

Spring 2008



## The Chester Catholic

### *Pastoral Team for Chester and District gets underway*

The 123 parishes across the Diocese are now grouped into 26 Local Pastoral Areas (LPAs) each with a Clergy/Lay Pastoral Area Team serving for an initial period of two years.

Bishop Brian asks each Team to assess continually the pastoral needs of its Area, in particular to identify ways in which co-operation can further the mission of the Church in the Area and support the life of the parish communities.

The Pastoral Team for the six parishes of Chester & District took part in the Diocesan launch in October 2007, and held its first full meeting (at Chester Catholic High School) in January 2008. The full Team will only be meeting about three times a year, so most of its work will be achieved through sub-groups dealing with key issues including training, catechetics, and communications.

The Pastoral Team is next meeting (at St Clare's) on 8th May, when it will be considering reports on those key issues, and on the possible need for rationalising Sunday Mass provision across the Area. It will also be looking at the many suggestions made at the open meeting *Parishes in Partnership* held last summer at Chester Catholic High School.

Fr Cooke, Clergy Co-Leader of the Chester & District Team, is also appointed by Bishop Brian as Regional Dean for North Cheshire, which covers a total of 21 parishes running from Ellesmere Port and Chester through Frodsham, Runcorn and across to Lymm.

Members of the Pastoral Team for Chester & District will welcome comments or queries from parishioners about its ongoing work.

### **The Pastoral Team**

*The Team for Chester & District comprises a priest and one elected lay person from each of the six parishes, together with one Deacon (nominated by the Deacons from the area) and one Teacher and one Catechist (nominated by the Bishop). The current Team, serving for two years from October 2007 is :*

- ◆ **St Clare:** Fr Francis Doyle, Kate Hughes
- ◆ **St Columba:** Fr Russell Cooke, Bernard Payne
- ◆ **St Cuthbert and St Thomas Becket:** Fr Joe Carney, Bill Cresswell/ Tom Bonikowski
- ◆ **St Francis:** Bro Gordon Pesterfield, Vincent Hatton/ Anne Brocklehurst
- ◆ **St Theresa:** Fr Jim Kenny, Gerald Jones
- ◆ **St Werburgh:** Fr Paul Shaw, Brian Burns
  
- ◆ **Deacon:** Rev Lawrence Hordley
- ◆ **Catechist:** Tia Lasok-Smith
- ◆ **Teacher:** John Murray

*The Team, at the preliminary meeting held in October 2007, elected as their Co-Leaders Fr Russell Cooke and Kate Hughes*

### **News in brief**

- ◆ Fr Russell Cooke goes into Liverpool Broadgreen Hospital at the end of April for a heart valve replacement. A short stay in hospital will be followed by a longer period of recuperation. We offer him our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery.
  
- ◆ Mrs Debbie Penny has been appointed as the new Headteacher at St Werburgh's & St Columba's Primary School. The official appointment is for September, but Mrs Penny becomes Acting Head for the summer term to cover for Mrs Kathryn Oates' maternity leave. Mrs Penny comes to the school from Holy Family School in Sale Moor, and we wish her every success in her new appointment. Our thanks and best wishes go too to Mrs Oates.

### **Meeting our training needs**

The nature of church life is changing rapidly. We have been aware for some years of the falling numbers of priests and that some parishes would no longer have a resident priest. This, together with the advent of the new diocesan organisation, where the former Deaneries have been replaced by Local Pastoral Areas, has presented all of us, clergy and laity, with a new set of challenges. Lay people must expect to have to take on further responsibilities in parish and LPA once considered the province of the clergy. Similarly, clergy are faced with delegating some of their previously held responsibilities to lay people. Skills will be required by both which many may not possess.

In order to address this skill shortage a Training Group is being developed in the Chester & District LPA. The group derives from the group set up by the former Chester Pastoral Council and consists of mainly lay representatives, but some clergy, from all six Chester LPA parishes. It is an informal group at present but it has now developed a brief describing what sort of skills training it considers it should provide and how it should resource it.

The brief has been submitted to the Pastoral Area Team and if, as hoped, it is confirmed, the Training Group will further develop its work. More information will be given in future issues of this newsletter.

*See p2 for details of the forthcoming series of talks on Ancient Religion*

## *Widening our contacts*

Hello everyone, my name is Alex Thynne from Handbridge, and I am a blind computer user. I use a screenreading package which allows me to hear what I am typing, and reading the screen. I browse the internet, listen to podcasts, some very good Catholic ones as it happens, I am a member of a number of email groups and manage two lists, one of them for blind and partially sighted Catholics and use Windows Live Messenger and Skype to communicate with my friends. I am a regular reader of The Chester Catholic online, and I enjoy reading about the Catholic faith from a number of internet sites, including the electronic parish

newsletters from St. Werburgh's site.

My most difficult problem is that I cannot access the world of print. I have no eyesight, so even large print books and other documents are impossible for me, which includes anything on a noticeboard, posters, printed books, pamphlets and magazines.

I am considering setting up an email list to supplement The Chester Catholic which people could use for such purposes as sending out information on events around the Chester parishes and forging closer links with each other. If this seems a good idea, please send me an email to:

[Alex.thynne@talktalk.net](mailto:Alex.thynne@talktalk.net)

## *Chester Across Group*

The Chester *ACROSS* Group are making their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes via the JUMBULANCE: away from 19<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June, including seven nights in Lourdes.

Sick or disabled people, who may wish to consider travelling (also volunteer helpers male/female and - especially qualified nurses) please contact Group Leader Brian Burns on 01244 349983 for further information.

Please contact Brian as soon as possible as there are now only a few spaces remaining.



## *Celebrations for Father Joe*

The extended weekend of March 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> was a time of celebration for the parish of St Thomas Becket (Tarporley) with St Cuthbert (Mouldsworth) and the parish priest, Fr Joe Carney. There was much to rejoice in for Fr Joe had regained his health and fitness, was back in harness in the parish

(although he had never really left it!) and it was the occasion of the anniversary of forty years since his ordination to the priesthood. Fr Joe's Ruby Jubilee was celebrated at all Masses over the weekend and at a parish party on Saturday evening when around 180 present and former parishioners as well as family and friends joined in the festivities. Father Joe was presented with a cheque from the parishioners and many other gifts including a Manchester City shirt with his name and number (Carney 40) on the back.

## *Organ Music at St. Werburgh's Church*

### **CELEBRITY RECITALS, WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**

7.30pm, Admission £5.00 including programme and refreshment

- ◆ 18th June - Paul Derrett, International Concert Organist.
- ◆ 20th August - Mark Swinton, Assistant Organist, Bath Abbey

### **"TUESDAYS-at-ONE"**

40/45 minute lunchtime organ recitals featuring members of the Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmaster's Association and friends.

- ◆ Each Tuesday, from 13<sup>th</sup> May to 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Free admission - Retiring Collection.

Further details of the Recitalists from Ray Harper, 01244 372822

All these recitals feature the much acclaimed Binns/Sixsmith 3 manual organ

## *Perspectives on Ancient Religion*

*A series of talks by Dr Zosia Archibald, Lecturer in Classical Archaeology at Liverpool University, and parishioner at St Werburgh's.*

**Each Thursday from May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>  
7.30 – 9.00pm**

St Clare's Primary School,  
Hawthorne Road, Lache, Chester CH4 8HX  
(by kind permission of the Head, Mr Terry Daltrey)

Format: Talk 7.30 - 8.00; Refreshments 8.00 - 8.15;  
Questions and Discussion 8.15 - 9.00 pm

*We rightly pay great attention to the Jewish context of the Christian message. But once it had spread beyond the bounds of Palestine and the Jewish Faith, it was the Greek philosophical mindset and the Roman Empire that provided the main arteries by which this new religion was carried throughout the then known world. These talks will seek to explore a little of that Greco-Roman background to the arrival and spread of the new Christian Faith.*

## *Developments at Chester Catholic High School: spiritual ... and physical*

Ten students from Chester Catholic High School were trained and commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers during Lent this year. The students were taken from Years 10, 11 and 12, and their ages range from 15 to 17. The students will be particularly useful at our school Masses. We have a regular Friday lunchtime voluntary Mass and they will be used on a rota basis for this, as well as helping at the less frequent but very important whole school Masses.

The students involved are Aileen Carson, Simon Waite and Amy McDonnell (Year 12); Mark Edge, Tim Murray and Rosie M'Mahon (Year 11); Neil Williams, Catherine Clayton, John Wszolek and Chris Szczygowski (Year 10). Our school motto is 'Christo Fidelis' and we pray that these young people will remain faithful to Christ as they carry out this ministry.

Work is progressing well with the shell of the new 6<sup>th</sup> form Emmaus Building almost complete followed closely by 2 new science labs and the creation of a fantastic new reception area for parents and visitors. With work scheduled for completion in the Autumn fundraising continues at full speed. My sincere thanks goes out to all those who have helped us crack the £100,000 barrier last month and although we are ahead of schedule we still need to keep pushing to just over £400,000.

Our latest initiative provides a new opportunity for supporters to commemorate the school's building development. We are creating a paved area in which you can celebrate your time here as a pupil, as a supporter or in memory of a loved one by putting a name or special message on a prominent, long lasting brick. A special area

in front of the new Sixth Form Emmaus building has been set aside for this and will be completed together with the main building work by October 2008.

You can order single bricks with up to two lines of lettering (15 characters



*CHS Head John Murray (r) and Business Manager Steve Gauller hold aloft one of the Emmaus bricks*

per line, spaces and punctuation count as characters), or a double brick with up to four lines. The bricks are available with gold lettering only and start at £60.

*For more information or to donate please contact Stephen Gauller, Business Manager on 01244 981611*

## *Young people at St Theresa's act to "live simply"*



*The youngsters with Fr Jim after the Youth Mass*

*"Live simply so that others may simply live"* is the maxim a group of youngsters from St. Theresa's parish in Blacon promoted at Mass on Youth Sunday in November 2007. By taking part in the liturgy, using drama and prayer, the youngsters continued their commitment to the *livesimply* theme. On a more practical note, a number of events have been planned for 2008 – a second-hand book sale, a simple lunch, a light bulb swap and the selling of gift tags made from old Christmas cards. These events will enable the parish to continue its work on *living more simply*.

*Anna Walsh  
St Theresa's Parish*

## Chester & District Pastoral Team

**Regional Dean & Co-Leader of Pastoral Team:**  
Fr Russell Cooke, St Columba's, 1 Newhall Road,  
Plas Newton, Chester CH2 1SA, 01244 400873

**Lay Co-Leader:** Kate Hughes, 01244 683538

**Newsletter Contact:** Bernard Payne, 01244 350323  
E-mail: [bernard.payne@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bernard.payne@tiscali.co.uk)

Chester & District Pastoral Team was formed in October 2007 as part of the Diocese-wide grouping of parishes into a total of 26 "Local Pastoral Areas", in turn grouped into 6 "Regions". The Local Pastoral Area for Chester & District (LPA 11) includes the parishes of St Clare, St Columba, St Cuthbert, St Francis, St Theresa, St Thomas Becket, and St Werburgh. The Pastoral Team takes over from the informal Chester Pastoral Council which ran from 2001, helping the Catholic parishes in Chester and district to work together and share ideas and resources as they carry out their Christian ministry.

### *Parishes in Chester & District Local Pastoral Area* [www.chestercatholic.org.uk](http://www.chestercatholic.org.uk)

<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 Francis Doyle	N/A
St. Clare's, Lache, Chester	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 9.30am	Fr Francis Doyle	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 Gordon Pesterfield	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, Chester	Sat 6.00pm (at Rowton Methodist Church)	Sun 9.00, 10.45am, 6.00pm	Fr Paul Shaw	Brian Burns

## *Cafod office up & running in Chester*

After quite a few months of discussion, approval-seeking and then physical fitting-out, the official CAFOD office for Shrewsbury Diocese is up and running, here in Chester. It's within the grounds of St. Clare's church in Downfield Road, Lache, on the first floor above the Parish Room.

Sue Bownas CAFOD Manager for Shrewsbury Diocese, has actually been in post since January 2006, but for two years she was "lodging" with the CAFOD office in Liverpool. Sue, being a parishioner at St Clare's, is clearly delighted with the new accommodation and is very grateful to the parish and to the Diocese for enabling it to happen.

Also working from the new office, providing support 4 days a week, is Liz Aiello, who until her recent retirement was Headteacher across the river at St Werburgh's & St Columba's Primary

School.

Sue explains that their key priorities will be to establish clear links with each one of the 26 Local Pastoral Areas across the Diocese, and to recruit more volunteers for work with schools, especially secondary schools.



*Sue Bownas (r) and Liz Aiello,  
ready to get a handle on matters at the new office*

On Saturday 17th May Bishop Brian will be celebrating the 10.00am Mass at St Clare's in thanksgiving for the work of CAFOD. Sue and Liz hope that as many people as possible will come to the Mass and to see them afterwards in the Parish Room and look round the new offices.

In the early part of June, Sue, a CAFOD volunteer for many years before her current appointment, will be paying her first-ever visits to CAFOD-supported projects overseas. She'll be looking at the work of a number of CAFOD partners in Honduras and Nicaragua, Central America.

Sue and Liz will welcome your getting in touch with them at the Chester office:

01244 677594  
[sbownas@cafod.org.uk](mailto:sbownas@cafod.org.uk)  
[eiello@cafod.org.uk](mailto:eiello@cafod.org.uk)