

VENERABILE VIEW

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The English College Rome

FROM THE RECTOR'S WINDOW

Spring 2014

I feel a great sense of privilege on being asked to become Rector of the College in succession to Monsignor Nicholas Hudson, who led the community through nine such eventful and grace-filled years. Throughout that period, I was a neighbour and friend of the community, while working in the Vatican for my “day job”. It was a joy to be able to take part in College life, seeing generations of students pass through and proceed to ordination. In February 2000, the then Rector, Monsignor Pat Kilgarriff, invited me to become Schola Master, a task I had carried out in my student days. I was to continue in that role for thirteen and a half years. I am particularly grateful to my two predecessors as Rector for giving me the opportunity to contribute to College life and to get to know so many of the students in the context of directing the Schola. As a result, I have felt part of the extended College family for years. Now I have been given the chance to move right into the heart of the family, and I feel an enormous sense of gratitude.



Arriving with me as a “new” staff member, was Father Bruce Burbidge, who takes over as Academic Tutor from Father Tony Milner. As many of our readers will remember, though, Father Bruce has fulfilled this role before: he was a staff member from 2002 until 2008. So he already knows the

College and the Roman Universities well, and he returns to us enriched by the experience of five years as a parish priest in Peterborough.

Together with the Vice-Rector, Father Mark Harold, the Pastoral Tutor, Father John Paul Leonard, and the Spiritual Director, Father Chris Willis, we make up a staff of five.

We were very fortunate to be able to begin the year by joining the Holy Father for his morning Mass at Santa Marta on Saturday 21 September, the feast of Saint Matthew.



Later that day, the new men arrived in Rome, fresh from their “total immersion” experience of learning Italian in Tuscany. Joining the community this year were five seminarians from England and Wales, one from Oslo (Tao Nguyen), one priest student from Rockhampton, Australia (Father Andrew Chase) and one Anglican exchange student from Saint Stephen’s House, Oxford (Benjamin Drury). The new seminarians include two from Plymouth (Albert Lawes and Michael Vian Clark) together with one each from Westminster (Andrew Bowden), Nottingham (Haris Roberts) and Middlesbrough (Peter Taylor).

This meant that we began the year with a total of forty-one seminarians (two from Denmark, one from Norway, 38 from dioceses in England), along with six priest students and one Anglican on the exchange programme: a community, including staff members, of fifty-three.

Half way through the term I had the great pleasure of welcoming back to the College my predecessor, Monsignor Nicholas Hudson. On Sunday 11 November, his portrait by Michael Noakes, generously sponsored by the Friends, was put on display in the First Library. An unveiling had already taken place in London, at the AGM of the Friends in September 2013: now was the opportunity to unveil it in the location that it will occupy for many years to come. It was good to be joined on this occasion by the artist, Michael Noakes, by Archbishop Arthur Roche, Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship, by Monsignor Rod Strange, Rector of the Beda, by the outgoing Chairman of the Friends, Jo Barnacle, and by the new Chairman, Mike Lang with his wife Teresa. In the course of the lunch that followed, Archbishop Roche presented Jo with a *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal, in affectionate recognition of her long years of service to the College as Chairman of the Friends. It was good to have the opportunity on this occasion formally to welcome Mike and Teresa, whom we hope to see among us on many more occasions in the future.

On Martyrs' Day we were graced by the presence of former Rector Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, who presided and preached for us at Mass. This was also our opportunity to welcome Archbishop David Moxon, the new Director of the Anglican Centre. Archbishop David (or Sir David as he became in the New Years Honours) is from New Zealand, and he is currently Co-Chairman, along with Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham, of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC). Many readers will recall that Cardinal Cormac, when Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, was Co-Chairman of an earlier round of ARCIC talks, which were the occasion for Pope John Paul's visit to Palazzola.

The weekend after Martyrs' Day saw the Rector and Vice-Rector, along with a goodly representation of students, bound for Leeds, where we attended the ordination to the priesthood of former student John Carlisle on Saturday 7 December in Saint Anne's Cathedral. Since leaving the College in the summer, John had been working as a deacon in Saint Robert's parish, Harrogate, and he will continue to serve there as an assistant priest. *Ad multos annos!*

Another joyful celebration took place on Friday 20 December, the last evening before the Christmas vacation, when Archbishop Arthur Roche admitted six students to candidacy. The new candidates are Guido Amari (Westminster), Kasper Baadsgaard (Copenhagen), Thomas Cunnah (Shrewsbury), Michael Deas (Salford), Jan Hansen (Copenhagen) and David Howell (Southwark). We offer them our warmest congratulations and the assurance of our prayers as they embark upon the final stage of preparation for ordination to the diaconate and the priesthood. The celebration afforded me an opportunity to announce to the house our forthcoming pilgrimage to the Holy Land, planned for the beginning of October 2014 with Father Mervyn Tower as our guide. The pilgrimage was made possible through the generosity of Pamela and Nicholas Coote. On behalf of us all, a heartfelt thank you to Pam and Nick!



Cardinal Nichols with Mgr. Philip Whitmore

A particular highlight of my first six months as Rector was the Consistory of 22 February 2014, when we were proud to see one of our former students, Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster, made a Cardinal by Pope Francis. A new coat of arms is now on display in the ground floor corridor, and in due course a new portrait will be commissioned for the Cardinals' corridor. It was a real joy to be able to welcome the new Cardinal's family and friends to join in the celebrations held in the College over the weekend of the Consistory. At our community Mass the following Wednesday, Cardinal Nichols spoke movingly of the famous icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, which is housed in the Redemptorist church of the Most Holy Redeemer and Saint Alphonus on the Via Merulana. This lovely sanctuary has now been assigned to Cardinal Nichols as his titular church. We look forward to the day when he comes back to Rome to take possession of it.

Mgr. Philip Whitmore
Rector

FRIENDS' REUNION AT St MARY MOORFIELDS

The Annual Meeting and AGM of the Friends of the Venerabile took place on Saturday 14 September 2013, at the Church of St Mary Moorfields, London. For the second time we were guests of Canon Peter Newby.

The event was memorable for a number of reasons. First, we were delighted that our President, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor was able to attend our meeting. Second, the meeting marked the close of Monsignor Nicholas Hudson's term as Rector of the English College. Lastly, but not least, the AGM marked Jo Barnacle's retirement as Chairman of the Friends after 20 years' distinguished service.

The gathering started with Mass concelebrated by Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor, Canon Newby, Fr Mark Harold (Vice-Rector of the College), and Monsignor Timothy Menezes, all Old Romans. In his homily Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor reflected on the circumstances of the recent Conclave, and the election of his friend Cardinal Bergoglio as Pope. He had been in St Peter's Square when the election was announced and Pope Francis started by asking the multitude to pray for him, a very moving occasion. Six months on, the Pope was moving the Church in a different direction, towards the periphery of society, and the poor in particular. The Cardinal asked the Friends to continue to pray for Pope Francis and his mission.

After Mass we adjourned to the parish conference centre situated beneath the Church. The Vice-Rector reported on the past year at the English College. He announced that four students had been ordained to the priesthood, and a further six had been ordained deacon. At the start of the past academic year the College had a total of 47 students in residence, the highest number for many years.

A highlight of the College's year had been the celebrations in December 2012 to conclude the celebrations for the 650th anniversary of the foundation of the English Hospice on the site of the Venerabile. On Martyrs' Day itself the College received the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, representing The Queen. Two days later the staff and students of the English College had an Audience of Pope Benedict, at the Vatican.

Fr Mark spoke about the works that had been carried out at the College over the year. Funding from the Roman Association had paid for total refurbishment of the Monserra' corridor, including reclamation of the flat which had been created at the end of

the corridor, and conversion of all the rooms to en suite accommodation, which was good for students' morale! Generous funding promised by the Schwarzenbach Family over the next 5 years would pay for the repair and redecoration of the College roofs and facades, both internal and external (a fairly massive task!), the creation of a new lift in the Scala Nobile, and also the foundation of a new research fellowship devoted to investigation of historical material in the College archive.

Meanwhile, the Friends of the Venerabile had commissioned the outgoing Rector's portrait, which would soon be on permanent display in the College's First Library. Donations from the Friends for the coming year were earmarked for a new car, for use by the students. The Vice-Rector warmly thanked the Friends for their continuing generosity.

Following this presentation, Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor officially unveiled Monsignor Hudson's portrait, to general acclaim! We were very pleased that its painter Michael Noakes was able to join us for this occasion, and that he agreed to say a few words about it.

The afternoon began with a tribute by Monsignor Tim Menezes to our outgoing Chairman Jo Barnacle. Jo became Chairman of the Friends in 1994 and for 20 years had worked tirelessly to promote the Friends and to support the College. Many generations of students would fondly remember her visits to the College when she would often be found in the Sacristy repairing the College vestments!

Jo's final task was to chair our AGM. Our Treasurer Hamish Keith presented the Accounts which, due to the Committee's decision to alter the accounting year-end from 31 August to 31 March, covered a 7-month period only. Income for that period amounted to £11,302 while expenses came to £3,677. After donations to the College our total funds stood at £12,921.

We then elected a new Committee, as follows: Chairman Mike Lang, Secretary Jim Holroyd, Treasurer Hamish Keith, Members: Louise Bradley, Mary Ewing, Sarah Gough, Jeremy Hudson, Louise Sage, and Barbara Smith. After his election, our new Chairman paid his own tribute to Jo Barnacle, and expressed his thanks also to Hamish Keith and Jeremy Hudson, who had likewise

served on the Committee for many years. Mike pledged to work to try and increase membership of the Friends, and to encourage donation via the gift aid scheme in order to maximise the funds available to support the College.

Our Reunion concluded with a presentation given by the Senior Student, John Poland. The focus of his excellent talk was the month that followed his election as Senior Student, during which Pope Benedict resigned, and Pope Francis was elected, a very special few weeks for all at the College. He gave a gripping account of the events of that Wednesday in March when the election was announced: starting with a few of the students praying the rosary in St Peter's Square, a charity lunch for students at the Venerabile, then the bells starting to ring out from the Bridgettine Convent next door to the College, the news of white smoke bil-

lowing from the Sistine Chapel chimney, and the tumultuous rush back to St Peter's. The most moving aspect of all was the complete stillness of the crowd as people prayed for their new Pope.

Another momentous event for the College community was the announcement in early June of the end of Mgr. Nicholas Hudson's lengthy term as Rector of the English College, and the appointment of Mgr. Philip Whitmore as his successor. The students presented the former with a bench acquired from the Greg. as their parting gift!

John Poland concluded his presentation with his own tribute to Jo Barnacle, on behalf of the past and present students of the Venerabile.

Jeremy Hudson - Committee Member

OUR NEW CARDINAL



Cardinal Vincent Nichols received his formation at the Venerable English College (VEC) and it was only fitting that his *alma mater* played a big role in celebrating his becoming a prince of the Church at the consistory in February.

Fifteen current VEC students, including four from

the Diocese of Westminster, served at the consistory mass held on 23 February. I was privileged enough to be one of the servers from Westminster and for me the mass was an event of pride and thanksgiving for the honour given to our diocese and, indeed, the whole of the UK. The consistory was particularly meaningful for me because Cardinal Nichols was the bishop who had accepted me for formation and the one who decided to send me to Rome to undertake my training for the priesthood.

The VEC celebrated as a community twice over: a festive lunch was held after the consistory on 22 February and a buffet supper was held the following day. Several bishops from England and Wales attended the festive lunch while 350 were invited to the celebration on 23 February, with many of the guests coming from Westminster.

In his speech, Cardinal Nichols talked of the three things he said he was taking home to England with him: a new appreciation for the universality of the Church, the friendships he had witnessed in Rome, and the resolve to accept Christ's invitation to "walk with Him".

The VEC, its friends and supporters felt pride for a former student who, in his new role as Cardinal, will continue to provide guidance, inspiration and leadership at a time when fresh challenges face the Church in England and Wales.

Antonio Pineda

Mrs. Joyce E. Hunter writes:

I had the privilege of meeting Pope Francis on 26th November, 2013.

I met him in the private chapel of St. Marta. It was a dark and cold morning as I trudged through the Vatican security gates and waited in line to be checked and frisked by the Vatican guards, rather like at the airport. I then had to walk through the cobbled streets until I came to St Marta. I had arrived early, 6.30 am instead of 7am and waited patiently outside in the cold until we were summonsed to enter. We were then seated (there were another 9 or 10 people also attending) I was right at the front! It was rather surreal seeing Pope Francis striding in to take his place at the altar, just steps away from me! I kept having to pinch myself! It was a beautiful Mass and very touching and reflective.

The biggest surprise was after Mass when Pope Francis sat in a chair to my left – and began to pray. He remained there just inches away from me for about 10 minutes! Unreal!

Afterwards we were told to wait until he had exited the chapel and then told to form a queue and to wait for His Holiness. We were then, one by one, very warmly received by Pope Francis in a private area away from the other visitors. Pope Francis decided not to take up residence in Castelgandolfo in the summer and remains in Rome throughout so my main goal was to speak to him about visiting Castelgandolfo in summer in order to maintain the wonderful event for our guests and the locals of the Castelli areas, who were sad that they were missing the occasion to see him now and again, and to indeed speak for the various shopkeepers, café owners, so they are able to maintain a little of the summer business, as they are suffering financially due to visitors no longer flocking to Castelgandolfo. I also invited him to visit Villa Palazzola where he would, I assured him, enjoy some peaceful time. He did say he would try his best!

Pope Francis is the charismatic man we all see in his public appearances, and he has such a gentle way with him, as you would expect. he is constantly smiling and listens intently to everything everyone said to him there was no sense of urgency in finishing the conversation, or the meeting, and things were so relaxed and enjoyable.



It was a wonderful occasion in my life and I shall treasure the moments for ever. He asked me to pray for him, which I do, and will, for ever.

THE NEW TEAM

Several weeks ago Mgr Whitmore asked us into his office during one of our regular Human Development weekends at Villa Palazzola. The reason was to ask us what our thoughts were regarding the forthcoming elections for Senior Student and Deputy Senior Student. As there were only three people from whom the House could choose we were asked to consider modifying the way in which the vote would take place: it could be opened up to include another year group or we could have one election for Senior Student and divide the responsibilities for Deputy Senior Student between two of us. All of us were in agreement that the latter option was better. The role of Deputy Senior Student involves a substantial volume of work and so sharing the responsibilities between two of us was appealing. We also felt that for all to be included would create a team that would be more effective in carrying out the various tasks involved in the two roles as they work together on a weekly basis to communicate the concerns of the student body to the staff.

After the vote I (Matthew) found myself in the position of Senior Student and the two Deputy Senior Students were Sean Crawley and Anthony Rosso.

I grew up near Croydon in the Archdiocese of Southwark and after having studied at Sussex University near Brighton worked for the pro-life charity LIFE as an Education Officer in Central London for five years. It was during this time working in schools that my sense of being called to the priesthood began to develop. I eventually communicated my sense of calling to the Vocations Director of the diocese and found myself beginning formation at the English College around six years ago. It is remarkable to think that diaconal ordination is not that far away (four months)! In the meantime I continue studying for a Licence in Spirituality at the Angelicum University which I will (please God) complete in the Summer of 2015 with priestly ordination (please God) to follow shortly afterwards.

Sean Crawley is a seminarian for the diocese of Leeds and began his formation for the priesthood around seven years ago in the English College, Valladolid, Spain. The priesthood had been on his

mind since childhood and it was in his early teenage years that he first spoke to the Diocese about his vocation. The decision to send him to Spain was made by Archbishop Arthur Roche (then Bishop of Leeds) now Secretary to the Congregation for Divine Worship in Rome. Sean and I completed studies together in philosophy and theology at the Gregorian University over the past five years and he now continues at the Greg studying for a licence in Patristic Theology and History of Theology.

Anthony Rosso is also a seminarian for the diocese of Leeds but hailing from the U.S.A! Born in Minnesota and having studied in Nova Scotia, Canada, Tony (as he is known in the College) felt drawn to the diocesan priesthood during his time at University and his involvement in the chaplaincy team there. After a time it became apparent to Tony that he was being called to cross the pond and apply to be a diocesan priest in an English diocese. The diocese he felt drawn to was (unfortunately) Leeds (why not Southwark?) Tony is studying for a Licence in Fundamental Theology at the Gregorian University.



Anthony Rosso (left), Matthew O'Gorman (centre), Sean Crawley (right)

We want to express our appreciation for the invaluable work that the Friends of the Venerable do in really making a difference to seminarians' experience of life in Rome. The contributions you make significantly enhance the opportunities we have to enjoy not only the city but the whole Italian peninsula (the new Corsa has already taken me to the doctor's, the Villa and Tivoli). Thank you (from us all) for all that you do and please say a prayer for us on Sunday 13th July when Archbishop Arthur Roche will ordain us deacons at Villa Palazzola.

Matthew O'Gorman
Senior Student

Chairman's Report –

It seems only yesterday that I was elected Chairman, but already we are almost half-way through the year.

In an early copy of VV, my predecessor, Jo Barnacle, wrote, “....One of the perks of being Chairman is the annual visit to the College.....”. However, I have been fortunate in that events have conspired to send me to Rome on three occasions already.

In October, I was invited to attend the unveiling of the portrait of Mgr Hudson in the College library, and also the presentation by Archbishop Roche of the Papal Medal to Jo Barnacle in recognition of her work as Chairman of the Association over so many years. Staying in the College itself was a new experience for me, and I was able to meet members of staff and some of the students. It was the weekend of the “New Men's Concert”, which was very enjoyable, and I was also invited to a Student Dinner, where I got to know some of the students – I discovered later that I had been sitting close to the 2014/15 Senior Student and his deputies.

In November, Teresa and I went with a group of friends to stay at Palazzola, and of course we went down into Rome to attend the College Community Mass on the Sunday morning, after which the Rector very kindly invited us to lunch.

Then in February, I was included in the guest-list for the service in St. Peter's Basilica at which Archbishop Nichols was made a Cardinal. The experience was - memorable? YES! - audible? YES! – visible? NO! Because a large number of people stood on their chairs, making it impossible for anybody else to see what was happening. (I gather that those people who had tickets but were not able to get into the Basilica were able to watch the ceremony on large screens in St. Peter's Square.)

Later in the afternoon, our new Cardinal received guests, and I was able to offer him greetings from the Friends – to which he responded by thanking me for all the work we do to support the College.



Very early on the Sunday morning, I joined the “queue” (so-called) to attend Mass in St. Peter's - but in Rome, being near the front of the queue doesn't mean much! I ended up about two-thirds of the way back in the Basilica, but I was at least in a seat adjacent to the central aisle.

On the Sunday evening, the College hosted a reception in honour of our new Cardinal, during which he gave a short talk stressing the universality of the Church, the friendship available in the Church, and Our Lord's willingness to walk with us each day, enabling us to flourish in the Church.

On the Monday evening, there was a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Basilica of St. Paul, followed by a dinner hosted by the Beda College.

Now, to more mundane matters! The primary aim of the Friends is for our MEMBERS to support the students with PRAYER and FUNDING. This means that as the needs of the student body increase, we need to increase our membership to keep pace. At the last AGM, I issued a challenge, which I repeated in our Christmas card, that every member should try to recruit one new member. Sadly, this challenge has not been met – but the need remains. Today, I offer you a slogan:

MM = MP + MC

(If you can't work out what this means, turn to the back page where it is explained)

and I ask you again, please, try to find one extra member from among your friends and parishioners. A new Membership Form is enclosed for your use.

Ordinations to the Priesthood

We have received notification that the following students from the VEC are due to be Ordained as follows:

Stefan Kaminski Fri 18th July 1800(tbc)
Our Lady of Victories, Kensington.

Tony McGrath Sat 19th July 1200
St Joseph's Church, Sale.

John Poland Sun 20th July 1500
All Saints, Anfield, Liverpool.

Colin Mason Sat 26th July 1100(tbc)
Clifton Cathedral, Bristol.

Marc Homsey Sat 26th July 1200
St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds

May God bless them and remain with them

New Members

We welcome the following new members (since July 2013)

Rev & Mrs T Aspell (Royal Wootton Bassett)

Mr R Barraclough (Swadlincote)

Mrs M Bernhardt (Royal Wootton Bassett)

Mr & Mrs C Binner (Milan, Italy)

The Venerable M Everitt (Preston)

Mr & Mrs I Faulkner (Glastonbury)

Mrs M G Hammond (Bromley)

Mr & Mrs C Honeyborne (Rievaulx)

Mr & Mrs P Leavy (Bromley)

Mr T Moriarity (Wattisfield)

Mrs M Oakley (Royal Wootton Bassett)

Mr & Mrs P Power (Corsham)

Miss E Summerhayes (Swadlincote)

Mr T Ward (Swindon)

Rev. J Webb (Plymouth)

AGM 2014

The 2014 AGM will be held in Coventry on Saturday 13th September.

Did you guess correctly?

More Members = More Prayers + More Cash

Remember, it's all down to you!

VENERABLE

SILVER

In association with the *Friends of the Venerable*, we offer you the opportunity to purchase sterling silver hall-marked jewellery relief engraved bearing the details of the shield of the *Venerable*.

Cheques (payable to Rev Thomas Wood) with order to Fr Thomas Wood, LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool, L17 1AA. Prices include UK P&P. Profits to the *Friends*.



Cuff links - £55



Ornate lapel badge £30



Pendant with College crest £40.
22" silver chain £22



Ornate Pendant with College shield £35
22" Silver chain £22



Plain lapel badge £25

This edition has been compiled by Mike Lang. Many thanks to all who have contributed text and photographs.