



Northampton Diocesan News

# The Vine

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July 2018  
Issue No. 349

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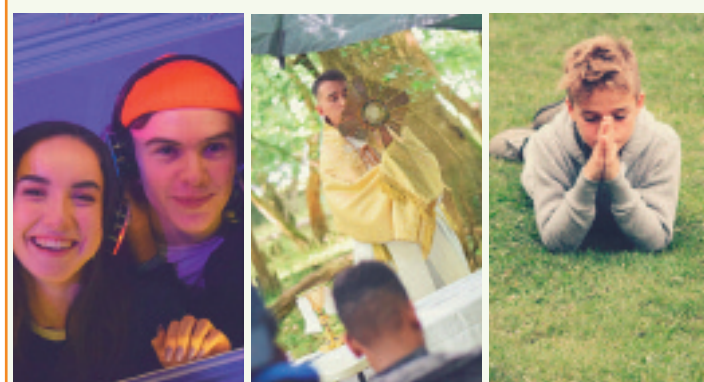


## Ad Multos Annos

*Bishop Peter celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest on June 8.  
Full story in the August issue.*

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**CATHOLIC EVENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**



# News beyond Northampton

## A message for Ramadan

**Dear Muslim Brothers and Sisters,**

In his Providence, God the Almighty has granted you the opportunity to observe anew the fasting of Ramadan and to celebrate 'Id al-Fitr.

The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue appreciates the importance of this month and the great effort by the Muslims throughout the world to fast, pray and share the Almighty's gifts with the poor.

Mindful of the gifts prompted by Ramadan, we join you in thanking the Merciful God for his benevolence and generosity, and we extend to you our heartfelt best wishes.

The thoughts we would like to share with you on this occasion, dear Muslim brothers and sisters, concern a vital aspect of relations between Christians and Muslims: the need to move from competition to collaboration.

A spirit of competition has too often marked past relations between Christians and Muslims, the negative consequences of which are evident: jealousy, recriminations and tensions. In some cases, these have led to violent confrontations, especially where religion has been instrumentalised, above all due to self-interest and political motives.

Such interreligious competition wounds the image of religions and their followers, and it fosters the view that religions are not sources

of peace, but of tension and violence.

To prevent and overcome these negative consequences, it is important that we Christians and Muslims recall the religious and moral values that we share, while acknowledging our differences. By recognizing what we hold in common and by showing respect for our legitimate differences, we can more firmly establish a solid foundation for peaceful relations, moving from competition and confrontation to an effective cooperation for the common good. This particularly assist those most in need, and allows us to offer a credible witness to the Almighty's love for the whole of humanity.

We all have the right and the duty to witness to the All-Powerful One we worship, and to share our beliefs with others, while respecting their religion and religious sentiments.

So that we may further peaceful and fraternal relations, let us work together and honor each another. In this way we will give glory to the Almighty and promote harmony in society, which is becoming increasingly multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural.

We conclude by renewing our best wishes for a fruitful fast and a joyful 'Id, and assure you of our solidarity in prayer.

**From the Vatican, 20 April 2018**  
**Jean-Louis Cardinal Tauran**  
**President**



The students at Immaculate Heart school in Los Angeles celebrated the wedding of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry with a group dance, fancy hats, toasts and the waving of American and British flags.

Although she said she was not baptised, Meghan received her secondary education at this Catholic school. Teachers recalled her as a bright and compassionate student with a

knack for remembering names and stories. Meghan, in turn, says the teachers made a lasting impression on her as well.

Immaculate Heart students told the media that they take inspiration from the fact that one of their own, who is a United Nations advocate for women and known for her humanitarian work, is being celebrated on the world stage.

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## 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 emailed 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 children 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 on request.

The content of each issue is decided by the editor.

Views expressed in The Vine are not necessarily those of the editor or of the diocese. The publisher of The Vine deals with all advertising. To place an advert ring 01440-730399. For difficulties with distribution contact the editor.

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# Chaplains celebrate and reflect



The sun shone gloriously at Woburn Sands as hospital chaplaincy teams gathered from all over the diocese for a day of celebration and reflection with Bishop Peter. Organised by the Office for Adult Chaplaincy and Formation, the day brought together priest chaplains, hospital visitors and Eucharistic Ministry teams to reflect on what it means to take the presence of Christ into a hospital. The keynote, given by theologian David McLaughlin from Newman University, explored themes of suffering and healing with sensitivity, humour and practical advice drawn from his own experiences. A session

sharing best practice showed how diverse hospital ministry is across the diocese, but also brought out how life giving a privilege this ministry is. After a delicious lunch, the day ended with prayer and a special blessing from Bishop Peter as we dedicated ourselves anew to carrying out Christ's ministry in the world. Many thanks to Fr Francis and his team for hosting us so generously.

For more information about hospital chaplaincy, please contact Avril Baigent at [avril@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:avril@northamptondiocese.com).

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# School helps to save the world

## St Bernadette's pupils are learning how to LiveSimply

Pope Francis, in his encyclical letter 'Laudato Si' invites us all to work with generosity and tenderness in protecting the world which God has entrusted to us.

St Bernadette's Primary School of Milton Keynes responded to that invitation and has launched its LiveSimply action plan to work towards achieving the LiveSimply award. Pupils are already learning about how to live simply, live sustainably and in solidarity with people who live in poverty.

The launch started with a LiveSimply assembly for the whole school followed by a Values Mission which was a week of reflection and workshops featuring 'Justice.' CAFOD was very happy to help support both the assembly and the 'Justice' workshops.

CAFOD school volunteer Cathy Stormonth was delighted to lead the assembly and challenged the school to act... 'as Pope Francis suggests that Catholics of richer lands should be in the forefront of those who fight to build a better world, based on justice and equality.'

She explained that God calls us to look hard at our lifestyles and to choose to live more simply, more sustainably and to think about how we can help the poorest people on the planet. In this way we can help create a world in which human dignity is respected and everyone can reach their full potential. This would be true progress and worth more than economic growth alone.

Cathy explained that *'Individual actions may seem insignificant but together the small steps of many people can have an astonishing impact.'* Cathy asked for some volunteers to rehearse a mantra 'I am somebody and I can do something.' Two pupils helped to untangle the jumbled up text on a PowerPoint slide that repeated 'I am somebody and I can do something' and they projected their voices beautifully to the back of the hall so everyone could hear this message. Cathy explained that if everyone took just one small step as a starting point to live more simply and sustainably it can make a considerable impact. She explained a simple way of saving water by turning off the taps when brushing teeth. Half of the 500 pupils put their hands up to confirm that they don't turn off the tap whilst brushing. Cathy explained that about 5 litres of water is wasted every time teeth are brushed with the tap running and if 250 extra children saved 5 litres of water each time that was saving a lot of water! And if they could enlist their families into this water saving method - all of a sudden there would be massive water savings in the community. So 'Everyone can do something' and take some initial small

steps to living more simply.

The Headteacher, Mrs Jane Zamora thought this was a good idea and challenged the children to think of more ways that they can save water at school and at home. She commended the Eco Mini Vinnies Team who diligently promoted Switch-Off-Fortnight earlier this term, noting that this had and continues to have an impact on awareness throughout the school regarding the use of electricity and the importance of not wasting it.

Cathy went on to suggest to the children that they should not be obsessed with money, designer goods, fame and the latest gadget. Instead she asked children if they could live more simply? Appreciating simple gifts like a meal with family and friends, a hug, fun and laughter, good health, time to pray and reflect or simply a beautiful sunset?

St Bernadette's School has been approved to spend the next year carrying out the LiveSimply action plan to achieve the LiveSimply Award.

The three significant actions in the St Bernadette's action plan are: -Develop an outdoor space for prayer and contemplation. The school has already built a stunningly beautiful prayer garden of Our Lady of Lourdes appearing to St Bernadette. This is used for prayer, quiet times and reflection.

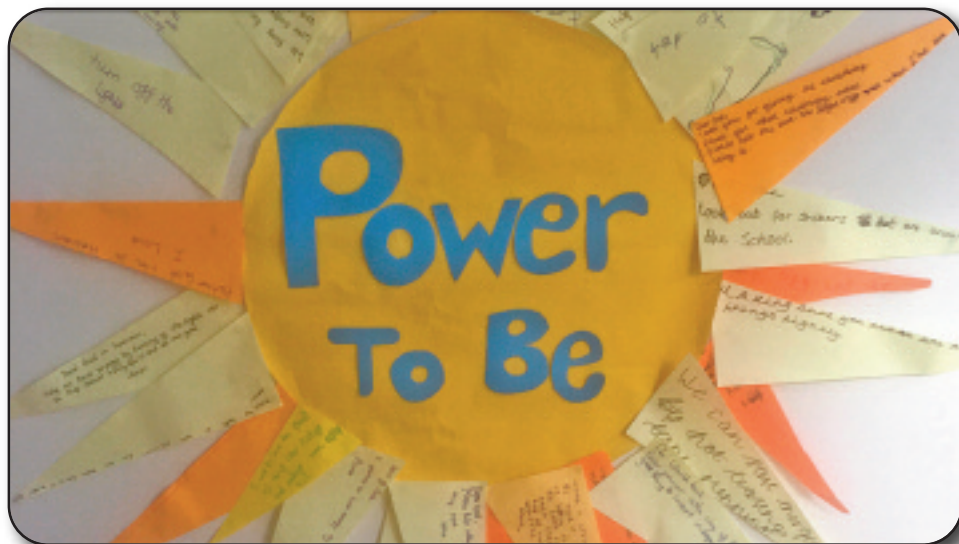
Action to live sustainably. The school has an allotment and is growing vegetables to use for school lunches when the vegetables are ready to harvest. The school is also saving energy and reducing the school electricity bill. The school has just run the 'switch off fortnight' when all were making a concerted effort to switch off all unnecessary electrical devices. Pupils were encouraged to tell others to do the same at home. St Bernadette's School has solar roof panels and commendably has one of the lowest school electricity bills locally. -Live in solidarity with the poor. The school charity is devoted to helping vulnerable locals. For example working with SVP on making a House a Home project for young homeless families.

The assembly finished with the LiveSimply prayer which was said together. Cathy told pupils to remember the main points of the assembly and all they had to do to LiveSimply was to LIVE IT!!

**And the following week St Bernadette's Primary School ran.....**

**A Values Mission based on Justice**

For three days at the end of Spring term the school ran a Fair Trade Cafe and CAFOD school volunteer Clive Gallagher ran a Fair Trade workshop alongside the







cafe. He told parents and pupils about the injustice of Non-Fair trade bananas when the average banana farmer is only paid under a penny per banana whereas the Fair Trade banana farmers get more than double this. This makes an incredible difference to Fair Trade farmers who can eke out a living and are ABOVE the poverty line. They can afford to feed, clothe and educate their children effectively. Non-Fair Trade farmers get so little money for their bananas they still live in poverty and have very difficult lives. Pupils asked their parents to buy Fair Trade bananas in future to try and help overcome the injustice of Non-Fair Trade produce.

The theme of the 'Mission of Justice' and the role in making our world a fairer place for all was evident in the other activities including the CAFOOD Power-to-Be workshop. Cathy Stormonth showed children how a solar cell works and how easy it is to create this wonderful solar powered source of renewable energy. Cathy pointed out that it was unjust that one in six people in the world live without electricity. Without electricity people are held back and children can't study after dark, clean water can't be pumped for families to drink and clinics and schools can't function effectively. It stops children having the 'Power-to-Be' whatever they aspire to be. Without electricity their ambitions are often just a distant dream

Children were able to write a message to the World Bank to ask them to spend more of their budget on solar powered energy, or write a prayer in the hope of more children being able to reach their potential or make pledges to save energy and not waste energy in their everyday lives. These were written on yellow sun rays and were attached to the sun to make a

'Power-to-Be Sun.' You can see from the photo that there are plenty of sun rays around our sun! One mum confirmed that her son was already making sure that the lights were switched off at home and was urging his family to save water too. She was impressed that the message was not just rhetoric but was actually happening in her family home and her children were telling her how to live more simply.

Mrs Michelle Fisher was very pleased that so many parents came to the after school activities and said, 'The Mission of Justice was a great success, well attended by the families and the community of St. Bernadette's, with a welcomed visit from Father Pius. A big thank you to Cathy and Clive from CAFOOD for running the CAFOOD Power-to-Be workshop and Fair Trade workshop. The mission most definitely encouraged our families to join us to reflect on our Christian values and promote making the world a fairer place for all. The stations and activities were varied and promoted active participation as well as prayerful reflection. It was also wonderful to support our charity 'Make a House a Home' with the proceeds from the Fair Trade Café, and see our families chatting over a cup of Fair Trade tea and a slice of cake. We raised well over £130. May I also thank the pupils from St Pauls who enthusiastically supported the running of the stations alongside our very own Mini Vinnies.'

Grateful thanks go to Mrs Fisher, Mrs Pughe, Mr Penny and Mrs Bland for their hard work and creativity in organising this wonderful event. And also to Year 9 students from St Paul's school who came and helped us run the workshops. They were brilliant!



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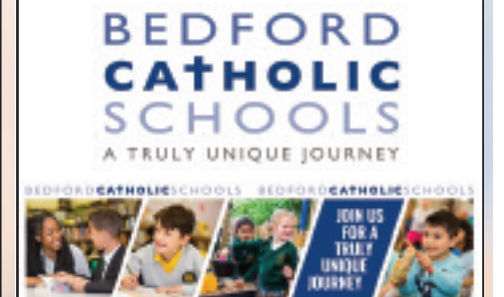
Education Sunday will take place on Sunday 9th September 2018. It is a day of Celebration for all those involved in Education.

It is an opportunity for Schools and Parishes to come together to celebrate and give thanks for all the students, staff and parents who work so hard in and for Catholic Schools.

With this in mind we will be celebrating Education Sunday in the Schools section of the September edition of the paper.



To book an advert please contact Janet on 01440 730399 07931 836907 as places are limited.



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*Polish Children's Choir*

# Sharing our common faith

What a start to the 2018 Pilgrimage Tour! The Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe visited the Polish Church of Divine Mercy in Slough on the weekend of 22nd April. The event was a tremendous success, with more than five thousand people - 2500 on the Sunday alone! - gathering over the five days. Thus Guardian Dick Gardner was able to declare: "It was particularly pleasing to see both Polish and non-Polish communities joining together so closely in our shared Catholic faith".

Even before our arrival the already striking Church had been enhanced by flower arrangements in Papal colours! The weekend began on the Friday evening with the Service of Reception and the Guadalupe Mass. The Principal Celebrant was Monsignor Seán Healy, Vicar General of the Diocese of Northampton. A large number of Guardians of the Shrine were present, as well as a number of priests and religious. Representing the Slough civic community was the Deputy Mayor, Paul Sohal. Mr Sohal is a Sikh and was attending his first Catholic Mass; we

hope he realised that such events as the Pilgrimage Visit don't happen every weekend! The theme of Fr Seán's homily was "To Jesus through Mary" and he explored how Our Lady, as a conduit for grace, always points us towards her Son. The evening concluded with Veneration of the Relic Image, a reception and even an all-night prayer vigil!

Each day drew pilgrims from different parts of London and from Aldershot, Newbury and Hampshire. Whilst each day had common elements, including Veneration of the Relic Image, spiritual reflections, the Angelus, the Rosary Chaplet, etc, every day was also marked by something unique, be that an informal Filipino liturgy; a Healing Mass; charismatic worship (led by Father Andrew Richardson and the St Andrew's Worship Group); pre-school group visit, family retreat day, etc. Still further a colourful Malayalam rite Mass was celebrated by Father Shaju for members of the Indian and Goan communities; during which almost everything was sung, including all the Sacred Scripture texts! So large were the Sunday Mass congrega-

tions, swelled by non-Polish speakers, that people had to stand in the narthex and even in the car park! Thus the desire to venerate the Relic Image was so great that these Masses started late; we duly apologised to Father Dariusz, the Parish Priest! During Sunday afternoon Guardian Ewa Allan, herself Polish, delivered a beautiful talk on Saint John Paul II's devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and of his gift of the Miraculous Relic Image to Great Britain.

A major element of any Pilgrimage Visit is the involvement of young people and our time in Slough was no different! We were privileged to witness the visit of the Polish Children's Choir who sang to "Mother Mary" and prayed a decade of the Rosary before the Relic Image. We were also joined by students from the following Schools: St Bernard's Catholic Grammar (whose chaplain, Fr Michael Bates, concelebrated at the Opening Mass), St Joseph's, St Ethelbert's and St Anthony's. All seemed to particularly enjoy being able to feel real 'cactus cloth' (used to remind them of St Juan Diego's tilma) and also the opportunity

to venerate the Miraculous Relic Image.

Members of an Ealing Pro-Life Group also availed themselves of the opportunity to invoke Our Lady's assistance under her patronage "Protectress of the Unborn". As Ealing Council has recently created "buffer zones" (to prevent people gathering in prayer outside abortion clinics), the presence of the Relic Image was appreciated by members of the group who each felt renewed by their visit.

During the closing liturgy Guardian Andrew Hinde, speaking of the legacy of the successful five-day event, commented on the generous hospitality shown by Millie (who had worked tirelessly for months to organise the events), the warmth of parishioners and the encouraging cooperation of Father Dariusz and Father Mirac (the Polish Assistant Priest). Finally, in thanksgiving for all that Millie had contributed to the event, she was enrolled as an honorary Guardian of the Relic Image.



# 'Well Done' medal for Bernardette

Parishioners at St Martin de Porres, Luton, are delighted that one of their number has been honoured by the Holy Father. Bernardette Lana is the worthy recipient of a Benemerenti medal, recognising over 30 years voluntary service to chaplaincy at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

The surprise was sprung following the Easter Vigil, during the night of Saturday 31st March. Fr Michael read the glowing (but completely honest)

letter he had sent off nearly a year previously. The presentation to Bernardette had been originally planned for Bishop Peter's visitation on 3rd-5th November, yet the package from Rome remained elusive. When the award finally turned up at Bishop's House in the New Year, the date on the accompanying parchment was 6th November 2017!

Bernadette is to be found at Mass at St Martin's most weekdays, and every Saturday night. This

leaves her free to make an early start on Sunday morning around the wards, visiting the sick with Holy Communion. Estimating the number of patients Bernardette has comforted since she began visiting the hospital in the mid-1980s is tricky; a conservative estimate might be 15,000. Bernardette continues to give a humble and cheerful example of generous and consistent service - underpinned by prayer and daily Eucharist. Such holiness is of great value to all of us striving to do the Lord's work.

Bishop Peter said as much on Saturday 21st April, when hospital visitors from around the diocese gathered at St Mary's Woburn Sands for a reflection & celebration day. At the conclusion of the day, Bernardette was congratulated in person by all present. Although the Year of Mercy may be long over, good works both spiritual and corporal "live on" among the hospital volunteers around the diocese.





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May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world, now and forever.  
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### GREAT THINGS ARE still HAPPENING IN BEDFORD!

Ss Philip and James Church  
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#### Updated!

**Bishop Peter to be in attendance**  
**Saturday, 14th July**

#### Mission Mission Animation Day

9:30am - Votive Mass of Our Lady

10:30am - Refreshments

Followed by:

Inspiring Speakers

Free Lunch!

Update on this papal charity

4:00pm - **VIGIL MASS**

Fulfills Sunday Obligation

*The day is open to everyone not just those associated with Mission. Please support this and encourage family and friends to do likewise!*



Although Britain is an island, much of the fish we eat is not caught off our coast, but hundreds or thousands of miles away. If you have ever eaten a McDonald's Filet-o-fish, there is a good chance that it came from the Alaska Ocean.

Yet the fishing industry has its murky side, because in some cases the fishers who go out to sea are victims of a form of modern day slavery.

Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) is trying to combat this. This month [July 8] 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 the coast of Britain and in many countries throughout the world.

The seafarers who work on fishing vessels often come from poorer parts of the world, such as India, the Philippines, or Thailand. They work long hours in harsh conditions and for low pay.

Fr Romeo Yu-Chang, AoS port chaplain in Singapore, explained that because of the lack of legal protection fishers are open to abuse. "They are often unfairly paid and cheaply treated. Some are also left stranded in Singa-

pore, after they choose to leave vessels when they dock at the Jurong Fishery Port."

Many of the fishers he meets are from impoverished villages in countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines, lured by promises of high salaries.

On tuna vessels – usually Taiwanese-owned – men are usually made to work for 18 to 20 hours. Many find themselves unaccustomed to this kind of regime.

"They are not exactly trained fishers," said Fr Romeo. "They are farmers and construction workers. They learn the trade on board vessels. The reality is not as good as what was offered. The captain normally abuses the fishers. It's very traumatic for them. There is no documentation of suicides, but I've heard accounts from fishers I encountered."

Mick Duthie, a former detective chief superintendent in the Metropolitan Police who is now deputy director of the Santa Marta Group, attended the AoS World Congress in Taiwan last October.

He said it helped him understand the global fishing industry and just how difficult and dangerous a job it is to go to sea to catch the fish we eat.

"I was fortunate to visit ports in Taiwan and meet Indonesian and Filipino fishers. All were young men who had left their homes and families behind to earn a better living. Some of their contracts were for two years meaning they would not go home in that time.

"I asked what would happen if a child was born, a wife or family were in crisis or if there was death and they just shrugged their shoulders and said they would just have to continue working. Most had some form of debt and needed to pay this off.

"I saw some of the tuna vessels that are used and having heard the term 'floating coffins' I now totally understand this concept. The vessels were small and cramped with poor toilet and kitchen facilities. The fishermen slept on the floor with people having to climb over each other to get out. Their clothes were limited and were washed with sea water and the food they ate was very basic."

Mick said the Congress raised questions about what we do here in England and Wales and the fish we eat. "How sure can we be that the fish is ethically caught? How do we really know companies don't put profit before fishermen's welfare? I will certainly think hard and long about the fish I buy."

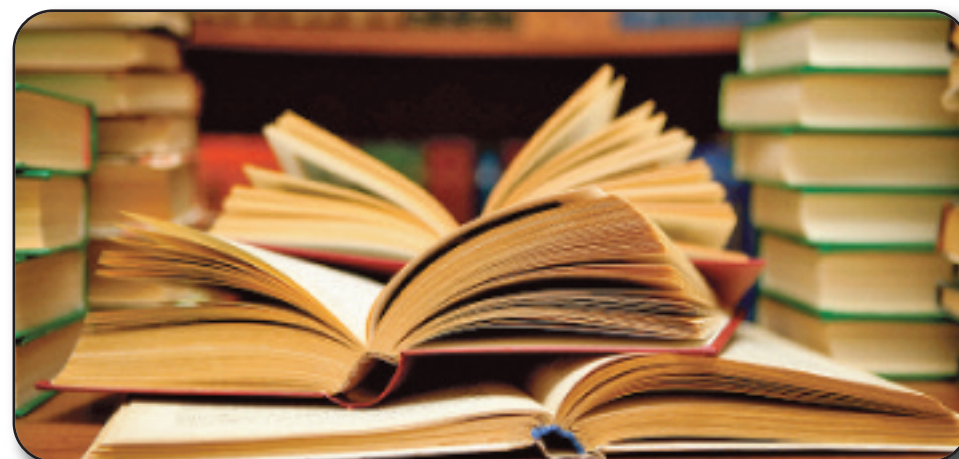


## Training? You can get a grant

The Diocese is excited to announce the launch of our new Lay Formation Fund. Paid for by generous giving through Together in Faith, the fund releases £20,000 per year to enable lay people to access courses and training, and for parishes to put on their own lay formation projects.

Bishop Peter said: "I really welcome this commitment to the formation and training of lay people in the Diocese who give so much to the life and mission of the Church. I would love to see many more of our lay people deepening their faith, learning new skills, and, in this way, contributing so much to local communities. This is an exciting development for the Year of Prayer and Vocation."

Applications are welcomed for both religious courses such as Certificates in Chaplaincy, Catechesis or Mission from Maryvale and Newman, but also for any learning which will benefit the local parish such as flower arranging or book keeping. Applicants must live in



the diocese, and have the support of their local priest or dean. The funding provided will generally be matched by the parish or pastoral area. The fund is administrated by the Office for Adult Chaplaincy and Formation, and the committee will meet to discuss applications three times yearly. The deadline

for this round of funding will be 20th July to allow people to start courses in the autumn.

For further information and application forms, please visit [www.northamptondiocese.org/LFF](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/LFF).

### 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 art my Mother.

**Rosary procession/gathering on Monday 16th July 2018 at 6pm.**

Meeting outside

Christ the Cornerstone church  
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**Our Lady of Mount Carmel pray for us.**  
**"When Our Lady is honoured as Queen of the Universe, then there will be peace"**  
**Saint Catherine Labouré**

For more information please phone  
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# OBITUARY

## Father Gerard Anthony Harris 16<sup>th</sup> October 1930 – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Having retired, Father Tony did not have his own parish, but in his later years he had felt a great sense of warmth and comfort at Sacred Heart, Leighton Buzzard, where he was much loved and where, just four years ago, was hosted a wonderfully joyful celebration for his Diamond Jubilee. His wishes were to have his funeral there: his Requiem Mass was held on Wednesday 9th May 2018.

Bishop Peter presided, and in the congregation were Tony's brothers John and Chris, Anne-Marie and David, all with their families, parishioners and many friends from his former parishes. As requested by the family, the church was beautifully bedecked with bright yellow and orange flowers, arranged by Marguerite Pocock and her team.

In his homily, Bishop Peter said that we were coming together for a "celebration full of hope as we commend Father Tony to the Lord in the sure hope of the resurrection. Tony had been particularly unwell for some time, and he died in this Easter season on 17th April, just 8 days short of his 64th anniversary of Priesthood." Tony's brother, Chris, gave the first reading from St John's First Letter. Tom, Anne-Marie's son, read the Psalm, and his brother Chris, gave a most beautiful rendition of "Panis Angelicus" during Communion. He was accompanied by Theresa Short, organist at Sacred Hea

Tony's Mother and Father were very devout Catholics, and one of his tales was that his mother later admitted that on the sanctuary at her Nuptial Mass she prayed that the marriage would result in a son and that son would be a priest. They were not slow in suggesting this to him as a child, and when he was asked what he would be when he grew up he used to respond "I am going to be Pope Harris the First"! The family lived in a Redemptorist parish in Birmingham, and so quite naturally Tony sought to become a Redemptorist – an Order that gave "missions". Accordingly, the members of the Order were professional preachers. Tony had a taste of the Order's junior seminary at the tender age of 10, but later gained entrance to the local Catholic Grammar School, enjoying the social life of his teenage years and learning – he thought – what he was giving up by becoming a priest.

Tony entered the Novitiate of the Order at the still tender age of 17 and spent a year there before taking temporary vows and going to the seminary for 6 years before ordination on April 25th 1954

His first appointment was to the monastery in Liverpool from which he "gave missions" in and around the area. He was then sent to the monastery in Perth, Scotland, and really enjoyed the work in Scotland, especially in Glasgow.

The Redemptorists had recently started a publishing programme and were publishing a magazine called "Novena", particularly to spread devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Succour, and Tony submitted a couple of articles aimed at teenagers. They were liked and so he was appointed onto the staff in London, at St Mary's, Clapham Common. Tony and another priest started what they called the Sunday Bulletin, which is still going strong, and used by many parishes as the Sunday Newsletter. Tony wrote the Homily in this for over 3 years and was then sent to America to stay with their confreres in St Louis, where they had a huge and successful publishing concern, to learn the trade. While there he was asked to go at weekends to parishes all over the US to preach about our Mother of Perpetual Succour. Tony was very acceptable because the folk loved the English accent. At one parish the priest asked him to stay over the following day to speak to the Mothers' Club, which he did, and after his speech the lady sitting next to him said "Father, you speak English real good. Did you learn it before you came to America or have you picked the language up since you have been here?" Tony got into 32 of the 50 States in the six months he was there.

On returning to England he helped to found a Religious house in Hampshire for publishing work - this was named Alphonsus House, and is still thriving today. He was contacted one day by a freelance journalist in London and this sparked off an interest which resulted in Tony being interviewed a few times on Southern Television.. Father Tony later decided to leave the Redemptorists, and Bishop Leo Parker accepted him into the Diocese of Northampton. He spent happy years serving in Kettering, the Cathedral in Northampton, Bletchley and St Clare's in Aylesbury. He always said he particularly enjoyed being a "Father" to the parishioners and feeling that he belonged.



While at Bletchley he was sent by the Bishop on a radio and television course, and in consequence was invited on occasions to record the late-night Epilogue for Anglia Television.

After 15 years in Aylesbury, because of medical reasons, Tony had to take early retirement, and he went to a holiday home that his family had in Spain. He enjoyed this initially, especially each Christmas for about ten years doing a programme of music and chat for a local radio station. However, he got tired of doing not very much and asked to come home to the Diocese. He was offered an apartment in Luton in 2005, giving invaluable service to the busy parishes there and in Leighton Buzzard, saying it kept him happy, and kept him young! He loved his last home, his beloved bungalow, and it was there, sitting in his arm chair, that he died peacefully in the early hours of 17th April.

On display in the Parish Hall were the pictures from Father Tony's Diamond Jubilee - a wonderful night to remember, full of thoughtfulness and joy, celebration, laughter and fun, of which he said: "it was one of the most enjoyable evenings of my life". During his response speech, given in his usual homily style of stories, he finished by saying how very much he had enjoyed being a priest and how hard he worked on preaching, trying to emulate Christ's style of getting a message through by stories. He quoted some advice he had been given by his father on his ordination day: "Son, one of your jobs will be to preach. I have heard hundreds of sermons, and my advice to you is that a good sermon should be like a mini skirt: long enough to cover the main point, and short enough to be interesting!"

Later that year he had another most special moment when he was personally congratulated in Rome by Pope Francis. Even though he never became "Pope Harris", his preaching of the Gospel was paramount in his ministry, and his writing and his homilies were always much appreciated, indeed achieving the advice given to him by his father! As commented on by Bishop Peter: "He put his message across with stories and with no notes!"

"Love" was the core of Father Tony's homilies - not just words and mere talk, and this, said Bishop Peter, "is a real expression of our faith in Jesus who has died and given up his life for us and is risen, because in love we give up ourselves for one another. Believing in Jesus Christ and loving one another is what God asks of us – those on the right hand of the Son of man in Matthew's Gospel – those who have learned to be aware of the needs of a friend, a neighbour, a stranger and respond practically. It is the smallest of these gestures of generosity that are an expression of our love and an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ."

Father Tony will also be particularly remembered for the generous spirit with which he approached everything, for his friendly smile and joyful personality. As summarised in the first of the Bidding Prayers: "Let us thank God for the life of Father Tony, who brought comfort and hope to so many through his priestly ministry."

It is with that love and in that faith that we commend Tony Harris, priest and brother, to almighty God.

*Theresa Short  
Parishioner and friend*

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# Top job for Carmel



Mrs Carmel Dodds was inducted as Head Teacher of St Mary's Catholic School in Northampton. She was inducted by Monsignor Kevin Ginnell VF.

The Bishop's letter of appointment was read by David Williams MBE Chair of St Thomas of Canterbury MAT of which St Mary's is a member.

The beautiful singing of the hymns was Year 3,4 and 5. A full congregation comprised parents past and present, children, previous Head Teachers and all the Head Teach-

ers of the other schools in the MAT.

Mrs Dodds said "I am proud to lead this OFSTED " Good" school to even higher grades.

St Mary's primary school is full for 18/19 but the other 2 Catholic Primary school In Northampton still have a few places available as has Thomas Becket Catholic School.

## Luton reflects on 25 years of Grassroots

It is with a sense of both pride and privilege that we look back on the life of Grassroots. Over the past twenty five years Grassroots has succeeded in creating safe spaces and pathways enabling people to engage across religiously and culturally diverse backgrounds, both locally and globally.

In meeting with the 'other', people have discovered allies and friends in those who are often despised, or commonly perceived as enemies. Grassroots' work in this area is recognised far and wide, and even today we continue to host people from across the world to learn from

our experience.

Throughout its work Grassroots has demonstrated the understanding and capacity to 'act while reflecting', whilst also being adaptable, receptive and relational in order to be effective on the ground. It has encouraged Luton's diverse communities to become ever more mutually nourishing. The rhythm of life in Grassroots has always been positive and dynamic. It has determinedly combated various challenges arising in the town, resisting provocation on all sides and has successfully and significantly contributed to creating a culture of dialogue

and co-operation for peace. Grassroots has remained true to its calling, resisting both religious and secular pressures towards institutionalism, choosing instead to be 'different'. In so doing it has been both a presence and a companion, remaining organic, and maintaining its ability to respond creatively to the issues emerging from time to time.

As a Christian ecumenical programme of community engagement, in dialogue with churches and other faith communities, Grassroots strives to uncover a sharp edge of engagement with contemporary issues of community cohesion,

peace and reconciliation, injustice and inequality in Luton's diverse context. As we mark twenty five years of successful working it is fitting to acknowledge the support and encouragement received from the Churches and from our Trustees, and the efforts of my ever-enthusiastic, passion-driven staff team.

Furthermore, Grassroots could not survive without the commitment and support of its partners and many volunteers. 'May we all continue to help Grassroots light candles rather than to curse the darkness'.

**David Jonathan**  
*Director of Grassroots*



# Called to holiness

In his Pastoral Letter for Good Shepherd Sunday Bishop Peter reminded us that we are called to holiness.

Almost as if to help us in our Year of Prayer and Vocation, Pope Francis has issued an Apostolic Letter on the call to holiness in today's world. Pope Francis writes, "I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. Very often it is a holiness found in our next door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence."

All of you sitting in church right now have a vocation to holiness, each in a different way is called to reflect God's presence. For that to happen, we have to open our hearts in prayer to God's presence. That does require some effort. Pope Francis emphasises that we have to work to cooperate with God's grace, and we have to combat our selfishness and all that takes us away from walking humbly with our God.

Our vocation, as brothers and sisters of Jesus, requires a conscious commitment. But how many of us run away at the thought of commitment. Mistakenly, we think that a commitment restricts our freedom. But commitment gives meaning and value and direction to our lives. And it is a

response to God's commitment to us. As St. John writes in today's second reading, "Think of the love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are." (1 John 3:1). Jesus himself in today's Gospel speaks of his commitment – "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep." (John 10:11)

As people with a sense of vocation, we are asked to pray especially today for vocations to the priesthood, to the permanent diaconate and to the religious life. I have to confess that I am praying, in particular, for those men whom God is calling to the priesthood, including our eight students in the seminaries'.

So now I want to encourage men to be brave at a time when commitment is not fashionable, and to put their trust in God. The vocation of the priest to gather together God's people, to preach and teach the Word of God, to celebrate the Mass and the sacraments, to be the shepherd of the flock on our pilgrimage to heaven is a wonderfully rich calling – a calling which is only possible with the gifts of the Holy Spirit with which the priest is anointed at his ordination. There is no need to be afraid. It is God who is calling. And you will be joining a brotherhood of great priests in our Diocese.

It is true for us all that God the Father



takes the initiative in our lives, that his Son, the Good Shepherd, accompanies us, and that the Spirit guides us.

May Mary, our Mother, pray for us all, saints and sinners, and intercede for those whom God is calling to the priestly service of her Son, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

With every blessing,

+ Peter

Bishop of Northampton

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# A lighter moment for hospital chaplains

See story on page 3



UK Tour, October 2018

# Daniel O'Donnell

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