on 29th March for a day organised by the diocesan core group of the National Board of Catholic Women and led by Sr Patricia Mulhall csb.

Sr Patricia has been fighting human trafficking since 2005 with. She brought to the day a wide range of experience with three groups (see end) of lobbying to change laws, and of caring for victims – and a fund of current information, much of it harrowing. The main focus of the day was trafficking for the ‘sex trade’. Sr Patricia focused on the three main elements of human trafficking:

First: The Buyers: Trafficking for the ‘sex trade’ has become a great chain of ‘demand’, by people from richer countries, and ‘supply’, from poorer countries. It is fed by a kind of ‘consumerist’ attitude towards women and children – an expectation, by those who can pay, of instant gratification without consequences to themselves: without any ties or relationship, or even any requirement to be caring or sensitive to a human being.

There is no typical ‘buyer profile’: the men come from all strata of society, from boys to grandfathers, individually or in ‘lads’ groups’. Across the world, 1 in 8 men buy sex: from 7% in the UK to 73% in Thailand, many of them ‘respectable’ men in their local communities. During big international events, the numbers are swollen by ‘sex tourism’ – the Olympics, sporting World Cups – while a regular modern phenomenon is the ‘stag party’ abroad.

The Bought: 83% of victims of trafficking are women and children. The average age is getting younger and younger. Most are poor and vulnerable and have been tricked into leaving their homes, families and countries. Most of those trafficked into the UK are from Albania. Many are very religious and, finding themselves abused and powerless, imprisoned, forced to accept large numbers of ‘clients’ a day, they are overcome with shame and come to believe that it is somehow their own fault. If they escape, or are rescued, it takes a very long time, and a lot of loving support, to re-build their sense of self-worth. Many can never return to their families.

The Business: Trafficking for sex is the second biggest business in the world (after the arms trade), worth \$32 billion a year. The ‘demand’ from the buyers is fed by pornography, especially its ease of access online, and by cultural factors that affect the

position and treatment of women (from patriarchy to stereotypes of what it is to be a man), while the ‘supply’ is fed by extreme poverty and by wars and conflicts – women desperate to escape from their home circumstances are tricked by promises of a better life. Other victims are simply kidnapped. The legalisation of prostitution in some countries has given rise to an immediate, and vast, increase in trafficking, and a mushrooming in the numbers of brothels in those areas, particularly along the borders between Western and Eastern Europe. Just decriminalising women in these circumstances has led inexorably to many more women becoming victims. Germany, for example, has become a magnet for traffickers from Eastern Europe and Africa. Trafficking has gone up by 70% in 5 years. Meanwhile, the number of prostituted children in the Netherlands has risen by 11,000 since legalisation of prostitution there, and the ‘sex industry’ has grown by 25%.

What Can We Do? Sr Patricia’s strongest message, from her own experience, is that it is the demand that has to be stemmed. She advocates the ‘Nordic model’ (based on laws in Scandinavian countries) and encourages us all to lobby, work and pray for the following which are needed together. Their success depends on the whole package.

No criminal penalties for ‘prostitutes’

Funding of services for disadvantaged women

Criminalising pimps, brothel owners, and traffickers

Prosecution of the ‘buyers’

Campaign to stop demand through public education (e.g. ‘Real men don’t buy sex’ and ‘Not For Sale’)

Setting up of exit strategies for vic-

tims – alternative work, rehabilitation, education...

Where involvement in the buying of sex is illegal, fewer traffickers find it worth their while to engage in their ‘vile activity’, as Pope Francis has called it. Sr Patricia urges us all to get informed, be aware, and speak out. We need to be ready to challenge behaviour, and be critical of media and the internet. We could also contribute to the religious who campaign and lobby or run ‘safe houses’ for victims (there are 100 such houses, for example, in Italy, and the cost of full re-habilitation of one woman is £30,000).

And finally – let us never forget the power of prayer and of collective witness.

Those of us who were there prayed with Sr Patricia. We are very unlikely to forget what we heard, and learned,



Demand that has to be stemmed



that day.

See TRAC (Trafficking Awareness raising and Campaigning group) at www.traconline.org.uk

UNANIMA International, an NGO working at the UN

RENATE (Religious in Europe networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation)

Link to the National Board of Catholic Women is:

Maura Potter (01628 666278) or maurapotter.nbcw@hotmail.co.uk



A touch of the East

His Excellency Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios, the Malankara Catholic bishop from India visited the Malankara Catholic community in Luton recently.

He was welcomed on his arrival at Holy Ghost Catholic Church Luton on Holy Saturday morning by community members.

Then His Excellency celebrated Holy Eucharist in the Malankara rite, assisted by Fr. Daniel Kulangara - Chaplain and Co-

Ordinator of the U.K Malankara Catholic missions.

A public meeting was arranged after Holy Mass, and then the people enjoyed a delicious lunch at which everyone warmly greeted the Bishop. Holy Ghost parish priest Monsignor Kevin McGinnell was also present on the occasion. Syro Malankara Eucharist is held every fourth Saturday of the month at Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Luton.

Forgotten? But Not Gone!



You may have heard the phrase 'gone but not forgotten' well I would like to turn this on its head about the St. Thomas · Becket Foundation. The Foundation was formed in the late 1990s by Canon Kevin O'Driscoll, some families with young children with disabilities, and some supporters. The original aim with the help of Milton Keynes Development Corporation was to provide residential homes for people with disabilities. However the Council changed its policy to what became known as 'iCare' in the Community. Residential housing was no longer an option.

The work progressed logically from there to the appointment of a Pastoral Worker, Sr. Marie Power. When she left she was replaced by John Bonner and Angela Davis. Unfortunately St. Thomas · Becket Foundation became a casualty of the financial crisis and the workers had to be made redun-

dant. However the work has not gone away and in spite of a few years in the doldrums the interest is still there. The situation has not changed. We still have families with young people with disabilities and the needs are the same if not greater. Sr. Marie now has some time which she can devote to the work. What we need to know is the extent of what is happening out there. Particularly if you are a parent or family member of a person with disabilities do you feel isolated from your parish community? What are your needs and how do you feel they could be met by St. Thomas · Becket Foundation. Do you feel that there is something you could contribute to the work of STBF?

We will be organising an event in July that you might like to attend. We will be let you have the details if you want to contact us. The contact numbers are: Sen Ballantyne. 07930305362 or e-mail ballantynes2000@yahoo.co.uk Sr. Marie 07989048522 or e-mail mpowerhfb@yahoo.co.uk Fr. Kevin O'Driscoll 07545807483 or e-mail holyfamily@freeuk.com Finally I would like to pay tribute to those members of the foundation who were so supportive throughout their time with the Foundation, Patrick Smyth, Maureen Grant, and Raymond Heavey. May they rest in peace!

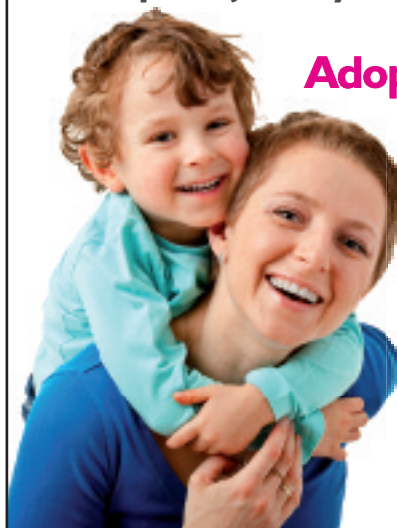
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'I rejoice in the many dedicated members of the Church in our parishes who give so much in service'

A packed congregation greeted the Bishop, more than sixty priests, many deacons and two Knights of the Sepulchre as they entered the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday.

Bishop Peter said it was a highpoint of the life of the Church.

In his homily he said: "Every day and especially on Sundays I think of all the gatherings around the Diocese in parishes and schools, and religious communities. I

think of our deacons and, above all, I think of our priests, my principal co-workers, who are in the sanctuary today, a visible sign of the communion of the priests with their bishop.

"We are the Local Church in the Diocese of Northampton, sacramentally united in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

He said that as sharers in Christ's consecration we share in his mission.

"When the new chrism is consecrated I shall pray, "Father, through the sign of holy chrism you dispense your life and love to all people. By anointing them with the Spirit, you strengthen all who have been reborn in baptism. Through that anointing you transform them into the likeness of Christ your Son and give them a share in his royal, priestly and prophetic work."

"In some of our churches the consecrated Oil of Chrism, together with the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens, has a place of honour, a visible reminder of who we are and of our calling to be God's holy people.

"Of course, living out that vocation is a challenge which is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. Earlier this week Pope Francis spoke to seminarians outside Rome urging them not to become "half priests", men who only lived their priesthood as office holders, fearful of giving themselves totally to Christ. I think that is a real possibility, not only for

priests, but for every member of the Church, being "half Catholics", not fulfilling our potential in our own growth and in our mission beyond the walls of the church.

"I rejoice in the many dedicated members of the Church in our parishes who give so much in service to both the parish and/or the wider community where people need so much support, those in poverty and families where both parents are having to do

perhaps two jobs to support the family and do not have the time to be a family together. Many of us are unable to hold everything together because of our economic system, and do

not know where to turn.

"Here is needed our awareness and sensitive involvement and support rooted in an openness to the Holy Spirit in prayer - the Spirit with which we are sealed at the anointing with holy chrism - and in lives lived with integrity according to the teaching of the Church in the power of the Spirit, who is our helper, our guide, our friend.

"Today, as the Oil of Chrism is consecrated and the Oil of Catechumens blessed, not only is the understanding of our place in the Body of Christ reinforced, there is a call to prayer for the catechumens being baptised and the candidates being received into the Church at the Easter Vigils around the Diocese this Saturday and who will be anointed with this new oil.

"We give thanks for the increase in our communities and we rejoice that "Christ loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father."

While I salute the whole of God's anointed people in the Diocese, I want especially to greet the priests, whose hands were anointed with Chrism at their ordination, priests of the Diocese, religious priests, and priests from many parts of the world. Among



you I do not recognise what Pope Francis called "half priests!" I know how committed you are.

"I want to thank you for your faithfulness and unrelenting service in the parishes, and to let you know how much I appreciate all that you are and do. None of us is perfect. All of us are sinners. But God has chosen you and he has chosen me, and he works his way through our weaknesses. If we had it all together, there would be no space for God!

"All of us are conscious of our reduced number and very much in my prayers are Tim Russ, Brendan Gorman, Joe Williams and Frank Calnan who have died since the last Chrism Mass. But also in my prayers are our students for the priesthood, six of them are here today, while another is in Rome. Thanks to prayers offered around the Diocese for priestly vocations, I am hopeful that another two students may be starting their studies this September.

"For now I invite those of us ordained priest to be lifted up in the renewal of priestly promises as men

of prayer and as faithful stewards of the mysteries of God. May I urge you, in this age of individualism, to be true to the liturgy of the Church and its teachings. Do not short-change people who in this ephemeral world are looking for the truth and riches of the mystery of Christ.

"One final thought for us all, people, deacons, priests and bishop, from my rugby days. As part of our preparation for a game, there was a generous application of ointment and oil to cope with the stresses of the match and to enable the joints to be flexible. In the serious game of the life and mission of the Church, with fewer priests and much greater lay participation, serving a complex society seemingly distancing itself from religion but with a deep need for Christ, I am sure that the Lord is calling us to be flexible and to change some of our tactics and some of the ways we have always done things. As God's anointed people, we have that flexibility. There is no need to be afraid. The Holy Spirit of courage and wisdom will help us and guide us so that the splendour of holiness may shine on the world from every place and thing anointed with the oils I am about to bless and consecrate in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

After the homily the priests renewed their priestly promises.

Then the deacons brought up the Oils - the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of the Catechumens both to be blessed, and the Oil for the Holy Chrism which the Bishop consecrated.

The Mass then continued as normal.

Chrism Mass 2014



Pictures: Above, the priests renew their promises. Top, Bishop Peter blesses the Oil of Chrism

Chrism Mass pictures by Margaret Busby



Left: proclaiming the Word; breathing of the chrism; filling the Pastoral Area oil stocks.
Right: presenting the oils to the bishop; presenting to the Deans

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Bishop Peter goes back to school



Bishop Peter recently shared an RE lesson with a Year 1 class preparing for Easter.

On the 24th April the Bishop visited St Joseph's Catholic Lower School in Bedford and spent a morning with the children. He had a very busy

time! He toured the school, attended a whole school liturgy, had coffee with the staff and then joined a Year 1 and Year 3 RE lesson working with the children on their tasks.

To finish off the morning, he joined the junior chaplaincy team for lunch

in the hall and was interviewed by the school journalists for their newspaper.

St Joseph's enjoyed having him very much and do hope he will visit them again soon.

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Pope Francis

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Divine Mercy visits Bedford



A recent Mass and Divine Mercy Service in the Church of The Holy Child and St Joseph, Bedford, was attended by a good number of people.

Fr Ks. Krzysztof Poswiata, from the congregation of St Michael the Archangel in Poland, had brought a relic of St Faustina, known as the Apostle of Divine Mercy. He was accompanied by Sister Justyna Klimek from the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy (St Faustina's Order.) After the service, people waited patiently to kiss the relic.

Throughout Saint Faustina's life she had visions of Jesus and conversations with Him.

Two decades after her death the Divine Mercy devotion was banned by the Vatican but was approved again in 1978 and she was canonised in April 2000. The Divine Mercy devotion is now followed by over 100 million Catholics.



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Book Review

CS Lewis: A Life. By Alister McGrath. Hodder & Stoughton. £20

Alister McGrath has several qualifications that give his biography a uniquely sympathetic slant: like Lewis he is from Northern Ireland; he is also a convert and an Oxford don. He has written a knowledgeable and insightful account of the life of this “eccentric genius and reluctant prophet” as Lewis is described in his sub-title. To make his task easier, McGrath looks at his subject from three vantage points: Lewis’s academic life, his Christian apologetics and his hugely popular children’s books. The author is surely right to decide that his subject’s vivid imagination was formed early on by the wild and dramatic landscape of Northern Ireland as well as by his rambling family home. He is also correct in suggesting that the death of Lewis’s beloved mother from cancer when he was nine and his older brother twelve caused a lasting emotional shock that deeply affected both her sons. McGrath issues a slight corrective to Lewis’s bleak account of his school-days at Malvern – “Wyvern” in *Surprised by Joy*. Lewis’s father, Albert, with whom the writer had a difficult and distant relationship, is also given his due in this volume: he had the foresight to recognise his gifted son was not flourishing at Malvern and in an imaginative choice, sent him as a private pupil to his own old school-master, William Kirkpatrick, an inspired teacher. Lewis senior, a Belfast solicitor, also supported his son generously for many years. Lewis repaid this paternal kindness with selfishness; he was later to write, “I

treated my father abominably and no sin of my whole life now seems to be so serious.” When McGrath tries to explain the relationship between Lewis and Mrs Moore, the mother of a friend who died in WW1 in 1917 and with whom he shared a house for over 30 years, his judgment is less sure. He sounds ponderous, suggesting a more intimate relationship between the pair despite lack of real proof and ignoring the more likely explanation: that this warm and hospitable if demanding woman fulfilled Lewis’s longing for a mother-substitute who could provide him with the happy home he so tragically lost in childhood. McGrath is harsh in his assessment of Joy Davidman, whose relationship with Lewis is famously depicted in the film “Shadowlands”. He writes that Lewis became this “American divorcee’s sugar daddy” and that she deliberately set her cap at him. But Lewis would hardly have written his slim classic account of bereavement after Joy’s death, *A Grief Observed*, had there not been, by the end, great love on both sides. Where McGrath shows judicious and sensitive treatment is his analysis of the evolution of Lewis’s Christian beliefs which culminated in his famous wartime talks – one of those happy conjunctions of a man



and his medium which, but for WW2, would almost certainly not have happened. Lewis had, incorrectly, seen himself early on as a poet. McGrath explains why the failed poet turned out to be a master of prose: “The qualities we associate with good poetry – such as an appreciation of the sound of words, rich and suggestive analogies and images, vivid descriptions and lyrical sense, are found in Lewis’s prose”, he comments. This, surely, is one of the reasons for his continued popularity; as a writer Lewis is lucid, learned and with the gift of describing complex ideas in a fresh and persuasive fashion within a musical, rhythmic style.

Francis Phillips

Notre Dame Senior Girls

Approximately ninety members of the Northampton Notre Dame Association recently gathered for their annual Reunion Lunch, held at the Marriott Hotel, Northampton. Their guests, the Mayor and Mayoress, joined Monsignor Tony McDermott in paying

tribute to six longstanding, retiring members of their committee, all of whom were over the age of eighty. Floral tributes were presented to Mary March, Margaret Barnes, Eleanor Howland, Jackie Stanton, Christine Forskitt and Jose Sear. Monsignor Tony also

presented Jose with a papal blessing in recognition of twenty eight years service as President of the Association.

Margaret Bradbury
President,
Northampton
Notre Dame
Association.



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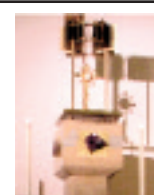
So then the Lord after He had spoken to them, was taken up into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God. Mark 16.v19



Feast of the Ascension

Rosary gathering/procession
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Further information available at
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CAFOD in the House

Local campaigns volunteers Aideen and Kevin Forgarty (Northampton) and CAFOD Diocesan manager Deborah Purfield were three of over 100 campaigners from across England and Wales who were celebrated in March at a parliamentary event hosted by CAFOD for their commitment to campaigning on issues that affect the world's poorest communities.

They were joined by several MPs and



Adrian Chiles

high profile CAFOD supporters, including TV presenters Dermot O'Leary and Adrian Chiles, for the annual event that honours CAFOD campaigners who regularly write to and meet with their local MPs to discuss issues that affect vulnerable communities around the world, such as climate change.

Held at the Terrace Pavilion in the House of Commons, guests had been invited by the Rt. Hon. Tom Clarke CBE MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of CAFOD, to celebrate their active citizenship.

Aideen said, 'I've been involved with



Dermot O'Leary

lots of CAFOD campaigns, and I think it's important to raise issues with local powerbrokers. It is

empowering to know that I can educate my MP about global concerns as well as influencing some of the decisions they make. I am lucky to live somewhere I can have such a dialogue with those in power-so many people in the places CAFOD works simply don't have the option.

Ed Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and Caroline Flint MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change also attended the event. Ed Davey thanked Aideen and her fellow correspondents for their efforts in forcing leaders to acknowledge their responsibilities and take action. He also encouraged them to give MPs as hard a time as you like. Deborah observed, "An event like this reception, the first I have attended, is incredibly energising. Listening to comments made by so many MPs has inspired me to continue campaigning and to keep up the pressure on our MPs, knowing this really makes a difference. I didn't realise what a huge impact our campaigning has on MPs. Contacting MPs brings the issues of International Development into sharp focus and reminds MPs to keep these issues on the agenda."



Caroline Flint

Campaigners also heard from Adrian Chiles, who recently visited Latin America to see CAFOD's work in action. He said: "At CAFOD we always keep in mind the millions of people around the world still fighting and dying for the rights that we're exercising here this evening. We should never take these rights for granted."

CAFOD will soon be launching a new campaign to tackle climate change, which is keeping many people in the world's poorest countries trapped in poverty and causing many vulnerable people to go hungry. CAFOD's grass-roots campaigners will play a key role in highlighting this work to government and encouraging political action to reduce the impacts of climate change across the world. Please do join them by visiting cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Campaigning-guide/Get-to-know-your-MP

Enormously generous and hospitable yet so simple in his lifestyle



Bishop Peter's homily at Fr Frank Calnan's funeral

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I have the sense of four families gathered in prayer for Father Frank today. There is the family of his birth led by his sister, Margaret, who tells me that as the youngest of the family even in his eighties Father Frank was known as "the baby". There is the family of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart Fathers. Within the family Father Frank was a professed religious for more than sixty one years. And it is so good to have with us their provincial, Father John Kelly, and several of his confreres. There is the family of the Diocese of Northampton in which Father Frank exercised most of his fifty-six years plus of priestly ministry and where he drew priests together for the Patronal feast of the parish and for a Christmas lunch – a real priests' priest - and, indeed, where he was always loyal to the Bishop, all six of us! The fourth family is, of course, the family of the parish. He was your founding father and your spiritual father for more than forty years until his death on Saturday, 15 March, still "with his boots on" as he had always hoped.

In a way those four families are united as one family in the Sacred Heart of Jesus whose blood was poured out for us on the cross so that we could be reconciled with God, be forgiven our sins and share in the divine life of the Trinity. There is our faith and there is our hope, for that one sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the world bore fruit in the resurrection and ascension of Our Saviour and the gift of eternal life.

In the Gospel Jesus thanks his Father for revealing this mystery of faith, not to the learned and the clever, but to those who are childlike enough to put their trust in him. Jesus invites us to come to him, to learn from him as we take up our cross for he is gentle and humble of heart and it is in him that we shall find rest for our souls.

The spirit of that Gospel is what underpinned Father Frank's priestly life and ministry. He was very straightforward and direct in his loyalty to the Church and her teaching but so compassionate with those of us who struggled to be faithful to his Lord and Master. He was humble, too, seeking advice even with his vast experience and accumulated wisdom. Only late last year he came to see me, and I felt that it should have been him advising me not the other way round. Enormously generous and hospitable yet so simple in his lifestyle, he lived out Paul's exhortation in our first reading to look for the things of heaven where Christ is, letting our thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on earth.

Do not think that I am trying to paint

a picture of a saint. Father Frank was very direct and you knew exactly where you stood with him. He was as human as the rest of us, and he would want us to ask God to forgive his sins and have mercy on his soul. What I do know is that he was a son of God, a committed Sacred Heart Father, utterly loyal to the Church, a loyalty that has been demanding especially for priests, like Father Frank, ordained before the Second Vatican Council. Yet he responded to the direction given by the Council, encouraging parishioners to take a more active part in the life and mission of the Church, building up this community and building this very church of the Sacred Heart.

In his forty plus years here I cannot begin to imagine the number of people he has touched on the journey of faith. When I celebrated Sunday Mass here three weeks ago I met people he had married, whose children he had baptised and married, and whose grandchildren he had baptised. How many joyful and sorrowful moments in the lives of the community he must have shared. Each of you will have your own thoughts and memories, Margaret and the family, the Sacred Heart Fathers, priests and people of the Diocese and especially in Northampton, and the parish family here in Weston Favell. I would like us to place those thoughts and memories with our prayers on the altar as our gifts are prepared.

I want to thank Margaret and the family for the gift of a brother, of a son to the Church. I want to thank the Sacred Heart Fathers for the ministry of one of their number in our Diocese. I want to thank the priests of the Diocese and of the Ordinariate who rallied round Father Frank when he was ill. And I want to thank the parish here for the love and support of your parish priest, especially those of you who have worked with him and cared for him for more than forty years.

I know that Father Frank's favourite colour was red. It's great to see the photograph of him in his red jumper on the front of the order of service, just as it was great to see the new red carpet in place when I came to the parish three Sundays ago. Parishioners were relieved that his choice of red was not too vivid! Red is the colour of the Sacred Heart and the blood Christ poured out for us that we might have eternal life. That is the sure hope in which we commend a faithful priest and brother to the Lord asking him to have mercy on his soul and raise him up on the last day. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace

Amen

Reflecting the joy of the Gospel

At the conclusion of the Year of Faith Pope Francis gave the Church the wonderful and inspiring Apostolic Exhortation: The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium).

He wrote "in this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come."

From 24-26 July 2014 at the RE Centre, Luton, there will be a non-residential summer school where invited speakers will lead us in an overview of the major themes of this document. They will help us to reflect on our pastoral practice in the light of the inspiration and challenges that Pope Francis brings us. The sessions are open to everyone. They will be useful for anyone in parishes and schools who are interested or involved in any kind of ministry in the Church - at parish, school, pastoral area or diocesan level.

On Thursday 24 July Fr Simon Penhalagan will be presenting the 'The Joy of the Gospel' and sharing his practical experience of evangelisation. Fr Simon was ordained in June 2008, and three years ago returned to full time ministry within the Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism where he serves as president. He has a wealth of experience in evangelisation and is a skilled and gifted communicator. He is a member of the Northampton Diocesan Evangelisation Team and Chairman

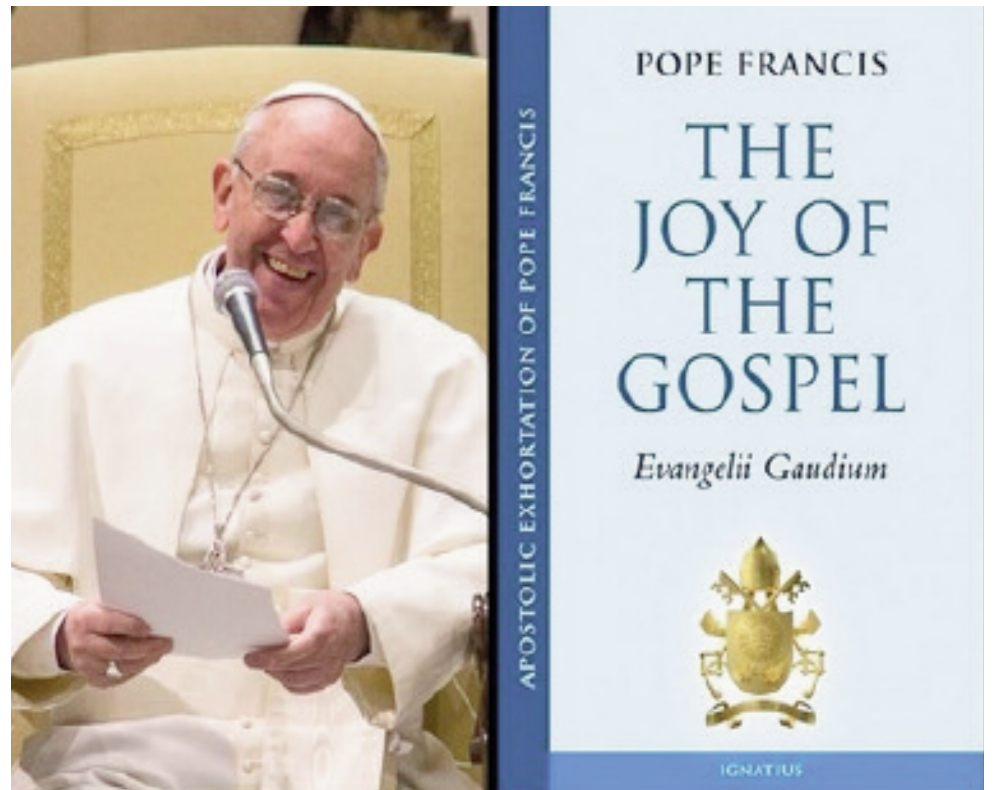
of the Bishop's Youth Ministry Liaison Group.

On Friday 25 July Monsignor Kevin McGinnell will explore the theme of 'Celebrating with Joy' looking at the implications of the document for our understanding and celebration of liturgy and preaching. Pope Francis writes "the preacher has to contemplate the word, but he also has to contemplate his people."

Bishop Peter Doyle will celebrate a Conference Mass on this second day.

On Saturday 26 July Tony Castle and Neil Roseman (NYMO) will inspire us with resources and ideas to help us share the joy of the Gospel with young people. This day would be ideal support for youth leaders, catechists, parents, carers, school chaplains, teachers and anyone who with a ministry to young people.

Tony Castle has been in Catholic Education or Catholic Youth Work for much of his life. His first books, in 1970's, promoted new ideas in youth ministry; then followed books to support and help teachers with assemblies. While Head of Religious Studies at a Catholic High School, Tony was one of the writers who produced R.E. programmes Icons, All That I Am and Journey in Love. His Confirmation programme, Called to Life, now has an accompanying prayer book. Some of the books of spirituality, e.g. Meeting Christ in the Supermarket have been translated into Polish, Hungarian and Chinese. After retirement Tony served the Diocese of



Brentwood as a Diocesan Inspector of schools. He is currently the Ecumenical Officer for that Diocese.

Neil Roseman is the Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator. His responsibilities include the vision, strategy and development of the NYMO office as well as managing the team and budget. He represents youth ministry at diocesan and national meetings. Neil created and heads the up the twice yearly Lux weekends, which attract around 100

young people, and the youth Lourdes pilgrimage. He also leads the Diocesan Young Leadership Salt and Light Team, working on projects in their local parishes.

More information is available on the booking form from the NORES office 01582 723312 (ext 6) or via www.nores.org.uk (events). We look forward to welcoming you.

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Blaze, Spirit blaze



The NYMO-run confirmation days at Thornton College, Milton Keynes and the Holy Ghost Parish Centre, Luton, were a fruitful experience for all involved. With almost 300 young people taking the opportunity to be affirmed before they are confirmed, the two days also gave an excellent chance for the catechists to receive support and encouragement in their vital work.

The main talk from Liam Lynch, a school chaplain from the archdiocese of Westminster, focussed on 'what happens next' and how we can support each other in faith so that the 'baton' isn't dropped. Liam spoke about how we're all part of a tradition

of Catholicism that goes back two thousand years and so it's vital that we carry on developing our faith and passing it on to others.

The vibrancy and enthusiasm of the young people and catechists is a testament to the excellent work going on around the Diocese in confirmation preparation. This years 'confirmandi' had the opportunity to spend time with the Bishop, he celebrated Mass and then answered questions from the young people in a time called 'grill the Bishop'. Bishop Peter answered questions on his call to priesthood, a day in his life and how he likes to relax, giving an insight into what it takes to lead our Diocese.



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