

AVE

The Magazine *of* The Society of Mary



The Annunciation from S. Mary, Bessingham, Norfolk

£2.00

Annunciationtide, 2018



The Superior-General writes

Letter from the Superior-General

The year 2017 has been significant for the Society of Mary. With the unanimous support of the Executive and General Councils, and a unanimous Resolution of the Annual General Meeting in May, the Chaplain-General and I began the formation of the ***College of Chaplains of Mary Mother of the Church***. The purposes of the College being to support the Society of Mary and, in particular, to provide for the Liturgical purposes of the Society.

Most encouragingly, at the end of the initial application period, 108 of our Clergy Members had applied for Admission to the College. This includes 10 of our Bishop Members.

Applications are being processed; the design of the Insignia of the College settled ready for manufacture and subsequent distribution to Members.

These are encouraging beginnings and I am enormously grateful to all those who have supported and responded to this important initiative to secure the worshipping and liturgical life of our Society; the very bedrock of our existence.

Among our Purposes is to seek to increase Devotion to our Lady. Our annual Devotions are an important part in fulfilling this intention.

The May Devotion 2017, at S. Silas, Kentish Town, was a joyful and highly successful occasion; the Procession of Witness, escorting the Society's Image of Our Blessed Lady through the crowded Saturday streets of Camden, was a quite remarkable occasion! We broke new ground in holding the October Devotion at the Church of S. Hilda, Cross Green, Leeds. Pastoral work and parochial life is very demanding in the Cross Green part of the City and it was important to be able to visit a Parish that has been resolute in the Catholic Faith and



to lend support to Father Darren Percival SSC, as he began his joint ministry at S Hilda's and S Saviour's. Both are significant Churches, directly relating to the life and work of Edward Bouverie Pusey and the early period of the Oxford Movement and Catholic Revival.

Another of our Purposes is to increase Marian understanding and Pilgrimage. It is, therefore, good to see that during 2017 our Membership had continued to grow significantly; with an encouraging number of younger Clergy and Seminarians joining us. A new initiative was the Society Pilgrimage to Austria.

During the past year we have given financial support to just over 200 – mainly young – Pilgrims to Walsingham; supported 9 parishes or groups of parishes to go on the Walsingham Pilgrimage; supported 3 Primary Schools in taking whole classes to Walsingham; and supported 2 parishes in projects for the restoration of Shrines and Images of Our Lady. The Society was represented at the Centenary Pilgrimage to Fatima and at the Papal Mass of Canonisation of the Seers.

My thanks to Father Rowlands, our Chaplain-General and Director of Pilgrimage; Father Morris, our Assistant Director of Pilgrimage, Celia Bush, our General-Secretary; Father Sam McNally-Cross, Editor of AVE and Tom Middleton, our Treasurer. Thanks are also justly due to Members of our Executive and General Councils, to all our Members, Anne Gray and all who have contributed to our growing and developing work and Mission.

What has, through God's Grace and Our Lady's Prayers, been achieved, must encourage us to look forward into 2018 with Faith and Hope. Past commitment by so many has been of enormous importance and remains so for Catholics at this time in our Church. May our Most Blessed Lady, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church; Help of Christians, pray for us.

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✠ Robert Ladds – *Superior-General*

A Letter from the Chaplain-General

My dear friends,

It strikes me as very curious that, in this age of faster and ever more immediate communication, so many people are left to fret and worry within a world of their own. The more we know about, the more there is to worry about; the stronger the message, the easier it is to be carried away by it. Many of the random shootings and acts of terrorism are carried out by individuals who have been 'radicalised' within a very short time and are persuaded to adopt attitudes which promote hatred of other races or faiths. There have always been lonely people, those who are eccentric or mentally disturbed, those who thrive on prejudice and bigotry, but now there is no one to help; they are effectively cut off from society. So we need to learn again how to talk to one another, how to create networks of mutual support. In other words, we need to recreate an 'ekklesia', a gathering of those called together by God, the Church.

This gives us a very clear message to how we as a Church, as a Society, as parishes committed to living and practising the Catholic Faith, should respond. Over the last 120 years or so, the Catholic Societies were founded and developed in order to teach and witness to different aspects of the Faith. The Society of Mary, in its aims and objects, still calls upon the Church to recognise the essential place of Mary within the events of our salvation and therefore to make her a daily part of our prayers and devotion. That message is still as important and urgent as it was in 1931. In recent years the Society has found new ways of helping individuals and parishes; because of that support, many have been brought to a fresh understanding of the Faith. This includes a number of young people, some of whom have gone on to recognise a particular calling to the priesthood. For this we give thanks. But we still need to explore ways



in which we can pool our resources and do things together with the other Catholic Societies.

I was there at the beginning and the end of the Council of Catholic Societies! In the 1970's, Fr Milburn started the Council as a way of trying to get Catholics working together, discussing issues of common concern and cooperating on the planning of festivals, rather than organising a programme of events in competition with one another! It came to an end because it seemed to have lost its *raison d'être*. But at this stage there is an even greater need for mutual support and proper use of our resources. It is very good that a few episcopal areas have created the post of a missionary, to support parishes in ministry to their communities and bringing new people to be part of the worshipping community. But perhaps for the future, we need to be more radical, creating professional posts for suitable lay people to coordinate that mission, across the Catholic Societies and our Churches. I commend these ideas to your thoughts and prayers.

As I write, I am preparing to go to Lourdes with Fr Morris, for the meeting of the Pilgrimage Directors in the days leading up to the Anniversary of the First Apparition on 11th February. Bookings are still coming in for this year's Pilgrimage and I hope we shall be able to take a good number, both of adults and young people, with us. One of the 'Missions' which was given during the 150th Anniversary of the Apparitions in 2008, given by the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes to the Society of Mary, was 'For the Unity of Christians'. Now that we reach the 160th Anniversary, it is time for us to renew that commitment.

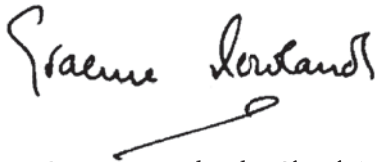
Now to more domestic matters. I was sorry to hear in December that Henry Frier had retired as Secretary of the Bournemouth Ward. His health has not been good for over a year and, although it is improving, he felt the need to step down. As you will know, he has not only been Secretary of that Ward. He took on the Editorship of *AVE* and transformed it; he is an enthusiastic member of the General Council; he and Dorothy have contributed in so many ways on our pilgrimages and at our festivals. For all of this we offer them our heartfelt thanks and promise to continue to support them with our prayers.

We look forward to the May Devotion and AGM in London on Saturday 5th. Rather than include many details in this letter, please refer to the display advertisement on page 7 of this issue. This is the day on which our associated organisation, the Chaplains of Mary Mother of

the Church, will officially begin. Our thanks go to Fr Alex McGregor and to Bishop Robert for all the hard work they have done in drawing up its constitution and defining its membership. As last year, our Procession on the day 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, Seminararians or servers. Any offers to me, please, by 15th April. We are very grateful to Canon Paul Cartwright, the Parish Priest of S. Peter, Barnsley, for agreeing to come and preach to us. The arrangements for lunch on the day are as last year. You do not need to book beforehand and there will not be tickets: it will simply be £10, payable 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*



GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2018

The candidates for election to the General Council are:

Fr Graeme Rowlands as Chaplain-General

Mr Tom Middleton as Treasurer

Fr Jonathan Beswick

Fr Beresford Skelton

Celia Bush, *Secretary*

THE SOCIETY OF MARY

Loving God, by loving Our Lady, since 1931

The May Devotion and AGM

will be held in

**S. Silas the Martyr, S. Silas Place NW5,
and Holy Trinity, Hartland Road NW1**

SATURDAY 5th MAY 2018

12 noon, at the Church of S. Silas the Martyr,

Solemn Pontifical Concelebrated Mass

*Principal Celebrant: The Superior-General,
The Right Reverend Robert Ladds.*

*Chaplains of Mary, Mother of the Church who wish to
concelebrate are asked to notify Fr Graeme Rowlands
at S. Silas the Martyr, by Saturday 28th April.*

**followed by the Procession of Our Lady through
the streets to the Church of The Most Holy Trinity**

1.45 pm Lunch in Holy Trinity Church Hall

Lunch costs £10 and is payable in cash on the day

3.15 pm AGM of the Society in Holy Trinity Church

4.00 pm Solemn Vespers, Sermon & Pontifical Benediction

*Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Paul Cartwright,
Parish Priest, S. Peter and St John, Barnsley*

From the Editor...

Dear friends,

I am always very keen to receive items for AVE that will be interesting and stimulating for the readership. If you have been on a pilgrimage somewhere and care to share some of your Marian related photographs, heard a good lecture or sermon at an event or service, or have your own ponderings or poems that you would like to share, please do send them to me for consideration.

I would prefer all items to be sent electronically to the email address listed toward the back of this edition, photographs should be in as high a resolution as possible, please.

I look forward to what treasures may be unearthed.

God Bless,

Fr Sam McNally-Cross, *Editor*



A Rosary Adventure

Hannah Phillips reflects on the Advent Rosary group that gathered together in cyberspace through the medium of Twitter.

The season of Advent, a time of preparation for the arrival for our Saviour Jesus Christ. The first people who would have experienced the advent of Christ was his parents. Their preparations were without a doubt eventful, daunting and totally reliant on their faith in God to carry them. Therefore, what better way to ready ourselves for the coming Christ Child than by developing a discipline of praying with Our Lady? Our Holy Mother who understands perfectly that whilst filled with hope, love and anticipation, we also experience doubt, trepidation, fear as to our worthiness and readiness.

It was with this concept very much on my mind, that I came across an enquiry on Twitter as to whether I would like to form part of a virtual Rosary group during Advent. It seemed only natural that I should agree, it appears 105 other people also concurred. On the first Sunday of Advent a cloud of prayers commenced from a multitude of places. From the very beginning the journey felt like a special one.

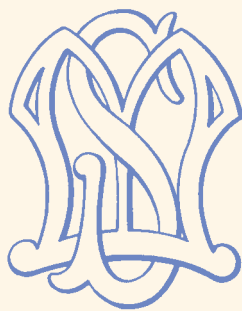
My own prayer relationship with the Rosary started when I was at a secondary convent school and has carried me through many of life's ups and downs. Though I am rarely separated from my Rosary, taking the time to pray it daily has never been something I have attempted before. Despite this I was somewhat daunted by the prospect of adding something else into the already hectic Vicarage household. However, from the discussions that took place on Twitter it was apparent that I was not the only one breaking out of my cocoon and learning to use my wings. Some of us had never prayed the rosary before, some were not even naturally inclined to that tradition and some were fully versed in the discipline. It was uplifting to be part of this emerging butterfly as it took flight in such a beautiful way.

Each day the intentions to be offered were provided by Fr McNally-Cross under the hashtag **#RosaryAdventure**. When we had prayed the rosary, we would click on the 'like' button, so we could hold each other accountable. Among the increasing chaos at home it became a blessing to know that I could press pause and become part of a large community of prayers. The humility of knowing that those who have never met you are sparing the time to pray for you, was mirrored by the immense responsibility of praying for those who also needed those prayers.

There was soon a feeling that we were growing together to form a virtual community as we started to share stories of our experiences during the Rosary Adventure. The discussions revealed an awakening of spirituality among us, as whether on a train, at home or beside the nativity crib we were engaging in our prayers. Praying in this way caused me to become mindful of my surroundings and how my faith could be present in them. I also became aware that the cessation of what to me was most mundane of tasks could transform into the provision comfort and strength to someone somewhere else. It was truly moving following the revelations online as to how the prayers

were supporting others. The honesty amongst the community was amazing, people admitting when we found it hard, or if we had missed the prayers for a reason. The members of our community responded in such a compassionate way, so when I was ill and failed to complete my task I was surrounded in loving prayer, as the community and I prayed for others when they could not complete that day's intentions. Our willingness to accept and own our failings and see the forgiveness of the group, truly echoed Christ's own message.

The last intentions prayed of the eve of Christ's Nativity, I began to feel that something would be very much missing from my life. Praying the Rosary in this way had become a part of who I was. It had not been a burden but a revelation and an opening of a spiritual valve at a time when I had been struggling. I miss praying as part of a community but the habit of praying the Rosary has developed a whole new meaning. Prayers have always bridged the gap between our Father and his earthly children, enriching our spirituality and allowing us the space to discern God's will. As I held my rosary knowing that others were clutching theirs too, in so many places, at various times began to feel like we were the beads and our prayers the chain joining them. A perfect preparation for the coming Christ child, learning to make space for others in a hectic and full life, understanding there is always room at the inn, if you choose to make it. May Our Lady pray for us through this new year, that we may continue to make space for those we have not have known or seen. Then we too can continue to make space at the inn and welcome the Christ Child into our lives, everyday.



Society of Mary – Quiet Day

*A quiet day was held at Alnmouth Friary on 22.7.16,
led by Br Michael Jacob SSF, focusing on Our Lady*



In the fourth station of the way of the cross, we remember Jesus meeting his mother, not a biblically recorded event but one that is worth pondering. In that crowd of people, yelling and screaming. Spewing out there insults, making Jesus the object of their pain and pent up frustrations a failure they had five days before hailed as a Messiah king. He must have felt more alone than ever before. Friends are gone, denying or delivering you into the hands of those who seek to do you harm, or simply hiding. There in the crowd was his mother, a friendly face. She can't make the hurting stop, she's known that since she was told by old Simeon a sword would pierce her own heart. Did she know it would really cut this deep and that it would twist, like that hateful crown of thorns was twisted into place? Did she know that she would witness such horror inflicted on the boy she had nursed and loved since his birth. In the Passion of the Christ, the Mel Gibson film, which evokes different reactions in people, there is a beautiful scene on the Via Dolorosa where Mary has the memory of Jesus falling as a small child and rushing to his aid, she sees him fall in the present and can't stop herself rushing to his aid again. Like any mother or father,

the instinct to protect their child is more powerful than those of us who are not parents can probably fully comprehend. She does understand and care as he suffers. There is nobody who cares more and who probably understands better.

That time she was probably reminded of the amazing events that had occurred as a teenager, when she was visited by the archangel Gabriel and conceived in her body the incarnate Son of God and in her mind the task which had been laid upon her. The mixed blessing for the future that Simeon would later give her. It will be glorious, but it will be born in agony, the agony of her Son and her reward will be a pierced heart. By the time his public ministry is initiated after the baptism in the Jordan, she must have felt a mingling of joy and sorrow. Joy because he's about to do the work he was born for, the messianic deliverance of those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; but sorrow because that work would have a cost that would make him choose Calvary.

Where was hope that day for Mary? Where is hope for the weeping broken hearted mothers of Syria, Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and too many other places in our world? I can't explain where it comes from or why it exists, but it does. It exists in the purgation of our sins on the Cross, it exists in us when we believe in a hidden God, in the work of Christian Aid, helping all, regardless of need, in Mother Teresa's nuns who will be in the living torment of human suffering all over the planet. Why? Because the crucifixion and death of Jesus prepares for us a way to become most fully human, to become holy, the cross is a scandal of divine compassion, the scandal is that God, who created this entire universe, who created galaxies, giraffes and raspberries wants us to become like Him and is prepared to die for it. It cannot be understood but it is worth living and dying for. Through the eyes of Mary we enter more deeply into the mystery of crucified love. The Methodist theologian Ray Hart puts it very well when he says of the Christian faith "We are invited into knowledge, but received into mystery."

I expect you may remember that song from the late 60's 'I Never Promised You a Rose Garden'. *I beg your pardon I never promised you a rose garden. Along with the sunshine there's gotta be a little rain sometime* We all know that life has times of awful sorrow. Personally and nationally. I still can't stop thinking about my nan who died

suddenly earlier this year or about Grenfell Tower and all those poor people who lost their lives unnecessarily. The heart of Mary is a pierced heart, but it is a heart full of hope.

“Hope is not the expectation that things will turn out successfully, but the conviction that something is worth working for, however it turns out” wrote Vaclav (Vatslav) Havel. Opponent of injustice and political dissident. Hope is the proper response to the promises of God. It is what keeps us going when everything else is falling apart. Hope that war will end, that AIDS will be cured, that my son will sort his life out and become all that he could be as a family man and husband, when I am pulled in many different directions and I can only find balm for my hurting heart in hoping in Him.

As the mother looked at the ravaged body of her dying Son, I imagine the grief was indescribable and physically real. How strange it must have been to have the persistent feeling that this is not the end. Impossible and senseless and yet the feeling persisted. Something happened in Mary’s heart at the foot of the cross, as her own dear Son bore away the sins of the world. That midnight that came over the world would soon be turned to glorious day.

For us today, Mary can be an icon. An icon of hope in her Son. The God man crucified, beaten, bleeding and dying for us. I really hope that Veronica or anybody wiped his face as the legend tells us. And I really hope he saw his mother, nobody should have endured that whole ordeal alone. And I pray I can have a measure of Mary’s hope. Mysterious and inexplicable. The path that leads to life. Amen.





The October Devotion



will take place in the church of

**S. Mary Magdalene,
Wilson Street, Millfield, Sunderland SR4 6HJ**

SATURDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2018

12 NOON, SOLEMN CONCELEBRATED MASS

Principal Celebrant: Bp Robert Ladds, The Superior-General

Chaplains of Mary, Mother of the Church desiring to concelebrate
please inform Fr Beresford Skelton –

0191 565 6318 07877 930479 frskelsmm@btinternet.com

– by 1st September 2018 and bring an alb

Lunch in the Parish Centre

£10 per person – pay on the door

**3.00 PM, ROSARY, PROCESSION OF OUR LADY,
SERMON AND BENEDICTION**

Preacher: Fr Kyle McNeil SSC – *Vicar of S. Mary, Horden*

Directions

Metro Light Railway to Millfield. Turn left out of the station and walk 200yards, Turn right into John Candlish Road and left in to Wilson Street.
Bus numbers 20 18 and 10 from City Centre. Alight at Willow Pond Pub.
Cross the road, walk along Pickard Street and turn right into Wilson Street
SATNAV Postcode SR4 6HJ

Parking: There is street parking in Wilson Street and side streets

The Shrine at Jesmond

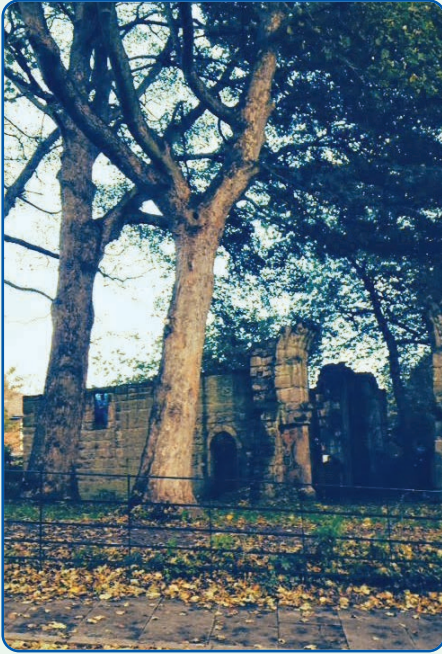


Photo © Amanda Dales

The Manor of Jesmond was in the hands of the Grenville family until 1158. When William Grenville died childless the estate was shared out between his two sisters.

Mabel Grenville married Ralph Gaugy and they took the northern part of the estate.

The other sister (name unknown) married Hugh de Ellington they had oversight of the southern part of the estate, which included the shrine buildings.

In 1190 Henry de Bulmer (a descendant of Hugh de Ellington) gave the lands to the monks of S. Oswin's Priory, Tynemouth and presumably the chapel and its devotions was maintained by them, though it is not mentioned in the documents.

There are hints of the pilgrimage days in the streets of Newcastle itself - Pilgrim Street and Grey Street. Pilgrim Street had several inns where the pilgrims would gather on the eve of the devotion. Grey Street is not named after Earl Grey whose monument is at the top end of the street but after the Greyfriars whose Friary was a hostel to pilgrims. Low Friar and High Friar off Pilgrim Street lend credence to that.



Photo © Amanda Dales



Photo © Amanda Dales

Pilgrims would gather for the procession in the early morning and make their way up Pilgrim Street and what is now Northumberland Street, passing through the city gate and crossing Barrass Bridge, avoiding the Leper Colony on the left hand side (where the civic centre is now!) and make their way to the shrine.

Holy Days and Feasts that were ordered to be kept with great devotion included Christmas, the Feast of the Circumcision, Epiphany, Easter and Ascension Day, Corpus Christi.

The Feasts of the Birth and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, together with the Nativity of S. John the Baptist and the Feast of S. Peter and S. Paul with their octave days were also included in the shrine calendar.

The Shrine of Jesmond slips from the pages of history for the two hundred years that the priory had care of it. One can only surmise that everything went of as usual. It is only when something goes wrong that such become newsworthy.

There was controversy between Crown and Church over the appointment of the Shrine's incumbent.

It has a distinguished list of incumbents including Richard Clifford (1391), who became Bishop of London and was one the three English Bishops at the Great Council of Constantinople in 1417. His vote also secured Cardinal Colonna as Pope Martin V (keep that name for later).



Henry Bowet (1401) resigned as incumbent of Jesmond to become Bishop of Bath & Wells, and later he became Archbishop of York.

Thomas Chase (1422) was responsible for petitioning the Pope for the Rescript of Pope Martin V for the rebuilding of the Shrine. This is probably when the "new" chantry chapel was added to the side of the chancel of the Shrine Church.

Thomas Chase was an absentee incumbent of the Shrine because he was first and foremost Chancellor of Oxford. Even the last incumbent of the Shrine, William Weldon was absent when its suppression was brought about in 1548.

In an extant will, that of William Ecopp, parish priest of West Heslerton in the East Riding of Yorkshire, dated 6th September 1472 there is a comprehensive list of pre-reformation shrines. William bequeathes 4d to each shrine for a Requiem Mass to be offered for the repose of his own soul and for the repose of the souls of his parents.

Among many other shrines mentioned in the will are S. Thomas of Canterbury, Blessed Mary of Walsingham, S. Ethelreda of Ely, S. John of Beverley, S. William of York, Blessed Mary of Carlisle, and in the Candelas (the White House - now Whitkirk) of S. Ninian of Galloway.

From the time of the Rescript of Pope Martin V in 1426 devotion at the shrine had a short lived revival. Pilgrims then drifted away as the ethos of the country became fragmented by the turmoil of the reformation.

The Faith of our Fathers that had set us great store by holy places was no longer accepted or understood by scholars and so by the folk who were being taught by them.

As in many holy places across the country the buildings fell into disrepair long before they were officially suppressed. Stones were "borrowed" by locals to build or repair their own premises.

It was Newcastle City Council who came to the rescue of the shrine buildings at Jesmond when it was decided that they be a "protected ruin". Shored up to prevent further destruction or disappearance the ruins are now in the care of the Parks Department.

They give shadows of former times and former glories and tell of the rise and fall of pilgrimage in early and late medieval Christianity respectively.

"Change and decay in all around I see" as the hymn has it, but the

unchanging message of the Christian faith is that life comes out of death. Jesmond bears witness to that.

Though there is not a chance of rebuilding this place, the devotion is being rebuilt. Enough has been preserved to lay a foundation of faith.

Fr Beresford Skelton

From the Editor...

If you would like to be a part of the devotion that continues to be built in that place, perhaps you might like to join the Newcastle and Durham Wards, in person, in prayer, or both, at their annual pilgrimage.

Newcastle and Durham Wards of the Society of Mary

Tuesday 19th June 2018

ANNUAL DEVOTION AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF JESMOND

Jesmond Dene Road / Reid Park Road NE2

7.00 PM PROCESSION AND SOLEMN CONCELEBRATED MASS

with sprinkling from the Holy Well

Principal Celebrant:

The Right Reverend Glyn Webster, Bishop of Beverley

Retreat based on Rosary Mysteries

Friday 1st December found about 60 of us arriving in Walsingham for the annual Advent Retreat, finishing on Advent Sunday...

Masterful was the way in which, with apparent ease, Bishop Peter Ramsden wove his four addresses around his experiences working in Papua New Guinea (latterly as Bishop of Port Moresby), the hymn “We have a Gospel to Proclaim” and the four sets of Mysteries of the Rosary. He was ordained in 1977 and this was his first visit to Walsingham since he was a student at Mirfield. He said that it had changed somewhat since those days!



We began with the Angelus and Joyful Mysteries which took us from Advent to Candlemas and was about the Good News. The natives in PNG had a native culture of bad demons and spirits and the initial task was to help them experience God who was the opposite and did only good things, a God who was with them, amongst them and loving them. God with us. Mary accepting His love and pointing us towards him. The Word became Flesh and the message of the Incarnation is that God invites us to trust him (“I give you my Word”). We stop and respond in trust and love.

The Mysteries of Light took us from Epiphany to Holy Week, the light of each mystery telling us to be a light to others. +Peter reminded us that the church overseas is not an optional extra and asked whether anyone visiting our churches would know that they are part of a world wide church. The wedding at Cana has Mary saying “Do whatever he tells you”, her final words to us, as well, at the very beginning of Jesus’s earthly ministry.

The emphasis on Jesus sending out His disciples reminds us of the importance of the “*Ite Missa Est*” at Mass - we go to church in order to be sent out again and we must go out in thanks, love and peace. Timothy Radcliffe’s book *Why Go to Church* cover this more fully.

In PNG, wherever there are churches there are also schools, universities, clinics etc., Retired teachers go there as volunteers and MU members go there to nurse HIV sufferers.

The church needs to be an extension of the Incarnation, doing, praying, giving, being and giving time to those needing it. Incarnation is about having respect for everyone. This is how we respond to belonging to Jesus and we do so strengthened by the Eucharist. We respond to the Light of Christ by being a light to others. We do, indeed, have a Gospel to proclaim.

The Sorrowful Mysteries cover only a few days, or perhaps just one day. Here we are stopped in our tracks and are faced with the cost of discipleship. Mary at the Crucifixion, silent, looking and watching. She becomes the Mother of John and therefore also Mother of the Church. "Whoever serves me becomes my disciple also".

Darkness comes to us all and may come at any time. Jesus died out of love and we are called to a life of generous love, sharing the burdens of others whilst being repentant and forgiving. At the head of the martyrs is Mary. Follow Mary in love.

The Glorious Mysteries lead us back ultimately to the feast of Christ the King and the end of another liturgical year. 2 Timothy 4 reminds us that ultimately we all get a crown.

When +Peter's mother was unconscious and dying the nurse told the family to say what they needed to say, perhaps thanking her for all that she had done. God is with us, we belong to Him and we follow him.

We were given a Pidgin word meaning "Good sitting down". That is what the life of a community - especially a Christian community - is all about, sitting down with, being with and listening to, each other. The image of Our Lady of Walsingham, unlike most other images of her, has her SITTING DOWN demonstrating her right relationship with Her Son and encouraging us to do likewise. We are a community and need to connect well with each other by sitting down.

Ultimately our task today is simply to step out again with Christ and His church, playing our own unique part in the continuing story of the Church. The God of mission to the world and His church, which is part of that world, require us, as members to play our own part in that story ourselves.

***Malcolm Kemp** joined the Society of Mary in about 1963 and became a Life Member around ten years later. He is retired from being both a Civil Servant and semi-professional church musician, and has always lived in Brighton.*

Mary in the life of Fr Kevin Smith

Father Kevin Smith is Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.



Fr S: *Can you recall a particular time that you first encountered the Blessed Virgin (spiritually or liturgically)? Could you describe that?*

Fr K: I suppose I first heard about Mary in sermons given by my Parish Priest when I was a boy. Even in a small market town in North Yorkshire Our Lady occasionally got a mention! However, it was in Walsingham that I first experienced specific devotion to Mary. That same priest brought a group of us to the National Pilgrimage when I was 14 years old. I remember the day very clearly and it had a profound influence on my spiritual life. It was the first time I had attended an outdoor Mass and been amongst so many other worshippers. Seeing the Image of Our Lady of Walsingham being carried in to the Abbey Grounds made a huge impression.

Fr S: *What is about the Virgin you find so appealing?*

Fr K: It is her trust in God which I find particularly attractive, qualities which she shows so clearly, for example, by her response to the Angel's message and her presence with Christ at the Cross on Good Friday. At times of difficulty or doubt she gives a wonderful example of faithfulness. The human experience of a mother's love and wisdom helps me to understand and be drawn towards the love and wisdom of Mary as a spiritual Mother.

Fr S: *How would you answer that those who are concerned that the veneration of Mary detracts from Our Lord?*

Fr K: The relationship between mother and child is unique. Part of the beauty of the mystery of the Incarnation is that Our Lord was born of the Virgin in the flesh and experienced the life of a human family. The

love which the Son had for his Mother and the Mother for her Son is one which I believe enhances, rather than detracts from, a true understanding of our faith in Christ, the Word made flesh who dwelt among us. Mary always points us to him and as his Mother and as his first disciple shows us in a unique and powerful way how to love and follow him.

Fr S: *Are there any especially memorable places, devoted to her, or celebrations for her that you have taken part in or visited?*

Fr K: Apart from Walsingham, I have been a regular pilgrim to Fatima and Lourdes, all very powerful places of prayer and devotion. When I was the Parish Priest of S. Mary's, Horden in County Durham the parish made regular pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Kevelaer in Germany. It is a beautiful Shrine with a stunning Basilica and a great tradition of offering generous hospitality to pilgrims. This year I attended the Mass for the Centenary of the Apparitions in Fatima celebrated by Pope Francis. As a group of Anglican pilgrims we were warmly welcomed. Last September I found myself in Fatima again having been invited, along with Mgr John Armitage, to attend a Conference of Rectors of European Marian Shrines. It was encouraging to hear how many of the Marian Shrines are experiencing a renewed interest in pilgrimage as part of the Christian life and growth in number of pilgrims.

Fr S: *What spiritual insights do you gain from devotion to Our Lady?*

Fr K: That in the life and work and prayer, Mary is the greatest model and shows how to be open at all times to God's grace and presence. In a rapidly changing world and in what is for many a time of fear and uncertainty, Our Lady teaches again and again through her own life and example the gospel of hope. By her faith she encourages us as pilgrims to look forward with hope and to strive for those things that are of God, gifts which are entrusted to his Church and proclaimed by the Church to the world.

Fr S: *What would you like to see The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham achieve and how can members of The Society of Mary support that?*

Fr K: Obviously I would like to see an increase in the number of pilgrims coming to Walsingham simply because I believe that the

Shrine has so much to offer as a place of prayer, healing and encouragement. So often I hear those who come for the first time say that they wish they had discovered it before. Members of the Society who come to Walsingham are well placed to tell those who haven't been about the Shrine and encourage them to discover its treasures. The Society of Mary has had a long and fruitful relationship with the Shrine. A good example is the way they both worked together in preparing for the Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2008. It was hugely successful and helped make the pilgrimage a really significant and memorable one. It would be good to explore ways in which the Shrine and the Society can continue this kind of work together so as to promote devotion to Mary and pilgrimages to her Shrines, and to take Our Lady (in the words of the Objects of the Society of Mary) as a model in purity, personal relationships and family life.

Fr S: *How do you think we can best inspire others to regard Our Lady more seriously in their spiritual lives?*

Fr K: By encouraging pilgrimage to Marian Shrines, especially Walsingham! I have already mentioned the wonderful discovery often made by those who visit the Shrine for the first time. They sometimes describe it as finding something that has been missing in their spiritual lives and speak of their gratitude to their priest or fellow pilgrims for introducing them to it. So often people have the wrong impression of what devotion to Mary is all about and are amazed when they discover at her Shrines that it is so much about the Gospel, about what God has done and is doing through Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary. The simple act of lighting a candle and praying at an image of Our Lady in church, especially after the celebration of Mass, is a good spiritual practice. Obviously we wouldn't want this to draw attention to ourselves, but as a regular and natural act of devotion it can be an effective way of witnessing to the place Mary has in our own spiritual lives.

Fr S: *And finally: Dormition, Falling Asleep, or Assumption?*

Fr K: Definitely Assumption! It's a beautiful word and it somehow captures the joy, hope and promise celebrated in this glorious mystery.



THE SOCIETY OF MARY

Report of the General Council 2017



The General Council met in February and October and the Executive additionally in July.

The 86th Annual Festival took place at S. Silas the Martyr, Kentish Town on 6th May 2017, by kind invitation of the Chaplain-General. The Superior-General, the Right Reverend Robert Ladds, presided at Mass, which was concelebrated by 25 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 quite 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 Trevor Jones, Rector of St Peter's, London Docks. 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 highlight of the 2017 Pilgrimage year was the Pilgrimage to Vienna in September, led by Fr Rowlands and Fr Peter Anthony. This was a very successful and enjoyable Pilgrimage, in a new place for the Society of Mary. The Pilgrimage was reported in 'Ave' in October. In 2018 there will be a Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes, and fundraising is taking place to enable as many young people as possible to be assisted financially. Additional publicity material will be available at the AGM in 2018.

The October Devotion took place at St Hilda's, Cross Green, Leeds. The Devotions comprised Solemn Mass, the Rosary, Procession of Our Lady, and Benediction. Attendance was good, in spite of the unavoidable alteration to the date which had originally been planned. The Principal Celebrant was the Superior General, and the preacher was Fr Brian Bell, Guardian of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Thanks are due to Fr Darren Percival and the people of St Hilda's for

their kind hospitality, and to all those who helped to organise this successful and enjoyable event.

During the year, Council were presented with and discussed the final proposed arrangements relating to Holy Orders and the Amendment to the Constitution of the Society of Mary. The Superior General had explained that a further vote was not required from members at the AGM, as the arrangements had previously been agreed. Work was now commencing on setting up the Chaplains of Mary, Mother of the Church, and was reported on in the October 2017 edition of 'Ave'.

The Society has continued to make grants and bursaries available for purposes consistent with its aims and objectives, giving grants to individuals for Pilgrimages, for Marian festivals and for restoration of statues or paintings of Our Lady. It is hoped that, once again, generous subsidies will be given to enable young people between the ages of 12 and 18 to participate in the Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

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. Many smaller local events take place during the year, and the Council particularly thanks Ward Superiors and members for keeping faith with the Society in this way and encouraging new members, of which a record number were admitted at this May Devotion.

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.



**Minutes of the Eighty-Sixth Annual General Meeting
of the Society of Mary held at the Church of The Most
Holy Trinity, Hartland Road, London NW1,
6th May 2016**

PRESENT

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

and 120 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. He added that the Agenda of this meeting as well as the Minutes of last year's AGM had both appeared in the Annunciationtide 'Ave'.

1. Apologies for absence: Received from 30 members.

2. Minutes of the Eighty-Fifth Annual General Meeting, 5th May 2016: It was proposed and seconded from the Floor 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 5th May 2016. The Minutes were therefore duly signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: None

4. Report of the General Council 2016: This was received as published in *Ave*, and recorded another extremely active and interesting year. Thanks were expressed by the Superior-General to those who had prepared the Report. The Report was formally received unanimously.

5. Consideration of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016: The Treasurer circulated copies of the Accounts in brief and explained that the income of the Society was derived both from investments and subscriptions. Normal expenditure was for 'Ave', for Devotional events such as today's and for the general running costs of the Society. Grants were also given towards parish Pilgrimages and

such items as statues or paintings as agreed by Council during the year. The main expense for the coming year will be for the Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage in August 2018 mainly for subsidising young people who wish to take part. Money is being raised for this from a variety of sources, including applications for grants from various Charities. It was noted that income was still needed for this purpose and would be gratefully received.

The Superior General thanked the Treasurer for his work in keeping the Accounts of the Society and for making these intelligible to all.

The formal adoption of the 2016 Accounts was proposed and seconded by members, and carried unanimously.

6. Report from the Director of Pilgrimage: Fr Rowlands reported that the 2016 Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes had been a great success. Several of the young people had expressed the wish to come again, and the next Pilgrimage is in the planning stage. This Pilgrimage has been fully reported in 'Ave'.

The Society's main Pilgrimage is taking place in September, and will be to Austrian Shrines, based in Vienna. The Pilgrimage will be led by Fr Peter Anthony and Fr Rowlands. There are still some places available, and details are available at this meeting. This is a new venture for the Society, and is eagerly anticipated..

The Superior-General said that Pilgrimage is a great part of the Society's work, and he wished to thank Fr Rowlands particularly for all his efforts and success in furthering this object. This was endorsed with acclamation from the floor and a round of applause was given.

7. General Council Elections: The Superior-General, as Acting Returning Officer, reported that it had been necessary to hold an election, as the numbers of those standing for election exceeded the number of vacancies. The following were therefore declared duly elected for a period of four years from May 2017:

Archdeacon Luke Miller (Vice Chairman)

The Right Reverend Norman Banks

Mr Henry Frier

Canon Rodney Marshall

Canon Mark Nicholls

Fr Roger Parker

Fr David Sutton

Fr Iain Young

The Superior-General thanked those re-elected Council members for their continuing service to the Society and welcomed newly-elected members. A round of applause was given in appreciation.

8. Election of Returning Officer and Director of Pilgrimage

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

Director of Pilgrimage: Fr Rowlands was proposed by the Superior-General, seconded from the floor and unanimously elected unopposed and with acclamation.

Fr Rowlands thanked members for their support and said that he would like to propose that Fr Simon Morris continued as Assistant Director of Pilgrimage. This was carried with acclaim.

9. Any Other Business

1. *Ave*: Fr Rowlands said that the editorship of *Ave* was now in the hands of Fr McNally-Cross, to whom gratitude was expressed for the last edition of *Ave*, which had maintained the high standard of the publication.

2. Statement on Holy Orders and related arrangements: The Superior-General spoke to this Item. He said that there was no need to present new documents or make any further change to the Constitution, as these matters had been voted on at the AGM in 2016. He reported that arrangements were going ahead to contact all Anglican priest members of the Society of Mary, by means of a letter, inviting them to become Chaplains of Mary, Mother of the Church, in order for them to be able to fulfil the requirements for Celebration or Concelebration at Society events.

The Superior General and Fr Rowlands were thanked for all their work on this issue, and, in her absence, Fr Rowlands thanked Anne Gray for her work in revising the membership list of clergy for this purpose.

3. Expressions of Gratitude: Fr Rowlands said he wanted to express thanks to everyone for coming today and to thank the

Seminarians who had come and helped, especially with the Procession. A number are being ordained this summer and he hoped that they would support and foster the Society of Mary in the parishes to which they would be going. He would be admitting new members this afternoon and hoped that these too would help to spread devotion to Mary wherever they were.

The preacher for this afternoon, Fr Trevor Jones, was also duly welcomed. Fr Jones is Vicar of S.Peter's, London Docks, one of the original churches connected with the Oxford Movement.

There being no further business, the Superior-General thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed with the Grace at 3.45 pm.

Celia K. Bush, *Secretary*.

THE SOCIETY OF MARY

Eighty-Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society,
to be held at the Church of The Most Holy Trinity, Hartland Road,
London NW1, at 3.00 pm, on Saturday 5th May 2017.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Eighty-fifth Annual General Meeting,
held on 6th May 2017 (printed in this Annunciationtide 2018 edition of *Ave*)
3. Matters arising
4. Report of the General Council for 2017
(printed in this Annunciationtide 2018 edition of *Ave*)
5. Consideration of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017
6. Report from the Director of Pilgrimage
7. General Council election
8. Election of Officers (Returning Officer and Director of Pilgrimage)
9. Any other business.

CELIA K. BUSH

Honorary Secretary

Northolt Park ➡ Walsingham

With the help of a generous grant from the Society of Mary, St Barnabas Northolt Park took a group of young people to the 2017 Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage...

Afterwards, we asked them what they learnt about God over the week:





“ I learnt that God made us all to have a different purpose on earth and that we all have a deeper meaning of our existence even if we don't know it yet or haven't found it. I also felt Gods presence when I went into the prayer tent and this taught me a lot about how God is there for me through my tough times ”

Christina



“I was taught that don't judge yourself dependant on the opinion of you peers but find your identity on the cross where Jesus sacrificed himself for us ” **Joshua**

(picking up something Bishop Philip North preached on)



“The pilgrimage was fun. During the pilgrimage I learnt how to become closer to God and how to talk to God. I also learnt from God that he is always a path to my success and leads me through with strength ” **Elijah**



“ I learnt that even in our times of suffering and pain where we may sin and be angry with God, He doesn't turn away from us but encourages us through the people who care and love us. He gives us that strength to continue ” *Michelle*





We also asked “Apart from the God-stuff what did you like about the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage?”

- “The Disco”
- “socialising with other churches from other parts of the uk”;
- “music”
- “meeting up with friends made in previous years” and...
- ...“Swedish girls”.

Three of our pilgrims were confirmed in September. In the testimonies they shared during the Confirmation Mass, they referred to things that had helped them grow closer to Jesus and wish to become confirmed. As well as mentioning serving at the altar and their musical involvement in mass, each of them mentioned the impact Walsingham had had upon their lives.

FR STEPHEN JONES RIP

1946 – 2016

A Mass of thanksgiving for his Life & Ministry

will be held on

The Feast of Our Lady of Grace

SATURDAY 9TH JUNE 2018, AT 12 NOON

at the Church of S. Saviour's, Richmond Hill, Leeds,

Celebrant: The Right Reverend Graeme Knowles.

Preacher: The Reverend David Sudron, Rector of Wallsend

**Lunch will be followed, at 2:30 pm, by the Afternoon
Devotions, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament
to S. Hilda's, Cross Green for Benediction.**



ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN Saturday 21st July 2018

The day begins at 11:00 am at nearby St Matthew's church, with pilgrims walking the Holy Way to the doors of St Mary's. Bishop Peter Wheatley will be the principal celebrant at a Solemn Mass at 12:00pm and Fr Philip Barnes (Vicar of St Stephen's, Gloucester Road, and former interim Administrator of our sister shrine at Walsingham) will preach. Once Mass has concluded there is fun to be had at the Summer Fayre, with the whole festival concluding with Benediction at 3:30pm.

More details about the Shrine can be found on our website: **www.shrineofmary.org**

Why not keep up to date with our work by "liking" us on Facebook and Twitter? Search for **@shrineofmary**



PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

To make it possible for 12 - 18 year olds to come on the Pilgrimage to Lourdes at only £100 each, the Society of Mary is subsidising each person by some £400.

So we need your financial help! If you want to deepen someone's faith in this unforgettable way, do please make a contribution of £100 (or more) to make sure one of our young people can get to Lourdes for a few amazing days.

Give whatever you can afford, to give a young person an experience of God they'll never forget – either on this pilgrimage to Lourdes or on future pilgrimages to other holy places.

Cheques, made payable to 'Society of Mary', can be sent to Fr Graeme Rowlands, S. Silas Presbytery, St Silas Place, NW5 3QP or search 'Society of Mary' at www.biggive.org.uk

Future Council Meetings of the Society 2018

Wednesday 4th July
Executive only, 11.00 am.

Wednesday 3rd October
Executive 11.00 am
General Council 2.30 pm
preceded by the Rosary at 2.00 pm and Benediction.

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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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.



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