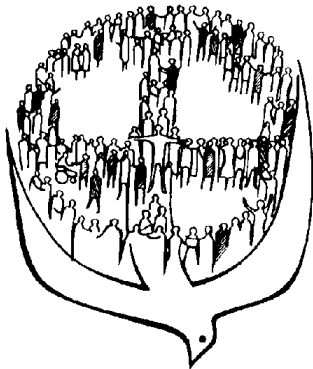


Our Lady of England, Storrington.
WHITE CANONS

February 2010

This issue of White Canons introduces our next two Novenas: the first to St. Francis Xavier (from March 4th-13th) and the other in honour of St. Joseph for lapsed Catholics (April 23rd - May 1st).



St. Francis Xavier was a 16th century Jesuit missionary who brought the Gospel to India, Japan and other places in the East Indies. He and his companions had to face the challenges of cultural and language differences but they persevered. In 1962 White Canons from the Abbey of Berne in Holland started a mission to India and today there are more than 200 Norbertines in India, one of whom was Rt. Rev Theophane Thannickunnel O.Praem., who visited Storrington in 1988 to ordain the retired Major General Sir Hamish Campbell to the priesthood in our Order. Fr. Hamish O.Praem., died in 1993 and is buried in our cemetery.

Catholics and other Christians today are a persecuted minority in parts of India where the majority are either Hindu or Moslem. The recent terrorist bombs in Mumbai (Bombay) were a serious threat to the Norbertines who have parishes in the city.

When we take part in this Novena in honour of St. Francis Xavier we should also pray for religious tolerance in the world. Christ warned his disciples to expect persecution and they do so "in memory of Him" who was also persecuted and martyred. Ours is a church of martyrs and we in England can thank God for the openness with which we can practice our Catholic faith.

The Novena Prayers can be found on the next page.

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Introductory Novena Prayer

Almighty God,
Father of mercies,
and giver of all good gifts,
we come before you in honour of your servant
and ask his help in our many needs.
You promised those who asked would receive and those
who knocked would have doors open to them.
Hear the prayers of your Church and grant
the requests we make
as we trust in your love for us. AMEN.

We suggest at this point you spend some quiet time in prayer, offering to God the intention for which you are making the Novena.

For St Francis Xavier add

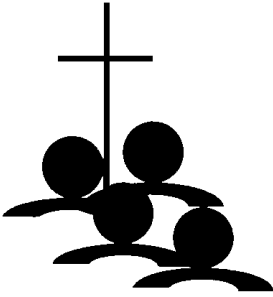
Lord God,
by the preaching of St. Francis Xavier
you brought many nations to yourself.
Give his zeal for the faith to all who believe in you that
your Church may rejoice in continued growth throughout
the world.
May this prayer fill us with the same love that
inspired St. Francis Xavier to work for the salvation of all.
Help us to live up to our Christian calling and to inherit the
promise of eternal life.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. AMEN.

For St Joseph add

Loving God,
pour out your mercy on us
and through the prayers of St. Joseph
soften the hearts of those who have turned away from you.
Take away their restlessness and help them to return
to your path of peace so that their lives may shine with faith,
hope and love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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The annual Novena to St. Joseph is offered for lapsed Catholics. A ‘lapse’ is a “drop in standards” and lapsed Catholics no longer see the importance, or even the point, of going to Mass or the Sacraments. Each person will have his or her reason for not practising the faith.

Some disagree with parts of the Church’s teaching; others ‘grow out of it’ thinking that going to Mass is something you stop doing when you’ve grown up

Whatever the reason (or excuse), we White Canons have an annual Novena to St. Joseph for lapsed Catholics. Why St Joseph? In God’s plan of Salvation St. Joseph was chosen to be the husband of Mary, herself chosen to be the Mother of the Son of God when He became man. Joseph was a working man with a carpenter’s business and he became the foster-father and guardian of the child Jesus. He was a good man, a devout Jew who knew all the Old Testament writings about a future Messiah..Together with his wife Mary he made sure that Jesus had a secure and loving home.

In 1847 Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph the Guardian of the Church. We pray to him that through his intercession the spark of light will rekindle the baptismal candle of those who have let it go out. St. Joseph had a faith so strong that even if he didn’t always understand God’s plan for him, he always said “Yes” to it just as his wife had done. The Church needs parents with strong faith to give their children a loving Christ-centred home.

PRIORY NEWS



The White Canons at Our Lady of England Priory continue their lives of

prayer and apostolate. It has been a time of upheaval. Work on the demolition and refurbishment of the Refectory is due to be finished in February when the final touches will make the Refectory and outside terrace a much-improved part of the building.

Days of prayer and special spiritual events took place in Advent and the Christmas period. In October, as part of our liturgical development, we welcomed to the Priory Marty Haugen, a leading composer of modern liturgical music, who has composed a special Mass for Our Lady of England. It's time now to start preparing Lent and Easter liturgies, events and opportunities.

The Vineyard we planted on two of our fields bore fruit last autumn and those who are interested in our Priory Life helped us pick the grapes. The harvest amounted to 1,362 kilos of Pinot Noir red grapes and 2,627 kilos of Chardonnay white grapes. In total this will produce almost 2,500 litres of wine. The process is being handled by the Wiston Estate Winery in the local North Farm.

In September, Fr. Andrew Smith moved from Storrington; he has now taken up parish duties in Thirsk. Fr. Ian McLean came from convalescence in Worthing to rejoin the community. Fr. Martin Gosling combines work as Parish Priest of Storrington and chaplain to Lewes Prison. Our Prior Fr. Paul MacMahon coordinates our prayer and apostolate as well as his other responsibilities as Major Superior which took him to meetings in Rome last

September.

We have just created a Prayer and Spirituality Library in the former Priory Shop for the use of parishioners, friends, visitors and benefactors: this is an annex to the current Priory Library.

As always the White Canons are at the service of the local community and the diocese of Arundel & Brighton and beyond. We are grateful for your prayers and generous support.

Fr Ian McLean, o.praem, Editor

If you pay UK tax it makes sense to Gift Aid it. Each £1.00 received is worth a further 28p. If you are interested in the scheme please get in touch with our Bursar, Fr Martin.

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Please make cheques etc payable to: The Norbertine Order*

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