

VENERABILE VIEW

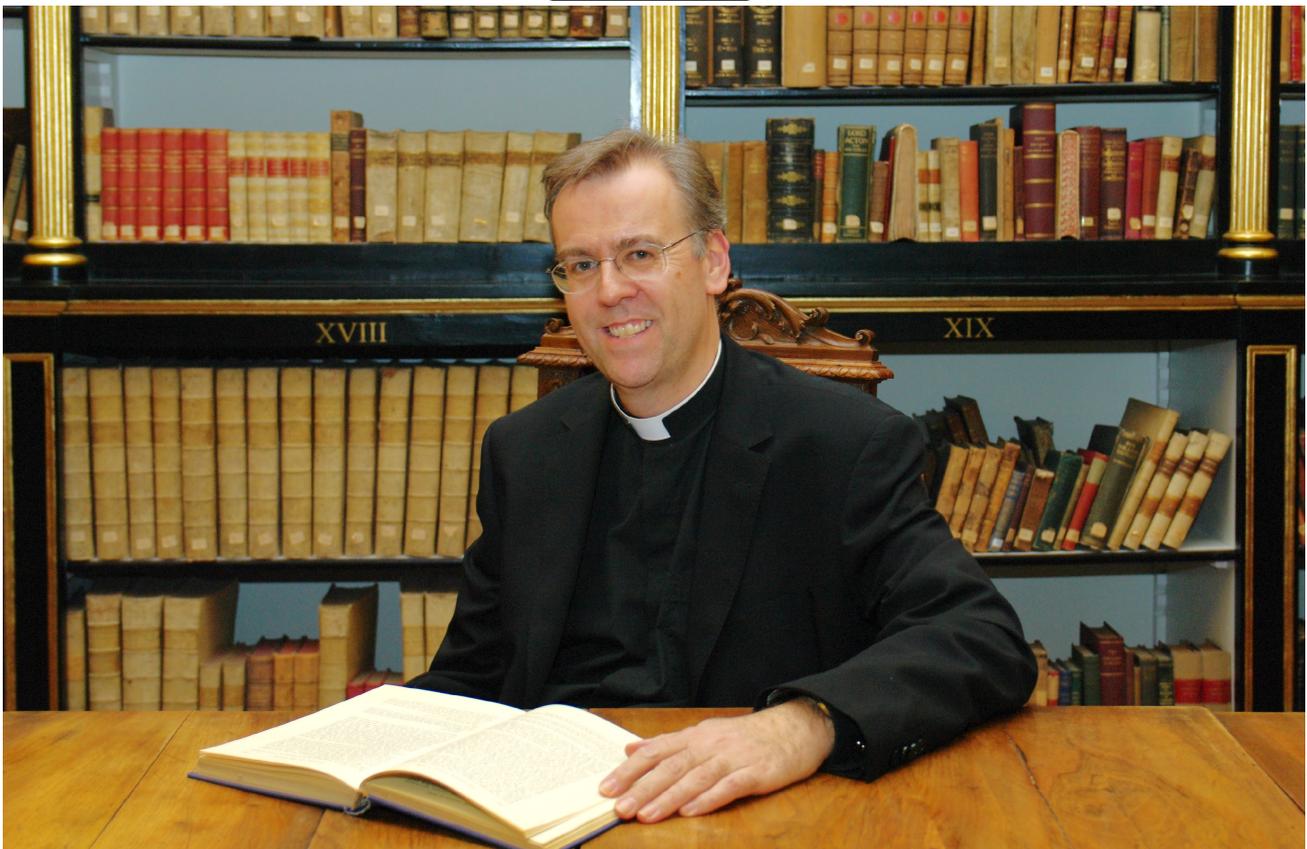
Published by The Friends of



The English College Rome

FROM THE RECTOR'S WINDOW

Summer 2013



I always enjoy Rome in August! It is my last week at the College before I hand over the leadership to Monsignor Philip Whitmore - already well known to many of you and to whom I am sure we all wish to offer many congratulations and the support of our prayers throughout the Rectorship on which he now embarks. I find myself full of gratitude for the thirteen years I have had the privilege of working here. I had been wondering, for the last two years or so, when I should pass the baton on to another. I decided last summer, in fact, that this should be my last academic year. It is a privilege to have the building to myself for this my final week in Rome; to wander the corridors, remembering, reflecting and, above all, giving thanks.

REMEMBERING & GIVING THANKS

When I look out from my study window I can see the beautiful orange tree that greeted me when I opened the curtains on my first morning as a student in 1981! I remember looking out at it then and thinking, "Goodness! Oranges! Oh, Nick, you are a long way from home!" It amuses me to find that I am still here (just!) thirty-two years later; and so is the orange tree – only now it is three times the size it was then! The thrifty Vice-Rector in me is pleased as well that the blue-checked curtains that greeted me in my first room are still hanging there! It is thoughts such as these that bring a smile to my face several times a day.



Lady Paola Windsor, the Rector, Jo Barnacle, Mgr Charles Burns and students

CHAIRMAN BARNACLE

But it is people, above all, that I find myself remembering, of course. I have been thinking just how many individuals have been a part of these last thirteen years – and without whom we could never have achieved all that we have. First among these I would wish to pay tribute to the outgoing Chairman of the *Friends*, Miss Jo Barnacle.

Jo has been Chairman all the years I have worked here; and has always been the greatest of supporters! Her annual visit has always been a highpoint for staff and students alike. She and the *Friends*' Committee have enabled very considerable funding for both the College and Villa, improving inexorably the quality of life in both those places. Jo has also been a keen supporter of the many outstanding and historic events that we have enjoyed these last several years – the 650th Anniversary of the Hospice in 2012, the Church Reopening in 2009, to name but two. Her joy and pride in the place has been infectious; and the debt the College owes her for these two decades as Chairman is great indeed.

TRUSTEES

I have felt enormously supported by the many distinguished bishops who have sat on the Bishops' Committee for Overseas Seminaries since I first joined the staff in 2000; and been unfailing in their support and concern for the College. The group has been led, successively, by Archbishops Nichols, Roche and Longley; and included Bishops Mullins, Jabalé, Drainey and Campbell.

All these have been ably and generously assisted by fellow Trustees Mgr Anthony Wilcox, Terry Forbes, Nicholas Coote, Peter Horgan and Oliver Galea. Few could imagine how much time these latter have given to the College, voluntarily of course, all the years they have been associated with it: it could certainly not have functioned without them; and the debt the College owes them is immeasurable.

STAFF & SEMINARIANS

Similarly important has been the support given by the Administrative teams - at the College: Joe Coughlan, Barbara Donovan, Paola Caiati, Emanuela Piacentini, Sr Mary Joseph, Carlo Benvenuti and Enzo Tagliaferri; and at the Villa, Joyce Hunter, Giuseppe and Julie Piacentini, George Gorecki and Michael Severance.

It seems a long time since I arrived as Vice-Rector - to join a Formation Staff led by Mgr Pat Kilgarriff along with Frs John Rafferty, Martin Stempczyk and Sr Amadeus CJ; then, in due course, Mgr Tony Philpot and Phil Carroll, Frs Andrew Headon, Mark Harold, Bruce Burbidge, Tony Milner, John Paul Leonard and Chris Willis. I have learnt so much from all these colleagues; and shall always be indebted to them.

Then there are the seminarians themselves, who have been such an inspiration, offering themselves for priesthood in an age when it is so counter-cultural – though I have also come to realise that it is the very counter-cultural

aspect of this calling that appeals to many, and understandably so! Working with so many to help them discern their vocation and prepare for ministry I have found to be enormously enriching – and deepening of my own vocation.

VILLEGGIATURA

Nothing symbolises better what we are about as a College than the Diaconal Ordination at year's end; and it felt the most privileged and appropriate climax to my work here to testify on 14th July to the worthiness of the six men who were to be ordained on the last day of the *Villeggiatura* at Palazzola.

They were Revv. John Carlisle and Marc Homsey of Leeds, Stefan Kaminski of Westminster, Colin Mason of Clifton, Tony McGrath of Shrewsbury and John Poland of Liverpool. It was a joy for us to have Archbishop Roche, Bishop Emeritus of Leeds and now Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship, preside for us.



Back Row: Fr John Paul Leonard, Emanuela Piacentini, Barbara Donovan, Fr Mark Harold
Front Row: Fr Anthony Milner, Sr Mary Joseph, The Rector, Paola Caiati

The first Sunday of the *Villeggiatura* saw Bishop John Hine institute a great number of Lectors: Adam Dora, Antonio Pineda and Benjamin Woodley of Westminster, Ryan Day and Richard Marsden of Middlesbrough, Tristan Cranfield of Arundel & Brighton, Gary Dench of Brentwood, Daniel Etienne of Lancaster, Richard Howard of Salford and Michael Rakowski of Northampton.

A few days later, Bishop John instituted four men as Acolytes: Philip Andrews and Luke de Pulford of Southwark; Peter Stoddart of Hexham & Newcastle and Elliott Wright of Leeds. This latter celebration took place earlier than usual so as to allow seminarians to take part in the Pilgrimage of Vocation which climaxed with Pope Francis's meeting with seminarians and novices in the *Aula Paolo VI*.



Pope Francis greets the Rector during the Pilgrimage of Vocation

FAREWELLS

The last week of the *Villeggiatura* saw us bid farewell to four very good men: Fr Tony Milner returns to the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton to complete his Doctorate after six rich years' ministry as Academic Tutor; Fr Dennis Cassidy completed a Licence in Spiritual Theology and goes to join the staff of the Royal English College in Valladolid; Deacon John Carlisle returns to Leeds Diocese to enjoy a pastoral Diaconate prior to priestly ordination in December; and Ti Phuoc Tran returns to his native Sweden to continue preparation for Diaconal ordination.

NEW MEN

The new academic year sees the return of Fr Bruce Burbidge as Academic Tutor – along with eight new students: Fr Andrew Chase of Rockhampton, Australia; Tao Nguyen of Oslo, Norway; Anglican Exchange student Benjamin Drury of St Stephen's House, Oxford; and five seminarians for English dioceses: Andrew Bowden for Westminster, Michael Vian Clark and Albert Lawes for Plymouth, Haris Roberts for Nottingham and Peter Taylor for Middlesbrough.

This means the year begins with almost exactly the same number of seminarians as a year ago: 42. This figure breaks down as follows: one for Antigonish, one for Arundel & Brighton, three for Birmingham, one for Brentwood, one for Clifton, two for Copenhagen, one for Hexham & Newcastle, one for Lancaster, five for Leeds, one for Liverpool, three for Middlesbrough, one for Northampton, one for Nottingham, one for Oslo, two for Plymouth, two for Salford, three for Shrewsbury, five for Southwark and seven for Westminster; i.e. thirty-eight seminarians for England and Wales, four seminarians from other countries. In addition, there will be six student-priests – coming from the dioceses of Birmingham, Shrewsbury, Portsmouth, Leeds, Rockhampton and Westminster. This will amount to a student body of fifty. With a staff of five, this makes for an anticipated community of some fifty-five residents.

NEW PRIESTS

It was a joy to have some of the new students present at priestly ordinations last month – of Fr Michael Coughlan at Stockport for the Diocese of Shrewsbury; and Fr Benjamin Theobald in Portsmouth Cathedral. 2013 will have seen the ordination of five men for the priesthood in total – with the ordinations, earlier this year, of Frs David Doran for Birmingham and Liam Bradley for Menevia; and of Deacon John Carlisle for Leeds this December.

PREPARING TO WELCOME ...

As I write, I can hear work going on to prepare the house for the next academic year. Through the generosity of the Old Romans, the *Monserà* corridor is being completely refurbished and rendered en-suite. Through the generosity of the Schwarzenbachs, a lift and emergency staircase are being installed for our tenants. And, through the *Friends'* unstinting generosity, the students are to receive a new car - a Ford Fiesta, no less! May I say thank you once again to the *Friends*, on behalf of all the students and staff, for making the impossible possible once again – through your continued and extraordinarily generous giving which now amounts to well over a quarter of a million pounds since the *Friends* was launched!

... AND PREPARING TO RETURN

I look forward now to attending *Friends'* meetings again as one who has “returned to the Mission”! It has been an extraordinary privilege to have had a second chance to live this Roman life. I feel rather reassured to know that Romans themselves say, “per Roma non basta una vita!” - “even a lifetime isn’t long enough for Rome!” But I know I shall savour for the rest of my days the years I was given to live here. One of the *Friends* once said to me, “The *Venerabile* is my wife’s favourite institution!” I told him I heartily concurred! And I know there are many, many *Friends* who would say the same – be it about the College or Palazzola or both. It has always been a great support to have the enthusiasm of so many of you in the background – and, most importantly, your prayers for us.

Blessed John Paul II said, “seminary is the place where we await the gift of the Spirit for mission.” The College is nothing if not about Mission. And, although I shall miss Rome, I am happy now to return to the Mission myself; and try, in my own inadequate way, to do my part to support the great Mission for which generations of brave young men have prepared at the *Venerabile* and for which the *Forty-Four* were happy even to lay down their lives. That they might pray for us; and that we might pray for each other!

Mgr Nicholas Hudson
Rector

VENERABILE

SILVER

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

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 of *Venerabile View* was edited by Louise Sage and produced by Anthony Coles. Main article photographs courtesy of the Rector.

AN ORDINATION

Liam Bradley, a former Venerable Seminarian, was ordained to the Priesthood on 6th April at Swansea Cathedral by Bishop Tom Burns SM BA BD of Menevia.

Here his mother gives us an insight into Liam's journey to the Priesthood from her perspective.

I think Liam's First Holy Communion was a significant starting point of his contribution to the church and following that Sacrament he joined with some of his other school friends to assist the priest at Sunday Mass. This weekly ritual was one he obviously enjoyed and continued to enjoy for many years to come.

When Liam was very small, he loved all things related to fire! When visiting his grandparents' home, he rose early in the morning to watch the whole process of making and lighting the fire, putting on the firelighters, and best of all, striking the matches. Some years later, as an altar server this interest would be directed into lighting candles, for whenever the altar was being prepared for Mass, there was every possibility to seize the opportunity to 'play with fire' so to speak.

In due time he carried the cross in procession, a great occasion of pride for us and a wonderful sight to see. I was thankful for all those years of service and even more thankful too that his grandparents did much to 'enkindle the flame'.

Of course, all this ended when Liam went to University and I believe he was in his final year when he really moved seriously towards thinking about the priesthood. He came home one holiday, when I was in the kitchen making a cup of tea, and he announced that on completion of university, he was going to become a priest!!!! I was very surprised. I really believed he was moving towards a career in chemical engineering, but that was not to be. There were many questions and even more prayers. I had to redirect my thoughts which I did not find so easy at first, but as time went by, I found myself accepting his choice. His vocation to become a priest has proved to be a very enriching experience for us all and for which I will be ever truly grateful.

Liam's years of study at the Venerable English College brought us to Rome on numerous visits.

We have been lucky to be acquainted with the college staff and all the seminarians. Even meeting up with parents of other students has enkindled new friendships and shared experiences. There has been a real sense of welcome on every occasion we have visited the College.

We really enjoyed the Ordination Service - the many months of preparation sparked off a few anxieties to say the least. Unlike his diaconal ordination which was very much a family event, one had to be ever mindful that the priestly ordination would be a diocesan event. It was a beautiful enriching ceremony led by Bishop Tom Burns whose encouraging words* were an inspiration to all present.

Thank you Fr Liam for all the joy you have given us, for bringing together so many friends and family from far and wide on the 6th April. This was a wonderful occasion which we were able to share with everyone attending.



Fr Liam Bradley with Bishop Tom Burns and his parents Hugh & Louise

Our prayers go out to all those preparing for the Priesthood, that the Lord will make them good shepherds in His Church, and give them love and joy in following Him.

**Louise Bradley
Committee Member**

WEBSITE ADDRESS

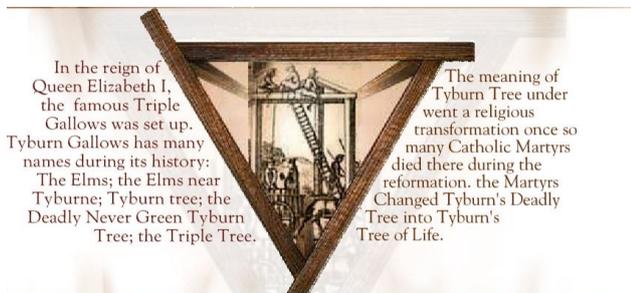
The *Friends of the Venerable* website address is:

www.friendsofenglishcollegerome.org.uk

FRIENDS SPRING OUTING 2013

On April 27th fourteen *Friends* visited Tyburn Convent and the Shrine of the English and Welsh Martyrs in the busy Bayswater Road, London. The Convent was destroyed by a flying bomb in 1944, fortunately, with no loss of life. The houses on each side of the Convent were reduced to rubble and the Convent was able to buy these sites and expand.

The Benedictine Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was founded by a French woman – Mother Marie de Saint Pierre from Montmartre in 1903. They pray night and day before the exposed Blessed Sacrament and maintain the Martyrs' Shrine in the Chapel Crypt in recognition of the men and women who gave their lives for the faith – both Protestant and Catholic. Here are preserved relics of some of the martyrs, and a replica of the three cornered gallows, the Tyburn Tree, forms part of the altar.



An image from the Convent Tyburn website - www.tyburnconvent.org.uk

On arrival we were given a warm welcome, coffee and biscuits before being taken down to the Chapel by Australian Nun, Mother Lioba who gave us an enthusiastic and animated talk on the Convent and the Martyrs.

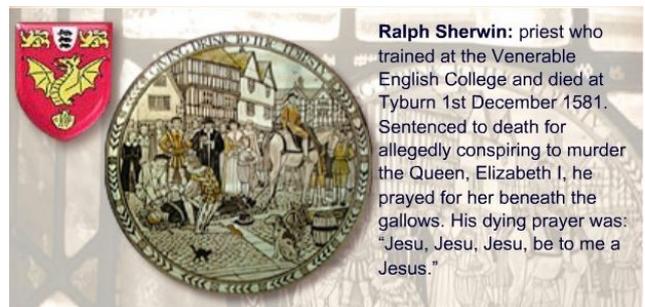
She told us that Tyburn had been a site for executing people from 1196 up to 1783 with gory descriptions of how the Martyrs were hanged, drawn and quartered. It is the site for many Catholic Martyrs, including Saint Ralph Sherwin and Saint Edmund Campion; Saint Oliver Plunkett being the last Catholic to be martyred on this site in July 1681.

We also heard about the Carthusian Monks of Charterhouse who were martyred by Henry VIII because they would not acknowledge the supremacy of the King over the Church in England.



The plaque commemorating the Tyburn site on the traffic island at the junction of Edgware Road and Marble Arch

The Tyburn gallows stood roughly at the junction of what is now Oxford Street and Park Lane but which originally were called Tyburn Road and Tyburn Lane. The bodies were buried nearby and there are still many remains in the area. Executions continued to occur until 1783 when London expanded to include the area and the new residents were not keen to have this site on their doorstep. All felons were executed there not only Martyrs and executions drew huge crowds of onlookers. We heard many more interesting facts about obtaining relics and what happened to the bodies. May I encourage you to visit too.



Another image from the Convent Tyburn website - www.tyburnconvent.org.uk

Following Mother Liobas' talk, Fr James Neal celebrated a Votive Mass of Saint Ralph Sherwin and Companions and reminded us in his Homily that people are still being martyred around the world for their beliefs today. After Mass we met together for our lunches, to chat and to revisit the Shrine.

**Jo Barnacle
Chair
&
Sarah Gough
Committee Member**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

NEW MEMBERS

I extend a warm welcome to the following new *Friends*:

2012

Mrs A Abbott (Croydon), S Baker (Jersey), Mr & Mrs C Bierre (Jersey), Mr & Mrs Bradley (Co Galway), Dr & Mrs C Bulley (Bristol), Mr D Capps (Jersey), Mrs M Caro (London), Mr & Mrs P Carroll (Manchester), B Chapman (Ossett), Mr E Clement (Kettering), Mr & Mrs M Cranfield (West Sussex), Mr C Cuss (London), Mr Downs (Saltburn by Sea), Mrs M Hannon (Surrey), Mr N Hinde (Felstead), Mr G W Humphries (Cheadle), Mr I Johnson (Loughton), Mrs L Johnston (Fenham), Mrs E Joyce (Overstone), KSC Council 216 (Jersey), Miss K Lavelle (Scarborough) Mr D McGrath, (Cheshire), Mr & Mrs C Patey (Ashby de la Zouche), Dr & Mrs R T Rakowski (Slough), Mr & Mrs P Roddy (Whitby), Mrs F Rosen (London), Mrs M T Russell (Co Kerry), Mr C Savage (Kings Lynn), Miss T Savereux (Ilford), Mrs H Sheldrake (Jersey), Dr B Smith (Bristol), Mr & Mrs P Syvret (Jersey), S Syvret (Jersey), Mr D Troy MBE (Jersey), Mr & Mrs P Walsh (Waitara, Australia), Mr M Zanganeh (Tehran, Iran)

January to July 2013

Miss E Bradley (Magherafelt), Professor N Doe (Cardiff), Mr J Griffin (Llantwit Major), Professor M Hill QC (London), Mr & Mrs G Howard (Rochdale), Canon G Hetherington (Guernsey), Mr I McIntyre, (Oban), Mr J McLoone (Galway City), Mr T Mack (Coventry), Mr B J Ord (Middlesbrough), Mr M Poulter MBE (Stafford), Miss V Riding (London), Rev J K Robinson (Knutsford), Mr & Mrs M J Robinson (Dartmouth). Mr & Mrs M J Rycroft (Hove), Mrs J Wood (Eastbourne).

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Do we have YOUR latest e-mail address? Once again we appeal to all those who have not yet sent us their e-mail address to do so as soon as possible in order to save the organisation time and money posting letters/holiday details etc. With thanks to all who have responded to the previous appeal. Please could we ask you to send your e-mail address to Mike Lang malang@ntlworld.com and to Jim Holroyd at JHGlnewes@aol.com.

AGM - SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2013

I look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM this year at St Mary Moorfields, 4-5 Eldon Street, City of London, EC2M 7LS (nearest tube: Liverpool Street or Moorgate) courtesy of Canon Peter Newby. Please let Jim Holroyd, 11 Fairfax Road, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 4DR (JHGlnewes@aol.com) know if you are able to attend. The cost for the day including lunch is £20.

**Jo Barnacle
Chair**

PALAZZOLA OFFERS

www.palazzola.it



06 to 18 October

Take at least 3 nights between these dates and pay just €50 standard and €65 en-suite per night full-board. Take 5 nights and get your 5th night at €30/€50.

20 December to 13 January

Advent, Christmas and New Year. Various packages - see website or contact Anthony Coles at arctc@btinternet.com or 020 7431 3414 or at 18 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX.

TOWARDS ADVENT 2013

Annual Festival of Catholic Culture

**Saturday 23rd November
Westminster Cathedral Hall
10.00 am – 4.00 pm**

Opening Ceremony at 10.30 am with
Archbishop Vincent Nichols

Displays by Catholic groups, organisations
and charities

Refreshments available all day

Play corner for children

Books, DVDs, CDs and cards on sale

ENTRY FREE

1.00 pm Edmund Adamus, Department of
Pastoral Affairs Westminster Diocese on
*Opportunities and Challenges for Catholic
Families*

3.00 pm Sister Hyacinthe Defos,
Dominican Sisters of St. Joseph, on
*The New Evangelisation: a task entrusted to
each one of us.*

Tickets for talks £2 from the Welcome Desk

As in the previous two years the *Friends of the
Venerable* will be taking a stand at the Festival

If you are in the area on that day, do please
call in and meet us

We would be delighted to see you

***Friends of the Venerable
Membership Secretary
22 Kingsley Avenue
Royal Wootton Bassett
Wiltshire SN4 8LF***