



Northampton Diocesan News

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More time for golf

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Fifty years of ministry later

Fr. Paddy celebrates his jubilee

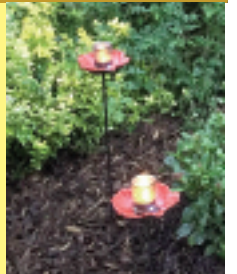
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FREE Every Month

Flowers in Missenden

A new way of remembering

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A pioneering Pastoral Administrator



A Jubilee Dance. See page 7

Remember, you saw it here first. She can do everything a priest does, except anything that a priest does do. Sister Yvonne Pilarski SSCJ is a pioneer; even an experiment. At Bishop Peter's request, she has taken over as Pastoral Administrator of the parishes of Christ The King, Milton Keynes, and St. Bede, Newport Pagnell. Along with Sister Eileen McElhone, she moved into the presbytery at Kents Hill on September 25, and was commissioned by Bishop Peter at the Masses on September 28. Fr. Malcolm Bull will add Newport Pagnell to his responsibilities in Olney. Fr. Paul Hardy will add ministry at Christ The King to his work at St. Edward's, Milton Keynes. They have the help of two Permanent Deacons. But, Sister Yvonne is in charge!

Sister Yvonne hails from Clydebank, near Glasgow. But mum was Corsican, from a family doing business in Scotland. As a French speaker, she married a Pole who spoke French and not English. It was no surprise that their daughter became a language teacher. Yvonne began to explore the possibility of Religious life. She eventually joined a French foundation, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She came to Luton in 1991, teaching RE at the Cardinal Newman school. She went on to become in turn chaplain and then Head of RE. She retired from the school in 2013. In Milton Keynes she follows parish priest Fr James Evans, who has moved to Aston Le Walls. In a quiet way she knows the world is watching her.

Note

All stories and pictures for publication in The Vine must be sent directly to the editor, Fr Paul Hardy: vine01@btopenworld.com

Pictures must be sent as independent jpgs, and not embedded in the text



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Send news reports, photos and other material to the editor, Fr. Paul Hardy, St. Edward's, Burchard Crescent, Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes, MK5 6DX: vine01@btopenworld.comglobalnet.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.

Canterbury



History was made on the cricket pitch. A Vatican team recently played against the Archbishop of Canterbury's team. After the Pope's batsmen had compiled 106 runs for the loss of four wickets in the 20 overs, the Archbishop's boys were made to work hard for their victory, which they completed off the first ball of the final over, with six wickets to spare. Habeamus eventum, they might be saying. We got a result.

Leeds

Pope Francis has appointed Monsignor Marcus Stock, currently the general secretary of the Bishops' Conference, as Bishop of Leeds. He will be the 10th Bishop of Leeds. Mgr John Wilson has been diocesan administrator since former



Bishop of Leeds, Archbishop Arthur Roche, left for Rome in 2012 to take up the position of secretary of the Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Sacraments in the Curia of the Holy See. Bishop-elect Stock was ordained priest in 1988 and served as parish priest across the Birmingham Archdiocese, most recently at the parish of the Sacred Heart and St Theresa in Coleshill. He also served as director of the Diocesan Schools' Commission and since 2009 he has been general secretary of the Bishops' Conference.

Newark

More than 2,200 people packed the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark Oct. 4 to celebrate the first beatification liturgy in the United States. Sister

Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, a Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth from Bayonne, was given the title "blessed" in a joyful ceremony conducted in three languages -- English, Latin and Slovak. Blessed Miriam Teresa died in 1927 at age 26.

Sri Lanka

The distant relative of a British MP will become Sri Lanka's first saint, the Vatican announced yesterday. Pope Francis is expected to canonise Blessed Joseph Vaz, a 17th century missionary, during his visit to Sri Lanka in January. Pope Francis has authorised the canonisation without a second miracle. Blessed Joseph Vaz (1651-1711) is known as the Apostle of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). An Oratorian priest from Goa in the west of India, he was a missionary in Ceylon. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995.



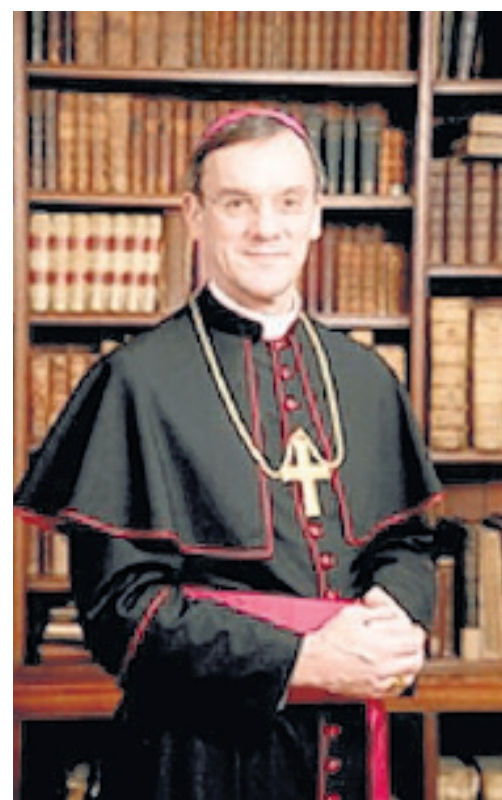
Keith Vaz MP

Salford

New appointment for assistant

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop John Arnold, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Westminster, as Bishop of Salford. He succeeds Bishop Terence Brain who was appointed in 1997. Bishop John Arnold was ordained Priest in July 1983 and after completing further studies in Rome he was appointed to Westminster Cathedral as a chaplain with responsibilities for the Westminster Hospital in 1985. In 1989 he was appointed as Sub-administrator of Westminster Cathedral. In 1993 he became parish priest of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St George in Enfield and remained there until 2001, when he was appointed as Chancellor and Vicar General of the Archdiocese. Bishop Arnold was appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Westminster on 3rd February 2006, with responsibility for the pastoral care of the deaneries of Barnet, Brent, Enfield, Haringey, and Harrow.

On hearing of his appointment, Bishop Arnold said: "I accept the appointment as Bishop of Salford with much trepidation but will do all I can to serve the people, priests, and religious of the Church of this Diocese as we all seek to respond to Pope Francis' call to be 'missionary disciples'". Bishop John Arnold led the Northampton diocesan annual clergy retreat three years ago.



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New light on St. Aidan

As well as marking the Golden Jubilee of St Aidan's Church and Parish in Northampton with the church's Dedication in July, the community commissioned a stained glass window to remember all those who have been a part of parish life.

Northamptonshire artist Anthony MacRae used the story of St Aidan repelling the Vikings at Bamburgh in 651AD to illustrate Christ the stumbling block for unbelievers, and the rock on which believers stand firm.

The Vikings attacked Bamburgh in Northumbria. The people pleaded with Aidan to help them. Aidan prayed and the fires which the Vikings had set were caught by strong winds which blew the flames back onto the besiegers who then fled. The MacRae window shows the Vikings falling over the stones while Aidan stands firm.

By happy coincidence, St Aidan's Day, 31 August, fell on a Sunday and so the celebration replaced the Ordinary Sunday of the Year. During morning Mass, the Parish Priest, Monsignor Paul Donovan, asked God's blessing on the image. The artist and his wife Dianne took part in the Sunday Mass.

"2 generations of parishioners have seen the church rise and prosper," said Mgr Donovan. "Many have now gone to their reward, and this window reminds us of the way that we are still connected to each other down the generations and down the centuries."

*Photographs:
Stained glass artist Anthony MacRae
installing the window.
St Aidan repelling the Vikings at
Bamburgh*



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Pastoral Letter



Bishop Peter introduced Education Week, at the start of October, with a Pastoral Letter focussed on schools. I want us to celebrate our 47 Schools serving 20, 000 children and young people around the Diocese. During this Education Week, there is the opportunity to thank God for what is a vast enterprise, providing privileged places in today's society. For in our schools we can speak openly about Jesus and his Gospel, and about the Church in a world that seems to be keeping religion and especially the Christian faith at a distance.

The Catholic School provides the environment for learning how to live and how to become mature men and women with big hearts. The Catholic School not only broadens our intellectual dimension but also helps us to grow in faith so that we can experience more fully two fundamental values of freedom and service. A Catholic education must help us to reflect on who we are and what we do, and to know how to evaluate which behaviours make us grow. It should help us to exercise our freedom to choose the good however challenging. It should help us to be people with a backbone, who know how to face life and make the right choices.

In the area of service, the life and activity of our schools should prepare us not to be wrapped up in ourselves but to open ourselves to others, and especially to the poorest and most in need. That is a response to the call of Jesus Christ. We have to learn to listen to that call in our prayer and in our everyday routine.

In this Education Week, I want to encourage parents, the first teachers of children in the ways of faith. Our Catholic Schools are there to work in partnership with home and parish in a much broader and diverse way than when they were first built. We owe a great debt to all those who established, built and funded our schools in those early days. Some came through the dedication of religious orders and others through the commitment of priests and people in our parishes.

Now, in a time of constant change in education, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to the staff and governors of our schools for their dedication and commitment in the face of so many challenges. Without their generous service, our young people would not be able to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities in our schools. I also want to thank the staff of NORES, the Northampton Diocese Religious Education Service, who do so much in support of our schools. In a way our schools are like vineyards producing not grapes but rounded young people. The tending of our schools needs to be thoroughly professional and imbued with faith, hope and love.

So, this week I ask you to remember our schools in your prayers, our young people and their families, and all staff and governors. Pray that our schools may be places where students can flourish, coming closer to Jesus and being strengthened to live the values of the Gospel as members of the Church.

With every blessing,

+Peter
Bishop of Northampton



Top of the class

The Catholic Diocese of Northampton has rated St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Aston le Walls as outstanding. In the recent Diocesan Section 48 Inspection Report it is stated that: "St Mary's is an outstanding Catholic school. This is because of the outstanding leadership of the Headteacher, the Religious

Education co-ordinator and the hard work of the whole staff. Religious education is at the heart of the curriculum and embedded in every aspect of life at St Mary's. The school's values and ethos are visibly reflected in the exemplary attitudes and relationships which exist between all members of the community. Pupils thrive in the

supportive, caring and nurturing atmosphere the school provides. As a result they are confident learners with positive attitudes towards school and genuinely care for each other and all members of the school community. Teaching is outstanding overall as are achievements and standards".

Blessing for Jane



Headteacher Jane Crow retired in July after many years of dedicated service at Cardinal Newman, receiving her Blessing From Pope

Francis as a gift from the clergy during the annual staff mass. All the staff, students and friends of Cardinal Newman wish Mrs

Jane Crow the very best in her retirement and in her new role as an Ofsted Inspector.

Infidels parade

On 27 July, a beautiful summer's day, people came in their hundreds from all over the Northampton diocese and beyond to visit Bedford and take part in the biennial Procession of Faith, led by Bishop Peter Doyle. Following a blessing in St Joseph's Church by the Bishop, crowds gathered outside and joined one of the five groups to sing well-known hymns and recite psalms-the idea being that this would be more ecumenical than the usual recitation of the Rosary. It was most heartening to see Fr Jeremy from Luton join us and take part in the procession.

As has now become customary, the Procession halted outside the Bedford prison, where Prayers were said by Bishop Peter, before moving into Harpur Street and de Parys Avenue up to the park. Before the start of the service, the Zimbabwean community did their traditional greeting involving the gift of water pots which were presented to the bishop. The service itself consisted of readings, prayers and bidding prayers interspersed with hymns, concluding with Benediction and blessing in English and Italian. Following this, there was an enthusiastic rendition by Christ the King

Church Gospel Choir of "O, Happy Day" Visitors could then admire the artwork produced by the Catholic schools, or join Bishop Peter in exploring the various Faith stalls representing SPUC, CAFOD, SVP, EVC-Uganda (a newly formed Charity), Knights of St Columba and CaFE; otherwise families enjoyed the beautiful park and picnic-ed. The only "blot" on the day was the Muslim youths interrupting the park service, yelling out that we were infidels.

Trainee deacon David does a runner

David Curtis, who is in his fourth year of formation for the Permanent Diaconate, took part in the Bristol Half Marathon on September 21 to raise money for a charity based in his home parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Great Missenden. He completed the course in two hours fifty one minutes. David, whose wife Jane is a trustee of the Friends of the Belarusian Hospice (UK), says, 'As you know, I'm not built for running, so the prospect of completing a half marathon filled me with dread. But what drove me on was the thought of how much good the money I raise will do in supporting the very sick children cared for by the Belarusian Childrens' Hospice. Anyone who has experienced the courage and determination of a terminally ill child will know that they deserve all the support that we can give them'.

He seems to have done very well for someone not built for running. David so far has raised the magnificent sum of £7.115. This will help pay for palliative care at home for 110 children looked after by the hospice, which was opened shortly after the Chernobyl disaster and still continues to see families affected by the consequences of long-term radiation.

Friends of the Belarusian Childrens' Hospice chairwoman, and parishioner at IHM, Great Missenden, Daryl Ann

Hardman said, 'when you consider that the annual salary of a fully trained nurse at the hospice in Minsk is £5,184, you realise what a huge contribution David's splendid effort has made to keeping this wonderful hospice going. It is a place that celebrates life, and does its best to make the short lives of its young patients as full and rewarding as possible. The hospice does not believe in shutting children with terminal illnesses or chronic disabilities into institutions. It believes in their right to live at home with their families, pain-free and with as much love, stimulation, joy, medical and practical support as they and their families require. The models of childrens' care adopted in Belarus is largely the UK model, so we are able to support them not only financially, but also by sending UK specialists to help train their staff and to give advice'.

Congratulations to David on his marvellous achievement. If you would like to help David increase his sponsorship total, you can visit his fundraising page at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DavidCurtis2> or you can send a cheque made out to Friends of BCH c/o The Treasurer, 47 Copperkins Lane, Amersham HP6 5QP. Friends of BCH is very grateful for your donations and support. Please do visit its website www.friends-bch.org.uk for news from the hospice and updates on how donated money is spent.



David being commissioned as an acolyte earlier this year

A fond farewell

A musical farewell was given to Monsignor Paul Donovan with a performance by CANTARE SINGERS, just before his departure to the parish of St Augustine, High Wycombe, after his two year watch at St Aidan's, Northampton. A basket collection for donations in aid of the Society of St Vincent de Paul raised just under

£400, including some cash from those unable to be present due to other commitments. The well-filled church was buzzing with enthusiasm and the pew warmers obviously enjoyed both the interval 'eats' and wonderful music on offer. A return visit of the choir is to be lined up for a Spring concert.

The varied pro-

gramme included a vigorous rendition of 'Rule Britannia', 'Ruler of the Queen's Navy' as solos with choir and audience back-up plus 'Bobby Shafto' just to remind Mgr Paul of his own, lengthy, musical connections. Andrew Howes conducted a thirty+ strong choir with Wendy Baker at the keyboard, which included several inspirational

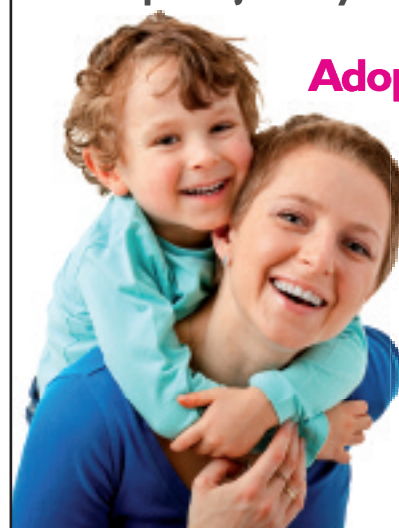
solos, amongst them were 'Panis Angelicus', 'Ave Maria'. 'Westering Home', 'If I ruled The World' and 'I Were A Rich Man'. An 18 year old local Music School student trumpeter, Jake, gave a stirring accompaniment to 'Anthem' (from the musical CHESHAM). The audience liked it so much that the choir were obliged to repeat the song!

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Fr Willie retires from Wycombe

Friday 29th August saw the Farewell Mass of much-loved parish priest Fr Willie Strain, who was retiring after 36 years at St Augustine's church in High Wycombe and over 50 years as a priest. It was an occasion of mixed joy and sadness, to say goodbye and thank you, as well as very best wishes for his much earned rest (and more time for golf) back in Co. Donegal, Ireland. Following the Mass were a number of songs, both poignant and with humorous memories, as well as presentations of gifts from the parishioners and various groups, followed by

refreshments.

Fr Willie came from Marlow to St Augustine's, as parish priest, in 1978 and quickly put his energies into initiating projects to further the social and spiritual development of the parish community. In 1980 a parish meeting hall/community centre was created, by dividing the church vertically in two and building the 'Upper Room' with its kitchen and facilities. In 1981 he instigated the first May Fayre on the Rye. Initially started as a fund-raising event, this has now become a major social event in the High Wycombe town



Very best wishes for his much earned rest (and more time for golf) back in Co. Donegal

calendar, with official openings by celebrities, Mayors and local MPs.

Fr Willie's time at St Augustine's has seen many events and activities within the parish and the growth of the community. The beneficial effects on the town were recognised when, on 17th August, the Chairman of Wycombe District Council, Councillor Lesley Clarke, and the Vice Chairman, Councillor Ian McEnnis, presented Fr Willie with a shield in appreciation of his many years of service. A few weeks earlier, the local Bucks County Councillor, Cllr Mrs Val Letheren had presented Fr Willie with a generous cheque for £1000 from her community fund, which Fr Willie then earmarked for a new piano for the choir.

However, above all Fr Willie will be remembered for his hard work, kindness,

love and humour by the very many people who came across him over the years. Above all he was interested in people and has always been approachable and available to listen to and help anyone who was in need – or even to just share a good story or a joke. For this he was much loved by young and old alike. This was very apparent at the farewell Mass, as the church was packed, with many standing, including people who had travelled from other parts of the country and Ireland to be there.

Pictures:

**Top, Fr Willie's retirement Mass:
middle: Fr Willie with chairman of
WDC Cllr Lesley Clarke
Below: with Cllr Mrs Van Letheren.**

“Stay connected to Jesus”

Pope Francis called for Christian Unity during his address at a recent general audience. A short video extract from this was shown at the June meeting of the Ecumenical Commission at St Augustine's Milton Keynes. Bishop Peter then reflected on the Pope's words with over 50 parish representatives and ecumenical friends, which led to some fascinating discussions.

During his catechesis, Pope Francis described the Church as the body of Christ. “If the head is separated from the body, a person cannot survive. It's the same for the Church. We must always stay intensely connected to Jesus.” The Pope said that the Church is not an NGO, cultural or political institution. He explained that the Church is a living body, Jesus is the head who nurtures and guides it along the way. He also calls for Christian unity.

“We Catholics should pray together but we should also pray with other Christians. We must pray so that God may grant us all unity! Unity!” It's through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he said, that unity is possible. But to start off, one must first look for unity at home, in one's family or parish. “We shouldn't follow the path of division, nor the path of conflicts among us. No,

we should all be united! All united despite our differences. Always united. That is the true path of Jesus.”

In the light of his call for Christian unity, the Pope said that very morning he met with an Evangelical Pastor. They both prayed together he said, precisely for Christian unity.

A second video clip in which Pope Francis talked about Catholics, Orthodox and other Christians was also shown at this meeting. The Pope clearly said: “Our Christian communities still experience divisions and this is a scandal. Division among us is a scandal. There is no other word for it. It's simply a scandal.”

The Pope then explained that Christians from different denominations can learn from one another. What one community lacks, he said, it can find in the other. “Let's find joy as we recognise the different graces that God has given our fellow Christians. We receive the same Baptism from the Holy Spirit, who gives these graces. Let's recognise this and rejoice.”

A report of this meeting together with links to the two videos can be found on the Diocesan website. www.northamptondiocese.org Follow the links to Ecumenism and Open meetings.



Tribute to Jubilarian



A thanksgiving Mass to mark Father Paddy Feeney's 50 years in priesthood took place at Our Lady Immaculate and St Ethelbert's Parish Church in Slough on Saturday 21st June. This was a wonderful occasion attended by fellow priests, deacons, parishioners and well-wishers far and wide, which was followed by a lovely 'bring & share,' reception in the Parish Hall. Monsignor Sean Healy, Vicar General, presided, with Canon Kevin O'Driscoll (Dean) and Father Raymond Abuga MSP (Parish Priest) and representatives from local churches. The music and readings specially chosen for Father Paddy surely reflecting 50 years of a life of priestly ministry and a life dedicated to God. The offertory procession was led by children and the youth reflecting the lives of Christians with items such as a bible, candles, flowers, fruits and a rosary, brought up with the bread & wine.

In his homily Monsignor Healy drew direct parallels between the life of St Aloysius Gonzago, (who was very young when he answered his calling) and Father Paddy. He said that they both had "a life dedicated to Christ – one of humility, conversion, ministry and service." Meanwhile, Lawrence Doyle (Parish Committee) said Father Paddy's "quiet unassuming demeanour had endeared him to everyone and that his wisdom and experience had guided many."

Father Paddy was a young Irish man when he was trained with St Patrick's missionary society and ordained a priest. Over the years he was based in Africa, America, England and Ireland. He was particularly based in Nigeria spreading the Good News and working there for nearly 25 years. Monsignor Healy concluded his homily by saying that "one of the privileges of working as a missionary, is that you meet wonderful people working in ministry. Priests celebrate the presence of God and the work of God through people."

After a wonderful Mass, a celebration and party took place in the Parish Hall where the Sisters, nuns from the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy, based in Chalvey, presented Father with a garland as he entered the hall. There was music, speeches, a presentation and dancing, and of course Irish dancing to top things off.

Fr Paddy said, "If God calls you to be a priest, it is the only life in which you will be fulfilled." "Priesthood is a happy life when people, the parishioners support you. People say it is difficult but it is a happy life – a vocation. Once you keep Christ as the main focus of your life – everything falls into place." When asked if it had felt strange for him to move so far from home, early in his priestly life, Father Paddy said that he had worked with other missionaries in Africa – initially two, but it was always a long way from the next mission. He said being a priest had been a positive experience. Father Paddy has very kindly donated the proceeds of his gift from the Parish to the St Patrick's Missionary Society, for its continued good work here and abroad.

We congratulate Father Paddy on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee and we wish him all the best for the future.

Kathleen Shaw

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Saturday, 22nd November
Parish Vespers for the Solemnity of Christ the King
St Anne's Church, Wendover (6:30pm)
Guest Preacher: Monsignor Sean Healy
Celebratory Refreshments
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Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (Great Missenden) and St Anne's Church (Wendover)

Further information available at www.ihmissenden.org.uk (01494) 862049

Sunday, 23rd November
Parish Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King
Great Missenden (10:00am)
Close of the "Parish Year of Thanksgiving"
Festive Brunch
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Catenian Clergy night out

The President, brothers and ladies of Market Harborough Circle of the Catenian Association were delighted to welcome five members of the clergy to their annual Clergy Night Dinner. Parishes in Corby, Leicester, as well as Market Harborough were represented. A splendid dinner and convivial conversation was rounded off with a presentation by Francisca Martinez, Development Coordinator, of Futures Unlocked. This local

charity, which provides assistance and support to prisoners returning to the community, has as its objective "reducing the rate of re-offending". The presentation was of particular interest to circle members, several of whom work with the Catholic Prison Chaplaincy at the nearby Gartree Prison. Left to Right. Rev. Joe Dawson, Deacon - St Thomas More, Leicester: Bro. Jim Mc Cahill:

Mgr. Canon Patrick McAleenan, Retired (former PP Our Lady of Walsingham Corby) : Canon Owen O'Neill, PP Our Lady of Victories, Market Harborough: Keith Webb, President, Market Harborough Circle: Fr. Michael Moore, PP - St. Thomas More, Leicester: Peter Bennett -Smith, Secretary, Market Harborough Circle : Fr. Michael Harrison, PP Our lady of Walsingham, Corby.

Pilgrim People

Fr Richard Moroney recently led a group of parishioners on pilgrimage to Walsingham to pray for their parish. He said 'Walsingham has had a fascination for me since I was a child. Our Lady of Walsingham had a ring about it that engaged me. Even more fascinating is that it is a place of pilgrimage for Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Anglican Christians. It was here that Richeldis was inspired by Our Lady to build a replica of the Holy Family's home in Nazareth. It is a reminder of so many spiritual themes. "The disciple made a home for her (Mary)." We too are invited to make a home for her. In her presence we learn something of her Son. Where do you live? the disciple asked Jesus. "Come and see" - Come to my house. Christianity is a religion of utmost intimacy. In intimacy there is a certain daring. I hope that the 20 or so pilgrims from St Peter's, Biggleswade learned something of this intimacy when they made their pilgrimage.



Being Body

Pope Francis called for Christian Unity during his address at a recent general audience. A short video extract from this was shown at the June meeting of the Ecumenical Commission at St Augustine's Milton Keynes. During his catechesis, Pope Francis described the Church as the body of Christ. "If the head is separated from the body, a person cannot survive. It's the same for the Church. We must always stay intensely connected to Jesus." The Pope said that the Church is not an NGO, cultural or political institution. He explained that the Church is a living body, Jesus is the head who nurtures and guides it along the way. He also calls for Christian unity. "We Catholics should pray together but we should also pray with other Christians. We must pray so that God may grant us all unity! Unity!"

It's through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he said, that unity is possible. But to start off, one must first look for unity at home, in one's family or parish.

"We shouldn't follow the path of division, nor the path of conflicts among us. No, we should all be united! All united despite our differences. Always united. That is the true path of Jesus." In the light of his call for Christian unity, the Pope said that very morning he met with an Evangelical Pastor. They both prayed together he said, precisely for Christian unity.

A second video clip in which Pope Francis talked about Catholics, Orthodox and other Christians was also shown at this meeting. The Pope clearly said:

"Our Christian communities still experience divisions and this is a scandal. Division among us is a scandal. There is no other word for it. It's simply a scandal."

The Pope then explained that Christians from different denominations can learn from one another. What one community lacks, he said, it can find in the other. "Let's find joy as we recognise the different graces that God has given our fellow Christians. We receive the same Baptism from the Holy Spirit, who gives these graces. Let's recognise this and rejoice."

A report of this meeting together with links to the two videos can be found on the Diocesan website. www.northamptondiocese.org Follow the links to Ecumenism and Open meetings.

Our next open meeting at St. Augustine's is on the morning of 11th October. It will be about Ecumenism in Action in Sport and the speaker is Mgr. Vladimir Felzmann.

Book Review

St Nicholas Owen: Priest-Hole Maker.

By Tony Reynolds.
Gracewing. £9.99

In this readable and informative book, Tony Reynolds highlights the exceptional courage and brilliant craftsmanship of St Nicholas Owen, the Catholic layman who, during the reign of Elizabeth Tudor, helped to save the lives of priests and their helpers, hunted by the government for secretly celebrating Mass. It is thought that this humble son of an Oxford carpenter was born in 1562. One of four brothers (two brothers became priests), he trained as a master-joiner; it is likely that he entered the service of the Jesuit, Fr Henry Garnet, in 1588.

For 18 years or thereabouts he faithfully worked for the cause of keeping English Catholicism alive, his particular gift being in building ingenious hiding places – some of which have only been discovered in the last century. Hindlip House (in which there were 11 secret corners and conveyances), Baddesley Clinton, Oxburgh Hall and Harvington Hall were only some of the mansions of the Catholic gentry in which Owen contrived escape routes or priest holes behind chimney breasts, in hidden spaces under the eaves or between steps on the stairs. From what we know, he had a sociable yet discreet personality; as the author shows, Owen was also a man of resolute faith and steadfastness. The details of his death under torture in the Tower in 1606 are harrowing, yet also inspiring. The author himself trained as an architect, so his book shows a particular understanding of the architectural merits of Owen's work. This is a book worth giving as a confirmation present, both for its historical as well as its religious interest.

Francis Phillips



Questions Children Ask

'Questions Children Ask', by Kenneth Payne, is a book that Christian parents, grandparents and teachers have been waiting for.

How many of us have been flummoxed by unexpected, profound questions our children have asked: and this when we are driving the car, at the stove or in the middle of a school lesson. Father Kenneth Payne, having consulted with friends, parents and teachers, has provided possible answers to those deep questions that children ask. We adults may have been pondering the same questions ourselves!

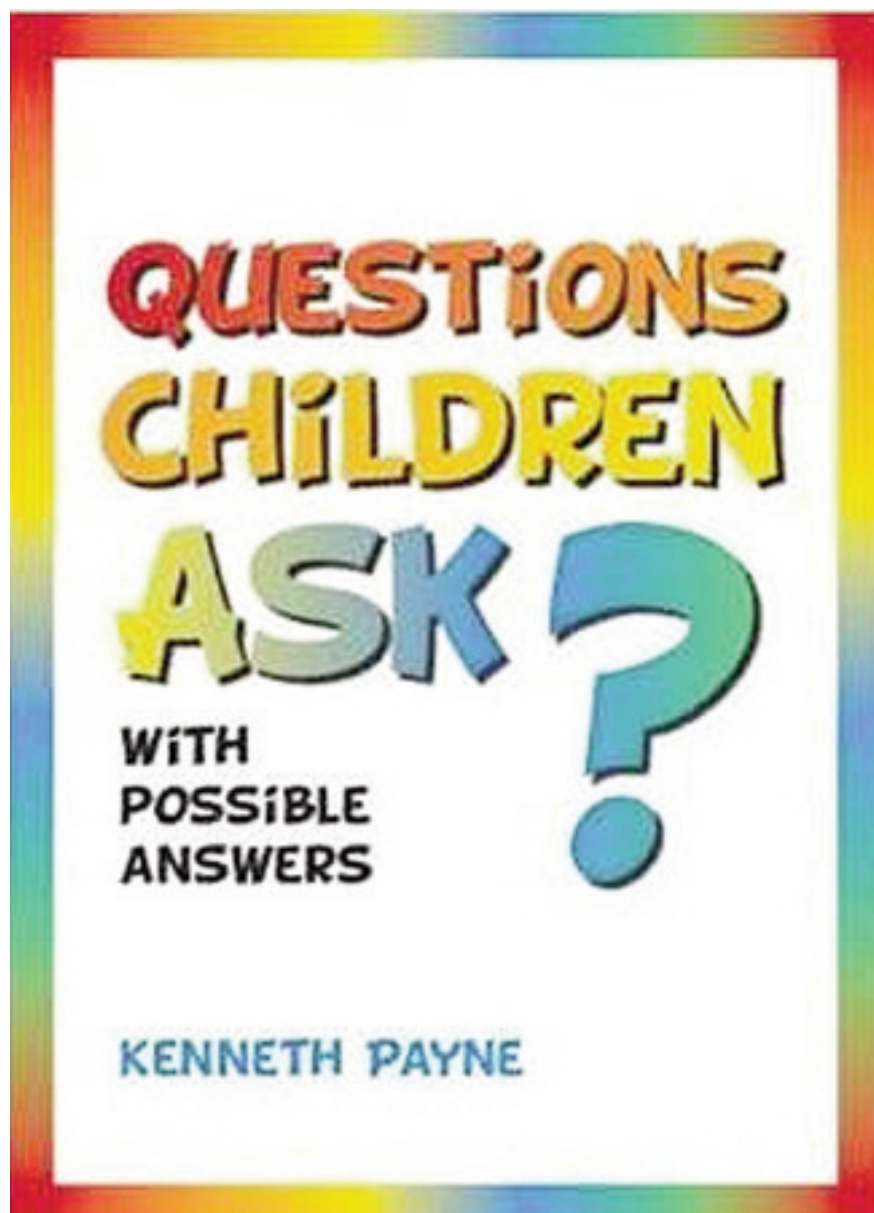
The author groups the children's questions into seven chapters, relating to God, Heaven, Creation, the Bible, Jesus, Evil, Suffering, Death, Prayer, Church, Worship and Miscellaneous questions on love and sex – which he wisely comments is 'often too late, too little, and too biological'. The answers are short and appropriate for 5-11 year olds, with the need to 'express the truth, although in certain cases it may only be a partial truth, which can be developed more at a later age.' Some of the answers would be too difficult for the younger children to understand.

The very short answers are beautifully expressed with the final one the best of all: Q. why did God choose me to live on earth? A: 'Because you are a wonderful person and he wanted to show his love through you to others.'

It is this sensitivity, warmth and love that Fr Kenneth is able to share with us that makes the book so attractive. Illustrated with drawings and several humorous stories, each chapter concludes with an appropriate prayer. It is the introduction, however which I find most inspiring. We are invited to share our faith, to be unafraid of saying 'I believe..' and confidently honest to say 'I really don't know the answer.'

As a grandmother I am delighted to have this book – and I am ready for the questions!

Clare Richards.



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Sister Julia

Sister Julia O'Donnell OCV died in September. Who? Julia was the little old lady, deaf and disabled, who spent much of her day getting by bus to St. Edward's Milton Keynes from her home in Wolverton. She had worked as a district nurse in the town for over forty years. She offered far more than duty demanded, and was loved and revered by the doctors for whom she worked. A modest claim to fame was that she had nursed Johnny Dankworth's mum.



Sister Julia O'Donnell

But Julia was a district nurse by accident. A young orphan and convert, she was a professed member of a community of Sisters. She worked with distressed families in Newcastle. Deeply spiritual, she thought she felt a call to contemplative life in a Carmelite community. But she did not complete the novitiate, and her original community of Sisters refused to let her return. She became a matron at Ampleforth, but did not see eye to eye with the abbot. So she arrived in Wolverton, driving a mini, and winning an argument with a police sergeant. She was deeply grateful to Bishop Francis Thomas, who formally recognised her religious vows. After retirement she stayed in her terraced home in Wolverton, which boasted two posh chairs 'for the nuns' when they came to visit their old colleague. Her sharp humour was the delight of those who knew

her. During a long stay in hospital she was very amused to discover that the young nurses were terrified of her. Someone had told them she was a nun. Eventually she sold her home and went to the Sister's retirement home in Birmingham, moving some years later to their nursing home in Brighton.

Friends from St. Edward's made regular trips to visit her. When she discovered that she was terminally ill she telephoned St. Edward's to make sure that she could have her Requiem Mass there. It was celebrated on September 22, and Julia was buried in the plot she had secured in the Catholic cemetery in Woburn Sands. A friend from St. Edward's summed her up: 'She was a dear, sweet lady. I wrote to her every Sunday and she was always delighted that I enclosed a weekly newsletter from St Ed's and enclosed a Vine once a month'.

Religious Sister District nurse 'Dear, sweet lady'

Monsignor Graham Adams

Mgr Graham Adams died on September 20 at the age of 75. He had prepared his own autobiography to be read at his funeral. Canon John Koenig included his remarks in the homily which he preached at the Requiem Mass. 'Graham Adams was born in North London in July 1939, seven weeks before the outbreak of the second world war.. He had a younger twin brother, baptised Colin, but sadly he died after seven days. Graham was very saddened about this throughout his life, and often sought Colin's prayers.

After primary education at a prep school near Finchley, Graham won an 11 Plus scholarship to St. Alban's school. The school was over 1000 years old and, among its former pupils, boasted Nicholas Breakspeare, Pope Adrian IV.

Graham left school in 1957, after O and A Levels. He went into a Catholic church for the first time on June 29, 1957. In a remarkable series of events he was received into the Church in August 1957. At the end of September he started studying for the priesthood at St. Edmund's college, Ware. But he had nowhere to go at holiday time, so he was sent to the English College, Lisbon, in September 1959. After an operation to remove his appendix he was sent back to England and went to Osterley to study Latin. Pope John XXIII had just issued

instructions that all students for the priesthood must be familiar with Latin. After a year at Osterley Cardinal Godfrey sent Graham to Oscott to complete his studies. Cardinal Heenan, Godfrey's successor at Westminster, was unwilling to ordain Graham to the subdiaconate. When Graham asked the Cardinal if he could seek another bishop the Cardinal said 'No other bishop in England and Wales would dare to question my judgement'. The Rector at Oscott arranged interviews for Graham with several bishops. He was told to be sure to repeat

Cardinal Heenan's words to the bishops. Two bishops immediately accepted him. Graham chose the diocese of Northampton, and was ordained priest on March 12, 1965. He held curacies at Beaconsfield, Northampton Cathedral and Lowestoft. In January 1972 he was commissioned as a chaplain in the RAF. Leaving the service after four years he asked to serve on the Diocesan Tribunal. Almost single-handedly he established and led an independent Tribunal, a work which he took very seriously. He was also for many years



a conscientious chairman of the Sick Clergy Fund. Both roles were combined with his work as parish priest of Aston Le Walls, where he served for almost thirty years. He retired in 2010.

His last years were dogged by increasing frailty, which confined him to a residential Nursing Home. He would have been amused to know that, on the night he died, he was unwittingly anointed by two of his fellow diocesan priests.

Bishop Peter presided at his Requiem Mass on September 26 at St. John's, Banbury.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine

Phyllis Kaye

In September 2010 Phyllis Kaye was treated by the Dunstable Knights of St. Columba to the Provincial Knights' dinner for her 95th birthday. There she had the good fortune to sit next to Bishop Peter, a fact she was proud to mention to her family. In March of this year at the age of 98 she attended the Church's Golden Jubilee Mass at St. Mary's. She died on 25th August, six weeks before her 99th birthday.

Phyllis was born in 1915 in Aston Clinton to Tom and Florence King a non-conformist family. She helped in the family business of builders and undertakers. She later trained as a nurse at Fulham Hospital and joined the Women's League of Health and Beauty. She was also a volunteer driver for the Hospital Car Service.

During the Second World War she worked in several hospitals, including Finchley and experienced the bombing. While on leave she attended a dance at Anthony Hall in Aston and met a handsome young airman, Jozef Krzewina. They married on 2nd November 1944 in St. Joseph's Church, Aylesbury. Her father refused to attend the ceremony as it was in a Catholic church. The family eventually settled in Shepherds Farm on the Tring Road outside Dunstable. Apart from raising five children (they changed their name to Kaye when the children started school) the farm had 500 pigs and also cows, horses and poultry. She loved music and played the organ at St. Mary's for many years. She boasted that she played at the last mass in the old church and the first one in the new

church. A photo in the recent church's jubilee exhibition shows her at the organ in the new church.

She was also active in the Polish community and was instrumental in getting money from Bishop Parker towards the purchase of a disused church for the Poles. In her latter years she attended the Baptist church in Dunstable with one of her daughters. She enjoyed many of the activities there including 'Knit & Natter' and 'Reminiscences'. It was there that her funeral took place and the service was attended by many friends from St. Mary's and the Polish Church. She leaves 5 children, 8 grandchildren, 16 great grand children and 4 great great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews and their families in England, Poland and New Zealand.

Your next deadline? October 31

Parishioners in Northampton have been inspired by CAFOD's energiser days to help fight global hunger.

A group of volunteers met in Beaconsfield on 13 September to discuss Fast Day (held on 3 October) and the successes the group has already achieved. Altogether there were eight new CAFOD supporters, including a 12-year-old boy called Philip who came along with his parents to meet the group, and Father Francis from St Teresa's Catholic Church.

Part two of the energiser event took place on 20 September at St Gregory's Primary School in Northampton. Many were shocked to learn that one in eight in our world go hungry - when there is enough food for all.

Harvest Fast Day occurs at a time when farmers are harvesting the crops that provide food we eat. But half of the people in the world who go hungry are actually farmers. This year's campaign asked parishioners 'Will you make a place at your table?' by making a one-off or regular donation.

Another suggestion was to support CAFOD by praying, wasting less food and by fasting/eating less and then donating the savings made.

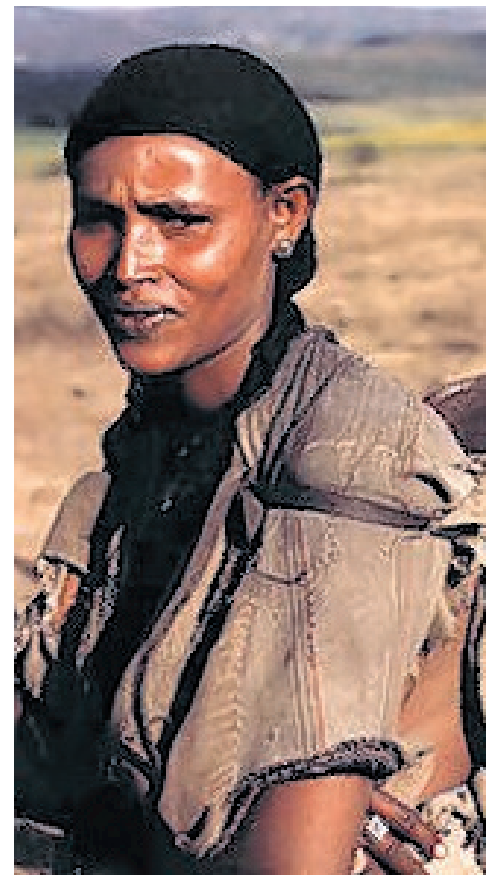
An example of this good work is when CAFOD works with the local people to dig bore holes to find water and give them tools so they can help themselves.

CAFOD's Northampton Diocese Manager, Deborah Purfield, said: 'These days were very positive and we had some fantastic input. The groups felt energised to take something back to their parish to promote Fast Day, whether it be handing out the envelopes rather than just leaving them for people to take, getting young people to partake more, giving a two-minute Fast Day talk or even holding a fundraising event with a talk before that on the work of CAFOD.'

For more information, please contact Deborah Purfield on 01604 785254, email Northampton@cafod.org.uk or visit

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/CAFOD-in-your-area/Harvest-2014>

Women of Ethiopia



Over thirty people sat down to a typical Ethiopian meal on 26 June in Winslow, at an evening organised by the St Alban's Parish Justice and Peace group. After the meal Greg Morris talked about the Hamlin Fistula charity which supports work in Ethiopia curing obstetric fistulas, a childbirth injury that leaves thousands of young women every year suffering from incontinence. This inevitably leads to their exclusion from their family and village community: in effect their lives are destroyed. For forty years Catherine Hamlin - initially with her husband Reg, who died twenty years ago - has felt called by God to work with these

unfortunate women, the poorest of the poor, and has cured tens of thousands of patients, rehabilitating them and giving them new life. In recognition of this work Catherine has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize this year. Hamlin Fistula UK is the arm of the charity based in this country, building awareness of the problem and raising funds to support the wonderful work being carried out in Ethiopia. This is an area in which much can be done with relatively little resource, to provide life changing surgery and treatment for the young women physically damaged by childbirth. The eventual aim is to eradicate fistulas in

Ethiopia and the charity now trains midwives to work all over the country. The task is huge but thanks to the Hamlins' work there is no shortage of knowledge about how to proceed.

The evening in Winslow raised over £370 and, as the charity is run on a shoestring, almost all of this will be used to buy resources for the Addis Ababa hospital.

Greg Morris is available to talk to groups around the Diocese about the charity's work: please contact him at s.morris762@btinternet.com if you would like to invite him to address a group in your parish.



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Missenden memorial

The commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War, and the involvement of Catholics in the defence and preservation of peace, was marked in the parish of Great Missenden (Buckinghamshire) in a number of ways. On the Sunday nearest the centenary anniversary a wreath of poppies, in a simple and beautifully poignant manner, was ceremoniously laid before the Altar at each Mass; prior to this the congregation, many of whom had first-hand experience of the Second World War, prayed for an end to the conflicts that currently mark our world. However, it was on the anniversary itself that the commemorations truly stepped up a notch. At 11:00am a small group of parishioners gathered in the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for an hour of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament; barely twelve hours later, people once more assembled for a solemn vigil of prayer in St Anne's Church (Wendover) before join-

ing with fellow Christians and civic dignitaries for the official commemoration at the local War Memorial in the centre of the town. Once the wreaths and the WWI commemorative flag had been removed from the Churches the Parish Priest, Father Wayne Coughlin, suggested that a lasting memorial ought to be erected to recognise the contribution of Catholics (both civilian and military) to the war effort. It was the renovation of a flower border in the garden of the Presbytery that proved to be the ideal memorial. With neatly planted with shrubs, that could be cut for use in floral arrangements, and the erection of a commemorative sign, all that was left was to install the decorative iron poppies and glass votive candle shades. Whilst not extensive, in fact it is very small, Father Wayne and the parishioners are happy to offer guided tours of the WWI flower border if you are passing Great Missenden!

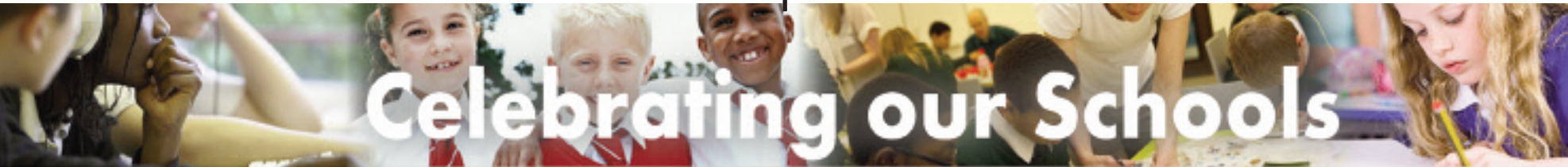


SVP meet in festival

The Northampton Central Council Annual Festival Meeting of the St Vincent de Paul Society was held at the Sacred Heart church, Leighton Buzzard on Sunday 28th September. Over 70 members attended the meeting which brings together friends and supporters from Conferences across the Diocese. Bishop Peter and Father John Danford concelebrated mass and attended the meeting. Father Kieran Magovern, SVP Northampton Central Council Spiritual Director was also present. Speakers included Christopher Cook, representing the David Young Charity, who was presented with a cheque for £600 for their work with those in need. Elizabeth Palmer, SVP Society Chief

Executive, gave a presentation on Youth SVP, the Society's shops and furniture stores, holiday camps and hostels for the homeless. She spoke about the future of the Society, which has nearly 10,000 members in the 22 diocese in England and Wales, who regularly visit and provide assistance to those in need. Bishop Peter closed the meeting and thanked members for all the work they do through seeing Christ in the poor. Photo: L to R Bishop Peter, Elivabeth Palmer, SVP CEO., John Curtin, President Northampton Central Council.

Phil Burrowes



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