When I was Sick ..... 

Pastoral training for community and hospital visitors

September – December 2010
at Queen Alexandra Hospital

The Chaplaincy Department of the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust is running this popular course again this autumn. It is for those who want to develop skills for visiting the sick, or people with other pastoral needs, in the community or in hospital.

It will be open to people of all faiths. Anyone who wants to do the course will need backing from their local faith leader, who will also be involved in providing some practical experience as part of the course. For those wanting to become hospital chaplaincy visitors the course forms part of their training.

The course will consist of 12 weekly two hour evening sessions with an additional 4 weeks practical experience.

The cost of the course is £60.

For more details and application form please contact the Chaplaincy Department on 02392 286408, or email susan.bishop@porthosp.nhs.uk

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

- caring for patients, relatives and staff -
- here for people of all faiths and none -
I recently took a plane to Madrid: not many Spanish nationals on board. I knew that because there was no spontaneous applause as we landed to wake me from my reverie. It’s fascinating how people communicate – or don’t.

The walkman, I’m told, was devised by a Japanese gentlelman keen on listening in public to the music of his choice, yet without imposing it upon those around him. That selfless philosophy then sired its own contradiction. Personal entertainment now withdraws the individual from society, often to the annoyance of those still in earshot. Withdrawal brings its own symptoms.

A recent PM of this country (I refer to TB, not to GB) once suggested that the term ‘common sense’ be banned from the English language. The reasoning behind this was that ‘common sense’, far from being a common attribute, is in such scarce supply these days as to be almost extinct. So, better to outlaw the term, and that means people’s ‘common sense deficit’ immediately disappears. Just like that! Then came the U-turn, presumably recognising that there were so many admirable attributes not shared by the many. And you can’t ban the lot. Where’s the sense in that?

This leads me to ponder on what would be the outcome of teachers banning anything from the curriculum not already held in common by those being trained. Where’s the sense in taking a logical premise to illogical ends?

But one public body, centrally located on Dorset’s coastline, did go on to suggest that any Latin word or word of obvious Latin derivation be outlawed from English on the grounds that Caesar is long since dead and very few people these days understand Latin. The common sense deficit syndrome raises its head. But what effect that ruling would have had on the Catholic rite doesn’t even bear thinking about.

It’s even more interesting to think what would be the outcome of banning all words in English derived from a language not understood by the man, or woman, in the street. I suppose even more among us would be communicating in nothing but monosyllabic grunts and occasional gestures. How cool would that be?

Language, of course, is the only social institution without which none other can function. A breakdown in our ability to use language is therefore a challenge to our social fabric, further weakening the bricks of society together. That’s why many communities, peoples and societies – putting individual human rights to one side for the benefit of the common good – demand its members be competent in a single, all-binding language (I am not at this point championing the Latin rite, if that’s where you think I’m going). I’m merely stating that, as language controls thought and thought controls language, a common language acts as a social bond.

Language is always developing. But not necessarily always as an aid to cohesion. The language we use today is but a remnant, a ghost of that used in the past, merely an indication of what is to come tomorrow. New terms are constantly being created. Some will take root. Others will suffer a quick or even lingering death. My only indication of what is to come tomorrow is that terms may come on stream unnecessarily – e.g. we have a perfectly good term already – or they may confuse the message, they may even become corrupted or lose their original meaning.

Living as I do at the earth-ocean interface (a NASA expression for ‘on the coast’), in a densely populated urban configuration (Dare I say ‘town’?), where minors are said to suffer extensively from Nature Deficit Disorder (i.e. they don’t get out in the open enough), I am acutely aware of an increasing inability, in no way restricted to my own immediate environment, among members of society in general to communicate effectively with their fellows.

So, long live all communicators! Now, please read on.
Co-ordinating Pastors

The following have kindly agreed to take on the role of Co-ordinating Pastor in their Pastoral Areas. All others remain as in the Directory.

Alton-Petersfield: Fr Peter Hart
Havant: Fr Tom Grufferty
New Forest East: Fr David Adams
North West Hampshire: Fr Dominic Golding
South Berkshire: Fr Chris Rutledge
Southampton Central and West: Mgr Vincent Harvey
Southampton East: Fr Tony Gatt

In view of the fact that Fr Bruce Barnes and Fr Jamie McGrath are moving, new Co-ordinating Pastors for Loddon Valley and New Forest have still to be appointed.

Other Appointments

Alton-Petersfield
Petersfield: Fr Peter Hollins

Avon Stour
Fordingbridge and Ringwood: Fr Tony Pennicott
Iford: Missionaries of St Paul - Fr Vitalis Kondo with particular responsibility for St Thomas More.

Bournemouth
Sacred Heart: Fr Bruce Barnes
Westbourne: Fr Bill Wilson

Havant
Hayling Island: Fr John-Paul Sanderson OCSO (until Christmas)

Isle of Wight
South Wight: Fr Paul (PJ) Smith

Jersey
Assistant Priest: Fr James McAuley

Loddon Valley
Whitley Wood: Fr Pat Madden

New Forest
Lymington: Fr Danny McAuliffe SMM

North East Hampshire
Deacon David Morgan is becoming Diocesan Director of the APF/Missio organisation and is replacing Fr Peter Codd who has done wonderful work in this field over many years.

North West Hampshire
Andover: Fr Austin Gurr OSB (Douai)
Hook: Fr Peter Codd - priest in residence (retirement)

Portsmouth
Cathedral: Assistant Priest – Fr Phil Harris
North End: Fr Steven Restori (Vice Chancellor & MC)
Southsea: Fr Simon Thomson (Hospitals: Fr Joe McNemey has agreed to assume the duties of Hospital Chaplain in Portsmouth (QA and St Mary's).

South Berkshire
Ascot: Fr Tom Taaffe

Southampton Central & West
Milbrook: Fr Des Connolly SMM

Southampton East
Woolston: Fr Claro Conde

In retirement and living in West End: Fr Shaun Budden

Thames Isis
Abingdon: Fr Jamie McGrath

West Berkshire
Woolhampton: Dom Dermot Tredget OSB

I am very grateful to all who have co-operated so generously in making these moves possible.

Apart from the 2 newly ordained Assistant Priests and the two Retired Priests, all these appointments are of ‘Co-Pastors with all the rights and responsibilities of a parish priest’. Those so appointed may continue to use the title of ‘parish priest’. 

Retirements

Canon Gerard Hetherington, Fr Peter Codd, Fr Shaun Budden, Fr Danny Burns SDS, Fr James McAuliffe SPS and Fr Charlie McCloskey, Deacon Kevin McKevitt.

Canon Hetherington, Fr Peter Codd and Fr Danny Burns SDS have reached the age for retirement; Fr James McAuliffe SPS, Fr Shaun Budden and Fr Charlie McCloskey are retiring early on grounds of ill health. To them all, I express my gratitude for the great pastoral work that they have achieved in a number of different parishes in the diocese over many years. They move on to the next stage of their priestly life and work with our prayers and blessings.

Welcome

Fr Phil Harris and Fr James McAuley are being ordained in the Cathedral on July 24th and I am delighted to welcome them into the priestly life of the diocese.

Fr Danny McAuliffe SMM is an old friend and I welcome him to the New Forest Pastoral Area and to Lymington.

Fr Chris Dyckhoff SJ is to be the new Jesuit Superior in Bournemouth and he too is very welcome.

Departures

Fr Louis McDermott OMI has been at Milbrook for many years and he is returning to his Congregation.

Fr Showri Gali from India has been at Holy Ghost, Basingstoke, for 2 years and is moving to the United States. Dom Benedict Thompson OSB is moving to a parish in the Birmingham diocese.

Deacon Steve Melhuish and Deacon David Croucher are leaving the diocese to take up residence in the Cardiff diocese and Deacon Michael Welch is taking sabbatical leave from active ministry for the next 12 months.

In retirement, Fr Danny Burns SDS is returning to the Salvatorians and Fr Jim McAuliffe SPS, who has been in Bournemouth for many years, is also retiring.

In very many different ways, they have all made a significant contribution to the diocese. I thank them most sincerely and wish them every blessing and happiness in their new situations.

BISHOP’S BULLETIN

CRISPrian Hollis
Bishop of Portsmouth

APPOINTMENTS

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE
Bishop Crispian’s Engagements

AUGUST 2010

Fri 20-27: Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

SEPTEMBER 2010

Sun 5: Holy Family, Millbrook - Farewell Mass for Father Louis McDermott, OMI 11.00 am

Sat 11: St Mary’s Ryde - Mass to mark the centenary of the death of Bishop Cahill 11.00 am

Sun 12: St John’s Cathedral, Portsmouth - Civic Mass 10.00 am

Fri 17-19: Papal Visit

Wed 22: St John’s Cathedral, Portsmouth - Knights of St Gregory Mass 12.15 pm

Thu 23: St Peter’s, Winchester - Bishop’s Council Meeting 10.00/10.30 am

Thu 23: Winchester - DPC Leadership Group Meeting 6.30 pm

Fri 24: Our Lady’s School, Abingdon - Mass 11.40 am

Fri 24: Havant Pastoral Area Meeting 6.30 pm

Sat 25: St John’s Cathedral, Portsmouth - PGCE Ceremony 11.00 am

Sun 26: Christ the King, Bitterne - Parish Visitation

Wed 29: Eccleston Square, London - Catholic Social Action Network Meeting

Thu 30: London - Bishops’ Conference International Affairs Meeting 10.30/11.00 am

Further Information:
Eileen Stephenson
Department for Pastoral Formation
Park Place Pastoral Centre
Winchester Road
Wickham, PO17 8HA
Tel: 01329 835583
Email: e.stephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
UK Registered Charity 1048711

Hallmark Hotel
Durley Chine Rd
Bournemouth
Dorset, BH2 5JS

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Wickham, PO17 8HA
Tel: 01329 835583
Email: e.stephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
UK Registered Charity 1048711

St Swithun Wells Primary School
Hillcrest Ave, Chanders Ford, S053 2JP

Saturday 16th October 2010
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

An opportunity for Confirmation Catechists to reflect on how they prepare Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We will focus on prayer, scripture, music and liturgy, as well as what can happen post Confirmation.

Further details from:
Barn Hill,
Adviser for Youth Ministry
Department for Pastoral Formation
Park Place Pastoral Centre
Winchester Road
Wickham, Hants PO17 8HA
BarnHill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
01329 835583

International Affairs Meeting

Portsmouth Diocese is committed to involving people with disabilities in every aspect of the Church’s life.

Bishop Crispian invites you to
Give thanks to the Lord for He is good:
an introduction to STEWARDSHIP in Portsmouth Diocese

What is it and why is it important?
A repeat of the 3 successful days held in the autumn of 2009 this day will take place twice in different venues:

Saturdays 10am for 10.30am - 4pm
6th November - St Finian’s School, The Ridge, Cold Ash, Newbury, RG19 9HU
20th November - Farnborough Hill School, Farnborough, GU14 9AT

For more details and booking:
Department for Pastoral Formation, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Winchester Road, Wickham, PO17 9HA; Tel: 01329 835583
Email: e.stephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk; Web: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Portsmouth Diocese is committed to involving people with disabilities in every aspect of the Church’s life.
THE UPCOMING BEATIFICATION OF JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

Fr Don Clements, Little Sisters of the Poor (Jersey), reflects on an illustrious Christian Spirit

In Scripture we read of Jesus’ command to his followers: ‘You therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect’ (Mt 6:48) and in Luke 6:36: ‘Be merciful even as your heavenly Father is merciful’ (RSV).

All of us Christians therefore receive a vocation to holiness.

John Henry Newman, who lived from 1801 to 1890, is due to be beatified in September of this year by Pope Benedict XVI on his scheduled visit to the U.K.

Beatification in the Roman Catholic Church is the solemn approval for the public veneration, not worship or adoration, of a Christian of heroic virtue.

It can be a step along the road to Canonisation, Sainthood, which is our Church’s solemn and final declaration that one of its deceased members belongs among the saints in heaven. Not all Christians who have lived a ‘perfect’ (only God is perfect) merciful, holy life have been solemnly recognised as such. The feast of All Saints on the 1 November is when we celebrate their lives of virtue.

John Henry Newman was brought up in the Church of England under evangelical influence. A recognised Christian scholar, he held a number of prominent positions at Oxford; after a tour of Mediterranean Europe he became a leading member of the Oxford Movement. His series of sermons influenced not only Oxford but the rest of the country as well. Spiritually the heart of his sermons was based on the thorough study of the early church Fathers. A popular writing of his at the time was entitled Tracts for the Times, a statement of his religious position, it commanded attention in that it was directed against Popery. This held the view that the Church of England took a middle position justified, he then thought, by Patristic Traditions in opposition to Protestantism and Rome. However his continued study and, importantly, meditation of the Fathers of the Church was to lead him to Rome in spite of this earlier tract. It was from 1839 (before the Restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in England) that he began to doubt the claims of the Anglican Church. Two years later his conscience obliged him to give up his position in Oxford. In September of 1843 he delivered his touching sermon in Littlemore on The Parting of Friends. Two more years further down the line he was received into full communion with the Catholic Church. His work Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine was a defence of his entrance of the Church of Rome. He was to continue to write profusely, for example books Apologia Pro Vita Sua and The Idea of a University as well as works in poetry and prayer like Lead Kindly Light and the Dream of Gerontius. Truly a remarkable Christian Spirit!

However, this illustrious Christian Spirit was not always well received by the newly established hierarchy and he was unsuccessful in many of his efforts in his new Church. Today the climate has changed and he and his work are much studied and generally appreciated. On the Ecumenical front his genius is recognised as befits a spiritual scholar. He himself acknowledged his debt to the Anglican Community in The Parting of Friends. Hopefully in our days of reciprocal co-operative common witness and testimony to Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour, his beneficial influence will grow. Such common experience can help us achieve a shared experience in this, I think, with a verse from St Paul 2 Cor. 3:18: ‘And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit’ (RSV).

The great ‘Damascus experiences’ from St Paul to Newman seem to bear this out. Newman comments that this is possible only by giving up one’s own standards and being assimilated to the dimensions of the image of the Lord. Paul and Newman and many more such spirits, are great artists of the word who, in this regard, placed all their art in the service of Christ’s truth.

In general Newman pointed only to aspects of the whole truth and completely renounced any systematic account – he was too humble to do that.

I’d like to give space here to a paragraph from a great spirit of the twentieth century: ‘Nowadays the Saints may possibly have a more hidden existence than heretofore. Contemporary Church architecture wants to do away with the pictorial; they are forgotten; their feast days confusingly moved about; their communion and mediation remain unused. There are still canonisations, but they hardly evoke any wide resonance. Thus the Saints go underground, at least for a time. They are not interested in being venerated anyway. If their disappearance meant that God would be loved better and more deeply, they would be the first to approve. It remains doubtful, however, whether we see God any more brightly in the absence of their light. I think we do not. We shall have to set the light of the Saints on a lamp stand once again if we are not to stumble about in a night of our own making. For it is by the light of the Saints, which is nothing other than God’s light in the world, that we see the light.’ (1)

Let’s give the final thought to a Gospel line: ‘Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.’ (Mt. 5:16 RSV)

(1) You Crown the Year with your Goodness by Hans Urs Von Balthasar
I found a new friend on holiday this year. Denis (my husband) and I went cruising round the Med, armed with sun cream, binoculars and books to while away the precious hours of freedom from phones, computers and meetings.

I like to take one meaty book with me, and because JHN is being beatified this year I picked up Roderick Strange's book A Mind Alive. It didn’t look too promising; what could a nineteenth century Oxford scholar and preacher whose fame seems to have come mostly from lectures, sermons, books and letters, have to say to our modern, post Vatican II, technology-ridden world? However I persevered, and by Chapter three I was hooked! It was not just that he raised and answered questions I had often wondered about; he had a wonderful ability to speak to people's hearts and to bring theology to life.

Matthew Arnold wrote of his golden memories, as an Oxford undergraduate, of Newman's preaching, 'In the most entrancing of voices, breaking the silence with words and thoughts which were a religious music, sweet, subtle, mournful'. Newman had an extraordinary gift for friendship; 'The best preparation for loving the world,' he wrote, 'is to cultivate an intimate friendship and affection towards those who are immediately about us'. His list of correspondents was enormous, many of them lifelong friends.

JHN did not have an easy life. His early years were affected by poor health, the death of his sister and a close friend, and his constant searching for the Church, where the Body of Christ could be found most fully. In 1845 he became a Roman Catholic, thus losing many of his Anglican friends who felt let down, and being mistrusted by his new Catholics colleagues as a 'suspect teacher'. It was not until he was made a Cardinal in 1879 that his life moved into quieter waters; he died peacefully in 1890.

I gained 4 new insights from JHN on my holiday:

About original sin - that it is not a black spot on our souls but something negative, an absence of grace, which enfeebles us but doesn’t make us sinful

About Our Lady - that by saying 'Yes' to God she opened up the avenue of grace to us once more, which Eve had forfeited by her 'No'.

About the role of the laity - that they have something significant to contribute to the health life of the Church, and need to be involved, to contribute and to recognise the part they have to play

About when we die - that we will come to a perfect knowledge of ourselves and will delight in being purified of every imperfection.

These insights, and many more, have stayed with me. But I gained something else too. Newman’s motto, ‘Heart speaks to heart’, has been adopted by Pope Benedict as his theme for his visit to the UK in September. Newman spoke to my heart, revealing secrets - or better, mysteries - about myself, about God and about my Church. I just hope and pray that, through his beatification on 19 September, many more of us will benefit from exposure to his life and his teachings and that he will join the ranks of our existing saints to stand as an inspirer and guide to everyone.

Sheila and husband Denis, who have 5 daughters and 13 grandchildren (8 boys & 5 girls), moved to Romsey from Essex to retire but now find themselves busier than at any other time in their lives. Sheila, who has been a member of the KIT team since it began in 2004 and is a member of two very active parish KIT groups, one which does home visiting and the other which runs small group meetings for returning Catholics, is also a member of her parish Welcome Group and helps to run a Wednesday lunchtime bible study group.
Having attended secondary school in Portsmouth (St Edmund's), I followed my ambition to go to VIth form college (Havant) and have just been revising for and sitting AS exams in PE, French, History and Human Biology. Hopefully these will go ok and I will be continuing with my A levels next year.

Am currently looking at Universities, need to start applying very soon!!! I want to study Sports Development - leading to a future in developing sports opportunities for underprivileged children in this country and overseas. To compliment my ambitions I have contacted various charitable organisations and clubs such as the Scouts to volunteer and gain experience working with young people.

I am determined to reach my goals but recently became concerned about whether, following on from the recent general election, there would still be as much opportunity for me to reach university. Needing those questions answered, I contacted my local MP and having gained a reply hope that the things promised will come to fruition ...

I am still a keen swimmer with Portsmouth Northsea, and train with them up to 5 times a week. I work part-time to help fund my sport, leaving little time for socialising!!!! Being fit and having regular exercise is extremely important to me and I can get a bit grumpy when I am unable to do so!!!

My work, study and sports commitments can make it difficult for me to be as involved in Youth, Justice and Peace as I used to be, but I like to attend meetings as and when I can. I like the people involved in the group and have learned a lot about those who suffer, either with ill health or through poverty. I am glad that I have been able to support and contribute to some of the work that the group has been involved in.

In lots of ways I am a typical teenager: I always have my ipod stuck in my ears, am regularly on facebook, adore chocolate and nature valley sweets but am not so keen on vegetables. I love a good gossip with my friends and pick two or three changes of clothes every morning before finally settling on what to wear!

The second of four sisters, Ailish Myland-Stokes, formerly Deputy Head Girl at St Edmund's School, is among the 'Nooners' - i.e. those attending Noon Mass on Sundays - at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth.

Fascinating Facts and Figures

- The average person today has a vocabulary of 15,000 words. Shakespeare had a vocabulary of 21,000 words when the average person had a vocabulary of 500.
- According to the European parliament, every home in the EU should have access to fast broadband at a competitive rate and all EU citizens should have the skills to use it by 2020.
- The average Italian consumes more than 25 kilograms (i.e. 55 lbs > nearly 4 stone) of pasta every year.
- Centenarians are the fastest growing age group in England and Wales, recording an annual growth rate of 8%, set to reach 64,200 by 2033.
- For every £8 spent on anything in the UK, £1 is spent at Tesco’s.
- Healthy numbers: 18.5-25 for Body Mass Index; 120 over 80 or below for blood pressure; 5mmol/L or less for cholesterol and, for waist measurement, 80cm or less measurement (female) or 94cm or less (male).
Portsmouth People

Parsons Pointers

with John Parsons

finally been over on a day when we celebrate the one who was
and is the extreme symbol of
love and service. It is also
interesting that at a recent
family wedding I met for the
first time my nephew's Japanese
wife, beautiful in her Kimono.
Somehow it was an affirmation
of peace and normality. And
their two little ones were quite
delightful!

The date is also special to the
Indian sub continent for on that
day India and Pakistan came into
being as independent nations.
The fact has always stuck in my
mind because I was at the
international conference of the
Christian Life Communities in
Santo Domingo and the Indian
Jesuit made a great a fuss about
the anniversary. I suppose I felt a
little bit out of place being from
the former imperial power!

The Feasts of Our Lady are
special to so many people for so
many reasons. They bring home
to us how human beings can rise
to great heights of goodness and
steadiness of purpose. They
bring home to us how human beings can rise
to great heights of goodness and
steadiness of purpose. They

The date also had special
significance for people of my
generation. It was VJ Day when
the war finally came to an end.
Six years of hardship and
suffering for so many. Fitting
therefore that it should have

Portsmouth People for some years with his column Parsons Pointers.
Born in north London, the eldest of three brothers - 'father from London and mother from Kerry, from whom I inherited my good looks, wisdom, and humility … but smiling doesn’t come naturally to me in front of a camera' - Tim Gay leads the Cathedral’s Christian Meditation Group.

A keen musician, Tim has played the flute since school, and dabbled in tenor sax and guitar, playing in symphony orchestras and rock bands. His tastes in music range ‘from AC/DC to Wagner’, but he draws the line at Country and Western: ‘There are limits!’

Currently he plays Irish flute and whistles in a Portsmouth-based, traditional Irish band called 'Mist on the Bog', playing in some of the scruffier, local pubs. ‘This might explain my slightly bleary-eyed appearance occasionally at 10 o’clock Mass on a Sunday.’

‘I managed to delay working for a living until I was 26 by studying (first French, and later Philosophy and Theology) at University. I am currently working in a 6th form college in Eastleigh teaching A level Philosophy and supervising counselling. I also contribute to the work of the Portsmouth Diocese’s Clergy Supervision scheme offering pastoral support to clergy and parish workers.

‘I moved to Hampshire in 1990. In 2002 I met the lovely Nancy. We have been married now for 5 years, and have a lively 5-year old daughter, Ciara.’

PERSONALITY PROFILE

With this issue BEHIND THE SCENES takes a look at …

The Department for Schools

Rosemary Olivier, Director of Schools

The Department holds a wide and expanding brief addressing 13 Local Education Authorities (LEAs) and more than 29,000 pupils in 79 schools spread across the whole diocese. As part of its role, the Department represents the Bishop at the appointment of Heads, Deputies, Assistant Heads, Heads of R.E. and R.E. Coordinators and Chaplains. The Department for Schools also administers the process for the appointment of Foundation Governors. It advises and supports Governing Bodies on their statutory and legal responsibilities with regard to Maintained and Independent Schools and provides advice as well as in-service support to Governing Bodies on many aspects of their responsibilities including admissions, employment law, partnership with the Local Authorities and all aspects of their responsibilities to our Diocesan Schools.

Rosemary is supported by 2 full-time and 3 part-time officers, and 4 consultants, who can be contacted at:

Department for Schools, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Winchester Road, Wickham, Hampshire PO17 5HA
t: 013 2983 5363  f: 013 2983 5347
e: schools@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For further information please contact the parties identified.

August

Sat 28: Walk the World - Solent Area
t: 013 2983 0947 e: dhill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

September

Sat 04: Bold Statements, Art Expo, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth
t: 023 9236 5692 e: info@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk
Sun 05: World Youth Day 2011 Preparation Meeting, venue TBC
t: 013 2983 0947 e: dhill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Sat 11: Celebrating Christ the Healer, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth
t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Sat 11: Cafod Portsmouth Supporter Day, St Joseph’s, Aldershot
t: 012 5232 9385 e: Portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

October

Fri 01: Harvest Fast Day
Sat 09: Celebrate Weekend 2010, St Mary's College, Southampton
t: 023 8029 2058 e: peterszymanski@hotmail.co.uk
Sun 10: Speaking Up & Speaking Out! - Youth training, Christ the King, Reading
t: 013 2983 0947 e: dhill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Sat 16: Receive the Gift, St Swithun's Wells Primary School, Chandlers Ford
Sun 17: Understanding CAFOD, St Peter and St John, Camberley
t: 012 5232 9385 e: portsmouth@cafod.org.uk
Sat 25: A Day with John led by Deacon Bob Birtles, Wisdom House, Romsey
t: 017 9493 0266 e: reception@wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk

November

Sat 06: Introduction to Stewardship, St Finian’s Primary School, Newbury
t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Sat 14: Polish Study Day, LFA, Alton
t: 014 2056 3836 e: barrie@cosmo.co.uk
Sat 20: Introduction to Stewardship, Farnborough Hill School, Farnborough
t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

December

Sat 04: Christmas Concert, Portsmouth Baroque Choir, All Saints’ Church, Portsmouth
t: 023 9242 6253 e: secretary@portsmouthbaroquechoir.co.uk

January 2011

Sun 9: World Youth Day 2011 Preparation Meeting, Christ the King, Reading
t: 013 2983 0947 e: dhill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Fri 21: The January Conference-Baptised People: Light in Darkness,
Hallmark hotel, Bournemouth
t: 013 2983 5583 e: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Sat 22: Understanding CAFOD, London
t: 012 5232 9385 e: portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

August 2011

Tue 09: World Youth Day, Madrid.
t: 013 2983 0947 e: dhill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

The Editor welcomes entries for inclusion in the Calendar of Forthcoming Events.

In Memory …

John Horan was born on 7 January 1834 in Ireland and we know that he attended the seminary at Ware. By 1857 he was at Woolwich and in 1861 moving on to Chislehurst. He arrived in Portsmouth in 1865 moving to No. 25 Prince George’s Street which was attached to the first Catholic chapel to have been built in Portsmouth since the Second Catholic Relief Act of 1791 was passed.

This was a momentous time for the Catholics who had previously been banned from building a chapel in a Corporation Borough. To attend Catholic services they had had to travel to Havant or Gosport.

By all accounts Canon Horan was a dynamic priest who set about making up for lost time and establishing the Roman Catholic faith as a major force in the religious life of Portsmouth. In this he succeeded dramatically, by introducing music to the liturgy at the Chapel, by playing an active part in local education and as a member of the School Board and by increasing the size of the congregation. By 1882 he had become instrumental in the purchase of the land on which St John’s church and church school would be built. Within three years St John’s had been consecrated as a parish church and almost immediately converted into the Cathedral church of the new Portsmouth Diocese.

Canon Horan’s final years were spent as Church Administrator at the Cathedral - a post we would now know as the Dean. He died on August 21 1885.

Horan died very shortly after Highland Road Cemetery was doubled in size by the extension to the south. A part of this new territory was specifically allocated to the Roman Catholics and Canon Horan was probably the first person to be buried there. Such was the esteem in which he was held that the Catholic plot has ever since been known as the Horan Division.
Prie-dieu: In Touch

Loving Lord, you are the giver of touch. You touch each one of us with an awesome gentleness and reverence that reaches deep into the heart of our individual human mystery. Yet so often we can be blind to your wondrous touch, for you are so unobtrusive and so gentle and so full of loving tenderness and respect.

Jesus is your ultimate touch. And his touch as a true human being teaches each one of us how to touch and be touched. Jesus always touches in a way that gives the other room to breathe and blossom, that gives another space to be loved. His touch is beautifully simple and simply beautiful. Jesus comes to each man, woman and child, with a touch that matches each one, in a way that is just right—not too much and not too little.

Jesus knows when a hug is needed, or when the fringe of a garment will be enough. Jesus is never afraid to be touched—how warm he is and how approachable. Whatever age, whatever sex, whatever condition, Jesus can both be touched and reach out to touch. Jesus takes away the fear of touch, and gives us all an inkling of how we can become better touchers without becoming touchy.

Loving Lord teach me, teach us, to touch and be touched in a way that is worthy of human beings. Teach us to touch and be touched with deepfelt reverence and gentleness, which does not cling selfishly, but which knows when to hold and when to let go. Teach us to touch in a way that respects individual mystery, in a way that loves with passionate tenderness, in a way that gently brings the best out of the other.

Loving Lord, let us never take touch for granted, but make glorious use of this wondrous gift and privilege which is human touch. Amen.

Fr Denis Blackledge SJ is Parish Priest, Corpus Christi Boscombe, and Pastoral Co-ordinator, Bournemouth. © Denis Blackledge SJ
JOB VACANCY:
CATHEDRAL DISCOVERY CENTRE

The post of SUPERVISOR will become vacant due to the retirement of Gerry Johnson.

The applicant for the role must lead the team in this important instrument of outreach for our Cathedral.

The hours of work are generally 20 hours a week, Tuesday to Friday, although this can be flexible over the six days of shop opening (Tuesday to Sunday).

A salary commensurate to the responsibility will be paid.

Please apply in the first instance to the Parish Office on 023 9282 6170 by 1 October.

Interviews will be held early in the Autumn.

Father Michael Fava CF(RC), priest of our diocese serving with the Royal Army Chaplains Department, reflects on his current posting

Known in the tourist brochures as ‘Aphrodite’s Isle’, Cyprus is a place of contrasts. Apart from being a popular holiday destination with beautiful beaches and scenery, it is an island divided. Following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 the northern sector of the island is Turkish occupied, while the rest comprises the Republic of Cyprus. After the shedding of much blood on both sides, a cautious peace prevails which is monitored by the presence of United Nations troops along the so-called ‘Green Line’, or border, between north and south.

I was posted in September 2009 to the Headquarters of British Forces, Cyprus, in Episkopi which forms part of the British Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs), retained by Britain after the island’s independence was granted in 1960. As Senior Chaplain, I lead a group of five other Army and RAF chaplains posted at different locations across Cyprus who are of various Christian denominations. As the only Roman Catholic chaplain, however, my parish and Mass commitments cover a wide area. The furthest church location on my Sunday round is an eighty minute car journey each way from home. The congregation’s appreciation of this Mass makes the effort worthwhile.

The British Forces community in Cyprus is engaged all year round offering support to UK operations, and while the island offers plenty of sunshine, their time here is hardly anyone’s idea of a relaxed ‘sunshine posting’. The tempo of life all across the Armed Forces today is busy - and this is no less true for chaplains. It is, however, a unique privilege to spend two years in such a beautiful location where history, culture, climate and Cypriot hospitality have so much to offer. I am indeed a very fortunate and blessed priest!

MINISTRY ON THE ISLE OF APHRODITE

The last thirteen years of my priestly ministry have been a rich experience of challenge and surprises following my entry into the Army in 1997, and my commissioning as a chaplain of the Royal Army Chaplains’ Department. After deployments in Sierra Leone, Kenya, Brunei, Bosnia and Kosovo - as well as postings in Germany, Tidworth, Windsor, Bassingbourn, and Sandhurst - I now find myself in Cyprus for two years.

A Basic Catholic Dictionary by Canon Alan Griffiths of Portsmouth Diocese states: ‘According to tradition, the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up into heaven at her death, because of her special place as the Mother of God. The legend speaks of the twelve apostles being summoned by angels to Ephesus to witness her death and finding the coffin empty. The Assumption was proclaimed a dogma of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950.’

15 August is the date of the solemnity. It is a holyday of obligation. However, when that date occurs on a Saturday or Monday, the solemnity is transferred to the Sunday and takes precedence as the Sunday celebration.

What’s in a Word - ASSUMPTION

Assumption (Late Latin assumere, v.t. to take up)
**MOVERS and SHAKERS**

We pick up on the enthusiasm and achievement across our diocese

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**THE DIOCESE THAT PRAYS TOGETHER ...**

Over 700 people in the Diocese came together in small faith sharing groups to reflect on the Sunday gospels during Lent and Eastertime, using materials developed by the Diocesan Stewardship Resource Group. The series of 14 leaflets, one for each week, encouraged people to reflect on the Sunday gospel, to spend some time in individual prayer and group discussion and to reflect on their lives as disciples of Jesus Christ and how they could ‘go out and bear fruit’. Given the success of the materials, which were also used by some groups in neighbouring dioceses, religious congregations, and people in France, Belgium and Ireland, the writing group have already embarked on designing materials for Advent. Please check the Diocesan website and consider using these materials in your parish. For further information: Teresa Keogh, Advisor for Stewardship and Collaborative Ministry, tkeogh@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk t: 013 2983 5583

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**YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS**

YCW members from around England and Wales recently gathered at Westminster Cathedral to celebrate their patron, St Joseph the Worker, and to hear Archbishop Vincent Nichols commend them for their ‘vital contribution towards building a more fair and just society.’

For further details of the YCW: www.ycwimpact.com

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**FUNDRAISING CELEBRATIONS**

A cheque for more than £5,000 was handed over to Jan Bloomer of The Maidenhead, Slough and District Multiple Sclerosis Society followings major fund raising efforts by St Francis Catholic Primary School, Coronation Road, Ascot. The money was raised through a whole school effort, encouraged by Head Teacher, Jane Gow, who is one of the St Francis Joggers. More than 100 pupils, staff, governors and parents (collectively known as the St Francis Joggers), took part in the Reading Half Marathon and Green Park 3km Challenge.

The Joggers were formed last year to run the Reading Half Marathon in memory of Andy D’Agata, a governor at the school who died while taking part in a cycle race in France. His family selected Chase as their charity last year. This year the St Francis Joggers decided to select The Multiple Sclerosis Society which provides a range of services for anyone touched by the condition.

L to R: Jan Bloomer, St Francis pupils and ‘Jogging Jane Gow’
Fifty different countries were represented at a colourful international Mass held recently at St James Church in Reading. Canon John O’Shea said: ‘It was packed completely. They were standing in the aisles – everywhere.’

The congregation entered to the sounds of a Tamil choir from India and a procession of flags from around the world. A 20-strong Philippine choir, called The Magnificat, also performed along with St James’ youth group. The African community led the offertory procession carrying baskets of fruit on their heads. In Fr John’s words: ‘They came weaving up the aisle, singing and playing the African drums. They took the place by storm.’

Readings were in a variety of languages including Spanish, Tamil and Slovakian, and everyone held hands during the Our Father and said the prayer in their own language.

Fr John said: ‘What was lovely was the colourful community in the sense of all the different nations dressed in their national costumes. Even the English were in blues and reds. I think we are incredibly blessed to have the customs, cultures and traditions of so many different communities. It lifted the hearts to see so many people taking part in the Mass.’

The President’s Charity over the last year at The City of Winchester Circle was Clic Sargent – Caring for Children with Cancer (See www.clicsargent.org.uk) and £1,500 was raised by the Circle members. At a recent social occasion, Peter Bolger, the immediate past President, handed a cheque for this sum to the Chairman of the South Hampshire Committee of this charity, who happens to be Mrs Sue Bolger! Our photograph shows Peter and Sue Bolger with the cheque.

On Saturday 29 May, Brother James Hayes f.i.c. (a De La Mennais teaching Brother who works at St. Mary’s College, Southampton) set off on an 8 day, 861 mile solo sponsored cycle to Berlin to raise money for 11 schools in Haiti run by his congregation, 5 of which were completely destroyed by the recent earthquake. At the moment lessons are mostly taking place in tents. Bro. James arrived as planned at the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin in the afternoon of Saturday 5 June. So far he has raised over £1,500. If you would like to make a donation to the De La Mennais Brothers’ Haiti fund please send a cheque made payable to Brothers Of Christian Instruction to Bro. James Hayes, St. Mary’s College, 57 Midanbury Lane, Bitterne Park, Southampton S018 4DJ.
In his days as a young officer in the Royal Engineers, John Humphreys built a road in Kenya, a bridge in Canada and a sports stadium in Gibraltar. Now the Co-ordinating Pastor in Solent, Fr John is nearing the end of a project using human building material. Fresh from a successful Living Our Faith campaign, the four parishes of the Pastoral Area are about to become a single parish called Our Lady Star of the Sea, Fareham and Gosport.

The title reflects the maritime character of the area, which stretches from the naval heartland of Portsmouth Harbour in the east, to the crunchy drives of civilian yacht owners on the River Hamble in the west. It’s a built-up area, and becoming rapidly more so as the Ministry of Defence sells off land for housing. But as you drive through it you are always catching glimpses of the sea, or yacht-filled tidal inlets. The sound track is the cry of seagulls.

Fr John, whose own parish is Lee-on-Solent with Stubbington, sees the merger as a practical necessity. ‘We’re having to juggle things to make sure all the communities are properly cared for,’ he says.

‘For example, from the autumn, Fr Joe McNerney in Fareham will be working as chaplain to the Portsmouth hospitals for three days a week. That means I will be going to Fareham to celebrate Mass at St Jude’s Primary School every week, with a knock-on effect for Mass times elsewhere.

‘We find time for a weekly meeting of the area’s priests, which is very useful, but in the end someone has to take decisions.’

Part of the process of pulling the area together has been the appointment of an administrator. Michele Edwards spends most of her time managing the office at Sacred Heart in Fareham, but for eight hours a week she helps to pull the different parishes together so the whole area runs smoothly.

‘One of the main jobs is to keep a calendar with what all the priests are doing, and events in all the parishes,’ says Michele. ‘That way we can co-ordinate things like First Communion and Confessions better. Each parish has its own administrator and I keep in touch with them all. They tend to know more about what’s going on than the priests!’

Her other big task is getting together a 4-page newsletter for the whole area. It’s called The Anchor (which, come to think of it, might be a good title for Michele’s job) – and is produced by a local printing firm every few months. There are short newsy articles, and pictures. The back page is the calendar Michele compiles, and Fr John writes regular articles.

Michele has found she likes the job. ‘We’re on a learning curve and it’s evolving, but it’s really interesting talking to all the other administrators and getting a bit of community spirit going across the area as a whole.’

Fr John recommends the idea to other parts of the diocese that might be thinking along the same lines. ‘Michele is really useful for us. She arranges our meetings, co-ordinates everything. Perhaps most importantly, she’s a centre for communication.’

The new parish will have a new pastoral council. Its members are being drawn from across the area, but there’s been an extra step to make sure they get the right mix.

Nearly 40 possible members were invited to a special day of reflection at Wisdom House, Romsey. The priests, and the head of the Department for Pastoral Formation, Nicky Stevens, took note of the way everyone interacted and people’s different gifts.

The priests have since been consulting in order to choose a new Parish Pastoral Council. The aim will be to find a team with a variety of gifts to guide Our Lady Star of the Sea as the new parish sails into the future.

In what may be an encouraging omen, September will also mean a new start for one of the area’s parishioners, Robert Stewart from Stubbington. He’ll be setting out on the voyage to priesthood, with a propadeutic or introductory year at the Royal English College at Valladolid in Spain.

New Look for Fareham’s Sacred Heart

The biggest town in the area is Fareham, at the end of an inlet off Portsmouth Harbour. It has a handsome old High Street, and a fine flint-walled Victorian Catholic Church, the Sacred Heart.

When I arrived, though, the church was not looking its best – full of scaffolding, ladders and sheets of plastic. It was in the final stages of a 9-week decorating project, and the 700-plus Mass attenders are now enjoying its fruits. In charge of the work has been Dave Renshaw, who was the chief decorator for the refurbishment of the Cathedral. He has altered the look of the windows, made the wooden roofs of the nave and sanctuary the same colour, and carried out a lot of cleaning, freshening up and re-gilding.
I don’t know much about Victorian colour schemes, but I was rather alarmed on my visit to find the stone-carved foliage at the top of the pillars picked out in a garish lime green. Doh!

It turned out to be the undercoat for the gold leaf that Dave was in the process of applying [See small picture].

Here’s a less grand but useful building idea from the Sacred Heart. There’s a small courtyard next to the church hall, full of potted plants and partly covered by a translucent plastic roof. Parish Priest Fr Joe McNeerney says it makes a great place for some of the more mature parishioners to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee after weekday Mass.

Charlie Chaplin’s Black Madonna

St Mary’s in the busy harbourside town of Gosport is one of the oldest churches in the diocese. It was built in the mid-18th century, long before the Catholic Emancipation Act, to look after the many Irish workers in the naval dockyard.

St Mary’s was already seventy years old when in 1834 it became the temporary resting place for a Spanish Queen. Maria Francisca Asis Braganza, widow of King Carlos V, died in nearby Alverstoke in 1834. After a huge funeral procession attended by thousands of people, her body was laid to rest in a vault close to the High Altar. It was later moved to Trieste in Italy.

The Queen is not the only celebrity connected to St Mary’s. The church is the proud possessor of a ceramic figure of Our Lady that once belonged to Charlie Chaplin. It’s not clear why the silent movie star had the statue – he was not a Catholic, although his second wife was.

Parish Administrator Doug Savege takes up the story:

‘In the 1970’s and 80’s, my mother Georgina was friends with an elderly lady, Mary Hubbard. She had worked as a fashion designer in London and Paris, and had got to know Charlie’s personal assistant.

‘She had been given the statue by Charlie, and passed it on to Mrs Hubbard who gave it to my mother. When she moved it ended up in my house, but I thought room should be found for it in the church.

‘I showed it to our priest, Fr Peter Glas, who has a great devotion to Our Lady. He liked it so much that it now has pride of place above the Tabernacle. There was an empty niche there which turned out to be a perfect fit.’

Young at Heart

There’s a youthful feel about St Margaret Mary Church in Park Gate, at the western or Southampton end of the Solent area.

Partly this is because it is a relatively young parish, formed in the 1960’s. But big factors are its young priest, Fr John Cooke, his Pastoral Assistant, Mrs Clare Ryan, and the community at large.

Clare works at the church while her three children are at nearby St Anthony’s Primary School. Fr John can’t praise her contribution and initiative highly enough: on one occasion it involved leaving Fr John talking to a church full of mourners and running down the road to find out where the undertakers were.

Clare also helps design liturgies for various occasions, putting together PowerPoint slides which are projected onto the white wall to the left of the altar. The slides contain the words of prayers and hymns, as well as suitably uplifting pictures. Clare explained: ‘Using PowerPoint that way saves the cost of printing service sheets, and – as Fr John has remarked – we all sing better and participate to greater effect because we are looking up instead of looking down to read.’
The theme of the Bishops’ 2010 Day for Life, July 25th in England, was ‘Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed, not ended’, reminding us of the Church’s teaching on death. As Catholics, we believe in the communion of saints and life everlasting, and pray at every Mass for ‘those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith’. The sacrament of the sick, and praying with and for those who are dying, as well as for those who have died, is part of our lives.

Gerard had always felt close to the priesthood but never considered that Holy Orders would necessarily be for him. Then one day, in answer to a direct question he had put to himself, he approached Canon David Hopgood in Fareham. ‘So I suppose you can blame David for helping me nurture a seed which had obviously been lying dormant, just waiting for the right moment. It’s fascinating what a simple, direct question to oneself can achieve!’

One year at Allen Hall (‘back again to London’) and then three further years in Rome at the Venerable English College led to Gerard being ordained in November 1999 and being sent as PP (Parish Priest) to Reading until 2007, when he was moved to Totland Bay on the Isle of Wight.

As Diocesan Director of Vocations, Fr Gerard, who speaks positively of the numbers now being called, is himself the living testimony of how the vocation to priesthood can progress from an earlier calling. ‘Some are called to the priesthood at an early age,’ he explained. ‘Others, like myself, are called to the priesthood by a more protracted route, such as from an earlier vocation.’

Fr Gerard Flynn BA, PGCE, MA(Ed), STB invites enquiries from eligible men interested in exploring whether the Catholic priesthood is their calling. He can be contacted at St Saviour’s Presbytery, Weston Lane, Totland, Isle of Wight PO39 OHE e. gerarddominic@waitrose.com t: 019 8375 2317

Born and raised in London, ‘the third of four children’, Gerard went from school in Upper Norwood (St Joseph’s) to study English at Queen Mary College (London) and then to take a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education at the Institute of Education (London). That led, despite the incessant political interference and the strictures of the National Curriculum, to a rich, fulfilling but often exhausting 21 years in primary education with me progressing to a headship, but from which I had to retire on health grounds in 1995.’

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Most parishes have a dedicated team who visit the sick and housebound, and take them Holy Communion. We frequently remember them in our bidding prayers. We know that those whom the world thinks of as useless and unproductive may very probably be doing more good by offering up their sufferings in unity with the Passion of Our Lord, than they were in earlier more obviously active days.

It is very important that we combine this with the political activity needed to protect the vulnerable from a small but determined group who wish to remove the laws which at present forbid active killing. We must work to overturn the decision in Bland’s case which allows the deliberate starving and dehydrating to death of patients in a coma.

Disabled people, lawyers, and doctors (especially those most closely concerned with the care of the chronically sick or dying) have all pointed out that a so-called ‘right to die’ easily becomes a duty to die. This is not so much a religious question about the sinfulness of taking one’s own life, as a practical one of the inevitability of a slippery slope towards widespread euthanasia which would follow from relaxing the law a little bit to allow assisted suicide.

Dominica Roberts is a parishioner of St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow in Bracknell, and active in several pro-life groups. Dominica has been a candidate in three General Elections, but, since her pro-abortion MP has now gone, she did not stand in 2010.
A Broader View

Lawrence Fullick looks at the wider world

The Pope’s visit to England and Scotland draws closer. At one stage it seemed threatened by a series of problems but these now appear to have been addressed. On the government side Lord Chris Patten has been appointed to coordinate the arrangements.

The visit should serve to finally squash any idea that Catholics are in any way separate from the mainstream of national life. The booklet Heart speaks unto heart has been circulated in parishes and is accessible at www.thepapalvisit.org.uk. It explains to Catholics and others the purposes to be achieved by the visit and what is the Church’s contribution to our society.

By his meetings with representatives of other denominations, mainly praying with several of them at Westminster Abbey and meeting Catholic and Anglican bishops together at Lambeth Palace, the Pope will indicate his approval of the efforts in ecumenical relations in this country.

He will also meet leaders of other faiths. His encyclical Caritas in Veritate and the English Catholic Bishops’ document Meeting God in Friend and Stranger both speak of the desirability of inter-faith encounters.

The British government has been paying more attention to its relations with the Holy See. In areas such as seeking to achieve the Millenium Development Goals, the Pope is working with other world leaders. On the international stage the Holy See is widely regarded as at least on a par with major intergovernmental bodies. In his recent Corbishley Lecture to the Wyndham Place Charlemagne Trust (accessible at www.wpct.org) Francis Campbell, British Ambassador to the Holy See, said the Church is reckoned to be the world’s second largest international development body after the UN. The Pope bought the first Immunisation Bond under the International Finance Facility. The Holy See’s diplomacy paid a major role in securing worldwide support for the Cluster Munitions Treaty.

There have been occasions when states took insufficient notice of religion. Before the rise of the mullahs in Iran and of the Al-Qaeda threat the American administration in particular decided not to study the Iranian religious leaders - an error comparable with the British one of withdrawing resources from teaching Pushtu just before Afghanistan reappeared as an area of interest.

Now religion has more notice taken of it than there used to be. Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn took up the issue of mounting secularism: ‘not to be afraid of secular society is a precondition for...openness to dialogue.’ In his homily on his translation from Cardiff to Southwark Archbishop Peter Smith said ‘the reality is that the Church is not a threat to the legitimate independence of the secular State. The ambition of the Church is to see every person flourish and achieve his or her full potential, irrespective of race, religion or creed.’

An event such as the Papal Visit is not something which happens and is all over in four days; it should have a lasting impact on Catholics and our fellow citizens.

Lawrence Fullick, a parishioner in Bournemouth, is treasurer of the Wyndham Place Charlemagne Trust, a charity which promotes discussion of international issues among people of all faiths or none.
ANGLICAN CLARIFICATION

I picked up a copy of the May edition of Portsmouth People when visiting my local Catholic church and found it very encouraging. I am a Church of England parish priest and value all the positive links that exist between our churches. I would, however, wish to clarify a possible implication of your editorial piece. When you remark that ‘the UK authorities do not subsidise our Catholic Church. It’s not the State religion…’ I fear that readers may assume that the ‘Established’ (or ‘State’) Church of England does receive such a subsidy. Of course, as I am sure you are aware, this is not the case. The C of E’s traditional role as the ‘state Church’, although it entails some important and demanding ministry, is not in any way funded by the state. We, like yourselves (and unlike, as you rightly imply, churches in many other European countries) must fund ourselves entirely.

There remains, of course, the question as to whether, for all the difficulties our un-subsidised position places upon us, Catholics or Anglicans, it is not perhaps healthier than the position of so many other continental branches of the Church that have been accustomed to a guaranteed income.

With best wishes to you and the Portsmouth People journal.

Philip Martin, Vicar of St James’, Alderholt, nr Fordingbridge
[Thank you very much for your clarification, Philip. No implication intended. Ed.]

LIVING OUR FAITH

Your Special Edition to celebrate Living Our Faith was long overdue. When the campaign was launched in April 2009, the high level of secrecy made it difficult if not impossible to independently verify information about the campaign, apart from reading the campaign brochure.

There are three significant omissions:

Firstly, there needs to be an explicit acknowledgement that all volunteers involved in fundraising and the management of stewardship are exercising a valuable ministry in the church. Their role is more special than ordinary volunteers. Church ministry includes being accountable, and being trained to work to high standards as would be expected in any trade, craft or profession.

Secondly, please inform us about CCS (Community Counselling Service) Company whose solid work has underpinned the whole campaign. An article about CCS, its work for the diocese, and its front line staff would be instructive.

Thirdly, what about administrative costs and CCS’s fees? Fundraising costs are an essential investment for a campaign of this magnitude, and are typically 10-15%. In 2004, CCS assisted the Archdiocese of Glasgow to launch a campaign with a target of £8,000,000 and a goal of £8.4 million. Costs of £1,392,524.26 were incurred during the launch phase up to June 2006 of which CCS received fees of £1,131,641.25 (12% of the sum raised). It has been stated that the Diocese is meeting in full the costs of the Living Our Faith campaign, presumably from Diocesan general expenditure, for which all parishes and their parishioners are contributing.

I look forward to the rectification of these omissions in a future edition of Portsmouth People.

Michael White, Hampshire
[Rev Stephen Morgan, HoD for Finance and Property replies: ‘Community Counselling Services (CCS) have not been paid on a percentage basis, but on the basis of the time their staff have spent supporting us in the campaign. Nevertheless, with the final results of the campaign not yet finalised (I’m writing this in July 2010 with a total of £12.6M pledged), I can say that CCS’s fees to us will be lower than they were for the Archdiocese of Glasgow and will represent something between 7 and 8% of the funds pledged.’]
In Memory …

DAVID CLAISSE

A tribute from friends and colleagues

The death of David Claisse, on 7 February, reminds all those who knew him of his outstanding, loyal contribution to Catholic education in Southampton.

He was appointed head teacher (the youngest ever in the City at the time) to St Joseph’s School, Bugle Street, in 1963 and when it closed, he opened the new Holy Family School in Millbrook on the West side of Southampton, where he stayed until his retirement in 1993.

He was an intelligent, creative and charismatic person of many talents, a caring man of integrity and true father in loco parentis to all pupils. He was always able to remember their names and ‘story’ from childhood to adulthood. The School was a true and happy family under his care. Past pupils at Secondary school, if they had a day off and Holy Family was open, would visit their old school and bring other friends with them (who were not past pupils!)

David inspired and encouraged colleagues - his influence and support often having an advantageous and life-changing effect on their lives. A deeply spiritual man, whose strong Catholic Faith was his lifelong support and strength, he always ensured that strong links were forged and maintained between school and parishes, enjoying an excellent rapport with all parish clergy. Apart from regular class and school Masses he encouraged other significant liturgical celebrations.

David also played a pivotal role, from its very beginning and onwards, in the introduction of French in Primary schools in Southampton in the 1960s, and helped to develop projects such as the setting up of centres for children’s stays in Le Havre, twin City of Southampton. He was also a founder member of the National Association of Headteachers, Southampton Branch. He spent most of his time as the treasurer but was persuaded on two occasions to be the President for a year. Under his influence the Association grew in number and led to greater coalition between Secondary and Primary Heads. He gave generously of his time and experience to all members and helped to raise the status of the Association with the Local Authority.

A packed Holy Family Church consisting of family, friends, colleagues, pupils, pupils’ parents and acquaintances, some having travelled long distances, for his Requiem Mass was a fitting tribute to David.

Show your concern for our global neighbours and send your message to the new Prime Minister to Act on Poverty.

CAFOD’s Act on Poverty campaign urges the new government to make a real difference to global poverty by pushing for a fair climate change deal at the UN, honouring their commitment to spend 0.7% of national income on aid for the poorest by 2013, and ensuring businesses are accountable to people in poor countries affected by their operations.

Together we can show the Prime Minister that although the global economic crisis means hard choices on spending need to be made, thousands of people across the country want the tackling of global poverty to be high on the new government’s agenda.

Please take 2 minutes out of your day today to go online and send your message to Number 10 by visiting www.cafod.org.uk/actonpoverty. We want to send at least 10,000 action cards and messages to the PM by 10.10.10.

Action cards and campaign kits (which include posters, more background information, a short talk, bidding prayers and newsletter announcements) can be ordered from CAFOD Portsmouth on 01252 329385 or Portsmouth@cafod.org.uk Alternatively, join CAFOD Portsmouth on facebook and help us spread the word!
RAISED ROSARY RESEARCH

Catherine Gordon has contacted (‘PP is such a good read’) to ask about the decades on the rosary featured on the cover of our previous issue. As far as we are aware, that boxwood rosary on the Mary Rose was brought to the surface intact. But someone among our readership could perhaps shed further light on the matter.

BLANC DES BLANCS

Raymond Blanc, on crutches after breaking his leg, recently visited Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth to launch this year’s 3-day Hampshire Food Festival [See inset]. In a recent interview with the Guardian, the famous chef and restauranteur spoke of his Catholic upbringing: ‘Maman argued a lot with my father because she is a guilty Catholic and he is an atheist communist, but after 60 years of infighting their arguments are less painful these days. What my father disliked most was that my mother took us to Mass three times a week when he wanted us to help in the garden. However, his views about respecting other people no matter what faith or colour have been passed on to me and particularly his respect for the rigour of work.’

UNSYSTEMATIC AND CONFUSED

Pupil’s understanding of Christianity is both ‘unsystematic and confused’, says Ofsted. ‘Many of the primary and secondary schools visited did not pay sufficient attention to the progressive investigation of the core beliefs of Christianity’, reports the UK’s school inspectorate, Ofsted, in their latest report, Transforming Religious Education, released 6th June 2010. Yet in well performing schools, ‘imaginative use of challenging and evocative resources stimulate(d) the pupils’ imagination and encourage(d) them to explore their personal responses’.

SCULPTURE CULTURE

His Eminence The Cardinal and Most Rev Vincent Nichols and representatives from across the Diocese witnessed, in a ceremony conducted by Bishop Crispian, the unveiling at St John’s Cathedral on 22 July of Philip Jackson’s sculpture of St John the Evangelist [See PP Vol 09-5 p. 20]. Philip Jackson, seen here working on the maquette, is one of the foremost figurative sculptors in Britain today, and is already known to the people of Portsmouth for The Yomper, the statue standing stoically on Southsea’s seafront.

The three-metre high statue of St John the Evangelist, sponsored by the Friends of the Cathedral, has taken two years to complete. Commenting on the event, Canon David Hopgood, Dean of St John’s Cathedral, said: ‘The sculpture, standing proudly outside our Cathedral, bears testimony to the vigour of our faith. It is a statement to bring focus, attention and further quality to the city of Portsmouth for the benefit of its inhabitants and those visiting the city, be they of the Christian faith, other faith or none’. Full report in our next issue.

AOS APPOINTS NEW NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Martin Foley, the charity’s new National Director, formerly Chief Executive to the charity LIFE (2005-2010) took up his post on 1st June. Following his education at Bishop Walsh RC School, Martin went on to read law at Manchester University, returning there after some years to complete an MA in Health Care, Ethics and Law. He practiced as a solicitor before joining the House of Parliament as Clerk to the All-Party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group and Personal Assistant to Lord Alton.

The Apostleship of the Sea, AOS, is a maritime welfare charity, providing practical and pastoral support to seafarers, regardless of race, colour or creed (if any).

Ninety percent of world trade is carried by ship, and some 100,000 seafarers visit British ports each year. They are commonly away from home for nine to 12 months at a time, suffering loneliness, depression and even exploitation. They also have to work in gruelling and often dangerous conditions. AOS chaplains and ship visitors welcome seafarers to our shores. They recognise them as brothers with an intrinsic human dignity which can be overlooked in the modern globalised maritime industry.

For more information visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk
IRELAND: A HISTORY

The recent publication of the long-awaited (12 years) and costly (£191 million) Saville report into the Bloody Sunday 30-minute episode in Derry in 1972 could well prompt some reflection on the role of massacre and religious conflict in the last fifteen hundred years of the history of Ireland.

Historian Thomas Bartlett’s new book Ireland: A History begins with the killing by British general Coroticus in the mid-5th century of some disciples of St Patrick and continues for the next fifteen hundred years with short accounts of massacres in 1641, 1798, during the Tithe War, the Land War and on through the War of Independence and Civil War down to and beyond the dreadful events in Derry in 1972. His book offers an indispensable guide to contextualising the religious underpinnings of such mass killings, but not anaesthetising them, and answers many other key questions in Irish history (e.g. What was the importance of St Patrick? Who actually invaded Ireland in 1169? How do religion and politics relate in Irish history? What part did the Irish play in the expansion of the British Empire? What caused the emergence of the Celtic Tiger economy, and what killed it stone dead? …).

Humorously referred to by the author as ‘From St Patrick to St Paisley’, historian Thomas Bartlett’s Ireland: A History, published 17 June 2010, retails in hardback (648 pages) at £25 from Cambridge University Press.

Thomas Bartlett is Professor of Irish History at the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, University of Aberdeen. Previously Professor of Modern Irish History at University College Dublin, he was educated at Queen’s University Belfast (BA, 1970, PhD 1976) and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE READERS’ OFFER

To help people understand more deeply the spirituality of St Thérèse of Lisieux and to commemorate the recent visit of her relics to the UK, Portsmouth People is offering readers The Little Flower, the compact disk from The Music Makers, at the revised and discounted price of £12.00 inclusive of p&p (UK). This CD features extracts from The Little Way of St Thérèse beautifully interwoven with music to illuminate the meditation. The music is performed by Schola Cantamus, directed by Jeremy de Satgé, Orders, giving the full postal address for receipt, should be addressed to The Editor, Portsmouth People, Department for Pastoral Formation, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Winchester Road, Wickham, Hampshire PO17 5HA. Cheques to be made payable to the diocesan account: PRCDTR General Fund.

JUST FOR JUNIORS

Turn this page upside down to read the solutions and answers to this issue’s JfJ section.

CELEBRATE WEEKEND
9th & 10th OCTOBER 2010
Southampton

Saturday 9am – 9pm  Sunday 9.30am – 5.30pm
AT ST. MARY’S COLLEGE, BITTERNE PARK.

Faith and fun for the whole family.

Speakers: to include Charles & Sue Whitehead, Steve Murray, Jim Graham, Jenny Baker & David Matthews

Workshops & Seminars: both days.

Dramas by Steve Murray & Local Youth Groups.

Worship: by Tom Bonard, Steve Szymanski & friends
Children’s groups for all ages and a Young Adult stream.

For more information and a booking form see our web site: www.celebrateconference.org (click on Southampton) or, contact Peter and Lynda Szymanski on 023 8029 2058 or email: peterszymanski@hotmail.co.uk
Nestled between Thailand and Vietnam, Cambodia’s profile as a tourist destination has increased dramatically over the past decade, with over two million tourists a year visiting the country’s unspoilt countryside and world-famous temples.

CAFOD’s Connect2 programme features Samrong Mean Chey, a tiny settlement just outside the capital, Phnom Penh. You’d be forgiven for not having heard of this village as it only came into existence in 2001. It was created by families who fled there after a fire destroyed their homes and livelihoods.

Samol, 44, was one of the first to arrive: ‘My house burned down in front of my eyes. Three days later I moved to this area with my family. There were no houses at first, only paddy fields, so we pitched a tent in the schoolyard.’ The local government would only allow the arriving families to live there on a temporary basis: they were not allowed to build permanent housing. In the following years, Samol negotiated with the local government and worked hard to get the settlement recognised, and was successful in getting it a name. However, almost a decade later, the 64 families in Samrong Mean Chey continue to be under constant threat of forced relocation by the government. The situation is not helped by the impoverished conditions. A third of the families do not have regular work; two out of three families rely on food aid to survive, and half the people live on less than 20p a day.

The Salvation Centre Cambodia (SCC), one of CAFOD’s partners, has made a valuable difference. It works with Buddhist monks to support residents like Samol in gaining recognition for Samrong Mean Chey from the government, and to develop local business through training and loans, so that families can earn a better income and eventually buy their own land.

One such beneficiary is Dara, 19, who lost his father to AIDS when he was young, and lives with his mother and younger siblings. ‘I used to worry that my Mum couldn’t earn enough to look after us, but then SCC came and gave her a loan that she used to buy a bicycle. Now she can carry and sell more vegetables and make a better income.’ This in turn enables Dara to spend time studying to become a doctor.

Since the fall of the Khmer Rouge in 1979, Cambodia has recovered well, thanks to the determination of the Cambodian people and a more stable political climate. However progress has been hampered by HIV/AIDS, corruption, illegal logging and land-grabbing. Many Samrong Mean Chey residents believe that the fire which destroyed their former homes was started deliberately so that the land could be redeveloped. Their livelihoods hang in the balance, but CAFOD and the SCC are determinedly continuing to support the community to fight for safe and secure housing.

Thoeun, director of the SCC, says, ‘I am concerned that the people in Samrong Mean Chey will be evacuated again. But I really think that together we can help them stay put.’

Connect2 aims to bring us all closer to different communities across the world, give us the opportunity to hear people’s stories and share something of our own parish life too through photographs of special events, cards and stories.

If your parish or group would like to explore the idea of Connect2, please contact CAFOD Portsmouth on 01253 9385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

In our previous issue, CAFOD Media Volunteer, Luxmy Gopalakrishnan, looked at the way in which CAFOD’s Connect2 initiative was bringing local parishes closer to a community in El Salvador. Now, she takes a look at another community that we have the opportunity to Connect2 in Cambodia.

Luxmy, named after the Hindu goddess of fortune, is a volunteer for CAFOD Portsmouth. She studied History at Durham University. Previously she had spent a year pursuing her love of travelling.

She currently works as the manager of a children’s learning centre in Camberley.
Significant for our diocese was the second annual Mass for couples celebrating silver, golden, ruby and diamond weddings.

Bishop Crispian Hollis even announced the presence of the Dupres, married 70 years, as he welcomed all at St Bede’s, Basingstoke, on June 12th.

A local couple, Bob and Barbara Applin, met through her work as an archaeologist. Bob joined a team rescuing door knockers and cast iron fireplaces from houses demolished for the 1960s’ development. Forty years on, Bob, Anglican by background, agnostic by nature, came forward for a blessing, as Barbara took communion.

Significant for the Applins was the encouragement to come to the altar together. For some this meant consuming the Body of Christ simultaneously.

Most of the 128 couples had travelled miles, from the outer reaches of our diocese, including the Channel Islands, bringing a friend or relation with them.

Emmanuel and Nkem Virginia Ezekwe, from Our Lady of Peace, Lower Earley, Reading, explained that their married life began 25 years ago in St Mark’s Catholic Church, Agaba, Nigeria. Their professions are engineering and secondary teaching respectively, and they have five children.

Significant for all were the intercessions, read by Cedric and Paddy Lark, from St Anne’s, Brockenhurst, married 50 years. Many of us live alone, and may ponder anniversaries which might have been. Well-written prayers meant we did not feel neglected.

Bishop Crispian acknowledged that the couples in front of him had probably had a harder job than that of a celibate priest like himself, addressing them: ‘All of you who have borne the heat of the day’.

You could sense all warmed to him for this recognition.

Christine Field, from Corpus Christi, Wokingham, said ‘the first ten years’ of their half century were the most traumatic, as they’d lost their first baby, and her husband Ian had been ill. ‘If you can survive that, you can survive anything’, she claimed, adding: ‘I married the right man!’

Being among so many enduring relationships was a tangible experience: each word of every hymn and response was made with gusto; the silences between words and movement were profound; couples renewed their vows with visible delight.

Significant was a sense of the wisdom of those gathered, the middle to long aged of our society, whose faith has weathered wars, rationing, and earlier recessions. As Bishop Crispian put it: ‘You are not private people or private couples, but in the front line as witnesses of the Gospel of love’. 

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1) COMMUNION, with the Bishop and Fr Dominic
2) THE APPLINS
3) THE EZEKWE’S
4) RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT Jan and Martin McGahanan
   (40 years) from St Colman’s, Cosham
5) TIME FOR REFRESHMENTS

Bishop Crispian’s Homily and many more photographs are available on the diocesan website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men"
-Frederick Douglass

1. FIVE DAUGHTERS
Mary’s father has five daughters. They are called Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono and ... What’s the name of the fifth daughter?

2. DEVILISH COMPETITION
Jesus and Satan were having an on-going argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly God was tired of hearing all the bickering.
Finally fed up, God said, ‘THAT’S IT! I have had enough. I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does the better job.’
So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away:
They moused. They faxed. They e-mailed. They e-mailed with attachments.
They downloaded. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They created labels and cards. They created charts and graphs.
They compiled some genealogy reports. They did every computer task known.
Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency and Satan was faster than hell.

Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured, and, of course, the power went off.
Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld. Jesus stayed calm.
Finally, the electricity came back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically, screaming: ‘It’s gone! It’s all GONE! I lost everything when the power went out!’
Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out his files from the past two hours of work.
Satan observed this and became irate. ‘Wait!’ he screamed. ‘That’s not fair! He cheated! How come he has all his work and I don’t have any?’
God just shrugged and quietly said, ‘Jesus saves.’

3. HABEMUS PAPAM
Habemus Papam is a very famous pronouncement in Latin. Do you know what it means and when it’s made?

Vikki says, ‘Well, these social networking sites are cool. But you have to watch what you’re putting out there. Maybe 4/500 million people could get to see it! I’ve been checking my privacy settings on FACEBOOK and the other sites I use. You should do the same. Initial settings, clicked in by default, can often do with sorting out. Not that I want to cramp my style. But it’s not that easy to see what’s going on. So, what I did was hit on HELP on the bottom right of the FACEBOOK screen and took it from there. I must have cut it down to about 100 million ‘friends’ by now. Still too many to send Christmas cards to!’

4. NUMBERS
See if you can work out the relationship between the following numbers. You’ll need a calculator.
1716, 33 and 396

5. WORD SEARCH
Using the letters in the word ASSUMPTION see how many words you can make. It could help to put each letter on a different slip of paper and then juggle them about. Have fun!
BOOKMARK
Fr Denis Blackledge SJ selects some summer reading

THE CRUCIBLE OF CHRISTIANITY

Jonathan Hill, LionHudson, hardback 256pp, 2010, £20

LionHudson are well-known for their high-quality Christian books, and the author, an Oxford theologian, is well-established with his titles already published by them on various aspects of the history of Christianity. In this volume Hill gives us an insight into the first 400 years of Christianity. He delves into the emergence, spread and development of Christianity, and how it became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Over eleven chapters the author takes us into the whole melting-pot of early Christian history: the persecutions, the whole social context, the struggle to establish a common theology, and the vexed question of orthodoxy and heresy. All is done with the eye of a good teacher, in manageable sections, with clear headings. Names come alive as the reader finds out more about such original figures as Origen, Cyprian, Anthony the Great, Ambrose and Augustine of Hippo. From city to desert, from West to East, the shell tells us of key moments in the story.

The book touches on art and architecture, relics and pilgrimages, and a whole array of individuals and movements. It is peppered with a variety of helpful maps, and a fascinating array of photographs on the subject. There are also boxed features on such topics as Christian attitudes to Judaism, Alexandria, Mithraism, Gnostic movements and the Armenian Church.

Hill presents us with a pleasing overview of the doctrinal and spiritual heritage which began with a few fishermen and peasants in Galilee and four centuries later became the official state religion. And he shows how Christians had to cope with radical internal divisions, breaking through into a new understanding of their doctrinal and spiritual heritage. A good book to have on the shelf if you want to know more about the early centuries of Christianity as an individual or as a teacher.

FAITH MAPS

Ten Religious Explorers from Newman to Joseph Ratzinger
Michael Paul Gallagher, DLT pbk, 158pp, 2010

The author is well-known for his happy blend of a thorough knowledge of modern literature as well as theology, and has a string of books to his name which make theology exciting. He has a great ability with words; he is an imaginative theologian, with a facility for putting deep things into simple language.

Here he presents the reader with ten leading thinkers of the past century, from John Henry Newman to Joseph Ratzinger, the present Pope. On the way we meet Karl Rahner, Hans Urs von Balthasar and Bernard Lonergan, along with other names possibly not as well known to the average reader such as Pierangelo Sequeri, Charles Taylor and Dorothy Soelle. Plus, a surprise guest, the Catholic fiction writer Flannery O’Connor.

Our author takes us to the heart of the matter with each writer, showing how each points us in the direction of Christian faith. He hands over their vision in today’s language, and in a non-academic way - only one foot-note in the whole book. Here is a useful resource book for anyone who wants to get a modest grip, a ‘feel’ for each of his ‘interviewees’. Each is a ‘giant’ in his or her own way, and Gallagher in his inimitable way brings each down to earth and gets to the very core of their writings.

Whether you are a scholar well-versed in theology, or a simple beginner with a desire to know more, this is the book for you. If you want a touch of imaginative theology, here it is on a plate, dished up in bite-size chunks easy to digest and that will fascinate and enthral. And, for most of the authors covered, Gallagher creates imaginary monologues which translate the voices of these leading thinkers into a series of reflections which speak to many for whom God may be off their own personal map.

An excellent book to challenge and help at home, in school, parish or university. Just one quibble: for such a quality book the proof-reading left much to be desired, with over thirty errors.

Catering for catholic tastes ...

Gambas al Ajillo (Garlic Prawns: Spanish Tapa)

Preparation time: 10 mins. Cooking time: 5 mins

Ingredients: 300/350g of peeled, raw small prawns or large shrimps; 1 or 2 dried, red chillies; 6 large cloves of garlic thinly sliced; sea salt; 150ml extra virgin olive oil; chopped fresh parsley or coriander and lemon wedges to serve.

Method: Heat the oil in a small frying pan. Add the garlic, chillies and salt. Cook for just a few seconds. When the garlic begins to turn a very light golden colour, add the prawns and stir gently. Cook for a maximum of further 2 to 3 mins over a high heat until the prawns turn pink. Remove from the heat, sprinkle the parsley or coriander on top. Serve at once with lemon wedges. Serves 4 generously as a starter (una tapa). ¡Que aproveche!

Spain was featured in CONNECTIONS on page 25 of Vol 09-6 of PP. Ed.

Just a click away...

We continue with our compendium of worthy websites:

http://www.ThePapalVisit.org.uk
- details of the Pope’s UK visit 2010

http://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism
- photographs of events

www.CatholicChurch.org.uk
- the Catholic Church in England and Wales

http://www.TheTablet.co.uk/
- to read The Tablet online

http://issuu.com/TheUniverse/docs/TheUniverse
- to read The Universe on line

http://www.spartacus.school.net.co/REVrs.htm
- religious studies websites

http://www.cts-online.org.uk/
- Catholic Truth Society, publisher and charity

http://www.UKvocation.org/
- national office for vacation

(URLs are generally not case sensitive. Title casing is to improve readability. Submissions for ‘JACA’ warmly invited. Ed.)

Portuguese Connections

With this issue of Portsmouth People we offer a community communications checklist for Portuguese nationals and for others in our diocese with Internet access who are interested in Portugal:

Country Profile (BBC): http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/994099.stm
(Notes underscore between country and profiles)

Tourism and travel information: www.lonelyplanet.com/portugal

Travel Guide: http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/227/country_guide/Europe/Portugal.html
(Notes underscore between country and profiles)


Internet Radio Stations: www.live-radio.net/
www.listenlive.eu/portugal.html

(Similar ‘Community Connections’ compilations are welcome for other nationalities. Ed.)

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE 25
For the second year running a good number of our diocesan clergy came together with Bishop Crispian for an overnight Conference at the Wessex Hotel in Bournemouth. It was facilitated on the 8 and 9 June by Kit and Caroline Dollard from Christian Community Resources and they guided us through a process which looked at the diocesan pastoral plan and the contribution of the priest to partnership and collaboration.

The conference this year was requested by the clergy who attended in Bournemouth last year and provided an opportunity to bring the Year for Priests to a fitting conclusion. In his homily during the closing Mass, Bishop Crispian said that there would be another opportunity to celebrate the end of the Year for Priests when deacons Phil Harris and James McAuley are ordained at the Cathedral on Saturday 24 July at 11.00am.

Much work was done on the role and contribution of clergy in the Church in the contemporary world. Monsignor John Nelson invited us to reflect on the teaching of the Second Vatican Council on the mission of the priest: “Since the human race today is tending more and more towards civil, economic and social unity, it is all the more necessary that priests should unite their efforts and combine their resources under the leadership of the bishops and the Supreme Pontiff and thus eliminate division and dissension in every shape or form, so that all humanity may be led into the unity of the family of God” (Lumen Gentium, 28e).

Five Principles

Growing out of the teaching of the Council, Monsignor Nelson presented the five principles which were agreed by those clergy present as underpinning the role of both priests and deacons. The principle of co-responsibility ensured that an area team of clergy share responsibility for preaching, the celebration of the sacraments and pastoral care. At the same time these responsibilities could be thematic or could relate to a particular church or community. To ensure effective co-working the clergy team need to commit to regular meetings with prayer at their heart. Using gifts properly was considered to be key and means that the particular strengths, expertise and experience of an individual needs to be identified and used within the clergy team for the good of the people in the area. The priest should be able to channel his energy into what he does best. Monsignor Nelson stressed the importance of ‘building and sustaining relationships’ which means that each priest and deacon needs to bond with a church or community within the area. Priests should not be expected to rotate between churches on a regular and continuous basis. He explained the principle of governance which gives to each priest within an area the authority to deal with as many issues as possible without constant reference to the Co-ordinating Pastor.

Everyone at the conference agreed and endorsed the principles for underpinning the role of clergy in the new pastoral areas and regretted the fact that a number of clergy were unable to attend. A lot of positive material was considered and everyone left with renewed enthusiasm and confidence looking forward to the next opportunity to meet.
Starting School in September 2011

Starting school is one of the most important and exciting milestones in every child’s life. September 2011 may seem a long time away but parents and carers will need to make choices and complete forms in the autumn term this year. The Authority will publish booklets for parents explaining the process.

In applying for a place, parents are reminded that they must:

- complete the Common Application Form which is issued by the Authority.
- complete the Supplementary Information Form when applying for a place in a Catholic school, if the school has one. This information is needed if the application is to take account of religious status. If this form is not completed then the school cannot judge the application against the religious criteria so the application is likely to be disadvantaged.
- complete a Supplementary Information Form for each Catholic school if applying for two or more Catholic schools, even if one of the schools is a second or third choice. Each school has its own Supplementary Information Form.
- ensure the evidence asked for is submitted with the application.
- ensure the application forms and supporting evidence are submitted by the closing date.

If unsure about any aspect of the admissions process, parents should ask their home Authority and/or preferred school for further advice.
Luke 9:51 declares: ‘As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem. His journey to death and resurrection can teach us how to make our life’s journey, and the Sunday gospels for August and September show us important stages on the way.

When we go on a journey, the temptation is to stuff our bags with as many things as possible, just in case we need them later on. We can be like the man in Jesus’ parable: when his barns were full, he planned to build bigger barns to store his goods, not knowing that his time on earth was quickly coming to its end.

That is why Jesus tells us: ‘See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit.’ We are to be like the Israelites waiting for the exodus (as God tells Moses): ‘with a belt around your waist, sandals on your feet, and a staff in your hand.’ As a pilgrim church, we are called to be ready to move onwards. If today’s world is changing fast, we have to move on, while maintaining to our faith in God.

‘Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem.’ Jesus warns his hearers: ‘Try your best to enter by the narrow door.’ Those who heard God’s word long ago may drift away, to be replaced by people from east and west, north and south. It is said that in London today, half the churchgoers were not born in this country. Have we forgotten the Good News of Jesus?

On a journey we look for a place to eat. Luke’s Gospel tells of Jesus being invited to eat with a leading Pharisee – evidently, not all the Pharisees were bad. And Jesus speaks of the value (in God’s eyes) of hospitality to the poor and the sick. Such people may not be able to make repayment on earth, but any hospitality to them will be rewarded in the life to come.

What holds us back from journeying with Christ? Sometimes it can be our excessive attachment to things. So Jesus offers a stark challenge: ‘None of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.’ We are called first to recognise that our material goods are God’s gift. We are also asked to be willing to share what we have, and even to be willing to say goodbye to our possessions in answer to God’s call.

As Jesus (Son of God) makes his return journey to his heavenly Father, he tells of another son making his journey back to his father. The Prodigal Son had gone off to make his fortune in the world, but had spent all his money, got into difficulties, and ended up working for a pig farmer. But now he decides to return to his father, and against all his expectations is welcomed back with open arms. Our journey to our heavenly Father may also involve a homecoming, leaving behind the false paths we have taken in the past.

On a journey we know that time is limited. We are like servants whose stewardship will shortly come to an end. During the time that remains, we can still use our money to win friends in heaven, by helping the poor and the needy. Canny businessmen seize an opportunity to gain a profit. Can we seize the opportunity given to us?

Perhaps the most terrifying of Jesus’ parables is the story of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man could easily have helped the poor beggar, but failed to do so. Now Lazarus is in heaven, in company with Abraham. The rich man wants to warn his brothers to avoid this fate, but Abraham refuses: ‘They will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.’ We hope to share eternal life with Abraham. Can we help Lazarus now?

Fr Jeremy Corley teaches Scripture at Ushaw College, Durham.
CHURCH IN FOCUS

With this issue we look at
Douai Abbey of the English Benedictine Congregation of Monks

The next issue of PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE will be distributed at the end of September 2010
When you have finished reading this magazine, please pass it to a friend or dispose of it responsibly for re-cycling.