

Contact Magazine



*Our Lady Help of Christians
Parish Magazine*

SPRING 2010

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Parishioners

Welcome to this Spring edition of CONTACT Magazine. There has been a little delay in publishing this edition for you due to the need to replace the photo-copier with more modern equipment by Fr Dan for the parish.

Once again, there are plenty of articles and parish events and activities for you to enjoy. Here is a list of some of the contents I am sure you will find of interest:

- News and articles from our Parish schools;
- An update report on the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake focusing on the Salesian community to which we all made a donation;
- A personal experience working in Haiti from a friend of the Editor;
- Confirmation and First Holy Communion candidates;
- Deacon Paul gives an update on Stewardship;
- Latest update letter (PAX) from Fr Francis Preston in Jerusalem;
- A list of those parishioners who have died during the past year;
- Short story on 'Modern Life' from Margaret Tabbener;
- 3rd instalment on Ignatius Loyola from Chris Gregory;
- One or two humorous anecdotes to make you smile.

I would like to thank all those who have sent items for inclusion in this edition. Please continue to play your part in keeping the Magazine lively and interesting with new material. If you have any Parish Group news, articles, stories, poems, travel experiences, etc, please send them in for the next edition either to Fr Dan or myself. If you would like to discuss anything you may wish to include, you can contact me on 01252 541210.

There will be a copy of this Magazine made available on the Parish Website soon after publication: www.olhcfarnborough.org.uk.

May I wish you happy thoughts in anticipation of the forthcoming summer season.

Robert Eckelaers, Editor



Haiti Earthquake Disaster (Salesians)

Following on from the Haiti earthquake on 12 January 2010, as a result on donations to the Disaster Fund from our parish and others, I would like to provide you with an update on the situation, details from CAFOD:

- Between 250,000-300,000 people in Haiti were killed.
- CAFOD raised over £4.7 million to help their partners on the ground to respond the crisis.
- The Salesian National School of Arts and Trades in Haiti, using the relief fund created and donations sent, were able to purchase food, water, medical supplies, survival kits and tents for shelter.
- Over 200 of the students and personnel at the school were killed. Many of those killed our best and brightest young women and men studying to be teachers.



- The majority of the Salesian buildings were completely destroyed, including their vocational school, orphanage, and the facility used for meetings and retreats.
- More than 800 tents have been set up and 2,000 ordered and expected soon. The Salesian Missions have sent 2 freight containers of rice with more on the way from the Salesians in Thailand.
- The Salesians are focusing on restoring the education system as fast as possible. This consists of constructing temporary classrooms, hiring teachers and other trained personnel, replacing books and equipment.
- Transition from emergency relief to reconstruction is expected to begin within the next several weeks, assessed by a Salesian team.
- Fr Mark SDB reports from Haiti some improvements, but the situation is still critical. Thousands of people are sleeping in the streets, and tents, food, water and medicine supplies are low. Heavy rains are expected to deluge Haiti during April which will hamper progress. There is a great fear of the outbreak of epidemic illness.

IN ADDITION, the following is a description of Haiti in the present from a friend of mine who works for a retail company which supplies the United Nations mission in Port au Prince and who was sent there for a few weeks to oversee their operations. (Robert, Editor)

My flight to the Dominican Republic via Paris departed four hours late, arriving Santo Domingo at 23.00 hrs and the drive from the airport to the city took thirty minutes. As we drove through downtown Santo Domingo we passed a number of bars with tables on the pavement but not a great number of people, most probably because of the sound of Spanish music being played very, very loudly. The following morning, the hotel organised a taxi to bring me to the boarder with Haiti some four and half hours distant - quite an interesting journey, the highlight being a glimpse of the Caribbean, a brilliant streak of turquoise blue on the horizon.

Most mornings I am woken by the sound of the cockerel chorus led by one just outside the bedroom window and it/they are shortly joined by numerous barking dogs. There was a tremor early on Wednesday, but very mild, which was the major topic on arrival at the office.

The house where I am staying is reasonably comfortable even if the sitting room does not have air conditioning; however, the power supply is somewhat erratic. The house is situated in a very large walled and gated estate with wide tree-lined boulevards servicing palatial homes belonging to people believed to be living in USA; obviously serious money is required to build small palaces. Miami is just over an hour's flying time away from Haiti. On the estate each property is surrounded by high walls or fancy wrought-iron fences, and driving past each property the houses just get larger and more grand. Living in such surroundings makes it hard to believe Haiti, according to statistics, is the poorest county in the western hemisphere, yet just across the border is a very prosperous Dominican Republic enjoying a quite different position in the world rankings.

What little I have seen of Haiti so far has largely been unaffected by the earthquake but I have seen collapsed walls and a number of buildings where the ground floor simply appears to have given way under the weight of the floors above. The belief here is that much of the damage and the subsequent horrendous loss of life is due to poor building regulations. I have not yet visited the city centre which has been very badly damaged by the earthquake.

As regards the 'international' presence in Haiti, Save the Whale is not here but just about every other organisation and nationality is represented and on quite a grand scale, which is good.. I mention this I look out from the office window and note the comings and goings from the car park opposite, where half the nations of the world

have a vehicle parked just now. Looking further into the distance, and beyond the airport runway, are the barren mountains that surround Port au Prince affording, so I am reliably informed, some protection from hurricanes, which is just as well as the tented encampments for the displaced look very flimsy indeed. Rainwater from the surrounding hills and mountains appears to be a bigger threat during rainy seasons.

....

I have now had the opportunity to visit 'downtown' Haiti. I was not expecting the city to have been built on a number of hills overlooking a large sweeping bay which accommodates the port and airport. A number of the hills are very steep indeed, requiring first gear in the pickup to negotiate them. In a number of places, houses have been built almost one on top of the other like steps up the hillsides. From a high vantage point it was possible to see the devastation of a group of houses that had collapsed as if in a landslide. Every scrap of free space currently accommodates a tented community, each with its own micro business centre of stalls selling all manner of day-to-day commodities plus hairdressing saloons, shoe repairs and the like. It's business much as usual, albeit under very different circumstances to a couple of months ago. There is still much rubble to be cleared but the internationals have moved very quickly clearing land that once was occupied by houses.

Talking to a UN disaster specialist, re-accommodating the displaced is currently being held up by the government that wants to restore housing in the original locations, whereas UN specialists strongly recommend a quite different approach in order to address the problem more expeditiously.

Recently I had my first taste of 'fine dining' in a very splendid restaurant up in the hills above Port au Prince. Sat by a swimming pool and surrounded by trees, this oasis of sophistication was indeed serving fine cuisine and wines, albeit slowly and at a price. Apparently there are a number of such restaurants of a similar standard dotted about the city, untouched by the events of 12 January. I also visited a beach hotel recently which included an interesting drive of some one and half hours and took me through a number of small towns and villages. In many places the roadside was piled high with the rubble from destroyed buildings and we passed three or four vast villages of makeshift shacks very similar to those seen in Port au Prince. For much of the journey the countryside was seriously hilly, bordering on mountainous, and barren but for cactus, some wiry looking shrubs and the occasional blade of grass. Hugging the coast there is a narrow strip of land with trees and some agriculture. The beach we visited was part of a small hotel complex with a \$5 charge to gain access and use of the simple facilities; it was \$2 before the quake - that's the effect the UN can have on the local economy. We had a pleasant lunch served on a covered jetty with a well chilled bottle of chardonnay; I felt I could have been anywhere in the Mediterranean!



Are you a crack-pot?

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water to the house. The cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishment, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of spilling water, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

In life, we're all cracked pots. But our weaknesses need not destroy our lives. God only ever has imperfect people to use. Despite our flaws, God can still bless us and make us fruitful for him.



Sanskrit Poem

Look well to this day,

For it is life.

In its brief course lies all the realities of existence.

For yesterday is but a memory and tomorrow only a vision.

WHY DID JESUS FOLD THE LINEN BURIAL CLOTH AFTER HIS RESURRECTION?

I never noticed this....

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes.

The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!'

Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stopped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important? Absolutely!

Is it really significant? Yes!



In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day.

The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm finished.."

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because.....

The folded napkin meant, ... "I'm coming back!"

AND SO HE SHALL.

Thanks to Sally Hall for this item

Below is a rallying call from Deacon Paul asking for members of the parish to join him in a journey towards stewardship and home prayer groups. I am sure as a parish we welcome this initiative from the Bishop through Deacon Paul. *Ed*

STEWARDSHIP and HOME GROUPS

Back in 2001 Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor said,

'there are the communities of our parishes and in particular our need for small communities. It seems to me, and I do not think I exaggerate, that most Catholics in the future, apart from their Sunday Mass, will need to belong to some form of small community.... Increasingly there will be people who come together to listen to the Word of God in Scripture, to reflect on their own lives and to pray. I often think these small communities are the secret for the future of the Church'

It is now over a year since a Stewardship Formation Team was formed in our Pastoral Area. Margaret Tabbener and I are the current members from our community. Stewardship, of course, is a diocesan initiative and you can find more information on it from the diocesan website. In essence, stewardship is about discipleship. It is about being, rather than just doing. It is about letting go and letting God be the source and summit of our lives as individuals and as a community. It is about building up the body of Christ for the future of our church.

After our own formation sessions led for us by Teresa Keogh from the Diocesan Pastoral Formation Team, we were left with the question – “how do we share our experience of stewardship and our Bishop’s vision with our brothers and sisters.” After much prayer and silent and respectful listening to each other in the team over a number of weeks, it was discerned that a primary means of achieving this was through the intimate and gentle format of home groups.

Many of you will have experienced something of this way of discipleship during our Advent Home Groups. We are now leading up to Pentecost with material provided by the diocese since Lent and there are now two groups meeting on Tuesday evenings. We are now planning for the next stage, so the support of your prayers is much needed.

If, like us, you feel inspired by Cardinal Cormac’s words and excited by our Bishop’s vision for Stewardship in our diocese, you are warmly invited to join us on our journey. This is not a holy huddle or an exclusive club for the holy Jo’s!

Deacon Paul Page-Tickell

By Margaret Tabbener

I dropped my purse as I fumbled for my keys, stumbled, stepped on the wretched thing, recovered my balance and opened the door. The smell hit me straight away. My husband, Paul had promised to cook the evening meal tonight because I had to work late. I'd been grumbling about there not being enough hours in the day to get every thing done, when he said, "stop fussing. I can easily get the evening meal and put Henry to bed."

Henry is our lovely, lively two year old son. "Well," I said hesitantly before agreeing and as I looked at his face I could see he was a little hurt to think that I would doubt his ability.

"OK then." I said brightly. "Wednesday is always difficult for me and my meeting doesn't finish until about 8".

"Fine", answered Paul. "Leave it all to me. Henry and I will have great fun and once he's in bed I'll cook something nice for the two of us." And that was that.

It was well after nine, when I came in, exhausted, and went into the dining room and saw the table neatly laid, candles lit and our one and only crystal vase holding up three beautiful pink roses. So romantic, I thought. And it would have been more romantic if Paul had had the time to pick up Henry's toys. His favourite Teddy bear lay under the table. How I wondered did he get Henry to bed without it. Paul was in the kitchen, sitting on the floor with a screwdriver in one hand and a saucepan in the other. Before I could ask he said, "Dropped the blessed thing and hoped to have it fixed before you came home."

I saw the empty packet of oxo and wondered what was this dish going to taste like. It had been a full packet this morning. Something was boiling over on the top of the cooker and that I think was where the smell was coming from. I reached across Paul's head, turned off the heat and removed the bubbling pan.

"Don't worry", I said. "I'm just so glad to be home."

"Oh dear", said Paul. "Was it that bad"?

"Worse", I answered. "The meeting was rough, the boss was in a foul mood and his temper was getting the better of him. He accused David of miscalculating his expenses. He took umbrage and walked out and Julia burst into tears. D'you know I think she may be secretly in love with David. So my darling anything you've cooked I'm sure will be delicious, leaned over and hugged him. "Let's eat I'm starving."

The end

WORRY

Is there a magic cut-off period when offspring become accountable for their own actions? Is there a wonderful moment when parents can become detached spectators in the lives of their children and shrug, "It's their life," and feel nothing?

When I was in my **twenties**, I stood in a hospital corridor waiting for doctors to put a few stitches in my Daughter's head. I asked, "When do you stop worrying?" The nurse said, "when they get out of the accident stage." My Dad just smiled faintly and said nothing.

When I was in my **thirties**, I sat on a little chair in a classroom and heard how one of my children talked incessantly, disrupted the class, and was headed for a career making license plates. As if to read my mind, a teacher said, "Don't worry, they all go through this stage and then you can sit back, relax and enjoy them." My Dad just smiled faintly and said nothing.

When I was in my **forties**, I spent a lifetime waiting for the phone to ring, the cars to come home, the front door to open. A friend said, "they're trying to find themselves. Don't worry, in a few years, you can stop worrying. They'll be adults." My Dad just smiled faintly and said nothing.

By the time I was **fifty**, I was sick and tired of being vulnerable. I was still worrying over my children but there was a new wrinkle. There was nothing I could do about it. My Dad just smiled faintly and said nothing. I continued to anguish over their failures, be tormented by their frustrations and absorbed in their disappointments.

My friends said that when my kids got married I could stop worrying and lead my own life. I wanted to believe that but I was haunted by my Dad's warm smile and his occasional, "You look pale. Are you all right? Call me the minute you get home. Are you depressed about something?"

Can it be that parents are sentenced to a lifetime of worry? Is concern for one another handed down like a torch to blaze the trail of human frailties and the fears of the unknown? Is concern a curse or is it a virtue that elevates us to the highest form of life?

One of my children became quite irritable recently saying to me, "Where were you? I've been calling for three days and no one answered; I was worried."

I smiled a warm smile. The torch has been passed.

P A X

GREETINGS OF PEACE FROM DON BOSCO IN JERUSALEM

Extracts from Message of the Rector taken from the Ratisbonne Newsletter (March 2010):

Dear Friends

“For see the winter is past, the rains are over and gone. Flowers are appearing on the earth. The season of glad songs has come, the cooing of the turtledove is found in our land.”

With these beautiful words the author of the Old Testament book, “*The Song of Songs*”, describes the departure of winter and the arrival of spring. The last edition of the Ratisbonne Newsletter went to press in late 1 December, a few days after an unusually mild Christmas. Shortly afterwards, temperatures dropped significantly and the months of January and February brought significantly colder weather and some days of heavy rain to Jerusalem. But the last week here has been unseasonably warm and sunny, so it really does feel like “*winter is past*”.

In January, we welcomed three new confreres to our Community. Fr Biju Michael, who had previously belonged to the Guwahati province in north east India, arrived from Rome where he had been completing his doctoral studies. He has taken on the important role as lecturer in Moral Theology. The two 1st Year students from West Africa, Br Paul Turay from Sierra Leone and Br Paul Ajah from Nigeria, who had their first application for Israeli entry visas turned down by the Ministry of the Interior in July 2009, were eventually granted them in December. This was in large part due to the active support of the staff at the Papal Nunciature in Jerusalem, especially the Nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Franco, who has shown himself a great friend of our Community. I am happy to report that Fr Biju, Br Paul and Br Emmanuel have all settled down very well in their new home.

Last week I accompanied four of our students who will be making their final vows this coming summer to the Passionist retreat centre at Bethany for a 24 hour retreat. Bethany was the home of

Jesus' close friends, Martha and Mary and Lazarus, and today the small Passionist Community continues to offer warm hospitality to pilgrims and to those looking for peace and quiet. The grounds of the retreat centre were a mass of colour: a carpet of wild flowers - red anemones and white daisies - spread out under the olive trees. Sadly at the furthest end of the grounds the stark 12 foot concrete slabs of the grey security barrier now separate the retreat centre from the Franciscan Church dedicated to Martha, Mary and Lazarus and the latter's tomb close by. How many stones still need to be rolled back and how many people released from what binds and imprisons them before our world experiences the peace the Risen Jesus came to bring?

May that Risen Jesus bring you and those dearest to you the blessings and graces of Easter 2010. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Francis Preston SDB



MISSION IS A QUESTION OF LOVE

So is God, who is Love, who leads the Church towards the frontiers of humanity and calls the evangelisers to drink from the original source, which is Jesus Christ.

Only from this source can care, tenderness, compassion, hospitality, availability and interest in people's problems be drawn.

POPE BENEDICT XVI'S MESSAGE FOR MISSION SUNDAY

Spring-time poetry (extracts)

How jubilant the happy birds renew
Their old melodious madrigals of love.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!
Bird thou never wert
That from heaven, or near it
Pourest thy full heart
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.

From *To a Skylark* by PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

Within a thick and spreading hawthorn bush
That overhung a molehill large and round
I heard from morn to morn a merry thrush
Sing hymns to sunrise, and I drank the sound.

JOHN CLARE

Now the bright morning Star, day's harbinger,
Comes dancing from the East, and leads with her
The Flowry May, who from her green lap throws
The yellow Cowslip and the pale Primrose.

JOHN MILTON

R. I. P.

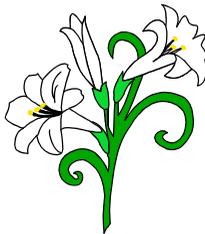


IN MEMORIAM

We pray for the following who died during this past year:

Antonia Petronella Mann
Stella Coward Cockrem
Daniel Thomas Docherty
Hendrick Frank Owczarkowski
Frederick George May
Diana Rosemary Baker
Valerie Elsie Ryan
Kevin Michael Irwin

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. AMEN



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2010

Sunday, 20 June 2010 in two sessions; the first at 10.30 am and the second at 2.30 pm

This is a very special day for our young parishioners, listed below. I am sure we can remember that an important day it was for ourselves in our journey of the faith. We wish them well on their special day.

Nicola Barrett

Evalyn Carty

Matilda Collins

Joseph Dear

Alannah Doherty

Daniel Gallagher

Jonathan Huntley

Grace Lamond

Charlotte MacDonald

Jessica Mint

Dominic Page-Tickell

Lucy Raggett

Sabrina Roman

Lewis Spencer

Aaron Stone

Isabella Tucker

Harvey West

Alice Bonthuys

John Cena

Todd Davison

Takara Dimmick

Thomas Doherty

Magdalena Horos

Saleem Kaa

Niamh Lavos

Theodore Maher Williams

James Mulholland

Joseph Raggett

Hanna Roman

Seth Roman

Emma Staunton

Jennifer Storey

Sam Walker

Max Wilson



CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES 2010

Tuesday 25 May 2010, 7.00 pm

A little explanation:

Confirmation is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ. It confers the gifts of the Holy Spirit (grace, strength and courage) upon the recipient, who must be a baptised person. The Bishop normally performs this rite, which includes the laying on of hands and anointing the forehead with chrism.

Ben Adams

Hayley Allingham

Taryn Attfield

Gemma Crean

Kieran Egan

Joshua Hatt

Ellen Howard

Ayshea Kaa

Therese Page-Tickell

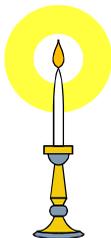
Louise Raggett

Louis Staniland

Benjamin Stone

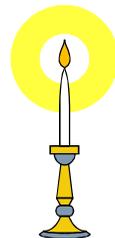
Tom Vickers

Ruth Webster



For the children receiving Confirmation and First Holy Communion, and for all our young parishioners, overleaf is a rather special interpretation of '**A GOOD BOOK**' written by:

St John Bosco.



A GOOD BOOK

[St John Bosco]

A good book can enter homes
where no priest may ever go.
Those in doubt will take it as a gift,
or possibly a souvenir.
There's no embarrassment in giving it,
no obligation for anyone to read.
When it's read, it calmly teaches truth.
If ignored, there's no harm done,
except possibly a lingering regret, which may,
one day, spark a desire to know the truth
which the book is always there to teach.
At times, the book may gather dust, lying on a table,
or in a bookcase, for the moment just forgotten.

Come a time, however,
of loneliness, of sadness, of just sheer boredom,
of anxiety about the future, of need for some escape,
then this half-forgotten book casts off its dust,
becomes a faithful friend,
opens up some new horizons,
perhaps, as in St Augustine's case,
may even lead to conversion.

A good book is polite with those afraid of it,
for it speaks to them,
without a hint of any suspicion.
With other people, it becomes a friend indeed,
ready to talk things over,
to accompany them, anywhere, at any time.

In a family, the recipient may never read it,
but a son or daughter, or perhaps a friend,
or a neighbour, might welcome it.

In a village, it may pass from hand to hand,
befriend a hundred villagers or more.
In a city, God alone knows the good a book produces.
Borrowed from a library,
bought in a bookshop,
found at the side of a hospital bed,
it becomes a welcome friend.

IGNATIUS LOYOLA 1491-1554

The making of a saint (or – The dangers of reading good books)

Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam

He arrived in Paris in February 1528 and attached himself to the College of Montaigu. (John Calvin had left a few years before and Erasmus had suffered as a victim of its regime.) Ignatius had two major problems – money and study.

FINANCE

Friends in Barcelona had given him a bill of exchange for 25 gold crowns. He cashed it but unfortunately entrusted the money to a fellow-countryman who spent it on private pleasures and ran off. (Later Ignatius learnt that the thief lay sick and friendless in Rouen which is the capital of Normandy, on the river Seine, about 75 miles from Paris. He walked there fasting and arrived on the third day. He gave the patient help and arranged for him to be shipped back to Spain.)

He tried to obtain work as a college servant but his age and limp went against him. Now destitute, he was advised to beg for alms from Spanish merchants in Flanders.

Little is known of these and later expeditions to the Netherlands except that he visited Antwerp and Bruges and met the notorious scholar Vives. He also crossed to England once and “received more alms than in all the previous years”. Most of the alms he collected from his contacts in Spain, Flanders and England were deposited with a Paris banker as a fund for poor scholars.

STUDY AND FRIENDS

At first, because he lacked enough money, he had to lodge in a poor house governed by a curfew from dusk to dawn and was thus prevented from attending morning and evening lectures. Instruction at Montaigu was brutal and Ignatius learned there “the tender and paternal care for the health of his spiritual children”. Even so, he learnt basic Latin and then, with the help of the alms he had collected, joined the college of Sainte-Barbe as an internal student and began the study of the philosophy of Aristotle.

He shared a room with Pierre Favre and the athletic Francis Xavier. Since Ignatius had fought against the Xavier family and had been accused several times of heresy,

Francis was initially cautious of friendship. In 1533, Diego Laynez (21) and Alfonso Salmeron (18), who had been fellow students with Ignatius at Alcala, came to Paris and met him on the street. They soon became his disciples and were joined by Nicholas Bobbadilla and Simon Rodrigues.

One fellow student, Jerome Nadal, was suspicious fearing “one day they might fall into the hands of the Inquisition” but ten years later found his vocation with the Society.

At Easter 1534, Ignatius outshone his disciples and graduated Master of Arts of Paris. He and his disciples agreed that when they were all ordained they would try to go to Jerusalem to preach the Gospel. If that endeavour proved impossible, they would go to Rome and offer their services to the Pope and would go anywhere he sent them.

They decided to bind themselves, and on the feast of the Assumption 1534 at a ruined chapel on Montmartre took vows of poverty and chastity at a Mass celebrated by Favre. They took a few days holiday and Francis took the Spiritual Exercises in this period. Though living apart, their daily life consisted of mutual visits and small festive meals, examination of conscience twice a day, and weekly Confession and Communion.

At the new university term they started the study of theology which Ignatius had already started. However, after 18 months study, his health broke down and he decided to try the effects of native air and return to Spain. His intention was to atone for his sins, make peace with his friends and relations, inform the families of his disciples and then join them in Venice where they would meet him at the end of their studies. So in the spring of 1535, mounted on a pony they had bought him, he set off for Spain.

TO BE CONTINUED Adapted by Chris Gregory
(Source: James Brodrick SJ “The Origin of the Jesuits” – first published 1840)



I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Something to smile about

Two silk worms had a race.
They ended up in a tie.

A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab centre said:
'Keep off the Grass.'

THE HOLY CROSS AND MOST HOLY REDEEMER

THE HOLY SEE has this week released the details of the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum Coetibus* establishing ‘*Personal Ordinariates*’ for Anglican bishops, priests and lay people who wish to become full members of the Catholic Church in communion with Rome, while retaining important aspects of their Anglican spiritual tradition through a Governing Council, half of which is elected by the priests of the Ordinate. The Apostolic Constitution itself deals only with aspects of the canonical structures of authority and discipline and, apart from marriage, does not go into the details of Anglican practice which may be retained by the Governing Council. An ‘*ordinate*’ is a similar canonical structure to that of a religious order or ‘*personal prelature*’, like Opus Dei, or of groups of expatriate Catholic Eastern Rite Churches living in this country. It is ‘*personal*’ if it is administered under a personal authority, e.g. a Bishop or Superior General.

The Apostolic Constitution is at first sight surprisingly generous and open in form. The ‘*Ordinary*’ may be a married former Anglican bishop or priest approved by the Holy See, and would *ex officio* be a member of the national Episcopal Conference, following its directives provided that these are consistent with *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, and should maintain close ties with local diocesan bishops. These may release diocesan priests to assist the Ordinate where this is convenient. He has authority to incardinate former Anglican clergy and candidates for ordination and to receive and confirm former Anglicans into congregations of the Ordinate. The Governing Council’s consent is required for admission into Holy Orders, and with special papal consent this may include married men, provided that these did not originally leave the Catholic Church to marry or that they are not in ‘*irregular*’ marriages.

In general, Ordinariates must be self-funding, but can expect Episcopal Conferences to assist, and priests of the Ordinate may be permitted to engage in secular professions to supplement their income wherever necessary, provided these professions are compatible with their ministry.

The scheme itself may not be as damaging to ecumenism as the manner in which it was introduced. It does present an embryonic structure of possible Anglican-Catholic unity which is not light years away from our own shared agreement between St Andrew’s (C of E) and Holy Cross (RC). But as Cardinal Murphy-O’Connor has recently wisely commented, “Full communion in the complete sense can only be something we strive for and hope for and perhaps will only be fully realised in the Kingdom of God. Here on earth the Church will only be a pilgrim church, struggling with tensions and schisms.”

THE HOLY CROSS & MOST HOLY REDEEMER

ST GEORGE'S DAY has once again inspired our usual annual English debate about celebrating our English identity with an English national holiday in the same way that St Patrick's Day is celebrated by the Irish, St David's by the Welsh, Burns Night by the Scots, etc. The mainstream parties are by no means against the idea, as they would like politically to rescue national 'flag' celebrations from extreme right groups like the National Front.

The real problem is twofold. First, who or what should be celebrated? St George was adopted by Richard I as the patron of the English army together with the crusading emblem of the red cross as an eventual result of the victory of the king and his army over the Saracens at the siege of Antioch, a victory which was ascribed to St George, who was reputed to have been seen in a vision during the siege. As governments do not wish to alienate any ethnic minorities (Moslems above all) in their choice to celebrate English national identity, choosing to celebrate the patron of a victorious crusading army over the Moslem Saracens for an English national day could seem both provocative and divisive, and would in particular be exploited by the extreme right.

St George himself was real enough, though the whole dragon myth associated with him was invented centuries after his martyrdom at Lydda around 303 AD in the reign of the Emperor Diocletian. George may well have been a soldier, but what little is now known about him is only his martyrdom, and even this has to be disentangled from legends about his death. Henry V's invocation of St George before the battle of Agincourt in 1415 led to his official acceptance as patron saint of England.

Secondly, who exactly does claim to be English now? St Edward the Confessor, the last Saxon king before the Norman conquest together with the earlier St Edmund, king and martyr of East Anglia, had previously been recognised as the patron saints of England, and even after Agincourt they were not entirely displaced. They became gradually eclipsed during the later Middle Ages, when St George became especially venerated as the knightly personification of all the medieval ideals of Christian chivalry. This is of course not the kind of ideal that would universally appeal to the modern inhabitants of England, and one diplomatic solution might be to celebrate William Shakespeare's birthday instead as it is in fact St George's Day. But there may be political dangers in awakening an English national identity at all at the very time that Scots and Welsh nationalists are busily seeking further excuses to divide up the whole United Kingdom.



The Mobile Pope

After getting all of Pope Benedict's luggage loaded into the limo, (and he doesn't travel light), the driver notices the Pope is still standing on the curb. 'Excuse me, Your Holiness,' says the driver, 'Would you please take your seat so we can leave?'

'Well, to tell you the truth,' says the Pope, 'they never let me drive at the Vatican when I was a cardinal, and I'd really like to drive today.'

'I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job! What if something should happen?' protests the driver, wishing he'd never gone to work that morning.

'Who's going to tell?' says the Pope with a smile.

Reluctantly, the driver gets in the back as the Pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver quickly regrets his decision when, after exiting the airport, the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 205 kph. (Remember, the Pope is German..)

'Please slow down, Your Holiness!' pleads the worried driver, but the Pope keeps the pedal to the floor until they hear sirens. 'Oh, dear God, I'm going to lose my license - and my job!' moans the driver. The Pope pulls over and rolls down the window as the cop approaches, but the cop takes one look at him, goes back to his motorcycle, and gets on the radio.

'I need to talk to the Chief,' he says to the dispatcher. The Chief gets on the radio and the cop tells him that he's stopped a limo going 205 kph. 'So bust him,' says the Chief.

'I don't think we want to do that, he's really important,' said the cop. The Chief exclaimed, 'All the more reason!'

'No, I mean really important,' said the cop with a bit of persistence. The Chief then asked, 'Who do you have there, the mayor?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'A senator?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'The Prime Minister?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

'Well,' said the Chief, 'who is it?'

Cop: 'I think it's God!'

The Chief is even more puzzled and curious, 'What makes you think it's God?'

Cop: 'His chauffeur is the Pope!'

*B*enedictine public school opens its doors to girls

One of the last bastions of Catholic boys' education in Britain has decided to opt for co-education.

Worth School, an independent boys school in Sussex founded by the Benedictines, has announced that it will be admitting girls in a phased plan from 2008.

Girls will initially join the school as boarders and day pupils in the sixth form and, from 2010, will join the school at ages 11, 12 and 13.

In a statement the school said the decision had been made following a lengthy study and consultation with parents, staff and boys.

"We want girls as well as boys to benefit from the distinctive Benedictine education and the unique atmosphere of Worth", said Mr Peter Armstrong, headmaster.

Christina Farrell, reporter

School News

ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Whitefriars, Avenue Road, Farnborough
Hampshire GU14 7BW Telephone: 0252 542511



Spring Term at St Patrick's

So, the snow finally melted and after a couple of false starts, the Spring Term got underway at last! Although this is the shortest term of the year, it certainly has not felt like it. Our Year Six children kick started their topic on "Greeks" with a visit to the British Museum to see the Elgin Marbles and will celebrate the end of SATs with a Greek style fun day. Following this, Year 5 have also visited Milestones Museum and dressed in style for a "Victorian Day", culminating in their own great

exhibition where they served Victorian-style refreshments that they had made themselves.

Not to be outdone by Simon Cowell and co, our children have been busy proving that “St Patrick’s got Talent!”. House captains organised a superb showcase, when we were treated to comedy, ballroom dancing, magic and music, to name but a few. The teachers were amazed at the variety of the acts and professionalism of the children! Talent was also evident in other areas, with a fantastic entry in the Hampshire schools dance challenge and success in athletics and boys and girls football. This term also saw the return of our inter-house music competition, won by St Catherine for the second year running. Our esteemed judges, Mrs Maureen Panther and Mr John Loader, found the competition very close and had a very difficult job on their hands. Thanks again for your enthusiastic support!

Year 4 have continued with the Hampshire initiative “ Listen2Me”: a music programme consisting of a term each of singing, recorder and violin. The standard of the children’s singing has improved enormously, as was evident in “Easter Children” - Year 3 and 4’s moving Paschal Performance during Holy Week. The quality of the children’s presentation of the Passion of Christ was commented on by all who came to see it and we were very proud of our actors and choir.

In Key Stage One, the infants have had an enjoyable term: we saw all manner of characters arrive one morning when the children were invited to dress up as characters from traditional tales and nursery rhymes! The little ones also celebrated St Patrick’s day in style – after Mass in the morning, there were green cakes and green lemonade, with singing and even some Irish dancing. The Easter Bunny also visited school in the last week of term and after extensive searches in the grounds, chocolate eggs were found in the most unlikely places!

The final term stretches in front of us now: sports day, reports and leavers assembly all beckon. Our beautiful site comes into its own during the summer term and the better weather means that the children can enjoy some outdoor lessons and activities.

Kate Licence



ALL HALLOWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL and Sixth Form College FARNHAM

It has been a busy and productive start to the new year at All Hallows. We have record numbers of students in the main school and the sixth form college, boosted by 26 Italians who are studying A-levels with us for a year. Their presence has been a great asset to the school and we will be welcoming a further forty compatriots next September!

Our Year 8s have been having their 'AWAYDAYS' at Wonersh seminary this term. The theme is 'Friendship' as we explore the different ways in which a tutor group can grow in trust, mutual support and community building. We are grateful to the seminarians who came in to share their vocation stories and for Q&A afterwards. It was a golden opportunity as one of the units in their RE programme is Vocation.

Deacon John Edwards has joined us to conduct Lenten Reconciliation services for every Year Group. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was available for students after the Service.

Six of our Sixth Formers have been commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers to serve the school after training sessions by our chaplain, Sr Marguerite. Congratulations to Antonia Perez, George Simpson, Sinead Gibbons, Saksia Schular, Richard Fisher and Maxmiliano Perez.

On the charity front, our students have risen to amazing heights of generosity. The final total for the Crisis at Christmas appeal was over £2600 and a cheque for that amount was presented to Mr Russell Sedman, who is one of the Community Ambassadors who represent CRISIS. He attended a Year 8 assembly to receive a giant cheque from 6th form student Emily Ainge. She had been very active, with other members of her tutor group, and their tutor Mrs Rice, in raising £167 towards the total. Their programme included a sponsored sleepover in the 6th form common room. Mr Sedman spoke to the audience of Year 8 students, who themselves raised over £500 towards the total, and said he was overwhelmed by the amount of money the school had raised. The students listened attentively as Mr Sedman told them how he had spent years on the streets himself, until his life had been turned

round through the help of others. He explained that Crisis enables people to have another chance and to receive training and support to get back into everyday life.

Like the rest of the world, we tried to do our part to help those affected by the Haiti earthquake. We were challenged to raise another £2,000, Our students did us proud and we reached three times that amount with around £6,000 when all the monies are in! Well done everyone!

The Dance Show on 2nd and 4th March was a credit to our many students and their various cultural backgrounds and their great talent. Items included Irish dancing with beautiful costumes, ballet, traditional Nepalese dances, Break Dance and a Remix of various music. All present had a most enjoyable evening.

This term also witnessed our annual Spring Concert on 17th and 18th March with performances by over 180 young musicians. Featured were the Samba Band, Flute Punch, MJQ, Folk Band, String Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Big Band, Girls' Choir, Marimba Band, Rock Experience, Jazz Band, Concert Band and a Solo Violin performance by Francesca Piazza, our Year 12 exchange student from Italy, which drew a standing ovation. Well done everyone!

Sr Marguerite Wong, Chaplain



FARNBOROUGH HILL
E D U C A T I N G T H E W H O L E P E R S O N



The caring face of academic excellence

Highlights from the Easter Term

HALF ENERGY DAY aimed to raise awareness of the over-use of energy and encourage good ecological habits nationally. Farnborough Hill Sixth Formers, together with Mrs Chapman, initiated the Half Energy Day (HED) with the slogan 'Use your HED to make a difference!', following

their successful presentation at the Student Earth Summit in the O₂ arena. This national campaign even had Prince Charles sending his congratulations and wishing us well with spreading the word! On 24 March everyone was asked to halve their energy usage by sharing lifts, turning down heating and spending half as much time on the computer with the message – ‘Together we can make a difference’.

RETREAT WEEK at Farnborough Hill saw Years 7 to 11 each taking a day off timetable. Run by the SPEC team from St Albans, these retreat days were thought-provoking, challenging and entertaining. They offered the girls the chance to look at issues that may face them; presented them with the opportunity to deepen their relationship with God and with others and also offered them the chance to reflect on themselves.

WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION was the Wizard of Oz with a new and spectacular storybook design concept, which brought to life Dorothy’s lively imagination as she dreamt her adventures in Oz. A giant book unfolded and the different locations and settings were revealed, moving from a dull black, white and blue Kansas to an exciting, vibrant and fluorescent Oz. A cast of thousands, and spectacular costumes, added to another signature show from the Farnborough Hill thespians!

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Ellen McLoughlin spoke with sincerity and charm on her witty topic of ‘Global warming is frightening the children’ to win first place for Farnborough Hill at the Catenian Public Speaking competition. Senior team Lizzie Nash, Lucy Sparks and Tegwen Gabb, won first prize in the Farnham Rotary Area Final. In her original speech ‘Curiosity killed the Cat’, Tegwen presented a highly intelligent, intriguing and fluent exploration of her view on the need for curiosity in life. Coach Mrs Winch-Johnson says ‘They are wonderful ambassadors for the school and epitomize Farnborough Hill girls’ warmth, joy and involvement in school life.’

SPORTING SUCCESS included in netball the Year 7 A team becoming district champions, the Year 9 A team being silver medalists and the Year 9 B team winning the ‘best B team’ award. In running Georgia Peel became world champion in the 1,000 m. She is a real inspiration to all our students and particularly our other young athletes.

Clare Duffin, Development Director, Farnborough Hill



SALESIAN COLLEGE FARNBOROUGH

PRESS RELEASE

Salesian College produced one of the first school productions of Hairspray!

Salesian College in Farnborough recently performed Hairspray to more than 900 people and received a standing ovation on all three nights. Those who attended the show saw a truly memorable production. Daniella Richardson who played Tracy Turnblad was a strong leading lady and Thomas Curran was a very impressive Edna Turnblad.

Salesian College is one of the first schools in the country to be allowed to put on the production 'Hairspray'. The school had to go through a rigorous application procedure, having to meet a number of strict criteria to host the production.

Hairspray, which has just finished in the West End and is now on a UK tour, is set in Baltimore, USA in 1962. The show follows a plus-sized teenager Tracy Turnblad as she has a dream of making Baltimore integrated in a time when Black and White people were segregated.

Mr Ian Berryman, Director of the school production and Head of Drama and Theatre Studies, said "We are very fortunate to be one of the first schools in the country to put on a production of Hairspray. The students worked extremely hard on a very ambitious project."

Lorraine Stewart, Promotions Officer, Salesian College

