



Summer 2012

Southwark Diaconal Newsletter

Vol. 6 No. 3

Welcome to Southwark Diaconal News.

If you, or someone, you know is experiencing difficulty in receiving the Newsletter please contact Deacon Michael Dale michael.dale21@gmail.com

On-going Formation (OGF)

Our On-Going Formation programme continued this year in March at Merton with Fr Ian Ker talking on Blessed John Henry Newman and Pope Benedict XVI's Hermeneutic of Continuity. In the afternoon Jeremy de Satgé of the Music Makers led a workshop on singing the new translation of the Exsultet. The day was very well attended. There were over fifty people including by, special invitation, some clergy and wives from the personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, Blessed John Henry Newman being one of their patrons.

The third and final Day was at St George's Cathedral Amigo Hall on 5th May. Deacon Tom and Janet Berrie (Northfleet) presented a DVD entitled "It's Still Me Lord" on ministry to people suffering from dementia. A difficult subject, but Tom and Janet's presentation was greatly appreciated and provoked some very useful discussions.

The afternoon Mass with Conferral of Candidacy for those completing the Propaedeutic Period and the annual Renewal of Diaconal Commitment with Archbishop Peter was better attended than last year but still fails to attract many deacons despite our Archbishop's invitation. The Mass was accompanied by Breda McKinney a soprano singer who both sang solo and led us in singing some parts of the Mass beautifully. We hope to build on this next year so as to make this a fitting and solemn, if still intimate, celebration. Next year, too, the Mass is planned for earlier in the day to facilitate people getting there and back and from 2014 we hope to avoid bank holiday weekends by holding this Day in June. Travel to and from the Renewal Mass is an allowable parish expense.

Diocesan Diaconal Days

Next year's OGF Programme will focus on the Year of Faith and on Schools. It begins in October with Deacon Peter Glanville (East Anglia) on "Confronting a Faithless Generation and the Failure of Catholic Education". In February we move to Tooting Bec Centre for Catholic Formation for a Day on Spirituality and Spiritual Formation and we conclude at St George's Cathedral in May. The dates for you diaries are:

Saturday 27th October 2012 – Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Rainham.

Saturday 23rd February 2013 – Tooting Bec Centre for Catholic Formation.

Saturday 27th May 2013 – St George's Cathedral.

Retreats

Friday 14th to Sunday 16th September 2012 at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham.

Conducted by Fr John Edwards, S.J. **Now booking.**

The May Retreat this year in Merville, France, conducted by Fr Peter Hall, OFM., went very well and was reported on the diocesan website. Next year's retreat at Merville for deacons and wives has been booked:

Friday 10th to Sunday 12th May 2013.

Some Deacon Saints:

Saint James, the Deacon: In October in England and Wales we keep the commemoration of Saint Paulinus of York (7th century). Less well known, and not in the national calendar, is his deacon James. He was the constant companion of his bishop during his apostolate in Northumbria. However, when Paulinus left for Kent, James remained in Northumbria. By then the environment was hostile but James continued the mission of preaching and baptizing. In the words of Venerable Bede in his “A History of the English Church and People”:

“Paulinus left behind his deacon James to care for the church of York. The latter was a holy churchman who remained a long time in that church, teaching and baptizing, and snatching much prey from the clutches of our old enemy the Devil. The village close to Catterick, where he usually lived, bears his name to this day. James had a wide knowledge of church music, and when peace was at length restored to the province and the number of believers increased, he began to teach many people how to sing the music of the Church after the Uses of Rome and Canterbury. At last, old and full of days as the Scripture says, he went the way of his fathers.”

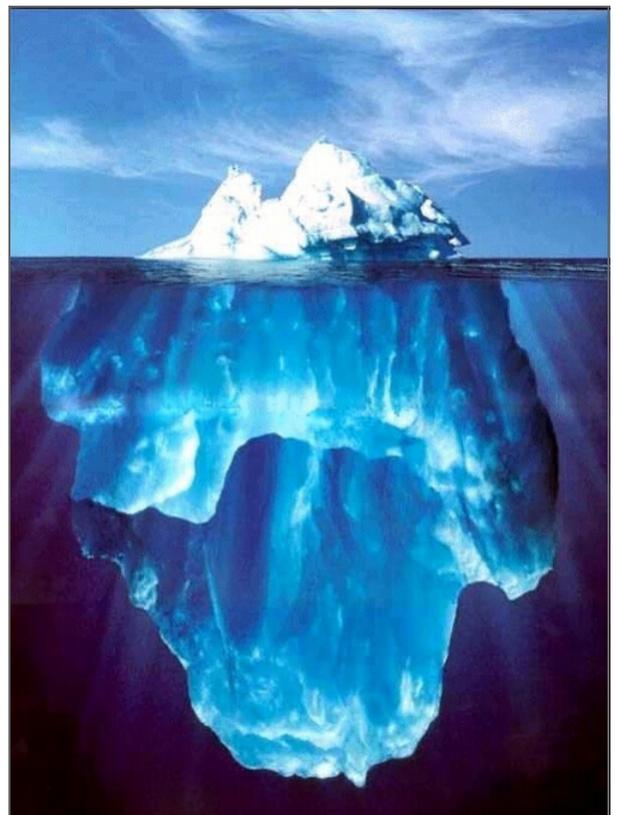
The cult of Saint James the Deacon appears to have been informal and to have commenced on his death (date unknown). He is remembered on 17th August.

Saint Januarius, the Deacon was sent with the priest Saint Protus to Sardinia by the pope Saint Gaius to evangelize the pagan inhabitants. Both were subsequently arrested by the Roman authorities and beheaded in Porto Torres during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian (284-305). He is remembered on 25th October.

Blessed Nemesius, the Deacon was beheaded together with his daughter, the Virgin Lucilla, at Rome under the persecution of Valerian. He is remembered on 19th December.

Tip of the Iceberg

Everybody knows that the part of an iceberg you can see on and above the sea surface (about a fifth) is far smaller than the part that is submerged. A deacon's ministry is a bit like this. There is a tendency for the onlooker to concentrate on the part you see, principally of course in the liturgy. But this is to ignore what you cannot see – the deacon's presence in home and family, in workplace and neighbourhood and in all those places where he shares in others joys, pains, sufferings and injustices, their worries and their hopes. So if he is present at the altar it is in large measure to offer all this to God.



New Diaconal Review:

Five years ago the **New Diaconal Review** was launched, the only academic journal in the English language devoted to the study of the permanent diaconate. It is published by the North European Study Circle of the International Diaconate Study Centre. It is aimed at Anglophone permanent deacons and others involved in diaconal ministry, together with those involved in formation, throughout Northern Europe, although we are also considering expansion into North America, Australasia and elsewhere. It is published and distributed by *The Pastoral Review*, and subscribers receive a free copy of that journal.

There is a body of honorary editorial consultants made up of senior bishops and academics in the field. Archbishop Peter Smith has recently agreed to become a consultant, in succession to the late Bishop Michael Evans. He writes: **'I do think it is an excellent publication and I am very happy to support it.'**

A new journal of this kind depends heavily on a strong subscriber base. Most subscribers are deacons in England and Wales, but we need more if the journal is going to be able to continue. It is published twice a year, in May and November. The subscription is only £15 /€20. It is easy to subscribe by PayPal online at the IDC-NEC website – www.idc-nec.org

We would also welcome for publication articles or other material from Southwark deacons

Fr Ashley Beck, co-editor

St Edmund's Beckenham, 20 Village Way, Beckenham BR3 3NP

ashleybeck88@hotmail.com

The Propaedeutic Period:

“With admission among the aspirants to diaconate there begins a propaedeutic period, which must be of an appropriate length. During this period the aspirants will be introduced to a deeper knowledge of theology, of spirituality and of the ministry of deacon and they will be led to a more attentive discernment of their call.” (Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons, 41.)

The Propaedeutic Period for aspirants in Southwark has been developing steadily over recent years and last year our aspirants attended the Propaedeutic Programme at the Maryvale Institute, Birmingham. This programme consists of four residential weekends. Next year the inter-diocesan programme at St John's Seminary, Womersley will commence its own Propaedeutic Period. Without doubt this will be a better preparation for and introduction to formation as it will avoid the need for attendance at first one and then another formation centre. It will also reduce travel time. Whether at Maryvale or at Womersley the programme is extended and supplemented with special meetings arranged by Deacon Jeff Singleton who is Assistant Director for the Propaedeutic Period. As the Norms (43) go on to say, the programme “should not provide school lessons, but rather meetings for prayer, instructions, moments of reflection and comparison directed toward ensuring the objective nature of the vocational discernment.” Please pray for all those involved as formators in developing this vital aspect of the programme as well as those who will now be admitted to the Propaedeutic Period by Archbishop Peter. Pray also for those our aspirants this past year now admitted as candidates to begin their formation: Julian Burling (Wimbledon, Edge Hill), Michael Butt (Wimbledon, Saint Winifride), Simon English (Tooting Bec) and Tom McCarthy (Tooting Bec).

Ordinations: The following are to be ordained Permanent Deacons this year:

Alfred Banya at Our Lady of Sorrows, Peckham on Friday 6th July 2012 at 6.30 pm.

Jim Coleman at St Thomas of Canterbury, Rainham on Saturday 21st July at 11 am.

Please remember Alfred and Jim in your prayers and try to attend their ordinations. If you have not been invited, it would be well to advise the parish that you will be attending.

The Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Southwark

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

St Joseph's Presbytery, 1 Montem Road, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3QW

Phone: 020 8942 2602 Email: frpeter.newmalden@btinternet.com

Assistant Director (Administration & Inter Diocesan Bursar): The Rev'd Tom Kavanagh

104 Grand Drive, Merton, London SW20 9DY. Phone: 020 8395 6387. Email: tom.kavanagh@blueyonder.co.uk

Dean of Studies: Father Ashley Beck (also Chairman of the National Assembly of Directors & Assistant Directors)

20 Village Way, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2NP Phone: 020 8650 4117 Email: ashleybeck88@hotmail.com

Assistant Director (South West London & Webmaster): The Rev'd Peter Rennie

46 Higher Drive, Purley, Surrey CR8 2HF. Phone: 020 8668 4016 Email: deaconpeter@johnthebaptistpurley.org.uk

Assistant Director (South East London): The Rev'd Barry Chalkley

16 Cathgart Drive, Orpington, Kent BR6 8BX Phone: 01689 603294. Email: barry.chalkley@ntlworld.com

Assistant Director (Kent) The Rev'd Michael Knight

46 Holmside, Gillingham, Kent ME7 4BD Phone: 01634 574404. Email: mick.knight@blueyonder.co.uk

Director for On-Going Formation: The Rev'd John Greenwood

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@btopenworld.com

Websites that may be of interest:

Readers will be familiar with most of the official church and diaconal websites. But there are others which may be less well known.



Independent Catholic News, www.indcatholicnews.com



NJPN: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk which supplies a newsletter three times a year.



Catholic Information Network: www.cin.org

Support Groups for Deacons

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.

Orpington: Contact Deacon Michael Baldry michael.baldry@btinternet.com Alternate months October to June, usually second Wednesday, 8 pm usually at 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 8TW.

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.