



Northampton Diocesan News

New manager for CAFOD

Deborah takes over the reins in Northampton

Page 3



Celebrating our Faith

How to pass on what we believe

Page 4



Schools mark the Year of Faith

Gathering shows generous giving

Page 6



New sheriff rides out

Gerrards Cross parishioner takes over City

Page 7



FREE Every Month

Faith for the Future



A Message for Christmas



It feels like I spend more time on the M1 and the M40 than in Bishop's House where I live and work. With the people based in the offices there and in Luton, I am looking forward to another year of service in the Diocese. At Christmas the house becomes a family home. I am really blessed to have my sister and brother-in-law, their children and their grandchildren staying with me. The young children have great fun playing hide and seek. After Midnight Mass and a morning Mass in one of the prisons, I look forward to Christmas lunch with a clockwork railway train running round the dining room table. Very much in my thoughts and prayers are all of you, the Diocesan family, parishioners, young and old, religious and

deacons, and especially our priests. From time to time I have been on my own at Christmas. It can be very lonely. Without overdoing it, with respect and dignity, look out for the many people at Mass with you and in your area who are home alone. When I kneel at the crib, I see how God reaches out to us in the birth of his Son. It is amazing love. May we reach out beyond ourselves as disciples of Jesus as the New Year approaches. With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

+Peter
Bishop of Northampton

Pupils from the six Catholic schools in Milton Keynes celebrate the ending of the Year of Faith with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Simon Penhaligan at Thornton College.

For the full story see page 3.

WINTER EVENT
NOW ON

SAVE ££££'s
IN SEASONAL REDUCTIONS

UP TO **4,000 CARS**
TO CHOOSE FROM

Autosave... Serving the Christian community for over 30 years

autosave **autosave.co.uk**

Or Call 0845 122 6910

Cars shown for illustration only. Autosave, Trax Park, Doncaster, DN4 5PD



Vatican

With his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis gives the world not only a guide to the “new evangelization” but also an outline of his plans for Church reform—the program for his pontificate.

Evangelii Gaudium [“The Joy of the Gospel”], released to the public on November 26, is a lengthy document, in which the Holy Father does his utmost to scan the entire field of Church missionary activity from every perspective. But he continually returns to a few central themes. Evangelization, the Pope insists, is the very essence of the Church’s mission. The drive to share the Good News of the Gospel is fueled—as the title of this apostolic exhortation suggests—by the joy that believers find in their faith. Today, the Church must convey that joy to a troubled world.

As he makes this argument, Pope Francis also gives readers a clear sense of how he intends to approach his task of bringing reform to the Vatican, and promoting constructive change in the universal Church. His plan is to encourage a new sense of urgency, to pare down bureaucratic structures and attitudes. In a sentence that encapsulates his approach to reform, he writes: “Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: “We have always done it this way.”

Pope Francis says that the fundamental reform the Church needs is from one of self-preservation of Church structures to a permanent state of mission.

Compostela



Sacred Heart Parish, Flitwick, has arranged an 8 day Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela for the 9th - 16th May, 2014.

They are inviting more pilgrims to join them in the footsteps of St James.

The fully escorted tour includes daily Mass and the opportunity, for those who wish, to walk part of the Camino Way.

Price is £875 per person. Single room supplements £170 per room for the duration of the tour. UK Coach Transfer is £20 - £22 per person depending on numbers.

For full details and information see the parish website: www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk/pilgrimages
Or contact Ros Penn 01525 715936.

Getting into print

Send news reports, photos and other material to the news editor, Mrs Margaret Busby, 1 Bewcastle Close, Bedford, MK41 8BQ; e-mail: vine02@globalnet.co.uk We promise to print your news as soon as we can find space for it.

Material should be e-mailed whenever possible. If this cannot be done for digital pictures they should be sent to us on disc. Send photographs in jpg format as separate attachments, and not embedded in Word documents. Urgent and dated items should reach us by the first Sunday of the month before publication.

A booklet of advice on writing news reports for The Vine is available on request.

Parental permission must be sought before photographs of minors are sent for publication.

While we accept unsolicited feature articles, we reserve the right to edit the text or not to publish. Letters for publication must include a name and address, which will be omitted by request.

The content of each issue is decided by the editor, Fr. Paul Hardy, email: vine01@bopenworld.com Views expressed in The Vine are not necessarily those of the editors or of the Diocese. The publisher of The Vine, Bellcourt, deals with advertising. Those wishing to place advertisements should telephone 01440 730399. Difficulties with distribution should be referred to Mrs Busby.

Need to find a Church this Christmas?

www.catholicdirectory.org

Philippines

Seven priests of the Archdiocese of Palo were ordained amid the ruins of the typhoon-ravaged Cathedral of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in Nov. 25 ceremonies. Although Super Typhoon Haiyan caused the roof of the 16th-century cathedral to collapse and destroy much of the interior furnishings, Archbishop John Forrosuelo Du decided to ordain the priests in the church as a sign of hope for the Catholic community. The ordination occurred as clergy and hundreds of faithful filled the church in bright sunshine. Blue lightweight coverings strung from the cathedral’s walls provided some shade for the congregation as the new priests vowed to serve the church and God in ministering to the people of the archdiocese. Palo is located a few miles south of Tacloban, the provincial capital of Leyte, one of the provinces scoured by the storm Nov. 8. “We may have lost everything, but our faith is becoming stronger ever. No trial or storm or typhoon can destroy our resolve to have faith in Jesus. And it should be manifested in action,” Father Amadeo Alvero, the archdiocese’s spokesman, told the Asian church news agency UCA News. He said the ordinations served as a “concrete action” to show the people’s faith in God despite the devastation brought about by Typhoon Haiyan that claimed more than 5,200 lives and left millions of people homeless. The new priests will play a major role in helping Catholics reeling from the typhoon’s effects, he added.

Plymouth

Pope Francis has appointed as the new bishop of Plymouth Mgr. Mark O’Toole. Born in a Gaelic speaking part of Ireland and brought up in London, the Bishop-Elect is currently rector of Allen Hall seminary. He said, ‘I am humbled that the Pope has appointed me. I embrace with my whole self this deeper call to service in his Church’.

New Face for CAFOD



Deborah Purfield has been appointed as the new CAFOD Diocesan Manager for Northampton Diocese. She takes over from Frank Sudlow who retired in March 2013. Deborah has come from the health sector, working for the NHS as a Medical Physicist for over 15 years. She has been a CAFOD volunteer for 7 years and in that time has been the deanery co-ordinator for Hertfordshire and has been involved as a schools and campaign volunteer and parish contact. Three years ago Deborah moved with her husband Brian from Hemel

Hempstead in Hertfordshire to Edlesborough near Dunstable. She is an active member of her parish, Sacred Heart in Leighton Buzzard. Deborah sees her main role as engaging with people, parishes, schools organisations and prayer groups across the diocese to continue to promote the work of CAFOD. She is eager to meet and hear from CAFOD volunteers and supporters, parishes and schools and to find out about all the good work being done across the diocese on behalf of CAFOD. She is also very keen to invite and encourage more people to

volunteer with CAFOD. As she says: "It is a great opportunity to meet people in the Catholic community and support a very good cause". When asked about the work of CAFOD, Deborah points out that it is inspired by the care values of the Catholic Church: compassion, hope, dignity and solidarity. "These principles guide our day to day support for the disadvantaged people throughout the world, and underpin our relationships with each other." As she begins this new chapter of her life with CAFOD, Deborah asks for your prayers and your continued

support to make a difference in the fight against poverty and injustice. The Northampton CAFOD office is open from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday. The address is CAFOD Northampton, St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Grange Rd. Northampton NN2 2AY. Deborah warmly welcomes and invites you to get in touch with her, and / or Maddy West (CAFOD Diocesan Officer) on 01604 785254 or you can drop them an email to: northampton@cafod.org.uk



MK Day for Exploring Faith

In October Thornton College School for Girls welcomed over 200 Year 6 pupils from the six Catholic Schools in Milton Keynes, to celebrate the Year of Faith.

During the morning there was an exciting programme, which included ice-breakers, challenge activities and discussion groups, followed by a picnic lunch in the beautiful Thornton College grounds.

The day came to a close with a special Mass for the Year of Faith, celebrated by Father Simon Penhaligan.

All of the children present wrote a prayer for

someone close to them, which they presented at the offertory during the celebratory Mass. As each School left the event, they received a special candle, with a logo for the Year of Faith, to take back as a reminder of the day.

Thornton's Headmistress, Agnes Williams said "Thornton College was delighted to hold this special event for the school children of Milton Keynes, to celebrate the Year of Faith together. It was a wonderful day of exploring faith through a huge variety of activities and an opportunity for the children to work in teams and make new friends."



STONYHURST

*"Dear young people,
do not bury your talents,
the gifts that God has given
you! Do not be afraid to
dream of great things!"*

Pope Francis

ST FRANCIS XAVIER AWARDS

- A minimum of 20%, up to 70% off boarding fees.
- Available at 11+ and 13+ for boarding students who would benefit from a Jesuit Catholic education.

SCHOLARSHIP EXAMS 2014

18th January (11+ Academic and St Francis Xavier Award)
25th January (13+ St Francis Xavier Award)

A Co-educational Catholic Boarding and Day School for 3-18 year olds

01254 827073 admissions@stonyhurst.ac.uk
www.stonyhurst.ac.uk



Stonyhurst Clitheroe Lancashire BB7 9PZ



Small-scale Evangelists

The Diocesan Evangelisation Team is looking ahead to small communities. In 2014 the Diocesan Evangelisation Team will be co-ordinating a meeting to explore the role of Small Communities as a force for evangelisation.

A small number of parishes have already made steps in exploring how parish small communities can be developed and we hope that by sharing experiences and ideas we can support this initiative among those parishes that wish to explore the role of small communities.

Celebrating Our Faith

To mark the Year of Faith Northampton south and west pastoral area organised a day to celebrate our Catholic faith.

The day, held at St Mary's School, Northampton, was aimed at young families. Well known speaker David Wells was invited to talk to young families about opening the door to faith. David inspired, encouraged and entertained his audience which ranged in ages from babes in arms to grandparents, with compelling reflections, anecdotes and humor.

After the talk the children were invited to participate in workshops. Using Godly play encouraged the children to reflect on the parable of the mustard seed; on the symbols of baptism and God our Father, exploring how God and Jesus love us through prayer, craft and music.

Meanwhile the adults had the opportunity to explore exhibitions provided by the parishes and Catholic organisations active in our Pastoral Area.

The climax of the day was the launch of balloons in the playground. We had reports that one of our balloons was found in a farm on the Suffolk/Norfolk border!

The day concluded with everyone gathering for prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction.

The aim of the day was to truly celebrate our faith by encouraging our schools and families to pass on the faith to the younger generation. Our speaker, David Wells, the workshop organisers, and exhibitors all played their part in making the day a success.



Sawston For Sale

One of Britain's most historic Catholic houses has been put on the market for £4.5 million. Sawston Hall, in Cambridgeshire, was owned for centuries by the Huddlestons. It is closely associated with the late Canon Tim Russ, through his mother, and in his school years he always spent part of his summer holiday there. It is now being sold by a married couple, Stephen and Claire Coates, who have used the building as a family home since 2010.

The Sawston Hall Restoration Trust has appealed to any institution or individual who is willing to buy the property in order to protect its historic Catholic heritage. Professor Jack Scarisbrick, Tudor historian and patron of the Trust, said that the historic house was 'one of the most precious Catholic houses in the country, steeped in Catholic and Jesuit history which has a wonderful story to tell. It is a magnificent handsome building and it has wonderful potentialities because of its proximity to Cambridge University'.

Professor Scarisbrick said that if the Trust could raise the funds to purchase the property the upper floor and stables of Sawston Hall could be used to house Catholic graduates, while the ground floor, including the chapel, could be used as a pilgrimage centre. A particular point of interest are the priest-holes, including one with a built-in 16th century toilet. They were designed and built by the Jesuit St. Nicholas Owen, who was later martyred. The Hall was also the hiding place of Queen Mary Tudor, as she hid from the Duke of Northumberland before she claimed the throne.

Closely associated with the attempt to make Sawston a Catholic centre is Woburn Sands parishioner Brian Plunkett, who has recently gained the support of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. 'It would be great', commented Brian, 'if the Vine would write a feature and help us to move quickly to secure Sawston Hall - it has so much history not only for the Diocese of Northampton but also for the wider Catholic Church'.



Laying the Foundations

With hardly time to catch their breath after hosting the Diocesan Mass with the Papal Nuncio, Holy Ghost parish in Luton provided the venue for a study day entitled "Laying the foundations: Infant baptism and beyond."

Bishop Peter and 50 people including 13 priests and 5 deacons representing 21 parishes from across the diocese came to hear Veronica Murphy and Pat Peel from the Liverpool Archdiocese Adult Formation team speak on their experience of a new Baptismal preparation scheme which has been in use for three years.

We were reminded of words of Pope Francis including: "One does not belong to the Church in the same way as one belongs to a society, a team or any other organisation. It is a living bond, like that one has with one's own mother as . . . the Church is truly the mother of all Christians". "A mother does not limit herself to giving life, but rather with great care helps her children to grow; she gives them milk, she nurtures them, she shows them the path of life, she accompanies them . . ."

We began by listing our hopes for the day. There were many recurring themes: the hope that parents would become active members of the Church community; that evangelisation would take place; that a good resource would be demonstrated; that parents would recognise their responsibility. Many other hopes were expressed, but mainly around these themes.

These were similar to the issues that faced Liverpool when their Archbishop asked them to consider restoring the traditional order of the Sacraments of Initiation. (Few people realise that the present sequence of children receiving their First Holy Communion before Confirmation only goes back about 100 years!). However, they came to a point where they realised that restoring the traditional order of the Sacraments of Initiation would not address the problem without a major shift in their understanding of the way in which preparation was given for these Sacraments.

"A major change is needed in the way we celebrate and bear witness to our faith through our sacramental practice. This will require a funda-

mental shift in our approach from merely delivering programmes of preparation to developing opportunities for ongoing celebration and formation for Sacramental living."

Certain key values were identified:

β Appreciating Christian Initiation as a process - that Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation are connected, not isolated

β Family Catechesis - we need to appreciate the value and responsibility of parents, who are the first and most important educators of their children in the ways of faith.

β Recognising the cultural shifts in society, they wanted to invite people into faith rather than use the language of obligation. Parents are adults, and must be treated as such.

In this their thinking was supported by many statements of the then Pope Benedict XVI, and by the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

"If our catechesis is to be effective, it has to start with adults". The ultimate aim in catechesis is to bring people into a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The aim was to produce a resource of adult catechesis for parents seeking baptism for a child, following the RCIA model.

Enquiry, Formation, Rehearsal, The Baptism, Mystagogia - the ongoing formation in the Christian life.

The way in which this works in one particular parish was explored, but it was made clear that the Liverpool programme operates in different ways in different parishes.

The heart of the resource is that the group leaders are the main resource; the materials which the Liverpool team has produced are of a very high quality.

The issues they face are the same as the issues in every parish, and those at the study day certainly were enthused.

One parish, St Joseph at Gerrards Cross had already piloted the programme, and the early results are very positive.

Bishop Peter, in thanking Veronica and Pat spoke of the importance of their approach of connecting with people where they are.



Over 7000 children in the UK are currently waiting for families

Thinking about adoption?

St Francis' Children's Society is an 'Outstanding' rated adoption charity based in Milton Keynes.

We offer lifelong post adoption support to our adoptive families including: counselling, advice and support, therapy, training, workshops and family events.

Our specialist social workers and therapists are on hand to offer support at every step of your adoption journey.

Adoption information evenings
 Wednesday 9 January 2014
 Wednesday 6 February 2014
Starting at 6.30pm ending at 8.00pm

A warm welcome awaits you!

St. Francis' CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

01908 572700
www.sfcs.org.uk email: enquiries@sfcs.org.uk

Venue: St Francis' Children's Society, Collis House, 48 Newport Road, Woolstone, Milton Keynes MK15 0AA.

Ofsted Outstanding 2011 2012
 Registered Charity Number 211670

Gifts Made in Faith Across the World

It was a solemn summons to bring to an end the Year of Faith. It had all the features we have come to expect of the annual schools' Mass. But the celebration at St. Mary's, Dunstable, on November 22 had an air of informality too. Principal concelebrant was Mgr Kevin McGinnell, Episcopal Vicar for Education. Preacher was Mgr James Cronin, Director of Mission, the new name for the Pontifical Mission Societies. He talked about young Anna, in Zambia, whom the children had helped through their fundraising for Mission Together, the new name for the Holy Childhood. 'Because you share the same faith' he said, 'Anna is your sister. She sends her thanks to the children of Northampton. She wants you to pray for all the children of Zambia, and they will pray for you. Through Mission Together you are one of the biggest suppliers of meals to children'. Quoting Cardinal Newman Mgr Cronin reminded the children that God has a purpose and a special plan for each one of us. 'You are links in a chain connecting children throughout the world. Thank you from all the children you are helping'. The schools played their part too. Young musicians from Luton's Cardinal Newman school played with aplomb. The readers from St. Gregory's Middle, Bedford, and St. Anthony's

Primary, Slough, were accomplished. The offertory gifts were carried to the altar by pupils from St. Bernadette's, Milton Keynes, who didn't drop or spill anything. After Holy Communion the schools brought to Mgr Cronin the results of their fundraising. The congregation repeated the words of a prayer by Blessed John Henry Newman, commended by Pope Benedict at his Big Assembly at Twickenham in 2010: God asks me to work together with those who do good. I want to do God's work. I want to do what is good. I want to be his angel of peace. I shall speak his word wherever I am. I will keep his commandments. I trust my God because he knows what he is doing. There was informality too. The health and safety fire directions were less interesting than the directions to the toilets. Two students from one of our secondary schools competed for the chair nearest to the radiator. A young gentleman discovered with interest how to make his whole bench wobble. The celebration may have been about handing over money, but envelopes were carefully made available in which to disguise it. And there was delight when Mgr Cronin discovered a real life Anna in the congregation. A celebration to mark a closure. A closure to celebrate.



Pictures: above, musicians: below, readers: top right, entrance procession: bottom, school representatives bring their gifts to Mgr Cronin.



London's new Catholic Sheriff



Adrian Waddingham CBE has become one of the two Sheriffs of the City of London. Adrian, a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries took up his office as non-Aldermanic Sheriff on the 27th September.

The two new Sheriffs will live in the Old Bailey for their year of office.

When not living in the Old Bailey Adrian's home is in Gerard's Cross, Buckinghamshire.

The office of Sheriff is older than that of the Lord Mayor itself, dating from 1131. The duties of

the Sheriffs are to oversee the smooth-running of the Old Bailey, and ensure the comfort of the judges based there.

The new Lord Mayor is Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE, only the second lady Lord Mayor in the history of the city. She took up office on the 8th November and her election was marked by the colourful Lord Mayor's Parade around the city on Saturday 9th November.

The Sheriffs also attend the Lord Mayor in her official duties. The main object of the Lord Mayor

and the Sheriffs is to promote London's financial services at home and abroad, which are so vital to the health of the UK economy.

Adrian was born in Preston, Lancashire in 1950 and educated at Mount St Mary's College, Derbyshire, and Royal Holloway College at the University of London. He trained as an actuary in Liverpool and became a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries in 1975. He became a Liveryman in 1987 and served as Master Actuary in 2009/2010. He was co-founder of Barnett

Waddingham LLP in 1989. The firm has now become the largest independent firm of actuaries in the UK. In June 2012, Adrian was awarded CBE for services to the actuarial and pensions professions.

Photo: After the Election of the Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE, centre on 30th September with Sheriff Adrian Waddingham, CBE (far right)

Welcome



On Sunday, October 18, Fr. Graham Platt held a Mass at Our Lady's Catholic Church in Chesham Bois.

This was a special occasion, as many children from Our Lady's Catholic Primary school

attended wearing their school uniform. The pupils wanted to show they were proud of being Catholics and were keen to welcome Fr. Graham to his new parish.

Our Lady's is a narrow building with gorgeous stained glass

windows. At the rear of the church is a little cafe providing refreshments after each Mass and allowing parishioners to get to know each other a little better.

Fr. Graham is a delightful smiley priest. He clearly likes

children, and makes people of all ages feel welcome. Our Lady's is a wonderful uplifting church and I definitely recommend it.

*By Olivia Eaton
Year 5*



SAINT GREGORY'S CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

BIDDENHAM TURN, BEDFORD
MK40 4AT
HEADTEACHER MS TOPA
TELEPHONE 01234 268649

OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

AMERSHAM ROAD, AMERSHAM
HP6 5PL
HEADTEACHER MR HOLDSWORTH
TELEPHONE 01494 726390

SAINT GREGORY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

GRANGE ROAD, NORTHAMPTON
NN3 2BD
HEADTEACHER MRS P TURNER
TELEPHONE 01604 403511

SAINT VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

HAMMERSMITH GARDENS,
HOUGHTON REGIS LU5 5RG
HEADTEACHER MRS C LAKE
TELEPHONE 01582 862456

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

MAIN STREET, ASTON LE WALLS, DAVENTRY,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NN11 6UF
HEADTEACHER MRS J HAMILTON
TELEPHONE 01295 660258
ADMISSIONS CLOSING DATE
15TH JANUARY 2014

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL

HAZELL AVENUE, AYLESBURY,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7JF
HEADTEACHER MRS A TAYLOR
TELEPHONE 01296 484618

**IF
YOU WOULD
LIKE TO FILL
THIS SPACE
CALL
01440 730399**



www.stairlifts.co.uk
Find your perfect stairlift solution
Advice • Brochures • Prices
Call now on FREEPHONE
0800 326 5719

Benedict Funeral Directors Limited

A genuine family business managed and owned by a practicing Catholic. Our Chapel of Rest has had Mass celebrated in it.

Serving all of Bedfordshire and North Hertfordshire and other areas on request. 24 hours a day 7 days a week

Office hours 01462 337684
Out of Hours service 07773 563569
Website www.benedictfuneral.co.uk
e-mail peter@benedictfuneral.co.uk

JESUITS in Britain

For information about life as a priest or brother in

the Society of Jesus

please contact
Vocations Promoter
114 Mount Street,
London W1K 3AH
E: vocations@jesuit.org.uk
W: jesuit.org.uk

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE PLEASE CALL SARAH ON 01440 730399

Bishop calls us to action

At the Cathedral on 7 December Bishop Peter spoke of the future of the Diocese. "Our Diocesan Mass has three purposes - one is to celebrate Our Lady's feast of the Immaculate Conception, to pray for us all and to give thanks for the Year of Faith and also the sixth anniversary of *Walking Humbly* with our God. The Father blessed Mary as he blessed no other person. The Father blessed Mary as he blessed the only Son of God who gives us a new direction and a new horizon. With confidence I presented *Walking Humbly* to the Diocese six years ago this weekend. We now have thirteen pastoral areas which, to a greater or lesser degree, enable our parishes to work more closely together. New energy has been released through the new structures. Of course there has been variation from the pastoral areas - but on the whole I have witnessed the new desire to work together. Much of this has come from the ground upwards in each Pastoral Area which gives shape to all pastoral developments within diocesan guidelines. The *Walking Humbly* process also provides a template for renewal, identifying some of the characteristics of a thriving Catholic community against which the whole of the community can be measured and choices made about place,

time and energy. The process has also focussed on ongoing formation with an emphasis on helping our priests live out their priestly calling against the backdrop of rapid change in the world and the Church. I think too we have a familiar sense of making more use of the permanent diaconate. Over the last six years eleven men have been ordained to the permanent diaconate, nine are currently in training, with four due for ordination next summer. Of course new opportunities for adult formation and conformation have also been developed. The new online course - *Pathway to Faith* - is still in the process of development. I think the area of adult education still needs great energy put into it. It has a great effect across the diocese. A group of priests and catechists have been looking at the sacraments of initiation, especially confirmation, and how we may use these for catechesis. The *Together in Faith* programme has enabled us to have the confidence that many key areas of the diocese will be properly resourced in the years to come. A key component in the life and mission of our diocese is our schools. Our schools serve about 70,000 children and young people and their families. And I cannot stress sufficiently the selflessness of foundation governors and

senior staff in maintaining and developing the Catholic character of our schools. As I said, in my autumn visits to the pastoral areas, prayer for priestly vocations continues to be essential. In the past six years seven priests have been ordained and two more have joined the diocese. Training for the priesthood we have six students. But I struggle to provide a resident priest for every parish. This summer, with at least three priests expected to retire, there will inevitably be gaps. The change is very nearly upon us. I want to work forwards in our mission as Church with about thirty nine priests. That's the estimated number of priests serving our parishes in ten years time. And rather than waiting for those things to happen I'd like to begin organising ourselves now with that number. That's the challenge I put to our Pastoral Area Councils. Actually I am concerned for the well being of our priests as they become fewer. I want them to do less. I want them to be freed up to focus on their parishes through the Word and the Eucharist and teaching supported by deacons, catechists and other leaders of parish life. And we don't want any priests to be celebrating more than three Sunday Masses as a maximum. While we can have services of Word and

Communion celebrated occasionally on weekdays I would not want these services to be the norm on Sundays. In principle where there cannot be a regular Sunday Mass the Mass Centre or Chapel should be maintained for prayer and catechesis. From my visits to the Pastoral Areas four points have struck me: Firstly - we do need some training for lay assistants in parishes and for people who can join chaplaincy teams in our Christian hospitals and schools. Secondly - seriously we need to ask for volunteers and as priests find it difficult people could help. So we need the skills to ask for volunteers, to train them and be managers. Thirdly - we all, priests and people, need a change of mind about what we can and should do for each other. And finally - we all know that some change is needed but what I found is that people leave it to others. Now if Mary had adopted that attitude rather than accepting God's will she would not have given birth to our Saviour. So like her we need to be open to the Spirit. It doesn't have to be a dramatic process, it can be gentle and we can support each other. But we in these areas we do need to prompt people and to answer as God calls on his disciples in this Diocese of Northampton."

In his Pastoral letter for Advent Bishop Peter reminded us of John the Baptist, preaching a baptism of repentance. 'He calls people to conversion, to change their barren lives, to prepare a way for the Lord.'

It is a powerful message for me and for you today. Our lives are so full and busy that there can be no time for God. Our hearts become a wilderness, full of things, but empty of God. Do you realise that four out of every five Catholics will not come to Mass this weekend?

With John the Baptist's call ringing in our ears, can we be converted to putting God first in prayer and in action this Advent and in 2014?

We need each other's encouragement and support. While we sustain our prayer and work for vocations to the priesthood, efforts which are proving fruitful, in the short and medium term priest and people need to work even more closely together. As the number of priests reduces, priests need to concentrate on preaching God's word and celebrating the Mass and the sacraments. The community will need to take on more responsibility for the administration of the parishes and for the mission of the Church among neighbours and colleagues who know nothing of Jesus.

This cannot just happen. We must listen to God in prayer, and all of us, bishop, people and clergy, need some training in working together in a balanced way, in ways of volunteering, and in the continuing development of lay assistants in chaplaincies in prisons, hospitals and schools, and of more catechists.

This is the next stage in *Walking Humbly with our God*. I pray that that joy in the Lord will be the mark of our work together this Advent and Christmas and in the coming year.

May Our Blessed Lady pray with us and for us that we may embrace the challenges of following her Son in a positive spirit, with joy and with hope.

**+Peter:
Bishop of Northampton**



Hope for Milton Keynes



The team from Our Lady of Lourdes

During October, 29 young Catholics gave up their half term holiday to take part in Hope MK. It was a mission week involving nineteen churches working on community projects and giving a Christian witness.

These young Catholics made up a quarter of those involved, and a third of the participants overall were from St Paul's School, Milton Keynes.

Having included Hope MK in my prayers for the past few months, I was delighted to have the chance to help with the pastoral team. Everyone was very welcoming and I met lovely people from the nineteen congregations involved. We weren't labelled - we were just one Big Blue Family.

It was really heart-warming to see young people of so many churches befriending each other, praying for each other, and working together to serve the wider community. This is bound to strengthen their journey in faith.

As well as the entertaining and input the team and speakers provided, I was touched almost to tears a number of times by the sense of love and of unity in the Spirit that was present among us. It felt almost like finding long lost brothers and sisters.

In the times of prayer the adults shared before the day began our coming together as Christians and agreeing in prayer raised my faith that God would do wonderful things through Hope MK. There were moments when our particular perspectives came up in conversation, but in a spirit of great graciousness, underlining our common mission to share the love and good news of Christ.

Since then, I have noticed myself extending more loving acceptance towards people around me with various viewpoints. The spirit of Hope MK has stayed with me! Thank you to everyone involved for a massive effort for God. I'm awed to think of the amount of work the leaders and young people invested - and for creating a week where we could celebrate being a huge, diverse family. I hope even more can join in next time!

Clare Allsop, St Augustine's, MK.

HOPE is working towards a year of mission in 2014 - the whole church, reaching the whole country, for the whole year. HOPE resources local churches to do more together in mission, word, and action. Be part of something bigger! (www.hopetogether.org.uk)

Fr Paul's Chinese war

In 1935 Paul Leung, a promising engineering student, finds himself attracted to the austere life of a Cistercian monk. He leaves his family and girlfriend Margaret, to join the Monastery of Our Lady of Consolation in the Beijing Mountains.

During unsettled times, large areas of the country are under Japanese occupation leading up to World War Two. Paul and the other monks survive, only for the monastery to be destroyed by the Communists in the vicious civil war which follows.

A small group of monks escape to Hong Kong where they re-found their monastery. Father Paul decides to make the perilous journey across China to join them and on the way endures hard labour, privation and brutality. En route to Hong Kong Father Paul and Margaret meet again, and after everything he has been through, he faces one last agonising choice. Is his love stronger for God, or for a woman?

This first novel by Mark Cheng is a story with a Catholic thread running through it and tells of

some of the terrible sufferings endured by the Catholic Church in China.

"Father Paul's War" is exciting and immensely interesting, relating life in China during and after WWII, and the hardships and martyrdoms endured by Catholics among others.

It is the kind of book you won't want to put down.

Mark Cheng is a parishioner of St Philip and St James Church in Bedford.

Obituary

John Watson

It is with much sadness that those connected with the Northampton Diocese Deaf and Hearing Impaired Pastoral Service lost John Watson late last year. He was a beloved and kind helper and neither the deaf, nor the hearing, will forget him.

John was the treasurer of the Deaf Service for over 20 years. His task required dedication and financial acumen. It involved working with parish priests, the SVP and with Bishop Leo McCartie.

I learned through most of the 90's how thorough and efficient he was as treasurer when I took over as Pastoral Worker after the retirement of Dilys Willis. The Executive Committee was led by Peter Willis with Martin Redmond, John Watson and Alan Nichols, who all mourn John's death

May he rest in peace.

Joe Grady

Faith-sharing Initiatives

Representatives from dioceses covering every region, as well as the Ordinariate and the Bishopric of the Forces, gathered on 4 - 5 November at Hothorpe Hall in Leicestershire to showcase and share their evangelization initiatives.

Projects currently being offered and developed in dioceses include: a new formation and mission centre in Cardiff; new resources to support family-focused evangelisation in Liverpool; a new 'what good news' website in Brentwood; a four-year project studying the teaching of Vatican II in Arundel and Brighton; the creation of outreach leaflets and a 'Welcome Back' outreach Sunday in Hexham and Newcastle; new DVD materials addressing

frequently asked faith questions from Plymouth; a successful pilgrimage and prison outreach programme from Salford; new faith sharing materials from Westminster for use in small groups; and much more.

Rev Professor Eamonn Conway, who attended the recent Synod on Evangelisation in Rome as an expert last October, shared insights from the Synod and Pope Francis' early Pontificate, as well as reflected on the opportunities and challenges present in contemporary culture.

Alex Heath, Chair of the Northampton Diocesan Evangelisation Team said:

"It was a very valuable opportunity to gather with others involved in evangelisation to share ideas

about how together we can continue to respond to the call for a New Evangelisation. By spending time reflecting on cultural issues we are facing as well as on the theology of evangelisation it helped us look ahead to future possibilities. Nationally I am hopeful that there will be opportunities to work together to support the work that we are each seeking to promote in our own Dioceses."

This national gathering is bi-annual and aims to facilitate the sharing of evangelisation resources and expertise across the dioceses of England and Wales. It is coordinated by the Home Mission Desk on behalf the Bishops' Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis.

ARE YOU A TEACHER?

with some spare time and a spare room?

We are looking for teachers who are able to teach English to our International students who are looking for intensive immersion in the comfortable homes of their teachers sharing their lives and enjoying a real English experience. Students usually want one to one tuition, full board accommodation, some outings and activities locally and lots of conversation at meal times and when not studying.

This year we are paying around £450 per week to include fifteen hours lessons, accommodation and the activities.

Most of our students are delightful French youngsters from 'professional' families who arrive during the school holidays - we are busiest June, July and August but can get students at half term and other school holidays. If you are interested and would like to know more please do get in touch.

Michael Boyle. 01424221875
michael@englishvillage.org.uk or
Michael.m.boyle@btinternet.com
English Village Ltd. Bexhill on Sea. TN40 2RS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world, now and forever.

Say six times a day for nine days.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

arranged for readers of The Vine

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

AVAILABLE TO ANYONE UP TO 85 YEARS OF AGE.

MOST PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS ACCEPTED

TOP QUALITY COVER

With a 24 hour helpline and an air ambulance get-you-home service. Mention this advert to get a Special Vine discount. Don't forget we can also sell SINGLE-TRIP COVER, with any duration up to one year, with no maximum age limit and up to £20,000 cancellation cover per couple.

CALL FOR DETAILS AND PRICES

FT 0116 272 0500 **Car Hire**

Travel Insurance Real people - not machines!

DELTA **Maresra**
Authorised and regulated by the FSA

Already

We Hold You In Prayer.

Living in the heart of London, the Tyburn Benedictine Community has as its special mission, prayer for the people of England and Wales. Our monastery is built on the site of the Tyburn gallows where 105 Catholics were martyred during the reformation. Our life of prayer draws Sisters from many nations. If you have a special intention, let us know and we will remember it specifically in our prayer. You may like to use the space below.

Yes, please remember my intention/s in prayer.

.....

Yes, please send me the free booklet on the Tyburn Martyrs

Yes I'm interested - please send me vocations details.

I'd like to help your Mission Foundations in other countries.

My gift of £ is enclosed payable to Tyburn Mission.

Name:.....

Address:.....

..... Please print

RETURN TO: RETURN TO: Mother General, Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place, London, W2 2LJ. Phone: 020 7723 7262.

Driving for CAFOD



Two Catenian Presidents chose the same charity for their presidential year and decided to combine their efforts.

Michael Stothard, Province 8 Provincial President, and Frank Sudlow, Northampton Circle President, had both chosen CAFOD as their charity so it was agreed that the CAFOD Charity Golf Event would combine with the Annual Province 8 Golf Day.

The event was organised by Frank Sudlow and Provincial Counsellor Terry Joyce, ably assisted by Richard Hanna, Val Sudlow, Tony Burton and Vongai Masunda. It was held at the Overstone Park Golf Club on the 27th September. The response to the invitation was magnificent, with 100 players competing, including 20 ladies who played their own competition.

125 sat down to the Presentation Dinner and Auction, with Catenian players from Provinces 6, 8, as well as participants from various clubs, businesses and colleagues. A tombola ran throughout the day with 70 generously donated prizes which raised over £1000 for CAFOD.

Anticipating fading light, a two tee start was arranged enabling all fourballs to finish in adequate light and on time for the Presentation Dinner and Auction.

After dinner President Frank, former Diocesan Manager of CAFOD, gave a short presentation of the fantastic work of CAFOD and how and where

the funds raised would be spent. Eight exceptional prizes were set aside for the evening Auction, including two tickets for the Director's Box at Anfield for a Premier League game. These prizes, in less than 20 minutes under the hammer of Auctioneer Andy Mortimer, raised the substantial sum of £2450 for CAFOD. Together with the sponsorship from all 18 holes at £100 each, will enable CAFOD to finally benefit by the magnificent sum of £6930.

The Provincial Competitions winners were: Individual Provincial Trophy - Gerry McCormack of Wokingham Circle.

Provincial Team Cup - Wokingham Circle, represented by Gerry McCormack, Digby Carter, John Kerr and Tom Wall.

Northampton Circle was fortunate, not only with the excellent weather on the day, but also with the large number of supporters, players and guests without whose great generosity the event would not have been such an enormous success for CAFOD.

The two Presidents and the Northampton Circle, expressed their grateful thanks to all those businesses, individuals and players for their immense generosity in raising such a magnificent sum for CAFOD and its valuable work.

Jim Cooper

Picture: Gerry McCormack receiving the Trophy from Michael Stothard.

Your next deadline December 31

South Bucks Mass

Following Bishop Peter's autumn meetings with each of the local Pastoral Area, St Monica's area in South Bucks took the opportunity to celebrate Mass for members of the pastoral area who had died during the last year.

Bishop Peter concelebrated the Mass on 5th November with Fr. Willie from St. Augustine's High Wycombe, Fr. Michael from

St. Peter's Marlow, Fr. Joseph from Blessed John Henry Newman's High Wycombe and Fr. Francis from St. Teresa's, Beaconsfield and St Dunstan's Bourne End. They were ably assisted by the Deacons Bryn Dunsire & Paul Priestly.

After Mass refreshments were served in St Teresa's Parish Centre.

Kevin Broderick

A Winning Prayer

Students from St Michael's Catholic School in High Wycombe were winners in the local Youth Prayer Competition 2013.

A number of students from the school took part in the High Wycombe KSC Prayer Competition where they had to submit 'a prayer for a journey in faith'.

Happily former student Leeloo Creed and Year 8 student Matilda Blinco came 1st and 2nd place respectively.

The competition was open to all young people of 12-18 years of age across the Wycombe area. This was the third year the school took part.

Congratulations to both Matilda and Leeloo.

As a result, their entries have been put forward for the National Competition and the school has its fingers crossed for them to win!



Book Review

Game, Set and Murder

By Elizabeth Flynn. Lion Books. £7.99

I am not an expert in this genre but apart from Agatha Christie's beady-eyes spinster, Miss Marple, I have not come across a female detective before. Simenon's Maigret seems very world-weary and Poirot a natural celibate, while Adam Dalgleish, PD James' hero, is meant to be a thinking girl's crumpet. Now Elizabeth Flynn has invented a most attractive women detective inspector: Angela Costello. In this intriguing story she has to investigate the murder of a popular Croatian tennis champion and coach, Petar Belic, whose body has been found on court 19 of Wimbledon on the first day of the famous annual tournament. There are several possible suspects, all with a reason to want Belic out of the

way. I won't spoil readers' enjoyment by describing what happens, except to say that in a kindly, professional and painstaking fashion D I Costello finds the murderer very near the end. It is a satisfying conclusion to a well-plotted book. What is interesting about the character of Costello is that, without being in any way overtly "preachy", she is clearly someone of moral principles as well as common sense. In dealing with a witness, a young tennis player called Joanna, who has discovered she is pregnant by another player, Costello shows sympathy and sensitivity, finding ways to encourage her not to have the abortion which the baby's father wants, without being over-directive.

She also deals firmly but kindly with another young single woman, Tara, who is trying unsuccessfully to seduce her (married) boss. Flynn writes, "Angela couldn't help feeling sorry for the girl. You're chasing an illusion, Tara, she thought, and I've no doubt you're courting heart-break."

A small hint as to Costello's own religious affiliation is hidden in a dialogue she has with Philip, another tennis player who is in love with a Mass-attending girl, Tessa, who doesn't sleep around and who has a copy of "The Imitation of Christ" in her locker. Philip is scared that Tessa will judge him for once having taken drugs at a party. Costello tells him that Tessa "has an angle on

the need for forgiveness and acceptance of human weakness" and advises him, "You need to get the sugar coating off this romance and get stuck in. Your relationship is going nowhere fast unless you're prepared to trust each other."

This is a promising first novel and I hope it will only be the start of Costello's career as a detective. Unlike Jane Tennison, as played by Helen Mirren in the popular TV series "Prime Suspect", she does not feel the need to shout, swear or have affairs, in order to keep her end up in the coarse world of male colleagues. It makes a refreshing change.

Francis Phillips

Women in the Church



All Souls Day saw the latest in the Days for Women organised by the diocesan core group of the National Board of Catholic Women. Nearly 40 women from all over the diocese met at Holy Ghost, Luton, to spend the morning with Bishop Peter and the afternoon considering the challenges that might be set for the Church by Pope Francis.

Bishop Peter began by telling the group about the recent visit of the Nuncio, the development of the vision and strategy for the diocese, and the forthcoming Extraordinary Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome in October 2014. He then spent over an hour listening and responding to the women's ideas, questions or anxieties about the church.

Topics covered included three main areas. First came the profile of women in the church and the need for women to be involved at the decision-making levels: an all-male perspective is by its nature limited. Secondly, there was a discussion on the need to train people to lead communities, to describe clearly the roles that can be undertaken, and to discern the skills and talents that individuals can offer, so that everyone can have the opportunity to fulfil the responsibility given to them at baptism. Thirdly, a crucial issue for many present was the question of how to keep young people in the church - which was seen as intimately connected

with educating adults in the faith: if parents are unable to talk confidently about the faith, how can they educate their children, or even enter into discussions with them? A range of views was expressed about the possible tension between expecting commitment from young people and leaving them free to make their own, personal, journey. Good ideas were shared, and Bishop Peter reminded those present that the pastoral area should be used as a local mechanism for sharing and co-operating.

In the afternoon, the women considered how Pope Francis might affect the church. They looked at a variety of quotations (from his interviews, homilies and even tweets), focusing particularly on what he has said about being 'public Christians'. There was uncertainty as yet about his attitude towards women. He has called for a 'profound theology of woman', to which there were two differing responses: on the one hand, there already is a considerable theology of woman, written by women theologians; on the other hand, why is a specific theology of woman required at all, since we are all equally made in the image and likeness of God? There was a lively discussion about the nature of mission, especially about the balance between preaching and action as ways of proclaiming the 'saving love of God'. Many felt newly supported by Pope Francis's emphasis on mercy, and on the centrality of justice and solidarity.

It was a fruitful day, with an honest sharing of views, and Bishop Peter's warm pastoral style set the tone by encouraging everyone present to be engaged, and to feel supported.

The next such day for women will be in the Spring of 2014, and will be on the theme of Human Trafficking - modern slavery.

The diocesan Link to the NBCW is Maura Potter (maurap Potter.nbcw@hotmail.co.uk) 01628 666278



Visit of Uplifting Image

The Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was recently taken from the Diocesan Shrine in Bedford to Northampton Cathedral.

The Guardians from Bedford were there to hand over the care of the Relic Image to Fr Mark Floody.

Then, following a service of reception began several days of pilgrimage and veneration with many people from the Northampton area going to pray before the Relic Image and leaving their petitions.

Over 700 written requests and prayers were gathered up to be sent to and offered up at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

The service of farewell was the following Sunday, after 10.30 am Mass, with Fr Mark leading the prayers and a Guardian accepting the Relic Image back into the care of Bedford. After the closing ceremony, before the Relic Image finally left the cathedral, many people came to ask questions and make their own personal farewells.

This event followed similar uplifting and devotional visits of the Relic Image to Rushden, Corby and Walsingham.

New-look Newman

Since Cardinal Newman Catholic School opened in 1968, students have been required to convert their classrooms into dining spaces after lessons. Forty-five years later, students can now enjoy a thoroughly modern lunch experience at school with the introduction of a purpose-built dining facility in the former Maths block.

Serving hot meals in the traditional manner or a quick snack from the newly introduced coffee bar, students, Sixth Formers and staff at Cardinal Newman can now enjoy breakfast, break-time and lunch in purpose built, modern surroundings and have a more suitable area to meet and socialise.

On the first day back from half term,

Headteacher Mrs Jane Crow welcomed students to the new dining hall and said: 'We have waited a long time to have a purpose-built dining area but it has been worth the wait. It looks amazing! Monday lunch time was very busy as the new facilities generated a lot of interest but we are now able to dine in style. We have also freed up the old dining spaces to develop into new Maths and English classrooms so students benefit academically as well as socially'

The dining room is one chapter in the major changes that have included a new entrance hall and chapel, new and upgraded classrooms and sports hall and also a brand new IT block currently under construction.



The newly refurbished chapel will help students to have an even closer connection to their faith.

So that the chapel could have a small connection to the community, Mgr McGinnell of Holy Ghost Catholic Church kindly donated beautiful pews made from Brazilian Mahogany, a timber that is no longer permitted to be used in manu-

facturing due to its extreme rarity.

A unique feature of the new chapel is the cross-shaped stained glass window, providing a powerful visual identity for the new building and a strong symbol of our faith that now welcomes visitors as they walk up the pathway towards the new reception building.

You have the power to change her life



Free cleft surgery which takes as little as 45 minutes and costs as little as £150, can give desperate children not just a new smile – but a new life.

Donate online:
www.smiletrain.org.uk
Call: 0300 303 9630



I want to give a child a second chance at life.

- £150** towards surgery for one child
 £30 towards an overnight hospital stay
 £75 could cover half the cost of one surgery
 £_____ We'll gratefully accept any amount

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Charge my gift to my: Visa MasterCard Maestro Card No. _____

Valid From _____ Exp. Date _____ Issue No. _____ Signature _____

My cheque is enclosed, made payable to The Smile Train UK

Use Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25%

YES! I would like Smile Train to claim Gift Aid on any donations I have made within the last 4 tax years (6 April to 5 April) and on all donations I make in the future until further notice. I confirm that I have paid or will pay at least as much UK Income tax and/or Capital Gains tax for each tax year as Smile Train UK and all other charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax for every £1 that I have given/will give.

NO, I am not a UK taxpayer.

giftaid it

Send this coupon with your donation to:

**The Smile Train UK,
 PO Box 909,
 Northampton NN3 0BF**

SmileTrain
 Changing The World One Smile At A Time.

These details, including your email address/telephone number, may be used to keep you informed about our future developments. If you do not want to receive such information please tick this box

N13121U353FEX2Q

Registered Charity No. 1114748 Registered Company No. 05738962 © 2013 The Smile Train UK

A healthy diet during pregnancy can help prevent birth defects and clefts. Eat a healthy diet that contains lots of fruits and vegetables and foods fortified with folic acid. The U.K. Government recommends women should take sufficient levels of folic acid (400 micrograms/day) during the first twelve weeks of pregnancy to help prevent neural tube defects and reduce the risk for cleft lip and palate. When folic acid is taken one month before conception and throughout the first trimester, it has been proven to reduce the risk for neural tube defects by 50 to 70 percent. Be sure to receive proper prenatal care, quit smoking and drinking alcohol and follow your health care provider's guidelines for foods to avoid during pregnancy. Foods to avoid may include raw or undercooked seafood, beef, pork, poultry, delicatessen meats, fish that contain high levels of mercury, smoked seafood, fish exposed to pollutants, raw shellfish, eggs, soft cheeses, unpasteurized milk, pâté, caffeine and unwashed vegetables. For more information, visit www.smiletrain.org.uk

Almost 100 people, including stanselm.org for anyone over 30 young people joined interested in finding out more Bishop Peter on the annual details. diocesan pilgrimage to Picture: the group of young Lourdes during the last week helpers from Milton Keynes of August. were on duty, and don't This year young people from appear in this picture. the diocesan youth ministry office, NYMO, joined the diocese. The young people took part in a pilgrimage that included times of formation, sightseeing, entertainment, prayer and service of our assisted pilgrims.

As always the diocese travelled as part of the Catholic Association, joining them for prayer and liturgies giving us a very special pilgrimage with 600 other pilgrims.

Some of the highlights of this years pilgrimage included praying with other young helpers from across England at the lake, praying the stations of the cross, the alternative tour with Deacon Michael Fleming, catechesis with Fr. Damien Walne and Mass at the Grotto celebrated by Bishop Peter.

The week is particularly special because of the assisted pilgrims who share their lives with us during the pilgrimage. Each person offering their story and all with a smile on their face.

All of us had an amazing week and it was a privilege to be a part of it. We look forward to next year and as one young pilgrim said it felt like home immediately and I will always want to go back!

The Diocese continue to be very proud of the pilgrimage to Lourdes and we are grateful to the diocesan pilgrimage director, Fr. Damien Walne the Assistant Director, Deacon Michael Fleming, the Catholic Association and Bishop Peter Doyle.

If you know someone aged 16- 25, who would like to travel to Lourdes in 2014 please contact Fiona at the NYMO office by email fiona@nymo.org or call 01582 720627.

Next years pilgrimage takes place from Friday 22nd August ñ Friday 29th August. Fr.Damien can be contacted by email on