



The Vine

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May 2015

Issue No. 312

Northampton Diocesan News

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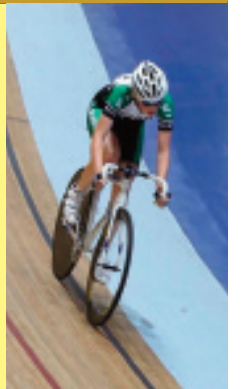
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Lauren speeds away

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On Sunday 29th March parishioners and friends gathered in the crypt of St Anthony of Padua Parish Church, Slough to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of their much loved deacons, Francis (Frank) Shephard.

Frank has been a member of St Anthony's Parish since 1971. On retiring in 1985 he was approached by the then parish priest, Canon Michael Hazell, to study for the diaconate. He started the first Parish Council and became a governor at both St Anthony's and St Joseph's Schools in Slough. He chaired the Board of Governors at both and served in that capacity at St Joseph's for 22 years.

He was ordained a deacon in 1991 by Bishop Leo McCartie and appointed to St Anthony's, where he has served ever since. He was subsequently elected to the first diocesan Council of Deacons. He is also Past Grand Knight of Council 560 of the Knights of St Columba.

Frank, a devoted husband and father, tragically lost his beloved wife, Vera, in a car accident in 1989. Perhaps as a result of this sad loss, Frank threw himself energetically into Parish affairs and as a Chartered Building Surveyor supervised building work on both his schools and in the construction of a new presbytery and renovation work at St Anthony's.

Canon Hazel, now retired, has provided the following memories of Frank,

"A man who has given time and overtime and his considerable talents willingly and cheerfully to all aspects of parish life, and has served the parish and Diocese well as a Deacon for the past 24 years. He was for a number of years a member of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission, and for many years was on the Appeals Team of

the Diocesan Children's Society.

In the parish he will be remembered for his regular ministry as a Deacon at church services, and in visiting the sick in nursing homes. I personally am grateful for this dedication, but above all for his willingness to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council and as a Foundation Governor at St. Anthony's Primary School and St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School for more years than I can remember; he was Chair of these Governing Bodies for most of this time. A great number of Head-teachers will recall with gratitude the support and expertise he has brought them. There was scarcely an important committee, including those concerned with financial and building issues, on which he has not served. His presence on these was welcomed not only because of his knowledge and clarity of mind, but his skill in bringing balance to extreme views. He has in this way become known to a great number of priests, who will agree with those of us who have had the privilege of working at St. Anthony's that he is a true friend of the clergy, utterly reliable and co-operative, working with care, competence and dedication at all times, - a 'man without guile' having a faith of monumental proportions with a gentle heart to match.

A member of the parish Prayer Group since its foundation, he was also a frequent participant in Diocesan Retreats and the annual Charismatic celebrations at Walsingham. All of which points to the reality that for him religion is not just a rden or a nuisance but a privileged way of life that gives richness and meaning to the bits and pieces of everyday life lived on this planet.

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Happy birthday!



Above: Frank & friends. Below: Frank & cakes.



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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.com 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.

London

Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, a revolutionary international network of communities where people with and without intellectual disabilities live and work together as peers, has won the 2015 Templeton Prize. There are 11 L'Arche communities in the UK and a total of 147 L'Arche residential communities operating in 35 countries across the world. UK L'Arche communities are located in the following towns and cities: Canterbury, Bognor Regis, London, Brecon, Preston, Edinburgh, Manchester, Inverness, Liverpool, Flintshire and Belfast, see <http://www.larche.org.uk/> L'Arche fosters two-way relationships where those who help are transformed by those they encounter. Jean Vanier discovered that those people society typically considers the weakest enable the strong to recognise and welcome their own vulnerability. What began quietly in northern France in 1964, when Vanier invited two intellectually disabled men to come and live with him as friends, has now grown into 147 L'Arche residential communities operating in 35 countries and more than 1,500 Faith and Light support groups in 82 countries that similarly urge solidarity among people with and without disabilities. Vanier, 86, supports a culture of belonging and social justice. He encourages and nurtures dialogue and unity among Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and other faiths through lectures, conferences and retreats around the world. Works include more than 30 books translated into 29 languages. Valued



at £1.1 million (\$1.7 million or €1.5 million), the Templeton Prize is one of the world's largest annual awards given to an individual and honours a living person who has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension. The Prize will be awarded on 18th May at the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. Established in 1972 by the late global investor and philanthropist Sir John Templeton, the Templeton Prize is a cornerstone of the John Templeton Foundation's international efforts to serve as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the Big Questions of human purpose and ultimate reality. Jean Vanier said: "My dream for this magnificent prize you have given me and through me to L'Arche and Faith & Light, is for us to create spaces and opportunities for such meetings, meetings which transform hearts. Places where those caught up in the world of success and normality and those who are in need, but who are also teachers of love and of simplicity, come together. Places where they can share together, eat together, laugh and celebrate together, weep and pray together; where the hearts of those who carry power in our society can be melted and rest; and where all together we may become a sign of peace."

Rome

Pope Francis has declared a special Jubilee Year, a Year of Mercy. The Year of Mercy will begin on December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and continue through November 20, 2016: the feast of Christ the King. Pope Francis announced the extraordinary Jubilee during his homily at a penance service in St. Peter's basilica on March 13: the 2nd anniversary of his election as Roman Pontiff. "As the Apostle Paul reminds us, God never ceases to show the richness of His mercy throughout the ages," the Pope said. "I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time." Pope Francis said that he had been thinking of "how the Church might make clear its mission of being a witness to mercy." He said that the Holy Year of Mercy was intended as a step in that direction—on what he called a "journey of conversion." An "extraordinary Jubilee" is called to mark a special event or initiative—as opposed to an "ordinary" Jubilee, which is usually at a set time, to celebrate an important anniversary. The Jubilee Year 2000, called by St. John Paul II, was an "ordinary" Jubilee. The last "extraordinary Jubilee," also called by St. John Paul II, was in 1983, marking the 1950th anniversary of the Redemption.

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Philippines



Half a dozen Filipino devotees had themselves nailed to wooden crosses to mimic the suffering of Jesus Christ on Good Friday in Asia's largest Roman Catholic nation.

Church leaders have spoken against the annual practice which mixes Catholic devotion with folk belief, but it continues to draw big crowds, particularly in northern Pampanga province.

The reenactment of Christ's crucifixion at a dusty mound in San Pedro Cutud village drew at least 4,000 spectators and tourists, dozens of them foreigners. But unlike in the past, organizers this year banned foreigners from being nailed to crosses. Men dressed as Roman soldiers hammered nails on at least six Filipino devotees' hands and feet as some let out screams of pain.

Note

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

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Deacon Frank continued

Finally, at the time of the tragic death of his beloved wife he showed great faith and courage which has enabled him to speak ever afterwards out of a deep experience of tragedy and suffering, and give comfort to so many others.

The Parish owes him an incalculable debt." Fellow Deacon at St Anthony's, Paul Lipscomb, says "Frank is a kind, gentle, caring and considerate man and a good friend, who does not complain but is always ready to listen to the problems of others. He is an example to us all and an outstanding follower of Christ." Despite having achieved the wonderful age of 90, Frank continues

faithfully to discharge his duties as a deacon, officiating at Mass every weekend and leading the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening throughout Lent. He always gives interesting and thought provoking homilies.

Despite his many talents, he is a very modest and humble man, saying he simply does it for the love of his "second family, his parishioners!"

St Anthony's is blessed to have such a wonderful man and we thank God for him. We truly have our own "Francis" to follow! Happy Birthday, Frank, and many more to come.



A greeting from Fr. Nicholas



Luton celebrates jubilarian

The Holy Ghost Church in Luton has been in celebratory mood recently, this being its Golden Jubilee year. We began with a Jubilee Tea Party. Kenyan and Irish cultural evenings have followed and there are more to come to recognise the different cultures within the parish, Italian, Pakistani, English, Caribbean, etc. However on 19 March the attention turned to Parish Priest Mgr. Kevin McGinnell as he celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The occasion was marked with a concelebrated Mass with Bishop Peter along with clergy from across the Diocese.

In his homily Bishop Peter thanked Mgr. Kevin for his work in Aylesbury, Milton

Keynes and, for the last nine years, at the Holy Ghost. He also recognised the great contribution Mgr. Kevin has made to Catholic education through his work with NORES, the diocesan education service. Mgr. Kevin's youngest brother spoke at the end of Mass expressing how proud the family are with his achievements. One present to Mgr Kevin was a newly commissioned piece of music by Christopher Walker based on a theme from Ephesians. The celebrations continued after Mass with a lovely buffet organised by members of the parish at which Mgr. Kevin was presented with gifts from the parish by Charles McNerney, Chair of the Holy Ghost Parish Council.

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South Bucks Circle have staged a fund-raising quiz annually for the last fifteen years. Nourished by a simple fish and chip supper at half time, and entertained by a lightning speed game of Heads & Tails, teams from other Province 8 Circles compete with South Bucks for the very unofficial title of Clever Clogs and Know Alls. The questions are set by the organisers who themselves include active quizzers and have enjoyed considerable success in major televised quizzes.

Although two of Reading Circle teams led for much of the competition, they were eventually pipped at the post by Wokingham and the final winners, one of South Bucks four competing teams. Just to show even-handedness, another South Bucks team propped up the table at the bottom,

but they were unavoidably very under strength, with only half a full complement of members.

The results? Not just a good fun social event but a £450 financial contribution to President Adrian Green's Presidents Charity, The Apostleship of the sea.

The south Bucks Circle of the Catenian Association was formed in 1940. Members meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Flackwell Heath Golf Club, High Wycombe. New member applications are always welcome.

The photo shows Bro Peter Owens (second on left) having presented the Bible Atlas prizes to (standing in centre) Bro Ian Mason's winning team. Peter and Ian are members of South Bucks Circle.

Circle quiz for sailors



The Catenians

Strengthening family life through friendship and faith

Smokey training for musicians

Eight brave souls ventured down to the big smoke for a church music training day organised by Musicacademy. Topics included how and what to sing, a guitar master class and interestingly how to manage a PA system. Parishioners from Christ the King and St Edward the Confessor in Milton Keynes began to mix last year following a reshuffle of the clergy in the North Milton Keynes Pastoral area; they now share Fr Paul Hardy for their celebration of liturgy. The two parishes are at the opposite sides of Milton Keynes and serve very different demographic groups but have gone across sites to support each other in their music ministry. Christ the King is known for having a high number of young families including a lot of under 17s. Two of the music leaders often use backing tracks to accompany their children's choir which works equally well when they also have an instrument every now and then. St Edward The Confessor have a small but loyal adult choir, with a young

ensemble including several flutes, guitars and violins.

The training day was based in some of the parish churches in Westminster, London and was hosted by Musicacademy (www.musicacademy.com). They are specialist Christian worship music band trainers but their workshops are applicable to any type of church musician. Formed in 2003, they quickly moved from giving live lessons with contemporary instruments and now have a vast range of resources and their training seminars are run by church musicians from all denominations and backgrounds.

The PA sessions demonstrated making the most of systems in place already with clever troubleshooting and the guitar masterclass was invaluable; teaching basic techniques and rhythms that can bring life to even the most simple of tunes. There was a workshop for orchestral instruments which showed how they can colour the songs and hymns with impromptu

melodies and the vocal workshops taught how to fill 'space' when singing together, or when singing with instruments. The vocal sessions also taught exercises and posture for warm up and breathing to help hit those high notes. Some general advice saw them belt out some gospel tunes by the end of the day! An introduction to world music gave the day a rounded end with tips on how to involve anyone of any age and ability with enthusiasm.

All in all it was a very worth while day and whilst not totally plugging Musicacademy, their resources are very appropriate for any type of church music group or individual. It also made for a day of bonding between parishioners that otherwise would never have had a reason to meet if it were not for gathering in God's name for praising, and learning together.

Community in the making indeed.



The Lenten soup lunch in aid of SVP run baby feeding stations in Sudan is fast becoming a feature of the life of the parish in Sacred Heart, Flitwick. Tuesday 10th March once again saw members of the SVP arriving at church with steaming pans of mouth-watering soups and other goodies. A generous parishioner had baked delicious rolls and by noon, tables were laid and all was ready. So soup ladles were raised and doors were flung open, and the SVP stood ready to receive diners.

It was not long before all the tables were taken and the

event was in full flow. People from across the parish joined together sharing soup, fellowship and fun. Someone who had not been before remarked that they now realised what they had been missing – and promised to be back next year!

In all the years that the soup lunch has been running, no charge has ever been made at the event, but people are invited to make a donation. This year a total of £160 was raised. This will enable at least three children to be fed for a year. The SVP will be making soup again next Lent! You might like to come.

Lenten soup feeds babies in Sudan



Blaze

103 young people from Luton, who are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation came together on Saturday 28th March for 'Blaze Luton' - an event that gave the young Confirmandi a chance to be together, pray, think deeply about what the sacrament means to them and to meet Bishop Peter.

Any unsuspecting Confirmand who thought they were in for a quiet day had a rude awakening and soon found themselves in a giant relay race with a twist: polo mints were racing down the aisles being passed from person to person with a straw to be held between the teeth. Once

chance to pray quietly, at a number of creative prayer spaces, as well as receiving the sacrament of reconciliation if they wished. No fewer than 9 clergy came along to minister to young people in this time and there were lots of smiling young saints just before lunch.

Confirmandi also had the chance to explore different workshops with a range of themes, including how the Holy Spirit has been depicted in art and the chance for the young people to create some masterpieces of their own. CAFOD looked at how young people can fight for social justice while others found out what it means to be men of



all were warmed up and ready to begin, the day's key-note speaker launched into his big question for the Confirmandi: Are you really free? Confirmandi, catechists and clergy alike were invited to consider what freedom is: does it simply mean doing what we want, when we want? Are we sometimes guilty of thinking that the earth (and therefore ourselves!) is at the centre of a universe, just as the medieval world believed, with everything else in orbit around us? When the world is seen through this lens, we are too busy to pray, the pews in church are uncomfortable, and we begin to pursue 'freedoms' without considering the cost. Real freedom comes only when we put God first, and the Confirmandi were challenged to truly make God the centre of their universe before they confirm the promises made on their behalf at baptism.

The talk asked some deep questions of the Confirmandi and they were there given the

God! (In fact, there are clues to this calling in many modern superhero films as well as in the lives of truly strong saints such as Maximilian Kolbe). Some took part in the workshop just for girls, to better understand their destiny as Daughters of a King! (What *does* God have to do with beauty and femininity?)

The rains just about held off during lunchtime, and so Confirmandi were able to explore the beautiful grounds at Thornton College and have a game of football on the field. In the afternoon Bishop Peter presided at Mass: the hall was filled with the singing of youthful Luton voices and decorated beautifully with some inspired artwork depicting the Holy Spirit at work.

At the end of the day, Bishop Peter took questions from the Confirmandi. Young people had been Tweeting questions for the Bishop throughout their day and Bishop

Pictures: top, liturgical dancers; right, discussion group; below, artwork



Peter answered all sorts of questions from, "What is your favourite Bible story?" to "Have you ever had a girlfriend?!"

Marlyn is part of the team of catechists from Sacred Heart parish. "I think the best part of the day was the talk in the morning, but I just enjoyed spending time with our children in a relaxed environment and getting to know them a bit better. We sometimes concentrate so much on teaching and forming them, that we forget about

that side of things! Confirmandi from Sacred Heart presented Bishop Peter with letters they had written for him during their catechetical meetings. "It's great that they get the chance to speak to the Bishop and see that he is quite normal!" Luton Confirmandi will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in the coming months. They can be assured of the prayers of all from NYMO and the teams of catechists that are working hard to prepare them.

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Chrism Mass

Pictures by
Margaret Busby



Accidents happen to Bishops, as well as to the rest of us. Bishop Peter confessed it to the cathedral packed for the Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday. 'I joined our priests here in the Cathedral to hear Confessions during the Penitential Service. For the first of the Scripture readings I went to sit down with some dignity. Unfortunately, there was no chair there. The zucchetto (scarlet cap) flew off. I was stuck in a crouching position and, amidst great laughter, the priests pulled me to my feet! Why was it a great grace? It brought me down to earth – literally, and it was a lesson in how reliant the bishop is on his priests as his principal co-workers. Without them, he is stuck! So, a lesson in humility and a lesson in dependence or rather the communion of the bishop with his priests, yes, a great grace!'

This was the tenth time Bishop Peter has presided at the Chrism Mass. The gathering of clergy showed some of the changes which have taken place. There was a significant showing of priests from Africa and Asia, and a great swell of Permanent Deacons, many of them much younger than the priests. Also present were two transiient deacons, Pius Amoako and Benedetto D'Autilia who will be ordained priests for the Diocese this summer.

The Bishop in his homily talked first about the holy oils. 'Each of us, anointed with the Oil of Catechumens and sealed with the Oil of Chrism in our Baptism and Confirmation, becomes a member of the Body of Christ, the Anointed One. We are called to consecrate our lives to God, to speak and act with Christ's love and truth and justice, and to serve those in need with real compassion, we are called to be priests, prophets and kings. And only you can be that presence of Christ where you are.

It is in the ordinary, humdrum routine of our lives that we live out that call to holiness as God's anointed people. It is in our day to day contacts with people, at home and at work, that respect, dignity, equality, justice and peace must shine. Of


course, with the General Election approaching, we have the responsibility, too, to seek out those candidates whose policies best reflect the Gospel we are striving to live'. We need to be a missionary people. Bishop Peter reminded the congregation that the Bishops have launched a new initiative called "Proclaim 15" to encourage and equip our parishes to be missionary. 'The Spirit is among us and the grace of the sacraments flows from the cross. What opportunities there are, if we are flexible, to open the way for Christ into the hearts of people who do not know him.'

The Bishop then turned to the priests. 'Only God truly knows how dedicated you are, how tirelessly you spend yourselves in the vineyard, and what challenges you face on a daily basis' Priests, he said, must remain united with Christ. 'It is Christ who has laid his hands on us. No longer does he call us servants, he calls us friends He entrusts everything to us, he entrusts himself. He entrusts his Word and he entrusts his Body and Blood in the Eucharist' Priests must remain in friendship with Christ, and they must build links of friendship within their parish community. 'Always hold in your heart the affection of the community and of your bishop for you'.

'As I have said "thank you" to the deacons, religious and people of the Church in the Diocese, I want to say the biggest "thank you" to you, my dear brother priests. It has been and it is a joy working with you as I complete ten years as your bishop, and I pray that God may sustain me and guide us together in proclaiming his Word and building up his Church for at least another five years!. For those wondering why the prayer should last for at least five years, Bishop Peter was marking the time to his required retirement.

The priests then renewed their promises. The oils were blessed and consecrated, and the sacrifice was celebrated. The new oils were presented to the Deans, and everyone went off for a well-earned lunch.



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Remembering Fr. George



At St Dunstan's Church in Bourne End, a group of over 200 parishioners gathered for a Memorial Service on the evening of 9th February to remember and give thanks to God for the life and ministry of their friend, Fr George McCann, who died on 27th January.

Fr George was ordained on 26th July 1953 and served in a number of parishes in both the old and current Diocese of Northampton. But it was parishioners and friends from his last thirty years who gathered at St Dunstan's that evening.

Fr George was the Parish Priest at St Teresa's Church in Beaconsfield between 1983 and 1996, after which time he retired and went to live in Kettering with his sister, Mary.

When the Bon Secours hospital in Beaconsfield closed in 2000, Sr Winifred McCahill and Sr Anne Campbell moved into the presbytery in Bourne End which was vacant. During his ministry at St Teresa's, Fr George had worked closely with the Bon Secours sisters and, in his retirement, regularly stayed with them at St Dunstan's for a couple of weeks every few months.

Following Mary's death in 2011, Fr George moved into residential care at Nazareth House in Northampton, but continued to take regular breaks to St Dunstan's. During these breaks, Fr George continued his own distinctive style of ministry: celebrating week-day Mass, visiting the sick and housebound and offering his wise counsel.

Priests belong to both their natural and parish families, and sometimes the two do not really know too much about each other. The parishioners of St Teresa's and St Dunstan's decided to put together a Book of Memories about Fr George to give to his family. It was filled with many tributes and stories of good times spent together. One family wrote "Fr George was a wonderful priest and a great friend. He would welcome you with a smile and was never in a hurry to say goodbye. His whole face shone with love and warmth, and he always had a joke or funny story to share".

Fr Francis Higgins, the current Parish Priest, said of Fr George, "It has been a privilege both following in his footsteps and walking alongside".

**Your next
deadline?
Friday,
May 1**



**The General Election will take place on
Thursday 7th May.**

In late February the **Bishops of England and Wales** released a Letter to all Catholic voters setting out some points for reflection in the exercise of our votes.

"At this General Election we are asked to think about the kind of society we want here at home and abroad. Whom you vote for is a matter for you alone. Our aim is to suggest how you might approach this important question in May 2015 and to suggest some key issues for your reflection as you make your own decision."

Their ideas were set out under the following headings:

Respecting Life

Supporting Marriage and Family Life

Alleviating Poverty

Educating for the good of all

Building Communities

- Europe

- The Voluntary Sector

- Living Wage and the Dignity of Human Work

- Asylum and Immigration

- Religious Freedom

Caring for the World

- Overseas Aid and Development

- Climate Change and Sustainable Development

You can download the letter from the diocesan website.

Declaring the Jubilee of Mercy Pope Francis said, "This year we are to be transformed by His mercy, so that we too may become "witnesses to mercy." "Without the witness of pardon," he lamented, "life would be unfruitful and sterile."

The Holy Year's motto is, "Be merciful like your Father" which the Pope said, involves opening our hearts and witnessing mercy everywhere, for, "Pardon is a force that can give rise to new life and infuse courage to look with hope to the future."

Letters

Guidelines for funerals

Dear Fr. Paul

Thank you for bringing our attention to the fitting celebration of funerals [The Vine March 2015]. Surely the best way is 'according to the rites of our Holy Mother, The Church.'

People already enjoy a choice of readings, bidding prayers and hymns, but, it has to be said that some Catholic funerals are a struggle between the sacred and the profane.

I have seen a lay person standing at the altar to read a poem; a secular pop song played at the offertory [feet soon started tapping to the beat]; a eulogy that almost became a canonization, and others that must have been very embarrassing for the family.

When non-catholics are present then Catholics sometimes find themselves sitting during the Gospel and the Eucharistic Prayer—perhaps a little more guidance is needed from the priest.

The final commendation 'Saints of God Come to his/her aid' is beautiful and would benefit from more 'grandeur' but congregations are largely unfamiliar with the response and are caught on the hop a bit as they expect their responses to finish at the end of Mass.

Yours sincerely
Rachel Deane [Mrs]

New bishop for A&B



Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Richard Moth, currently Bishop of the Forces, as Bishop of Arundel & Brighton. He will be the fifth Bishop of Arundel & Brighton. Bishop Moth was ordained a priest in 1982 and served as a priest in parishes in the Archdiocese of Southwark including acting as Vicar General and Chancellor of the Archdiocese before being ordained Bishop of the Forces in September 2009. In addition to his role as Bishop of the Forces, he is Chair of Governors at St Mary's University, Twickenham, Liaison Bishop for Prisons, Episcopal Advisor to the National Catholic Scout Fellowship and holds a brief on Mental Health on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Bishop Moth said: "It is a great privilege to have been appointed by Pope Francis as the new Bishop of Arundel & Brighton and I am very conscious of the trust that has been placed in me. In these last fifty years since the foundation of the Diocese, so much has been done to build up the Church and in the proclamation of the Gospel and, with God's help, I look to guide and serve the Diocese to that same end. "Bishop Richard will be installed at Arundel Cathedral as the new Bishop of Arundel & Brighton on Thursday 28th May on the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese on 28th May 1965. He will then preside at the Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving for the Diocese at the Amex Stadium in Brighton on Sunday 5th July.

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If they are not available, you can email the Diocesan help mail on healthandsafety@northamptondiocese.com

Over the coming months we propose to publish hints, tips and advice on this important topic

Feast of the Visitation

**MAGNIFICAT ANIMA
MEA DOMINUM**

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out with a loud voice saying, "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!"



Rosary procession/gathering to honour Our Lady the Queen of Heaven in this month of May. To be celebrated on Thursday 28th May 2015 at 6pm. Meeting outside

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

St Joseph, St John the Baptist, St Elizabeth and St Zacharias pray for us.

For more information please phone Monica on 07401 366 330

What is the Vicariate?

Friends of the Ordinariate

Supporting the Vision of the Holy See for Christian Unity



The Ordinariate is now part of the life of the Catholic Church in our country and our diocese. Is it just a group of dis-affected Anglicans who don't like women priests? – Or is there more to it than that? Can the Ordinariate be seen as something positive, making a definite contribution not just to the Catholic life, but also to the ecumenical life of the Church? – Is it a positive step forward in the ecumenical journey of the Churches?

Mgr. Keith Newton, who is head of the Ordinariate in England & Wales, will be speaking at St. Augustine's, Heelands, Milton Keynes on 6th June from 10.30 – 1 p.m. looking at Ecumenism and the Ordinariate.

All are invited to the meeting, hosted by the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission.

Picture: Mgr Keith Newton

**Your next
deadline?
Friday, May 1**



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Book Review

Spiritual Letters. By Sister Wendy Beckett. Bloomsbury. £14.99

Almost all these letters were exchanged between Sr Wendy and a nun identified only as “Anne” who, a fellow art lover, was close to her during the period when she was undergoing the transition from a South African teaching Order to living the life of a hermit in the grounds of the Carmelite Convent in Quidenham, Norfolk. They also pre-date her emergence as a TV art critic. They reveal an aspect of Sr Wendy recognisable to those who have listened to her TV commentaries or read her books: someone caught up in wonder at the truth and beauty of God and blessed with the gift of being able to describe this with brevity and passion.

It will not surprise readers of this collection, edited by a nun from the Quidenham Carmel, that their author chose not to re-read them before publication. Sr Wendy writes that she simply “cannot bring myself to do so.” This is because it would mean having to focus on herself and, as with all truly humble people, it would pain her to do so. She describes herself as a “monolith of selfishness” and in a letter dated 20 May 1974 she writes, “Coarse, crude woman that I am, I fear the words are so often too

violent.” To an outsider her words don’t seem like this at all, or indeed her view of herself – but that is the point: if you view yourself always in the sight of God, as Sr Wendy does, you will see your faults laid bare in a way that the distractions of ordinary life usually conceal.

As letters written in response to a friend, the collection naturally lacks the completeness and roundedness of Sr Wendy’s essays about her favourite paintings in her books. But they do provide flashes of insight to the kind of austere life she has chosen and why she has done so. Writing to Anne on the 20th December 1974, she says, “Think of me...just looking at one picture, until the impact of the glory it gives to God forces me to shut my eyes.” This conveys the intensity of her response to art and why it provides her with the stimulus to contemplation. Quite simply, beauty leads her to God. As she writes elsewhere, in a comment that might surprise those who do not understand the intimate dynamic of prayer, “Art is a form of prayer I value because it deepens in me my womanhood. It makes me more “there” for his possessing.” Again, for those who wonder how it is pos-

sible to spend most of one’s days in the solitary, confined space of a caravan, she pro-

vides the answer in a letter of 1978: “I am always living in the reality of Jesus and can cope best when exterior life is monotonous and undemanding.” One realises how hard it must have been for Sr Wendy to emerge under the glare of the TV spotlights and how only the realisation that her audience might come closer to God through beauty could compel her to do so. There are tantalisingly brief references to artists which one wishes she had expanded, such as mentioning a love for Paul Klee and also Matisse, yet finding Picasso “a very poor third [by comparison]. All power and no beauty”; how true.

How to get more out of Holy Communion. By St Peter Julian Eymard. Sophia Institute Press. www.SophiaInstitute.com is a 19th century spiritual classic, now reprinted by this enterprising Catholic publishing house, that repays reading and rereading. Tackling how the reverent reception of Communion brings the recipient constantly closer to the source



of all love, as well as deepening one’s friendship with Christ, are only two of the themes discussed by the author, a saint who, not surprisingly, founded two religious orders to promote adoration of the Eucharist. Although the author’s style seems old-fashioned to modern ears, his advice is penetrating and timeless. In a chapter entitled, “How Communion drives sadness from your soul”, he reflects that such “sadness” is common to holy people, advising that “human consolation” is not enough, “especially if God has sent an increase of sadness to test you.” The only sure remedy is Communion, where “Our Lord...enters into us to give divine combat to our sadness.” This edition, with its cover painting of St Teresa of Avila receiving Communion, would make an excellent Confirmation present. It is a work combining catechesis and insight into the author’s own life of prayer.

Francis Phillips

Donkey’s day

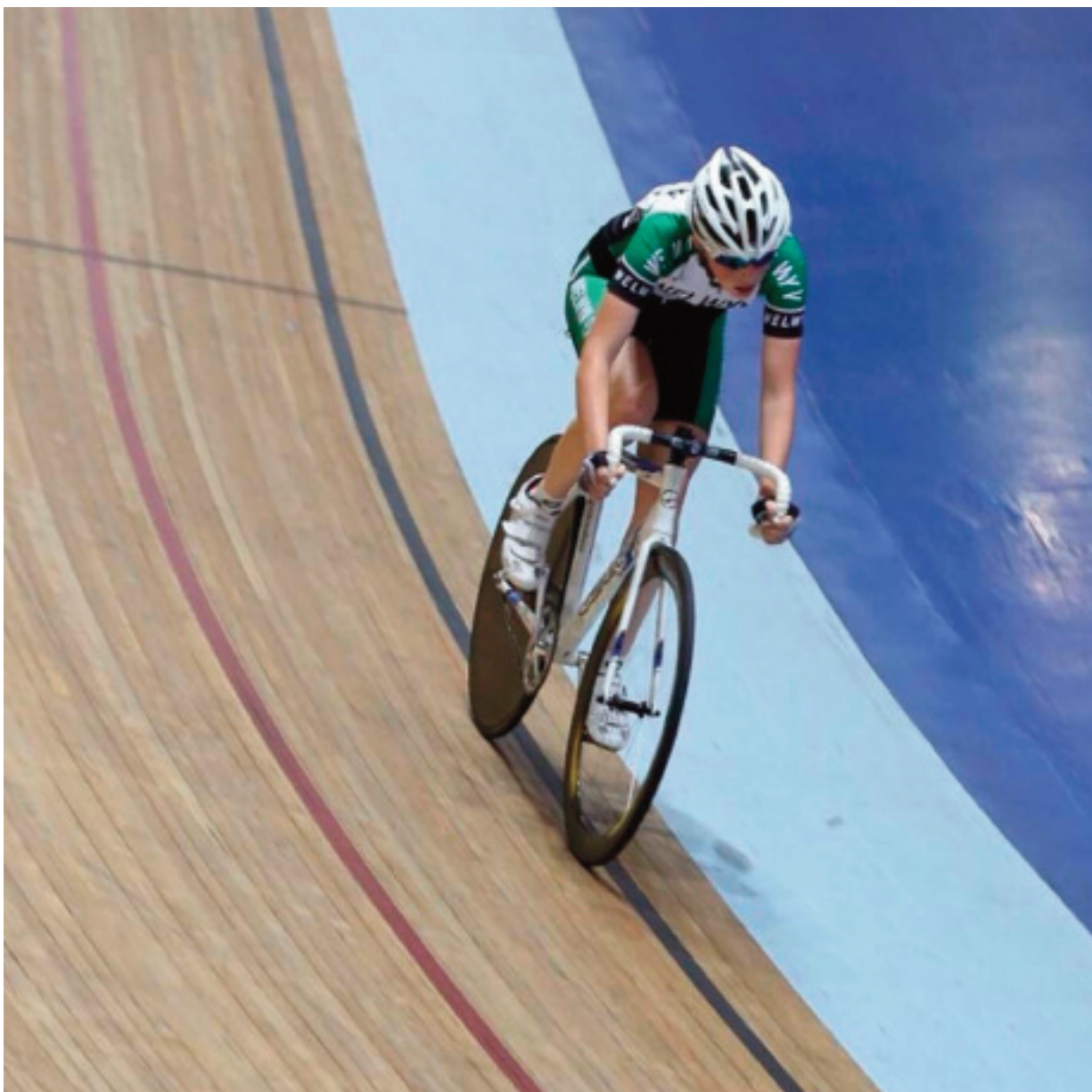


The Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary brought Tracey the donkey to St. Teresa’s Church Beaconsfield to help celebrate Palm Sunday.

The sanctuary is located in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell between Didcot and Wallingford. The Sanctuary provides a

haven for unwanted, abused and neglected donkeys, ponies and other animals rescued from throughout the country.

Fr. Francis is seen blessing the palms before leading Tracey and the congregation back into the church.



Well done, Lauren

Lauren Murphy, a student at St. Paul’s school, Milton Keynes, has received a £750 Sports Aid award for her contribution to cycling. Lauren trains for up to ten hours each week, and competes in both track and road

cycling races. Last year she came third in the national Track competition and hopes to do even better this year. Her next big event is the national Road Championships in July and, who knows, maybe Rio in 2016.

Welcome for new brother

The brothers of Chiltern Circle were delighted to welcome their new brother Mathew Nyakuhwa following his enrolment at their Ladies Night on 8th February 2015 at Chartridge Golf Club which has become their venue following the closure of the Bobsleigh Hotel. Mathew who holds dual citizenship (British Zimbabwean) was born in Zimbabwe in 1974 and came to England in 2001. He retrained as a social worker at Bucks New University and graduated with a BSc (Honours) in Professional Social Work in 2007. He is employed by Buckinghamshire County Council

Children's Services as a Practice Improvement Manager and specialises in safeguarding children and in improving their life opportunities. He has been married for 12 years and lives in Aylesbury with his wife and their five year old son. He is a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes in Bedgrove and a Parent School Governor at St Joseph's Catholic Infant School in Aylesbury. Mathew is photographed with his sponsors (from left to right) Michael Lowry and Steve Turner with President David Holden on his left hand side.



Beating the bullies

A group of younger pupils at St. Paul's school, Milton Keynes, has discovered that cyberbullying is a huge problem within today's society. The group felt that the majority of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils in primary schools are now starting to use the internet and social media with little guidance about the dangers that they pose. In February they presented a very informative assembly to Year 7 in St. Paul's. They asked students about cyber bullying; how it can affect them and how they can affect others without even knowing. They asked questions about the students' digital footprint (the trail of information that they post online and which will stay with their name for the rest of their life. They also asked about the social networking sites the students are using.

When they asked whether students used programmes which allow them to post images of themselves to the world, the majority of students put their hands up with a smile. 'We feel', said a member of the group, 'that we need to keep the young people safe online and to give them some information about their digital footprint'. The group asked fellow students what they could do to tackle cyber bullying and keep them safe online. The majority of the students said they wanted trained mentors to talk to, and to have more information on their cyber footprint. The group now plans to visit local primary schools. They aim also to have ten qualified student mentors on their On-line Safety and Awareness Team in St. Paul's.



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools amalgamated on 01 January to become St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. This is an exciting time in the life of the school and the Governors, Staff, Pupils and Parents are committed to the journey ahead as we work together to become a new school community.

At the start of Lent, Staff and School Council representatives will lead on the important task of creating a new school mission statement. Together we will be building on a real sense of belonging and pride that is already so evident within our outstanding Catholic community.

In May 2015 the Junior School would have been celebrating its diamond anniversary. When the school first opened 60 years ago it was a primary school so in many respects we have come full circle.



As we begin a new cycle in the life of the school, we aim to mark this important milestone. Bishop Peter will be celebrating mass in school on Friday 19 June. The Pupil Chaplains are already busy planning ahead for this very special event.

01582 572 964 www.stjosephsprimaryluton.co.uk



St Martin de Porres Primary School
The Joy of the Gospel Spread to the Royal Household.

During the Advent Term our Year 4 children sent postcards and letters to the Queen and to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. They told them about the joy that Jesus brings to them and that they wanted to share this with other people.

The children were overjoyed to receive letters from the Queen and from Prince William and Princess Catherine. They were especially pleased to receive a photograph of the royal couple with letters and photograph of the royal family.



Prince George! The picture shows Class 4M proudly holding their letters and photograph of the royal family.

01582 617 600 www.stmartindeporresluton.co.uk

St Margaret of Scotland have been enjoying lots of exciting enrichment activities this term.

Our Well-being Week was a real success, starting each day with 'Park and Stride' and 'Wake Up, Shake Up', with the whole school community joining together on the playground showing off their best dance moves!!

We also celebrated World Book Day with the whole school looking fantastic in their creative book character outfits.



Please see our website for more details.



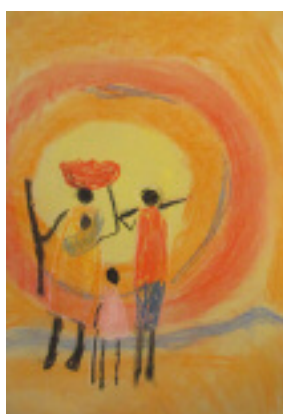
01582 723 430 www.margaretofscotland.org.uk

St Vincent's Arts Award 2015

Our children enjoy opportunities to celebrate their artistic talents through a variety of the Arts, including drama, throughout the year. Mrs Wright, our Arts Award Assessor, firmly believes that experiencing the Arts raises pupils' self-esteem and enjoyment levels enabling them to achieve high standards across the whole curriculum.

In introducing the award Mr Fitzgerald, Chair of Governors, says: "This award will be an acknowledgement of the commitment of the school to the Arts, through the efforts made by staff, parents, pupils and governors."

The school intends to commemorate our 40th Anniversary by creating an outdoor mosaic produced by the children working with a local artist.



01582 862 456 www.stvincentsshr.org

During the February half term the Religious Education Department at Cardinal Newman Catholic School took a group of Year 11 students to experience all the sights, sounds and wonders of Rome. During the short trip students visited everything from the Sistine Chapel to the ancient Colosseum and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The highlight of the trip for both students and staff was attending the Papal Audience on Ash Wednesday where they received the blessing of Pope Francis, a blessing which his holiness sent to our school, our families and parish communities.



The picture shows the group in St Peter's Square just after gathering for the Sunday Angelus which again was led by Pope Francis. How lucky they were to see him twice in one visit! It was a truly exciting, enjoyable, prayerful and enriching journey for all who participated.



01582 597 125 www.cardinalnewmanschool.net



Read Write Inc Model School Status

Sacred Heart Primary School is celebrating the Achievement of Read Write Inc Model School status, the first school in Bedfordshire to receive this award.

Staff and pupils have worked very hard since introducing the Read Write Inc Phonic Programme and we are delighted to see the improvement in the children's reading skills. Our Year 1 Phonic results have improved from 56% to 90%!

Sacred Heart Primary has welcomed a number of other schools to observe phonic sessions. Model School Visits are led by the school's highly enthusiastic Reading Leader, expert teachers and the children who are also eager to share their experiences and love of literacy!



01582 730 781 www.sacredheartluton.org.uk

Children at St. Mary's are really enjoying the opportunities the new curriculum is presenting.

Recently, Year 1 came in to school to discover their class puppet, Molly had been kidnapped.

Luckily the children were all dressed as Super Heroes for the day and using their talents they successfully completed a trail, following clues to solve the case.



The trail led the class to the culprit, our Site Agent, Mr Guest, who thankfully returned Molly unharmed! Well done Year 1!



01582 602 420 www.stmarysprimary.org.uk