



Autumn 2010

Southwark Diaconal Newsletter

Vol.5 : No. 1

Welcome

to the fifth year of Southwark Diaconal News.

In this issue you will find news of forthcoming OGF events and retreats as well as news of the development of the permanent diaconate in Ireland from Roger Evans and Stephen Newman. Michael Baldry tells of how our Deacons' Support Groups are important and should be supported. Many thanks go to them for contributing these items. If you want to submit something or make suggestions for content please do so and send to me, WJohngreenwood@aol.com

It is very encouraging to welcome altogether five new aspirants this year to the permanent diaconate. They are commencing their propaedeutic year and best wishes go to them.

This year too we mourn the sad loss of two of us, Deacon John Sampson of New Malden and Deacon Keith Morris of Rainham. We shall include an appreciation of them in a future issue.

If you or someone you know is experiencing difficulty in receiving the Newsletter please contact deacon Mike Dale dale.family@tiscali.co.uk

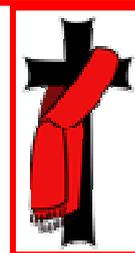
On-going Formation (OGF)

We begin our On-Going Formation programme this year at Rainham on 16th October. The principal event is to be a lecture by Fr John Hemer, a well known biblical specialist and lecturer and Formation Adviser at Allen Hall. This will be followed by a Day at Purley on March 5th with Fr Stephen Wang also from Allen Hall. We shall conclude at St George's Cathedral on 7th May with Fr Adrian Graffy. This promises to be an interesting programme focusing on Scripture and the Ministry of the Word and we hope as many as possible will be able to benefit from it. All three of these lecturers have been requested by deacons; so let it not be said we do not try to listen to suggestions!

Diocesan Diaconal Days

Next year these will be:

- Saturday 16th October 2010** — Rainham. — Fr John Hemer,
"The Biblical Foundations for Mission."
Saturday 5th March 2011 — Purley. — Fr Stephen Wang.
Saturday 7th May 2011 — Cathedral. — Dr Adrian Graffy.



Retreats

May 2011: Friday 13th May to Sunday 15th May: Diocesan Diaconal Retreat (deacons and wives) at Maison d'Accueil, Merville, France. Retreat Conductor, Fr Damian Cassidy, O.Carm.

September 2011: Friday 9th September to Sunday 11th September (deacons only) at The Friars, Aylesford.

Deacons on a Mission:

A Report on the Development of the Permanent Diaconate in Ireland from Deacon Roger Evans.

In September 2008, Deacon Stephen Newman and I received a call to follow our illustrious predecessors in carrying the message of the Permanent Diaconate to Ireland. The following month we arrived at the SMA Fathers' house at Dromontine, a few miles north of Newry. (This was originally their house of studies, but is now a home for their retired priests and a well appointed conference centre.) We were to give a presentation to the clergy of the Archdiocese of Armagh.

Feeling rather like Daniel in the lions' den, we were confronted by about forty priests. They listened quietly to our presentation and asked questions, with a few hostile ones mainly from one younger priest. After the session had ended, a priest came up to us and said, "I came here full of scepticism, but you have converted me. I will promote the diaconate in my parish!"

A few months later, in March 2009, we were invited back to Ireland to talk to the clergy in Armagh's neighbouring diocese of Dromore. Once again we found ourselves in Dromontine, talking to a smaller but nevertheless attentive gathering of priests.

Later that year, we were asked to send a deacon and his wife to talk at a Conference to launch the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Kilmore. So it was that Maureen and I found ourselves driving from Belfast to Cavan one cold, very foggy Saturday last November. Our journey was made even more difficult as the main road across Northern Ireland was closed for reconstruction. We followed a long, poorly signed diversion with which even our satnav could not cope!

The Conference was attended by most of the priests of the diocese, who had been asked to bring at least three members of their parish with them; about 150 people were present. The atmosphere was a little muted – it happened to be the weekend after the publication of the Dublin Report. We received a polite hearing, and many questions were asked, particularly about the role of women – were there likely to be women deacons?

In March this year, we were asked to return to Armagh and Dromore to run a propaedeutic weekend. It should be understood that, unlike our Diocese, applicants are invited to attend a propaedeutic year - six full weekend sessions - before their Selection Conference. We were asked this time to bring our wives; the men attending the weekend had not met any ordained deacons, and their wives wanted to meet some wives of deacons to hear their views. 14 men were at the weekend, 10 from Armagh and 4 from Dromore, most of whom were accompanied by their wives. It was a fairly relaxed weekend, not as hectic as the study weekends that the Wonersh students have to endure, with plenty of information about the life and ministry of deacons, a homily workshop, and separate sessions for the wives. At the end of the weekend, we were invited to return in May to assist with their Selection Conference.

Shortly before the May Conference, one of the Armagh men withdrew his application, saying he felt he could better serve the Church as a layman, rather than as an ordained minister, which was fair enough. Of the remaining nine men from Armagh, six were accepted, one was deferred to enable him to take some training in studying, and two were turned down. Of the Dromore men, three were accepted and one was turned down. The nine men accepted started their formation in September.

Throughout all our visits we were warmly welcomed, in a way that only the Irish can, and were very impressed by the positive attitude to serving the Church among the men and their wives. I am sure that the introduction of the Permanent Diaconate in Ireland will be most helpful in the rebuilding and restoring confidence in the Church there after the trauma recently experienced.

Finally we were told that 10 men from Armagh have applied for next year, and will start their propaedeutic year in September, and they will be joined by 4 men from Kilmore diocese. We look forward to returning next year to run a weekend for them, and to assisting in the following Selection Conference. Above all, we look forward to returning in 2013 for the first ordinations in Armagh and Dromore.

Area Groups for Deacons - WHY?

There is a view around that going to our area groups is a waste of time for busy deacons.

Deacons in Southwark are either in demand, over-worked and under-valued or they are under-used and neglected, struggling to develop their ministry.

Are we supposed to be self-reliant, able to take on anything thrown at us? Could it be that we will not ask for help or cannot find who to ask?

During my studies for the Diaconate I was invited to the 'Preaching Workshop' in my area. As the new kid on the block this was a valuable way to practice and improve the standard of my homiletics and understanding the scriptures. Beyond this reason for meeting it was a valuable brotherhood, sharing time together as a support group, helping each other with advice, getting and giving practical help. All this was done by wise men with great humility who wanted to share what they had received to benefit the Church by improving the Diaconal work we do.

The three-fold ministry of Word, Altar and Charity needs to be formed and enriched in us constantly so that the community will benefit from a well equipped and knowledgeable clergy.

You might be asking what is the point in travelling 15 or 20 miles to a Support Group? The point is that we all have something to offer and something to receive. The Diaconal Ministry has seemed neglected for some time, lacking an adequate OGF programme of its own and getting mixed messages from the Priests OGF. The present Directorate has worked hard laying foundations to bring respect and nurture to us all.

As my role models have aged or passed on it falls to the present elders among us to be prepared to mentor our newest members, form the new students and find aspirants for the future. Why don't you come to a meeting or start a local group where you are? The more we give the more we'll receive.

Deacon Michael Baldry

Support Groups

Croydon: Contact Deacon Vincent Morrison marycormorrison@yahoo.co.uk Deacons come from West Croydon, Purley, Selsdon, Norbury and occasionally Bromley. They meet at a home every three months or so on a Saturday evening to socialise and take it in turns to host a meal.

Gravesend: Contact Deacon Tom Berrie janettom@tiscali.co.uk Meet four times a year, all welcome.

Hayes / Orpington: Contact Deacon Michael Baldry michael.baldry@btinternet.com Alternate months October to June, usually second Wednesday, 8 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary, Hayes or Holy Innocents, Orpington.

Waterloo: Contact John Greenwood WJohngreenwood@aol.com Alternate months October to June, on Wednesdays, at 6.30 pm at St Patrick's Friary, Cornwall Road, SE1.

Rainham: Contact Deacon Alan Boxall alan-josie@blueyonder.co.uk Alternate months, usually five times a year October to June at St Thomas of Canterbury, London Road, Rainham.

The Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Southwark

Director of Formation: Father Peter Edwards (and Chairman of the Inter-Diocesan Directors' Committee)

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22 Alberta Street, London SE17 3SD Phone 020 7735 8787 Email: WJohngreenwood@aol.com

Archbishop's Delegate for the Pastoral Care of Permanent Deacons: The Rev'd Kevin Dunne

22 Riddlesdale Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9AB Phone: 01892 6898000 Email: kevinjeandunne@btoopenworld.com

The Archbishop has made the above appointments as Assistant Directors for the Permanent Diaconate, with effect from 1st November 2010, and has thanked the out-going Assistants on completion of their five years in post.

Deacons at Sea

Congratulations to Deacon Paul Glock (Sheppey) on his appointment as Apostleship of the Sea Chaplain at Tilbury. This means there are now five AoS Chaplains who are Deacons out of a total of thirteen. Among the five is, of course, Dan Mulcahy (Whitstable), the first Deacon to be appointed an AoS Chaplain.



Please Pray for:

Deacon Keith Morris and Deacon John Sampson, R.I.P. who died earlier this year.

for students in Formation for the Permanent Diaconate:

Year 1 — Michael Carrucan and Barry Mellish

Year 2 — Alfred Banya, Christopher Richardson and Jim Coleman

Year 3 — Mathew Manoharan and Jolyon Vickers

for Deacons ordained this June:

Felim McCarthy - Rochester Parish

Errol Quagraine - Thornton Heath Parish

our five aspirants for the Permanent Diaconate this year:

Ian Black

Aidan McPartlan

Wayne Du Preez

Peter Sebastian

Wayne Tuckell

their wives and families.