

Autumn 2009



The Chester Catholic

Further changes at St Francis's

Brother Prins Casinader OFM.Cap was inducted as Parish Priest of St Francis's church on 23rd October by Fr Russell Cooke, the North Cheshire Dean. He succeeds Bro Andrew who has returned to Poland.

Brother Andrew will be remembered gratefully for the warmth of his personality and for the skill and hard work which he put into establishing a strong Polish presence. There are now as many Polish as other parishioners. Bro Andrew made extensive provision for Polish needs whilst ensuring that there were a number of social occasions and trips (e.g. a very successful one to the opera) where the whole parish came together. He will be much missed. Arrangements have been made to ensure that special provi-



Fr Cooke and Bro Prins, after the Service of Induction

sions for Polish parishioners will continue.

Brother Prins was born in Colombo (Ceylon) in 1954. He was educated there and at Imperial College, London, where he

studied engineering. He was conscious of a priestly vocation even at this time but it was not until ten years later that he entered the Capuchin novitiate at Pantasaph. As a friar, he has belonged to Capuchin communities in Erith, Preston, Oxford and Hollington. The latter was a new joint community of Poor Clares and Capuchin friars.

Bro Prins is an accomplished pianist and organist (though modest about his abilities). He is no stranger to Chester. He used to help out in the Soup Kitchen for the Poor when Father Tim Dowling OFM Cap was Parish Priest. We wish God's blessing on his ministry in Chester.

Bernard Beatty

“Riding The Wave”: why should Catholics get involved?

On Saturday December 5th CAFOD is at the spearhead of Catholic action in a mass rally in London called *The Wave*. The date is significant, for it is the eve of the United Nations Summit on climate change. Those suffering the largest impact of climate change are the least responsible for creating the problem.

At Copenhagen CAFOD policy delegates hope to press for greater consideration of the basic needs of the poorest communities. This is first through specific assistance to

help adapt to the increasing intensity of climate effects. Second, the CAFOD team will be pressing for assistance by wealthier nations to support low carbon development.

Christians may forget that the basic message behind belief in creation is that the earth is a gift, a gift from God that is ours to cherish, rather than abuse. Pope John Paul II was fully aware of this when he spoke of the need for ecological conversion. Behind this idea is an ancient tradition of deep incarnation, Christ understood as having cosmic significance. Not only do we need to ask ourselves; How might we act,

for the sake of social justice and justice for the earth?, but also: How can we influence political decision making?

One way to get involved is by joining *The Wave* rally on December 5th.

See www.cafod.org.uk/

Celia Deane-Drummond

Professor Celia Deane-Drummond is on secondment with CAFOD from the University of Chester Theology and Religious Studies Department.

“Seeds of Hope: Facing the Challenge of Climate Justice” is just published with CAFOD.

The Secular Franciscan Order in Chester

The Franciscan orders are perhaps the most successful and popular of all the religious orders. There were Conventual Franciscans in Chester (opposite Stanley Palace in Watergate Street) for 300 years before the Reformation. After the Reformation, Capuchins worked alongside Jesuits and Benedictines in secret ministry to those Catholics who preserved their proscribed faith.

In the nineteenth century Capuchin Franciscans from Italy returned to Watergate Street and then to Grosvenor Street where they built a beautiful church. Almost immediately they set up the Third Order (now called the 'Secular Franciscan Order') for those laity who wanted to associate themselves with the simple life-style and spirituality of the friars. 150 years later there are still five friars and a flourishing lay group here with 14 professed members who meet on the second Sunday of the month in the Cuppin Street friary at 2.30 pm (contact Kate Hughes on 01244 683538 or Bro



Adrian on 01244 351331.) Enquirers are welcome at any meeting.

Recently we celebrated the feast of St Francis (4th October), which traditionally begins on the previous evening (Francis died soon after sunset on the 3rd). His passing from this life to the next is marked by a short and simple service known as the Transitus of St Francis, in which we joined with the brothers of the Chester Capuchin community. The service consisted of vespers, and an account of the saint's death where he asked for a reading from St John's Gospel and then sang psalm 141 as he died. The psalm was sung again with its ancient plainsong antiphon and then all present venerated the relic of St Francis.

The photograph shows the Transitus in progress, with (L to R) Br Michael OFM Cap speaking the words of St Francis, Br Adrian OFM Cap presiding, and Kate Hughes SFO acting as narrator.

Peter Bamford

LPA Diary dates

- ◆ **Friday 27 Nov**, Confirmation Mass for candidates from St Werburgh's, St Francis', St Clare's, St Cuthbert's & St Thomas' parishes. 7pm at St Clare's, Lache, with Bishop Brian.
- ◆ **Wednesday 2 Dec**, Vigil and time of prayer in support of "The Wave" event, 7.30pm at St Clare's, Lache.
- ◆ **2nd-4th Dec**, Catholic High School production—the Musical 'Footloose'. 7.30pm in the main Assembly Hall.
- ◆ **Thursday 3 Dec**, Advent Holy Hour at St Theresa's Blacon, 7.30pm
- ◆ **Saturday 5 Dec**, "The Wave" climate rally in London. CAFOD coach from Chester (leaving 5.00am!). To book, phone local CAFOD office 01244 677594 as soon as possible.
- ◆ **Sunday 13 Dec**, Advent Holy Hour at St Clare's Lache, 3.00pm.
- ◆ **Tuesday 15 Dec**, Golden Jubilee Mass at St Theresa's Blacon, Bishop Brian celebrating, 7pm.
- ◆ **Wednesday 16 Dec**, Advent Holy Hour at St Thomas Becket, Tarporley, 7.30pm
- ◆ **Sunday 20th Dec**, Advent Holy Hour at St Werburgh's Chester, 3.00pm

St. Francis's sample the outdoors ...

Our Rambling Group came into existence 18 months ago, primarily to encourage parishioners who attended different Masses to get together for some social activity as well as health benefits. Since then it has become an established part of parish life. We have a ramble every month of the year, usually on the third Saturday. As we tend to stay fairly close to Chester we leave the friary car park at the relatively civilised hour of 10 a.m. The distance is generally about 8 miles, which means 3 to 4 hours walking, with a picnic lunch at some convenient point. Over the



months (May to September) we also have a shorter evening ramble (usually

on the first Wednesday), which often ends with a pub stop. For the more energetic element there are also occa-

sional longer walks on Bank Holiday Mondays: these tend to be linear routes such as the Wirral Way or the Baker Way. This year's big achievement has been the walking of the length of the Sandstone Trail in consecutive stages; 34 miles over very varied terrain (not to mention the mileage back to the start points).

You will see from this that we are not about doing huge distances. Our ethos is still primarily social, and as well as our own parishioners we have attracted worshippers at other churches and none. Numbers on a Saturday ramble are typically 8 to 10. Our structure is completely informal, and anyone is welcome to come along with us.

If you would like more details, please contact Peter Bamford on 07870543503

Confirmation Programme—parishes join forces

The Parishes of St Werburgh's and St Clare's have combined to share in the preparation of 30 young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The young have been drawn from parishes in Holt, Queensferry, Malpas and Tarporley as well as from the two Chester Parishes. The Sacrament will be celebrated in

St Clare of Assisi by Bishop Brian on Friday 27th November, at 7 p.m.

Among the subjects covered during their preparation are: the Community; the Seven Sacraments; their Faith Journey; the Bible; Justice & Peace; Right & Wrong; Learning to Pray, choosing a Confirmation

Name, and What makes a Saint?

The young people and their catechists hope that some of you will be able to come and share the Confirmation Service with them.

They also hope that you all will remember them, their families, and their sponsors, in your prayers during the coming months.

Notes from the Catholic High School Chaplain ...

It has been my pleasure to work as chaplain of the Catholic High School since January. My vision of chaplaincy for the school is centred on the integration of three dimensions of our Catholic faith:

- ♦ *Faith seeking understanding (head faith)*
- ♦ *Our relationship with Christ (heart faith)*
- ♦ *Community action and charity work (hands faith).*

Through the unfailing support I have received from staff and students, there have been several new developments in the chaplaincy. There is now a spiritual 'Theme of the Week' which is explored during pastoral time at the start of each day. The theme of the week is then celebrated in a voluntary weekly Mass presided over by our team of local parish priests who take turns to visit the school each Friday. The theme and accompanying resource leaflets will soon be posted on the school's new website so that the local parishes can be aware of what our students are focusing upon each week.

Ever mindful of the warning in the New Testament that faith without action is useless, I have been keen to build upon the very generous charity work the school already undertakes by introducing a more structured approach. Recently a series of charity fairs were held which empowered each year group to adopt their 'Charity of the Year'. This half-term, the students will be researching their chosen charity during RE lessons and this will lead to an action plan for effective fundraising after Christmas. At each step, there will be opportunities for the students to deliver year assemblies in which will inform their teachers of progress made.

Recently also, Youth SVP groups were launched in Years 10 and 12 empowering students to put faith into action through one-to-one support for people in need in the local community. This work will include helping children at St. Clare's primary school, supporting children from Dorin Park special school and entertaining local elderly people.

To illustrate how the integration of the three faith dimensions I referred to earlier works in practice, in one wonderful week in October the spiritual theme of "Who is my Neighbour?", launched and inspired by Headteacher John Murray, was resourced and explored in registration time and year assemblies by the staff. It was then celebrated in a charismatic Year 7 welcome Mass for parents and it led to action by the students through the charity fairs the next day.

Another key development involves the major refurbishment of the School Chapel in time for the start of the next academic year. Flooring and ceiling specialists will advise on a complete restructuring of both areas, with suitable new lighting. Walls are to be repainted in keeping with specially-designed wall hangings. New furniture and cushions will be needed to provide suitable storage and comfort. And

the latest technology will provide facilities for delivering appropriate atmospheric, multi-media presentations.

When you think that about 85% of young Catholics in Chester attend the High School, I am hoping the chapel refurbishment is a project that local parishes might like to adopt – either financially or through other contributions. It would be great to hear from you.

Paul Lever

Chester Catholic High School Chaplain

Christmas getting closer but still lacking the time and enthusiasm to get that Christmas present list checked off? Take a good look at the High School's new "webshop". It'll help you and help the school!

<http://buy.at/chschester>

Harvest Fast Day help for CAFOD



Harvest offerings: Outline map of Brazil filled with £1 coins by CHS students in support of CAFOD's work

On Harvest Fast Day students at Chester Catholic High School took up the challenge of filling a map of Brazil with £1 coins. Sue and Liz from CAFOD were invited to the school by School Chaplain Paul Lever to support the students' Fast Day Work on Brazil. We were able to tell the stories behind a reflective PowerPoint about Brazil, using pictures taken by CAFOD's Chris Lappine on her visit there three years ago. One of the central characters was Nete a young homeless woman whom CAFOD has helped and who is now helping other homeless families to find safe places to live.

The students responded magnificently and raised £500. Thanks to all staff and students at the school for making this happen.

<i>Times of Sunday Masses</i>		<i>Parish Priest</i>	<i>Lay rep on LPA Team</i>	
St. Anthony's, Saltney (Wrexham Diocese)		Sun 11.00am	Fr Simon Treloar	N/A
St. Clare's, Lache, Chester	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 9.30am	Fr Simon Treloar	Kate Hughes
St. Columba's, Plas Newton, Chester	Sat 7.15pm	Sun 9.15 & 11.00am	Fr Russell Cooke	Bernard Payne
St. Cuthbert's, Mouldsworth		Sun 9.00am	Fr Joe Carney	Bill Cresswell/ Tom Bonikowski
St Francis', Chester	Sat 6.30pm	Sun 8.00, 9.30 & 11.00am	Bro Prins Casinader OFM Cap	Vincent Hatton/ Anne Brocklehurst
St. Theresa's, Blacon, Chester	Sat 6.30pm	Sun 10.00am	Fr Jim Kenny	Gerald Jones
St Thomas Becket, Tarporley	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 11.00am	Fr Joe Carney	Bill Cresswell/ Tom Bonikowski
St Werburgh's, Chester	Sat 6.00pm (Rowton Methodist Chapel)	Sun 9.00, 10.45am, 6.00pm	Fr Paul Shaw	Brian Burns

The LPA Team meets four times a year. Co-Chairs are Fr Russell Cooke (01244 400873) & Kate Hughes (01244 683538).
LPA Team Secretary is Syd Jones (01244 345676, daytime).
Contact for "The Chester Catholic" newsletter is Bernard Payne (01244 350323).

News in brief from the LPA Team:

- ♦ **Day of Reflection for Readers:** On Saturday 31st October a grand total of 43 Readers from across the LPA gathered at St Columba's for a Day of Reflection led by Fr Geoff O'Grady, who spoke in particular on the Mass readings for the season of Advent. Thanks to the LPA Training Team and Teresa Rogers for organising this Day.
- ♦ **Annual Diocesan Gathering:** Also on 31st October, the LPA Team took part in the annual gathering of LPA Teams from all across the Diocese—an opportunity to speak to Bishop Brian, for comparing notes with other LPAs, and for renewing the team's commitment to inter-parish working.
- ♦ **"Hands on" IT training;** The LPA Team's Communications Group is providing a series of three sessions to aid better use of email and internet communications across and within the parishes.
- ♦ **Advent Holy Hours:** See details in the adjacent box. These are wonderful opportunities for reflections on the meaning of Advent—and a respite from the otherwise hectic run-up to Christmas.

Advent Holy Hours 2009

This year's series of Advent Holy Hours includes services shared between parishes. Each occasion will reflect the unique style and individuality of the parishes and may include prayer, reflection and Benediction.

- ♦ **Thursday 3rd December 7.30pm at St Theresa's Blacon**—*arranged jointly by St Theresa's and St Columba's.*
- ♦ **Sunday 13th December 3.00pm at St Clare's Lache**—*arranged jointly by St Clare's and St Francis'.*
- ♦ **Wednesday 16th December 7.30pm at St Thomas Becket, Tarporley**
- ♦ **Sunday 20th December 3.00pm at St Werburgh's Chester**

All ages welcome. If you can offer or require transport please contact your parish priest.



www.cafod.org.uk

Don't mind catching a coach at 5.00am? Sign up for the CAFOD coach and get to London in time for the Ecumenical Service led by Archbishops Vincent Nichols and Rowan Williams, followed by the main rally. Return fare £15, £10 children and students. Book soon with Sue or Liz on 01244 677594