

### Prayers of Reparation and Atonement

Each of our parishes responded to the request of the Bishops of England & Wales for prayers of reparation and atonement for the sins of priests and religious against children. The prayers were offered on the Fridays of the month of May.

#### Clare

##### Church Extension

The parish priest, Bernard Rolls was able to announce news of great joy with regard to the church extension. For the past 10 years there have been negotiations with various planning authorities at national and local level to get agreement for a building on what is a valuable historic site.

At last the parish seems to have met virtually all the technical conditions imposed by the planning authority—save for an archaeological investigation and the recording of the building monument conditions by the Ancient Buildings' Authority.

A lay committee in the parish has worked with great perseverance along with the friars to reach this point.

*May we all wish them well in their continuing exertions to realise a dream and satisfy a real local need.*

##### Bell Lectures

The Churches Together in Clare and Cavendish do work actively together. Each year a series of four lectures takes place in the Bell Hotel. One of the lectures, on 3 June will be given by Paul Graham OSA (cf. below).

and ..

A BBQ took place at a family home for all those, young people and parents interested in taking part in AYE.

The Ancient Warehouse vendors in Clare—a substantial local industry—are providing items for an auction in aid of AYE. Parishioners are asked to swell the collection by their own contributions. The auction will take place on 19 June.

A weekend of reflection for friends of Augustine, scheduled for the weekend 14-16 April had to be postponed because David Kelly OSA, who was to lead the weekend was grounded in Dublin by volcanic ash. The weekend has been re-arranged for mid-June.

#### Hoxton

Each year on Pentecost, the multi-lingual parish celebrates the speaking with one voice in various tongues of the first Pentecost. Parishioners are invited to speak a bidding prayer in their own language during the 11 am Mass.

Parishioners are invited to come out in traditional costumes and to take part in the procession at the beginning of Mass. A world map is placed in the church porch and a red pin identifies each of the many countries represented in the congregation.

A parish concert is being planned for 9 July and local talent is invited to come forward.

The youth group are working at producing the parish banner for the AYE.

#### Hammersmith

Pentecost Sunday was a day of prayer for priests, to mark the Year of Priests, soon to conclude. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place during the afternoon with prayers led at the beginning of each hour.

On the 23 May, Barry Clifford OSA the parish priest announced at their annual general meeting that the St Augustine's Social Club would be closing down. It was no longer fulfilling the purpose for which it was started. Some of those present protested loudly and angrily. The statutory six months' notice was given and the club will close in November.

### Golden Celebration For GABRIEL McDONAGH OSA

Through an unforgivable oversight on our part, we did not report the Golden Jubilee of the Ordination of Gabriel McDonagh OSA, which took place in December 2009. We now wish to make amends.

Gabriel celebrated Mass in the Holy Faith Convent, the Coombe, Dublin, along with friars of both Provinces and his family—his sister is a member of the Holy Faith community.

Gabriel taught at Austin Friars School, Carlisle, was Prior of St Patrick's, Rome, taught at Bishop's Court School, and is now chaplain at Cuan Mhuire in Athenry, Ireland, one of several centres for rehabilitation, established by Sister Consilio.

*We thank Gabriel for the past  
wish him God's blessing for the future.*

#### Woodvale

The Churches Together in Ainsdale continue to collaborate closely in many ways. Each year they organise a series of reflections during Lent, taking place in a church of different denomination each week. This year the topic was 'Christ's Cross and Ours'.

The youth committee continue their enthusiastic fund-raising for AYE, especially to enable a group to attend from their twin parish Ishiara in Kenya. A group of four has been registered. They will fly into Manchester, where they will be met and hosted by parishioners during their stay.

The annual triduum in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel took place, the preacher being George Stibbles OSA, once a member of the local community, now Prior in Broomhouse.

#### Discernment Community

A community of five young men continue their process of discerning their way ahead in life, with particular concern for priesthood and religious life. They spent the weekend of Pentecost on retreat with the community in Harborne.

A national weekend of vocations promotion and discernment will take place at Oscott College during the weekend 2-4 July. Stefan Park OSA, our vocations promoter is organising the Augustinian participation.

#### Paul Graham OSA

The title of the Bell Lecture is 'The Emergent Church', and will address the issue of where the Church is at today by looking at two narratives: the 'modern story', which is a narrative of decline; and the 'postmodern story', which is a narrative of change. Paul is also giving a seminar paper at King's College, London, as part of the Summer Theology programme of the Research Institute in Systematic Theology, on 13 July. The topic is, 'A Pope and an Archbishop: Ratzinger and Williams on Religion and the Secular'. This will be the fourth time he has given a paper at King's.

Further, he has been asked to speak on Contemporary Society at the course in San Gimignano, 19-23 July, on Being an Augustinian Priest Today.



Sorry there no *Newsangle* in May. Had you noticed?

There was a combination of post-Lenten fatigue and an absence of any dramatic development to report—while of course everybody beavered away at the daily routines.

### Clare Pilgrimage

The annual pilgrimage to Clare Priory in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel took place on Sunday 9 May. The preacher for the day was Deacon Tony Ranzetta, who spoke of the challenge of the Gospel to serve.

Groups came from Birmingham, Hoxton, Edinburgh and Hythe. The following account was sent to us from Sheila Smith in Harborne.

A coach left Harborne with Fr Laurence Brassill on board heading for Clare and the pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

With praying the Rosary and singing hymns and some people with messages of what they hoped would come from the day, we arrived before we knew it.

We were warmly welcomed by Fr David, the Provincial. The rain stopped, the sun came out. It was good to meet old friends and to make new ones.

In the Mass the Nigerian ladies from Hoxton encouraged us to dance and sing as the gifts were brought to the altar at the offertory. It was a vibrant time.

On the way back, the Spirit had touched more than one person, who were able to get up and speak about cures and graces received, and speaking about them was a grace in itself.

The important thing was we all felt we belonged to the Augustinian family, though before the trip we did not know everybody on it.

The next edition of *Newsangle* will be in September.

We hope then to have a full report of the Augustinian Youth Encounter.

Meanwhile we ask all to pray that the AYE may be a powerful expression of the faith of so many young adults, an encouragement to them and to us all.

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### NEWSANGLE

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*Editor:* Bernard O'Connor OSA, St Augustine's, 55 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8AU

Tel. 020 8748 3788

e-mail: osabernard@hotmail.co.uk

## Prior General's Medieval Seal Die Found in Field

The General Curia in Rome recently bought a fourteenth-century medieval seal die, or stamp, belonging to the prior general. It was found by an amateur archaeologist using a metal detector in a field near Daventry in Northamptonshire in 2004. Made of cast metal for use on wax, it would have been used to seal important documents. The centre shows a standing figure, possibly St Augustine, with a kneeling figure, possibly a prior general, before him. Above the two figures are the head and shoulders of Our Lady and the child Jesus. Around the figures is a legend, not easy to read, stating what seems to be: *S PRIORIS GENERALIS ORD STIS HEREMITAR STI AUGUSTINI* – ‘the seal of the Prior General of the Order of Holy Hermits of St Augustine’.

Paul Graham was asked to liaise with Stephen Pulley, the finder of the stamp, before the purchase went ahead. Mr Pulley provided various documents, most importantly a note from Dr Michael Stansfield, Assistant Keeper of

Archives and Special Collections at Durham University Library, who gave a description of the stamp and deciphered the lettering. The British Museum concurred with Dr Stansfield's description. Mr Pulley also signed a statutory declaration before a commissioner of oaths stating that his account of the find is true.

How a prior general's stamp found its way to England in the fourteenth century was something of a mystery, as generals did not travel around the provinces of the Order to the extent that they do today. However, further research by Mr Pulley revealed that Prior General Thomas of Strasburg visited England in 1353—the only general in medieval times to do so—as part of a mission to reorganise studies. In 1362, according to Roth, the Prior General declared Northampton as one of the houses of vacation for foreign students of the order while on vacation. It is not unreasonable to assume, therefore, that Thomas of Strasburg visited the friars in Northampton and possibly mislaid his stamp, only for it to be found 651 years later.

## AYE : June, July, ..... 9 August!

The Preparatory Committee held their regular monthly meetings on April 29 and May 24. The emphasis now is in filling out the details for the events of the week.

**A Concern :** One slight concern is that most of the optimistic estimates of numbers that were submitted some months ago is not being realised in the numbers finally being registered.

The total capacity is 350, including 40 camping places. The total now is more like 253, of whom 9 are opting to camp. This is not a disaster, as 253 is a viable number and there is still the possibility of some stragglers. However, there must be a final cut-off date of 25 June, beyond which it will not be possible to consider further applicants. Final numbers must be given to the accommodation centres and payments made.

Payment is also happening very slowly. At the recent meeting, statistics presented showed that only 6 of the 24 groups have paid. No doubt all are in the process of collecting and arranging transfer.

The Province Central fund has provided a substantial amount to meet payments to date—deposits to centres, running expenses etc.—and will meet the considerable shortfall between income and total expenditure.

**Otherwise,** all is going steadily.

The programme for the week is gradually taking a firm shape. The overall theme of the week is *I shall call you friends*, an aspect of the theme emphasised each day.

**Monday:** *We come to rest in you.*

Opening ceremony

**Tuesday:** *The call to friendship*

Small language groups  
Legislative theatre  
Festival of Nations

**Wednesday:** *Who is my friend?*

Workshops on social justice theme  
Social Justice stalls  
Hog roast meal  
UK presentation followed by Ceilidh

**Thursday:** *Old friends*

Visit to Clare Priory  
Mass, planting of tree  
Visit to Cambridge  
Evening Prayer at St John's College  
Meal for Religious with Prior General

**Friday:** *Healing friendships*

A day centred on Reconciliation  
Reconciliation service, individual confessions  
Via Lucis, Taize evening

**Saturday:** *God is your friend*

After AYE?  
Closing Mass celebrated by Prior General

**Sunday:** Closing ceremony, departure

## Whither the Church?

The present moment in the Church is compared, in the scale of its historical significance, with the Reformation of the 16th century, and other major developments at 500 year intervals (historians please fill in). It is a time of shattering implications. The Church will never be the same again.

Many, including the Pope are peering into the mists to see the way ahead. A significant number of laypeople, now theologically literate and concerned are writing in the religious journals. When Pope John XXIII called the Vatican Council he said it was time to cut through the rules and practices that had accumulated over the centuries and to open up the Gospel in the context of the 20th century. Something similar seems to be happening now. Watch and pray! For those who have apostolic zeal, with the fire of the Holy Spirit in their bellies, it is an exciting prospect.

### What they say

Do not be afraid to guide to Christ each of the brothers and sisters He has entrusted to you, certain that each word, each action, if they come from obedience to God's will, will bear fruit. Appreciate the advantages and recognise the limits of the culture in which we live, in the firm certainty that **announcing the Gospel is the greatest service we can do mankind** - *Pope Benedict at his weekly audience, 26 May.*

Catholic missionary activity is much broader today than going to far distant lands. A mission to traditionally Christian countries, whose people have begun turning away from the institutional Church, is also urgent.

**The present time demands a new missionary vigour** on the part of Christians, who are called to form a mature laity, identified with the Church and sensitive to the complex transformations taking place in our world. - *from Pope Benedict at his final Mass in Lisbon, 14 May and on 13 May at Fatima.*

The Church, like Jesus, is meant to measure us at our tallest, to celebrate our divinity from the moment of our birth, to keep our focus on the beckoning horizons of

possibility .. The Church is there to reveal to us another courageous way of living, a way of believing in the light while it is still dark. - *Fr Daniel O'Leary, The Tablet 23 May.*

In the eyes of the follower of Christ there has to be something chillingly sacred in the Murphy Report, something of the Holy Spirit at work in the world .. In the aftermath of the Murphy and earlier reports very few Catholics are in any doubt that something needing to be knocked down within our church has begun to topple and that a rebuilding towards what the church is intended to be lies ahead of us. In brokenness we awake. - *Ned Prendergast, The Furrow, April 2010*

It belongs to us Christians that we rejoice in the very existence of people, with all their fumbling attempts to live and love, whether they are married or divorced or single, whether they are straight or gay, whether their lives are lived in accordance with church teaching or not ... The Church should be a community in which people discover God's delight in them. - *Timothy Radcliffe OP to priests*

### From here and there

- The discussion must go deeper than changing structures—necessary though that may be. One reason why the theology promulgated by Vatican Council II did not make its full impact was that it was often presented as replacing one set of rules with another.
- 'I do not believe in liberation theology. I believe in Jesus Christ.' *Gustavo Gutierrez, a leading proponent of liberation theology.*
- Jesus is always so positive. A catalogue of 'thou shalt not's is a lazy but unfaithful expression of the Gospel. The word 'condemn' does not belong to Gospel vocabulary.
- As our people go home from Mass on Sunday, do they have smile on the face, a feeling of uplift in the heart, a new spring in the step?
- Tell the truth.
- If there is one organisation on the face of the earth that should have no fear of the TRUTH however hurtful, however embarrassing, however scandalous, surely it is the Church of Jesus Christ. (Let us pass our time honourably) not in revelling and drunkenness, not in lust and wantonness, not in quarrels and rivalries. Rather, arm yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ; spend no more time on nature and nature's appetites. - *the passage from Romans 13; 13,14 that was decisive for Augustine. We could add our own 'not in ..' but equally conclude 'Rather arm yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ'.*
- The Church needs laypeople who are theologically qualified and are committed, willing **and allowed** to take on pastoral responsibilities.
- The Church also needs priests to gather God's people together to celebrate the breaking of bread .
- The Church needs religious who will venture where others fear to tread.

*Would readers like to add their own snippets regarding the shape and emphasis of the Church of tomorrow?*