

# Dunstable



# celebrates Golden Jubilee

Story, page 5



### 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

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#### Lancaster

Rev David Skillen, a Permanent Deacon from the Diocese of Lancaster is the first Permanent Deacon to be commissioned as a Chaplain in the Royal Air Force. He was commissioned following training at RAF Cranwell as part of a specialist entrants course which included a Salvation Army and Presbyterian Chaplains, doctors and a lawyer. David, a former police officer and teacher has been posted as Catholic Chaplain to Royal Air Force Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. Father James Caulfield, Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain to the RAF said: "I am very proud that David will be serving as the first Permanent Deacon to be commissioned as a Chaplain in the



David receives his Faculty as chaplain from Fr. Caulfield



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RAF. We desperately need more priests as Chaplains in the RAF but there is a great deal that a deacon can offer in provision of pastoral support to service personnel and their families "Deacon David's commissioning is good news for the Bishopric of the Forces", said Bishop Richard Moth, Bishop of the Forces, "and will help us to explore new possibilities for chaplaincy. Given his experience, I am sure Deacon David will bring much to his role and I ask everyone in our RAF community especially to keep him and his family in prayer as he begins his new ministry."

### Liverpool



A Merseyside teenager who faced heartbreak after a lost passport threatened to end a once-in-a-lifetime chance of singing in front of the Pope was able to set off to Rome after all. Chorister Bridget Boland, 14, feared she would not be able to join the rest of the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral choir who set off to the Vatican on Friday. The panic began when her mum, Jane, realised the passport she thought was her daughter's was actually her own – and Bridget's was nowhere to be found.

Mrs Boland was told the situation did not meet the criteria for the issuing of an emergency passport, but the Passport Office made a dramatic U-turn following intervention by the Liverpool ECHO newspaper. An appointment was fixed for Mrs Boland at the Liverpool Passport Office where she was issued with an emergency passport allowing Bridget to travel. Mrs Boland, from Crosby, said: "I didn't believe it, I didn't think we were going to get a happy ending with this one.

"This is a once-in- a-lifetime opportunity for her to represent her city by singing at the Vatican," she said; "it would have been a huge disappointment if she hadn't been able to go."

The Cathedral choir accompanied the new Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Malcolm McMahon, to the Vatican to sing at the Mass as he was presented to Pope Francis. The invitation for the choir to sing at the Papal Mass on 29 June was approved by Pope Francis himself. Canon Anthony O'Brien, Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral, said the accolade for the Cathedral choir was a tribute to the choristers' "dedication and talent". The 45-member Cathedral Choir of boy and girl choristers is drawn from St Edward's College, West Derby, plus 14 lay clerks. Over the past year, the choir has recorded three CDs, including featuring on Jack Topping's debut, Wonderful World, which was No 1 in the classical music charts. During the Mass, Archbishop Malcolm received a pallium - a woollen shoulder band. These are given to newly created Metropolitan Archbishops by the Pope on the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul. The pallium is worn during Mass and is a sign of communion with the Pope and Church leadership. It is made of wool taken from lambs presented to the Pope on 21 January, the Feast of St Agnes.

### Korea

Government officials in South Korea are "very nervous" about security arrangements for an August visit by Pope Francis, the AsiaNews service reports. The Pope will be in South Korea for Asia World Youth Day and the beatification of 124 Korean martyrs. The dramatic highlight of his visit will be a Mass celebrated in Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul. Police are expected to restrict access to the Square, which will accommodate about 200,000 people.

Korean officials have pressed for tight security around the Pope, AsiaNews reports. Pope Francis has declined to travel in bulletproof cars in the past.

### **Milton Keynes**



Did you know that there's a library of books on religion and spirituality, free to join and available to everyone, in Milton Keynes?

There is a good range of classic as well as contemporary writers, many from Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox traditions, which cover theology, prayer and spirituality. Many of the books are ideal for bible study, paxtoral work and teaching. New titles are added to the stock regularly, and almost all the books can be borrowed.

The library, part of the Well, in Newport Road, Willen, is comfortable, well-lit and welcoming. It has wi-fi access, photocopying and plenty of space for reading and quiet study. Bible study groups, as well as individuals, are welcome. There are facilities for tea and coffee, and lunch is available. Membership is free, and open to everyone.



### Congratulations and Jubilations

Veteran parish priests, a little more stooped than last year; fine weather for a picnic lunch in Bishop Peter's garden; former parishioners become old friends -it could become the diocesan social event of the year. This year there were nine jubilarians concelebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving. Marking 50 years of priesthood were Mgr Peter Hocken, Fr. Anthony Harris, Fr. Bernard Hughes, Fr. John Fleming and Fr Paddy Feeney SPS, although not all were present for the Mass.Canon Kevin O'Driscoll was there to celebrate forty years of priesthood, and Canon John Udris thirty. Bringing an extra touch of distinction was the Principal Celebrant, Most Reverend Kevin McDonald, 11<sup>th</sup> bishop of Northampton and Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark. He was marking forty years of priesthood. More modestly, Bishop Peter was give thanks for his nine years as Bishop of Northampton.

In his sermon, Archbishop Kevin made the theme of thanksgiving his focus. 'Its hard to believe' he said, that ordination was so long ago. There's a sense of wonder and thanksgiving that we have survived'. 'We give thanks for the gift of priesthood, and for the good people we have served along the way. Though we can never measure the growth of the Kingdom of God, we are thankful for the good which we have achieved. We give thanks for the part we have played in the story of salvation'.

The lunch was festive, The jubilarians expressed their gratitude for the feast which had been prepared for them. Archbishop Kevin cut the cake. The clergy sang 'Ad multos annos plurimosque annos" (May you enjoy years without end). And Bishop Peter acknowledged a final celebrity, Canon Patrick Carey, now in his sixty second year as a priest.





Pictures from top: the end of Mass: Bishop Peter introduces the jubilarians (l-r) Fr. Tony Harris, Fr. Paddy Feeney SPS, Archbishop Kevin, Canon Kevin O'Driscoll, Canon John Udris, Fr. John Fleming. Archbishop Kevin cuts the cake, Canon Patrick Carey.





απόπ Sonn Carls, Fr. Sonn Fleming. Αι choisnop Kevin cuis the care, Canon Patrick Carey. Α ΟΓΓΝΓΟΙΜΠ ΓΓΓΟΓΜΙΣΙΜ

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, loved, adored and glorified throughoutthe whole world, now and forever. Say six times a day for nine days.

#### FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY And a great sign appeared in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon was under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. Apocalypse 12, v 1

You are invited to a Rosary procession (6th Anniversary) to honour the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the vigil of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Thursday 14th of August 2014 at the Angelus time of 6pm

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### Along the pilgrim way

Parishioners of Sacred Heart, Flitwick, were joined by people from Dunstable, Shefford, Bedford and Turvey for an amazing and uplifting week walking part of the Camino Way, the ancient pilgrim route from France to Spain.

With twenty four fellow pilgrims we learned about the ancient route, the exquisite churches and cathedrals along the way, and many of the pilgrims managed to walk forty kilometres of the Camino itself.

Each day we were blessed by communal celebration of morning and evening prayer prepared by Fr. Krzystof ``tomczak. The days were further blseed by daily Mass in the most amazing locations. One of our hotels had been a monastery, and we were privileged to have Mass in the chapel. We also had Mass in the chapels in the cathedral at Burges, the Romanesque Basilica of St. Isadore in Leon, a stunning monastic chapel, local churches and a modern chapel outside Santiago where one of Fr. Krzystof's order was based.

This all culminated in a Mass in a side chapel across the aisle from the very spot where the relics of St. James the Apostle have rested for centuries. On the final day we attended the evening pilgrim Mass in the cathedral at Santiago, watching in awe as the Botafumeiro (thurible) swung across the transept of the church.

All in all this pilgrimage far exceeded all expectations - the hotels were fabulous, the guides well informed and the weather excellent every day. The fellowship of all the pilgrims together in faith will last beyond time. 'Friendship begun in this world will be taken up again, never to be broken' (St. Francis de Sales).

Roslyn Penn



The Way of St. James or St. James's Way (commonly known by its name in Spanish: El Camino de Santiago) is the name of any of the pilgrimage routes (most commonly the Camino Francés or French route) to the shrine of the apostle St. James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain, where tradition has it that the remains of the saint are buried.









### **Dunstable marks golden diversity**



St. Mary's church in Dunstable marked its Golden Jubilee on June 22 with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter, followed by a picnic. The wonderful gathering to mark fifty years since the church's consecration featured a global theme to recognise the diversity of the parish.

The celebrations began with an ulifting Zimbabwean choir led by Fred Chegwende that heralded an Olympic-style procession of the forty countries represented in the local parish.

Bishop Peter then blessd wall hangings of St. Vincent de Paul and St Louis de Marillac in recognition of the Catholic community's indebtedness to the Vincentians, who have led the parish since 1927, and for the Daughters of Charity who also blessed it with their presence for many years.

Sisters from the Daughters of Charity were among the packed congregation, along with visiting priests and dignitaries, including Dunstable's Mayor and Lady Mayorness. Everyone was presented with a Miraculous Medal as a reminder of the day.

The global theme continued throughout the service, with prayers read in languages including Italian, Spanish and Filipino. During Mass, children from the parish, including those from local St. Mary's school, presented the church with a mural of flags from around the world before singing *One World*, *One People*. The world music continued when Victoria Moyle, dressed in Polish national costume, played guitar and sang a beautiful hymn to the black Madonna, much to the congregation's delight.

But the loudest and longest applause was reserved for Fr. Kieran Magovern, who has just returned to St. Mary's after recovering from a cyclong accident in France. Fr. Magovern took the opportunity to thank Bishop Peter for making the Mass so special with his presence, and for all the muicians and organisers who worked together on the day's celebrations.

During his homily Bishop Peter joked that



the day's glorious sunny weather was in stark contrst to the weather for St. Mary's consecration fifty years ago. On March 15, 1964, Bishop Leo Parker braved snow blizzards for the church's official opening. The sunny weather was partocilarly welcome for the licnic that followed Mass, when parishioners enjoyed food from around the world in the sunshine. The picnic provided a joyous end to a marvellous celebration for St. Mary's golden jubilee.

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Page 5



# Priest, artist



Above, displaying the CD covers. Below, Fatima

Fr Anthony Hogarth

## Cathedral wins Priory contract

A surprise commission which grew into a set of 23 covers for a CD collection helped combine three of Fr Tony Hogarth's interests – art, church music and singing.

The commission for a series of watercolour paintings of Cathedral churches all over England came from Priory Records Ltd, a recording company specialising in church music.

The Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire company needed illustrations for a series of recordings they were planning to issue under the title The Complete New English Hymnal. They decided paintings of Cathedrals would enhance the covers and result, though it may have raised an eyebrow or two at Windsor, so the story goes. The original watercolour now rests on a wall in the MD's office at Leighton Buzzard and still causes comment from visitors.

Other paintings followed over the next five years - with two location visits to Newcastle and Liverpool but most paintings being achieved from photographs. We picked out York Minster, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Newcastle's StNicholas CofE Cathedral and St Chad's RC, Birmingham to illustrate Fr Tony's  $\operatorname{range}-\operatorname{with}\operatorname{him}\operatorname{holding}\operatorname{the}\operatorname{CD}\operatorname{cover}\operatorname{for}$ the chapel at Windsor. Also in the picture is a copy of Priory's newsletter which brought Fr Tony's watercolour work to the attention of the recording company. "I was on their mailing list as a subscriber," Fr Tony recalls. "One issue carried an appeal to readers to send in pictures of Cathedral churches which they might be able to use." Out from under the bed Fr Tony pulled a painting he'd done of Durham Cathedral from Prebends Bridge. Priory snapped it up - and the long art-and-music association was born.



make them more collectable.

That was five or six years ago and Fr Tony now has a complete set of the music on a shelf of CD albums.

His first work Priory requested was for a Christmas promotion and they wanted St George's Chapel, Windsor ... in the snow. One or two challenges lay in store for the enthusiastic watercolour artist – there was no snow that winter and a complete view of the chapel at Windsor isn't actually possible from one angle.

So Fr Tony used his artistic licence to import the snow and adapt two views of the chapel and incorporate them in one. Priory Records were delighted with the

## and choir's top tenor

### **Painting Fatima**

My first visit to Fatima was in 1964 while Then it was on to the village of Aljustrel. a seminarian in Lisbon. Back then, the place was remote, small and not nearly as commercial as it is today.

I can look back on those days as I was keen on photography and took some slide transparencies which still form part of my collection and when viewed evoke the atmosphere.

Like most people with digital cameras these days, I have taken hundreds of photos there over the years, few of which I actually retain. But the sketchbook is a different matter.

Let me describe for you some of my favourite sketches. In the late afternoon I like to sit on a wall in the Sanctuary shaded by the trees and just watch the people and speculate on why Our Lady has invited them to be there. Some carry candles, perhaps with intercessions, or painfully make their way on their knees towards the place of apparitions.

At the same time I am sketching the scene before me – the tower of the Basilica, the capelinha, some of the greenery. Occasionally a passer-by may be curious but on the whole people do not bother.

That sketch is more valuable to me than 1,000 photos of the scene because it is unique, it is mine.

Another favourite place is in the parish church of St Anthony. When I was on pilgrimage in 2013 the weather was particularly hot, even by Portuguese standards. On the Sunday afternoon, I decided to make a personal Stations of the Cross and sketched one of the Hungarian stations and the church with the three crosses surmounting its roof.

There were also the statues of the angel's apparitions to the children and I stopped to make sketches of them too.

On a previous pilgrimage there was another artist who came armed with his sketchbook and we had an enjoyable afternoon sketching together in the village.

There is an old barn there, just behind the modern buildings, which the elderly owner told me was over 100 years old (useful to speak Portuguese on this occasion) so must have been known to the children, as it was not far from their house. Old barns are wonderful subjects for the

watercolour artist, so on my return home I painted one from sketches and photographic reference.

However, last year the place was very busy so I took the road train that circulates from city to village and alighted at the church. It was beautifully peaceful only myself for most of the time - and I was able to make a personal Holy Hour and sketch the interior, the tabernacle that Francisco knew, the pulpit where he used to hide and the font in which he was baptized and started his special journey of faith.

Our pilgrimage group usually numbers about 70 people. Some prefer to spend the entire fortnight in Fatima but, quite frankly, for some of us that is a bit much, so excursions are included as part of the package.

Some years ago I participated in an 'Artists' Retreat' at Belmont Abbey, led by one of the Benedictine monks, himself a keen artist.

When engaged on creating a piece of art I often refer to one of his observations that out of the materials and pigment we have before us we are co-operating with the work of God as he continually creates our world and we add something unique to that creation.



### This feature appears by kind permission of **The Northern Cross**

Father Anthony Hogarth is a retired priest of the Northampton Diocese.

He was born in Hartlepool and educated there at the Sacred Heart Junior School, after which he moved to what was then St Aidan's Grammar School in Sunderland.

After three years as a civil servant working in Hartlepool and Wingate he considered he may have a vocation to the priesthood and, after studies at Campion House, Osterley, the Pontifical English College in Lisbon, Portugal, and Oscott College, Birmingham, he was ordained a priest at Northampton Cathedral on July 11, 1970.

Fr Hogarth has served at parishes in

Cambridge, High Wycombe, Northampton and Luton, having latterly been parish priest in Rushden before returning to Hartlepool by arrangement to care for his late mother.

He holds a Certificate in Education in Religious Studies from St. Mary's College, Twickenham, and has taught RE in three secondary schools. He has also served as school chaplain in Northampton, Luton and at English Martyrs School, Hartlepool.

As a member of the Hartlepool Art Club, Fr Hogarth is a keen artist with a particular interest in landscape and architecture, and also sings top tenor in the Hartlepool Male Voice Choir.







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Page 7



St Anne's Church (Wendover) Further information available at www.ihmmissenden.org.uk (01494) 862049 Monday, 11th August Commemorating the Birthday of **Canon Timothy Russ** Requiem Mass in Great Missenden (7:00pm) Guest Preacher: Fr Leszek Wisniewski Drinks and Canapés ALL WELCOME!

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pecial mission, prayer for the people of England ir monastery is built on the site of the Tyburn e 105 Catholics were martyred during the reforme

### **New school extension** honours founder



Pictures: the new entrance; blessing the extension, Sue Meader, Tom Lyons (Partner- Chartered Architect), James Webster (Senior Architectural Technologist), Bishop Peter, Jane Crow, Joseph Richardson, Monsignor Mcginnell, Clark Campbell.

Cardinal Newman Catholic school celebrated the opening of its latest building work on Wednesday, June 4 after four years of planning and negotiation. In 2010, the £23million Building Schools for the Future funding allocated to Cardinal Newman was withdrawn only six weeks before building was due to begin. However, the school, supported by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton and Luton Borough Council, has worked hard to be able to create excellent facilities for students at the school and ensure

'A fantastic celebration at the end of quite a difficult struggle to obtain the facilities that our students deserve"

it could deliver the curriculum effectively. In an official blessing ceremony the congregation was formally welcomed by Chair of Governors, Mrs. Caroline Moloney, followed by a touching tribute to the founding Headteacher Mr. William Price Davies by current Headteacher Mrs Jane Crow. Mr Davies, who passed away in March this year, was Headteacher from 1968 to 1985 leading the first Roman Catholic Secondary School in Luton. One of the new buildings, the ICT block was named in his honour. On behalf of Mr Davies' family, Miss Anne Davies, his daughter, addressed those gathered and his widow, Mrs Joan Davies, was presented with flowers by Head Boy Tom Backhouse and Head Girl Charlotte Kelly. Bishop Peter Doyle led the liturgy accompanied by Monsignor Kevin McGinnell. The blessing of the new and refurbished buildings around the school started with the Chapel which underwent a major refurbishment including a new cross shaped stained glass window. The school's reception area followed before the formal naming and blessing of the W. P. Davies Building. The celebrations closed with a blessing for the first purpose built dining area for the school and a Papal Blessing was presented to Andy Morgan in gratitude for the part he played in planning the new buildings and 13 years of dedicated service to the school as Chair of

Governors. Afternoon tea was served to the backdrop of music performed by the school's orchestra and a display of historic photographs from the school archives. Headteacher Mrs. Crow said at the end of the celebrations: "Today was a fantastic celebration at the end of quite a difficult struggle to obtain the facilities that our students deserve. The campus improvements opened by Bishop Peter have created a whole new and exciting learning opportunity at Cardinal Newman, with flexible modern spaces where students can learn, eat and socialise, giving staff and students the ability to better explore and deliver the curriculum." We were delighted that Mr. Davies' family was able to be with us. I know that throughout his life Mr. Davies retained his interest in Cardinal Newman and it was his influence that shaped the direction that our school has taken. When news of Mr. Davies' death was placed on Facebook by our publicity manager, it was picked up by over 3000 people; many of whom left comments expressing their thanks for the way in which he had touched their lives. I am sure he would have been delighted with the latest improvements to our school buildings. We hope they will help us to keep Catholic Education in Luton accessible, strong and vibrant just as it was in 1968"



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Page 8

# Variations on a theme of three



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### Mgr Paul Donovan reflects on a favourite place

Sitting on the edge of the Tresham estate, but seemingly in the middle of nowhere when you stumble across it, stands a silent evangelist. Ever since I first saw it when I was a curate in Kettering in the 1980s, I have been held in thrall by Triangular Lodge, just outside the village of Rushton which is in the parish. Its intricacy repays me every time I visit, and its history and imagery strengthen that sense of connectedness to our forebears in the faith.

Sir Thomas Tresham became a Catholic in 1580. He was one of those 16<sup>th</sup> century Catholics who persevered in the faith despite hardships, fines and in his case over 15 years in prison. There is a line in 1 Peter 2, 6 which I sometimes speculate might have echoed in Sir Thomas's head as he reflected back on those prison years inflicted on him for remaining a Catholic: "Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it".

Upon being released from one of his prison periods in 1593 he designed a lodge as a testament to his faith in the Trinity and his love of the Mass. Work started the following year. The theme of 3 as a symbol of the Trinity becomes more and more involved.

The casual eye notices a little, like the percussion instruments and the brass setting the rhythm: there are 3 sides each with 3 windows, 3 storeys, 3 gables and 3 obelisks. You notice how the triangle features in the windows. Broken up into single letters around the building are the Latin words Mentes tuorum visita (Visit the minds of your people) which is from the Pentecost hymn Veni creator spiritus.

Then you see Sir Thomas's symbol, the trefoil (a 3-leaved plant), adding its musical line to the building and featuring in some of the windows, and the music of the building becomes more involved. Over the doorway is the insciption Tres Testimonium Dant (The three give witness 1 John 5,8). However, Sir Thomas Tresham was known familiarly as Tres, so it allows of being interpreted as Tresham gives witness.

Looking upwards, the symbols of the persons of the Trinity feature on the gables: the Triangle, the 7 eyes of God (Revelation 5,6) which represent the spirit being sent to all the earth, the pelican plucking from its own breast to feed its young representing Jesus, and the sacred initials IHS.

By now you think you are doing very well in recognising the symbols and keeping up with the music, but then some of the higher-pitched, more detailed instruments enter.

3 Latin inscriptions run around the top, perhaps reflections of Tresham's soul during imprisonment: Consideravi opera tua domine et expavi (I have looked on your works, Lord, and become frightened Habakkuk 3,2); Quis separabit nos a charitate Christi (Who will separate us from the love of Christ Romans 8,35); Aperiatur terra & germinet salvatorem (Let the earth be opened and bring forth salvation Isaiah 45, 8). But then, count the letters: each inscription has 33 characters.

Each side of the building is 33 feet 4 inches long, i.e. one third of a hundred. References to the Mass are more subtly

there, since Tresham had to remain discreet about his Catholic faith. The Lamb of God with a cross and a chalice adorned with a cross portray the Mass, and there are some inscribed words which a Catholic would associate with the Mass: ECCE (Behold, as in Behold the Lamb of God) and SALUS (Salvation).

More cryptic are the letters on the angels holding the water spouts. As you progress round you see the letters SSSDDS interpreted as the initial letters of Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth (Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts) which is taken from the Mass and then the letters **QEEQEEQVE** interpreted as Qui Erat et Qui Est et Qui Venturus Est (Who was and who is and who is to come Revelation 4.8) which features in the Liturgy of Trinity Sunday.

I always find my head swimming when I visit Triangular Lodge as this music of faith in stone interweaves the melodic lines. Architectural historians call this sort of building with its puzzles and allusions "a conceit", but the most famous of the architectural guides, Pevsner, finishes the article on Triangular Lodge with these words, "It is no more nor less than a profession of faith in stone - of a faith for which Tresham spent more than fifteen years in prison and confinement. So one should look at the Triangular Lodge with respect."

Triangular Lodge is in the care of English Heritage, and open 1100-1700 Wednesday - Sunday until 31 October.

Pictures: left, Triangular Lodge, right, the trefoil and triangular windows.



#### FEAST OF THE **QUEENSHIP OF THE** BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Thou art the glory of Jerusalem the honour of our people... The hand of the Lord has strengthened thee, and therefore thou shalt be blessed forever. Judith 15, v 9-11



The above image depicts our Lady Queen of Knock. You are invited to a Rosary gathering/procession to honour the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the vigil of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin and the feast of Our Lady of Knock Thursday 21st of August 2014, at the Angelus time of 6pm Gathered in the name of Jesus outside Christ the Cornerstone Church 300 Saxon Gate West, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2ES

And the Lamb will conquer and the woman clothed in the sun will shine her light on everyone For more information please phone Catherine on 07768 161 664

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Page 9

### Book review Something Other Than God by Jennifer Fulwiler Ignatius Press.

Many people have written their conversion story. We need their testimony today more than ever, at a time when secularism dominates the culture of the western world. Thus Jennifer Fulwiler's honest, painful and humorous account of what led her from atheism to the Catholic Church should be read by anyone who is searching for the truth and pondering the same questions.

The author, an only child, came from a happy atheist household in which her father read her Carl Sagan's *Cosmos* as a bedtime book. The first shadow across her consciousness came when, aged 11, she held a fossil in her hand and faced the appalling thought that human history was, in the long run, simply part of the fossil record; humanity would eventually die out and be forgotten. She reasoned that people invented religious stories to avoid despair.

Fulwiler herself chose to plunge into activities and fun to stave off this sense of cosmic hopelessness. This strategy worked for many years. She went to college, enjoyed a challenging career, met a dynamic young Ivy League law and business graduate, Joe Fulwiler, and married him. Finally, with a small baby to care for and seemingly a busy, successful life, she could no longer avoid the enormous disjunction between what atheism had taught her, "that all our experiences are products of the chemical reactions in our brains", and what she understood in her heart: "I had been plunged into an experience of love that I'd never had before...Atheism could not account for the bond that Joe and I shared."

There were more intellectual struggles, such as how to yoke together a "woman's right to choose" – something she strongly believed – with the reality of abortion. Her husband, who joined her on her quest, was more forthright in his conclusions; when they argued about the morality of abortion he pointed out to her, after they have both attended a Catholic Mass, that the Church "had 2000 years to think about this and they keep saying the same thing." Slowly all the contradictions and objections to faith dwindle away. Fulwiler reads CS Lewis's *Mere Christianity* and realises that the search for God entails changing your life: what does it mean to try to be good? Reading the lives of the saints helped her; here were people who had found the key to happiness, despite their sufferings and sacrifices.

How does the God of love square up with the palpable reality of evil? Why do good people suffer? Is contraception wrong - especially if you experience problematic pregnancies? These are some of the questions that kept the author awake at night, as she scoured the internet for answers and downloaded papal encyclicals. Finally, she asks herself with some astonishment, much joy and a wry smile, "Was I really now the Catholic mother with three young children, a Miraculous Medal dangling from her neck as she scurried through the house to prepare for her son's baptism?"

Francis Phillips



### Medal for Bedford parish driver

A celebration Mass was held earlier this year at St Philip and James Church Bedford to mark the blessing of the recently opened Parish Room.

Also at this Mass parishioner Noel O'Hanlon was presented with the Bene Merenti award. Noel was the driving force behind the building of this facility, first envisaged by former Parish Priest Fr. Tony Brennan who was present for the occasion.

Noel is virtually a full time worker in the parish, able to turn his attention to almost anything that needs doing in the church and grounds.

Parish priest, Fr. Jonathan Hill said that not only were the parishioners aware and grateful for all that Noel does but 'We wrote to the Pope to tell him about you!'





## Next deadline





#### Page 10

The Vine August 2014

# Celebrating Mary

Roman Catholics believe the doctrine of the Assumption, which teaches that at the end of her life, Mary, the mother of Christ, was taken body and soul (i.e. both physically and spiritually) into heaven to live with her son (Jesus Christ) for ever. Human beings have to wait until the end of time for their bodily resurrection, but Mary's body was able to go straight to heaven because her soul hadn't been tainted by original sin.

Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on August 15th each year. Eastern Orthodox Christians, following the Julian calendar, mark the event as the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, or the Dormition of the the Most Holy Mother of God on 28th August.

This is an ancient teaching, first found in the 5th century, but it remains controversial to Protestants because it is not explicitly referred to in the Bible. The Roman Catholic Church bases the doctrine on other valid authority.

A report in 2005 by Anglican and Roman Catholic theologians found common ground (but not common authority) for belief in the Assumption:

...we can affirm together the teaching that God has taken the Blessed Virgin Mary in the fullness of her person into his glory as consonant with Scripture, and that it can, indeed, only be understood in the light of Scripture. Roman Catholics can recognise that this teaching about Mary is contained in the dogma.

2005 report by Catholic and Anglican theologians.

The doctrine of the Assumption was proclaimed as infallible by Pope Pius XII on All Saints Day 1950 in the bull (formal proclamation) Munificentissimus Deus.

We pronounce, declare and definite it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the immaculate mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory

In Munificentissimus Deus Pope Pius XII pointed to the Book of Genesis (3:15) as scriptural support for the dogma in terms of Mary's victory over sin and death as also reflected in 1 Corinthians 15:54: "then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory". This was only the second time that a Pope had proclaimed a doctrine to be infallible. The first was the Immaculate Conception, another doctrine that concerns Mary.

The Pope justified the Assumption not on Biblical authority but largely on:the "universal consensus of the Church" and the theological "suitability" of the doctrine.

The "universal consensus of the Church" means that what the Church as a whole teaches and believes must be treated as a revealed and thus indisputable truth.

The Church can only reach such a consensus through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit cannot be wrong.

This doesn't mean that Church doctrine cannot change - theologians use the idea of *dogmatic progression*, by which human ideas, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, slowly develop towards the real truth. Once the real truth is established. the "universal consensus" of the Church then confirms it as an eternal truth.



Before proclaiming the doctrine Pope Pius XII made sure that there was really was a consensus in the Church. In 1946 he wrote to all the Roman Catholic bishops to ask them a) whether they thought the Assumption should become Catholic dogma, and b) whether the priests and the laity agreed with them. 99% of the bishops said yes.

The other main argument for the Assumption was that it fitted well with other Catholic teaching, and would reinforce believers' faith that they too would eventually go to heaven. The Assumption was also clearly in harmony with other Catholic ideas about Mary: Her immaculate conception; her perpetual virginity; being the mother of God

Theologians argued that the Mother of God could not be separated from God, and so must have been taken up to be with him in heaven.



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Page 11

The Vine July 2014



### **Milton Keynes** pastoral picnic

North Milton Keynes Pastoral Area held its annual inter-parish picnic on June 29 at St. Paul's school. It was a typical English summer's day. The rain drizzled. But they all got on with the business of the day. They played on the bouncy castle. The more energetic kicked a football around the wet grass. The artistic musi-

cians from St. Edward's ran through all the hymns they knew and then played something more leisurely. The picnic itself seemed to go on all afternoon. But the main business of the day seemed to be the conversations, picking up where they left off last year, and looking forward to continuing at the picnic in 2015.





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**Page** 12