



The Vine

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OCTOBER 2015

Issue No. 317

Northampton Diocesan News

FREE Every Month

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Aidan

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PRAY
FOR ME,
AND I SHALL
PRAY FOR YOU
AND ALL YOUR
FRIENDS
THAT WE MAY
MERCILY MEET
IN HEAVEN.
ST THOMAS MORE'S LAST LETTER
TO HIS BISHOP, 1535

Let's celebrate

They gathered over the Bank Holiday weekend for yet another Celebration – the 39th in the series, established in 1978. There were 28 teenagers from most of the parishes of Milton Keynes, and this year was very special indeed. For the first time within the group we had the son of one of the youngsters who attended the first Celebration. That is real continuity. This year the group covered issues surrounding the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. They now know, even if you don't, that Islam says the apostles swapped Jesus for Judas and that he was the one who died on the cross. Perhaps of more immediate signifi-

cance for the youngsters was that the youngest girl was a better swimmer than the sixth form boys. But of course the boys got their own back when the 'flour festival' started.

'It is only through the generosity of the Sisters at Thornton that we are able to run Celebration each summer' said Co-ordinator, Fr. Paul Hardy. 'We are deeply in their debt'.

Pictures: the shroud of Thornton; below: the pool: bottom. floural greetings.



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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.

India

The Bishops of the Indian state of Orissa have decided unanimously to establish "Martyrs Day" and dedicate it to the victims of anti-Christian massacres that occurred in the district of Kandhamal in 2008. As Fides learns from the local Church, the Day will be celebrated in the month of August each year. This is what the five Bishops of the state (of the Diocese of Sambalpur, Berhampur, Rourkela, Balasore and Cuttack-Bhubaneswar) decided during their annual meeting.

So far the local Church had celebrated a "Day of Remembrance" to remember the victims of the massacres.

"Those killed during the anti-Christian persecution in 2008 deserve our commitment, honor, respect and recognition: they died for their Christian faith and witness of Christ", explains to Fides Mgr. Sarat Chandra Nayak, Bishop of Berhampur. Mgr. Simon Kaipuram, Bishop of Balasore, told Fides that "the Episcopal Council of Orissa will ask the Bishops' Conference of India to extend the celebration of the Day to the entire nation". "I welcome this decision. We must recognize the dead in Kandhamal in 2008 as martyrs of faith", said to Fides the lay Catholic John Dayal, secretary general of the All India Christian Council (AICC) and member of the National Integration Council of the Government of India. "It is impor-

tant that the entire civil society in India remembers the massacres of Kandhamal: it is the most ferocious attack that Christians have suffered in history. And the victims have been betrayed by the criminal justice system", added Dayal.

In the violence that broke out on August 25, 2008 in the district of Kandhamal, over 90 Christians were killed, more than 350 churches and places of worship were destroyed, 6,500 houses destroyed, 40 women were victims of rapes and beatings, over 56 thousand Christians were expelled from their villages

Rome

Pope Francis has called on European parishes and religious communities to offer shelter to a migrant family. The Pope's appeal came during the Sunday Angelus in St Peter's Square today.

"Every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary of Europe, take in one family" he said.

And appealing for this gesture of solidarity, he said this solidarity would start right here in the Vatican where two parishes will take in a family of refugees in the next few days.

The Pope said that as we witness the "tragedy of tens of thousands of refugees

that flee death in conflict and hunger and are on a journey of hope, the Gospel calls us to be close to the smallest and to those who have been abandoned".

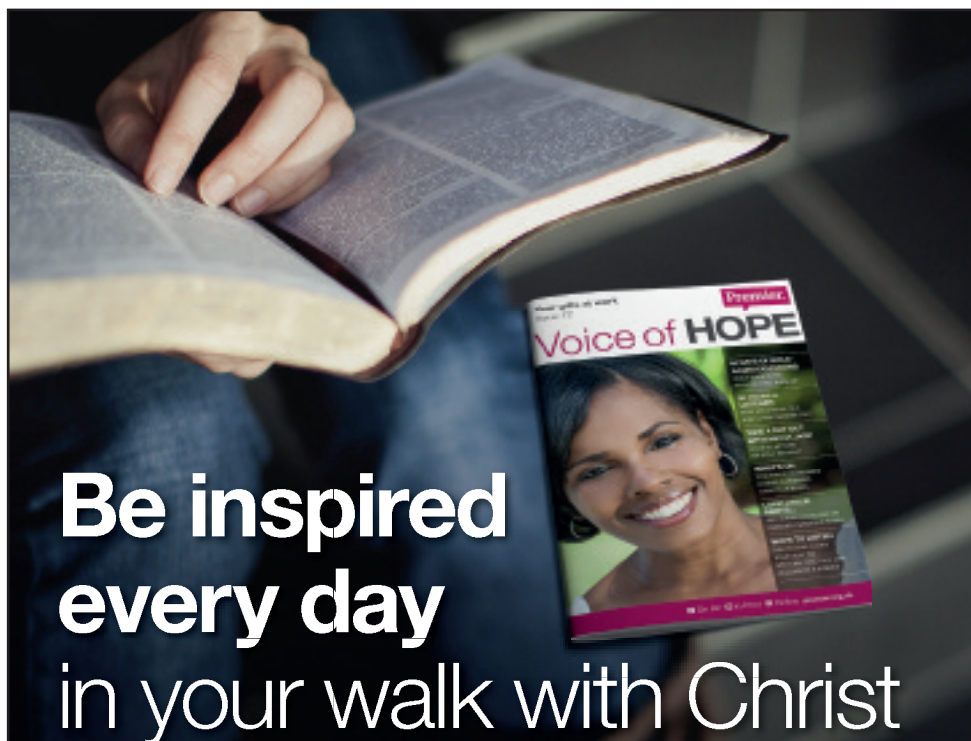
And reminding the faithful of the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy, he said that offering shelter to the needy is a "concrete act in preparation" for the Holy Year.

Turning specifically to European Bishops, the Pope asked them to support his appeal.

Baghdad

The victims of the 2010 attack on a Catholic cathedral in Baghdad will be put forward for beatification in 2016, a Church leader has said.

Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan said he planned to launch the Cause of the 48 victims next year. According to AsiaNews, he made the announcement at the beatification of Bishop Flavianus Michael Melki in Harissa, Lebanon, on Saturday. The attack, which took place October 31, 2010, led to the deaths of 48 Catholics at the Our Lady of Salvation Syriac Chaldean Catholic Cathedral. Among the dead were the two priests who had been celebrating evening Mass in the cathedral at the time of the attack. Speaking out against a perceived lack of protection of Christians in the Middle East by Western nations Patriarch Younan criticised the "passivity of the great powers" that "claim to defend liberty"



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Hairless Eleanor

Hello my name is Eleanor, I am 9 years old. I live in Bletchley Parish and attend one of the Catholic schools there.

I wanted to help raise money for the Parkinson's charity, Parkinson's UK. Parkinson's is a disease which effected my Poppop who died in May this year.

I decided to cut off my hair to raise awareness and funds to support the charity. My hair is being donated to Little Princess Trust who make wigs for children who have lost their hair through cancer treatment. That way I am helping 2 charities. To date I have raised over £1150.

Please read my story and, if you are able, please donate. Thank you very much.

<https://www.justgiving.com/Eleanor-Bennett/>

Note from Mum – My daughter always wanted hair like Rapunzel so this was a big shock for us. She had her hair cut off in front of the entire school. She was/is amazing! Please help make her hair cut worthwhile and help Parkinson's UK. Many thanks.



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.



Sister Aidan retires from diocesan advisory post

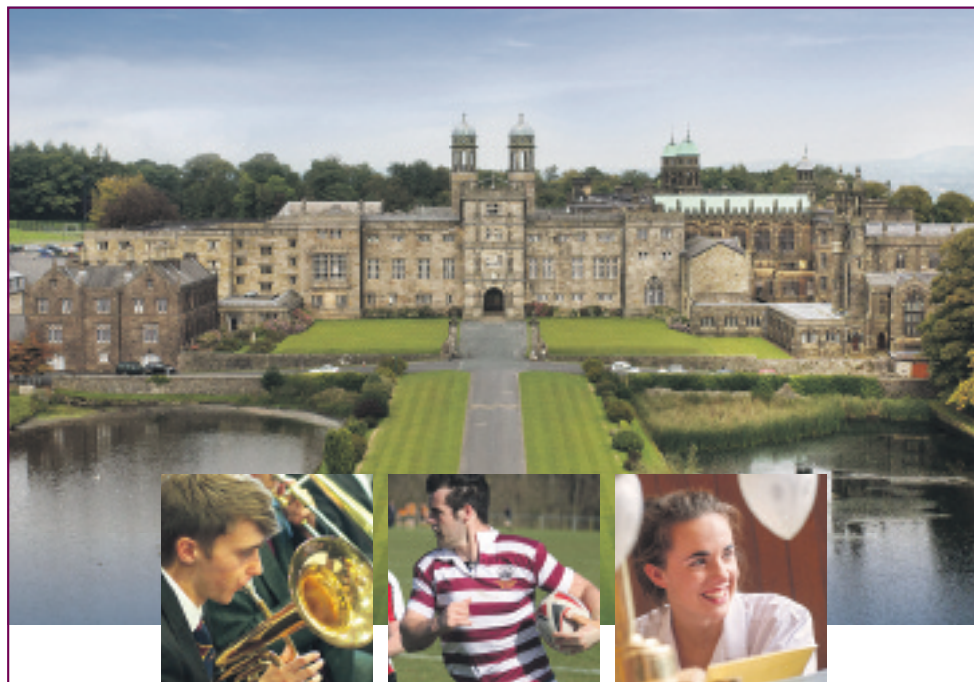
After twenty one years as the Primary RE Adviser for the schools of our diocese Sister Aidan Richards has begun a well deserved retirement. Prior to coming to NORES, Sister worked in her congregation's schools and at St Mary's in Northampton. She arrived at NORES as the new primary RE programme, *Here I Am* was just embedding in our schools. Her

main work was to develop RE in our schools and work with RE coordinators across the diocese as they supported other staff. Over the years she has organised the *Theology for Teachers* programme which has helped people refresh their knowledge of the Church's thinking. At the annual Schools' Mass Sister was a familiar figure making sure everyone fitted into St Mary's

Church, Dunstable. As national level she has been a valued and respected colleague to the other advisers from across England and Wales who have produced the recent national RE programme, *Come and See*. She is still part of the writing group for that programme and its ongoing development of web based support. It was very good to see school staff and colleagues from

NORES gather with her when Bishop Peter celebrated Mass to mark her retirement, and to thank her and God for all she has been able to do for our schools on July 6. We wish her a happy retirement and a peaceful rest.

Anne Marie McIntosh is succeeding Sister Aidan as the Primary RE Adviser from 1 September.



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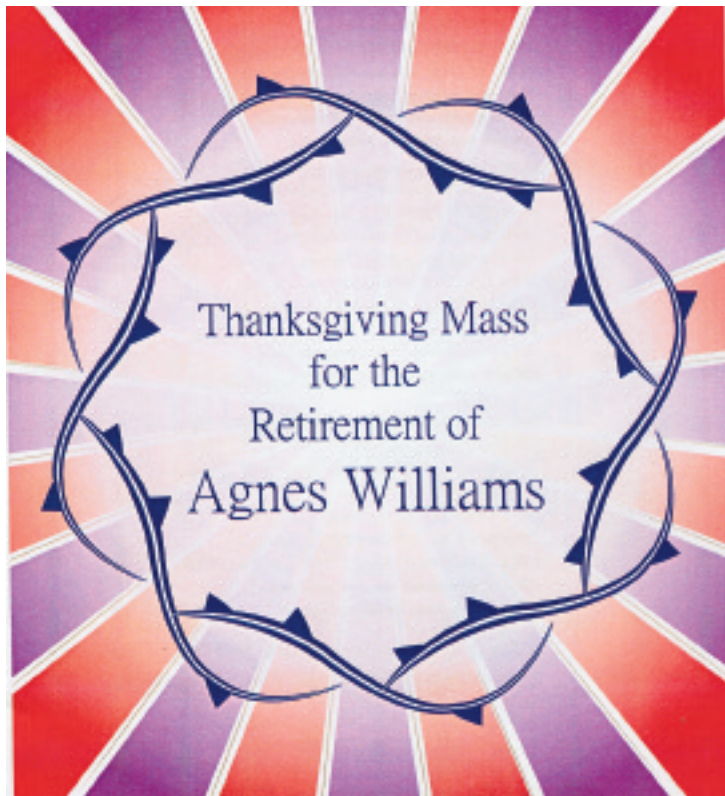
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'I've enjoyed every minute of it'



Staff, students, parents, family and friends crowded the large sports hall at Thornton Convent on July 5 for a Mass to mark the retirement of Head-teacher Agnes Williams after eighteen years. There was even a large contingent of elderly Religious of Jesus and Mary, some of them previously on the staff at Thornton. Principal celebrant was Bishop Peter. 'We give thanks for all that you have achieved in your years here', he said.

Sister Helen RJM paid tribute at the end of Mass. 'We knew you from Celebration and from our contacts with St. Paul's school. We realised you were a woman of vision; so we head-hunted you. We could not have done without you. You have given endless support to teachers, to students and to parents. Under your guidance Thornton has become one of the best independent schools in the region and in the country. Thornton is now fully equipped for the 21st century. Fortunately we have found a successor who can fit

into your very large shoes'.

'I've enjoyed every minute of it' replied Agnes, with perhaps just a little exaggeration. Let me thank the Trustees, the governors and the staff for making everything possible'.

The school choir paid their own tribute with John Rutter's music for the blessing in the biblical Book of Numbers: The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

And then it was out onto the lawn for drinks and canapés. Later in the week Agnes said 'Thank you' to the students with a grand street party for everyone.

Above: Agnes with pupils from Thornton College.
Right: the street party.
Below: drinks and canapés.



Proclaim

Proclaim 15 is the response of the Bishops of England and Wales to the call to a new evangelisation by Pope Francis, who in *Evangelii Gaudium* says; "I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come".

On 11th July 2015 in Birmingham an assortment of laity and Deacons along with 70 priests, 14 Bishops, 2 Archbishops and a Cardinal, totaling 850 in all. The day included workshops, sharing experiences, prayer and culminating in a wonderful Mass presided over by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. To be with so many other Catholics joyfully singing and worshipping God was a moving and uplifting experience.

We were welcomed by Archbishop Bernard Longley who began by saying began by saying that we must be a welcoming church and that the message of reconciliation had

to be a part of our message for today. A tremendous amount of damage has been done to the Church when we fail to speak with integrity. Scandal undermines our message. The renewal of the parish is the primary place of evangelisation and lack of unity with other Christians weakens our message of the gospel. There were several keynote speakers, including Nicky Gumble who has worked so hard to bring Alpha to non-church goers. Michelle Moran, President of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, and Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster.

We each had three of eleven workshops to attend including a compulsory workshop on Prayer. The main themes were the need to reachout to those who were lapsed and to those who had no knowledge of Jesus and to energise our parishes to be evangelisers. But most important was Prayer and the need to reflect prayerfully before attempting each and every step, not rush-

ing in as we may be tempted to do, because we cannot evangelise successfully in our own power but only with the Holy Spirit working in and through us.

So what happens now? There are two "Legacy" events planned in the Diocese, one at St Gregory's Northampton on Saturday 19th September and another at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Great Missenden on Saturday 17th October both from 10am to 3pm. More information about these events will be available in the near future if not already, but the main thing is to pass on information and ideas from the Conference so that Parishes can form their own programmes and teams for the purpose of evangelisation. We are ALL



called to evangelise, so please keep these dates in your diary.

A Level success at St Paul's

Students at St Paul's Catholic School are celebrating A-Level success with 72% achieving grades A* - C, and 40% gaining A* - B. The results for BTEC National Vocational courses were strong too, with 60% of students gaining a Distinction or Distinction*. Commenting on the results Michael Manley, Head Teacher at St Paul's Catholic School, said: "The School offers a wide range of courses so our students have achieved well across many subjects. We're very proud that the progress made by A-Level students puts St Paul's in the top 10% of schools in the country." As a result of their achievements, St Paul's students will be going on to study at universities around the UK including Oxford, Warwick, Liverpool, Imperial College London and York.

We'd like to thank parents for their support at this time."

Clergy moves

At **Wellingborough**, **Fr Edmund Worthing** retired at the end of August. **Fr Paul Inman** will move from **Kettering** to become parish priest at Wellingborough. Newly-ordained **Fr Pius Amoako** will replace him as Assistant Priest at Kettering. At **Aylesbury**, **Fr Jude Iroh MSP** becomes Parish Priest at Our Lady of Lourdes (as distinct from priest-in-charge) with immediate effect.

Fr Anton Webb becomes priest-in-charge at St Alban's, **Winslow** in addition to his full-time duties as prison chaplain.

Fr Prince Kurian MSFS will move from **Bletchley** to **St Patrick's, Duston**, as Assistant Priest in the Cathedral parish during the final year of his MA. His place at Bletchley will be taken up by **Benedetto D'Autilia** following his ordination as priest on 1st August.

Fr Henry Sanni, on sabbatical from the

Diocese of Ilorin, Nigeria, has been supplying at **Our Lady's, Great Billing**, and **Sacred Heart, Weston Favell**; from September to May he will supply at **Beaconsfield** and **Bourne End** while **Fr Higgins** is on a study-sabbatical.

Mgr Sean Healy will resume his duties at **Daventry** in early September after a three-month sabbatical. **Fr Gerry Manomey** from Ghana who has been supplying for him will then become priest-in-charge at **Great Billing** and **Sacred Heart, Northampton**, while undertaking studies for three years.

Rev. Dr. James Cassidy CRIC will be on sabbatical in the Holy Land from early September to **The Company of Hermits of Mary Immaculate** have moved out of the presbytery at **St Patrick's, Corby** at Bishop Peter's request and have moved to Scotland.

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Sicilian ordained for diocese

The sun shone brightly, Benedetto D'Autilia was beaming and Bishop Peter was a happy prelate indeed when he visited Saint Aidan's, Northampton on 1st August, to ordain yet another priest for the diocese, the second in a month.

Welcoming everyone to the service, Bishop Peter began with a bi-lingual greeting in fluent Italian followed by the English translation. This was to the evident delight of Anna and Mario, Benedetto's parents as they watched their son being gifted to the Diocese.

Visiting priests from several other diocese, concelebrated the Mass of Ordination, including Auxiliary Bishop Robert Byrne, Cong Orat(B'ham), along with Mgr Giacomo Pappalardo, Chancellor at the Sacred Congregation of the Cause of the Saints in Rome. The Rector and Vice Rector from Oscott, plus Canon Mark Floody and Canon John Udris, along with priest in charge of Saint Aidan's, Fr David C Clark and former parish priest, Mgr Paul Donovan had principal roles. The guest organist, Joshua Crunden, played throughout whilst AMICORUM, a ladies choir, sang beautifully as well as chanting the Litany of the Saints.

The congregation was enlarged with a contingent of parishioners from Saint Winefride's (Holywell), Saint John the Baptist's (Banbury), Saint Thomas Aquinas and All Saints (Bletchley), Saint Philip Howard (Cambridge) and from Saint Bernadette's, Brownhills, Birmingham, where Benedetto had spent some time on placement as a Deacon. Three Bridgettine Communities added a splash of colour as they arrived to take their places. Bishop Peter gave a thoughtful, even challenging address as



well as giving heart-felt thanks to Anna and Mario for the gift of their son to the priesthood (again in both Italian and English).

Fr Benedetto's journey to the priesthood began back home in Palermo when he was inspired by a Vocationist priest, Fr Vincenzo Amato, SDV, way back in April, 2005. In due time, Fr Benedetto made his first profession with the Vocationist Fathers at their Welsh community. As he began his priestly studies at Oscott, he became interested in the history of the English Church. It was during an extended placement at Saint John The Baptist parish, Banbury, that he came under the

influence of Canon Mervyn Tower and learned much of the life of the diocesan clergy. In February 2013, Benedetto applied to Bishop Peter, who readily accepted him for the diocese of Northampton. The rest, as they say, is history. Further inspirational guidance was given by Oscott College staff as well as encouragement from Mgr Paul Donovan, then parish priest at Saint Aidan's. Having completed his studies for his STB degree, he graduated, 'Magna cum Laude'(highest honours) which is a no mean feat for any student to attain !

The day after the ordination, Sunday, second of August, Fr Benedetto celebrated his

first, Solemn Mass to great rejoicing. 'Faith of Our Fathers' and other traditional hymns, together with some Latin plainchant, were sung with great enthusiasm and plenty of volume. At the conclusion of this joyful Mass, Fr Benedetto first processed to the Lady Chapel to lay an array of roses before the image of Our Lady, followed by the SALVE REGINA in full throttle. After this Fr Benedetto presented his Mamma with more roses, together with the cloth used during his anointing the previous day. All in all, one of the happiest events to have been held at Saint Aidan's in recent times.

Dennis H. Sear



One of the happiest events to have been held at Saint Aidan's



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Churches in our diocese are getting ready to raise funds for CAFOD's Harvest appeal, which is this year focused on supporting people affected by hunger in the world's poorest country. The annual parish fundraising campaign is focused on working with communities in Niger, where CAFOD is helping people to adapt as temperatures rise and dry seasons become longer. CAFOD's partners deliver work, tools, and training for farmers to enable them to buy and grow food during droughts, and show parents how to keep their babies healthy if food runs danger-

ously low. CAFOD is encouraging parishioners to hold 'Give and Grow' sales of food they have produced themselves to raise money for the appeal. Deborah Purfield, CAFOD coordinator said: "When we can simply pop to the supermarket to buy food rather than have to rely on the food that we ourselves have grown, it's easy for most of us to take it for granted that we'll have enough to eat. Yet many people around the world go hungry if there is a drought or crops fail and so it's vital

that we help children to survive food shortages and go on and live their lives to the full. "It's vital that we help people of all ages to survive food shortages and go on and live lives to the full and so we'd like to thank all the parishioners who are organising fundraisers at their churches. Their support will help to bring hope to so many people."

More information about CAFOD's Harvest appeal can be found at cafod.org.uk/harvest

Welcome to Wycombe

On Wednesday 8th July, Mr Fay and his family were welcomed to St Michael's Catholic School community by staff, students, families, governors and local clergy. The Mass setting was for St Michael, and Monsignor Kevin spoke about how Mr Fay was to lead our school in slaying the dragon! Maggi Bull, chair of Governors, presented Mr Fay to Monsignor Kevin, the Episcopal Vicar, to affirm his role in the teaching ministry of God's Church on behalf of our diocese of Northampton. The letter that Bishop Peter had written to Mr Fay was read to congratulate and welcome him to the role, and to ensure him of support from the diocese. Bishop Peter also thanked St Michael's community for the provision of

the young people of the diocese and encouraged us to look forward with hope and confidence. Mr Fay was presented with the School Mission Statement, a Bible and a Candle to equip and guide him in his new role in leading the school. We then spent some time praying for the Holy Spirit to lead Mr Fay and that our schools and parishes in our pastoral area, partnership and diocese may enjoy God's blessing. It was a wonderful way to welcome Mr Fay. Thank you to everyone who came to show your support and played a part in the evening.

-Lizi Martin, Youth Ministry Mentor, St Michael's

Lourdes pilgrims 2015

Young people from across the Diocese of Northampton travelled by air to Lourdes to join the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage this August. Our duties whilst on pilgrimage are vast and varied; helping the sick, pushing those pilgrims in need of assistance in wheelchairs, marshalling during processions, serving in the liturgies as well as visiting those places that reveal more of the story of Saint Bernadette. It is a very challenging, rewarding and profound experience for our young people-the opportunity to meet, talk and listen to people who live the Gospel through pain, sickness and suffering, reflecting on their own journey with our Lord and asking Our Lady for help as the week becomes physically demanding. The Lourdes pilgrimage is quickly becoming a highlight of the NYMO calendar and we would love for more young adults, 16-30 years to join us next August. For more information and to view this years video visit www.nymo.org or call 01582 720627



Obituaries



Canon Patrick Carey

Canon Patrick Carey, died on July 15th in Northwick Park Hospital in NW London a few days after sustaining a fall and fractured skull. He was three days short of his 97th birthday and the oldest priest in the Diocese. Born before the end of the First World War and ordained during the Sec-

ond (1942), he had served at St George's Norwich, St Josephs Aylesbury, Bletchley and then St Ethelbert's Slough (22 years at each), with his final few years of ministry at Bourne End before retiring in 1996. His Funeral Mass was on **Friday 31st July** at St Ethelbert's, Slough, at 2pm.

Canon Denis McSweeney



Canon Denis McSweeney died peacefully at his home in Flitwick, in the early evening of 21 July after several months of illness. Having reached the milestone of 40 years in the priesthood, Fr Denis was a man of many talents and interests who dedicated his life of priestly ministry to the diocese of Northampton. He served as parish priest in a number of places.

One of four children born to Owen and Mairead McSweeney of the small country town of Kanturk, Co. Cork, after primary schooling locally he was sent to board at a private school in North Wales. Here his talent for music burgeoned, something that would lead him to one of his great interests in life.

After a period of teaching Music and English, Denis discerned his vocation for the priesthood electing to train at All Hallows in Dublin for the diocese of Northampton. Through his talent for music, he was permitted to leave the almost monastic environment of the seminary for his external studies and would often regale friends with tales of his experiences within the confines of the college and around Dublin in the early 1970s.

Ordained on 15 June 1975, he was called by Bishop Grant to join three other priests at the Cathedral in Northampton. Here his assignment to care for the hospital set the seal on a very important part of Fr Denis's ministry: that of visiting the sick, house-bound and those in care homes.

In recent months, he was still maintaining this calling even while unwell. His next appointment as a curate to Kettering and its two communities of Rothwell and Desborough allowed another of his many talents to find expression. Here his sociability and

his desire to perform became part of the social life of the communities he served, and a stand-up entertainer was born.

Service with Fr Bustin in Leighton Buzzard for a further two years led Fr Denis to his first appointment as parish priest at Coffee Hall in Milton Keynes. Involvement with the Church of the Cornerstone encouraged his desire to work with other denominations and his fraternal friendship with ministers from all the main churches and faiths. Over the next few years Fr Denis served at John the Apostle in Sundon Park, Fr Francis's Shefford and then he became Dean of the Cathedral. Along this journey of ministry Fr Denis had time to be a chaplain to the TA, join The Royal British Legion and pursue his interest in vintage cars and motorbikes.

Four years of intensive work without the benefit of a curate, though with the support of retired priests, started to take a toll on Fr Denis's health. A diagnosis of diabetes, which grew steadily worse, led to the advice of the doctors to move to a smaller parish. After only a year as parish priest of Beaconsfield, prostate cancer resulted in an extended period of treatment and

convalescence.

In 2006, Fr Denis became parish priest in Flitwick. A visit to his home in Pope Close reveals his interest in collecting the unusual – antique telephones that he made to work, some fine wind-up gramophones, and an eclectic array of artwork. His photographic display featured another of his great loves, his motorbikes, and new parishioners were amazed to hear that he was a biker!

Fr Denis – simply Denis to many friends – was a man of immense wit, practised comic timing, an accomplished musician, expert in celebrating the Traditional Rite (Latin) Mass, a biker, a caring pastoral priest and a sensitive and participative leader of his parish communities. The Flitwick Town Council has recently conferred on Fr Denis the award of Honorary Citizen of Flitwick in recognition of his service in and care of the town, its organisations and its people. He will be missed by the whole of the local community and in the many other places he served.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them

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Book Review

How to get more out of Holy Communion

By St Peter Julian Eymard

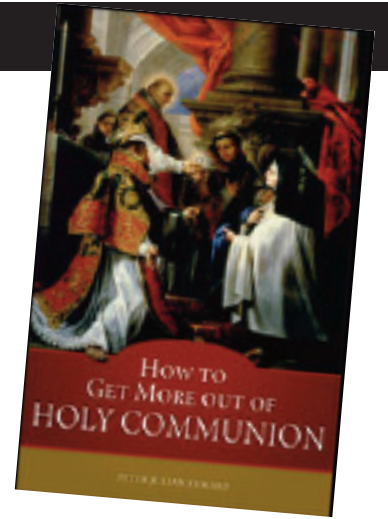
Sophia Institute Press www.SophiaInstitute.com

This 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



New Head in Risborough

A new Headmaster has been appointed for St Teresa's School in Princes Risborough. Mr Simon Detre took the helm in September following the retirement of Mrs Thalia Milton. A Mass of Induction for Mr Detre was recently celebrated by Mgr Kevin McGinnell.

Mr Detre said "I am hugely enjoying my first term. St Teresa's is a special school with a really warm atmosphere. When I went through the selection process – which in-

cluded a searching interview at the hands of the School Council, covering a wide range of topics! – I found the children to be unfailingly polite, keen to learn and full of enthusiasm and pride for their school. That was what clinched it for me in deciding whether I wanted to come, and I am very glad I did."

He paid tribute to his predecessor, Thalia Milton, saying that she did a "tremendous job of nurturing the school".

Simon Detre was previously Senior Deputy Head at St Anthony's School in Hampstead, which is a Catholic prep school. He lives in Chalfont St Peter with his wife and three boys. Before St Anthony's he was Senior Master at Westminster Abbey Choir School. He is also an inspector for the Independent Schools Inspectorate. St Teresa's is an independent prep school and pre-school for girls and boys aged 3-11.



Requiem for Richard

A Requiem Mass was celebrated in the Anglican church at Fotheringhay on June 13th for the repose of the soul of King Richard III. The liturgy, entirely in Latin, was celebrated by Oratorian priests, acting as celebrant, deacon and subdeacon. Even the scripture readings were in Latin, and the music sung by the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge would have been used at the time of Richard's reign.

Richard III (was King of England from 1483 until his death in 1485, at the age of 32, in the Battle of Bosworth Field. He was the last king of the House of York and the last of the Plantagenet dynasty. His defeat at Bosworth Field, the last decisive battle of the Wars of the Roses, marked the end of the Middle Ages in England. His death gave the Tudors access to the throne.

After the battle of Bosworth Richard's corpse was taken to Leicester and buried without pomp. His original tomb is believed to have been destroyed during the Reformation, and his remains were lost for more than five centuries. In 2012, an archaeological excavation was conducted on a city council car park on the site once occupied by Greyfriars Priory Church. The University of Leicester identified the skeleton found in the excavation as that of Richard III as a result of radiocarbon dating, comparison with contemporary reports of his appearance, and comparison of his mitochondrial DNA with that of two matrilineal descendants of Richard III's eldest sister, Anne of York. Richard's remains were reburied in Leicester Cathedral on 26 March 2015



'Ilona, you are simply amazing'

On the last day of term we were privileged to have the Bishop celebrate Mass with us as it was a special time for us with Deputy Head, Ilona Bond, retiring. Ilona joined St Thomas More School in 1989 on a maternity PE cover and . . . she's been here ever since. PE teacher, RE teacher, English teacher at one point too, Year Co-ordinator, Assistant Head and Deputy Head are the many roles she has expertly undertaken. Her talents are endless and she will be sadly missed within the life of the school.

Lasting memories stretch beyond cold titles though. Ilona was the very fabric of the school and has dedicated many hours that other staff, students and parents will be unaware of, so that the smooth running of the school was never hindered. She has helped to shovel the snow off the site in winter; she was out on the gate in the rain, chivvying on late comers; attended police liaison meetings, Directors' meetings, safeguarding meetings; lunch duties most days; she taught, marked,

checked uniform and earrings; and yet, she still found time to keep a tidy desk.

Retirement? Winding down? Easing in to a quieter life? No such thing with Ilona. Right to the end she was working away on behalf of all of us! A challenge for Ilona on her Appraisal this year was to attain the Equalities Award and she did not just achieve it, she knocked spots off all other applications too, the appraiser's glowing praise said. But that is typical of Ilona's way of working. Only the best will do, for staff and students alike. Only the best teaching, only the best pastoral care and only the best Victoria sponges and Blueberry muffins. Gosh will those cakes she bakes be missed on Inset Days!

Ilona - you are simply amazing. I don't have to say just how much your hard work and dedication will be missed. We all know it . . .

Alison (Head Teacher)

New look at Little Chalfont



A great day was held at St Aidan's little Chalfont during the summer when there was a triple celebration. It was 50 years since the building of the church, the more recent of the 3 churches Chesham, Chesham Bois and Little Chalfont; a number

of our teenagers were confirmed by Bishop Peter and it was the conclusion of a somewhat long drawn out refurbishment of the church.

The latter included a new roof, ceiling,

lighting, audio-visual system, parish office and confessional, allowing for through the grille or face to face 'clients'.

The celebration Mass at which Bishop Peter presided was followed by a celebra-

tion lunch for about 170 parishioners and guests and it marked well the termination of our time as evacuees in neighbouring churches while St Aidan's was being refurbished.



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I am writing this having just returned from the most incredible week I can remember.

NYMO, the diocesan youth ministry team worked alongside The Kenelm Youth Trust and Lifeteen, a youth ministry organisation from the USA, to deliver a summer camp to lead teenagers closer to Christ.

25 young people set off early in the morning by coach to travel up to Alton Castle, Staffordshire and arrived nervous but expectant of what the week had in store for them.

With a mixture of activities; archery, biking, trekking, tower climbing, sailing, raft building and much more, alongside talks and music by Jimmy Mitchell, who travelled from Nashville and the highlights of our week, daily Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration in the beautiful Pugin Church on site.

So many blessings were poured out during the week and a tangible difference was made in all of us who were present. I have been blown away once again by the maturity and depth of faith shown by the young people from across our Diocese and we ask for your prayers for them and the Summer Camp as we prepare for next year.

If you would like to know more about Summer Camp please visit www.nymo.org and visit the lux page or call 01582 720627. Summer camp and lux are open to all young people of Secondary school age.

Neil Roseman
Director of Youth Ministry

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‘Blown away’ at Alton Camp



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