

# AVE

## The Magazine of The Society of Mary



This edition is dedicated to the memory of Mr Henry Frier  
The Virgin Mary window at St Anselm, Hayes Town

£2.00

Rosary, 2021

Ave



## The Superior-General writes

### *Letter from the Superior-General*

A current piece of scientific research is showing that when we show kindness and consideration towards others, as well as benefiting them we ourselves find greater happiness. Amazing!

This very wisdom is expressed in the Second Commandment and taught by our Blessed Lord and so is a fundamental part of the Christian calling.

There is a certain irony that, in this present age of intense focus on the person, self actualisation and individualistic expression in the quest for happiness, research is confirming that it is in concern and focus on others that we are most likely to find fulfilment, rather than having an inflated self regard.



This 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Society of Mary gives opportunity for reflection and evaluation in both our personal spirituality and devotion to Our Lady and to the responsibilities and opportunities of our Membership of the Society.

The Society of Mary is dedicated to the glory of God and in honour of the Holy Incarnation. The Incarnation of God in Christ took place by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, within the Nazareth Home when the Angel received Mary's assent to God's plan of redemption. It is in recognition of this dedication that the Society's Altar in the Shrine Church at Walsingham is of the Annunciation. Placed at the very entrance of the Shrine Church it is the first thing we see when arriving as Pilgrims; the last thing we see as we depart.

From the very moment of the Annunciation, Our Lady shows regard and love of others, for the entire future of the human race, rather than concerns for Herself, Her reputation and personal wellbeing. And this care and love for others is further express by Mary's Visitation to Her cousin Elizabeth. While knowing that She is to be the very Mother of God, Our Lady disregards such status; Her immediate concern is for Elizabeth who has also conceived a child.

## Ave

Mary's commitment to Her Son, Her care for His followers and Disciples, for the forming Church, continued as it continues to this day and will do so until the end of time. It is for this reason that our Society Invokes Our Lady, Help of Christians.

In harmony with the ancient call of God to His people and in response to the divine teaching of Her Son, Our Blessed Lady continues, through Her prayers, to help Christians *to obey the call of Jesus to "love God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind ... to love your neighbour as yourself"*.

With my prayers and blessing,

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✠ Robert Ladds – *Superior-General*

## A Letter from the Chaplain-General

My dear Friends,

**H**ow good it is to begin to do things together again and for the first tentative steps to be made in social gatherings after Mass. When I was in Bournemouth yesterday to celebrate the Funeral Mass for Henry Frier, so many people said to me how much they had missed coming to the May Devotion this year and how much they were looking forward to the next one. And yet, I write this in some trepidation! We are not 'out of the wood' yet as far as the Covid Virus is concerned and no plans can be completely guaranteed.

All being well, the May Devotion next year will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May and follow the usual programme, 12 noon Mass, Procession through the streets, Lunch, A.G.M., Solemn Vespers, Homily and Benediction. I



*AVE*

hope and pray that it will happen. The reason for the change in date from the first Saturday of the month is that the Bank Holiday has moved to June, so the National Pilgrimage at Walsingham is on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

It was a joy and a privilege for me to preside at Henry's Funeral Mass. Elsewhere in this magazine, I have reproduced my homily from that occasion to serve as an obituary to him. He was such a faithful servant of our Society and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. Not only was he the Editor of AVE for many years and on the General Council; he and Dorothy were enthusiastic and committed pilgrims on all our ventures and were instrumental in bringing many new people to know and love Our Lady. This is the only time I have known, since my ordination, that the collection in lieu of flowers was to be given to the Society of Mary: even after death he continues to support and encourage us.

I was very sorry to receive the news that Jack Allen wishes to resign as our Webmaster due to pressure of work. We are very grateful to him for taking this on and for doing so much to sort out the site and bring things up to date. He has also been very active in developing and promoting our Social Media which now has a large and enthusiastic following. The Executive are at the moment actively seeking a replacement for him. On the subject of the Website, our thanks go also to those priests who wrote the Rosary meditations for the Novena leading up to the ninetieth anniversary of our foundation and to those who conducted the meditations, broadcast on line each day.

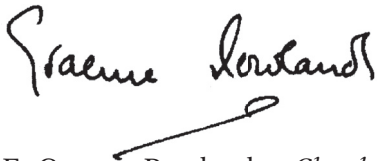
It has been over two years since we last held an A.G.M., the longest in the history of the Society. However, all being well, this will take place at the October Devotion. I am very grateful to Fr Grant Naylor for agreeing to delay our invitation to S. Matthew's for another year and to Fr Edward Morrison for coming to preach at it. We begin with Mass at 12 noon and I hope that all who can be there on the day will make the effort to join us.

Our Lourdes Pilgrimage for next year is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August. As of this moment, I can tell you no more than that. We are still waiting to hear a price for the travel company, so it is impossible to advertise and invite firm bookings. I simply hope and pray that it will work. Watch this space!

I must finish by thanking Kathy, Tom, Celia, Fr Morris and Fr Sam, and all the others who work so hard behind the scenes, for keeping things up to date and providing the firm basis for our work in the future. Our thanks go to Bishop Robert, all members of the Executive and

## Ave

Council, and all our local Officers for their commitment and enthusiasm. The objects for which the Society was founded are as essential as ever and will help us to teach and practise the Catholic Faith, which is the basis of our lives.



Fr Graeme Rowlands – *Chaplain-General*

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## Mary in the City

*As we begin to emerge from Lockdown (praise God) several Marian events have taken place in the Capital, showing a great desire to be together in worship. I am grateful to both Frs Peter Anthony and Philip Barnes for allowing me to share their words with you from two events in honour of Our Lady.*

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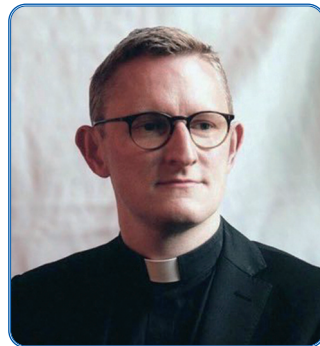
## The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, All Saints Margaret Street

*Sermon by Fr Peter Anthony*

“I’ll tell you why Mary can’t save you – because she’s not God.”

Those are words I heard the other day as I was making my way across Oxford Circus. A slightly unhinged street evangelist was shouting through a megaphone into the crowd. He was very concerned with the dangers of what he described as Mariolatry.

One of the most intriguing characteristics of living in the West End I have discovered is listening to the protestors, street preachers, and vaccine cranks who regularly congregate at Oxford Circus to shout at people through their megaphones. The preaching is almost without



## *Ave*

exception an extraordinary parade of error, superstition, delusion and conspiracy theory that in my experience at least bears little resemblance to the Christian religion.

But the fellow I was listening to the other day was in full flood making a series of assertions about Our Lady's role in the history of salvation.

"She can't save you because she wasn't crucified for you. She can't save you because she didn't rise from the dead for you. She was just human like you and me."

What I suspect that preacher didn't realise is this. He had unwittingly explained with remarkable concision the theological mystery which does in fact lie at the heart of today's feast. For I hope none of us here believes Mary can save us. She is indeed not God. That's the point. She was saved by her Son as a sign to us of what we too can hope for.

The Assumption celebrates the fact that our ultimate hope is the life of heaven. Mary's vocation was so special and so unique that her Son would not allow her to taste death. At the end of her earthly life she was taken body and soul to heaven to be re-united with him there, where she continues to pray for us.

But for as unique and special as her vocation was, she was no less human than you or me, and was still saved by her Son's death and resurrection. She experiences his resurrection life before we do as a foretaste and exemplar of what we hope for.

But as I listened to the street preacher get more and more worked up the other day, another thought came into my mind. What good does all this shouting do? Has it ever convinced a single person that God loves them? In fact does it put off more people than it convinces?

And that led to another thought: if we go on a procession around Oxford Circus this evening, what distinguishes us from him? Are we not in danger of becoming just another religious spectacle that simply annoys people and puts them off the idea of organised religion? What can we do to ensure that our witness tonight is more effective at showing people the love of God?

I think one of the key issues is this. The street preachers of Oxford Circus see their goal as convincing people of an idea. It's about aggressively changing someone's mind through argument, which frankly rarely works.

But our procession tonight I hope is not about persuading people of an idea, or arguing with anyone, but rather showing what being a Christian is like. For as we make our way through the streets of the West End, we will be worshipping.



## *Ave*

We will be showing what it looks like to so believe and trust in God, that it is our hearts' greatest desire to praise him. And as our procession of worship goes along, Christ will be at the heart of it, in an image cradled on Mary's knee. Our procession tonight will be, if you like, a visual metaphor for the whole of the Christian life. For the Christian vocation is a journey through life with others, in Christ's company to God our Father.

And if we are joyful, and happy and full of Christ's love as we process through our city, others will want to be like that too. They will want to explore themselves what it is that gives us that joy and confidence. And they will know that there exists here at All Saints' a community that will help them do that and deepen their relationship with God.

My prayer is that through our celebration of the Assumption tonight, we reveal to the world what being a Christian is like rather than shouting at them through a megaphone about what it is not. And one of the most important things being a Christian is about is making our way through life to God in the company of all those fellow Christians who have also found their hope in Christ. And the first amongst those fellow Christians is Our Lady – the one chosen by God to be Mother of his Son, and our Mother too, and who today is assumed in glory into heaven as a foretaste of what we can hope for too.



Ave

## The Nativity of Our Lady, St Andrews, Holborn

*Sermon by Fr Philip Barnes*



“I’ll go if you will’. An invitation arrives and your heart sinks. The senders no doubt imagine that this is the highlight of your year, how can you possibly refuse such a gala occasion. You’re thinking, ‘how will I get through it, do I have to go?’ And so you set about contacting other likely victims. “Are you going? Well, I’ll only go if you will, I’ll go with you.” The presence of your friends will make it tolerable, and so plans for mutual support are hatched.

That thought, “I’ll go if you will” is actually part of a deep human instinct. It’s the instinct that we belong together, that we are there for each other. I can’t imagine going to an awkward event without my friends because being with them is what makes my life complete, they make me who I am.

And belonging together – not just with the people I know (and love), but the people who I don’t know, or who I struggle to even like- is our experience within the body of Christ, the Church. ‘I’ll go if you will’, or better, “I’ll go with you” could well be the slogan of the disciple; because to know that *I* am loved and welcomed by God is to know that *you* are loved and welcomed by God, and that I only go into that life of holiness and grace that Jesus opens for us with you.

That’s a truth that we are commemorating in the birth of Mary, the Mother of the Lord.

One of the rather earnest conversations that I still remember from the breakfast table when I was a student was about when salvation began, a group of keen undergraduates trying to pin the exact moment it started – a bit much over the marmalade, but I suppose you can’t blame the enthusiasm. One confidently said it was the event of the cross, another said, no, it was Christmas and the incarnation, a third pushed it back to the Annunciation and the ‘yes’ that Mary gives to the angel.

What today’s feast does is to keep pushing it back – back a little further to the birth of Jesus’ mother; back in our minds nine months again to her conception; and then, through that long line of unlikely and extraordinary characters who we heard recited as the grand opening of Matthew’s Gospel, back through the complicated and muddled story of the People of God.



## Ave

*Blessed were the chosen people out of whom the Lord did come* we shall be singing in a few minutes; and Matthew shows us how through the twists and turns of human history God was preparing the way for his Son, and how that preparation reached a focus in the birth and life of the Virgin Mary. The Church Fathers called Mary the holy earth from which Christ was formed as man. And the miracle is that God in Christ forever remains in union with the earth.

So this becomes the feast of God's being with us; being with us in the life, death, resurrection and glorification of his Son, who becomes human in the womb of Mary to be the firstborn of a huge family in which we are a part. It's the glorious feast of *belonging* with all those who are touched by Jesus' life, where there are no nameless extras in the story of salvation, but where we go, with one another, into that new creation which Mary foreshadows.

It's no accident then, that through the Christian centuries Mary has been associated with the nurturing of that family in which Jesus is present, his Church, and that we should turn to her for prayer and encouragement. In the pattern of our daily prayer she's there as the sign of the God who becomes part of our family, or rather, who makes us his family. So to her we naturally bring the friends we cannot be without; as well as the forgotten, the lost, the people who may so easily conclude that no-one cares: people on our own streets; people on the other side of the world; people in Afghanistan, or Haiti. Mary teaches us to bring with us into the circle of God's welcome all his children, and to move from prayer to action.

The birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary calls us to give thanks that Jesus comes to the human family, that he belongs to *us* and came to help us; and with her and the whole kindred of Jesus Christ, we go together to the glory and freedom of eternity.



Ave

## Announcement

Following the announcement of his decision to step down as Bishop of Ebbsfleet and seek reception into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, we record the grateful thanks of the Society of Mary for the firm and invaluable support that Bishop Jonathan has given.



The Lourdes Jubilee Pilgrimage, led by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, would not have been possible without his detailed help and commitment. The Pilgrimage was of signal ecumenical importance; the Archbishop joining there with Cardinal Walter Kasper and together leading the Torchlight Procession and giving the Blessing.

The image of Our Lady of Walsingham, in procession, accompanied by the Guardians of the Holy House, was a joyful and groundbreaking element of the Pilgrimage.

The Archbishop preached at the International Mass in the basilica and led the final act of worship at the Holy Grotto of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Bishop Jonathan was also a founder member of the College of Chaplains of Mary Mother of the Church and a member of the General Council.

We assure him of our prayers.

The Superior General  
on behalf of the General Council.

*Fr Jonathan Goodall, then Chaplain  
to Archbishop Rowan Williams,  
at the Lourdes Grotto in 2008*



*Ave*

## **Fr David Wheatley SSC**



We are sad to record the death of Father David Wheatley SSC, Priest. Father David was a loyal supporter of the Society of Mary and became a Chaplain of Mary Mother of the Church from the beginning of the College.

He was Ordained to the Sacred Priesthood in 2003 and he died in Office as Master of Archbishop Holgate Hospital, Hemsworth. He also supported the work and ministry of S Helen's Church, Hemsworth, where his Funeral Rites took place on 12th and 13th August 2021.

## **Mr Henry Frier**



It is with great sadness we record the death of Mr Henry Frier, who was a faithful member of this society for many years and served as a previous editor of Ave. The following is the sermon preached at his requiem by the Chaplain General, Fr Graeme Rowlands.

## Ave

Henry Frier: 6th August 1935 – 26th August 2021

*Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to me....but go and find the brothers and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'* (S. John xx.17).

Henry had a way of making you feel immediately at home, of helping you to know that were part of his life, of showing how important you were to him. Even on the first meeting, you could tell that here was someone you could rely on, could trust, would put himself out to help you. It is presumptuous of me to say so, but he was so much more than a friend: I feel like part of the family. He was, above all, a faithful Catholic Christian, a steady and enthusiastic support to the Society of Mary and a living witness to the Resurrection.

On that first Easter Day, Mary Magdalene stays behind at the tomb weeping, when Peter and John have gone back home. She thinks someone has come and stolen the body, the final disaster of the lot. And Our Lord comes and calls her by name. He is alive – now she can see clearly. But he says, 'Don't stay here; don't waste time, clinging to me. Go and tell them.' This is a message which had to be communicated in so much more than words: her whole being was transformed. If I tell you, you will forget; if I show you, you will remember; if I involve you, you will understand.

That is the level of Henry's witness to the Faith, for Jesus had called him by name. His infectious enthusiasm shows us what to love. He was an embodiment of something which had also helped to mould me – of what people used to call the London, Brighton and South Coast Religion! He was born in London, but the family were forced to move from the house because he cried so much that the others living under the same roof objected - he always did have a technique of getting his own way. So they moved to Brighton, a few streets away from my father's grocery shop. We were living in two rooms above the shop. Henry and Dorothy were married at S. Alban's, Coombe Road 61 years ago, the Church where my parents had married not long before. And he began as a junior clerk with Southdown buses, given a job in the licensing and fares department for 3 months and still there 24 years later. He was therefore immensely efficient – fares, licences, timetables, planning – and in charge of it all after their move to Bournemouth.

## AVE

But that, of course, is how he dealt with the clergy – he had subtle ways of controlling them and getting them to do what was right and proper. ‘Here’s one I’ve already printed – I’ve done these leaflets for the congregation – I thought how nice it would be to end with a decade of the Rosary...’ I loved our planning meetings for the next edition of AVE. They always took place over lunch at the Presbytery, after a little gin or two. Everything was carefully prepared – he knew what Father liked – but he was perfectly happy for things to be changed or scrapped and to have to do them again.

He and Dorothy were one of the mainstays on Pilgrimage: his enthusiasm and support was unbounded and Dorothy was always ready to create a flower arrangement in about five minutes! And that brings me to talk about the family. They were perfectly complimentary in every sense of that word: they knew how to support one another and that, for Dorothy, Teresa, Brian and Mark, has been severely tested over the past four years. How good it is that Henry was able to stay at home and be cared for there, in spite of the onset of memory loss and dementia. He was bright and responsive on his 86th birthday a month ago, the Feast of the Transfiguration, and now he goes on to share the light of that Risen Christ, whom the Apostles saw shining with light on the mountain.

Henry would be the first to say how much he needs this offering of the Mass, and of the many others being offered for him now and in the future, as he grows in that risen life, as his sins are purged away, as he prays for us to rejoice with him again when the right time comes for us. In this Mass we are united with the new heaven and the new earth, the barrier between this world and the next is so thin that we can almost see through it, as we give thanks for this faithful servant who is now welcomed into his true and eternal home.

✠ May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

***The Council have decided that there should be a specific memorial to Henry and that we should now restore and enhance the litter on which the Processional Image of Our Lady is carried. Please send further donations to help with this memorial to Kathy Redington, the Membership Secretary (contact details as on the last page), before the end of this year. Cheques payable to the Society of Mary.***



Ave

## Mary in the Life of....

**Fr Ben Bradshaw SSC**  
**Shrine Priest of**  
**Our Lady of Walsingham**



*Can you recall a particular time that you first encountered the Blessed Virgin? (Scripturally or Liturgically?) Could you describe that?*

It was in fact where I am currently based, Walsingham! During my childhood my mother would take me each Sunday to the local parish church. The church was rooted in the traditions of the BCP; there would be a Eucharist every Sunday and on a Wednesday morning. On Sunday evenings there would be BCP Evensong with an all-male robed choir. I will forever be grateful to the parish priest at that time and also the congregation who all helped in various ways to grow and deepen my fledgling faith. However, the veneration of Mary was not a tradition of the parish so that was one area of Christianity that as a young man, I had yet to discover. It was only during my first year as a seminarian at Mirfield that I encountered the Blessed Virgin Mary during my first ever pilgrimage to Walsingham! As a young seminarian I had signed up to go on the College pilgrimage to England's Nazareth, and it was a pilgrimage that would change my life forever. I can still remember the powerful spiritual impact that the Shrine's liturgies made on me, how they were able to make my heart blaze with a zeal for God, a sense that I had never experienced before. I can also recall the moment when I first entered the Holy House, and it was at that point that I encountered the Blessed Virgin Mary. I can vividly recall a sense that I was being introduced to someone very special, to someone that was going to have a significant impact on both my life and on my faith.

***What is it about Blessed Virgin Mary that you find especially appealing?***

Where do I start?! Our Lady has so many different qualities and offers us so many different gifts it is difficult to pick out just a few, however, I shall try my best! I must say that I am always struck by Mary's humility. It is almost incomprehensible for us when we reflect on how Our Lady was able to consistently remain humble, dignified, loyal, and trusting to God, despite the most incredible and astonishing events that took place in her early life. Mary also continued to show those same virtues

## Ave

in her later life when she quietly supported the ministry of her Son, remaining devout in her faith and in her trust of God all the way to the foot of the Cross. Another reason why I find the BVM so appealing is the knowledge that I can always ask her to pray for me. Prayer is transformational and I believe that the prayers of the BVM are incredibly powerful. To know that I can call on her at any time, day or night to pray for me, is incredibly appealing!

### ***How would you answer those that are concerned that veneration of Mary detracts from Our Lord?***

This is a concern that I do hear from time to time, and I do understand why someone who has not been taught about the veneration of Mary might have such worries. When I am presented with these concerns, I tend to explain that all our veneration is in fact to assist us in growing deeper in the knowledge and love of Jesus. The more that we learn about Mary and the things that happened to her, the things that she did and the things that she said, we then actually learn more about Christ. Our veneration of Mary, rather than what at first glance might appear to be a detraction, is actually all part of a way of drawing people closer to Our Lord. I like to give the example of perhaps meeting the parents of a hero, perhaps someone who has lost their life by saving somebody else's. At that meeting we would praise the parents for raising such a virtuous child, but the parents will inevitably turn the praise back onto their child. They would then tell us about their child's virtues and qualities which in turn helps us to increase our love and respect of their child as we come to learn more about them, from the people who were closest to them. We also find that we will increase our love and respect of the parents by the way that they consistently praise their child and tell of the things that they did. This is of course the same as what Mary does for us, this is how she helps us to grow in the love of her child, Jesus Christ.

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

I think you would be very surprised if I did not mention Walsingham! Going further afield, I was fortunate enough to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land when I was a seminarian and that was a trip that had numerous powerful moments. The Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth was an incredible experience. I still recall being lost for words, of being in awe, when I found myself standing on the actual ground where the Angel Gabriel had appeared to Mary, the location of the most

## Ave

significant event in the history of humanity. There are several Marian shrines that I am keen to visit in the future but with having a young family and of course with the pandemic, a few trips and plans have had to be delayed, however, it is always good to have something to look forward to in the future.

### ***What spiritual insights do you gain from devotion to Our Lady?***

I think that there is so much that all of us, as Christians, can learn from Our Lady. We are perhaps more aware of lessons around Mary's humility, her yes to God, her constantly pointing people in the direction of Jesus, but recently I have also been reflecting on the words- 'Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart'. Our Lady was a contemplative. Mary thought deeply, she pondered, she reflected. We can all at times be tempted to make hasty decisions and to react too quickly. However, very often like Mary, it is best for us to ponder on the information that we have received, to process the details in full, and to allow our emotions to settle so that we can make the right decision with a calm and peaceful mind.

### ***What encouragement could you give to societies such as ours who aim to promote devotion to Our Lady?***

Keep going, you are doing a great job! Celebrate and give thanks to God for the successes and do not be too hard on yourselves when things seem to fail. I often wonder if St Paul died not really knowing just how successful his missionary work had been. In his second and final letter to Timothy we recall that Paul predicts his death is close at hand. Paul also wrote sombrely that the team he had gathered around him had all gone, only St Luke remained. Paul even notes that not one single person came to support him at his trial in Rome; the great missionary apostle had been completely deserted. Yet of course, we know that Paul was without doubt one of the most important and influential members of the Early Church, his missionary work was indeed a great success and his teachings essential. Sometimes, we do not get to see the fruit of our labours, however, that does not mean they are not there, perhaps they just need more time to grow.

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

We need to continue to teach people why Our Lady means so much to us. We need to explain why we do venerate Mary in the ways and devotions that we offer. Modern society has changed dramatically over

## *Ave*

the last fifty years; in the UK we now live in a country where most young people do not even understand the basics of the Christian faith. However, many people, young and old, are still open to the idea of developing and growing a faith, but the issue is that they do not know where to start. Without gentle and careful teaching along with understandable explanations, a significant amount of what we do in church would make very little sense to a new person first exploring the faith. Therefore, we need to nurture those new people, to encourage them and to make them feel welcome. We need to let them know that there are no silly questions and that they need not feel embarrassed or out of place in our churches. If we can welcome, nurture, teach and explain then I think we will reach a position where we can then inspire others to be open to receiving the immense joys and benefits that comes with having the Blessed Virgin Mary in our lives.



## **90th Anniversary of the Society of Mary**

**O**n September 8th 2021 the General Superior, Bishop Robert Ladds, celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving at The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham at the altar of the Society of Mary.



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## *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 Sales Officer**, Kathy Redington, The Lilacs, Luxford Lane, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2PJ.

Enquiries should be directed to [redingtonkathy@hotmail.com](mailto:redingtonkathy@hotmail.com)

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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.

