AVE

The Magazine of the Society of Mary

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mdina

£2.00

Annunciationtide, 2015

The Superior-General writes

ONLY RARELY does the Annunciation naturally fall outside the penitential season of Lent. Occasionally, the 25th March falls in Holy Week and even on Good Friday. When this happens the Feast is Transferred to the first day after the Easter Octave.

But what an interesting coming together of dates and commemorations to contemplate! The juxtaposition of the concepts of the Life of a new creation within the womb of our Blessed Lady – Death on a Cross to win Everlasting Life.

Something of this same paradox is there whenever we see the Crowned image of Our Lady with the Christ Child on Her knee. Especially so when the Blessed Virgin is shown feeding Him at Her breast. In the times of the Early Church and in the medieval period that influences many depictions of the Madonna and Child, it was not the social practice to show a woman of status caring for or nursing her own children. Mary shown, crowned as Queen of Heaven and at the same time shown nurturing and nursing Her Child was unique and particular.

Seen in this way, the juxtaposition of Queen and Mother takes on such wonderful significance. A source of inspiration and cause of prayer and thanks. The Glory of Mary and Her nurturing, tender love and compassion of Mary.

The earliest extant manuscript of Prayer to Our Blessed Lady dates from the 3rd century. It is written in Greek on papyrus and originates from Egypt.

In translation it prays:

Beneath thy compassion we take refuge,
Mother of God,
In our necessity
Do not reject our supplications,
But from danger deliver us.
For you alone are pure,
Alone holy.

This year the Feast of the Annunciation falls in the Fifth Week of Lent. We could do no better than taking this most ancient of Marian Prayers with us through to Holy Week and Easter.

✠ Robert Ladds,
Superior-General – Lent 2015

A Letter from the Chaplain-General

My dear friends,

LAST OCTOBER I was privileged to go again to Seville for a week for my summer holiday where, needless to say, a number of Parishes and Guilds were having processions of Our Lady of the Rosary. My command of Spanish is not brilliant and I find the information on the posters deeply confusing so in most cases I found them more by luck than judgement! I followed the crowds; I looked out for huge groups of young people cleaning the silver earlier in the day; I listened for the bells and the fireworks. But I am swept off my feet (sometimes literally) by the enthusiasm and the noise, I am captivated by the beauty of the statues of Our Lady and all that surrounds them, and I am amazed at the commitment of the crowds of young people (many at that 'difficult age') who work so hard to make it happen. These processions are an entirely 'Lay led' event: usually there are no clergy at all taking part and when the statue has left the Church the doors are immediately locked! Our Lady is treated as an intimate part of the family, an honoured member for whom nothing is too good, but as one of us. I am sure that this enables a level of understanding of her role in the plan of salvation which speaks far more eloquently than many a theological treatise! I hope that we might manage, in our own small and simple way, to do much the same during our Procession at the May Devotion. There is in England much less understanding and acceptance of the role of the Church: by and large, it has been marginalised: the Saints have become works of art rather than a focus of devotion. But that makes it even more important that we continue

and expand our activities at the beginning of May. Pray that it will become an inspiration to those who take part and that it may move the hearts of at least some in the crowd towards her Son. For Mary always leads us to Jesus.

On a personal note, our prayers are with Bishop Philip North as he begins his Episcopal ministry. I think it is the first time ever that an existing member of the General Council has been consecrated a Bishop and he needs our practical support and encouragement as the dust begins to settle after the latest synodical votes! We shall miss him zooming around quite so freely at the May Devotion.

Now to more practical matters. At the time of writing, there are still places available for our Pilgrimage this year, to Loreto, Subiaco, Lanciano and Rome, from 15th - 22nd September. If you would like to book, please contact Pax Travel direct or contact me for details. By the time of the May Devotion, I hope to have finalised the booking details for the Lourdes Pilgrimage next year. This will be from 1st – 5th August 2016: the adults will be staying at the same hotel as last time and the young people at the Youth Village. The Council and Executive have made the commitment of promising considerable financial support for every 'youth' place on the pilgrimage and I hope that, as last time, individuals and wards might be willing to organise some fund raising effort to contribute towards this. There is a limit to the number of places available and will be 'first come, first served' so make a note of the dates now! I am grateful to Fr Morris for the help and support he has already given in planning this, during the February meetings in Lourdes.

We look forward also to the May Devotion and AGM in London on Saturday 2nd. Rather than include many details in this letter, please refer to the display advertisement elsewhere in this issue. As last year, our Procession will go from one church to the other. I need at least six stewards for the Procession to help to keep things moving and would welcome offers of help from Deacons, Seminarians or servers. Any offers to me, please, by 12th April. We are very grateful to Fr George Westhaver, the Principal of Pusey House, for agreeing to come and preach to us. The arrangements for lunch on the day are slightly modified. Since we always end up with roughly the same number of bookings, I shall presume things will be similar this year. So you do not need to book beforehand and there will not be tickets: it will simply be £10.00, pay at the door on the day.

I shall hope to see you in May if not before.

With my love and blessing,

Fr Graeme Rowlands, *Chaplain-General*

Subscriptions – from the Superior-General

In the Presentation 2014 edition of AVE we published a scale of Subscription for Membership of our Society. This differed in form from previous structures and was arrived at after careful consideration. At the Executive and General Council Meetings of February 2015 some further changes were made taking into account further comments and observations received from Wards and individual Members.

In addition to giving careful thought to Subscription levels, we endeavour to manage the investment income of our Society to maximum advantage. This historic income, together with your Subscriptions, allows our work to go forward.

Subscription level is regularly reviewed by your Executive and General Councils. Our aim is to find a balance between asking for a reasonable and affordable level of contribution that does not exclude or deter membership, while providing sufficient funding for us to continue the work and purposes for which our Society exists. In deciding Subscription levels we are particularly mindful that many of our members are on fixed or limited incomes, are members of the same family or household, and are students, seminarians and young people. We have also taken into account the levels of Subscription of other Catholic Societies and we are aware that our own increases in the past, while having been deliberately modest, have resulted in our falling behind in financial commitment and in the commensurate work possible for us.

The majority of our income is used to make Grants to support individuals and parishes to make Pilgrimages to Marian Shrines; to help set up or restore Shrines to Our Lady in churches; to provide for educational materials to develop and increate Devotion to Our Lady;

and to promote understanding of Mary's role and place in Christian prayer, life and worship. Applications for Grants are carefully assessed, scrutinized and researched. This is to ensure that the aims and objects of our Society are met, as required by our charitable status, but also to achieve the best outcomes and to support need.

The publication of our journal AVE and our new Website are major contributions to the work, aims and object of our Society.

AVE is widely considered to be among the best publications of its kind. It is designed to work together with our newly designed and managed Website. Also to relate and have links with the excellent publicity produced by local Wards – such as that of the North-West Ward. Each component of publicity plays an important part in supporting our Members and furthering our work. AVE is available, after publication, on the Website.

Some of the most important work of our Society is that among children and young people. It is critically important to encourage young people to make Pilgrimages and to enable them to have experiences and to join in events that support their Christian growth and teach them to love Our Blessed Lady. The Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage is among events we are able to support and many parishes, especially those in the more needful areas of our towns and cities, are able to include children and young people on Pilgrimages through our Grants.

The development of the Lourdes Pilgrimage to include children and young people is of major importance. In 2014 a lively and energetic contingent of young people, along with Clergy and other helpers, stayed at the Youth Village at Lourdes. As well as having a specially arranged programme of worship and activities, they also joined with the rest of us for joint events and worship. The Stations of Cross led by the young people was a highlight of our joint worship for which we gave thanks to God.

Plans are already being made for a larger number of young people to make the Lourdes Pilgrimage in 2016. As well as supporting this critically important development from subscription and investment funding, we are also launching a Special Appeal at the May Devotion, on 2nd May 2015. We feel sure this will receive the support and our Members and others beyond.

The Subscription Structure from 2015

Life Membership £150

Annual Membership £20

Children up to the age of 16 years ***free*** (but not receiving a copy of *Ave*)

Family Membership £25 (Up to 2 adults and children up to the age of 16 years at the same address and receiving one copy of *Ave*)

- All Members on joining to receive the Society Medal and Manual as part of their initial Subscription
- Those who have already paid 2015 Subscription to contribute at the earlier level
- Wards to make their own agreed levy in support of local activities and events
- Ward Superiors, in confidence and in consultation with the Officers of the Society, to be given latitude in setting the Subscription of individual Members in special cases. Those Members concerned should discuss this provision, in confidence, with their Ward Superior

I commend the Subscription Structure 2015 to all members.

From the Returning Officer

Elections to General Council 2015

The following have been Elected (re-elected) to the General Council following closure of Nominations on 31st January 2015:

Mrs Celia Bush (as Secretary)
Fr Simon Morris (Council only)
Fr Paul Cartwright (Co-opted)
Fr Philip Barnes
Fr Beswick (executive only)
Fr Ian Brooks
The Rt Rev'd Philip North
Fr Philip Corbett

There remain two vacancies to which members can be co-opted by the General Council.

The Venerable Luke Miller, *Returning Officer*

The May Devotion and AGM

will be held in

The Parish of S. Silas the Martyr, and Holy Trinity, London NW5

on

Saturday 2nd May 2015

12 noon, at the Church of S. Silas the Martyr, S. Silas Place, (off Prince of Wales Road) Kentish Town

Solemn Pontifical Concelebrated Mass followed by Procession of Our Lady through the streets to the Church of The Most Holy Trinity, Hartland Road NW1

***Principal Celebrant:* The Superior-General, The Rt Rev'd Robert Ladds**

All priest-members of the Society who wish to concelebrate should inform Fr Rowlands of their intention by Tuesday 28th April and bring an alb, etc. with them.

1.30 pm Lunch in Holy Trinity Church Hall

Pay-on-the-day £10.00 (minimum price) at Holy Trinity Church. No need to book beforehand.

3.30 pm AGM of the Society in Holy Trinity Church

4.00 pm Solemn Vespers, Sermon and Pontifical Benediction

Preacher: The Rev'd George Westhaver

Principal – Pusey House, Oxford

All priest members of the Society are invited to sit in choir, please inform Fr Rowlands.

To reach S. Silas: Underground to Chalk Farm on the Northern Line, left out of station and follow sign up Crogsland Road. Buses 24, 46 and 393 to Malden Road.

To reach Holy Trinity: Underground to Chalk Farm on Northern line. Turn left out of station, then right down Chalk Farm Road towards Camden Lock Market and up Hartland Road. Bus 46 from central London goes to Hawley Road, or buses 24, 27, 31 or 168 to Camden Market.

The May Devotion

The May Devotion will take place on Saturday 2nd May, beginning with a Solemn Mass at 12 noon. We need the following help on the day:

- Servers for the Mass and Procession and for Vespers etc. at Holy Trinity: please let Fr Rowlands know **by Sunday 12th April** that you are willing to help and bring your own cassock with you on the day.
- Stewards/sidesmen for the Mass and for Vespers.
- Serving wine and drinks at Lunch.

Please remember that the Procession will take 20 minutes: if you cannot walk that far, there is a bus which will take you almost door to door: more details on the day.

APPEAL TO SUPPORT THE 2016 LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

At the May Devotion an appeal will be launched to raise money assist the work of the Society among Youth Pilgrims attending the Pilgrimage in 2016. Included in the appeal will be displays from last year's pilgrimage.

Homily given by the Superior-General at the Bournemouth & Portsmouth Wards Assumption Festival

Auguste Rodin was very good at hands. Look at the hands of each of the figures depicted in his sculpture near the House of Lords, in London: "The Burghers of Calais". The hands alone express most powerfully and evocatively the emotions of each of the figures depicted.

In 1908 Rodin produced a sculpture entitled "Cathedral". This does not depict a building at all but two hands, gently but firmly held together in something like an attitude of prayer, with the

palms and fingers so held apart that they resemble a great building; the space formed within the palms surmounted by the fingers representing a high, vaulted roof of a Nave with its beams pointing heavenwards.

S. Paul tells the Corinthians (1Cor 6:19) “Your bodies are temples of the living God”. Rodin, as in so many of his works, has caught the essence of this powerful image of S. Paul in those sculptured hands he names “Cathedral”.

Greatly influenced by Rodin, Henry Moore in 1980 also made a bronze of hands. Equally sensitive in style and concept, these two hands are each of a different dimension, from age to age; one of the hand of a Mother, the other of a Child.

The Mother’s hand forms a kind of protecting womb, enfolding a cherishing. The hand of the Child, correspondingly, takes up something of the image of that protection; yet has its own life and existence within its surrounding care. This child's hand also extends and finds its own place and identity.

Together, these two great masterpieces in bronze can be seen to be an interpretation of the essence of this great Feast Day we keep of the Assumption of Mary.

In a real and earthly sense, as well as in a deeply spiritual sense, Mary gave Her body to be the Shrine of Christ Jesus, Her Son, who was the only begotten Son of God. At the Annunciation we celebrated the beginning of that mystery; at the Nativity we marvelled at the revelation of God made Man. From within the “Cathedral” and Shrine of Mary’s body is brought forth the Salvation of the World.

John Pearcy, in his great Marian Hymn expresses this truth in these words:

The angel Gabriel brought the word
She should Christ’s Mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
Made answer willingly.

He then goes on to say, that in doing so:

She gave her body for God’s Shrine.

And what a wonderful truth that is! And what a profound meaning and mystery! A human being found worthy, found able, to contain and hold Very God within Her body. Such a miracle might only happen

because, from the moment of Her conception, Mary had been predestined for this moment. By God’s particular grace given Her, Mary was Immaculate in that She receives all the benefits of redemption and salvation that Her Divine Son would go on to win for Her and for all who will receive it from Him by Faith.

And that Child, that Child is represented as the Hand being held and protected by the Mother's Hand, yet having a purpose of His own. That Child, the Child of Mary, though true God who laid aside His glory, is willingly subject to the protecting, nurturing and sustaining Hand of His Holy Mother. Scripture tells that the Child Jesus “went down and was subject to” the caring of his parents.

Our Lady’s work, along with that of Holy Saint Joseph, was to go on nurturing and sustaining and protecting the Holy Child until He was prepared in body and spirit to begin His work of teaching and to complete that work and win our salvation on the Cross of Calvary. Even there, Our Lady was to go with Him. To share His pain and know the piercing of Her Immaculate Heart that Simeon had foretold.

Now, at the Assumption, at the end of Mary’s earthly course, we see the corresponding truth. She who gave Her Body to be God’s Shrine is taken up Her Son within the Shrine “not made with hand”, taken up not within a prefigurement of the Holy Place but in the everlasting reality of Cathedral and Place which is Heaven itself.

Now it is Christ Her Lord and God, as well as Son, who reaches out His protecting Hand to preserve Her from taint of corruption. For how could the very flesh that once enfleshed Him as God Incarnate be allowed to see corruption. The Hand of the Son now surrounds and expresses love and gratitude to the Mother.

The Annunciation and Nativity of Our Lord and the Assumption into Heaven of Our Lady relate together and give us a mystical and wonderful image of God’s purposes for us, as Christians.

Mary at the Annunciation gives Herself completely and unreservedly, soul and spirit, to be the Temple of the Living God. More so, she also gives Her physical body to be His Shrine. At the Nativity that Temple is, as it were, open to reveal the Christ of God to the world. As the first Christian, Mary is the signal example for all Christians. With those Corinthians, to whom S. Paul writes, we, with Mary, are to ever recall that our bodies are to be Temples of the Living God. We are to reveal Him, in our lives, to the world.

Mary's gentle hand was there to mother, protect and care for the Christ Child; to guide and nurture Him. Given us by Jesus from the Cross as Mother, Mary too offers us that same care and nurturing protection. Let us always ask that love in our prayers!

At Her Assumption, as the First Christian, Mary is the first to receive all the blessings and benefits of Her Son's saving passion, death and resurrection. She is in this the guarantee of our own salvation. The Hand of Christ reaches out to raise and protect His Holy Mother; as that Hand will, one day, reach out to save us too.

Meanwhile, Mary, given us as Mother by Jesus from the Cross, protects us, the Church, as She protected Her Son. Reaches out Her loving Hand to be over us and surrounds us.

Well may we, the Church, rejoice and ever proclaim. With John Peacey:

Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
Above all women blest;
Blest in your Son, who your embrace
In birth and death confessed.

Well may we utter those words of Divine Praise:

"Blessed be Her Glorious Assumption"

Amen.

Future Council Meetings of the Society

Monday 12th October, 2015 at 2.30 pm

Preceded by Rosary at 2.00 pm
and Benediction at 2.15 pm

Monday 1st February, 2016 at 2.30 pm

Preceded by Benediction at 2.15 pm

The Executive meets at 11.00 am on the above dates
and also on Wednesday 3rd July, 2015.

Minutes of the Eighty Third Annual General Meeting of the Society of Mary held at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Hartland Road, London NW1, 3rd May 2014

PRESENT

The Rt Reverend Robert Ladds, Superior-General, in the Chair
The Reverend Graeme Rowlands, Chaplain-General
Mr Tom Middleton, Treasurer, Mrs Celia Bush, Secretary

and 85 members of the Society.

Opening the meeting the Superior-General welcomed members present and thanked Fr Rowlands and his people for their kind and generous hospitality.

1. Apologies for absence: Received from Fr Robert Beaken, Fr Philip Gray, Craig Aburn, Michael Wilson, Dorothy Frier, Lyn North and 10 other members.

2. Minutes of the Eighty Second Annual General Meeting 4th May 2013: It was proposed by Fr Burridge, seconded by John Linge and carried unanimously that the Minutes as published in the Annunciationtide issue of 'Ave' be agreed as an accurate record of the AGM held on 4th May 2013, subject to the correcting the printing error in the spelling of 'independent'. The Minutes were therefore duly signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: None.

4. Report of the General Council 2013: This was received as published in 'Ave', and it was noted that the Society had had another extremely active and interesting year. Thanks were expressed by the Superior-General to those who had prepared the Report. The Report was formally adopted unanimously.

5. Consideration of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2013: Short copies of the Accounts and the full version were available for inspection by anyone who so wished. Mr Middleton

reported that the Society's finances were in a stable condition so that all approved grants could be disbursed. The Superior General thanked the Treasurer for keeping the accounts in such good order. The formal adoption of the 2013 Accounts was proposed by Fr Skelton, seconded from the floor and passed unanimously.

6. Report from the Director of Pilgrimage: Fr Rowlands reported that a small group would be travelling to Nettuno at the end of the coming week. Numbers were very low and consideration may have to be given to the future of this Pilgrimage.

The Pilgrimage to Lourdes is fully booked and there will be about 100 pilgrims. Of these, 26 were teenagers and there were other children travelling with their families. Travel will be by train, a new departure for the Society. Fr Rowlands expressed his thanks to Archdeacon Luke Miller, Mrs Jacqui Miller and Howard White for making all the arrangements. Money has been saved by doing it 'ourselves'.

Lourdes is still recovering from the severe floods in the winter. The Society had given a substantial donation which was gratefully received.

The Superior-General proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Fr Rowlands for all the detailed work he does behind the scenes to ensure the Society's standing at Lourdes. This was acknowledged with a round of applause.

7. General Council Elections: The Returning Officer, reported that it had not been necessary to hold an election, as the numbers of those standing for election corresponded to the number of vacancies. The following were therefore declared duly elected for a period of four years from May 2014:

Fr Rowlands as Chaplain-General
Tom Middleton as Treasurer
Fr Beswick (Council only)
Fr Morris (Executive only)
Fr Skelton and Canon Cook

Brigid Reeve, Membership Secretary, as a full member of Council (correcting an anomaly which had arisen in previous years).

The Superior General thanked those Council members for their continuing service to the Society, and a round of applause was given in appreciation.

There remain additional vacancies caused by resignations, to which the Council may choose to co-opt members during the year.

8. Election of Auditors, Returning Officer, Director of Pilgrimage

Independent Examiner: The Independent Examiner, Michael Ackerman, was already operating as from last year and this arrangement was approved by members.

Returning Officer: The Superior-General proposed Archdeacon Luke Miller, seconded by the Secretary and carried unanimously.

Director of Pilgrimage: The Superior-General expressed great appreciation of the work of Fr Rowlands in this respect, and proposed his re-election, seconded by Archdeacon Luke Miller. This was carried unanimously with acclamation.

9. Any other Business – Sales Officer: The Superior-General reported that after many years, first as Secretary and latterly as Sales Officer, Richard North wished to stand down. The Superior General on behalf of the Society expressed heartfelt thanks to Richard for his years of service to the Society. Fr Rowlands added that Richard had taken over as Secretary at a difficult time, which had been much appreciated. A tangible expression of the Society's gratitude will be presented at a later date; in the meantime, thanks were expressed in resounding applause.

Tom Middleton will be taking over the sales of medals, manuals and books.

Website: Fr Rowlands said that the website was much used and highly rated and this was a tribute to Craig Aburn who had built up and managed the site for a number of years. The new Webmaster will be Richard Doney, whose details appear in 'Ave'.

Crozier: Fr Rowlands said that no doubt members had noticed the ornate crozier which was in use today. He explained that this had been suitably inscribed and given by the Society to Bishop Graham Leonard

(lately Monsignor) when he became Bishop of Truro. On his death, his sons had given the crozier back to the Society and this generous gesture will be formally acknowledged.

Our Lady of Lincoln: An Ecumenical Service will be held on 31st May in Lincoln Cathedral when the new statue of Our Lady of Lincoln will be dedicated. The sum of £2,500 had been given by the Society and individual donations had raised another £1,000. It is hoped that the Society will be well represented at this dedication.

Succession Planning: Fr Rowlands thanked the Superior-General for all he does for the Society. Fr Rowlands added that he himself has organised the May Devotion each year since 1987. He expressed the hope that during the next four years perhaps someone else would come forward to take over his post. The Superior-General added that he also would in due time need a successor!

There being no further business the Superior-General thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 3.48 pm.

Celia K. Bush, *Secretary*

THE SOCIETY OF MARY

Report of the General Council 2014

The General Council met in February and October.

The 83rd Annual Festival took place at S. Silas the Martyr, Kentish Town on 3rd May 2014, by kind invitation of the Chaplain-General. The Superior-General, the Right Reverend Robert Ladds, presided at Mass, which was concelebrated by 22 priest members of the Society. As is now an established custom, the Procession took place through the streets from S. Silas to the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Hartland Road, NW1, the weather staying fine. Many children took part in the Procession and cards were distributed to passers-by explaining what it was all about and inviting them to take part in other events at either church. Lunch was served, followed by the Annual General Meeting, and the day concluded with Vespers of Our Lady and Benediction. The

preacher was Fr Simon Morris, Vicar of St Mary's Church, Tottenham and a member of the Executive and General Council of the Society. Grateful thanks are due, as always, to Fr Rowlands and the people of S. Silas the Martyr and Holy Trinity, for making us so welcome and making the day a great success.

The statue of Our Lady of Greeting at East Barsham church near Walsingham, to which the Society had contributed, was blessed on 29th April. Some Ward members from Suffolk had been able to attend. This event coincided with the publication of the revised book 'The Rosary around Walsingham' by Fr Philip Gray (Council Member and Ward Superior) and Anne Gray. Fr Philip and some Ward members and friends from Suffolk braved gales to follow the new Rosary route in October.

The Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Nettuno and Rome took place in May, led by the Superior General and the Bishop of Richborough. The numbers were small but it was nevertheless an enjoyable ecumenical event. It has been decided by the General Council that this will no longer form part of the Society's regular programme of Pilgrimages but it may still take place on a more local level (as it was originally) with the endorsement of the Society.

Also in May, the Superior General and other members, especially from local Wards, were present at Lincoln Cathedral for the installation of the new statue of Our Lady, (sculpted by Aidan Hart, in the Orthodox tradition) to which the Society had contributed, along with local Roman Catholics as well as Anglicans. This was a landmark event, reinstating special devotion to Our Lady in the Cathedral after some 450 years and with a strong ecumenical focus.

The October Devotion took place at S. Helen's, Athersley, coinciding with the church's Diamond Jubilee. The Devotions comprised Solemn Mass, the Rosary, Procession of Our Lady (in spite of inclement weather) and Benediction. Attendance from the local area was good. The Principal Celebrant was the Superior General, and the preacher was Dom Damien Humphries, O.S.B. Thanks are due to Canon Rodney Marshall and the people of S. Helen's for their kind hospitality and for organising this successful event.

The highlight of the Pilgrimage year was the long-awaited Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes. There were altogether 109 pilgrims including

three Bishops and 15 clergy, as well as the young people on their own and some whole families with younger children. The Society was able to subsidise the cost for the young people so that no-one need be prevented from coming on grounds of cost. The young people stayed at the Youth Village and had their own programme, while coming together for events such as the Blessed Sacrament Procession and the International Mass, in both of which they played an active part, plus visits to Betharram and Comminges. Particularly noteworthy were the Stations of the Cross which were prepared by the young pilgrims and led by them on both the high and lower Stations. Travel this year was also a first, as the party travelled by train. In spite of various 'adventures' this was found to be a good way to travel in fellowship and cost less than flying. It is hoped to run the Youth Pilgrimage again in August 2016 with some modifications. Heartfelt thanks are due to Archdeacon Luke Miller and his wife Jacqueline, and to Fr Philip North, for looking after the young people and organising their programme, to Fr Rowlands for building up the links with the Shrine at Lourdes which enabled this Pilgrimage to take place, and for overseeing the whole Pilgrimage; and not least to Bishops Robert Ladds, Jonathan Goodall and Peter Wheatley for their wholehearted participation throughout the week. During the course of the Pilgrimage the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes graciously accepted Honorary Membership of the Society.

The Society's Pilgrimage in September 2015 will be to Loreto, Subiaco and Rome, following previous successful Pilgrimages to these holy places.

It is my pleasant duty as Secretary to record the Council's thanks to all those who have assisted the Society during the past year, in particular to the officers of local Wards and to the clergy and people of churches where the Society has held local or national festivals.

In conclusion, the General Council gives thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings received during the last year, and commends the Society's future work to the prayers of our members under the patronage of Our Lady, Help of Christians.

Celia K. Bush,
Secretary on behalf of the General Council

The Cathedral and Metropolitical Church of St Peter in York

THE CONSECRATION

of

The Reverend Philip John North
Team Rector of the Parish of Old St Pancras
to be
Bishop Suffragan of Burnley
by
The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Doctor John Sentamu
Lord Archbishop of York, Primate of England and Metropolitan
assisted by
The Right Reverend Doctor Martin Warner
Bishop of Chichester
and the Bishops of Beverley and Pontefract

11.00 am

Monday 2 February 2015

The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

■ *A number of bishops, including the Superior of The Society of Mary, The Rt Rev'd Robert Ladds were present at the Consecration of Philip North as Bishop of Burnley.*

The Rt Rev'd Dr Sentamu (pictured with Bishop Philip on page 19) made the decision to delegate, from the Primatial Chair, the act of Consecration of Philip North, to the Bishop of Chichester, the Rt Rev'd Martin Warner.

Bishop Philip North at the Consecration spoke of "Unity" and "what's happened today, has shown that there's a future for those who in good conscience, can't accept that development" – i.e. the Consecration of women to become Bishops – as Libby Lane was made a Bishop, just a week previously on Monday, 26th January 2015.

THE SOCIETY OF MARY

Pilgrimage to

Loreto, Lanciano, Subiaco, Rome

Tuesday 15th September – Tuesday 22nd September 2015

- Full Pilgrimage Programme, including Daily Masses
- Loreto: Guided tour of the Basilica
- Visit to the town of Lanciano and the **Church of San Francesco in which the high altar houses the relics of the Eucharistic miracle, which took place in the 8th century**
- Subiaco visiting the monastery of S. Benedict, around the Sacro Speco (Holy Cave) where he lived for three years and S. Scholastica's monastery
- ROME for 4 nights. Whilst in Rome the itinerary includes visits to: S. Mary Major, S. Pressede, the Cathedral of Rome (S. John Lateran), Scala Santa, the steps brought to Rome in the fourth century by Empress Helena, the Catacombs of S. Domitilla, Basilica of S. Paul outside the Walls, and the Church of San Clemente built over the remains of a Temple of Mithras and Ancient Catacombs

COST £889 AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS WHICH INCLUDES

Travel from LONDON (Stansted), 7-nights accommodation in shared twin-bedded rooms with private facilities 7-continental breakfasts and 7-dinners, all coach transfers in Italy, and entrance fees as per itineraries

The cost does ***not*** include:

- Single rooms – supplementary charge of £180 – limited availability
- Travel insurance at £32.00 per person
- Lunches, drinks, or souvenirs
- Any fuel surcharges imposed by the airline

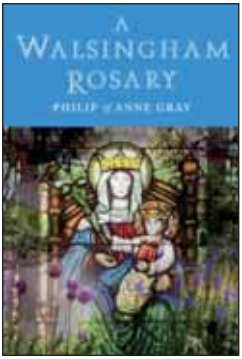
For a detailed programme and a booking form please write, urgently, to:
Fr Graeme Rowlands, *or* Pax Travel 152-156 Kentish Town Road, LONDON NW1 9QB.

This Pilgrimage is organised jointly with Pax Travel

Presentation to the Portsmouth Ward Secretary at the Bournemouth and Portsmouth Assumptiontide Festival

After lunch the opportunity was taken to make a presentation to Mrs Pat Freshwater upon her retirement as the Secretary of the Portsmouth Ward.

■ *Behold the Lamb of God! Bishop Robert Ladds and the other concelebrants: Invitation to the Congregation at the Assumptiontide Mass to receive Communion..*



A WALSINGHAM ROSARY

A Walsingham Rosary, by Philip & Anne Gray, is a book of Bible readings, meditations and prayers based on each of the mysteries of the Rosary – 20 in all – with each being set specifically at a different place in the vicinity of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. It comes complete with an illustrated guide to praying the Rosary and all the Bible readings and prayers are printed out in full. Line drawings, photographs, maps, directions, and a short description of each site will guide pilgrims round all the places of significance in and around Walsingham. It includes visits to the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Orthodox shrines and the Methodist chapel and so is wholly ecumenical. However, this is first and foremost a book of rosary prayers that can be said anywhere. First published locally in 2000, the Luminous Mysteries have since been added to the Rosary, so the text is expanded and includes visits to further five sites and updated photographs.

A Walsingham Rosary is published by Canterbury Press.
ISBN-13: 9781848256309

Fr Philip Gray is a member of the council of the Society of Mary, who is a parish priest in Suffolk and an honorary chaplain of the Norfolk Churches Trust. Anne Gray practised as a barrister and is currently the Elections Officer for Forward in Faith and the Catholic Group in General Synod. She has recently been appointed a Trustee of The Guild of All Souls, whose Chantry Chapel is at Walsingham.

THE OCTOBER DEVOTION, 2015

The Regional October Devotion will be held at S. James, Haydock on ***Saturday 10th October*** commencing at ***12 noon,*** by the Courtesy of Canon Rodney Middleton. Please refer to The Society's website for further details nearer to the time.
www.societyofmary.net/ and www.som-northwest.org.uk

Jimmy Cunningham East, R.I.P.
22nd October 1915 – 26th January 2015

Requiescat in Pace in Gloria resurget

It is not very often that I have ventured a personal tribute in this magazine, but I believe this is called for in the case of Jimmy East. He has been a member of the Kentish Town Ward of the Society ever since I first came to S. Silas in 1989, an unfailing support for all our activities and has given an annual lecture to the Ward for at least the last twelve years.

Before the War he trained as a Seminarian at Chichester, but then ended up in the RAF, first backwards and forwards to Africa and then decoding messages in the north of Scotland, whilst trying to convert the local Presbyterian Minister to the Catholic Faith. Later he taught and became Headteacher of a 'progressive school' in the 1950's and early 60's. He was a natural teacher, a speaker and writer, and a prolific composer and musician. We still use a number of his hymns, of which he wrote both words and tune, including 'Forward in faith' every S. Silas Day. His last lecture in summer 2014, on the poetry and character of Housman, was partly hand written by him and the rest dictated as I sat on the end of the bed: I then delivered it at the Ward meeting. There was also about him a spiritual sensitivity and a perception of things unseen by others.

He was, above all, a practising Catholic Christian who taught so much more by his example than by his words, by his gentle encouragement of others in the congregation. After the reception of his body into S. Silas, Bishop Peter celebrated a Solemn Mass of Requiem, concelebrated by Bishop Robert and a number of priests. His Funeral Mass the following day was prolifically attended by friends from many walks of life. May he receive the reward of his labours and may Our Lady Help of Christians pray for him.

Graeme Rowlands

Solemn Mass of Requiem – Celebrated by Bishop Peter Wheatley on Wednesday 4th February

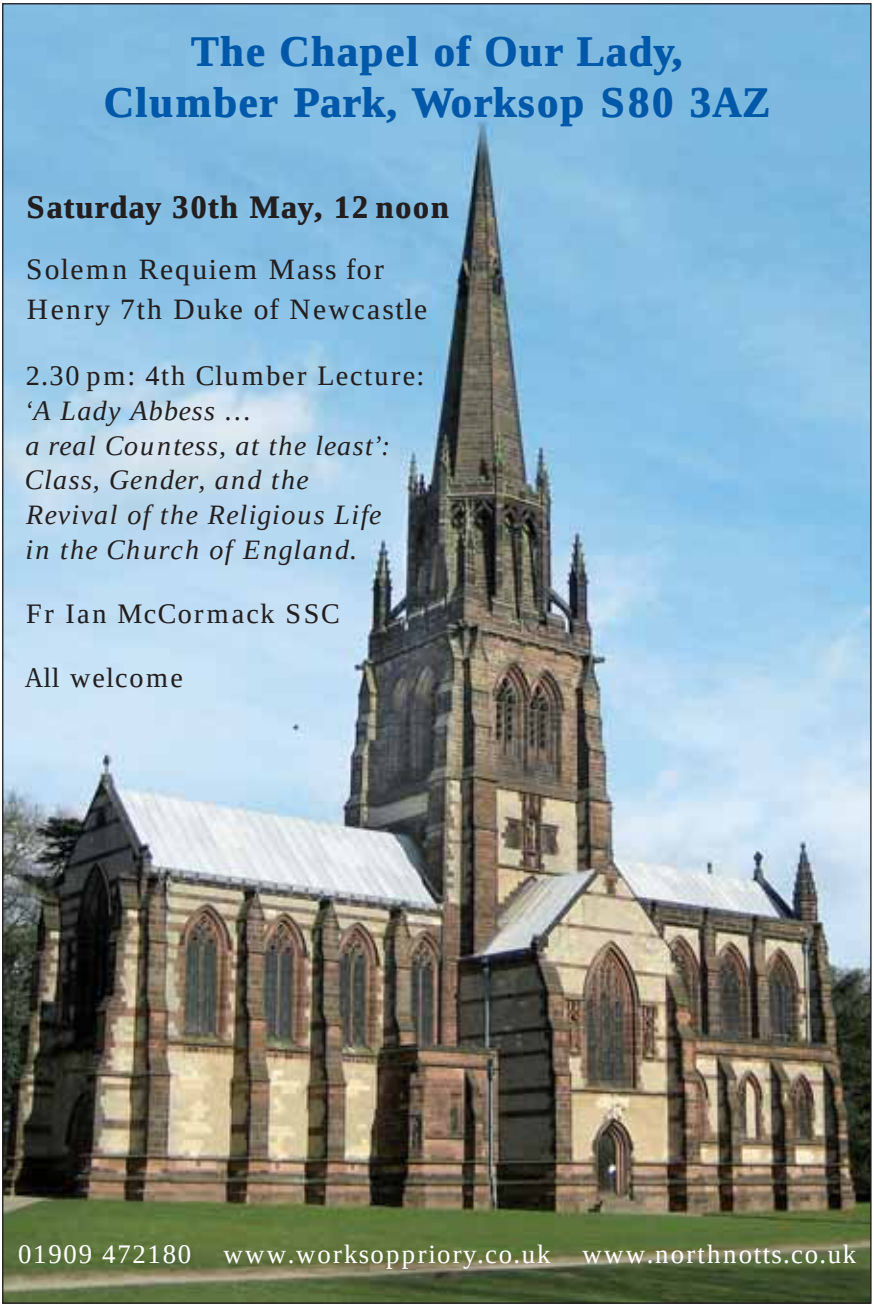
Solemn Funeral Mass – Celebrated by Fr Graeme Rowlands on Thursday 5th February.

Photographs of Jimmy East's Requiem and Funeral © John Salmon, 2015

ALETHEA DICKINSON

On 20 January, it was announced that Her Majesty the Queen will be visiting Sheffield Cathedral to celebrate the Royal Maundy on Thursday 2nd April. Alethea is to be congratulated by being chosen by The Queen, who selects 178 recipients aged over 70 (89 men and 89 women) – a man and a woman for each year of the Sovereigns Life. The recipients are chosen for their Christian service in the Church and the community. It is understood that the Queen particularly values this service as it is a precious opportunity for her to mark explicitly the part that Christians play in our community life.

Each recipient receives two gifts of money, one of which is £0.89 in the coins in a small leather pouch. This includes a 3 pence piece – which is legal tender!


The Chapel of Our Lady,
Clumber Park, Worksop S80 3AZ
Saturday 30th May, 12 noon
Solemn Requiem Mass for
Henry 7th Duke of Newcastle
2.30 pm: 4th Clumber Lecture:
'A Lady Abbess …
a real Countess, at the least':
Class, Gender, and the
Revival of the Religious Life
in the Church of England.
Fr Ian McCormack SSC
All welcome
01909 472180 www.worksoppriory.co.uk www.northnotts.co.uk

Important Ward Events – 2015

Ward	Venue	Date and Time	Event
Our Lady of Victories, NW Ward	S. Hilda, Prestwich	Sunday 17th May, 4.30 pm followed at 6.00 pm	Annual General Meeting of NW Ward May Devotion
	Ladyewell	Saturday 6th June, 12 noon 3.00 pm	Rosary Procession followed by Mass at the Shrine. Sprinkling and Benediction *– Joint event with Forward in Faith*
		Saturday 15th August, 4.00 pm	Assumption Festival. Please see website for details nearer the time.
Our Lady, Queen of All Saints, Bournemouth Ward	S. Ambrose, Bournemouth **BH4 8BE**	Saturday 15th August, 12 noon	Solemn Mass of The Assumption. Celebrant and preacher The Rt Rev'd Norman Banks *Followed by* Lunch (must be booked by 9th August).
		2.45 pm	Benediction.

Details, or to book lunch (by 9th August), from Henry Frier, **henryfrier06@btinternet.com**

WARD OFFICER CHANGES

PORTSMOUTH WARD

Following the retirement of Fr Roger Calder *(please see photo on page 37)* as the Portsmouth Ward Superior he is succeeded by:
The Rev'd John Corbett whose contact details are:
38 Meredith Road, North End Portsmouth PO2 9NN.
e mail:-jdc.jdc1@virginmedia.com

KENTISH TOWN WARD

Miss Amanda McIntyre has succeeded Mr Michael Gester as the Ward Secretary. Amanda's contact details are:
48 Halifax Road, Enfiels EN2 0PR.
e mail: amanda.mcintyre@btinternet.com

Amanda must also be congratulated on becoming a Guardian of The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Events from the South Coast

The Portsmouth Ward of Our Lady Full of Grace visited S. Nicholas, Boarhunt on 18th May 2014. This simple two-cell ancient church, standing almost in isolation in the unspoilt rolling farm and wooded land at the foot of Portsdown Hill, has been described as a "perfect pre-Conquest church", "a valuable specimen", and, "a wonderful little treasure house". Some archaeologists incline to the view that a place of worship existed on this site in the pre-Christian era, and while the date of the foundation of the church is lost in history, it was certainly built by Saxons who worked untroubled by the influence of William who was to become the Conqueror.

All the group visited the Yew tree before leaving. The Yew tree, has recently been measured, and dated to be approximately 1,850 years old. A legend has it that a family lived in the hollow bole for a winter. The photo shows some of the visitors with the Bournemouth Ward Superior, Fr Adrian Pearce, who is in the hollow of the tree!

■ *Portsmouth and Bournemoth Ward members in the church of S. Saviour, Portsmouth on 18th October where a Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham was celebrated. Fr Calder is pictured, vested in Cope, to the left of the picture.*

Webmaster

Mr Richard Doney
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The webmaster is always pleased to receive reports of SOM events for the website

Visit the Society of Mary Website

www.societyofmary.net

webmaster@societyofmary.net

S.O.M. – Merchandise Order Form

Please send this form, together with your remittance which should be made payable to **The Society of Mary, *to the Treasurer,*** Mr Tom Middleton, Flat 1, Cedar House, 1 Woodland Crescent, LONDON SE16 6YL.

Enquiries should be directed to tom.middleton@london.gov.uk

Quantity	Item	Price (inc P&P)	Total
	Society Medal, Manual & Lapel Badge	£10.00	
	Mary – A focus for Unity for all Christians & People, Places and Things	£5.00	
		Remittance – £	

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.....

.....

Postcode .....

Telephone .....

E-mail address .....

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The Society of Mary

(Established 1931)

The Society of Mary springs from two similar societies founded in 1880 and 1901 respectively, which united in 1931. It has members all over the world and is not confined to Anglicans. Where there are sufficient members in one place or area, they combine to form a Ward, with a priest as Superior and an elected Secretary. They can organise regular services, meetings and many other activities. Five or more members may form a Cell, and organise joint prayer and fellowship.

Isolated members are joined to the Headquarters Ward.

The Society publishes its magazine *AVE* twice each year with details of pilgrimages, retreats, festival services etc. It is free to all members and is the effective link between the various Regions.

The Society is not affiliated to any single Shrine or Marian institution, and is the only organisation endeavouring to promote equally all the different aspects of devotion to Mary.

The Society of Mary

The Society is dedicated to the glory of God and in honour of the Holy Incarnation under the invocation of Our Lady, Help of Christians.

1. Members shall keep a Rule of Life, which will include such special devotions as the Angelus, the Rosary, the Litany and Anthems of Our Lady.
2. They will pray for Departed Members of the Society and offer Mass for them.
3. They will take part in the Mass on the principal Feasts of Our Lady.
4. They will engage in apostolic and pastoral work, according to opportunity, under the guidance of the local Ward Officers and the General Council.

Objects and Membership of the Society

The Society was founded as an Anglican Society with these Objects:

1. To love and honour Mary.
2. To spread devotion to her in reparation for past neglect and misunderstanding, and in the cause of Christian Unity.
3. To take Mary as a model in purity, personal relationships and family life.

Photograph © J. R. Salmon

The Superior-General, the Chaplain-General, Officers and General Council of the Society wish you all a Happy Easter.

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