



# The Vine

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September

2014

Issue No. 305

## Northampton Diocesan News

FREE Every Month

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Canon Kevin marks forty years

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An unusual sight! A brazier full of burning charcoal is brought to the altar during the dedication of St. Aidan's, Northampton. From it the thurible is lit and the church filled with incense.



## New look for parishes

A number of parishes will be saying farewell to old clergy friends and greeting new arrivals this autumn. Mgr Paul Donovan goes to St. Augustine, High Wycombe to replace Fr. Willie Strain, who is retiring after 35 years in the parish. Father David Clark, a priest of the Oregon Diocese who has been serving in the Diocese of Brentwood, comes to St. Aidan's, Northampton in mid-October. He will combine his pastoral responsibilities with his academic commitments in Cambridge.

Fr. Michael Harrison goes to Our Lady of Walsingham, Corby, following the retirement of Fr. Michael Griffiths. Father Nicholas Nwanzi becomes Priest in Charge at Farnham Royal. Fr. James Evans leaves Milton Keynes to become parish priest at Aston Le Walls. He replaces Fr Andrew Ollard, who goes to Chesham Bois on Fr Graham Platt's retirement. Fr. Michael Patey, only two years after ordination, takes over at St. Martin, Luton. He is replaced as assistant at Holy Child, Bedford, by Father Roy Karakkattu MSFS, and Fr. Patrick Hutton continues as Priest in Charge at Bedford's Christ The King. Winslow, in the care of Bletchley for several years, once again has a resident priest. Fr. Anton Webb, formerly based at the Oxford Oratory, will live in the flat at St. Alban's. He will continue as chaplain at Bullingdon prison and may provide a Sunday Mass at HMP Woodhill.

There are also moves at St. Joseph's, Gerrards Cross, the Carmelite parish. After three years Father John McGowan is taking on vocations promotion work based at the Carmelite Retreat Centre in Preston and Father Bob Davies has been appointed Regional Superior and Prior at the Carmelite Church in Kensington. In their places Father Michael Spain will be Prior and Parish Priest, accompanied by Father

Martin McDonald.

The move of Fr James Evans from Christ The King, Milton Keynes and St. Bede, Newport Pagnell has needed a complex solution. Bishop Peter has appointed Sister Yvonne Pilarski of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to have pastoral care of the two parishes with the title of Pastoral Administrator. Sister Yvonne will be based in the presbytery at Kents Hill. Father Paul Hardy, of St. Edward's, will be the Parish Administrator of Christ the King and Father Malcolm Bull, of Olney, will be Parish Administrator of St. Bede's.

After announcing the changes Bishop Peter said, 'I am so grateful to everyone who has cooperated wholeheartedly in the moves'. He reminded us that the shortage of priests will continue into the future, and that we have to be ready to accept new arrangements. 'Clearly, all of us, bishop, clergy, religious and people, are going to have to be more flexible and open to the working of the Holy Spirit.'

## Items for The Vine

In future, please send all stories and pictures directly to  
Fr Paul Hardy at  
St. Edward's, Milton Keynes:  
vine01@btopenworld.com

## Walsingham - Sunday 21st September A Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life Led by Bishop Mark Davies

(Bishop of Shrewsbury)

Fr Jeremy Davies

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

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Milton Keynes - 07877 236160

Bedford - 01234 304014

Further information:

Janet Baker 01989 565027 or

Margaret Langley 01858 571242

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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.

## Japan

Catholic director Martin Scorsese is due to begin making a film next month on the epic story of the Jesuit missionaries who went to Japan in the 17th century. In a story based on Japanese author Shusako Endo's classic novel Silence, Liam Neeson will play the role of Jesuit Father Sebastião Rodrigues. Andrew Garfield will play the younger Father Rodriguez, who travels to Japan in search of his spiritual mentor, following reports that he has apostasized.

In 1549, when St Francis Xavier and two companions first set foot in Japan, the nation was Buddhist and Shinto; yet they were permitted to preach and teach, and the Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries in that country converted half a million people with the message of the Christian Gospel. Christian churches were visible throughout the land which had once held only Buddhist temples.

Large numbers of laypeople joined their effort as catechists, and a local seminary was established to prepare native-born Christian men for the priesthood.

But in the seventeenth century, the Tokugawa dynasty reversed the policy of tolerance, and Christianity was banned. Japanese military officials ruthlessly rooted out Christians for persecution and execution. Among those executed for their faith were St Paul Miki and Companions - 26 martyrs who were tor-

tured in Nagasaki in 1597 and then crucified on a hill overlooking the city. Martin Scorsese was born into a devout Italian as a young man seriously considered the priesthood, even entering the seminary. He drifted away from the faith and has married five times but he recently said - "I'm a lapsed Catholic. But I am Roman Catholic, there's no way out of it."



## Justice & Peace conference

You are invited to the one day Diocesan Justice and Peace conference which is being held on 4 October 2014 at Holy Family, Langley starting at 10.00am with coffee and registration. Our speakers are Canon James Cronin (APF), who will be speaking on the Plight of persecuted Christians around the world and David McLoughlin (Newman College, Birmingham) speaking on Justice in the Gospels. There will be a chance to meet and chat to others involved in Justice and Peace around the diocese. The conference is open to all and those attending are asked to bring something for a shared lunch.

## Rome

The Vatican has confirmed dates for Pope Francis' second visit to Asia will be scheduled for next January. The Pope will visit Sri Lanka and the Philippines - the first visit by a pontiff to the two countries in 20 years. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle in Manila confirmed in a Vatican statement that the pontiff will reach the Philippines on 19 January.

The Cardinal said: "I'm sure that desire of the heart will push him to get in contact with the people."

The Pope is expected to visit the central Philippines where Typhoon Haiyan killed at least 6,300 people in November. More than 6,000 people are still living in tents in Tacloban City, Save the Children reported earlier this month.

"Nobody could deny the effect of Haiyan, so the Holy Father said plainly that he was one with the suffering people, that we should not be afraid to ask God why," said Tagle.

Last month, the cardinal said the trip might also include a visit to Palo Cathedral in the central province of Leyte which lost its roof but otherwise remained intact following the typhoon. The Pope is also scheduled to visit a

youth rally at the Catholic University of Santo Tomas (UST) in Manila.

"UST has always figured as one of the sites especially for the pope's interaction with the youth and students, so we are coming from that historical datum," Cardinal Tagle said in an interview.

It will be the fourth visit by a pope to Santo Tomas, which was established by the Dominicans in 1611 and declared a pontifical university in 1902: Pope Paul VI visited in 1970 and Pope John Paul II made two trips there in 1981 and 1995.

The finalized schedule for Francis' five-day visit to the Philippines would be confirmed by the end of the year, Tagle said on Tuesday, as President Benigno Aquino's office announced full government cooperation.

"Filipinos will most certainly accord to Pope Francis the warmth of their hospitality and manifest the fervor of their faith as they welcome the first pontiff from South America," presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma said in a statement issued from Aquino's office on Tuesday. The Pope's landmark visit to the Philippines coincides with the 20th anniversary of the World Youth Day celebration in Manila led by Saint John Paul II on January 14, 1995, the last papal visit to Asia's most populous majority Catholic nation. The day after World Youth Day in 1995, John Paul II offered Mass to a crowd estimated at between four and five million people in Manila's Luneta Park, the biggest papal crowd ever

## Annual Mass for Diocesan altar servers

I am delighted to let you know that Bishop Peter has again very kindly agreed to celebrate a votive Mass of St Stephen at the Cathedral on Saturday 18th October 2014 at 12 noon for the altar



servers of our Diocese. This invitation is, of course, extended to clergy, family, friends and parishioners and is not exclusive to members of the Guild of St Stephen - indeed we very much would like to see altar servers from all of our parishes and would encourage them to join with us at what promises to be a memorable occasion.

Altar servers are asked to be at the Cathedral from 11.00am onwards ready to process into the Cathedral by 11.45pm. Parish MC's are asked to register their servers on arrival. Please ensure that all your servers bring their albs/cottas with them. After the Mass there will be a buffet on the lawn of Cathedral House.

If your parish MC is unable to attend please do send your servers and we will ensure they are partnered with another parish from your Pastoral Area where possible. For catering purposes, it would be most useful if you could let either myself or Philly in the Cathedral Office know the numbers



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on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at St Patrick's, 21a Soho Square,  
London W1D 4NR  
and on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at The Friars, Aylesford, ME20 7BX

**St Patrick's, Soho Square programme:**

3.00	Gathering Service, Blessing of the Prayer Banner and Talk on St. Thérèse
4.00	Tea and Exhibition
6.00	Mass and Blessing of the roses

**The Friars, Aylesford programme:**

12.00	Gathering Service, Blessing of the Prayer Banner and Talk on St. Thérèse
2.15	Blessing of the roses
2.30	Mass

*Silk roses will be available for purchase at Aylesford from 11 am from SLF staff. Refreshments are available from The Friars Tea Rooms 11 am – 5 pm. The book and gift shop, as well as the Pottery, are also open during these hours.*

**A photographic exhibition of Carmelite projects, funded through the generosity of Society of the Little Flower members, will be on display at both venues.**

*All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Society of the Little Flower: 0845 602 9884 (local rate); ukweb@littleflower.org*

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# Half-century wait for dedication

"It was as though we had all stepped back into the Old Testament as the Bishop added incense to the brazier on the altar. The sunlight streaming through the church caught the smoke plume in the air, and you had such a visible sign of prayers rising to God." So said Mgr Paul Donovan as he and the parish participated in Bishop Peter's Dedication of St Aidan's Church, Northampton, 50 years to the day since the church was opened by Bishop Leo Parker.

"There was a buzz in the church", said Bishop Peter. For many people the Dedication of a church is something they experience only once in their lives, and St Aidan's wanted to make it a memorable experience. It imported some talent to assist the existing ministries. *Amicorum*, a female vocal group who had given a concert in the church at Christmas, came back to sing Tallis's *Hear the voice and prayer of thy people* and Charpentier's *Sub tuum praesidium* along with the Litany of the Saints and descants to the hymns. Diocesan seminarians on their summer holiday came along to minister on the sanctuary. The Revd Pius Amoako, ordained deacon this summer, was lent by the Cathedral.

Bishop Peter reminded the congregation that they and their predecessors had already made the church holy by their prayers, by the celebration of the sacraments and by the preaching of the Word of God. The Dedication recognised that.

Central to the rite was the anointing of the altar. Bishop Peter was liberal with his use of the chrism as he set the altar apart. He and Mgr Paul then anointed the oak consecration crosses made by a local craftsman cabinet maker who has done other work in the church. The flaming brazier was brought to the altar by Brendan Seery and Bishop Peter symbolically sent prayers heavenwards with incense smoke. Tim Stafford, the thurifer, then filled the church with incense before the candles on the altar and on the consecration crosses were lit.

The church enjoys a fine garden and on a beautiful summer's day the congregation gathered afterwards on the lawn for Buck's Fizz to celebrate. Michael Doyle, one of those Confirmed this year, told the Bishop that as a thank offering for having had St Aidan's for 50 years, the parishioners were donating a large sum of money to a parish in South India which was struggling to fund building a church. "As a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many people, the parishioners made this a really worthy celebration", said Mgr Paul. "And on a personal note, since I am leaving to go to St Augustine's, High Wycombe, in a few weeks, I can't help but experience a sense of satisfaction that a work begun 50 years ago has reached a milestone on my watch. That my short 2 years at St Aidan's should finish on such a note of unity is a blessing from God."



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# Forty years on

The mood of celebration and thanksgiving was in the air on Sunday 6 July when the Parish of Holy Family Church in Langley, joined together to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of their Parish Priest, Canon Kevin O'Driscoll. Due to the large number of Parishioners in this Parish, Mass was celebrated by Fr Kevin at St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School on the Langley Road. The mood was one of happiness with lots of laughter and prayers of thanksgiving. The youngest to join in with the celebrations was only a week old, whilst one of the oldest was Fr Kevin's very own father, Eugene O'Driscoll who is 95.

During this Mass of celebration and thanksgiving, Father Kevin was presented with a Book of Congratulations which contained personal messages from all of the parishioners, as well as an Apostolic

Blessing from His Holiness Pope Francis from Rome. A cheque was also presented from a collection gathered by the Parish. A letter of congratulations from Bishop Peter Doyle, Bishop for the Diocese of Northampton, was read out, and a wonderfully warm speech of congratulations was made by Dean Waters. There was an African Gospel procession, flag waving by the youngest children, and prayers said in some of the native languages of the communities represented in the parish.

Afterwards, the Parish celebrated with an informal reception held in the school where parishioners were able to congratulate Fr Kevin whilst enjoying the celebrations of this incredible 40 year ministry of this dearly loved, and popular parish priest.

Photo: right: a tapestry of the baptism of Jesus, gifted to the church. Below, a family group, with Canon Kevin's dad.





# St Francis' Children's Society

St Francis' Children's Society is celebrating the news that they are to receive a grant of £400,000 from the Department of Education (DfE) to expand their services, capacity and reach over the next two

years.

After weeks of hard work by staff in putting together a formal bid, and a nail-biting month of waiting, the Society were informed of the decision on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

## Three score and ten



St Peter's parish in Biggleswade came together on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, to celebrate Fr. Richard Moroney's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Fr. Richard said: 'St Peter's in Biggleswade, is a Parish which loves to celebrate. It was no surprise then that they should want to celebrate my 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The party began with the cele-

bration of the Mass and went on to become a party-party. For me it was a beautifully happy occasion, probably my best birthday ever. Thanks to my parish of St Peter's: feel good factor 11/10. I am now looking for another excuse'.

Carolyn Blake

# Grant for expansion

June. Last Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, St. Francis' staff attended an initial meeting with the DfE and the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (CVAA) to discuss their plans and move the project forward.

In the year April 2013 – March 2014, St. Francis' Children's Society placed 36 children with new families, and approved 37 new adopters. The Society already had extensive plans in place to grow this figure over the coming two years, but the DfE's expansion grant has been awarded to the Society with the expectation that it will recruit 30 - 40 more adopters over a 22 month period, over and above the Society's existing growth projections.

The Society's CEO, Alison Miller, said: 'We are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded this grant. The money will enable us to open other regional offices, employ more social workers and support staff, and most importantly, recruit more adopters for the 6,000 children currently in care awaiting adoption. The focus of our expansion will be a new Diversity Project, which will actively seek adopters for 'hard to place children' – children from black/minority ethnic backgrounds, children with additional special needs, older children and sibling groups.'

The Society's Fundraiser & Business

Development Officer, Dominik Byrne, said: 'The need for more adopters in the UK is immense. Latest figures from the Department for Education suggest that 3,100 additional adopters need to be recruited nationwide, in order to close the gap between the number of children waiting in care and the number of approved adopters.'

Recent changes to the adoption process mean that adopters can expect to be approved more quickly, so the scope is there to meet this need. This expansion grant will enable us to appoint the necessary staff to approve more adopters than ever before, and do our bit to address the shortfall of adopters in our local regions.'

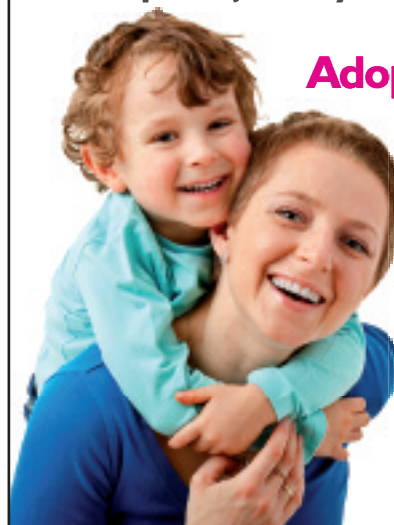
St. Francis' Children's Society welcomes all kinds of adopters for all kinds of children, regardless of age, race, cultural background, religion, marital status or sexual orientation. The Society has a strong sense of community and offers a reliable support system for adoptive families, whatever their need, whatever their stage in the adoption process. The Society's pledge of life-long support for adopted children and their families is what makes them unique, and their family-friendly ethos provides a strong foundation on which the Society will grow and expand over the next two years and beyond. Watch this space!

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# Town schools come together

For the first time on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 the schools of the Northampton Federation of Catholic Schools came together for Mass on the fields of Thomas Becket Catholic School. With over 1200 people in attendance and lead by the Bishop Peter the event was a rousing success. It was a perfect day; warm with a light breeze.

It was a huge logistical operation with students and teachers from The Good Shepherd, St Gregory's and St Mary's Primary School arriving by coach at Thomas Becket. However the students of Thomas Becket had volunteered in their droves to help look after students while they were participating in the Mass. There were volunteers from across all year groups making sure that the Mass was successful and ran smoothly. The Mass began with a procession of flags and school banners, as well as each school carrying forward a piece of the 'Federation Jigsaw' which was placed in front of the altar.

Students from the Federation provided the music, read the readings and bidding prayers and chaperoned the priests as they gave out communion. The student involvement in the Mass helped to really make the day a special one, giving all schools a chance to take ownership of the day and have a role.

The musicians particularly were exceptional, having been practising for 6 weeks with Steve Harris from NYMO in the run up to the Mass. A rousing opening hymn – 'You are my vision' – set the tone for a superb day.

The Bishop opened the Mass by welcoming all members of the Federation and expressing his own personal pleasure at being able to lead us all in such a special occasion. His homily, whilst encompassing the glories of the recent World Cup Final focussed on the Feast of St Bonaventure, who was a teacher. He provided encouragement to both students and staff, exhorting the value of Catholic education as a way of sharing our faith with others.

As the Federation of Northampton Catholic Schools becomes more closely bonded, events such as this will help to tie the schools together. Not only encouraging the pupils and parents to keep their children in Catholic education but helping to build a spiritual community of students, staff, governors and parents who express their faith together. The theme of the mass reflected this: 'One Body in Christ'. We want our children to experience Catholic education and faith formation from Reception through to Yr11 and beyond. As our schools improve, a closely bonded Federation is the vehicle by which this will be achieved. The Federation Mass is our statement of intent, showing what we can do when we come together.

The photos were all taken by Year 10 Thomas Becket students Martha Conteh, Shania Coleman, Amy Loveridge, Siobhan Silver, Ben Loasby and Natasha Finlay.





# for Federation Mass



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# Charity inspires generosity



At an informal meeting in July, following Mass and a shared supper at St Aidan's, Little Chalfont, members of the MoPSA (Missionaries of the Poor Supporters Association) committee including Fr Ken Payne (founder) and Monica Basham (chair) were delighted to hand over a cheque for £40,000 to Fr Paul Vilangappar. Fr Paul was en route to Kenya to continue his work for MOP by leading the mission that serves the poorest of the poor and the street children of Nairobi. MoPSA had chosen to focus on Kenya, where there is urgent need for basic supplies of food water and medicine. In what has proved to be a very successful year for fundraising, their efforts were enhanced with many regular and generous donations, legacies and fundraising

from schools in Staffordshire and Watford. On Ash Wednesday Fr Ken and Monica visited the staff and children of Holy Rood Primary School Watford, where the head teacher Stephen Wheatley (a parishioner of Bletchley and former member of staff at St Thomas Aquinas School) took up their Lenten challenge! There followed a month of enthusiastic and untiring fundraising. This included car washing in onesies, cake sales, art exhibitions, making a music video and spending a day as a child in Nairobi. This amazing effort by the whole school community resulted in Fr Ken being presented with a cheque, after the Easter break, for a massive £8000! Then in May MoPSA held their second Charity Ball at the Park Inn Hotel, Northampton. This event was attended by

the Mayor and Mayoress, Les and Lisa Marriott, Canon Mark Floody with many parishioners from the Cathedral and other Northampton parishes, along with the local community, friends and family. Following a champagne reception, a delightful meal, auction and raffle, everyone enjoyed a happy and relaxing evening dancing the night away to local group, Pure Genius. All those who attended and many other generous supporters helped raise over £9000 for the Missions in Nairobi, and a wonderful evening was had by all! The MoPSA committee would like to thank everyone, who supported this special event, for their time and generosity. Every penny raised went to Fr Paul for his much needed work in Kenya.

# Jesus makes me joyful

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). On 24-26 July 2014 at the RE Centre, Luton there was a non-residential summer school where people from around the Diocese gathered to hear our invited speakers who led us in an overview of and reflection on some of the major themes of

this document. Participants were encouraged in various ways to share the joy of the Gospel. Here is a flavour of some of their responses to the question posed during the Summer School: "Jesus makes me joyful because..." *Jesus makes me joyful because he gives me hope.* *Jesus makes me joyful because he gives me peace.*



*Jesus makes me joyful because he loves me unconditionally, he has paid the price for my sins, his mercies are new every morning and his grace flows constantly, I know I can fully trust him.* *Jesus makes me joyful because he has redeemed me and given me the greatest gift- his very self.* On the first day of the Summer School Fr Simon Penhalagan presented a comprehensive overview of the document and unpacked the themes of 'The Joy of the Gospel' for us as well as sharing his practical experi-

ence of evangelisation. Fr Simon Penhalagan was ordained in June 2008, and three years ago returned to full time ministry within Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism where he serves as president.

On day two Monsignor Kevin McGinnell helped us to explore the theme of 'Celebrating with Joy' looking at the implications of the document for our understanding and celebration of liturgy and preaching. "The preacher has to contemplate the word, but he also has to contemplate his people." (Evangelii Gaudium 154). There was also a Conference Mass with Bishop Peter Doyle during this second day of the summer school which was a great opportunity to celebrate our faith together with joy.

On the last day of the Summer School Tony Castle and Neil Roseman (Northampton Youth Ministry Office, NYMO) inspired us with resources and ideas to help us share the joy of the Gospel with young people. Those who gathered came away with lots of ideas and resources as well as details of events being run by NYMO that they can engage with. Proceedings were concluded with a strawberry tea which befitted the wonderful summer weather we were blessed with throughout the three days. There will be another Summer School at the end of July in 2015 run by NORES details of which will be released later



# Walsingham 2014

The morning of Saturday, 14 June, dawned overcast and slightly damp but by the time the pilgrims had assembled in Walsingham Friday Market there was a marked improvement, with the sun beginning to break through the clouds. Bishop Peter took the opportunity to mingle and chat to the several hundred people gathered there.

As usual the walk along the Holy Mile was led by the Bishop. The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham this year was carried by the Knights of St Columba from Corby.

On arrival at the Slipper Chapel everyone was welcomed by Bishop Peter and Fr Cormac, the temporary shrine administrator, as Fr Alan Williams was on retreat prior to his ordination as Bishop of Brentwood.

Mass was at 4pm, giving time for confession, a visit to the Slipper chapel, or shopping. The enthusiastic singing in the Mass was led by a choir and music group from parishes in

Northampton and Bedford under the direction of Teresa Brown.

In his homily, Bishop Peter, after giving a brief history of one of the Walsingham crosses and its Corby connection, went on to say that through the cross Christ led us to Mary, the ideal mother surrounding us with God's love. Mary, the Mother of the living Word, intercedes for us on our journey of evangelisation. When we pass on the Good News do we realise that we should show love, humility and tenderness? We should seek justice and have concern for the downtrodden because we are judged by others by the way we speak, by the way we are and the way we act.

At the end of the Mass, after the final blessing, Bishop Peter, as 'Father of the diocese' was presented with a Father's Day gift by Aswin, a young pilgrim. The Bishop thanked everyone and hoped that parishes would not arrange fetes on the day of next year's pilgrimage.



## Jean promotes science in East Africa

Jean Johnson – who worked for several years in the days of Bishop McCartie in co-ordinating the inspections for Northampton Diocese – recently received the University of Manchester Alumna Award for her pioneering work in East Africa.

Jean loved chemistry, despite opposition, and read it at university. After graduation Jean moved into teaching, achieving headships in two prestigious schools. But it is in Africa, as a champion for the under privileged she has made the biggest difference. For the last ten years she has been going to East Africa, running chemistry courses in schools. She has made around twenty five visits training teachers and students in Rwanda, Ethiopia and Uganda.

She has raised money for new laboratories and libraries filled with donated books and equipment collected, packed and sent by Jean at her own expense. In 2013 she raised the funds to build a new pioneering school near the border with Congo and is working with an adjacent school to provide A-level science facilities, determined to continue her work empowering children through education.

Jean is hoping for others to be interested in her projects and get involved. Contact her at: [johnson.j.m@btinternet.com](mailto:johnson.j.m@btinternet.com)

## Bedford image visits Leeds

In June the Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was carefully transported to St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds.

Monsignor Philip Moger and the cathedral staff warmly welcomed the Guardians at the Service of Reception. During the following week over 2000 pilgrims went to venerate the Relic Image. They came from the city and the surrounding areas, with many different nationalities being represented.

As a result of the visit, the Pro-life message was clearly proclaimed, Our Lady of Guadalupe being the Protectress of the Unborn.

At the close of the visit, Mgr. Philip said "It has been a moving and deeply spiritual experience for all who came to venerate and I am sure many graces and blessings will flow as a result of the visit". The service of Return was led by the Monsignor, with Father Michael Patey, from Bedford, as co-celebrant. During the stay in Leeds, the Relic Image was under the care of the Knights of St Columba (Province 5 Leeds) led by the Provincial Grand Knight Dennis Bristow; he and his fellow Knights did a fantastic job as hosts. Also, as a result of the visit, the home shrine devotion has been established among Leeds families.

The visit to Leeds was the first of several planned for this summer. St John's Cathedral in Norwich was the next to host the Miraculous Relic Image followed by Youth 2000 who requested the Relic Image for their Festival meeting at Walsingham.

September sees a visit to Portsmouth Cathedral and another visit to

Walsingham, this time for the Pro Life Pilgrimage on 21 September led by Bishop Mark Davies from Shrewsbury.

The 2015 programme is now being planned, with visits to Shrewsbury Cathedral, Louth and Surrey. If any parish, religious institution or school is interested in hosting a visit or just needs to find out more, please contact Mrs Donna Gardner, Shrine Coordinator, The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Church of the Holy Child and St Joseph, 2, Brereton Rd, Bedford MK40 1HU, phone 07940 228227. [www.relicourladyofguadalupe.co.uk](http://www.relicourladyofguadalupe.co.uk)



It is with great pleasure that the guardians of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at the Church of the Holy Child and St Joseph in Bedford, announce the appointment of a new Shrine Coordinator.

With the approval of Canon Seamus Keenan, and endorsed by Bishop Peter Doyle, the new Shrine Coordinator is Donna Gardner. Donna is married and she is the mother of four children. She will be known to many through her work with the Rosary Link in the diocese. Donna can be contacted by phone on 07940 or by email at [guadalupebedford@gmail.com](mailto:guadalupebedford@gmail.com).

For more information about the Shrine and the Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe please visit the website: [www.relicourladyofguadalupe.co.uk](http://www.relicourladyofguadalupe.co.uk).

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O Virgin defend me all pure and sweet  
**Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

You are invited to a  
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**Monday 8th September 2014 at the Angelus time of 6pm.**  
Meeting outside  
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Our Lady promised:  
"The Rosary shall be a powerful armour against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin and defeat heresies."

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# Book review

## The Little Oratory; A Beginner's Guide to Praying in the Home.

By David Clayton and Leila Marie Lawler. Sophia Institute Press

This book addresses the question: how do we live our Faith outside Mass on Sunday? It is a question every Catholic parent must reflect on; the authors, both fired with a sense of what Catholic culture is about, provide an answer. They emphasise that they are only making suggestions to help other families start to pray together, something surprisingly hard to establish in the hurly-burly of home life. Interestingly, both authors are converts; thus they come to faith and how to incarnate it at home with fresh, invigorating ideas. They say half-humorously: "How does one manage to fit in daily Mass, the Divine Office, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet, the Jesus Prayer, devotion to the Sacred Heart and everything else – on top of a family life?"

The answer is, within the Church's liturgy and much-loved devotions, you prioritize. Their own preference is incorporating the Liturgy of the Hours into the prayers of the little oratory as, after the Mass, it

is the most important form of the Church's worship. But they are also at pains to say that each family must find the right form of family prayer life appropriate to them. What matters is to create a "sacred space" at home that is central to family life yet also uplifting, so that the supernatural becomes part of the natural activity of the "domestic church".

David Clayton is also a painter. Several well-known icon pictures are included at the end of the book for framing in a little oratory. The point of an oratory is harmony: holy objects that have a personal and sacred resonance, along with candles and flowers on a table or shelf, that are kept loved and cared for, rather than a clutter of holy pictures in a neglected corner. Harmony matters because ideally an oratory should radiate its aura throughout the home. It should also be beautiful. The authors believe "we should avoid the ugly, the superficial, the sentimental and the downright kitschy."

Having grown up with sickly representations of the Sacred Heart I know what they mean – but I also know an old Irish Catholic lady whose home is full of highly sentimentalised religious art, brought back from pilgrimages to which she is devoted, so I think we must also recognise that good taste and bad taste are less important than the presence of the Holy Spirit in the home.

The authors point to the important role of fathers in leading prayers at home: "The present crisis of fatherhood will be resolved only in families, where the father is allowed to regain his position of servant leader." They also give sensible advice on the difficulties of praying as a family – unruly children and a chaotic house, for example. They conclude, "The important thing is to pray, not to 'say prayers.'" This is a book to ponder, on a crucial subject too often neglected.

Francis Phillips



## Newman restores summer fete

The sun shone for Cardinal Newman on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June when the school held their big fundraising event of the year, the annual summer fete.

When the school was founded in the 1960's the fete was a key fundraising event and the tradition was reinstated last year to help subsidise the students' bus service when Luton Borough Council withdrew their support for Denominational Transport. The event was opened by the famous BBC Three Counties Radio presenter, and former Cardinal Newman student, Roberto Perrone. Roberto recalled his school days with affection and offered to return in the near future to broadcast his radio show from Cardinal Newman's new reception area.

Primary aged children from other schools in the St Alban's Partnership of Catholic schools in Luton were invited to participate in a football tournament and

played for a much coveted trophy donated by Vauxhall Motors. However, there were a wide variety of activities and sports on offer to cater for all tastes: St Dympnas and Claddagh Gaels Gaelic football, Luton Rugby Club, a chance for 10 – 16 year olds to learn to drive, fantastic Irish music and a dancing demonstration including Newman Sixth student Declan Kitching who recently came sixth in the World Championships.

In just over 4 hours the school managed to raise over £1400 towards helping maintain bus ticket prices at a reasonable cost for all families regardless of where they live across Luton.

The fete closed with the staff football match and the raffle with lots of generous prizes donated by local companies such as South Beds Golf Club, Luton Hoo and a £100 cash prize courtesy of Indigo Estate Agents.

## Happy retirement, Anne

Mrs Anne O'Connor, Head Teacher at Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Langley, retired at the end of this academic year. Anne has spent her entire teaching career of 40 years at Holy Family school and at a special presentation at Holy

Family Church, Parish Priest, Father Kevin O'Driscoll presented Anne with several gifts including an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis. Anne, centre, photographed with her family circle at Sunday's presentation.



## Michael is Head number five

On July 7<sup>th</sup> Mass was held in the Chapel at St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School to celebrate the induction of Mr Michael Stimpson as the new Headteacher.

Monsignor Kevin McGinnell, Episcopal Vicar of Education in the Diocese, presided over the Mass which was attended by several Priests of St Peter's Deanery and Mr Stimpson's own parish Priest, Canon Robert Plourde from the Diocese of Westminster.

Many former Governors, members of staff and students joined current Governors, staff, students and parents for the rite of induction. Mrs Maria Boland, Chair of Governors presented Mr Stimpson

to the Episcopal Vicar and read out Bishop Peter Doyle's letter of welcome. Signs of service were then presented, they included a copy of the school's Mission Statement (presented by Head Boy, William Wheddon) the bible (presented by the Deputy Head Teacher, Mr Patrick Cornell) and a candle (presented by the Northampton Diocese representative, Mr Stephen O'Brien).

Two former Headteachers of the school: Sister Mary Stephen (who served from 1983 - 1998) and Mr John McAteer (1998 - 2013) read the bidding prayers. The choir of past and present staff and students led the singing.

Several other Headteachers joined the celebrations including: Mr Ciran Stapleton of St Joseph's Catholic High School and Mr Nathan Cheesman of St Bernard's Preparatory School. Monsignor McGinnell thanked Mr Stimpson for accepting the role of Headteacher and for his commitment to Catholic education. In turn, Mr Stimpson thanked everyone for attending and compared his new role to that of "borrowing a book from the Church library...there have only been five former borrowers (or) headteachers" and he promised to treasure it and keep it in excellent condition.

## Important note

If you are providing photos with your news story (as we hope you will), please remember that pictures taken using a telephone often don't reproduce well in print.





# Put the Central African Republic on the map

Parishioners from Christ the King in Bedford were invited to listen to a talk given by Catherine Mahony, CAFOD's Regional Emergency Coordinator for the West African region.

Catherine explained the tragic and brutal conflict in Central African Republic (CAR) which many of our brothers and sisters are caught up in. More than 40 parishioners stayed on after Sunday Mass to listen to Catherine who spoke with passion and knowledge about the ever-worsening crisis in CAR, which few people had even heard about.

CAR is roughly the size of France and Belgium put together and has a population of about 4.6 million. A former French colony, it gained its independence from France in 1960 and its people have suffered through a turbulent history of coups, corruption and civil unrest. A beautiful country in many ways, with stunning natural scenery, CAR is rated as one of the poorest countries in the world. For those born there, the average life expectancy is a mere 49 years and the majority of the population will struggle to feed, clothe and educate their family. Bangui, the capital, is the only urban area and the location of the only hospital in the country.

Today, the situation has unravelled into what UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon calls "a state of anarchy". Inter-communal violence has left thousands dead and more than half of the population is now in urgent need of humanitarian aid. Rebel factions move lawlessly throughout the country, looting, lynching and committing crimes of sexual violence. Though the current round of violence did not start out as

being religiously motivated, with Muslims and Christians previously living peacefully in integrated communities, increasingly violent attacks are taking place along sectarian lines. The social fabric of the country has been torn apart and communities that once lived together harmoniously now live in constant fear of one another. Catherine said: "We saw shocking levels of destitution among families, who had exhausted all means of coping with this crisis."

It is estimated that 350,000 people have fled the country, seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, and many of those who remain have resorted to hiding in the bush for safety or sheltering in makeshift settlements with little access to the basics such as clean water, food and medical care. Due to the pervasive insecurity, aid agencies and UN agencies have been unable to provide sufficient humanitarian aid to many parts of the country.

CAFOD is responding to the crisis with local partner Caritas CAR and US sister agency in the Caritas family, CRS (Catholic Relief Services). Vulnerable communities throughout the country are being provided with access to health care, shelter and education supplies. Farming families are being supported to help themselves through the distribution of seeds and agricultural tools so that they can plant their food crops during the rainy season and provide for themselves in the difficult months to come.

The faith leaders of the Catholic, Muslim and Evangelical Christian Churches have taken a strong stance in condemning the violence and promoting peace. CAFOD

and its partners are supporting the Interfaith Platform in CAR, working to promote tolerance and social cohesion and supporting peace-building activities between different faith groups across the country.

CAFOD is also taking an inter-faith approach as, along with other leading aid agencies in the UK such as Islamic Relief, they are speaking out to ask for increased action on this neglected crisis. Catherine appealed, "We need people here in Bedford and the rest of the UK to help put the CAR on the map. There is a very low level of awareness of the situation, which is worsening every day. Without rapid action we risk seeing a country irreparably destroyed."

CAFOD's diocesan manager, Deborah Purfield said: "This is a real opportunity for people to hear about an horrific but under-reported and misunderstood conflict. Although this situation may feel a million miles away from us, we can't sit back and do nothing whilst so much suffering is going on. There are things we can do from here to support those affected."

## What can you do?

You can help by spreading the story of what is happening in CAR. Make sure your MP is aware of the situation. Could you e-mail or write to him/her and ask the following questions

## Social Cohesion

What will the British Government do to support the efforts of Muslim and Christian faith leaders in the Central African Republic to bring peace between

communities and stop their country being ripped apart by a cycle of fear and violence?

## Peacekeeping

Security in the CAR is deteriorating every single day, as weapons flood in and militia engage in spiralling reprisal attacks that leave hundreds maimed, dead and living in fear. Ten weeks is too long to wait for UN Peace-keeping forces to bring stability. What will the British Government do to stop this deadly violence now? While the people of CAR wait for UN peacekeepers to arrive what is the UK government doing to support the over-stretched and under-resourced international peacekeepers to prevent the deadly violence which is taking place right now?

## Humanitarian

One in five people in the Central African Republic have been forced to flee their homes. Will the British Government increase the UK government humanitarian funding to meet the urgent needs of these people?

The more MPs who ask questions, the more the UK Government becomes aware of people's concerns and more likely they are to use their influence as a member of the UN Security Council, for example, to ensure that the promised peace-keeping force for CAR is large enough and correctly equipped to make a difference

For more information please go to: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/About-Us/Where-we-work/Africa/Central-African-Republic> and <http://www.cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Violence-in-CAR>

## My grandmother would have loved this ad.

**My grandmother would have loved how the gift she left CAFOD in her will is transforming lives in the world's poorest communities.**

When my grandma died in 2008, she left a gift to CAFOD in her will. In 2012, I joined CAFOD on a trip to Nicaragua to see how gifts like hers were being used to change lives.

I was amazed and inspired by everything I saw. Whether providing essential medicines, helping children go to school or making sure families can access clean water, CAFOD supports local people to transform their communities. I know my grandmother would have loved to see how much her gift is achieving.

**I know she would have loved to inspire you to include CAFOD in your will too.**

Kate van den Bosch visiting a school in Cerro Pando, Nicaragua.



*"Grandma didn't talk about her faith a great deal, but through her support of CAFOD, she put that faith into action."*

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# St. Paul's sixth form pilgrims set the record

Twenty six students and three staff members from St. Paul's school, Milton Keynes spent a week at Taize in early July. School chaplain Fr Paul Hardy accompanied them for much of the week.

Taize was founded in 1940 by the Swiss Brother Roger Schutz. He wanted to create a community in which men could live a monastic life without too much intrusion from national, cultural and religious differences. Now the community in central France numbers 120 brothers of thirty nationalities. They have established a number of smaller communities in the

poorest parts of the world.

Taize is the major pilgrimage spot for young people. The group from St. Paul's shared their week with 1,500 others. On the day they left, 2,500 arrived!

The pilgrims shared the life of the Brothers. They gathered in the chapel three times each day for monastic prayer, and the Brothers make no concessions for their visitors. At the heart of their prayer is a deep and extensive silence. Each day they had two input sessions from the Brothers. Brother Paolo, a Catholic born and bred in Gloucester, explored the

gospel, touching on the lives of Dorothy Day and Ruth Burrows. Speaking in English, he translated the trickier bits of language into Dutch, Polish, German and Swedish. For his final talk he focussed on the Church. Only around a quarter of the pilgrims who go to Taize are church-goers. 'In Christian faith you need friends', he said.

Brother Francis, a German with fluent English, told the students about the development of his own call to be a brother at Taize. He described the life the brothers lead, and admitted that the monastery

food was better than the pilgrims received!

The students returned home deeply moved by the experience. They had other memories too. They were impressed by the speed of the TGV train from Paris. They were amused by the sixty six lads from Dublin who weren't sure how to put up their tents, and lost them in a storm on the first night. And they will go into the record books. Deutsche Grammophon made professional recordings of Night Prayer during the week.



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