

# A VE

The Magazine *of* The Society of Mary



Presentation Window at S. Peter and S. Paul, Heydon, Norfolk

£2.00

Presentation of Our Lady, 2016



## The Superior-General writes

### *Letter from the Superior-General*

The May Devotion was a truly inspiring and splendid occasion. The Mass was offered to the glory of God and in honour of our Blessed Lady. The large number of Members who attended the Mass then walked in Procession, with the Society's Image of Our Lady, brass band, rose petals and children attendants, through the teeming Saturday streets of Camden. A great and important act of Christian witness and celebration.



The Annual General Meeting of the Society was attended by 91 Officers and Voting Members of our Society. In addition to the regular business of the AGM, the meeting considered a number of particularly significant matters relating to the future organisation and operation of our Society.

### **Statement on Holy Orders**

In 1992, the Society stated that its position and practice on the ordination of women was that of Forward in Faith, although the views of individual members might differ.

In the light of the November 2014 legislation providing for the ordination of women to the episcopate and taking into account the Five Guiding Principles of the House of Bishops of May 2014 and in the spirit of their intention to mutual flourishing, the Executive and General Councils of the Society decided unanimously to bring constructive and positive proposals for the future life of the Society to the Annual General Meeting of 7th May 2016.

Accordingly, the following statement was Proposed for adoption by the Society, Seconded and carried nem. con.:

*The Society of Mary maintains the traditional understanding of the historic apostolic succession, the ministry of bishops and priests, and*

*full ecclesial communion; that is to say, the understanding as reflected in the Book of Common Prayer, the Ordinal and the Canons of the Church of England prior to the coming into force of the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 and the Canons promulgated on 22 February 1994. It is nevertheless recognised that the views of individual members may differ.*

The Executive and General Councils had also given consideration to the future structure of the Councils and Wards of the Society.

Accordingly, variations to the Constitution of the Society of Mary were Proposed to the Annual General Meeting. The following Resolutions were Proposed, Seconded and carried nem. con.:

### **Amendment of Constitution**

‘That the Constitution of the Society be amended as follows:

(a) In clause 15 for “General Officers shall be appointed in accordance with clause 18” substitute –

“To be eligible for nomination for election as a General Officer a person must be a member of the Society and the person’s election must have been approved by the Superior-General and Chaplain-General acting jointly (or, if either of those offices is vacant, by a majority of the members of the General Council). General Officers shall be elected at the annual general meeting; save that if there is more than one candidate for election to any such office, the election to that office shall be conducted in accordance with clause 13b.”

(b) In clause 18, for “The General Council shall consist” to “General Officers of the Society” substitute –

“The General Council shall consist of the General Officers (as provided for in clause 14) and 20 elected members. At least 5 of the elected members shall be priests. To be eligible for election as an elected member of the General Council a person must be a member of the Society and the person’s nomination must have been approved by the Superior-General and Chaplain-General acting jointly (or, if either of those offices is vacant, by a majority of the members of the General Council). Elected members of the General Council shall be elected at the annual general meeting; save that if there are more than 20 candidates for election, the election shall be conducted in accordance with clause 13b.”

The Executive and General Councils had also given consideration to the conduct of the worship of the Society of Mary, including that of its Festivals, Devotions and Pilgrimages. The following Statement was presented to the Annual General Meeting:

### **Statement of Intention**

In accordance with the *Statement on Holy Orders* adopted by the Society of Mary at its Annual General Meeting of 7th May 2016, it will be necessary to make arrangements for the conduct of the Society's liturgies that are consistent with that statement. Those arrangements will, among other things, need to take account of current equality legislation

Membership of the Society, as provided for in the Society's Constitution, does not itself involve members of the Society officiating at the Mass or other liturgies. Members of the Society may be lay or ordained. Moreover, over many years, lay and ordained members of other Communion, principally the Roman Catholic and Free Churches, have become members of the Society. The Society has awarded the status of Honorary Life Membership to a number of those who have conspicuously supported the work and purposes of the Society; these awards have largely been to Roman Catholic prelates and dignitaries and those who have particularly supported us in our pilgrimages. Those of other Communion have participated in the Society's worship in accordance with their own disciplines. This is intended to continue.

The arrangements for the conduct of the Society's liturgies will be as follows:

- *The Superior-General and Chaplain-General will establish a college of priests and bishops to be known as the Chaplains of Mary Mother of the Church (\*)*
- *In order to be eligible for admission to the College of Chaplains, a person must be (1) a member of the Society of Mary and (2) a priest or bishop of the Society under the Patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda*
- *The College of Chaplains will be a separate association but will relate to the Society of Mary in that its purpose will be to support the work of the Society, in particular by providing priests and bishops to officiate at its liturgies*

*AVE*

- *The Superior-General and Chaplain-General of the Society for the time being will be ex officio Superior-General and Chaplain-General of the College of Chaplains*
- *Decisions on admission to membership of the College of Chaplains will be taken jointly by the Superior-General and Chaplain-General for the time being (who may in their discretion decline to admit a priest despite the fact that he meets the requirement for eligibility)*
- *As the College of Chaplains will be a separate association, creating it will not involve any amendment to the Constitution of the Society. The Society of Mary will Resolve to ask the College of Chaplains to conduct the liturgies of the Society.*

*(\*) The title reflects that one of the Objects of the Society of Mary is to spread devotion to Mary in the cause of Christian unity.*

The Annual General Meeting of the Society debated this Statement, after which it was Proposed, Seconded and carried nem. con. The Superior-General and Chaplain-General were formally requested to take forward the proposals contained within the Statement.

I thank our Chaplain-General, Father Alexander McGregor, Father Philip Corbett, the Bishop of Richborough and the staff of The Society for their help and support in preparing and bringing forward this material for our Society's AGM.

I would ask you all to hold our Society in your prayers at this time and to give thorough consideration to the work and purposes we have in hand. Personal contact with priest and bishop members of our Society will be made in due course of time in order to take forward establishment and registration of the College of Chaplains.

With my love and Blessing,

+ 

✠ Robert Ladds – *Superior-General*

## A Letter from the Chaplain-General

My dear friends,

I am, as many of you will know, very much a creature of the 'last minute'. This has been the trial and vexation of the Editors of *AVE* over many years and I still have not learned the lesson. I am grateful for the kindness and patience they have exercised towards me! Yet there is sometimes an advantage in being so last minute. I write in the glow of having returned from the October



Devotion in Sheffield yesterday evening. It was a wonderful day and we are very grateful to Fr Naylor and his people for all they did to make it such a special occasion. After a moving Mass and generous lunch, we processed through the centre of the city to S. Marie's Roman Catholic Cathedral accompanied by a brass band. The image was carried by four students from the Parish and the crowds of shoppers surged around us, dividing to make way for the Mother of God. Cameras snapped and the pictures were instantly all over the internet through social networks. On arrival at the Cathedral we sang the Litany of Our Lady and were treated to a powerful sermon by Canon Rodney Marshall. All in all, a great success!

However, it is not only through glorious processions and concelebrations that we witness to our love of Mary. We must also work to change the lives and attitudes of people, particularly those who are young who have not yet found or understood devotion to Our Lady. The Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year was a good example of how we can do just that. Of 120 in the group, 35 were teenagers, staying at the youth village, and there were other younger pilgrims staying at the Hotel with the adults. It was a transforming experience for all concerned. Our young people soon made new friends and shared their experiences, amongst the adults were a large number of pilgrims new to Lourdes, so by half way through the Pilgrimage nobody was unmoved or simply going through the same routines. You will be able to read a few of their reflections on the experience later in this issue. I am very grateful to the Executive and the Council for giving their enthusiastic support to this venture by underwriting the expenses of our youth group and I am sure that this is money well spent. Similarly,

I am very grateful to those who gave generous personal donations or organised events to raise funds for the Pilgrimage. My further thanks go to all who helped with the smooth running of the Pilgrimage, Fr Simon Morris for unfailing support and energy, Fr Alex Garner and Philip Kennedy for the music and the booklet, Bishop Philip North and our four youth leaders for their slaving at the Village des Jeunes and to many others in less obvious ways. A few weeks after our return, I had a very moving handwritten letter from Père André Cabes, the Rector of the Shrine. He writes 'The Virgin Mary continues her work of giving birth in the hearts of young people who become like the Bernadette of the present day. She allows them to discover the hidden source and to make it spring up. A new hope can come to live in us.' I hope that we shall be able to take a similar group in 2018: the provisional dates for that are 6th–10th August – there will be more details in the next *AVE*.

I must also express my personal thanks to the Society for their generous help with the children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham from my school last July. I have included in this issue some of what the children wrote after the event: I hope that this will give you a flavour of how much they enjoyed it and show that these initial impressions will last them the rest of their lives.

On the subject of our support for young people, I must let you know that during this coming year the Executive have decided that we need to recoup some of the financial losses from supporting the Lourdes Pilgrimage. We shall therefore not be offering grants to individual groups going to Walsingham for the Youth Pilgrimage next August. It may be that we shall decide to give a grant towards the Shrine to help with the (vast) cost of the whole week.

The May Devotion next year will be on Saturday 6th May at S. Silas: Mass at 12 noon followed by a Procession to Holy Trinity, Lunch, AGM and then Vespers and Benediction at 4.00 pm. Do make a note of the date now so that you can be sure to be with us in the day.

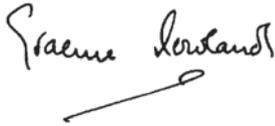
Our pilgrimage in 2017 will be to Vienna from 18th–23rd September. Fr Peter Anthony, who knows it well, has been helping with the planning and he will be acting as a guide for the group whilst we are there. If you are thinking of coming, please book soon to avoid disappointment! Details appear elsewhere in this issue.

We are very grateful to Brigid for all that she has done as Membership Secretary over the past few years. Mrs Anne Gray has

taken over responsibility for maintaining the Membership list and has done a great deal to try to sort it out; Celia Bush has offered to become Membership Secretary and to inform Anne of changes of address etc. so that Anne can confer with Postprint to update the mailing list for AVE. Please can I remind you to **let Celia know** of changes in contact details or any deaths so that we can pray for them as well as keeping the lists up to date. If you do not tell us where you are, we do not know!

I look forward to seeing many of you during the coming year.

With my love and blessing,



Fr Graeme Rowlands, *Chaplain-General*

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

## **The May Devotion and AGM**

will be held in

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

**SATURDAY 6th MAY 2017**

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

**1.30 pm Lunch in Holy Trinity Church Hall**

**3.30 pm AGM of the Society in Holy Trinity Church**

**4.00 pm Solemn Vespers, Sermon and Pontifical Benediction**

*More details to follow in the Annunciationtide edition of AVE*

## FROM THE EDITOR OF AVE

Copy for consideration for the Annunciationtide issue of AVE must be sent to the Editor and received by **Monday 9th January 2017 at the latest** (see contact details inside back cover). It would be helpful if copy were sent electronically – although hard copy of any pictures may be needed. The Editor reserves the right to amend or delete copy as may be expedient and as space permits. It is regretted that hard copy cannot be returned.

Many thanks,

Fr Sam McNally-Cross

frsamuelcross@gmail.com

## GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2017

The following members of the General Council are eligible for re-election for four years from May 2017:

**The Venerable Luke Miller (as Vice-Chairman)**

**The Right Reverend Norman Banks**

**The Reverend Dr Robert Beaken**

**The Reverend Canon Mark Nicholls**

**The Reverend Iain Young**

**Mr Henry Frier**

In addition there are two vacant seats

Any member of the Society of Mary is eligible to stand or to nominate.

Nominations must be signed by the Proposer and Seconder, giving their full name and address, and by the candidate indicating his/her willingness to stand.

Nominations must be returned no later than 31st January 2017 to the Acting Returning Officer:

**The Right Rev'd Robert Ladds**

**St Peter's Mission House, Wapping Lane, London E1W 2RW**

**Email: episcopus70@gmail.com**



## **Lourdes Pilgrimage 2016**

### **'Our time in Lourdes'**

(from the young people of S. Matthew's, Carver Street, Sheffield)

**L**ourdes was always a place of interest to me after learning about the place during my time at school in my religious studies lessons: Having the opportunity to go was incredible. Lourdes was a real eye opener for me to get more of an insight into my religion as back home I struggled to get an understanding of my faith and beliefs.

On the first day, we arrived at the airport in Lourdes around midday. From there we split from the adult pilgrims and travelled to our accommodation known as the Youth Village. Our room consisted of a wooden bunk bed, a blanket, a sink, a tiled floor, a window with iron bars, a small wooden table, a garden chair and a small closet. The rooms were commonly described as 'prison cells'. However, this gave us all something to talk about. Mass then followed at the heart of Lourdes in the Chapel of S. Joseph.

On the second day, we visited S. Bertrand de Comminges which is a small village on top of a hill. We had a look around the village and then had Mass in the Cathedral which dominates the village. The village was a beautiful, quiet place of pilgrimage with all the buildings made of stone. After visiting the village, we visited a small church called S. Just de Valcabrère, not far from the village. However, on the way there we lost Bishop Philip of Burnley as he decided to walk when we all planned to get the coach there. This then led to a game of 'Where's Wally?' except Bishop Philip was the Wally.

On the third day, we went to the international Mass in the Basilica which was underground. It was truly staggering how many people were gathered into one Mass. We then visited Lourdes castle and had some free time to do some shopping around Lourdes. I was truly amazed by the number of shops selling religious souvenirs. We also visited the house of S. Bernadette and it was here that we realised our accommodation was not so bad after all after seeing the conditions S. Bernadette had to live in as she lived in extreme poverty. It was amazing to see that S. Bernadette still kept faith even during times of extreme financial difficulty. Later on in the evening, we took part in the torchlight procession. The view at the procession was beautiful as



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everyone was joined together holding candles and you could see across the whole area the candle lights flickering a warm yellow glow which gave a feeling of warmth and peace.

On the fourth day, we visited the Stations of the Cross where the youth read out reflections and prayers for each station. It was here that we got a real understanding of the walk Jesus took whilst carrying the cross as we were told the walk represented the same walk Jesus took. Each station showed very powerful emotions and messages as they showed Jesus' pain and suffering before he died. After seeing the stations, we went into the centre of Lourdes where we all bought our own lunch. Later on in the day, we visited the caves called Grottes de Bétharram which were full of amazing sites of the natural formation of rocks. We then went to the Hotel Mercure where the parents were staying for a pilgrim party.

On the fifth day, we had Mass at the Sanctuary of Our Lady. We then visited the grotto which was where S. Bernadette saw Mary. This was followed by a trip to the ice cream shop as Bishop Phillip had made a





promise to buy us all two scoops of ice cream each. We then travelled to the airport and came back home.

Overall, Lourdes was a fantastic experience as the whole place was surrounded with faith, passion and commitment.



SERMON AT THE SHRINE OF BETHARRAM, 4th AUGUST 2016  
preached by Fr Iain Young

'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few'. *Matthew ch9 v38*

Well, what a very French day we are having. Cassoulet for lunch, then the Feast of a French Saint, the Curé d'Ars, who reminds us all that it took over 1800 years to find a parish priest worthy of becoming a Saint! We've all been too busy doing paperwork and charring meetings. And we are celebrating his life in this not-quite-ancient Shrine of Our Lady, the last shout of the Middle Ages, but already old when Bernadette used to come here before Lourdes gained its Grotto. Or its shops...

The Curé, as we all know, spent his life and his ministry in some very strange and remarkable ways. As today's Collect says, he was 'wonderful in his pastoral zeal'. He took on a small and godless hamlet, at the back of beyond, and in a ministry lasting 41 years, he turned it into the model of all Christian communities, where the Church was full and the pubs were empty. Imagine. But he also had a mystic life, when night after night he had to deal with attacks from the devil, who shook his bed, threw mud at the holy pictures, and howled all night so he couldn't sleep. He was also the most sought-after Confessor in France, who (a favourite story of mine) used to shorten the queue of penitents by going along it, pointing out individual sinners who his spiritual perception saw as particularly hardened – imagine the embarrassment of being singled out in public! Oh, you look a nasty piece of work. Follow me. Does Canon Rowlands do that every Saturday?

So priests having to deal with evil and sin is no new thing. Alas, that was pointed out all-too graphically last week, when Father Jacques Hamel was murdered at the Altar by so-called Islamist terrorists – 84 years old, in God's house, and a new martyr was made. The news reporters have kept saying, he was 'in the wrong place at the wrong time'. No he wasn't. He was in the *right* place, the place where all priests would wish to be, at a time made unfortunate by the actions of

sinful men. JESUS tells us that the harvest is rich but the labourers are few, and since that day in Rouen there is, tragically, one fewer. Faithful to the last, and trusting in God's promises in this Year of Mercy, may he now rest in peace, and may we all continue to fight the good fight, and return love for evil and forgiveness for hate, as we have no doubt Fr Jacques would have been the first to say. It's the only way we can go.

But this lovely old Shrine, rooted in the Christian ages of faith, is a reminder to us of the timelessness and serenity of the presence of God on earth. Times at the moment are hard and full of fear, but within the context of the life of the Church, 2000 years, our present worries, however justifiable, are relatively fleeting, and the Faith goes on.

Some sources say it was as late as 1503 that the event which gave birth to this place happened. Some shepherds leading their flocks along the banks of the River Gave saw a bright light coming from behind some rocks on the river bank. They went to investigate, and found a beautiful statue of Our Lady. The villagers decided to build a chapel, but owing to a lack of space on this side of the river, they planned to build it on the opposite bank, and put the statue in the place overnight. Next morning, says the legend, the statue was back where they had found it, so they realised the Virgin wanted it to be built where the statue was found, and here it is today. Originally called Our Lady of the Star, after the light that showed the shepherds where to look. We notice that several other places have had images, relics or buildings move – Walsingham, Loretto, St James at Compostella, the Black Madonna of Montserrat in Catalonia, so it's no surprise that it happened here. We put them where it's convenient for us, the Saints want to be where it's convenient for them!

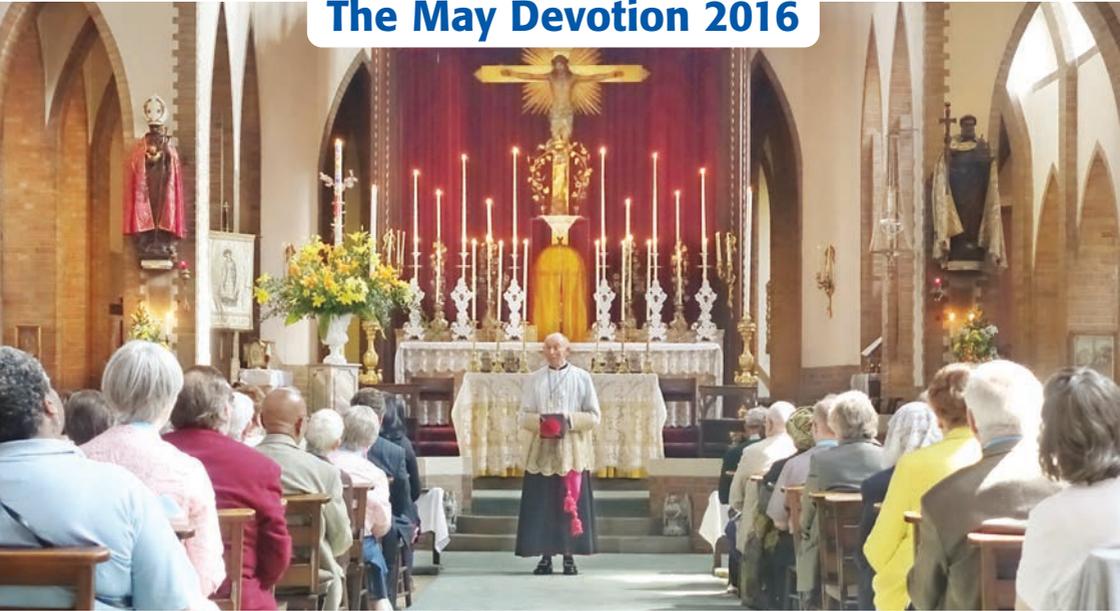
In 1616 there was another miracle, when the great Cross at the top of the hill came down. Not, boringly, pulled down by Huguenot vandals and put up again by the locals. That's dull! Much more to our taste is the version that says a tremendous storm blew the Cross down. The villagers looked on in horror, but then there was a dazzling light and the Cross stood itself up again, amid choirs of carolling angels – that's how you tell a story! It remained there until the Revolution, when forces greater than the wind tore it down and burnt it. That was

in 1793, during the Reign of Terror – so let's remember, terror is nothing new!

But the miracle that gave this place its name happened in 1620. A young girl gathering flowers on the river-bank slipped and fell in, and she called on Our Lady for help. She duly appeared, holding the Infant Christ, who held out a branch so the girl could grab it and be pulled to the bank and safety. The girl later offered a beautiful golden branch as a votive offering, and as 'beautiful branch' is Beth Arram in the local Bearnais dialect, Bétharram this place became. It was sacked in the Revolution, but rebuilt in the 19th century by Father Michael Garicoits, a great supporter of Bernadette in her struggles. He was the founder of the Order of Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Bétharram. Snappy title. But they are still active in lots of countries across the world, including England, and their specific vocation is Mission to the young, so the Youth Village at Lourdes is very much part of the overall apostolate of this area. Bernadette, when she was young, came here often, and loved the place, and Pope Pius 10th also, donating the two crowns on the image before you, shaped like interwoven golden branches. Marie-Antoinette sent her First Communion veil here in thanksgiving, which one would very much like to 'liberate' and take home. But the weirdest thing that happened here was that the nephew of Albert Einstein, Carl, committed suicide here in 1940, because he wasn't happy that Franco won the Spanish Civil War. Don't ask me.

So we're having our very French day. Horse meat and snail sauce tonight for dinner. But we're honouring the greatest parish priest who ever lived, in this place beloved of Saints and Popes, as we continue to pray for that poor soul who lost his life at his own altar in Rouen last week. But they would all, the girl saved from drowning, the Curé d'Ars, St Bernadette, St Michael Garricoits and Father Jacques Hamel, say to us visiting from England, that it's not about them, it's not about France, particularly, we are here because of Our Lord and his Blessed Mother, to whom we turn for help, for strength of faith, for the grace to carry on.

# The May Devotion 2016



*Ave*







OBITUARY

## **The Rev'd Stephen William Jones**

Priest

1946–2016

Richard McEwan writes:

**F**ather Stephen Jones, who was one of the senior members of the Society of Mary, died recently in the County Hospital, Lincoln. He joined the Society of Mary in 1956 as a school boy in Worthing and after Ordination went on to establish Wards of the Society of Mary in all of the parishes in which he served including: S. Peter's, Streatham, S. Hilda's & S. Saviour's, Leeds, Porthleven with Sithney, the Church of the Ascension, Portsmouth and latterly as the Vicar of S. Augustine's, Grimsby. He served on the General Council of the Society of Mary and was the enthusiastic Ward Superior of the Lincoln Ward.

Stephen Jones was very much a product of his time and at the age of ten, after the death of his mother was adopted by Robert Francois Marie Meade, the Vicar of S. Andrew's, Worthing together with a devout member of his congregation called Gladys Newman. Such an act of practical sympathy and kindness in the world of today would be almost unthinkable, and such outstanding Christian motives as theirs would no doubt be met with suspicion and protest, and they would be drowned, predictably, in a sea of paper.

Stephen had been instinctively drawn to S. Andrew's, Worthing where an occasional visitor might easily suppose that Sir Arthur Blomfield's red brick, Gothic revival church had been reconciled with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Southwark. The interior of the church was mysterious and had a fiercely ultramontane atmosphere and was furnished with numerous altars and shrines mostly draped with lace and exquisitely furnished with silver Baroque ornaments. This lovely south coast shrine offered a sanctuary of peace and a vision of beauty to nourish the soul. It was a place of excellence which enjoyed carefully rehearsed music and superb liturgy. Here lamps and candles twinkled in the gloom and the walls were soaked in prayer and almost immediately it became "home from home" to this shy, sensitive and impressionable boy. The Vicar, Fr Bobby Meade was Anglo-French and came to Worthing in 1943 via S. Mary's, Pimlico, S. Margaret's,



Oxford and later as Chaplain of Magdalen College. Fr Meade sustained and enhanced further the sumptuous musical tradition of S. Andrew's for he was a talented musician and an extremely accomplished organist, having studied the instrument in Paris under Marcel Dupré. This refined and cultured parish priest recognised in the young boy a talent and a precocious flair for singing and playing the organ; which

he fostered. Like many Anglo-Catholic churches of that period S. Andrew's was very well supported by large and devout congregations. Here Stephen Jones encountered the wealthy and devout spinster, Miss Newman whose generous heart and even larger fortune were later to shelter him from the harsher realities of life; a world which could often be harsh and cruel.

The absence of family in Stephen Jones's life was largely filled by his Church family, and certain priests and laity influenced him and formed many of his tastes and opinions; they consequently gave him the rather grand manner which we associated with him and in which we delighted so much. Fr Walter Gervase Bennett, the genial and hospitable Vicar of the Church of the Annunciation, Marble Arch (1947-76) and Fr Colin Stephenson the ebullient and amusing Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham (1958-68) were two particular lifelong friends. From them he inherited an appreciation of beautiful things and in particular a great love for Catholic worship and ceremonial. If at times Fr Stephen was theatrical, it was because he knew no other way of "being Church" and he wanted to share this revelation with others. I think during his time in Leeds he began the tradition of an Assumption Festival which included an elaborate Solemn Mass with wonderful Viennese music provided by the choir of Leeds Parish Church (he had been Precentor there from 1976-79), an outdoor Procession of Our Lady through the streets from S. Hilda's to S. Saviour's followed by the famous "sausage sizzle". The event concluded with a firework display to the accompaniment of Handel's Firework Music played on an ancient gramophone with a huge speaker!

It is impossible to think of Fr Stephen or to speak of him without a smile of real joy, or within minutes being reduced to shrieking laughter; as he had a marvellous sense of humour and of the ridiculous. How we shall miss the telephone calls and visits "I think I shall sally forth in the barouche (car) along the M62 after the Angelus"... and on arrival how he would demolish with alarming speed ... "such a marvellous cold collation my dear, the diet is currently on a back burner!" Fr Stephen was wonderfully captured on a S. Augustine's Flower Festival video where he gave his inimitable commentary and insights on his many fine antique vestments which

were on display that week. “Oh and just notice if you will, the exquisite shading on the trailing vine leaves; they are so poignant and central to the integrity of this exquisite piece.” But fortunate were those congregations committed to his charge, who were able to draw freely on the deep spiritual depths which lay behind the flamboyance, for he had a profound faith and this was sustained by a life of deep prayer and a great devotion to the Mother of the Lord.

In May 2014 the dedication and blessing of a new statue of Our Lady of Lincoln took place in the beauty of Lincoln Cathedral. This great ecumenical endeavour had received widespread support including some funding from the Society of Mary. The occasion was in a sense the culmination of Fr Stephen’s huge enthusiasm and vision for a worthy Shrine of Our Lady to be placed in the Minster – a Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a place of pilgrimage which would become the focus of prayer and where candles would blaze in honour of the Incarnation. This project and his commitment to it, will always remind us of him and of his belief in the Cathedral being developed further as a precious space for God, a place of worship, praise and private prayer. May Our Lady of Lincoln pray for him.

□ □ □ □

A Requiem Mass for the Repose of his soul was celebrated by the Bishop of Richborough, the Rt Rev’d Norman Banks on 1st July 2016 at S. Augustine’s Church, Grimsby. The panegyric was preached by Fr David Sudron Rector of S. Peter’s & S. Luke’s, Wallsend. The Society of Mary was represented by David Simmonds (his executor) Michael Hilton & Richard McEwan.



■ *The Shrine of Our Lady of Aberdeen in S. Augustine’s, Grimsby.*

## **PRINTING AND POSTAGE OF AVE**

In order to avoid unnecessary printing and postage costs, it is requested that Ward Secretaries and individual members attached to the Headquarters Membership please advise me of cases where only one copy of each edition of AVE is acceptable for any one address, rather than individual copies for each member (*contact details inside back cover*).

**Celia Bush,**  
*Secretary and Membership*

## **The Society of Mary Webpage**

The Webmaster is always pleased to receive reports and photos for the website

**Mr Richard Doney,**  
**40 Laburnam Crescent,**  
**Kidlington,**  
**OXFORD OX5 1HB**

[webmaster@societyofmary.net](mailto:webmaster@societyofmary.net)

*The Society of Mary Online*  
[www.societyofmary.net](http://www.societyofmary.net)



## **Future Council Meetings of the Society 2017**

**Monday 6th February**

*Executive 11.00 am*

*General Council 2.30pm*

*preceded by Benediction at 2.15 pm.*

**Wednesday 5th July**

*Executive only, 11.00 am.*

**Monday 9th October**

*Executive 11.00 am*

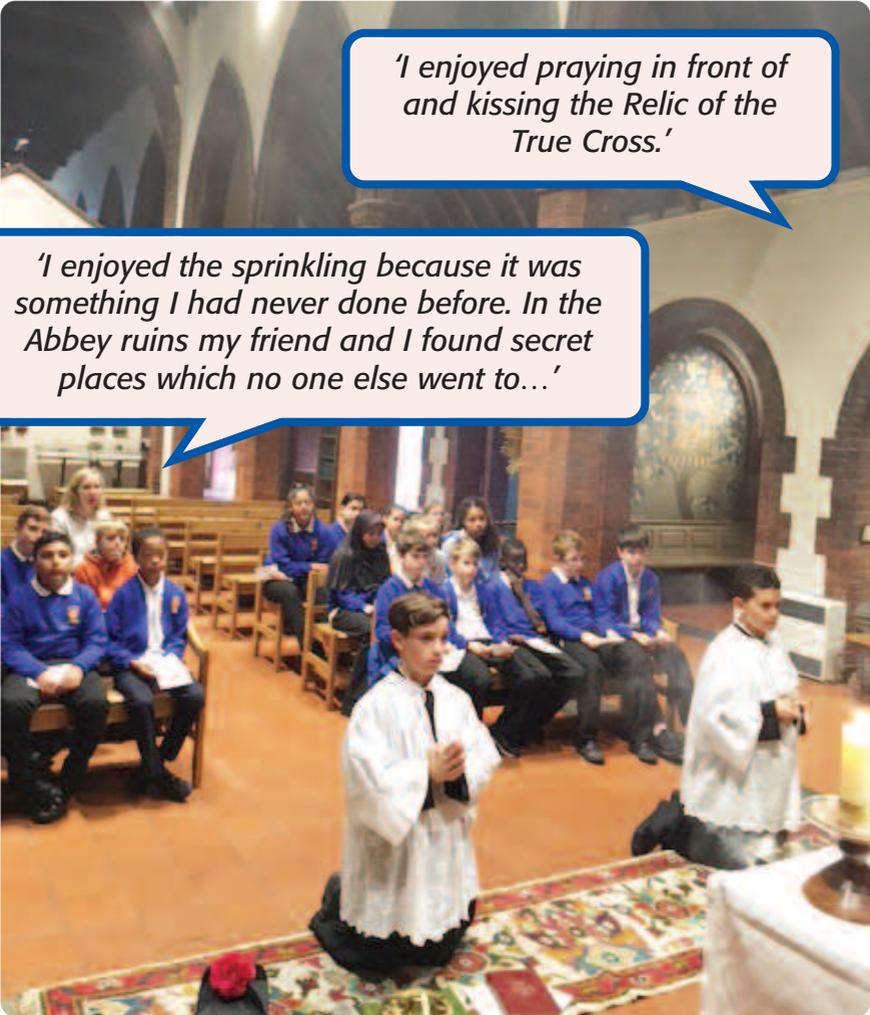
*General Council 2.30pm*

*preceded by the Rosary at 2.00pm and Benediction.*

## Walsingham Children's Pilgrimage from Holy Trinity and S. Silas School

July 2016

I am grateful to the Society for their very generous support with this. After the event, some of our children wrote:



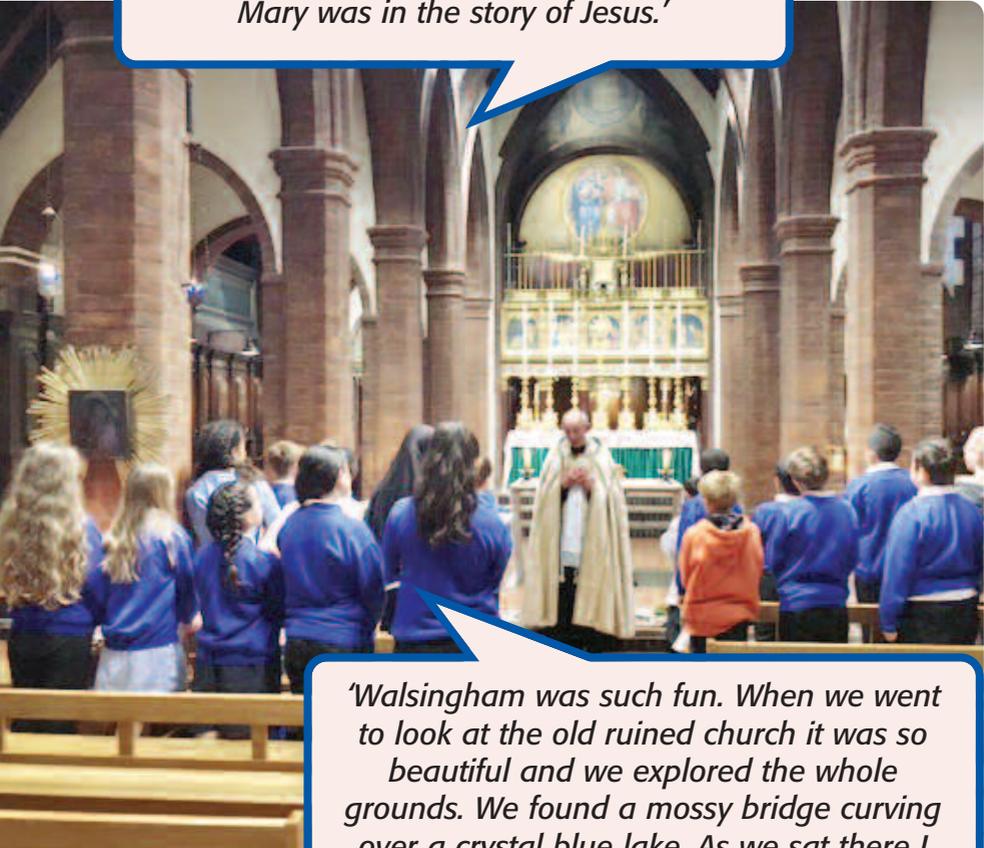
*'I enjoyed praying in front of and kissing the Relic of the True Cross.'*

*'I enjoyed the sprinkling because it was something I had never done before. In the Abbey ruins my friend and I found secret places which no one else went to...'*



*'The prayers we did for each other in the Holy House made it feel like it was even more possible they would happen.... People had the courage to share lots of sad family secrets.... They made me think about others.'*

*'I enjoyed the time when we went to the prayer room (the Holy House) and prayed. I also enjoyed the beach and had fun diving around in the ocean. Walsingham has taught us so much more about how vital a part Mary was in the story of Jesus.'*



*'Walsingham was such fun. When we went to look at the old ruined church it was so beautiful and we explored the whole grounds. We found a mossy bridge curving over a crystal blue lake. As we sat there I pictured knights galloping on horses over the bridge, their hooves clapping on the newly built cobbles. We went to the shop and I bought a rosary for my mum and chocolate for my sister.'*



## **Pilgrimage 2017 announcement**

*July 2016*

**T**he Society of Mary will be leading a pilgrimage to Vienna from 18th-23rd September 2017, to visit Mariazell, and to follow in the footsteps of the great saints of Austria. The pilgrimage will be run by Pax Travel and will cost £799 in total (single room supplement a further £175).

The focus of our pilgrimage will be a visit to Mariazell, Austria's national shrine to Our Lady, and celebrate Mass there. The shrine is to be found in a beautiful alpine town in the Austrian region of Styria, and houses a small image of Our Lady which has been venerated on that site since the 12th century. The history of the shrine dates back to a monk called Magnus, who was making his way through a forest one day. He placed a small statue of Our Lady he happened to be carrying down on a rock, which suddenly split open. Magnus decided to build his cell around the statue of Our Lady on that spot, which is where the name of the shrine comes from ("Zelle" is the German for "cell"). Before long pilgrims were making their way to Magnus' cell and a larger church had to be built around it.





We will also have the opportunity to get to know Vienna, and to learn more about its imperial history. We will see Vienna's famous cathedral, along with the burial place of the Habsburg emperors. Whilst in Vienna we will also celebrate the life of St Clement Maria Hofbauer, the patron saint of the city, and celebrate Mass in the church of Maria am Gestade, the place which now houses his relics.

There will also be day trips out to the monasteries of Klosterneuburg and Melk. Melk is renowned as one of the most beautiful baroque monastery complexes in the world, and has though its history been a centre of great learning. Klosterneuburg is particularly associated with its founder St Leopold, who is the patron saint of Austria. He was prompted to build the monastery by a vision of Our Lady. She led him to a mulberry bush, where he found a veil which his wife had lost several years earlier. This was the spot, Our Lady told him, that he was to build a monastery. We will be given a tour of the Abbey by a member of the community that lives there, and will celebrate Mass in the monastic church.

If you would like to join us on this pilgrimage, please be in touch with Fr Rowlands, who will be happy to send you further information.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS 2017**

**Members are reminded that subscriptions are due on 1st January 2017.**

1. Individual subscriptions: £15
  2. Life Membership: £150
  3. Children under 16 free, but once they reach the age of 16, full rate applies, and
  4. All Families of 2 Adults: A minimum of £25 provided they only receive a single copy of *Ave*.
- 5. New Members receive a Medal and a Society Manual.**

Headquarters registered members pay directly to the Membership Secretary, and she would be pleased to receive these as soon as possible and preferably by 30th April 2017. Members in arrears will not receive *Ave* after March.

Please would all members inform me when they move house. We still cannot always trace some copies of *Ave* returned by the Post Office. Life members are kept on file with the hope that a new address for them will eventually be established.

It would be helpful if members who change an email address could let me know by sending an email to **secretary@societyofmary.net**

Please advise me when Members die, in order that I can ensure that they are recorded in the Chantry Book.

Celia Bush, *Secretary and Membership*.



# 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](mailto: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	
<b>Remittance – £</b>			

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Postcode .....

Telephone .....

E-mail address .....

## The Society of Mary

(Established 1931)

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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.



Our Lady at the foot of the Cross, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

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