



St Columba's in Rome

Between the 16th and 23rd October 2006 some 30 parishioners of



St. Columba's Parish, under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Russell Cooke, visited Rome. Mass was celebrated

each day in a different church. Particularly memorable was that of the Venerable English College which was followed by a tour of the College and an account of its history and of the 44 priests from there who suffered martyrdom in penal times. Other highlights were Masses at St. Paul Outside the Walls, San Clemente and

High Mass at St. Peter's, at which Fr. Russell Cooke celebrated. We attended

the Papal Audience in the company of pilgrims from all over the world - we do truly belong to the universal church!!

Tours of Christian Rome, Ancient Rome and Assisi were arranged - not forgetting ample time for socialising.

Carol Galvin
St Columba's Parish



Catenians—a "well kept secret"

There are hundreds of societies and associations throughout society, all with specific interests and objectives. Some are well known, some not—and some you may not even have heard of.

The Catenian Association perhaps comes within the last category comes—not because it is inactive or is a very small organisation (it is in fact large and international) but because in the past it has hidden its light under a bushel.

Founded in Manchester in 1908 the Catenian Association now has over 11,000

Brothers (members) meeting regularly in over 300 Circles (branches) in nine countries. Established as an international brotherhood of Catholic business and professional men, Catenians meet socially, at least once a month at local Circles. There they can share common values and develop social bonds among themselves and their families.

Completely non-political and not a fund raising organisation or Catholic action group, the main Catenian Association aims are:

- To foster brotherly love among its members.

- To develop social bonds between members and their families.

- To advance the interests of young Catholics and assist them in career choice.

- To establish, maintain and administer benevolent funds.

With these aims in mind many Catenians have a prominent role in their local parish or diocese, as well as in major Catholic lay organisations. They are also active in the service of the civic community, both locally and nationally. Maybe in the past the Catenians were a 'well kept secret', but because they

Can we "live simply"?

Look out for details of the "Live Simply" project which is to be launched nationally on Youth Sunday, 26th November and will run throughout 2007.

The project marks the 40th anniversary of Paul VI's encyclical "The Development of Peoples" which was a radical portrayal of the Church's social teaching and which is still highly relevant today.

Each parish will have an Action Pack on the "Live simply" project, helping us to reflect on the messages of the 1967 encyclical and applying them to today's society—how we might live "simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with the poor".

See www.livesimply.org or contact Sue Bonmas for further information, 0792 023 2936



are talking about the things they do, they are now becoming a lot better known.

Chester Catenians are the 134th Circle of the Association and have a current membership of 48 Brothers. The Circle is always keen to seek new members and would welcome contact from any interested practising Catholic men, who may wish to consider joining the Association.

Further information can be obtained from :

Stephen Welch
01244 335032
s.welch@cepnwchamber.org.uk

Ecumenism at Chester Cathedral: more to tell ...

The Summer 2006 issue of "The Chester Catholic" carried a brief item on the various links between the Catholic clergy and Chester Cathedral. This is only part of the ecumenical picture—many Catholic lay people contribute to the daily life of the Cathedral community, as described here by Geoff Taylor.

We hope you will be very heartened to know that parishioners from local Catholic parishes are actively engaged in the life of Chester Cathedral. The Cathedral is not simply an historic monument in the heart of our city, but very much a living church, and it is a great privilege for us, as Catholics, to be able to help in conveying the Christian message to all. We are involved in several ways:

Guides for the Public:

For the hundreds of visitors that flock to our city, it gives us the opportunity to show the public a former 900-year old Catholic Benedictine monastery in particu-

lar, and a place of Christian worship in general.

Guides for the Schools:

The Education Department last year welcomed well over 8,000 children in their school groups, ranging from Nursery School age to groups of students

ents, and we have the opportunity to redress that in some way.

The Cathedral Gift Shop:

Catholic paid and volunteer staff help in the running of this successful gift shop, which sells everything from prayer cards and rosaries to jams and biscuits - addressing your spiritual and corporal needs!

The Friends of Chester Cathedral:

Membership of this is open to all who love and care for the Cathedral. The Friends support the development of worship and music in the Cathedral, hold social events and arrange visits to places of interest. You too can play your part and help in the continuing life of this great Cathedral (that once belonged to us!)

The Membership fee is very low: Individual member £10; Joint membership £15 per annum + eligibility for a Chester Charisma Card. Free application forms are available in the Cathedral or from the Membership Secretary at Chester Cathedral, 12 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU.

Please come and join us!



Young visitors adopting Benedictine habits

from the University. It is a great joy to see children enjoying their time in the Cathedral. In some cases, the children who visit have never been inside the Cathedral before, neither have their par-

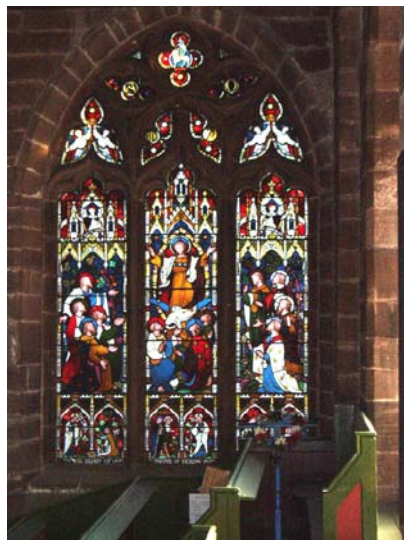
St Peter's Ecumenical Centre—under new management!

After a long period of uncertainty, the recent appointment of Rev David Chesters as vicar of the new Anglican parish of St Peter with St John the Baptist gives St Peter's Ecumenical Centre a new "landlord" and management committee chairman.

Rev Chesters has stated his enthusiasm for the work of the Centre and his wish to see the church building used for far more events than it has in the past. His vision includes the holding of more services, both ecumenical and of denominations other than Anglican.

The immediate effect is to make the church building available for use by

Christian organisations for a wide



range of events such as services, exhibitions, meetings and concerts.

The work of the Centre will continue, with refreshments available during its normal opening hours of 10 am to 4 pm from Monday to Saturday (except for Friday afternoon when lack of volunteers forces it to close).

If you would like to discuss using the Centre for any appropriate activity, or if you would like to become a volunteer steward, please contact:

David Savage,
01244 380626

“Keep Your Lamps Lit”: Catholic High School joins pilgrimage to Lourdes 2006

After many months of fundraising and planning, two staff members of Chester Catholic High School (Mrs Letissier, Head of Year 11 and Gerard Boyle, School Chaplain) along with five Year 11 students (Sarah Wilson, Vincent O'Mahony, Sinead Ryan, Anna Maloney and James Dee) headed off to Lourdes at the end of July with another one thousand pilgrims from Shrewsbury Diocese. None of our students had been to Lourdes before, but they'd been encouraged to join up with members of the Ellesmere Port Youth Club.

Our journey began with Mass celebrated with other pilgrims at St Saviour's Church in Great Sutton, before we boarded the coach, waved off by Mr Murray our Headteacher.

The Theme this year was “Keep your Lamps Lit”, with each Mass or Service reflecting on a different aspect of that theme.

The students worked really hard each day, either in the hospital with the sick pilgrims, or pushing other pilgrims from their hotels to the various services or on their shopping trips or to the many café bars in Lourdes.

It was important that our students also had time for themselves to experience the wonderful spiritual place that Lourdes is. They attended workshops run by the Diocesan Youth Service, and took part in the preparation of liturgies and music for



the Masses and other services celebrated during our pilgrimage. Each day ended with the young people from across our Diocese gathering together for Night Prayer on the Prairie opposite the Grotto. Following which they headed off to the one of the many cafés in Lourdes to meet up with other young people working in Lourdes.

Before heading back to the hotels and bed, there was always an opportunity to

visit the Grotto, which is truly what the experience of Lourdes is really all about.

It was in the shadow of the Grotto that Bernadette saw the light and, in that light, a young lady, very beautiful and radiant with light.

The tower of candles that burns in front of the Grotto recalls the presence of Bernadette. It tells us that, in spite of all the misfortune of the world, we can, we must, “believe in the light” as Jesus invites us in St John's gospel (John 12:36). In the Grotto a spring flows with fresh, sparkling water. The “Water Walk”, on the other side of the River Gave is a path of light in nine stages.

The Grotto is a place of silence, a place that words cannot explain. To think about just how many millions upon millions of men and

women, over the past 150 years, have received, in the silence, a light that enlightened their lives, is truly mind blowing.

I feel truly privileged to have shared my experience of Lourdes with Mrs Letissier, the Ellesmere Port Youth Leaders, and of course the fantastic students from our own school community .

Rev Gerard Boyle
School Chaplain

Training & discussion events

These are some of the events taking place in Chester during November:

- ◇ **Wednesday 8th November**, St Theresa's Parish Centre, 7.45pm (following 7pm Mass). Final session in the “CaFE” series *Knowing God Better*, this session entitled “*Knowing God's Help*”.
Contact Peter Burton, 01244 371660
- ◇ **Saturday 11th November**, Day for Ministers of the Word, led by Canon Chris Walsh. At St Columba's Hall, 10.00am for 10.30 start, until 3.30pm, lunch included.
Contact Paula Wszolek, 01244 314191
- ◇ **Tuesday 21st November**, St Clare's Parish Room, 7.30pm. An evening led by Paddy Rylands, giving an opportunity for Chester area catechists “to come together to pray, celebrate, socialise, network and gain information”.
Contact Paula Wszolek, 01244 314191

Music at St Werburgh's Tuesday 21st November

Don't miss the last in this year's series of Celebrity Recitals on the much acclaimed Binns/Sixsmith organ in St. Werburgh's Church, Grosvenor Park, Road, Chester. It will be given on by Alan McGuinness, Organist and Master of the Choristers at St. Asaph Cathedral. It will commence at 7.30pm and admission is £5.00 including a programme and an interval glass of wine or soft drink. You'll be sure of a warm welcome irrespective of the weather outside!

**Details from Ray Harper on
01244 372822**

Chester Pastoral Council

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Chair: John Davies, 01244 676508

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Deadline for Spring 2007 issue: 30 January

The Chester Pastoral Council meets 4-5 times a year, giving the opportunity for the clergy and lay representatives of the nine parishes in Chester and district to give ongoing consideration to matters of interest across the parishes.

The September 2006 meeting received an initial account of a Diocese-wide "Parish Planning" exercise, which is currently underway. This is expected to be the subject of a number of consultation meetings with parishioners in the early part of 2007.

The Pastoral Council hopes to play a constructive role in these consultations, doing its part to ensure that the key issues and potential solutions affecting the Chester area are fully aired.

Sunday Masses across the district:

St. Anthony's, Saltney (Wrexham Diocese)		Sun 11.00am
St. Clare's, Lache, Chester	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 9.30am
St. Columba's, Plas Newton, Chester	Sat 7.15pm	Sun 9.15 & 11.00am
St. Cuthbert's, Mouldsworth		Sun 9.00am
St Francis, Chester	Sat 6.30pm	Sun 8.00, 9.30 & 11.00am
St Joseph, Malpas (Saturday Vigil Mass is at Farndon URC)	Sat 4.30pm	Sun 9.00am
St Plegmund, Tattenhall		Sun 11.00am
St. Theresa's, Blacon, Chester	Sat 6.30pm	Sun 10.00am 5.30pm
St Thomas Becket, Tarporley	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 11.00am
St Werburgh, Chester (Sat Vigil Mass at Rowton Methodist Church)	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 9.00, 10.45am, 6.00pm

St Joseph's Malpas

As previously reported in *The Chester Catholic*, the Sacred Heart Fathers are closing the Retreat Centre at Malpas at the end of 2006 and are selling the site. However, Fr John Gaul will remain as Parish Priest for a further two years, and it has now been agreed that the Chapel will remain in use over that period. Fr Gaul will be resident on site in what is now The Lodge—to be refurbished and renamed St Joseph's Presbytery. Mass times at Malpas, Farndon and Tattenhall will remain unchanged.



St Theresa's parish—50 years young!

In September this year St Theresa's parish in Blacon celebrated the 50th anniversary of its foundation. The church itself opened in 1959, so we can look forward to a big celebration in 2009. The church is currently being treated to new roof coverings—here's an unfamiliar roof-level view of work in progress, plus scaffolder's eye-view of the Chester city centre skyline ...

