

White Canons Newsletter

February 2008



Dear Benefactor,

Our Solemn Novena of Grace in honour of St. Francis Xavier, the Apostle of the Indies, begins on March 4th and once again I write to invite you to take part. With the leaflet for the Novena of Grace I am also sending you details of our **Annual Novena of Masses in honour of St. Joseph for the Return of the Lapsed to the Practice of their Faith.** It begins on April 23rd. Most, if not all of us, have family members who are lapsed or alienated from the Church, so let us use this time of intercession that they may receive the grace and courage to return to the Church and cherish their faith.

If you are intending to join in these Novenas, we ask that you send in your petitions on the Novena slips which contain your name and address and which are provided with this mailing.

We will not reply to your kind letter unless you request it. A stamped addressed envelope would be a help. Thank you for your kind offering supporting our work; all our kind benefactors are included in our daily Masses and prayers. May your spiritual pilgrimage through Lent bring you to the joy of Easter and strengthened faith in the Risen Lord.

Mass Intentions are always welcome; please let us know the date(s) on which you would like your Mass(es) to be celebrated.

Father Andrew Smith, o.praem.

CANONS REPORT

We ended our last Chronicle by telling you that we were preparing to celebrate 125 years of Norbertine presence in Storrington with Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. The celebration on 24th.

September was magnificent with the Cardinal concelebrating Mass with priests from our Diocese and deanery with a number of deacons assisting. The Church was packed out with parishioners and everyone feeling so happy at the home coming of the Cardinal who had lived in Storrington for 23 years whilst he was Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. The Mass saw the premier performance of a new Mass setting commissioned for the occasion from Marty Haugen, the well known liturgical music composer.

A couple of days earlier on the 22nd. the Chaplains from H.M.P. Lewes held a meeting and lunch at the Priory, our Fr. Martin is the Catholic Chaplain. The following day, 25th. Frs. Andrew and Martin attended the local ecumenical Clergy Fraternal. The weekend of 29th./30th. saw Fr. Andrew celebrating the Masses in his other parish of Billingshurst with Pulborough to mark the titular celebration of the Parish Church of St. Gabriel.

During the week of October 1st. Fr. Andrew welcomed, each day, a different class from Year 7 at St. Philip Howard High School. They were having an away day at the Priory, one of the aims was to get to know their Year Chaplain. That week Fr. Martin attended the Provincial Bursars' Conference at Hoddesdon in Herts. To mark the Silver Jubilee of the Association the Papal Nuncio was to celebrate Mass but being delayed on the M25 Fr. Martin was invited to preside. For the rest of the Conference he was known as the "Substitute Nuncio"! On October 5th. Fr. Prior Paul went to Chatsmore Catholic High School near Worthing to give some input to Year 10. On the 10th. Fr. Paul gave a Day of recollection to members of the Union of Catholic Mothers at Sayers Common Priory. The same day Fr. Martin went to Worth Abbey to attend the funeral of the wife of the parish deacon, who is also the Priory's accountant. She had died in tragic circumstances. May she rest in the Lord's eternal peace. The following day saw the turn of the Catholic Prison Chaplains from our diocese to come for a meeting and lunch. On the 19th., The Solemnity of St. Philip Howard, Fr. Andrew celebrated the Year 7 Inaugural

Mass at the High School named in his honour. On the 20th. Fr. Paul represented all of us at the farewell Mass for the Parish Priest of Bognor Regis who had just moved to a smaller parish in the diocese so as to take up his new role of Vicar General. October 20th. saw the beginning of the planning of trees to make a woodland. Over 200 trees were planted in two weeks by Fr. Paul with help from our Associates and friends. The 27th. saw Frs. Paul and Ian attending a Day for Religious at Worth Abbey; the chief speaker was Cardinal Cormac. The end of the month saw Frs. Paul and Andrew attending a Catenian Association Clergy Night Dinner in Worthing.

On November 1st. Fr. Paul celebrated the Holy Day Mass at Cardinal Newman Catholic School in Hove and on the 4th. he held a meeting with our Priory Associates after which Fr. Andrew led the Prayers of the Dead at our Cemetery. The following day Fr. Andrew went over to Waldron in East Sussex to lead a discussion about the religious Life with the Visitation Sisters. On the 7th. he gave a Day of Recollection at the Priory to the Union of Catholic Mothers of the Diocese. Fr. Martin represented the Priory at the Requiem Mass on 16th. October in Arundel Cathedral for Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville, the former Archbishop of

Birmingham who was a priest of our diocese and who lived in retirement in nearby Horsham. On the 16th. Fr. Paul attended a meeting of the Council of Religious for our diocese. On the 22nd. we welcomed the music group from our parish who helped us to celebrate Vespers in honour of St. Cecilia and afterwards we all enjoyed a celebration supper.

December saw the Community helping out with Advent Confessions in the schools and parishes of the area. The Priory hosted the Carol Concert of the local Scouts and Cubs and the Christmas Party of our diocesan Lourdes Office which is situated at the bottom of our garden. The big event, apart from Christmas (of course), was another celebration in honour of our 125 years in Storrington held on December 18th. This time it was the turn of the Order to be invited as well as the religious of our Diocese. The principal guest was His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Faustino Sainz Munoz. The principle celebrant was Fr. Prior Paul and the preacher was our Abbot General from Rome. The Abbots of Tongerlo (Belgium) and Berne (Holland) attended together with confreres from Germany, France and America. Sadly the Abbot of Frigolet fell ill just before he was due to depart his abbey in Provence. It was the confreres from there who first came to

Storrington. Once the guests had all departed little time was left to prepared for Christmas but it was celebrated well both in Church and in the refectory! The Christmas Day Mass in Lewes Prison, celebrated by Fr. Martin, was attended by a record number of prisoners and visitors including the High Sheriff of East Sussex.

In January Fr. Paul led members of our Associates and other helpers to prune the vines. They met in the vineyard on Saturday mornings and had an al fresco lunch! On the 15th. Fr. Paul attended another meeting of the Council of Religious and on the 21st. he, with others, began to plant more trees so that now there are about 500 in the woodland. On the 21st. Fr. Andrew returned to Waldron to continue discussions with the Visitandines and on the 24th. he and Fr. Martin went to Arundel Cathedral to attend the priestly ordination of a former Anglican clergyman who is stationed at the cathedral. On the 28th., after Fr. Martin returned from a weekend

saying Masses in Eastbourne, Fr. Paul went off to Swanwick in Derbys. to attend the Annual Conference of Religious (Superiors).

We end with us all preparing for the celebration of Lent. The day after Ash Wednesday Fr. Andrew will receive the local Rector of West Chiltington into Full Communion with Catholic Church.

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The Norbertine Order.

Anyone paying United Kingdom tax can Gift Aid their donations and Mass Stipends sent to Storrington. The Order can recover 28% extra. Contact Fr Martin, the Bursar, for details.

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