



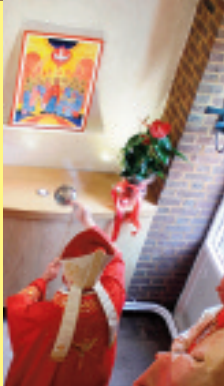
Brendan Seery is ordained deacon

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Golden jubilee for Sacred Heart, Luton

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Artistic winners at St. Margaret's

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Thank you for 40 years in the SVP

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## Papal blessing for Bedford



Fr. Patrick Hutton, of Christ The King, Bedford, proudly displays a blessing from Pope Francis on their evangelisation week in May. The programme of prayer and celebration, 'Jesus, Hope of all nations', was co-ordinated by the Sion Community.



One of the murals designed by Sixth Form student Maria Rose Cahill for the prayer garden at Sacred Heart, Luton.

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# News beyond Northampton

The Christian World seen from your editor's desk

## 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.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.

## Vatican



The Pope spoke at some length about his personal life in an interview with *La Voz del Pueblo*, revealing that he misses walking around the city, naps daily, and never watches television.

The Pope said that he never dreamt of becoming Roman Pontiff. When he travelled to Rome for the conclave of 2013, he reported, he had a return ticket in his pocket, and left a draft of a homily on his desk in Buenos Aires. But he repeated his recollection that when he realized that he would be chosen, he was overwhelmed by a feeling of great peace and a sense that "the Holy Spirit was taking care of everything." When asked what he misses most, the Pope replied: "walking." He said that he enjoyed walking around the city, mingling with people, and sitting down for a pizza. "Ordering one in the Vatican is not the same thing," he remarked. Pope Francis revealed that he keeps a regular schedule, rising at 4 every morning after six hours of sleep, and taking a regular midday nap. He said

that he reads a newspaper—the Italian daily *La Repubblica* for at most ten minutes. And he has not watched television at all since 1990, when he made a vow to Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Although he remains an avid follower of the San Lorenzo soccer team, the Pope never watches games. He disclosed that a member of the Swiss Guard gives him the latest scores.

## London

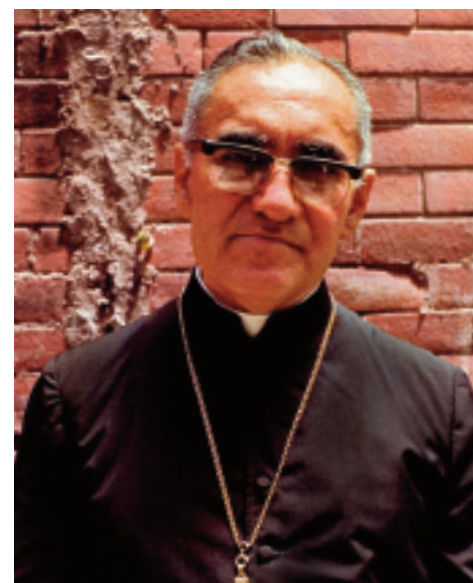


The effort to reform and update the Vatican's media operations will be a long-term process, reports Andrea Gagliarducci of the Catholic News Agency.

Lord Patten, the British peer who chaired a special papal commission created to suggest changes in the Vatican's communications system, last week told a London audience that the group found an urgent need to streamline the operations, providing for central planning and coordination of the various offices involved in radio, television, publishing, and public relations. The Patten commission's recommendations were accepted by Pope Francis, who appointed a new committee to plan the implementation of a new communications plan.

The Patten commission, Gagliarducci reports, initially hoped to find means of achieving a substantial reduction in the costs of Vatican communications, which now exceed \$76 million. However, the commission determined that deep budget cuts would require layoffs of personnel, which "we judged not to be ethically appropriate." The commission reportedly proposed that the Vatican's media operations should be centralized in one office, which would be divided into five departments: one to plan pastoral strategy; one to handle administration; one to handle legal and financial concerns such as publications, sponsorships, and commercial partnerships; one to handle technology; and the last to handle the "core media activities" including a modernized and expanded press office.

## San Salvador



Archbishop Óscar Romero, who served as archbishop of El Salvador's capital city of San Salvador from 1977 until his 1980 assassination, was beatified as a martyr on May 23.

Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, presided at the Mass of beatification, which was attended by at least a quarter million people.

"In that beautiful Central American land, bathed by the Pacific Ocean, the Lord granted his Church a zealous bishop who, loving God and serving the brothers and sisters, converted into an image of Christ the Good Shepherd," Pope Francis said in a message to Blessed Romero's successor, Archbishop José Luis Escobar Alas.

"In times of difficult coexistence, Archbishop Romero knew how to lead, defend and protect his flock, remaining faithful to the Gospel and in communion with the whole Church," the Pontiff added. "His ministry was distinguished by a particular attention to the most poor and marginalized. And in the moment of his death, while he celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of love and reconciliation, he received the grace to identify himself fully with him who gave his life for his sheep."

"Archbishop Romero was an inspiration for people in El Salvador and across the Americas," President Barack Obama said in a statement issued four months before the Pope's visit to Washington. "He was a wise pastor and a courageous man who persevered in the face of opposition from extremes on both sides. He fearlessly confronted the evils he saw, guided by the needs of his beloved pueblo, the poor and oppressed people of El Salvador."

"I am grateful to Pope Francis for his leadership in reminding us of our obligation to help those most in need, and for his decision to beatify Blessed Oscar Arnulfo Romero," President Obama added. "Let us hope that Archbishop Romero's vision can inspire all of us to respect the dignity of all human beings, and to work for justice and peace in our hemisphere and beyond."

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## 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.



# Another step nearer

Brendan Seery, of St. Martin de Porres parish in Luton, was ordained to the diaconate in the cathedral on May 17. He will be ordained to the priesthood next year.

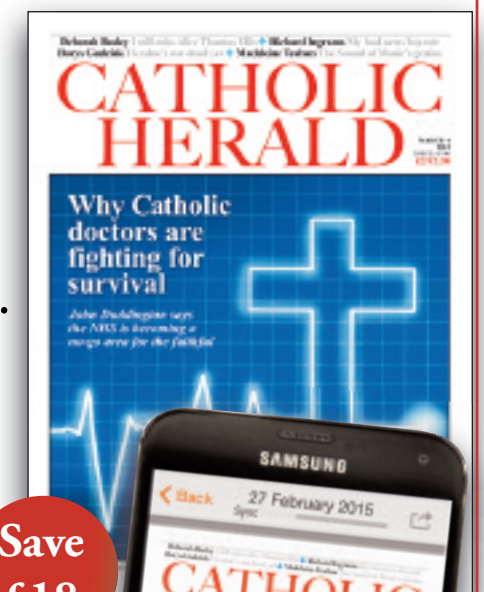


*Pictures by Bernard Hales*



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# Golden jubilee for Holy Ghost church

The Church of the Holy Ghost, Luton was formally opened on Whit Monday, 6 June 1965.

From then until 2005, the Ruby Jubilee, priests from the diocese of Dublin served the parish which had a large Irish population, as well as notable Italian and West Indian communities. Over the years the community has changed in many ways with many from third and fourth generation Irish families mixing with sizeable groups of Catholics originating from Pakistan, Kenya, Indian and Poland. When the Dublin diocese withdrew Monsignor Kevin McGinnell became the next parish priest from the home diocese of Northampton.

To mark its Golden Jubilee Bishop Peter Doyle of Northampton presided at a Solemn Mass on Pentecost Sunday this year, concelebrating with seven of the many Dublin priests who had been in the parish, Monsignor Kevin, and three deacons, two from Luton, and Rev Paul Wyer who had served in the parish until retiring to Ireland. This was the only Mass in the parish that day and drew many people who had been involved with the parish over the year. Other guests included Her Majesty's Lieutenant of and in the County of Bedfordshire, Mrs Helen Nellis, the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, Isabelle, Countess of Erroll, the Mayor of Luton, Councillor Dave Taylor, the Area Dean of the Church of England, Reverend Janet Mackenzie.

To mark this significant anniversary an icon of Pentecost was commissioned from Sr Mary Stella of the Bernardine Sisters at Hyning. She had connections with the diocese having taught in Slough. Bishop Peter dedicated and anointed the icon before it was installed in a new shrine created for it. As well a sixth form parishioner, Maia-Rose Cahill, designed and executed two free standing murals for the Prayer Garden on the theme of the Holy Spirit. There had been a parish social the previous



Luton hosts an international gathering

Pictures:  
left: Bishop Peter blesses the new icon.

Right::  
one of Maria-Rose Cahill's murals for the prayer garden.

Below:  
concelebrants and guests. The priests from Dublin were Frs Hugh Kavanagh, Martin Noone, Tom Culreavy, Joe Coyne, Michail Comer, George Tanham, Jim Bannan



evening which enable people to catch up especially with the priests over from Ireland, and the celebrations continued with a Parish Picnic after Mass. Speaking at the Mass, Mgr Kevin thanked the bishop, the guests and so many who had done so much for the celebrations, and all that had been done over the fifty years. He quoted from the parish notices for the

opening of the church :  
"All are requested to keep the church beautiful. Care is needed all over the church at the moment as every mark shows. NB Wipe you feet when it is wet, and don't lean on the paintwork! A rota of ladies and some men are needed to keep the church polished!"  
He continued to say that things have not

changed all that much!  
"We give thanks to God today for all the people and all that has happened over those fifty years. With Dag Hammarskjold we can rightly say – "For all that has been, thanks. For all that shall be, yes" – and we can add, and for today, we rejoice."

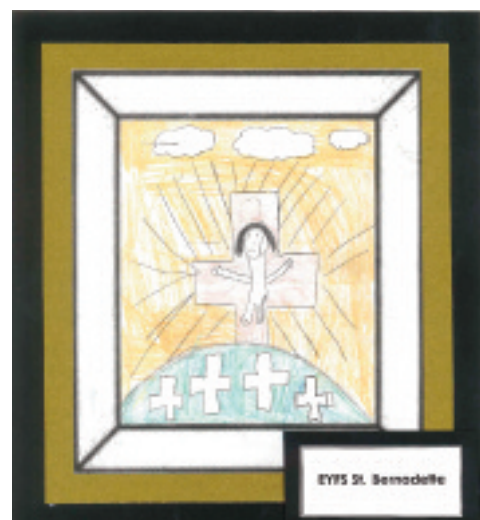
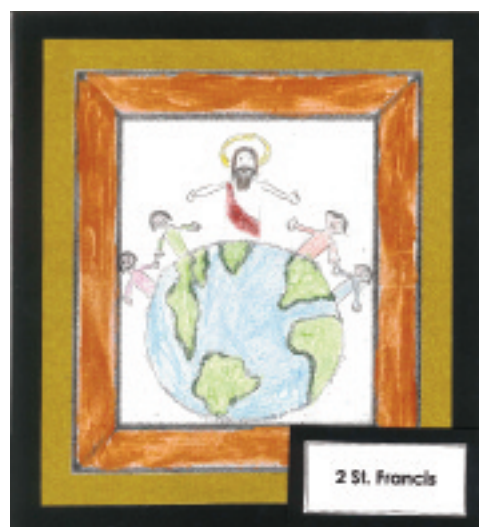
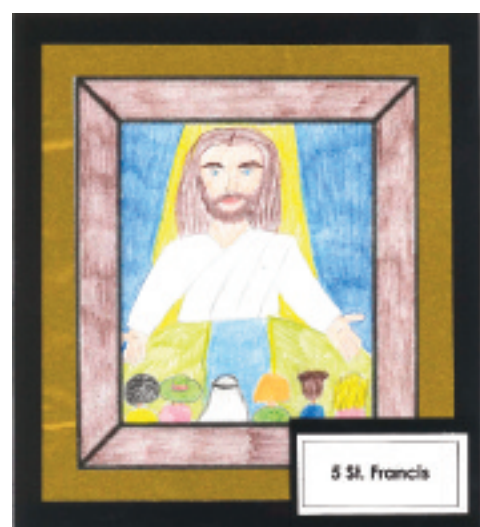




# Winners



The pupils of St Margaret of Scotland Primary School in Luton recently took part in an art competition called 'The Christ We Share'. This was to illustrate how Christ is depicted in various cultures around the world and in the communities in which our children live. Please find attached the winning entries and the winners receiving their prizes from our Chair of Governors, Joe Borg.



Adoption information evenings: **First Wednesday of every month**

At our Milton Keynes and Peterborough offices - see website for details.

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# ‘Thank you’, John, for outstanding service

Members from SVP Bletchley Conference and also the SVP Woburn Sands District Council joined forces recently to honour their President: Brother John Scott in recognition of his 40+ years of loyal and outstanding service as a member of the Society. And to record a special ‘Thank You’ to his wife Rose for her faithful support throughout those 40+ years.

John’s involvement with the SVP began in 1970 whilst living and working in Birmingham. He continued this interest when the family moved to Ayr in Scotland, and again when they moved to Bletchley in 1984. He is currently the President of St Thomas Aquinas & All Saints Conference in Bletchley, and also District President of the Woburn Sands District Council.

John’s commitment and dedication to the SVP and its work knows no boundaries: always trying to encourage and develop new ways to seek out and help those who face challenges with their lives.

Following a Mass of Thanksgiving, Parish Priest of Bletchley Fr Christopher Perry paid tribute to John’s excellent contributions both to the work of SVP in the Parish and indeed the many other roles and tasks he undertakes within the life of the Parish. At the surprise party which followed, Fr Christopher presented John with his well deserved Long Service Certificates. Fellow members of Bletchley Conference and Woburn Sands District Council also presented him with many gifts and mementos of his personal and SVP history.



## Touching the adults

Over 60 catechists from St. Peter’s Pastoral Area, Slough, gathered at Holy Family church in Langley on Saturday, May 23rd. The theme of the day was “Sacramental Preparation: How do we teach the adults?”.

The meeting began with a time of prayer using some of the words of Oscar Romero, who was to be beatified that very day. After a short talk by Kieran McKeown and Roni Russell, the Pastoral Assistant and Key Catechist at Holy Family respectively, outlining the various Church documents that speak of adult catechesis, the catechists involved in preparing people for the

various sacraments divided into their own groups. It gave the six parishes the opportunity to listen to one another and share good practice. In the second part of the gathering catechists met in their own parish groups to identify some new ideas that could be implemented. Furthermore, plans emerged for parishes to work together more effectively. And so, for instance, those involved in R.C.I.A. programmes will soon meet for a planning day.

A successful meeting ended with a very pleasant lunch.





# Wendover goes red

St Anne's, Wendover had a red letter day for Pentecost this year – red balloons, anyway. Young parishioners planned the event over several weeks including the colouring of flames to decorate the back of the Sanctuary. They encouraged everyone to wear something red and took over most of the liturgical support roles during Mass. The Communion reflection included a signed song, illustrated, which people found very moving, especially those who suffer from hearing loss. The whole congregation then followed the Sanctuary party, singing the exit hymn, out of the church,

through the car park into St Anne's Hall and onto its balcony where 100 biodegradable red balloons were released because no birthday party is complete without balloons! Finally all were able to eat cakes, made by parishioners, which continued the red and birthday themes. Parish Priest Father Wayne said, "Young people from all parts of the parish showed us the way with their involvement in this special Youth Mass. We all enjoyed their enthusiasm for this Mass and were caught up with their joyful mood."



## Hosts for Head

The staff and Governors of St Edward's Catholic Primary School in Kettering were delighted to play hosts at the Induction Mass for newly appointed Head Teacher, Mrs Pauline Cuddihy. The Mass was celebrated by: Monsignor Kevin McGinnell, Episcopal Vicar for Education; Canon John Koenig, Parish Priest of St Edwards; and Father Tony Whitfield, friend of the Cuddihy family. Children from the school,

their parents, colleagues from the North Northamptonshire School Cluster, Pauline's husband Andy, her sons Thomas and Joseph and her parents (who travelled from Scotland) all joined her at the very special Mass. Pauline would like to thank everyone who attended. Staff, Governors and the Parish community now wish her much success in her new role. Picture: Pauline with School Choir,



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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## Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel




Blessed Virgin Mary to Saint Dominic, "One Day through the Rosary and Scapular I will save the World."

"Whosoever dies clothed in this (scapular) shall not suffer eternal fire."  
This is Mary's Promise made July 16, 1251 to Saint Simon Stock.

**Prayer of St. Simon Stock**  
O beautiful Flower of Carmel, most fruitful vine, Splendour of Heaven, Holy and singular, who brought forth the Son of God, still ever remaining a Pure Virgin, assist me in this necessity. O Star of the Sea, help and protect me! Show me that Thou are my Mother.

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## Facts and Figures

We are delighted that receipts have now passed the £7 million milestone. Please do keep the Campaign in your prayers. The total active *Together In Faith* pledges are currently worth £9.23 million. If these pledges are received we will meet our targets of raising £3.4m for Sick and Retired Clergy, £975k for Priestly Formation, £500k for Lay Formation, £3.9m for parish projects and £451k for order share, which will be a fantastic achievement!

Expenditure to date for the three main causes is as follows:

- Sick and Retired Clergy £ 1,068,069
- Priestly Formation £ 677,632
- Lay Formation £ 18,936

In addition to the above, £412,028 has been transferred to religious orders who run parishes in our Diocese, to help support their sick and retired clergy and seminarians.

## Supporting Parishes

Twenty two parishes so far, have benefited from *Together In Faith* parish funds. A total of £1,338,342 has been spent on projects ranging from parish missions and new hymn books to building projects providing additional facilities. A parish is able to carry out its project once it has exceeded it's *TIF* goal, obtained Diocesan approval and accrued sufficient funds

to cover the cost of the project. More details about your own parish can be found in the personalised e-mail or letter accompanying this newsletter or through your parish. A total of £414,198 has been transferred for debt reduction in 16 parishes. These parishes chose to use their *Together In Faith* funds to repay debt, which generally arose from historic essential projects, helping them become more financially stable and saving money on interest.

**Gifts Gift Aid Total**  
**£6,211,962 £1,283,275 £7,495,237**

**Parish Project News— St Thomas Aquinas, Bletchley**  
The urgent need for re-wiring and the installation of a fire safety system gave us the impetus to do a "make over" at St Thomas Aquinas Church in Bletchley. The money accrued for Parish Projects through the Together In Faith Campaign has meant that we have been able to decorate the whole church, replace the 1950s church chairs with new cushioned seating and re-carpet the entire church and parish meeting room. What was a loved but tired looking building is now fresh, bright, comfortable, safe and inviting and still loved.

*Father Christopher Perry*

## HEALTH AND SAFETY - WHO'S RESPONSIBLE ?

# WE ALL ARE !




If you have a health and safety problem in your parish, please contact your health and safety rep or parish priest.

If they are not available, you can email the Diocesan help mail on [healthandsafety@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:healthandsafety@northamptondiocese.com)

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

# Word in season



## Lord, teach us to pray

Many of us find it hard to pray. But there is one time-honoured form of prayer that has worked for thousands of believers—using the Psalms. Just pick one of the Psalms, any one you like, and read it slowly, or even sing it. Try to reflect on the words, maybe just one phrase. How does it relate to your present situation? How do you feel about what is expressed?

In our lives we can feel happy one day and then worried or sad the next day. Our moods can change, depending on all sorts of circumstances. St Ignatius Loyola speaks of times of consolation (happiness) and times of desolation (difficulty). During the good times, we can say prayers of thanksgiving, and in the difficult times we can utter prayers of lament and petition. And for these ups and downs, there are Psalms that can suit each mood. The Psalms can express a great many of our feelings towards God. When we wish to express our longing for him, we can say: "Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God." When God has helped us out of trouble, we may say: "I will praise you, Lord—you have rescued me." If we are aware that we have sinned, we can pray the great penitential psalm: "Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion, blot out my offence."

When we feel so troubled that God seems far from us and we can hardly pray, we can repeat the prayer uttered by Jesus on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When we reflect on God's past kindness to us and look with hope to the future, we can pray one of the best loved Psalms: "The Lord is my shepherd—there is nothing I shall want."

At Benediction, when we adore Christ's presence in the holy sacrament, we can sing: "O praise the Lord, all you nations. Acclaim him, all you peoples. Strong is his love for us. He is faithful for ever." Finally, if we are mourning the loss of someone who has died, we can pray: "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice."

The Psalms give us words to express our feelings before God, on so many different occasions, and for so many different moods. We find ourselves using expressions that have helped countless others to pray in earlier generations. We could say that the Psalms serve as workhorses for our prayers. At Mass, after listening to God's word in the scriptures, we respond with God-given words from the Psalms. In fact, the Psalms nurture our relationship with God, giving voice to our love and our hopes, our sorrow and our needs.

It can be good to take a favourite Psalm and pray it every day. By constant repetition we can gradually learn the words, so that we can say them without a book, whether we are walking or driving, working or relaxing. The rhythm of the Psalms can help to focus our minds and hearts on God, while at the same time reflecting our changing moods. That is why they have been prayed each day by monks and nuns everywhere in the world and through the church's history.

St Ambrose of Milan expressed well the value of the Psalms: "A Psalm calms anger, takes away our cares, and comforts our sadness. It protects us from the night and instructs us for the day. It is a shield for the fearful, a feast for the devout, a ray of tranquillity, and a guarantee of peace and harmony. Like a stringed instrument it combines diverse and unequal voices in a single melody. The Psalm is sounded at dawn, and at sunset it is still reverberating."

Hence St Ambrose asks: "Is there anything better than a Psalm? David rightly says: 'Praise the Lord, for he is good. Sing to our God, for he is loving. To him our praise is due.' The Psalm of praise is a blessing pronounced by the people, praise to God by the congregation, acclamation by all, a word spoken by the universe, the voice of the church, a melodious profession of faith, the exhilaration of freedom, and an exclamation of joy."

*Father Jeremy Corley*



# Changes at CAFOD

Following the announcement of major changes in CAFOD's organisation, Tom O'Connor, Director for Communities and Supporters, came to visit the Diocese to respond to questions and explain how CAFOD's management had responded to the concerns expressed following their consultation.

## Why change?

Reflecting on Jesus's washing of the disciples' feet, Tom asked, "How do we reflect the humanity at the heart of our faith? How do we best serve the communities we are part of in a changing world? How do we ensure we are fully part of and responsive to the needs of our Catholic Community?" In reflecting on these questions, CAFOD's Directorate first examined the direction of our International work.

## International Work and External Factors

Those we serve are facing many more emergencies, and many of these are protracted, particularly as a result of climate change and conflict. CAFOD needs to be able to respond to these proactively within an unpredictable financial environment. While there is low inflation in the UK, inflation is very volatile in our partner countries. Support from the Catholic Community in England and Wales continues to be generous, but over 30% of CAFOD's income comes from other, less secure, sources and often with strings attached. Funds from the UK Government, for example, have consistently supported our work since 1997 but the way in which they do so will significantly change in March 2016. These factors mean that CAFOD has to be able to scale up and scale down its work very quickly.

## Relations in England and Wales

CAFOD also needs to bring our International Programmes much closer to our communities and supporters in England and Wales. We need to develop volunteering into the future and find new ways of volunteering which reflect the lives of our supporters more closely. CAFOD needs to be much clearer about the roles of employed staff (distinguishing them from volunteering roles) and teams need to be much more integrated. There is also a need to significantly reduce running costs.

## Financial Management

CAFOD cannot expect the same core budget, though at different times funds may be available for specific short term projects. Grants to Partners overseas need to be protected taking account of inflation in partner countries. With this in mind CAFOD needs to reduce its core running costs and will do so primarily by reducing costs in Romero House, CAFOD's head office.

## Direction of International Programme

CAFOD's guiding principle is one of Partnership, responding to the requests of Partners and ensuring we do this not only in our development work but also in responding to emergencies and in our campaigning and advocacy work. For example, we used to be the lead agency for HIV and AIDS across Caritas, this work is now led by partners which is good as it empowers them, leaving us with the responsibility for facilitating exchange between partners. Faced with increasing emergencies we need to be able to move resources very quickly to where they are needed, identifying areas where we can add expertise and supporting those who are expert elsewhere. For example, ten days after the Nepal earthquake, CAFOD and its partners were able to reach more than 30,000 people in remote villages in urgent need

fied for each Diocese, based in a local volunteer centre. [Deborah Purfield has since been confirmed in this post and will continue to have a base in Princes Risborough]. Administration will be centralised and staff will continue to work as part of a Regional Team to exchange good practice and for support, but there will be no Regional Hub. The current 37 Regionally located staff will be reduced to 26.5 (whole time equivalent) with a further 6 posts continuing for the next two years as new systems are put in place. 75% of the overall cuts will be made in Head Office. Offices may be relocated as necessary, but with the appropriate technical support, as indeed we have already in Northampton Diocese. International and National staff will be expected to support the diocese in line with the diocesan plan, so we should see much more of them in the coming months and years.

CAFOD will be exploring new ways of volunteering to allow different people the opportunity to offer their time and skills in ways which suit them.

The aim will be to increase the participation of parishioners and supporters, of children and of young people.

Those present at the meeting from Corby and Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and Northampton, all welcomed the news that we would still have a Diocesan base and a member of staff located in the Diocese. We all agreed that we continue to receive too much "stuff" particularly by mail and that this needs to be more closely targeted to those who need it. Tom O'Connor reassured the group

that this was already being addressed.

We welcomed the fact that the Climate Change Campaign was to have a three year life, though we were already entering year 2, and hoped that we would continue to build partnerships with others in our campaigning and share resources with them, especially our church partners, as we had with the *Jubilee 2000* and *Make Poverty History* campaigns.

We suggested we explore the opportunity for having volunteer bases in different parts of the Diocese on a part-time basis, possibly one day per week or even per month. With centralised administration we hoped that there would always be someone at the end of the phone when we called the Diocesan Office, even if they were not physically located there! They should of course know something about the Diocese and such conversations should be drawn to the attention of our Diocesan staff member. We were delighted that, as volunteers, we would only have to relate with one member of staff.

We were all glad to see that CAFOD had listened to our concerns during the consultation and taken them on board. We would like to know how CAFOD plans to increase Parish participation but will do all we can to support this.



with food, shelter and hygiene kits.

CAFOD's long term development programmes aim to reach the poorest communities, ensuring their basic needs are met and challenging the structures that keep them poor. Being an agency of the Catholic Church provides us with unique opportunities to work with those most marginalised and excluded. We also need to enable our partners to access and generate their own funds wherever possible thus further empowering them.

CAFOD needs to continue to build alliances with other organisations beyond those we have already, especially with other Catholic Partners.

## Changes in CAFOD's programmes in England and Wales

CAFOD is an agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and must be embedded in that community. The consultation clearly identified that we need local staff, not centralisation. We need volunteer bases not large regional teams. We need smart communications, not mass mailings. In the light of this and from listening to supporters, CAFOD's Management has agreed that there will be an employed member of staff (Community participation co-ordinator – CPC) identi-

## Cardinals remembered

On Tuesday, 9 June Cardinal Vincent Nichols celebrated a Requiem Mass in Westminster Cathedral for Cardinals Wiseman and Manning, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman and the consecration of Henry Edward Manning as the 2nd Archbishop of Westminster. There is an exhibition about the lives and work of the two great cardinals in St Patrick's Chapel in the Cathedral.



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# Book Review

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

By David Clayton and Leila Marie Lawler Sophia Institute Press

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

The answer is, within the Church's liturgy and much-loved devotions, you prioritize. Their own preference is incorporating the Liturgy of the Hours into the prayers of the little oratory as, after the Mass, it is the most important form of the Church's worship. But they are also at pains to say that each family must find the right form of family prayer life appropriate to them. What matters is to create a "sacred space" at home that is central to family life yet also uplifting, so that the supernatural becomes part of the natural activity of the "domestic church".

David Clayton is also a painter. Several well-known icon pictures are included at the end of the book for

framing in a little oratory. The point of an oratory is harmony: holy objects that have a personal and sacred resonance, along with candles and flowers on a table or shelf, that are kept loved and cared for, rather than a clutter of holy pictures in a neglected corner. Harmony matters because ideally an oratory should radiate its aura throughout the home. It should also be beautiful. The authors believe "we should avoid the ugly, the superficial, the sentimental and the downright kitschy." Having grown up with sickly representations of the Sacred Heart I know what they mean – but I also know an old Irish Catholic lady whose home is full of highly sentimentalised religious art, brought back from pilgrimages to which she is devoted, so I think we must also recognise that good taste and bad taste are less important than the presence of the Holy Spirit in the home.

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

Francis Phillips



## Thanks for forty

Your next deadline  
for August and  
September?  
July 5

We were over 90 Brothers, Ladies, and Visitors at South Bucks Circle's Ladies Night to celebrate Brother Kevin's 40 years as a Catenian.

In his brief address Kevin reminded us of the time when he joined in 1975: "Life was very different in those days, we joined at a younger age, mid 30 s, we had young children and we used to organise pantomime trips and parties at Christmas time. Nowadays, for many reasons Brothers join much later in life - even after retirement! For me", he said, "I was just 36 years old and our youngest son hadn't been born. The circle was only 35 years old having been formed in 1940 - during the war." Bro. Kevin held various offices including Chamberlain and Provincial Councillor as well as President and has served on Council for many years. After a period on the back benches he is now back on council as Welfare Officer.

Having thanked some of his closest Brothers, Kevin continued:

"There is one other person who I have to acknowledge this evening and that is my dear wife Kathy who has been at my side and supported me over the last 40 years. We all know that you cannot be fully committed to our Association without the total support of your wife, and Kathy has certainly given me that and more...thank you Kathy."

The couple thanked Brother Odran Steed for his presence at this anniversary event and for presenting them with a 40 years scroll from the Council.

Photo shows Kevin and Kathy flanked by Bros Odran Steed (with glasses) and Adrian Green. This was Adrian's last Circle meeting as President South Bucks Circle.





# Mission at sea

Apostleship of the Sea's (AoS) port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors understand the importance of making small gestures in their work helping seafarers. This month [July 12] is Sea Sunday, when the Church asks us to pray for seafarers and support the work of AoS, whose chaplains and ship visitors provide practical and pastoral help in ports around Britain. When ship visitor Julian Wong went on board a vessel in Felixstowe, he was told one of the crew had suffered a stroke and had been airlifted to Ipswich Hospital. "This seafarer had just joined the crew the day before at Antwerp and most of the crew, including the captain, knew very little about him," said Julian. "I eventually managed to talk to the captain when he came down to the mess room. He said the guy was very lucky as they were at anchorage only 25 miles out and they managed to get a helicopter from Bel-

gium to airlift him to hospital." Julian obtained information from the captain about the ill seafarer and passed it on to Sister Marian Davey, the port chaplain. The captain and the other Filipino seafarers asked him to pass on their best wishes and get well soon messages to their colleague. "Later that afternoon Sister Marian and I visited the seafarer at Ipswich Hospital and he appeared comfortable in bed and seemed pleased by our visit. Sister Marian offered him a mobile phone sim card, but he said he didn't need it. "She asked if there was anything he needed and to contact us should he need to. She gave him our contact details and also left her contact details on the ward after explaining who we



were and the purpose of our visit." When Julian went back to visit the seafarer, the consultant thought he was the ship's agent who had come to pick him up, as he was being discharged after making a good recovery. Julian asked the seafarer if he knew where he would be taken and he said he didn't.

"I contacted the shipping office in Ipswich and spoke to the agent who said that the patient was not being discharged as they first thought. I managed to get the consultant to clarify the situation with the agent.

"The agent then informed me that they would make arrangements to pick him up later and take him to a local hotel in Felixstowe while the necessary arrangements were made for him to be repatriated to the Philippines."

Every week in ports around the country, AoS port chaplains and ship visitors make small gestures such as this. In their hidden way they are putting the gospel into action.

Greg Watts



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# Anti-cyclone handbag


During February 2015 Year 8 students from St Pauls Catholic School in Milton Keynes took part in a "Day of Recollection" that allowed them to spend the whole day off timetable and undertaking activities based around the theme of "Charity". Students were able to reflect on the reasons why we give to charities and learn more about the work of CAFOD. Towards the end of the day we focussed our attention on "Martin's story" - When Martin was six, his small jungle village in Myanmar was struck by one of the worst cyclones ever recorded - Cyclone Nargis. Winds as strong as 140 miles per hour and a wave that reached 3.7 metres. But Martin survived. CAFOD worked with members of Martin's

village to help them stay safe if there is another storm like Nargis. The villages all now have an emergency bag that includes everything that they will need if more cyclones hit the village. During the day of recollection each of the 265 year 8 students wrote a short prayer on pictures of items that Martin would now pack in his emergency rucksack—noodles, candles, clean water, first aid kit, ID badge, pencil case, rope, torch and a blanket. The students then stuck all the prayers onto an extra-large rucksack which is now proudly displayed in the school's chapel. Pictured in front of the rucksack we see two year 8 students, Faye and Dominka who helped stick all 265 prayers onto the rucksack.




*We need to communicate with each other, to discover the gifts of each person, to promote that which unites us, and to regard our differences as an opportunity to grow in mutual respect", he remarked. "Patience and trust are called for in such dialogue, permitting individuals, families and communities to hand on the values of their own culture and welcome the good which comes from others' experiences.*

*Pope Francis*




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