



Spring 2013

Southwark Diaconal Newsletter

Vol.7 : No. 2

Welcome to the Spring issue of Southwark Diaconal News for 2012 - 2013.

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 second Diocesan Diaconal Day this year was at the Centre for Catholic Formation, Tooting Bec. Fr Michael Woodgate talked in the morning on the theme of "Lord, Increase our Faith". In the afternoon Deacon Ray and Elizabeth Partridge made a presentation on the events of Holy Week as related to the sacrament of Marriage. There was a good attendance and both presentations were greatly appreciated. Our thanks go to those concerned as well as to the CCF for accommodating us.

Our next DDD is on Saturday 25th May at the Amigo Hall and St George's Cathedral. Deacon Michael Knight will lead discussions on Catholic Senior Schools: Fight or Flight? Michael is Chaplain at St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, Gravesend. School chaplaincy work is also a growing role among us deacons.

In the afternoon at 2.30 pm there will be the annual Mass with Renewal of Diaconal Commitment with Archbishop Peter. At the same Mass aspirants will be admitted to Candidacy in preparation for starting their formation later this year. This is a very important occasion for the permanent Diaconate in our diocese and, as explained in the diocesan monthly mailing for April, Archbishop Peter would like to very strongly encourage all Diocesan Deacons to attend.

Dates for your Diary!

Forthcoming Diocesan Diaconal Days this year:

Saturday 25th May 2013 – Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral.

And 2013 - 2014:

Saturday 5th October 2013

Saturday 1st March 2014

Saturday 14th June 2014

Retreats:

Deacons and Wives: Friday 10th to Sunday 12th May 2013

at Maison d'Accueil, Merville, France. Conducted by Fr Victor Darlington.

Deacons Only: Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd September 2013

at The Friars, Aylesford. Conducted by Fr James Tollhurst.

Heralds of the Gospel and the Truth:

"The preacher of the Gospel will be a person who even at the price of personal renunciation and suffering always seeks the truth that he must transmit to others. He never betrays or hides truth out of a desire to please men, in order to astonish or to shock, nor for the sake of originality or a desire to make an impression. He does not refuse truth. He does not obscure revealed truth by being too idle to search for it, or for the sake of his own comfort, or out of fear. He does not neglect to study it. He serves it generously, without making it serve him. (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 78)

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE—A DEACONS' SUNDAY?

Deacon Philip Pond reports

A Sunday dedicated exclusively to fostering vocations to the permanent diaconate and celebrated annually throughout all the dioceses of England and Wales. That was a proposal made last November at the annual conference of directors of the permanent diaconate and deacon delegates held at Hinsley Hall in Leeds.

The proposal of a Deacons' Sunday came from the conference's keynote speaker, Fr Christopher Jamison OSB, director of the National Office for Vocation. He was responding to questions about the omission of deacons from vocational initiatives on Good Shepherd Sunday which has increasingly become a day focussing exclusively on the priesthood and religious life.

In his presentation to the conference, Fr Jamison emphasised the need in our post-modern, multi-cultural society to encourage people generally to discover their vocation, whatever it is.

'To have an awareness of God and to love is everyone's vocation,' he said.

'We need to encourage people to have that awareness of God and, in the light of that, to ask themselves: "What sort of person would I like to be?"

'That way they are more likely to realise their own potential.'

The automatic result, he concluded, would be an increase in vocations both to the priesthood and the diaconate.

'Evangelisation,' Fr Jamison continued, 'is essential to new vocations.'

'But we should focus on vocation generally, not recruitment specifically to the diaconate or the priesthood or the religious life.'

He was convinced that the deacon's ministry, with its intrinsic value and importance, would, of itself, encourage vocations to the diaconate.

Fr Jamison pointed out that vocations to the priesthood and religious life have been rising since 2000. To maintain that trend and to increase the number of vocations to the permanent diaconate as well, both prayer and action were needed in every parish.

Present at the conference addressed by Fr Jamison were eight priests and 22 permanent deacons from 13 dioceses. As well as Southwark, those represented included Birmingham, Hallam, Hexham & Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Northampton, Nottingham, Plymouth, Shrewsbury, Westminster and Wrexham. Also present was Bishop Terry Drainey of Middlesbrough.

During the course of the two-day conference, there were separate meetings of directors and delegates as well as an annual general meeting with election of officers. Members of the executive this year are Deacon Ken Fowler (Clifton), Deacon Leo McNicholas (Liverpool), Deacon John Traynor (Liverpool) and Mrs Joanna Hale (Northampton). Fr Ashley Beck was re-elected as chairman.

In a presentation entitled 'Deacons and the Year of Faith', Fr Ashley looked at how deacons could best foster the New Evangelisation. His suggestions included:

Building a personal link with one's bishop: knowing his priorities and expectations and showing loyalty and obedience.

Encouraging people to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

Transforming the world according to the Church's social doctrine.

Being bold and taking the initiative while all the while working in partnership with one's parish priest.

Listening to the voice of the poor and reaching out to the margins of society.

Facilitating prayer and worship in all its forms including, where appropriate, introducing new types of worship.

Encouraging an ecology of the human person, i.e. protecting all human life, not just the environment.

A DEACONS' SUNDAY? (CONTINUED)

During a meeting of deacon delegates which I attended, issues discussed included the catechesis of confirmation candidates. Discussion centred around the various dioceses' differing approaches to the most suitable age for receiving the sacrament. In Birmingham, for example, children are confirmed at ages 9/10 while in Liverpool it is 7/8. There is also a trend in some dioceses towards first communion taking place after confirmation.

At a plenary session to round up the conference, topics included:

The New Diaconal Review: this is the only English-language diaconal theological journal in the world but it is attracting too few subscribers. Is that perhaps because it is too academic..? A review of the business plan was proposed.

The International Diaconal Conference: it is due to take place in Velehrad in the Czech Republic from June 13-16, 2013.

The National Diaconal Assembly: this is scheduled for 2015 and the proposal is that it should be held in Swanwick, Derbyshire, or Leeds in July or September of that year.

National Deacons' Day: a specific Sunday in the Church's year needs to be identified for this vocations initiative. Fr Ashley will raise it with the Bishops' Conference.

To conclude, there was discussion about the purpose of the annual deacons' conference itself, which is designed to bring together directors and assistant directors of the permanent diaconate for all the dioceses of England and Wales.

It was originally set up to provide a space in which practical difficulties could be shared and voiced. At that time, directors were invariably priests. Hence deacon delegates being specified to represent the permanent deacons in each diocese.

However, many directors are now deacons and so the time might be appropriate to review the constitution and recommend changes. With that in mind, a working group was set up to discern what is needed.

All directors of the diaconate will be asked what they want of the conference and the resulting proposals put to the Bishops' Conference. The results will be presented at the next national conference of directors of the diaconate at Hinsley Hall on November 19-20, 2013.

The Year of Faith: An Invitation to Eucharistic Adoration



As a contribution towards the Year of Faith deacons are invited to Eucharistic Adoration and to pray together. The next such occasion will be:

Tuesday 30th April 2013 at St Thomas of Canterbury, Rainham, Kent, ME8 7RH at 8 pm.

There will be 45 minutes of prayer ending with Benediction and followed by refreshments and the chance to meet informally.

Praying with others brings both comfort and strength. It enables a special bond among people which affects both those who pray and those for whom prayer is offered. Prayer transforms us. If we pray together the Lord will be present and He assures us that our prayers will be heard. (Mathew 18: 20)

We hope to arrange a further time of Eucharistic Adoration for deacons during this Year of Faith.

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@btoopenworld.com

Please pray for:

Deacon Cornelius Quirk, R.I.P.

Our aspirants:

Gerard Perkins (Norbury), **Joice James Pallickamyalil** (Syro-Malabar Rite), **Robert Smith** (Ordinariate / Westerham) and **Piotr Ziezio** (Plumstead).

And our students:

First Year – Julian Burling (Wimbledon, Edge Hill), **Michael Butt** (Wimbledon, St Winifride), **Simon English** and **Tom McCarthy** (Tooting Bec).

Second Year – Ian Black (Maidstone), **Andrew McPartlan** (Bromley), **Wayne Du Preez** (Orpington), **Peter Sebastian** (Surbiton) and **Wayne Tuckell** (Margate).

And especially:

Now completing their Third Year – Michael Carrucan (Tooting Bec) and **Barry Mellish** (Bromley).

Support Groups for Deacons

Croydon: Contact Deacon Vincent Morrison vincentmorrison55@icloud.com 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.