December 2014

Issue No. 308



Northampton Diocesan News

UCM at Great Billing shrine.

Thank-you plague donated.



Annual Mass for schools.

St. Mary's, Dunstable, overflows



Big boost for cancer care.

Record fundraising from Sacred **Heart Primary** school.

Page 10



Well done, David.

Charity fundraiser

gets his medal.



CAFOD office leaves town

"It is with great sadness that the local CAFOD office leaves St Gregory's Primary School" said Deborah Purfield the CAFOD Diocesan manager (Northampton). St Gregory's Primary School in Northampton opened its doors to accommodate the local CAFOD Diocesan office when it was set up over eight years ago. Since then, CAFOD has been a big part of St Gregory's school and Northampton town. Many volunteers and supporters from Northampton have commented on how sorry they were to see the office move, Deborah was keen to reassure people saying, "Our move will not affect our relationship with our

it. I'll be focussing more on meeting people and supporting our wonderful volunteers, schools and parishes so please get in touch"

The office moved out of St Gregory's School on the 29th October 2014 due to the school needing the space back to expand and carry out the good work they are doing. Mr John Davis (head teacher) remarked, "We have been fortunate to have had CAFOD in the school all these years and we hope you will continue to be part of the school's life." The children from each year group wrote farewell wishes which were compiled into a booklet and given as a

supporters. I plan to strengthen leaving gift together with a £100 donation towards CAFOD's work. "I am lost for words and am so touched" admitted Deborah who was invited to receive these gifts during the school assembly. She added, "out of sight doesn't mean out of mind, we are still part of the school and we look forward to being invited back to give assemblies and talks".

The new CAFOD Northampton office is now based at: Ker Anna Centre, Aylesbury Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks. HP27 0JW, tel 01844 274723

Picture: St. Gregory's students say goodbye



Shefford paridhioner Patrick McKay spotted this sculpture on a Spanish beach.

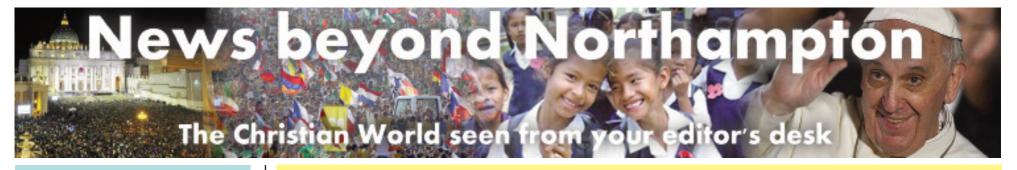


Note

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

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





Getting into print

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.

Turin

Pope Francis will visit the Shroud of Turin during its public display in Turin's cathedral April 19-June 24, 2015, as well as commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of St. John Bosco. According to tradition, the 14-foot-by-4foot linen cloth is the burial shroud of Jesus. The shroud has a full-length photonegative image of a man, front and back, bearing signs of wounds that correspond to the Gospel accounts of the torture Jesus endured in his passion and death. The church has never officially ruled on

Rome

the exhibition told reporters they expect at least 1 million people from all over Pope Francis has appointed the first the world to visit during the two-month-All donations made by pilgrims during

Paul Gallagher was promoted as part of a

An acquaintance of Gallagher, speaking on condition of anonymity, described him as "a discreet man, but with a calm and engaging personality. He is not over-for-

Gallagher, who holds the rank of archbishop, will head the Vatican section charged with overseeing its worldwide diplomacy.

that had been torn apart by civil war. In

Burundi, he took over from a predecessor who had been assassinated. Archbishop Michael Courtney, from Ireland, died of gunshot wounds after his car was attacked in 2003 as he



Briton to be the Vatican's foreign minister - a post regarded as a possible stepping stone to the papacy itself.

reshuffle at senior levels of the Vatican, which Francis used to sideline the main spokesman of a conservative faction at last month's synod. The 60-year-old, from Liverpool, is currently the Vatican's nuncio (ambassador) in Australia.

mal and really quite proactive."

Before being sent to Australia, Gallagher had served as the pope's envoy in Guatemala and Burundi, both countries

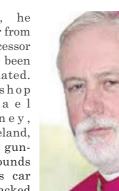
Roman curia, the central administration of the Catholic church.

An ecumenical invitation

Bishop Peter has issued a unique invitation to all parishes and all our ecumenical friends to join him in our Cathedral on $21^{\rm st}$ Jan. 2015 at 7.30 p.m. to celebrate the $50^{\rm th}$ anniversary of the Vatican Council's decree on Christian Unity. Also invited are the local leaders of Christian denominations who have churches in our diocese, as well as

At the Service, Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham will preach. For many years he was the Catholic Ecumenical Officer for England and Wales, and so will speak from his inside knowledge. Catholics are asked to bring their non-Catholic relations, friends, and partners with them to the event.

years, and that the work of bringing the Churches together is still an important one.



Dr. David Cornick, the General Secretary of Churches Together in England.

Posters about this are being sent to all parishes, so it is hoped that the whole diocese will be represented. Fr. James Cassidy, C.R.I.C., the Diocesan Ecumenical Offer said that he hopes the event, which has been about a year in the planning, will show clearly what strides have been made in Church Unity by all the Churches over the last 50

Your next deadline: January 1

pice for the terminally ill, officials announced.

EBOLA CRISIS APPEAL

Thousands of people have died from the deadly Ebola virus, in the largest outbreak ever known.

"Ebola leaves orphans in its wake who have now lost their source of food, education, love and care. It has taken our farmers away from the fields. It has shut down our roads and market places – destroying future economic prosperity." Patrick Jamiru,

Director of Caritas Kenema in Sierra Leone

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the shroud's authenticity, saying judg-

ments about its age and origin belonged

to scientific investigation. Scientists

have debated its authenticity for

decades, and studies have led to con-

The archbishop and other organizers of

the event will be earmarked for a hos-

flicting results.

long public exposition.

cafod.org.uk/ebola or call 0500 85 88 85

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In the footsteps of the saints



n Sunday September 28 a group of 36 pilgrims flew from Luton to Fiumicino Airport, Rome.After a late arrival at Domus Internationalis Paulus V1, our accommodation in Rome, we awoke refreshed on Monday for a very busy schedule.

That morning we celebrated Mass in the Basilica of Santa Croce. Afterwards our guide Paola, took us to the Pope's seat as bishop of Rome, the basilica of St. John Lateran and the Scala Sancta, the steps brought from Jerusalem in the 4th century and said to be those ascended by Christ before his trial. In the afternoon Paola took us on a tour of St. Peter's basilica.

On Tuesday we celebrated Mass in St. Peter's. Later we visited the English College, which began as a hospice for Ebglish pilgrims in 1362. During the Reformation it became, and remains, a seminary for the training of English priests. In the afternoon we walked to the district of Trastevere, visited the church of Santa Maria in Trastevere, and had dinner at a restaurant there.

We returned to St. Peter's square on Wednesday for the papal audience. It was a wonderful experience. Pope Francis came to the podium, addressed the massive crowd and moved about in his popemobile to reach as many as possible. That afternoon we travelled to Assisi and toured the places associated with St. Francis and St. Clare. We went to the church of Santa Maria degli Angeli which covers St. Francis' original tiny chapel,

the Portziuncula, near where he died.

From Assisi we went on to the town of Loreto, visited the basilica which contains the Holy House believed to be the home at Nazareth in which the Holy Family lived. We celebrated Mass there after a guided tour.

Then we travelled south, stopping first in Lanciano, the site of a Eucharistic miracle in the 8th century. We then moved on to S. Giovanni Rotondo to honour St. Padre Pio. On the following day, Saturday, we had Mass at the saint's tomb. Then we were off to the Sanctuary of St. Michael the Archangel at Monte S. Angelo where legend says that in 490 St. Michael appeared three times to a local nobleman and to the bishop. He directed the bishop to s a grotto on the mountainside where there was an altar and a cross. The bishop built a chapel at the entrance to the cave. It became known as the Celestial Basilica, because St. Michael told the bishop that he himself had consecrated it.

On the following day, Sunday, we had Mass at St. Pio's birthplace in Pietrelcina, and continued on to Fiumicino airport for our flight home after a very active and wonderful pilgrimage.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Canon John Koenig, our spiritual leader; to Andy Sipple who organised the pilgrimage and to Andy Biddicombe, who suggested it

Picture: the pilgrim group outside the shrine to Padre Pio.



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Daventry vision shared with Synod bishops



The Annual Conference was held on 13-14th September at Staverton Park in Daventry, Northants. About 300 Marriage Care volunteers attended and heard what Cardinal Vincent Nicols said about the Catholic Church's vision for Marriage Care.? Cardinal Nichols said 'the expertise that has been established within the volunteer workforce which supports Marriage Care is considerable and represents an extensive resource for the work of marriage preparation and the care of family relationships'. He confirmed that

he had had talks with the UK government about the strength of the Marriage Care volunteer workforce and how effectively Marriage Care was working in the UK. He thanked everyone for their work in marriage preparation classes and marriage counselling services. Cardinal Nicols was also taking the concept of how effectively Marriage Care works to Rome to share this model in the two week synod of 200 cardinals and bishops from around the world to discuss issues related to the family.

Pilgrims flock to Relic Image

The Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe visited St John's Cathedral, Norwich for a week earlier this year.

During this time more than 1,000 pilgrims from throughout the East Anglia Diocese-including St Neots, Peterborough, Cambridge and Yarmouth as well as Norwichcame to pay homage

and to pray. Pilgrims were joined by a group of visiting Carmelites who had travelled from Aylesford Priory in Kent. The very successful visit owes much to the support and organisation from KSC Province 27 East Anglia under the direction of Chris Brookes, the Provincial Grand Knight.

Among the very positive outcomes was the establishment of 4 new home shrine devotions and also record repository sales.



At the end of the visit, following the Mass of Return, Fr James Walsh The, Dean, said 'this was a spiritual and uplifting experience for us and for all who came to venerate Our Lady's Miraculous Image. We hope to be blessed from a future visit in your busy programme of Pilgrimage'. The date has since been confirmed for 2017. Other requests for future visits were also received from Aylesford and Peterborough.

Honouring the image

Mass of Our Lady Guadalupe celebration will be on Friday 12 December, 7.30 pm, at the Shrine in the Church of the Holy Child and Joseph, Brereton Road, Bedford. Once again our principal celebrant will be Bishop Peter Doyle. We will be joined guests have come together from $_{
m the}$ Catholic provinces of England Wales. During the Mass. Guardians and Home Shrine families will renew their promises and commitment to the Devotion.

The Feast Day



Page 4 The Vine December 2014

SVP serve the sick in annual Beaconsfield Mass



The St. Teresa's Beaconsfield SVP Mass took place on Monday 29th September and was followed by a Tea in the Parish Centre. The Mass, celebrated by Fr. Francis Higgins assisted by Deacon Michael Phelan, featured the anointing of the sick and was well attended. At the Tea in the centre the outgoing President of the

SVP Michael Duffy was commended for his work over the last few years, in which time the St. Teresa's Conference had more than doubled in size, and a presentation was made by the incoming president Martin Majoram.

Pictures: left, the sacrament: below, the presentation.



Plaque marks prayer success



The UCM have held their Annual Rosary Rally at The Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Our Rosary and Prayer day is always so special, so we rallies on the crutches she doesn't need presented Fr. Damien with a plaque in any more. Our plaque was presented by appreciation that so many of our prayers had been answered. Every year we are in awe and thanks that whether we are praying about people trafficking, the homeless, mental health issues or children's welfare, our prayers are always answered in some way within our Diocese, it has been inspirational to us all, and to everyone visiting our shrine. This year our focus was 'Women in Poverty' not only physically but spiritually. Our speakers were Margaret Langley and Janet Baker who offer Post Abortion poverty counselling within Luton Good Council and Rachel's Vineyard. Gillian Brockway shared with

us here miraculous recovery from pain after asking Our Lady for help. We all remember Gillian attending previous our president Marianne French, and our treasurer Bernadette Bates co-ordinated its design and manufacture. After Mass we listened to our speakers then enjoyed refreshments and a good natter. Our Rosary continued in the afternoon with reflections read by members from each foundation in our Diocese. The lovely reflections were compiled by Agnes Milne. We lit our candles and presented our petitions in front of The Icon of Our Lady. Our day concluded with Benediction. We are always so grateful to Fr. Damien and his team at Great Billing for their wonderful hospitality.

Jenny Hyde Media Officer UCM

Over 7000 children in the UK are currently waiting for families Thinking about adoption?

St Francis' Children's Society is an 'Outstanding' rated adoption charity based in Milton Keynes.

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> **Adoption information evenings** Wednesday 3 December 2014 Wednesday 8 January 2015

> > Starting at 6.30pm ending at 8.00pm

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Venue: St Francis' Children's Society, Collis House, 48 Newport Road, Woolstone, Milton Keynes MK15 0AA.

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Annual Mass for schools

The Knights of St. Columba dashed to and fro. Drivers packed large coaches into tiny spaces. Teachers created crisscrossing crocodiles making their way into the church. The children filled the pews and spilled out onto the floor. Musicians, readers and servers were rehearsed to perfection. School banners propped up the walls. It was St. Mary's, Dunstable, on October 10, ready for the annual schools' Mass on a beautiful autumn day.

Herr Beethoven accompanied the entrance hymn. Pope Francis inspired the theme, the Joy of the Gospel. Thornton Convent provided the instrumentalists and the cantors, and their uniforms provided the colour. An intrep-

id young lad from Cardinal Newman school delivered the first reading. The intercessions came from Chesham Bois; the offertory gifts from Corby.

The homily came from Bishop Peter. What makes me happy, he asked. No surprise in the answer — a holiday, a beach and a big ice cream. 'Our schools make me happy too. At the heart of each school is Jesus, giving us unconditional love. Today I want to say a big thank you to Jesus for the love he shares with you'.

The Vine was happy too. A goodly Knight, recognising the power and prestige of the Press, sent your reporter to park his car directly behind the bishop's vehicle, entirely blocking him in.



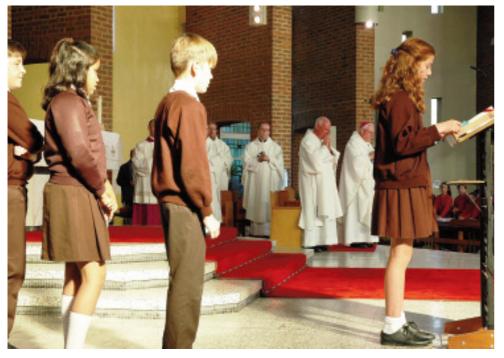
Pictures: top, opening candle bearers; right, entrance procession; below, musicians from Thornton College.







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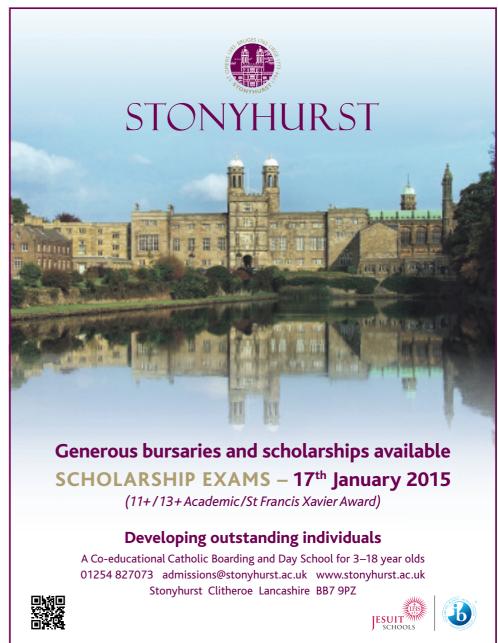


What makes you happy?

Pictures: Above, Bishop Peter starts Mass; left, readers. Below, young and old.







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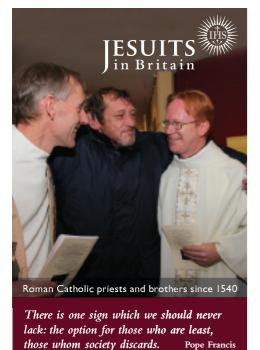
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Barbecue treat for helpers

Patty Greaves, Head of Centre, Marriage Care Milton Keynes opened her garden In Drayton Parslow to the Marriage Care team and everybody was delighted to enjoy some late summer sunshine and some great food. It was a marvellous opportunity to meet other team members and share experiences and good practice. One member said it was "like being part of a big family and it helped us appreciate how much good work is carried out locally in the Milton Keynes patch"



Can you care?

MARRIAGE care



We need people just like you to help us support couples in your community through the best and worst of times. Marriage Care provides 9000 counselling sessions each year in 100 UK locations

Volunteer with us and we'll train and support you to make a difference. Whether you've been blessed in your relationships or have known brokenness, married or single, you'll find a warm welcome at Marriage Care. We're looking for people who can respect and share in our ethos and values and fulfill a wide variety of roles. We will train you using an Emotionally Focused Therapy approach over 18 months including 4 residential weekends.

We are recruiting qualified counsellors to train in couple counselling to volunteer with us in Bedford, Milton Keynes and Northampton. Demand for services for both counselling and marriage preparation days is huge. "We're worried that waiting lists are beginning to build and we don't want troubled couples to have to wait to get the help and support they need" said Patty Greaves the Milton

Keynes Head of Centre.

Geraldine Delahunty Head of Centre Northampton Marriage Care is gathering her new team together that will not only serve Northampton town but the whole of Northamptonshire. Geraldine said ?"I would really like the Northampton Centre to grow and would like volunteers to give any spare time they have to help with the range of services on offer - or can even help on an ad-hoc basis" Geraldine went on to say "I'm surprised how high the demand for services is. To be able to deliver marriage preparation and counselling couples we need more volunteers to come forward"

So why not join us in making a big difference to people's relationships?

Have a look on our website at to see the different ways in which you could help us. Visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk/vol unteer_counsellor or call 0800 389 3801

Check: Marriage Care - specialist in Relationship Support on Facebook

Welcome for St. Brendan's Head

On Tuesday 30th September, Brendan's Catholic Primary School in Corby saw their Headteacher, Mrs Brydon, inducted into the school in a special Mass led Monsignor McGinnell.

The Mass was a wonderful celebration of affirming Mrs Brydon as the schools Headteacher. The link between school, family and

parish was emphasized by the number of people who were there to support Mrs During the Mass Mrs Brydon was presented with the school mission statement from the children, a Bible from the staff and a candle from Nores. Following the Mass, there was a fantastic celebration in the school hall for the guests to attend and for Mrs Brydon to enjoy her achievement.

Feast day Mass for Cardinal Newman Head



Mr Joe Richardson, the newly appointed Headteacher of Cardinal Newman Catholic School in Luton had his Mass of Induction on Thursday, 9 October, a date which is the Feast Day of their Patron, Blessed John Henry Newman, a great supporter of Catholic education.

Monsignor Kevin McGinnell, the Episcopal Vicar for Education, presided at the Mass, assisted by Fr Tony Brennan, Fr Chris Whitehouse, Deacon James Bannan and Deacon James Grennell.

The Liturgy was attended by the school governors, staff, invited guests of Mr Richardson and students, who assisted in all aspects of the mass, showing their support for the new

The Chair of Governors, Mrs Caroline Moloney presented Mr Richardson to the Episcopal Vicar with the letter of commendation from Bishop Peter to affirm his role in the teaching ministry of God's church in the Diocese.

Once Mass had concluded, Mr Richardson gave thanks to all those involved and presented former Headteacher, Mrs Jane Crow, with a bouquet of flowers. He also gave thanks to those who had supported him over the years through his work in four Diocesan schools.

Book Review

Defending Marriage: Twelve Arguments for Sanity

Anthony Esolen. St Benedict Press.

Anthony Esolen, professor of English at Providence College in the US, has written a serious, well-argued reflection on what marriage is traditionally meant to mean, why it matters and how it has been deeply undermined by recent new legislation that seeks to re-define it. His point is that it is not too late to "rebuild among the ruins" of what many western governments have done to marriage in legalising for a completely new form viz. marriage between those of the same sex. Dr Esolen argues that marriage is not simply a romantic relationship between two people (which is what the modern liberal establishment defines it as being); it also brings together two different sets of families, with all their interrelationships, in the making of a new family. Society has always privileged this unique institution because "it is the family, and not the abstracted, autonomous individual that is the foundation for the community." He is not afraid to point out what many people realise but refrain from saying aloud: that "the whole of the sexual revolution has been a colossal failure and has wrought untold human misery." Although a Catholic, the author does not argue his case from a religious perspective but from the standpoint of what human societies require to be healthy and pros-

perous. Among his closely-reasoned, eloquent arguments in defence of marriage are that the institution is a public one for the good of society as a whole; that without support from society it is hard enough to make heterosexual marriage flourish, let alone a new, experimental model; that

"the whole of the sexual revolution has been a colossal failure and has wrought untold human misery."

we need to recover the virtues of modesty, self-restraint and purity that in the past were associated with marriage; and that the redefinition of marriage undermines the ancient bond of male friendship. He emphasises that those who are most damaged by fragile adult relationships and divorce are the children. We have to learn to put the interests of children before adult selfishness, which is what happens

when we deliberately deprive them of a mother or father, thus damaging their emotional development. Esolen is also stern about divorce which he believes should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances, such as physical or moral danger; he is clear that no-fault divorce, while seemingly a more compassionate response to unhappiness, has been destructive of all those marriages that might be difficult or unsatisfactory but which, in the past, were lovally maintained for the better security and wellbeing of the children involved.

Analysing the moral chaos of modern relationships Esolen's book can sound somewhat negative, but it should be read as a warning on how and why western governments and states have taken a wrong path without properly reflecting on the longterm consequences. In arguing for "sanity" the author hopes his book will make ordinary people, not just those of religious faith, recognise that to destroy traditional marriage affects the whole of society in ways they may not have realised; it is a book well worth pondering and debating. Esolen articulates what most people know but cannot formulate: why governments have no business meddling in the ancient institution of marriage between a man and a woman.

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Town promotes SVP



To promote SVP(Society of St. Vincent de Paul) Awareness Month and the Coffee & Company event which they hold each Tuesday, St. Teresa's Beaconsfield SVP took a stand at the Older Person's Day on Saturday, 4 October at the Beaconsfield Library. Shown in the photo, manning the stand were Martin Majoram, president of the St. Teresa's Beaconsfield SVP, Michael Duffy & Bernard Egan. Others members of the SVP did a stint from time to time. Coffee & Company is held each week from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the St. Teresa's Parish Centre behind the church in Warwick Road. It has been running since January 2013 and while well established it is always keen to welcome new attendees.

CAFOD Justone work Promoting

the fast

Parishioners in Northampton have been inspired by CAFOD's energiser days to CAFOD by praying, wastin

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 years all her called Philips.

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-yourarea/Harvest-2014

New hand on Thomas More tiller

The Directors of the St Francis of Assisi Academies Trust are delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Alison Wilshaw as the Head Teacher of St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School, with effect from 1 September 2014. Many parents will know Ms Wilshaw and her insistence on the highest possible standards in all aspects of school life. She may already be teaching your child or, she may have taught you!

Ms Wilshaw joined St Thomas More in 1986 as a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) and has been an excellent servant of the community ever since. She has been both a successful Head of Year and Head of the English Department. As Head of English, her vision and department's remarkable results were a major driver in our successful bid to become a Specialist Humanities College.

In recent times, Ms Wilshaw was part of the leadership team that led the school to Ofsted outstanding status in 2011. This was quickly followed by Teaching School status later in that same year and being named as one of the 100 Most Improved Schools (for the second time) in 2013. In 2012/13, St Thomas More recorded its best ever results for Maths and English.



At this time, Ms Wilshaw was Acting Head Teacher.

We wish Ms Wilshaw well and offer her our full support in ensuring that all pupils are safe, happy and successful whilst at St Thomas More and that the school continues to go from success to success.

Dr Alan Lee Executive Principal

School's bumper boost for Macmillan charity



The pupils, staff and parents of Sacred Heart Primary School in Luton are very proud of their record fundraiser for this year's MacMillan Biggest Coffee Morning. Through coffee sessions, a raffle and cake sales they raised £700 for the charity.

The school family worker Mrs Sue Diggin said "Parents were extremely generous and scores of home baked treats were sent in for the children to buy, many of which reflected the different cultures within the school community."

Unused boxes of shop bought cakes have been made into hampers and will be presented to the Luton Foodbank along with donations of tinned food, rice and pasta collected by Sacred Heart School as part of the school's Harvest Festival Celebration and the generosity of Sacred Heart families will benefit yet another charity.

Next deadline January 1 2015

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Slough explores parish initiatives

Each Autumn Bishop Peter visits the 13 Pastoral Areas to review progress in that part of the Diocesan programme known as "Walking Humbly with our God". The programme is particularly concerned with the life of our worshipping communities. The "Walking Humbly with our God" process was about much more than just organising the number of Masses we have and how we deploy our priests. It was very much too about parish renewal, developing our present strengths and looking for new initiatives.

On September 27th 2014 a Slough Pastoral Area Conference took place and representatives from each of our six parishes were invited to say something about the energy and life they are bringing to their particular ministries and initiatives. Furthermore, Sister Petronia (from the Archdiocese of Westminster) spoke about the needs of the Irish travelling community.

The overall aim of the day is that we are encouraged by each other and are able to offer some wisdom to each other. The speakers were:

St. Ethelbert's: "Our town centre church" Maria Corcoran

Our Lady of Peace: "Ministering to the Homeless'

John Power

Holy Redeemer: "Developing hospital chaplaincy"

Michel Ossei-Williams

St. Augustine's: "Ministering to an older congregation"

Bob Forsyth

Holy Family: "Moving to adult catechesis" Roni Russell/Kieran McKeown

St. Anthony's: "Catholic education in Slough 2014"

Jim Hayes

Pastoral Area: "Serving the Travelling Community"

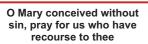
Sister Petronia

More than 50 people from the pastoral area attended and were joined by Bishop Peter, who commented afterwards: "All the areas covered were so relevant to the life and mission of the Church, and I hope that the Conference will promote closer cooperation among the parishes









Feast of the **Immaculate** Conception of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**

Rosary procession/gathering Monday 8th December 2014 at the Angelus time of 6pm.

Meeting outside Christ the Cornerstone church 300 Saxon Gate West Milton Keynes MK9 2ES

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medal
for
Daventry
charity
worker



Mr David Williams with his wife Rosemary after being invested with the MBE by Prince William at Windsor Castle 2 October. David is a parishioner of St Augustine Daventry. award was for community service and charity work.

One of the charities involved was the recent diocesan campaign to raise funds for education of priests retired clergy and laity. He was on the original campaign advisory committee for raising the funds and is still a committee member of the TIF committee.

Other charities were ABF the Soldiers Charity and the Holy Sepulchre Restoration trust Northampton.

The community award was further raising funds to build and assisting in improving standards at a school for children with emotional and behavioural problems and Northampton."

Celebrating our Schools

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