

AVE

The Magazine of The Society of Mary



S. Andrew's Church, Willesden, NW10

£2.00

Annunciantide, 2017



The Superior-General writes

Letter from the Superior-General

I'm a creature of habit and I like reading Sermons. Perhaps I should get out a bit more!

As a personal Devotion at the Christmas Crib, I read Crib Meditations, a collection of extracts from the Sermons of John Keble, made by Father Thomas Gilbert and published years ago by CLA. I also read from a collection of Sermon extracts by Father Kenneth Mason, published SLG Press, under the title 'A Great Joy'.

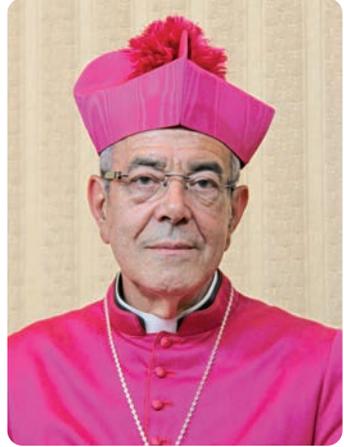
This year, my thoughts have been directed by this re-reading particularly to what might be thought of as "The Gospel of Mary". In no way am I intending to imply an heretical or extra-canonical scripture!

S. Luke's Gospel has the singular most profound influence on our keeping of Christmas. It informs our Carols, the Nativity Plays, the literature, the art. It also provides us with three Canticles, most of the Angelus and the opening of the Gloria in Excelsis. Luke gives us the Christmas Story and the central figure in this story is not Jesus, though He is the most important, but Our Blessed Lady, His Mother.

In setting out the narrative of the Nativity and the Boyhood of Jesus, Luke is not only telling of the origins of Jesus. In a concentrated epic, Luke is presenting a "miniature gospel" within his Gospel: "The Gospel of Mary".

The Christmas Story is of what happens to and through Her because She is His Mother.

Our Lady is the link between the future ministry of Jesus and the ministry of S. John the Baptist, which would otherwise have been independent. Her calling makes active the tradition of messianic prophecy. She learns, before anyone else, of the destiny of Her Son; meeting with Simeon She hears of the pain and rejection that is to be



part of Her own destiny as well as of His. In contrast, She learns, too, of the glory that Her Son will share with Her and with all who come to know Him.

Mary, with S. Joseph, takes the Boy Jesus to Jerusalem and there She experiences a profound prefiguring of the Passion and Resurrection; losing Him and then recovering Him after three days. About His Father's business then as He was to be on the Cross, in the Tomb and in the Garden of the Resurrection.

This Gospel is given first to Mary to live through, to come to understand by a "treasuring up in Her heart" and for herself become conformed to. Mary is the first to make the transition from that understanding of messianic expectation of the Old Covenant, to the New that is made possible out of Her Son's knowing God's claim on Him. "Think of Him just born, yet having lasted for ever and ever, for He is a Person begotten from everlasting of the Father". Says Keble. Our Lady must give Herself to a way of life, of loving and a trusting response that is the result of that claim. By so doing, She gives and mediates this Gospel to us.

Our Lady's Motherhood of Jesus rests, not simply on a biological truth, nor solely on Her obedience, faith and love before His Birth, but primarily on the way in which She is completely involved in His life. By the grace of Her unity with Him.

"God, having formed Jesus in Her in Mary's Womb, goes on to reform Her in Him", as, slightly paraphrased, Father Mason so beautifully and succinctly expresses it.

Hearing Her Gospel, we are inspired to work out the meaning of our own calling. Imitate Her response to God made before it could become possible to anyone else.

A Gift and a Truth enough for a lifetime; not just for Christmas!

With my love and Blessing,

+ 

✧ Robert Ladds – *Superior-General*

A Letter from the Chaplain-General

My dear friends,

They say it is a sign of age when all the clergy look like schoolboys. Since this has been happening to me for some time, I must be getting very old! Seriously though, it is really good to see so many signs of new life and enthusiasm within the Society and in all that we do. The Youth Group who came with us to Lourdes last year was an inspiration to fellow pilgrims and a sign of how Our Lady's prayers can change lives. On the return journey were full of life, keen to go again and to anxious up the contacts with new friends they had made. I hope this will happen again next year. As I write, I am preparing to go to Lourdes for the meeting of the Pilgrimage Directors in the days leading up to the Anniversary of the First Apparition on 11th February. Things have changed so much since I first helped with a Pilgrimage to the Shrine in 1977 (then also a 'Youth Group', from S. Mary's, Kenton). The staff and chaplains at Lourdes work hard to ensure that a warm welcome is given to all, both groups and individuals, and there has been an immense growth in the understanding of Societies such as ours and what we are trying to foster and achieve through our pilgrimages. Our Pilgrimage next year is from 6th-10th August: details, prices and booking forms should be available by the time of the May Devotion. In the meantime, make a note of the dates so that you do not miss out.



I am glad to say that the Pilgrimage to Vienna, Mariazell and Melk from 18th-23rd September is also gradually taking shape and bookings have been trickling in each week. It is still not too late to book! Bishop Robert will be coming to lead us and Fr Peter Anthony will act as a knowledgeable and trusty guide, so it is an experience you will never forget.

Now to more domestic matters. In the days of long ago, I remember going to S. Luke's Kingston to count the votes for General Council elections as Recording Officer, but it is some years since we have had to do any more than announce the result of the election at the AGM – there were never more candidates than the number of available places. But now there is a revived interest and enthusiasm to take an active part in our work! With this *Ave* comes an impressive list from a whole variety of backgrounds and many different parts of the country. It is for

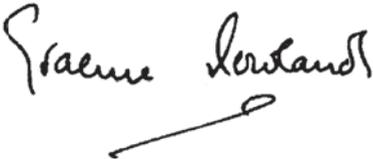
you now to exercise your vote! We shall look forward to welcoming the successful candidates to the next meeting of the Council.

Two years ago, I was writing at this time to congratulate Bishop Philip North as he began his Episcopal ministry. It was the first time ever that an existing member of the General Council had been consecrated a Bishop. Now we hear that he has been appointed both Master of the Guardians at Walsingham and then the Bishop of Sheffield. Please pray for him as he takes up his appointments and give thanks for his faithful ministry and his witness to the Catholic Faith. On the subject of Walsingham, I would encourage you to make the effort to go to the National Pilgrimage this year, on Monday 29th May, even if this is not your usual custom. The preacher on that day will be Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM.Cap, Preacher to the Papal Household. There will be forty hours of prayer (starting on Saturday 27th) including an ecumenical vigil in Walsingham Parish Church on the Sunday evening. This event is the Shrine's response to 'Thy Kingdom Come', a global prayer movement which the Archbishop of Canterbury is inviting people around the world to join. The Novena of Prayer will start on May 25th and lead up to the Feast of Pentecost. I am sure we shall also have times of prayer in our own parishes during that time.

We look forward to the May Devotion and AGM in London on Saturday 6th. Rather than include many details in this letter, please refer to the display advertisement elsewhere in this issue. As last year, our Procession will go from one church to the other. I need at least six stewards for the Procession to help to keep things moving and would welcome offers of help from Deacons, Seminarians or servers. Any offers to me, please, by 12th April. We are very grateful to Fr Trevor Jones, the Parish Priest of S. Peter, London Docks, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graeme Rowlands". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Fr Graeme Rowlands, *Chaplain-General*

From the Editor

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I won't make a habit too often of taking up valuable space in this publication to write to you, but I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for the many messages of support I have received as I take on the role of editor and also for the compliments that came in following the first issue produced at the end of 2016.

I am very fortunate that Henry has done a tremendous job with *Ave* over many years and so I inherited a publication that, I think you will agree, was of very high quality. Henry has been enormously helpful to me as I tentatively begin this role and has offered invaluable advice and support.

I would also like to thank Jeremy and the team at Postprint, who take all my electronic submissions and lay them out beautifully in print. They are a great team to work with and nothing seems too much trouble for them.

I would also like to thank the regular contributors and all who have been very willing to submit items when I have emailed or telephoned to ask. Special thanks must be given to John Salmon who takes so many of the wonderful photographs that appear in these pages.

I hope that over the coming years the standard can be maintained and, of course, welcome any submissions that you may have. Please feel free to send them to me using the email below. I especially welcome any reports from events in local wards – especially if pictures can be provided too.

Following a meeting of the Executive Committee and General Council it was decided that we should try and adjust the dates of the publication of *Ave*. We shall be keeping to two publications per annum but the second edition in the year will be brought forward to October – to commemorate Our Lady of the Rosary.

This gives slightly better spacing between the two editions so that members can submit items and there is not so much of a gap between the first and second edition of the year.

As a result could I please have all submissions for consideration for the October 2017 edition of *Ave* by Monday 4th September 2017, please.

God Bless,

Fr Sam McNally-Cross, *Editor*

The October Devotion

Seminarian Sebastian Hamilton was one of the many Society of Mary members to attend the Devotion held in October 2016 at S. Matthew's Church, Carver Street, Sheffield. He offers this report;

Throughout any given week in term time numerous cars leave the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, and head towards Sheffield, ferrying students into the city for their Biblical Studies lectures. There seemed something rather appropriate about three of us heading from the College towards Sheffield on the morning of Saturday 15th October – not, for once, to study the Word of God in an academic environment but instead to do homage to the person through whom the Word was made flesh.

We joined about 100 others at St. Matthew's, Carver Street for a Pontifical Mass at 11.00am. The Superior-General of The Society pontificated, with many visiting priests concelebrating. Hymns



included 'Daily, daily sing to Mary', 'Ave Maria! O Maiden, O Mother', and 'Her Virgin eyes saw God incarnate born.' During the notices the Chaplain-General thanked Father Grant Naylor, the Vicar of St Matthew's, for all he had done to organise the day. Having organised 'quite a few' similar events, he was grateful for the opportunity to turn up and find everything arranged and under control!

Lunch was a splendid buffet provided in The Art House, an exhibition space and café next door to St. Matthew's, accessible from outside or through a door in the church. This is a useful space for meetings, and also for hosting their free student lunches on Wednesdays after Mass. It was a great chance to catch up with friends old and new.

We were under strict instructions to gather together in the church at 2.30 pm, ready to form up for the procession. We sang 'Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!' before leaving the building and marching along Carver Street with a rousing rendition of 'Lift high the Cross!' this was followed by 'Immaculate Mary! Our hearts are on fire' as we processed through the centre of the city towards St. Marie's RC Cathedral. Father Christopher Posluszny, the Cathedral Dean, gave an official welcome and generously extended the Year of Mercy Plenary Indulgence to us. In order to receive the Indulgence the

Procession entered through the Cathedral's Door of Mercy, and we all recited the Creed, Our Father and Hail Mary, and we were extolled to make our Confession in the near future.

We recited the Litany of Our Lady, heard that great Revelation reading (12:1-6), and then Father Rodney Marshall, the Vicar of Athersley, preached. In a very engaging sermon he explored a number of aspects of devotion to Our Lady, and made particular reference to Our Lady Untier of Knots. Reminding us that Pope Francis, as a young Jesuit



priest, had found great comfort in her intercession, Fr Marshall called on us to look to our own lives, consider what knots are holding us back from loving God more fully, and ask Our Lady to aid us in removing these barriers. Bishop Ladds pronounced the final blessing, and we ended with 'Hail, Holy Queen'.



We all know that these sort of processions are becoming rarer, and what a tragedy that is. But all the more reason to rejoice when we do come together and express our faith in such a public way! For a number of people that I spoke to this was their first procession through such a public space, and we certainly attracted a lot of attention! It takes real confidence in the love of Christ, and in each other, to take part in such a procession. Phone cameras were out all along the route taking photographs and videos... But even more visible were the smiles on those watching us. Many people were obviously curious, but noticeably uplifted by our presence.

For those who watched us this may have appeared to be an unusual and one-off occurrence. But it will have stuck in many minds, and perhaps as they reflect on it they might catch a glimpse of the truth that we were attempting to uncover – that the endless, abundant stream of praise towards God, and the *Salve* sung to His Mother, echoes through eternity and is available to us even in the reality that we see around us.

Although the procession ended at the Cathedral, we left the building with renewed and refreshed faith in the company of witnesses that we live alongside, in heaven and on earth. We very directly shared the song of heaven with the people of Sheffield during the procession – our challenge was to continue singing it as we returned to our day-to-day lives!

Thank you to all who made the day possible, particularly Fr Naylor and all at St. Matthew's for such generous hospitality.

The sermon given by Fr Rodney Marshall at the October Devotion in Sheffield has been reproduced here with his kind permission.

“Do whatever he tells you”

I am sure you will all think I am a very sad person who ought to get out a bit more when I tell you that one of my pleasures in life is reading notices. Notices in various places have always been a source of endless amusement to me. Like the notice in the hotel room which read “The manager has personally passed all the water served here”, or one in the Swiss Restaurant which informed us that “Our wines leave you nothing to hope for”, or the notice in the Rome laundry which read “Ladies leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time” or the ecumenically minded notice in a Hong Kong dentist which proudly announced “Teeth extracted using the latest Methodists”. Even in my own church hall in Barnsley somebody put up a notice about a Friendship Club which began “Are you depressed between 10.00 am and 12 noon on Tuesdays”.

Notices can be a source of great fun but some notices are much more serious and need to be heeded. Like this one:

“When your thread gets tangled, call the foreman”

These words appeared on a large notice in the spinning room of a Cotton Mill in Lancashire. A young woman had just started to work at the Mill and before long her thread got tangled up. Being a very resourceful person she ignored the advice on the notice and tried to untangle the thread herself. The more she tried the worse it got so in the end she had to call the foreman. I’ve tried my best to sort it out she says, but the foreman is unimpressed. No you haven’t he says because if you had really tried your best you would have called me. There was an important message in that notice for the woman and actually there is an important message for us too.

I don’t believe that there is anybody in this Church today who could honestly say that there were not areas of their life which are tangled and knotted and which makes them less than happy. There is nobody here whose life would not be improved if some of these knots were undone. Situations in our lives for which we see no solution, that recurring sin we try so hard to address and fail time and again, the knots of family discord, lack of understanding between parents and children, the knots of deep hurt between husband and wife, the

absence of peace and joy in our home, the knots of broken relationships, of addiction, of sickness and death, the knots of depression, unemployment, loneliness and fear. These are some of the knots which strangle the life out of all of us, often come between us and God and make us desperately unhappy. Unfortunately when faced with the tangled thread of our lives we far too often do what the woman did, we try to sort it all out ourselves. We fall into the way of the world which holds self-reliance in very high regard. He did it all by himself or she pulled herself up by her own bootstraps or he's a self-made man are among the highest accolades we can be given. But self-reliance is dangerous because it encourages us to think that we can do anything if we try hard enough. And then something happens which brings our self-reliance crashing down around our ears. We or someone we love is diagnosed with a terminal illness, or our marriage breaks up or we lose our job, or we stand at the grave of a loved one. Where is self-reliance then? The truth is that we cannot deal with the tangles and knots in our lives alone all of us need a helping hand to get through life, we need the support of others if we are going to undo those knots. And that goes for everyone, including Popes.

Back in the 1970s and 80s the present Pope Francis was ordinary Fr Bergoglio and at the time was Superior of the Jesuits in Argentina. It was a very difficult time in the life of the Church especially in Latin America, and to make matters worse Argentina was in the middle of a bloody civil war. Unwittingly Fr Bergoglio became a focus of division between rival factions in the Church and was unfairly accused of being in league with the government authorities. This was a bad time for Fr Bergoglio, made worse by the death of his beloved mother and to cut a long story short during the 1980s he found himself in Germany completing his academic studies.

We can only imagine his state of mind as he left Argentina or the turmoil which tangled his life and made him deeply unhappy. No amount of effort on his part was going to sort all this out. Like all of us he desperately needed help and he found that help in an unexpected place. One day he went into the Church of St Peter in Perlach in Augsburg in Bavaria and there he saw a painting of Our Lady. In the painting she is suspended between heaven and earth and has a crown of twelve stars on her head. Over her head the Holy Spirit hovers and she is surrounded by angels. In her hands is a knotted white ribbon

which she is serenely untying, helped by one of the angels whilst the other angel presents the ribbon, free from knots to us. The picture which had been in the Church since 1700 is called ***Our Lady Untier of Knots*** and the painting made such an impression on Fr Bergoglio that when he returned to Argentina he took a copy of the picture with him and promoted devotion to Our Lady Untier of Knots throughout Argentina. That devotion has now spread throughout the world. What happened to Fr Bergoglio as he prayed before the picture we shall never know, what knots in his life were undone we can only guess. Maybe he experienced a fresh the mercy of God in his life, maybe Our Lady showed him the Merciful love of God and as we know Mercy has been a constant theme of his life culminating in this Year of Mercy. We shall never know for certain what happened as he prayed before the picture but one thing is certain that when he returned to Argentina Fr Bergoglio was a very different person and the rest, as they say is history.

What a strange title for Our Lady that is, “ Our Lady Untier of Knots” but what a wonderful title for us especially in this Year of Mercy.

The idea of Mary as untier of knots is not new. St Ireneus, writing in the 2C says this ***“the knot of Eves disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary. For what the Virgin Eve had bound fast by unbelief, this did the Virgin Mary set free through faith”***

The undoing of knots in our lives, the untangling of all that makes us unhappy and keeps us from God is a supreme work of mercy. Ultimately it is God’s mercy manifested in Jesus Christ that undoes those knots, but Mary, Untier of knots, is the Icon of that mercy and the supreme example of what God’s mercy can do in a human person who cooperates fully with him.

If we want to know about the mercy of God and what it can do in our lives we need look no further than Our Lady. She is Untier of Knots because she is Mother of Mercy. She is the greatest recipient of the mercy of God in her Immaculate Conception when the mercy of God preserved her from sin from the very moment of her conception. She is the Mother of Jesus, the face of the Father’s Mercy and through her prayers she brings us closer to her divine Son the source of mercy for us all.

It is God’s mercy alone that can undo those knots in our lives, that can repair the broken relationships, forgive the persistent sin, heal the

broken hearted, replace fear with love and despair with hope. Mary is not a Fairy Godmother with a magic wand who can wish all our problems away. Rather she is a Mother who can show her children where to get the help they need and then support them with her prayers. What Mary, Untier of Knots says to us is if you want your life untangling, if you want those knots untying, if you want to be truly happy then simply ***“Do whatever he tells you”***.

Maybe Jesus is saying to you today, you need to be reconciled to God and his Church through the Sacrament of Confession, maybe he is saying you need to say sorry to that person you have hurt or you need to forgive that person who has hurt you, maybe you need to recognise a particular sin which plagues your life and comes between you and God and to bring it honestly to the Lord in prayer. And because many of the knots in the ribbon of our lives are beyond our control we need never despair but bring them to the Lord in prayer. Above all we need to accept that we cannot sort out our lives unaided. When our thread gets tangled we need to call the foreman, we need in the first instance to bring it to the Lord in prayer and to ask Our Lady to join her prayers to ours. Remember that old hymn we used to sing as children:

***What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
And what a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer
Oh, what peace we often forfeit
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer***

So I guess the question for us all today is what are the knots in the thread of my life? What is it that comes between me and God and between myself and others? What is it that needs changing or healing in my life? What stops me living the kind of life God intended for me? What is it that is making me unhappy? There’s a powerful Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots (*Google it!*). Why not use it during what is left of this Year of Mercy. Ask Our Lady Untier of Knots, Our Lady of Mercy to show you the way forward, and ask her to help you to experience again the loving mercy of God in a life free from knots.

May Our Lady of Mercy, Our Lady Untier of Knots pray for us all.

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**

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**

*Preacher: Fr Trevor Jones, Rector,
S. Peter's Church, London Docks*

FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY 2017

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

A Hidden Gem

The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden is a hidden gem in amongst the bustle of a busy and diverse part of London. The parish priest, Fr Christopher Phillips gives some inside into this fascinating church and shrine.

The ancient parish church of Willesden, which now lies amid the sprawl of North-West London, is thought to have been founded in about AD938. At that time, Athelstan, King of the West Saxons, was riding through the area on his way to a battle. On passing the spot, he encountered some monks and, giving them some money, asked them to pray for his victory. Having won the battle, he granted lands (including the manor of Willesden) to the monks of St Erconwald's Abbey, and it is thought that the original church, probably a wooden structure since no physical evidence of it survives, dates from this time.

The earliest document which refers to the church is dated 1181, where it is recorded as "in the demesne of the canons and renders to





them 8 marks a year by the hand of German, the clerk". The first recorded incumbent of the parish is John, son of German, whose ministry began in 1229.

In 1249, a visitation records that among the furniture and vessels of the church were two large sculptured images of Our Lady, and so we are able to say that veneration of her image in the church dates from at least this period. The Middle Ages seem to have been a time of real growth, since a later visitation of 1545 shows the church to be far more richly furnished. By this time, the tower and bells had been added.

It is clear that pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Willesden was very popular in the later Middle Ages. The Museum of London holds a large number of pilgrim medals which have been unearthed across London along what seem to be pilgrimage routes between the Thames and the church. These badges depict Our Lady holding a sceptre, the Christ-Child on her lap, set within a crescent moon. This is intended to remind us that while time moves on and the seasons are constantly changing, Mary remains steadfast.

Like so many other places, Willesden was a victim of the upheaval of the Henrican reformation. The image was removed in 1538 and, along with those of Our Lady of Walsingham and Our Lady of Ipswich, was burned on a bonfire at Chelsea.

Yet despite all the iconoclasm and other horrors of this period, devotion to Our Lady of Willesden has remained a feature of the



spiritual landscape of this part of England. Despite the many changes in the area over recent centuries, particularly with the coming of the railway, which turned Willesden from a small Middlesex village into another part of the urban landscape that is Greater London, people still come to her shrine seeking peace and stillness. It is a testament to the strength of her cult that the present image was created and placed in the Lady Chapel in the early 1970s, and that the tradition of pilgrimage has survived the past attempts to suppress it. The church and the shrine retain a strong place in the affections of local people, many of whom travel regularly to pray here. The large churchyard surrounding the buildings provide an oasis of peace amid what is sadly quite a troubled area. The presence of the image of Our Lady of Willesden is thus a beacon of hope for many people, as she shows us her divine Son and invites us to come and encounter him.

St Mary's is placed at the heart of the diocese of London, and is easily accessible from across the city and further afield, making pilgrimage much easier than it was in the Middle Ages! In recent years, pilgrims have been especially welcomed to the annual Willesden Pilgrimage in July, which brings the whole community together with people from across the Diocese and beyond to worship together at the shrine, to receive the ministries of healing, to seek Our Lady's intercession, and to enjoy fellowship and fun together. We also welcome groups and individuals wishing to make their own arrangements to visit: if you would like to explore the possibilities, please do get in touch – contact details are available on our website (www.shrineofmary.org). As a member of The Society of Mary, recently arrived as the new parish priest, I am as excited at the possibilities for mission presented by being a custodian of a shrine church as I am humbled by the responsibility. Please pray for us and for the continuing development of the ministry of our parish and of the shrine, as we pray for you.

Fr Christopher Phillips SSC
Vicar of St Mary's

The Society of Mary
ELECTION TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL
Term of 4 years from the AGM, 6th May 2017

Voting Details and Instructions

- Pull-out this double page; separate the facing sheet and use that **ONLY** as your Voting Paper.
- As required, **the Voting Paper may be photocopied** and the copies used by those eligible to Vote. Note that both the **front and reverse** of the Paper must be copied.
- A Member must complete only one Voting paper.
- Current Members only are eligible to Vote.
- The Superior-General and Chaplain-General declare that, under the terms of the Constitution, those Nominated are eligible for Election.
- There are 8 vacancies to be filled.
- You may Vote for **UP TO 8 OF THE CANDIDATES**. If you Vote for more than 8 your Vote is disqualified.
- Indicate the Candidate/Candidates of your choice by marking **X** in the box provided.
- This Voting Paper must be validated **WITH YOUR NAME AND SIGNATURE WHERE INDICATED**.
- Return your completed Voting Paper to the Returning Officer for this Election:
The Right Reverend Robert Ladds
S. Peter's Mission House, Wapping Lane
London E1W 2RW
- Voting Papers must be received by the Returning Officer by **Saturday 22nd April 2017**.

THIS SINGLE SHEET IS YOUR VOTING PAPER
Please separate it and use it to register your Vote/s

ELECTION TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Term of 4 years from the AGM, 6th May 2017

You may vote for up to 8 Candidates

Name of Candidate	Mark <input type="checkbox"/> To Vote
Father Desmond Peter Banister – North Hillingdon, Middlesex	
The Right Reverend Norman Banks – Bishop of Richborough	
Father Robert Beaken – Great Bardfield, Essex	
Father Julian Browning – Margaret Street, London	
Mr Henry Frier – Poole, Dorset	
Father Nicholas Leggett – Coventry	

Canon Rodney Marshall – Athersley, South Yorkshire

Dr David Martlew – Eccleston, St Helens

The Venerable Luke Miller – Archdeacon of London

Canon Mark Nicholls – Rotherhithe, London

Father Roger Parker – Burnley, Lancashire

Father Adrian Pearce – Bournemouth, Dorset

Father David Sutton – Greater Manchester

Father John Thackray – Ipswich, Suffolk

Father Iain Young – Lavender Hill, London

PLEASE SEE OVER PAGE TO VALIDATE YOUR VOTING

To validate your Vote
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION

**I confirm that I am a current Member
of the Society of Mary**

Signature

Name

Date

Return this completed Voting Paper to the Returning Officer
for this Election:

The Right Reverend Robert Ladds
S Peter's Mission House
Wapping Lane
London
E1W 2RW

This Voting Paper must be received by the Returning Officer
by **Saturday 22nd April 2017**

This pull-out double sheet provides your **VOTING PAPER**

NOTES

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- Both the front and reverse of the Paper must be copied to produce a valid Voting Paper.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Thursday 8th December 2016, the Ward of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Cambridge marked the retirement of their secretary, Miss Daphne Foreman, who retired after 41 years of service.

Miss Foreman was presented with framed letters of grateful thanks from The Rt Rev'd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely and The Rt Rev'd Robert Ladds SSC, the Superior-General of the Society of Mary.

Miss Foreman is pictured below with her gift, presented by Fr Robert Mackley, Vicar of Little St Mary's, Cambridge.



The Rt Rev'd Robert Ladds preached on the occasion.

Homily Immaculate Conception 2016

CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY OF MARY

“I am the Immaculate Conception”

These were the words that the simple, uneducated child repeated over and over again to herself as she hurried to tell her Parish Priest before she forgot them. “I am the Immaculate Conception”.

Bernadette, among the poorest and abject of the poor in the Pyrenean village of Lourdes had, over the past fortnight had a number of Apparitions of a figure to whom, with her limited vocabulary and knowledge, she could only refer to as “Aquero” – the “thing”.

The child had been asked much by Aquero, to crawl in the mud of the river bank; to eat bitter grass growing there; to suffer the humiliation of being thought mad or a liar; the mobbing by a fickle crowd. Emotional turmoil.

But Aquero had also given much to the child. The message of penance and prayer; the healing Spring of Waters. And, for the first time in her young life someone had been kind and considerate towards her – Aquero had been gentle and respectful to her.

A merciful three weeks had passed and things had settled down a little, the first notoriety subsiding. Bernadette stayed at home trying to learn her Catechism so she might receive her First Communion. On 25th March 1858 the inner longing to return to the Grotto by the Gave returned.

That day was, of course, the Feast of the Annunciation, when another young woman had received a call of heaven. Mary had willingly responded and, in a similar kind of way, Bernadette also responded. She went back to the Grotto determined to do what her Priest had told her to do. To ask the lady her name: “Would you be so kind as to tell me who you are?”

This in Bernadette’s own words.

I asked her who she was and this petition always made her smile. She always smiled. I tried for the fourth time. She stopped smiling. With her arms down, she raised her eyes to heaven and then, folding her hands over her breast she said “I am the Immaculate Conception”. Then I went back to M le Curé to tell him that she had said she was the

Immaculate Conception and he asked was I absolutely certain. I said yes, and so as not to forget the words, I had repeated them all the way home.

What a contrast there is between this beautiful, direct and simple response of Bernadette to Our Lady with that of the equally beautiful, but theological and reasoned response of the Saint John Henry Newman.

The origins of the Church's teaching of the Immaculate Conception of Mary can be seen in the writings of theologians from the 2nd through to the 5th century. These were further developed from the 11th to the 14th century and were more formalised by Pope Sixtus IV in 1474 and by the Council of Trent in 1546; with the Dogma being formally pronounced by Pius IX on December 8th 1854 – 162 years ago.

Within this long period of development, Newman theology stands out. While an Anglican and before 1854, he clearly embraces this same teaching. Preaching the Oxford University Sermon in 1832, which he entitles *The Reverence due to the Blessed Virgin Mary*, he attributes to Her all the elements of Her especial case of predestination by which She received the Saving Graces of Her Son in anticipation of His death and resurrection.

Bernadette's words – as we have heard – tell in utter simplicity of her response to Our Lady who chose to appear to her at Lourdes. Newman's own words tell of his response to Our Lady whom the Holy Spirit revealed to him through intellectual inspiration. Thus Newman is able to say:

We do not "ascribe a different nature from ours to the Blessed Virgin – but that, for the sake of Him who was to redeem her and us upon the Cross, to her the debt was remitted by anticipation". In Mary, grace "was restored – by God's free bounty, from the very first moment of her existence" And she had this special privilege, in order to fit her to become the Mother of our Redeemer – that when the Angel came and her Lord was at hand, she might be 'full of grace'; prepared as far as a creature could be prepared to receive Him into her bosom".

Bernadette's simplicity of faith and Newman's penetrating intellect and reasoned faith, brought them to know and see in Our Lady what we witness to today. Of knowing that, through Her, the plan of God's Love is fulfilled. Of accepting the free gift of Salvation brought by Her Son. Of living the Spiritual Life that Jesus first gave to Her and gives to us through Faith.

AVE

But what of us, today, in today's Church, living our own particular Calling before God and the world? Neither a Bernadette nor a Newman.

Celebration of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Lady, takes us to the heart of the Christian Mystery. That of our Salvation through Faith in Jesus Christ, His death and Resurrection.

By the unique Grace of Her Immaculate Conception, Mary is granted, in anticipation, the entire effects of Her Son's Redemption. Though entirely human in every respect, She lives as of Heaven, redeemed, pure and holy.

The Apostle, Paul, writing to the Romans (Rom 8:28-30), takes up the theology and prophecy of Psalm 138, when he expresses this truth:

We know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined He also called, those He called He also justified, those He justified He also glorified.

It is thus that Mary is chosen and set aside by God in His eternal plan for the redemption of the world.

For us, therefore Mary is the pledge and seal of our Redemption. As She is, so shall we be, through the love of God in Christ. Mary sustains our Christian Hope.

Mary is a model of the Church, the Body of Christ. That which completely self-given to the Will and Purposes of God.

Mary is our Mother and Mother of the Church, given to us, through John, by Jesus from the Cross; and so our advocate with Jesus and to be invoked as our intercessor.

May we, those especially dedicated within the Society of Mary and under the Patronage of Mary Help of Christians, know with a deep certainty our calling to Magnify the Lord; ever Rejoice in God our Saviour; Tell Out our Faith and Hope that others may come to know, with us, the living God, whether that knowing be in the simplicity of Bernadette or the theological depth of Newman.

Amen.



THE SOCIETY OF MARY

Report of the General Council 2016

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

The 85th Annual Festival took place at S. Silas the Martyr, Kentish Town on 7th May 2016, by kind invitation of the Chaplain-General. The Superior-General, the Right Reverend Robert Ladds, presided at Mass, which was concelebrated by 23 priest members of the Society. As is now an established custom, the Procession took place through the streets from S. Silas to the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Hartland Road, NW1, the weather staying fine. Many children took part in the Procession and cards were distributed to passers-by explaining what it was all about and inviting them to take part in other events at either church. Lunch was served, followed by the Annual General Meeting, and the day concluded with Vespers of Our Lady and Benediction. The preacher was Fr Philip Barnes, Interim Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. 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 2016 Pilgrimage year was the Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Over 100 pilgrims altogether took part in this very enjoyable and successful Pilgrimage, with many of the young people expressing a wish to return to Lourdes. The revised programme worked very well. Grateful thanks are due to the Superior General, Fr Rowlands, Fr Morris and Bishop Philip North, to priests who brought groups from their parishes and all the families and individuals who took part, as well as Fr Alex Garner and Philip Kennedy for the music which greatly enhanced the worship. The Pilgrimage was reported in *Ave* in November.

The 2017 Society of Mary Pilgrimage will be from 18th-23rd September, to Vienna and Marian Shrines in Austria, led by Fr Rowlands and Fr Peter Anthony. Publicity material will be available on 6th May.

The October Devotion took place at St Matthew's, Carver Street, Sheffield. The Devotions comprised Solemn Mass, the Rosary,

Procession of Our Lady to St Marie's RC Cathedral, and Benediction. Attendance was very good, some people coming from quite long distances. The preacher was Canon Rodney Marshall. Thanks are due to Fr Grant Naylor and the people of St Matthew'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 important proposed arrangements relating to Holy Orders and the Amendment to the Constitution of the Society of Mary, as outlined in the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2015. An explanation of the deliberations of a working group appeared in the Presentation issue of *Ave* and will be further reported on at the next Annual General Meeting.

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. In particular, generous subsidies were 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.

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-Fifth Annual General Meeting
of the Society of Mary held at the Church of The Most
Holy Trinity, Hartland Road, London NW1,
7th May 2016**

PRESENT

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

and 87 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 Fr Philip Gray, Mrs Anne Gray, Fr Spicer, Fr Hingley, Mary Moore, Keith Price, Hazel Barnes, Fr Greany, Fr Thackray, Fr Paschal Worton, Colin Spong, Fr Gavin Cooper, Fr Parkinson, Fr Rodney Marshall, Fr Paul Cartwright, Mr and Mrs Richard North, Fr James and Mrs Penny Mather, William Parker, Fr Robert Beaken, Fr Skelton, Michael Wilkinson.

2. Minutes of the Eighty-Fourth Annual General Meeting, 2nd May 2015: It was proposed by Fr McNally-Cross, seconded by Mark Wilson 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 2nd May 2015. The Minutes were therefore duly signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes: None

4. Report of the General Council 2015: 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 2015:

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. What is shown as 'excess' income is for the expenses of the Lourdes Pilgrimage, to take place in August, mainly for subsidising young people who wish to take part. A round of applause was given in appreciation of the sum which had been raised so far. It was noted that more 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 2015 Accounts was proposed by Jan Fairweather, seconded by Peter Graham and carried unanimously.

6. Report from the Director of Pilgrimage:

Fr Rowlands reported that in retrospect the Pilgrimage to Loreto, Lanciano, Subiaco and Rome had been a success. He had been anxious that it might be too small a group but had proved to be most enjoyable. This Pilgrimage has been fully reported in *Ave*.

The Pilgrimage to Lourdes is now fully booked, with 38 young people and 115 adults. Fr Rowlands said that there were relatively few clergy: 2 Bishops and 12 other clergy.

Fr Morris said that more contributions were still needed in order to be able to subsidise the young people fully. The BigGive page remains open and he thanked everyone who has contributed so far either online or separately. Peter Graham asked how much was needed. The answer was that £300 per young pilgrim was needed, and individuals, Wards or parishes might like to consider sponsoring a particular young person.

Fr Rowlands expressed his gratitude to Fr Morris for all his hard work in arranging online fundraising and in handling the bookings.

Fr Rowlands also said that Fr Peter Anthony had made a suggestion about a possible future Pilgrimage, which will be put to members at a later date.

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 Returning Officer, reported that it had not been necessary to hold an election, as the numbers of those standing for election corresponded to the number of vacancies. The following were therefore declared duly elected for a period of four years from May 2016:

The Right Reverend Robert Ladds as Superior-General
Fr Philip Gray
Fr Alan Parkinson
Fr Simon Morris (Executive, for 2 years)
Co-opted to existing vacancies:
Fr Alex Garner and Mr John Linge

The Superior-General thanked those Council members for their continuing service to the Society, and 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 he wished to thank publicly Henry and Dorothy Frier (here present) and all who have helped to turn *Ave* into the wonderful publication that it now is. Henry Frier had now retired from the post of Editor and had been presented with the gift of a Reliquary as reported in the Annunciationtide *Ave*. A prolonged ovation was given in appreciation of Henry.

The arrangements for editing are now different: thanks to kindly volunteers. Collating of material will now be undertaken by Fr James Leigh and formatting and printing will be in the hands of Fr Sam McNally-Cross. Their contact details are on the back page of *Ave* and on the website.

2. The May Devotion today: The Superior-General said that the event and especially the Procession, was a significant Act of Witness and not many organisations can do this. It was an important contribution to the prayer and evangelism asked for by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in the coming week. The Superior-General proposed that he should send a letter to the Archbishops to mark this event and this was unanimously supported.

3. Statement on Holy Orders and related arrangements: The Superior-General introduced this Item. The Executive and General Council had, over the past 18 months, given close consideration to this matter. A Working Group had been set up and legal and other advice obtained. Thanks were expressed to those who had specifically contributed to this work from within SoM, The Society, Forward in Faith and beyond.

Two documents were circulated: (1) giving the text of a Statement on Holy Orders and the text of two Resolutions relating to proposed changes in the Constitution of the Society of Mary. (2) giving the text of some minor variations to the documents set out in (1).

The Statement on Holy Orders was an updating of that made in 1992 and involved no Constitutional changes to the Society of Mary. The matter was opened for debate, after which a Resolution to adopt the Statement was Proposed to the Meeting by Father Guy Willis, Seconded by Father Simon Morris and carried *nem. con.*

The proposal to make two variations to the Constitution of the Society of Mary relating to Elections and the General Council, was opened for debate, after which a Resolution to adopt the variation designated 2(a) to the Constitution was formally Proposed by Miss Pat Sharpe, Seconded by Father Mark Nicholls and carried *nem. con.*

A Resolution to adopt the variation designated 2(b) to the Constitution was formally Proposed by Father Simon Morris, seconded by Father Graeme Rowlands and carried *nem. con.*

It was agreed that the text of the Statement on Holy Orders and of the changes to the Constitution of the Society of Mary would be appended to the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

The Superior-General indicated that, in order to comply with the Statement on Holy Orders adopted earlier in the Meeting, it would be necessary for the Society of Mary to make arrangements for the conduct of the Society's liturgies that were consistent with that Statement. These arrangements would, among other things, need to take account of current Canon Law and equality legislation. He asked that a Statement of Intention be considered. The following Resolution was then put to the Meeting:

The Society of Mary asks the Superior-General and the Chaplain-General to establish an Association of Priests and Bishops that could be requested by the Society of Mary to support its work and purposes in particular by undertaking to conduct its Liturgies and other acts of worship”

The Meeting unanimously adopted this Resolution.

4. Congratulations: Mr Stuart Chillingworth hoped that the meeting would endorse his congratulations to Fr Rowlands on being installed as a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral, as he felt this honour, accorded to Fr Rowlands for all his work, needed wider recognition. A round of applause was given and Fr Rowlands thanked members for their good wishes.

5. Forthcoming Event: Amanda McIntyre had drawn members' attention to a talk entitled 'Her Life in Nursing' to take place at St Augustine's, Kilburn on 24th May. All are welcome.

Expressions of Gratitude: Fr Rowlands said he wanted to express thanks to everyone for coming today and also 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 Philip Barnes was also duly welcomed. Fr Barnes is well known to the Society as being a member

of General Council and also now Interim Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, and its newest Guardian.

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

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 6th May 2017.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Eighty-fifth Annual General Meeting, held on 7th May 2016 (printed in this Annunciationtide 2017 edition of *Ave*)
3. Matters arising
4. Report of the General Council for 2016 (printed in this Annunciationtide 2017 edition of *Ave*)
5. Consideration of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016
6. Report from the Director of Pilgrimage
7. General Council elections
8. Election of Officers (Returning Officer and Director of Pilgrimage)
9. Liturgical arrangements and the Chaplains of Mary, Mother of the Church.
10. Any Other Business

CELIA K. BUSH

Honorary Secretary

Pilgrimage 2017 Announcement

Still time to book

The 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 Twelfth 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.

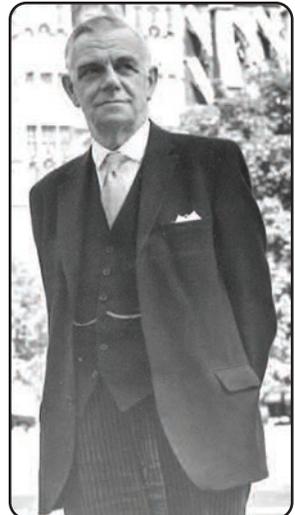
There will also be day trips out to the monasteries of Klosterneuburg and Melk. Melk is renowned as one of the most beautiful baroque monastery complexes in the world, and has though its history been a centre of great learning. Klosterneuburg is particularly associated with its founder St Leopold, who 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 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.

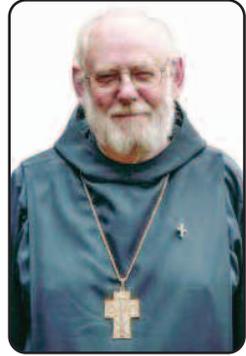
Obituaries

It is with sadness that the Society of Mary note the deaths of these three significant figures within the catholic church.

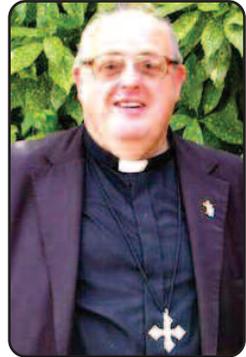
OSWALD CLARK, (1917-2016) A staunch 'Prayer Book Catholic', he was a Reader for 45 years. In 1948 he was elected to the House of Laity of the Church Assembly (later to become General Synod) and served until he retired in 1990. He held many positions during his synodical career, including Vice-chair and then Chair of the House of Laity. Oswald was awarded a CBE in 1978 for services to the Church of England. A long standing worshipper at S. Saviour's, Rayners Park and S. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, City of London. His elegant oration and forthright letters were a gift, and will be much missed.



+JOHN SALT, (1941-2017) Bishop of S. Helena (1999-2011), a member of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd, he had an active ministry in retirement at The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk. A source of great support and wisdom to many, he shall be remembered for his sense of fun and his deep devotion to Our Lady, as well as the love and service of the church. He was fortified with the rites of Holy Mother Church before his death, age 75.



FR MALCOLM GRAY, (1938-2017) A member of SCC, he held the perpetual freehold at Holy Trinity, Winchmore Hill, (1975-2007) until his retirement. After a fire at the church, Fr Malcolm, with the stoic support of the congregation, ensured the restoration for which a thanksgiving service was celebrated by the Bishop of London in 1980. The website for the church today credits Fr Malcolm, stating; “without him there would be no Holy Trinity today”. He was a priest associate and good friend to the nuns at Edgware Abbey and served as sometime Chair of the London Forward in Faith group.



*May light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.*

The Society of Mary Webpage

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

**c/o S. Barnabas Vicarage, Oxford OX2 6BG
or webmaster@societyofmary.net**

The Society of Mary Online

www.societyofmary.net

S.O.M. – Merchandise Order Form

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

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

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

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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 Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham, Berkshire.

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