



THE DOME

Winter 2010

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD CATHOLIC PARISH

Our new Parish Priest

When the vicar leaves an Anglican parish, there follows an interregnum during which the Churchwardens and PCC run the show. Catholic priests often know about moves months beforehand, but the changeover is rapid – out with the old, in with the new. The parish bade farewell and happy retirement to Canon Gerard Hetherington with Mass and Reception on September 5th. Fr Peter Hollins arrived two days later and was formally greeted at the Induction Ceremony the following Friday.

Born near Macclesfield, Fr Hollins grew up in Oldham, was educated at local schools and studied divinity at Ushaw College, Durham. He was ordained by Bishop Holland in 1976 to serve in the Diocese of Salford. After appointments in Salford City, Eccles and Rochdale, the great move south took place.



Canon Hetherington at his farewell party, reading messages of good will

Bishop Emery of Portsmouth Diocese had expressed his concern to Bishop Patrick Kelly in Salford that his loan of priests to serve the needs of the wider Church had left him a little short of personnel. Bishop Kelly offered to see if there were any priests in Salford Diocese who would be prepared to work in the South for a few years. Fr Hollins took up the offer and remembers his initial welcome by Fr Peter Doyle (known to some of us and now Bishop of Northampton Diocese) and a fine lunch of white steamed fish. Bishop Emery invited him to his study and asked “Do you know where Basingstoke is?”

After serving at Holy Ghost, Basingstoke and St Joseph’s, Havant, Fr Hollins asked to remain in the Diocese and was incardinated by our present Bishop. This was followed by appointments to Woodley (near Reading), Southsea and now Petersfield.

Fr Hollins wanted to learn about our parish and to meet parishioners quickly. He invited as many as possible to come to the presbytery,



Fr Hollins at the welcoming party in September

introduce themselves and speak about their membership of the parish. His first impressions? “The notebook is now complete and it’s time to reflect. One observation; a number of parishioners are very generous of time and effort for the benefit of the whole. I am not sure how aware one group is of the efforts of others. The community would be strengthened by better communication; there is a powerful grapevine, but its reach is limited!”

Continued on next page



Members of the Larger Pastoral Area at the welcoming Mass, left to right, Terry O’Connor, Rev. Mgr. Thomas McGrath (representing the Bishop), Fr Peter Hart (Alton), Fr Hollins, Canon Murtagh (Liphook) and Fr Eddie Richer (Bordon)

About the parish

Don't shoot the messenger

by Michael Blakstad



The first challenge spotted by Fr Hollins in the parish is Communication. Lots of worthwhile activity taking place, but too few people knowing what is going on.

There is a small Communications Group attempting to improve things – it comprises Ann Saunders, Lise Foster, Anna Luke and myself, with PPC Chair Tony O'Mara attending when he can. We look after some of the media which enable communication – The Dome, the website – and we attempt to provide advice to the Committees which help the Parish Priest. We don't produce the Sunday Newsletter and we don't manage the most powerful tool of all, the grapevine!

The media are, however, not the message! People only turn to media when they reckon it will have information they want to see. (Hands up those who have actually logged into the parish website in the last three months ...?)

Unless information is provided by the people who perform the good works, the website and the Dome will contain nothing of interest. But that is only half the battle.

Communication isn't just about telling, it is also about listening. We could use the website to encourage feedback from parishioners, or provide other mechanisms for information and opinions to be fed back to the Parish Priest (who is, at the end of the day, the Chief Executive of our somewhat disparate organisation). We could start with opinions as to how we might improve both The Dome and the website, which we would welcome, but bear in mind, the medium is only as good as the content with which it is supplied.

Fr Hollins mentions his desire to reach out to the young and your Communications Group is not in tune with this generation. It would be wonderful to have more contributions from younger members of the parish. The website and The Dome are produced (we hope) to a high standard, which the young can operate much better (and quicker) than us older folk.

I used to advise large corporations on their use of media in communication and wrote a book on the subject in which I warned "Communications is the most dangerous job in the company; it is like lighting a fuse. Sometimes it will fizzle out, sometimes it will blow up in your face, and just occasionally it will clear the blockage." Petersfield has some of the best media available to any parish and it would be a shame if they were allowed to wither through lack of sustenance. *michael blakstad @btinternet.com*

Fr Hollins ... continued from front page

Fr Hollins is Chaplain to the Diocesan Catholic Disability Fellowship and is concerned that we address the particular needs of people. "We don't know what we don't know" (shades of Donald Rumsfeld) "until those with disability learn that they are well provided for and introduce themselves."

After consultation, weekday Masses have moved to 11:30am

to allow more flexible use of his time. Fr Hollins feels it is particularly important to carry the Christian message beyond the parish and PACT, and into the local community. He shares many parishioners' concerns to find ways of providing support for young people during their formative years, particularly in an area where there is no easy access to Catholic schools.

"Do you prefer the parish at Southsea or Petersfield?" Fr Hollins replied, tactfully, "That all depends on whether you come from Southsea or Petersfield! Parishes are really different; priests are not sent with a pre-conceived agenda, but to serve a particular community." And there are special moments of encouragement. "It's a priest thing, but at the 10:45 Mass recently, I felt there was wholeness about the gathering that we were relaxed together with God."

St Agnes News

by Margaret Effenberg



On October 2nd we held our Parish Harvest Festival, with some 90 parishioners and their children to celebrate God's bounty to us all at the Mass and the supper that followed in Liss Village Hall. The evening started with a delightful performance of music and readings by some of the children and closed with an impressive violin solo by 6 year old Poppy McGhee. Thanks must go to Justine Jenner who organised the entertainment.

As usual there was a superb and abundant array of food provided by parishioners and the occasion provided an excellent opportunity to welcome Father Hollins, getting round to all the tables to meet parishioners. This happy event, with a raffle and auction of the Harvest Loaf (made by Cathy O'Connor), raised £519.35 for the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre for their work educating Christians and other denominations in the Holy Land.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the event

so successful, including the flower arrangers who made St Agnes look splendid for Mass.

What else is going on in Liss?.....What a difference a garden makes.... A group of volunteers spent two Saturday mornings earlier in the year clearing and cleaning up the garden at St Agnes. All agreed it was time well spent and a great opportunity to have a chat with fellow parishioners. Thank you, Bernard Elkington, for chasing up the owner of the adjacent property to replace the fence panels which were in a bad way. The newly formed Liss Churches Working Together (LCWT) Group is seeking to involve as many people as possible from all denominations in various charitable works across this part of the parish. They held their first prayer breakfast at St Peter's Church in West Liss on 16th October which was attended by members of all the churches. TRAX is an "Ecumenical Christian drop in session" which had its first meeting last month. It welcomes young people from across the area of all denominations to come to use the facilities and join in activities, some of which will be programmed



Luke Munro's christening

on a Saturday evening every two months. The young people chose the name TRAX to reflect its purpose and venue – Keeping on Track and Crossover by the Railway. Details of future events and contact numbers will be published in the bulletin and on the notice boards, but volunteers are needed for the ecumenical work.

Congratulations to Clare & Richard Munro on the arrival of their son, Luke, a brother to Jamie born on 27th May 2010 and christened on 24th October at 1045 Mass.

Note for your Diary: St Agnes Feast Day Supper in Liss Village Hall on Saturday 22nd January 2011.

Quiz night

The Wednesday Club organised a Charity Quiz Night in October and raised £509 for their chosen charity this year, Cabrini Childrens' Society. Cynthia Lindup told the quizzers about some of the invaluable work Cabrini does. Margaret Sutton acted as Quizmaster and helped

keep the rowdy crowd under control, Janet Colby ran the raffle and Carol Higton and team helped in the kitchen and produced some delicious apple pies to follow tasty fish and chips from the local chippie. Janetta Dobinson said 'The evening was a great success with everyone chatting ten to the dozen!'



The Quiz night in the Church Hall

About the parish

Baptisms

Jan 31st Toby Glithro
 April 11th Gethin James
 April 18th Amélie Leduc
 April 24th Julia Handford,
 Carolyn Handford
 May 2nd Jude Krum
 July 18th Hugo Michael Linnane
 Aug 29th Annie Jane Redpath
 Oct 24th Luke Michael Munro
 Nov 7th Joshua Paul Howitt

Weddings

April 17th Russell Forster &
 Andrea Chard
 May 1st Ian Miller & Megan
 Hammond (Canon Murtagh)
 September 4th Tim Concannon
 & Francesca Casson-Smith
 October 9th Richard Ennis &
 Nicola Spear (Canon Murtagh)

Deaths

Nov 11th Roderic Wilson
 Jan 25th John James Mulleady
 Jan 28th Shirley Lewis
 Feb 9th Jane Inglis
 Feb 10th Ronald Leigh Leyshon
 May 20th Harry Balmforth
 June 8th Josef Morrison
 June 15th Michael Freeman
 July 3rd John McIntyre
 July 21st Conrada Rodriguez
 July 27th Jean Pay
 Aug 3rd Olive Canning
 Oct 30th Thomas Duncan

Chernobyl Children's Lifelineby **Liz Fry**

For many years Chernobyl Children's Lifeline has been bringing children from affected areas of Belarus and Ukraine to the UK for recuperative visits of four weeks. To this day thousands of children are born each year with, or go on, to develop Thyroid Cancer, Bone Cancer and Leukaemia. They suffer from frequent colds; a month of fresh food and uncontaminated environment enables their immune systems to be recharged.

We have had the pleasure to host some of these children in the past few years and enjoyed every minute of their time with us. The visits were packed with wonderful experiences and educational trips laid on by local businesses and organisations. The children stay in pairs, and although strangers before, quickly bonded with each other and the rest of the family. When

they weren't out and about with the group, they joined in with all our normal routines, came to church with us and just slotted in. I learnt a dozen words of Russian and they learnt to hum the Eastenders theme tune! The children were transformed from being bewildered, pale and tired to healthy-looking and energetic.



Chernobyl children at HMS Great Britain

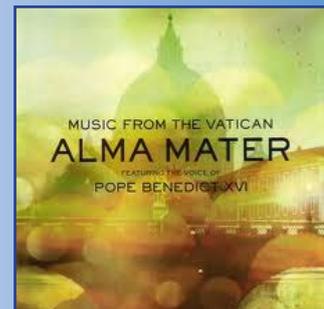
The month went by too quickly and there were many tears at the airport but the memories, and most importantly the health benefits, will last a lifetime.

Host families are needed for 20th March-17th April 2011. If you can help in any way with the next visit, please let Jane Burstall know on 01730 266806.

Stocking filler?

What has Snoop Dog and Aerosmith got in common with His Holiness, the Pope? They have all signed record deals with Geffen Records! Alma Mater, Music from the Vatican, is an album of songs and prayers to Our Lady and features the voice of Pope Benedict.

Your copy can be ordered from Unity Bookshop in the Folly Lane.



Parish Outing

by Neil Dobinson



Our parish outing this year was a special experience, a combined visit to Mapledurham House & Mill and Littlemore. Mapledurham was fun and educational, a trip back to times past, the grand house and the last working flour mill on the River Thames. However, the special memory will be of Littlemore. It will be forever associated with John Henry Newman, now Blessed John Henry Newman.

Littlemore, just three miles from the centre of Oxford, was a hamlet in the time of Newman. When he became Vicar of the University Church of St. Mary's in 1828, he accepted, along with this role, the pastoral care of Littlemore. Whilst on his search for the true Church, Newman chose Littlemore as his abode. In 1841 he leased a former coach staging post which then consisted of a stable and a barn. He transformed the long, stretched

building into a house adapted to his needs. The stable was converted into a library, and the barn into cottages where he and some of his friends lived. This house would later be called 'The College'. It remains today the humble complex that Newman created and it was this 'College' that was the central focus of our parish outing.

Newman and his friends lived a semi-monastic life of prayer, study and fasting. They were seeking to clarify whether the Church of Rome was the true Church of Christ. After an intense period of study and a difficult internal struggle, Newman was received into the Catholic Church, by the Passionist father Dominic Barberi at The College on 9th October 1845.

We listened to this recollection delicately described by Sister Mary of the Spiritual Family of the Work, who are now the custodians of this very special place. We sat and stood listening spell-bound in



The group at Mapledurham House

the library of the College learning that it was in this small room that Dominic Barberi (who was himself beatified by Pope Paul VI in 1963) received John Henry Newman into the Catholic Church. We shall each have our own memories of the day, touching the reading stand which Blessed John Henry used constantly, praying in his tiny private chapel, or just strolling on the lawn and 'feeling' a presence.

Since the recent Beatification of Cardinal Newman by Pope Benedict in Birmingham, our own visit to Littlemore has taken on an even greater meaning.

The Friends of Petersfield Hospital

by Monica Taylor



The Friends of Petersfield Hospital began life as the League of Friends of Petersfield Hospital, Heathside Hospital, The Grange in Liss and Wenham Holt. In 1953 at a public meeting, it was decided that a group of well-wishers might raise money to provide the Hospital with items of equipment not provided by the NHS and to meet the personal needs of patients. Looking back at this statement we realise how little things have changed; we are still providing for the Hospital and, now, also for the Community Medical Services, many pieces of equipment that cannot be provided by the NHS.

We hold various fundraising events during the year and also organise a trolley shop which we take round the wards three afternoons a week. This service gives the patients the opportunity to buy their own sweets, biscuits, toiletries, stationery etc. On alternate years we have a street collection and also a major fund raising event, especially when we have a specific project for which we have been asked to help finance.

For the Queen's Jubilee we organised and paid for the construction of the garden situated on either side of the main corridor. This has proved to be a great asset for patients and staff of the hospital, and we are still responsible for the maintenance which entails a 'watering rota' during the summer and two or three gardening sessions during the year.

There has always been a chapel, but it was in a place where very few people knew of its existence. The 'Friends' helped financially to have the chapel moved to its present position, previously a cleaners' cupboard, and it is now maintained by PACT. It is basically a 'quiet room' and is ideal for a chaplain to talk to people or hold a little Service.

We are in great need of new committee members and a chairperson. I would be very happy to hear from anyone willing to help (01730 262934).

If any of you are involved in outside projects or charities please let The Dome know. We'd love to hear from you. email ann.saunders50@ntlworld.com

Oberammergau Passion Play 2010

by **Jimmy Stockley**



Oberammergau is a charming village of some 5300 people. We were fortunate to be put in Gastehaus Paula Richter, the mother of Andreas who was one of two playing the role of Jesus.

The present theatre was built in 1930, but extensively modernised in 1997, providing remarkable acoustic properties for the 4720 audience.

The reason the Passion Play takes place every 10 years stems from the 30 Years War (1618-1648) when Bavaria was ravaged by marauding gangs of Swedish soldiers who helped to spread the plague. Oberammergau managed to keep the plague at bay until an inhabitant, who lived outside the village, crept

in under cover of darkness with disastrous consequences. The Village Council in 1633 vowed that every 10th year, a play of the Saviour's suffering would be performed if God delivered them from the disease and from that day on, not a soul died from it.

Nearly 50% of the population is involved in the production, and the other half undertakes other activities such as catering; a total village effort resulting in everything working like clockwork.

The Passion is in two parts each lasting about two and a half hours with a three-hour break in between. There are five acts in the first half and six in the second, with tableaux vivants, or "living" tableaux', which are static scenes depicting stories from the Old Testament

staged between most acts. For example, in the first Act, which is about Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey (a real one!), the following tableau was about the Israelites guided by Moses being saved at the Red Sea.

It was a truly wonderful experience and the whole performance was breathtaking. The total dedication of everyone involved cannot be praised too highly.

What was the highlight for us? The triumph of the Resurrection - Hallelujah! He is Risen.



St Philip Neri's Portrait at St Laurence's

by **Joan Mullins**



The dark portrait in the beautiful, elaborate frame on the side wall of the Lady Chapel is of St Philip Romolo Neri who lived from 1515-1595. He founded the Congregation of the Oratory, an order devoted to works of charity. It got its name from a small chapel or oratory, which he had built for prayer as well as for music, as he was a great music

lover. The word 'oratorio' comes directly from the religious choral music performed here. Blessed John Henry Newman established a foundation of the Oratory in Birmingham which emphasised-good works amongst the poor, inspired by St Phillip Neri.

The painting hung originally in the chapel at Ditcham Park, the home then of the Cave family. Before St Laurence was built, Catholics were able to go to the

chapel for Mass. In 1890, Laurence Trent Cave paid for the building of our church, and St. Laurence is spelled in memory of him. He is buried near the organ. A parishioner remembers the painting hanging in the church for over 50 years.

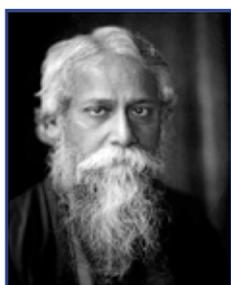


When the heart is hard

introduced by
Lise Foster



This prayer is taken from a collection of poems by Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941). Though known mostly for his poetry, Tagore also wrote novels, essays, short stories, travelogues, dramas, and thousands of songs.



He visited England in 1912, shortly before these poems were published with a foreword by

W.B Yeats. This led to Tagore becoming the first non European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 “because of his profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse.” In his

mature years he also managed the family estates, a project which brought him into close touch with common humanity and increased his interest in social reforms. He was a close friend of Gandhi. Born a Hindu Brahmin, he promoted a revival of the ultimate monistic basis of Hindu theology - the view that there is one God, with many manifestations in different religions, following different paths to the one universal God.

This prayer has always spoken to me of finding the still point of serenity and strength in the middle of the competing demands of school, work, family and daily living. It’s easy to lose focus and become “shut out from beyond” especially when the world we live in values “tumultuous work” and “din” more than the light and thunder of God’s presence.

When the heart is hard and parched up, come upon me with a shower of mercy.

When grace is lost from life, come with a burst of song.

When tumultuous work raises its din on all sides, shutting me out from beyond, come to me my Lord of silence with thy peace and rest.

When my beggarly heart sits crouched, shut up in a corner, break open the door my king, and come with the ceremony of a king.

When desire blinds the mind with delusion and dust, O thou holy one, thou wakeful, come with thy light and thy thunder.

Voice of youth



by Ashton Thorp

Ashton is 17 years old, doing Religious Studies at Bedales; he attends St Lawrence during term time and Farm Street during his holidays in London.

Being a Catholic requires one to live a lifestyle which is very different to what is generally expected by society. It requires us to live a humble life, to put others before ourselves, to keep the faith even in the darkest times, even in moments

of great doubt. It is a journey which no one should pursue alone or without support.

In a country where secularism is the standard world view, and nothing can be accepted without ‘proof’, faith becomes the object of ridicule by the self-described ‘enlightened’ post-modern people. Yet this faith is more concrete, more real, than anything they can verify in any number of experiments.

So in the coming of Christ at His Nativity, we must make our minds more receptive to him, make the Word our shelter from the secu-

lar world. In Him alone we are saved. Without him we are the lost sheep, constantly moving from false shepherd to false shepherd, who will not save us or comfort us, but rather lead us further astray into valleys of death, misery and ultimately sadness. ,

Every day when Christ dies for us so that we may be saved, He does so that we may find true and everlasting joy in Him.

The Pope's visit

An audience with the Holy Father

by Fran Fry

On 30th July, during a cultural trip to Italy with my school, ninety-four students were herded into St. Peter's Square in Vatican City for an audience with the Holy Father. We were first struck by the blistering heat, but it was suddenly unimportant as we walked to the centre of the Square.

The enormity of the crowds was overwhelming; thousands were gathered there to see His Holiness. We were overcome as we stood just a few feet away from where he passed, and even the beating sun could not disparage



The Pope celebrating Mass at Westminster Cathedral, on 18th September. On this page, two parishioners recall their emotions as they attended his visit and thirteen-year-old Fran Fry writes about her recent visit to Rome.

how incredibly honoured we all felt.

We were so young, some of us only thirteen years old, experiencing things that many wait a lifetime to see. It was a wonderful day for all of us, one that I know will stay with us in our hearts forever.

The Prayer Vigil at Hyde Park

by Jean Lord



I feel enormously privileged to have been selected to sing in the choir during the recent visit of the Holy Father at the Hyde Park Prayer Vigil. The excitement leading up to the day was nerve racking! However, all the singers arrived at Hyde Park, two days prior to the Vigil, for the rehearsals. We were fortunate in that we were singing with the National English Orchestra and Singers. Their standard is exemplary, and all without music as everything is learnt by heart. People came from all over England and Wales to participate. Everyone worked very hard, including all the young people entertaining the huge crowd during the afternoon.

We were asked to arrive at around 1.00 pm. Just walking to the arena was exciting as there were hordes of people, mostly young, arriving at the same time. They were clearly determined to get a good position but everyone was very good humoured, including the police, who were out in force but were proved to be redundant! The weather could not have been better.

80,000 people decided that it was going to be one huge party! Crowds were cheering, Mexican waving, singing and dancing all in anticipation of the arrival of our Holy Leader.

Pope Benedict was greeted with the most enormous cheer that would have the roof! This was punctuated with deep silences of reverent prayer and dedication. All these people praying together, what power! The music was amazing, hymns attributed to Blessed-Cardinal John Henry Newman and also our piece de resistance, Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, which we sang twice by popular demand!

Afterwards, everyone left at the same time, mostly aiming for the same tube station! It was a very peaceful retreat with a peaceful and happy atmosphere. I will never forget this day, ever.

Papal Mass at Westminster Cathedral

by Anna Luke

Catherine Sheppard and I went to the Papal Mass at Westminster Cathedral. There is so much one could say; it was such a wonderful occasion. This was beyond the spectacular, it was deeply spiritual. We were there with the Holy Father as he celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and in receiving Holy Communion we received the Body and Blood of Our Lord in the Sacred Hosts consecrated by him. What an amazing privilege and very humbling. The Mass, the singing and the music was beautiful and, even if it was difficult to see sometimes, the whole atmosphere was so poignant.



Although we were still in the Cathedral, we heard the meeting of the Holy Father with the young people outside in the Piazza, and saw some of it on the screens in the Cathedral, and we heard the now famous speech of welcome by Pascal Uche to the Holy Father and the obvious love for him expressed through the young people's natural enthusiasm and his love for them. Where we were sitting, we were so blessed to come close to the Holy Father as he processed to and from the Sacristy. This was an occasion never to be forgotten. Judging by the enthusiasm of the young people, the Catholic Church is thriving and will go from strength to strength. Thanks be to God.

