

VENERABLE VIEW

Published by The Friends of



The English College Rome

FROM THE RECTOR'S WINDOW

From my window, I can see that there is a lot of cement being mixed this morning. The reason is that there is a new floor going down in the Porter's Lodge or *Portineria*.

The whole of the *Portineria* and *Salotto* are being refurbished in order to make the College more welcoming.

The area will be graced with a large icon of Our Lady of Walsingham being commissioned by friends of the late Fr Bert Richards as a gift with which to honour his memory in his beloved *Alma Mater*.

The development of the entrance is the gift of the Roman Association. It was they who paid some six years ago for *Mayfair* corridor - the corridor which stands two floors above the Third Library - to be completely restored and for seven *en suite* rooms to be created there. These rooms have served us well as guest-accommodation, but the hope had always been that we would have enough students for us to need the space for seminarians - which is the happy situation in which we will find ourselves next autumn.

Summer
2011

Accordingly, the whole corridor has been redecorated - and also insulated this summer so as to make it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Eighteen new students

We feel blessed to have some eighteen new students starting with us next October. Seminarians coming from English dioceses include one from Arundel & Brighton, one from Brentwood, one from Hexham & Newcastle, one from Lancaster, one from Leeds, two from Middlesbrough, one from Northampton, two from



College clock tower
Photo courtesy of Carol Richardson

Salford, and three from Westminster. We also have a seminarian joining us from Stockholm; and a seminarian returning to us from Southwark. We wish dearly we had a student from one of the Welsh dioceses: Deacon Liam Bradley of Menevia is currently enjoying a Pastoral Diaconate; and we hope one or more Welsh seminarians will be forthcoming to succeed him.

We have three new student-priests coming to us - from Birmingham, Leeds and Solola-Chimaltenango: this last is in Guatemala and comes to us through our good friend and former President of the Roman Association, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Apostolic Nuncio to Guatemala.

Thirty-nine seminarians

We anticipate the total number of seminarians in the College at the start of the new academic year is thirty-nine.

This total breaks down as follows: two for Arundel & Brighton, one for Birmingham, one for Brentwood, one for Clifton, two for Copenhagen, two for

Hexham & Newcastle, one for Lancaster, seven for Leeds, one for Liverpool, two for Middlesbrough, two for Northampton, one for Portsmouth, one for Reykjavik, three for Salford, three for Shrewsbury, one for Stockholm, four for Southwark and four for Westminster; i.e. thirty-five seminarians from England and four seminarians from other countries.

In addition, there will be seven student-priests – coming from the dioceses of Birmingham, Leeds (two), Plymouth, Shrewsbury, Westminster and Solola-Chimaltenango. This will amount to a student body of forty-six. With a staff of five, this makes for an anticipated community of some fifty-one residents.

Farewells

We bade farewell at year's end to just three members of the community: Sandy MacDonald returning to his native Nova Scotia for a Pastoral Year; Edward Henley moving to Ampleforth to try a monastic vocation; and our Spiritual Director, Monsignor Philip Carroll, returning to the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Fr Phil has been with us five years and will be sorely missed. It was generous both of him and his diocese to allow us five years of his presence among us at this stage of his ministry and he will be remembered by countless students for his kindness, humility and wisdom.

Fr Chris Willis of Leeds has spent the past year in Valladolid and returns to the

Venerabile to succeed Fr Phil in October. Fr Mark Harold of Salford has been Vice-Rector for a year now; Fr John Paul Leonard of Middlesbrough took over his role as Pastoral Tutor last October; and Fr Tony Milner of Arundel & Brighton enters his fifth year as Academic Tutor – meaning that we remain a staff of five.

Visit of the *Friends'* Chairman

It is always a delight to welcome the Chairman of the *Friends*, Miss Jo Barnacle. Jo was as concerned as ever to know what facilities the *Friends* might help us to develop in order to improve the students' quality of life. We were delighted at her enthusiasm at the three-fold suggestion to: (i) landscape and furnish the College's *St Joseph's* terrace; (ii) refurbish the College bar; and (iii) contribute to the landscaping of the *St Edward's* terrace at Palazzola.

These developments will indeed enhance the students' recreational facilities considerably.

The *St Joseph's* terrace being accessed directly from *Mayfair* corridor will come into its own with students housed on that corridor. And the development of the *St Edward's* terrace at Palazzola will be a tremendous asset for conference-participants, retreatants, Palazzola Holiday groups and seminarians alike.

We never cease to marvel at the way the *Friends* have helped us realise so many projects we would otherwise

have not been able to achieve: on behalf of both students and staff, may I thank you for your fantastic generosity with these and all the gifts which have preceded it. It must be the case that the *Friends* will soon have raised over the years a grand total of £300,000 for us – an extraordinary sum!



St Edward's Terrace, Palazzola
Photo courtesy of Thomas Wood

Ordinations

The *Villeggiatura* ended mid-July with the Ordination of Deacons Michael Patey and Michael Doody – for Northampton and Leeds respectively. Michael Patey's Bishop, Bishop Peter Doyle of Northampton, was with us for the final days of the *Villeggiatura* in order to preside at this wonderful celebration. Prior to that, *Old Roman* Southwark Auxiliary Bishop John Hine spent a week with us in order to institute new Acolytes: for Leeds, Sean Crawley and Tony Rosso, and for Southwark, Matthew O'Gorman; and, as Lectors: John Carlisle of Leeds, Tom Cunnah of Shrewsbury, David Howell of Southwark, Colin Mason of Clifton, and Kasper Baadsgaard and Jan Hansen of Copenhagen.

Hospice anniversary

The incoming students will feel privileged, I am sure, to be joining us in our Anniversary Year, when we celebrate the 650th anniversary of the Foundation of the English and Welsh Hospice here in *Via di Monserrato*.

We have arranged for a *Triduum* (!) of celebrations – with Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor coming to preside at a Mass on the evening of the anniversary itself, Friday 27 January followed by a celebration dinner; Dr Judith Champ giving a lecture on the evening of Saturday 28; culminating in a Mass with Archbishop Nichols on the morning of Sunday 29 with a lunch to follow.

I do hope a great number of the *Friends* will come and support this unique celebration with their presence. (All arrangements should be made through Anthony Coles.)*

It gave me much joy to be able to tell the students that Pope Benedict XVI has agreed to come and visit us at some stage during our Anniversary Year – on a date as yet to be agreed.

Vocations

The Chairman always reminds the *Friends* at the Annual General Meeting that our priority is to pray for students of the College. I have no doubt that the large intake with which we have been blessed is due in no small part to *Friends'* prayers for us.

Please continue to pray earnestly for us and that the the Lord will continue to send

those he is calling to priesthood to this special place.

Mgr Nicholas Hudson Rector



19th century engraving of the 1st century Consul's tomb at Palazzola. The engraving, now in the Villa cloister, was found in a small shop near to the English College in Rome.

PALAZZOLA NEWS

St Edward's Terrace

Thank you to the *Friends* for their kind assistance with furniture for *St Edward's Terrace* (the terrace to the right of the villa beyond the chapel, leading on to the garden) and the chapel.

The builders have already started on the terrace paving stones and it is looking really good. Once they have finished this they are going complete a toilet block which was a shell up to now, and to clean and tidy the garden surrounding the terrace.

One of the most attractive things we are doing is opening up the windows overlooking the lake in the chapel, which will enable people in there to have the wonderful, breathtaking view over Lake Albano, which, as you can imagine, will add a huge wow factor to any gathering or conferences we hold there, and be a place for the college students if the house is full.

Thanks to the *Friends* donation we will be able to purchase new terrace and garden furniture, some nice pieces of furniture for the chapel and some comfortable chairs. We will also install Wi-Fi throughout the New Wing. All this will be of benefit to both our students as well as guests.

New organ and keyboard

Palazzola has also benefited recently from the donations of a superb new organ for the church and a keyboard for use around the Villa.



The new organ
Photo courtesy of Thomas Wood

The organ was a gift from Roger Hill, who was a guest at a wedding at Palazzola in 2009. As a musician he felt Palazzola would benefit from a new organ and organised a successful fund-raising dinner for this purpose. (The previous organ - kindly donated by Fr Anthony Grimshaw - will be moved to the St Edward's chapel).

The new keyboard was a gift from Basil Walsh in remembrance of his wife Monica.

Joyce Hunter Director

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S PEN

Chairman's visit to Rome

I thought the *Friends* might be interested to hear about my regular visits to the College in Rome. These visits are undertaken in order to mutually keep informed the Staff, Students and Friends, also to take an interest in what is happening in Rome.

This year I was again honoured to be invited to visit the College in Lent. As Easter was so late I enjoyed lovely Spring weather and saw the Judas Trees in bloom. I normally make my own way to the College from the Airport by train and taxi but this year I was met at the airport by one of the students, Thomas Cunnah who drove me there in style. On arrival I am free to arrange my time as best I can. Everyone is so busy I try to be as un-disruptive as possible.

On behalf of the *Friends* there are many people to see and talk with, the Rector of course, the Vice Rector, Administrator, Senior and Deputy Senior Students, the Editor of the *Venerabile* and the Business Manager. The Sacristan also awaits me with all the various vestments and linens which need repairing. This year there was a great deal of sewing to be done which took me the whole day. However, I do not consider this a chore as I enjoy it so much and even brought some home with me for machining.

A great joy for me whilst there is to be able to join in all the prayers and services. Mass and Morning Prayer are

combined at 6.45 a.m. followed by breakfast and then the Students must leave for their classes at the various universities in Rome. Each day from 5-6 p.m. there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer before supper.

This year instead of the College Mass on the Tuesday morning, we went to San Lorenzo in Damaso, the College's Parish Church, for one of the Roman Station Masses which have recently been revived by the American College. These take place during the forty days of Lent in forty different churches.

However, it is not all work for the Students. Wednesday evenings are designated as "Bar night" and drinks and supper usually with guests, follow the Community Mass on that evening. I joined them in the Bar – for research purposes only of course. The Bar is also open on Sundays following Mass.

On the Wednesday morning I went for a walk through the Piazza Navone and onto the Pantheon before meeting the Rector, Mgr Nicholas Hudson, for a working lunch.

On Thursday Fr Mark Harold, the Vice-Rector, took me up to Palazzola for lunch. It was a gloriously warm day and it was delightful to be sipping a glass of white wine on the terrace with Joyce Hunter, the Director.

In spite of my fairly busy schedule I was also able to fit in coffee in various bars with a variety of folk.

On Friday after Mass and Prayers and a visit to the nearby Campo di Fiori market it was time to get the taxi and train to the airport - until the next time.

Visit to Birmingham Oratory

A Pilgrimage to the Oratory, Birmingham, the Shrine of Blessed John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was made by 17 Friends on the 12th March and there we attended the 11.00 a.m. public Pilgrim Mass celebrated by Fr Paul Chavasse.

Following Mass we all proceeded into the Shrine Chapel for prayers and the veneration of a relic of Blessed John Henry. The Chapel, originally dedicated to St Philip Neri (1515-1595), the founder of the Oratorians, has now been re-dedicated to Blessed John Henry Newman.

St Philip, known as "the apostle of the City of Rome" lived opposite the English College and used to greet the Students as "Flowers of Martyrdom". Blessed John Henry established the Congregation of the Oratory in England and he also visited the English College in Rome on numerous occasions particularly for theological disputations on Thursdays in early 1847.

We were then joined by Philip Lefebre who was to be our Guide. We heard many details of the life of Blessed John Henry. We were told on disinterment it was discovered that his body had completely decomposed. John Henry Newman had lost his teeth before his death.

There are however, plenty of hair clippings of Blessed John Henry as his father used to keep these whenever he had his hair cut. Astonishingly we were told that there are Nuns in a Roman Convent who spend time splitting these hairs in order to provide relics to various people and organisations. Philip also showed us a side altar in the Oratory which contained the relics of St. Valentine. These had been given to Blessed John Henry by Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) on the occasion when he went to Rome to be made a Cardinal in 1879.

We then moved upstairs to the excellent Exhibition placing Blessed John Henry within the political, educational and social milieu of his own time and also watched a silent video on his life and the places with which had been associated.

Following this we enjoyed an extremely good and varied shared table for lunch, tea and coffee provided, and also had the chance to spend some time in the well stocked Repository.

We had originally planned to visit St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, in the afternoon but were informed that it was in use for the Rite of Election Programme. Most people therefore were more than happy to return to the Exhibition and look at it at their leisure.

Thank you to John Broun

At our Annual General Meeting in 1996 the post of Honorary Secretary became vacant and, as we had received no nominations, we appealed to the floor. Judith Broun

spoke up volunteering her husband and so it was that John came to serve in the post for 14 years.

As the records, files and computer relating to the *Friends* were all based in Kensington, London John had the onerous task of setting up in Leek, Staffordshire. He had worked previously at Bank House and was grateful that they let him have office space and use of their address for our mail for a nominal sum. John rarely if ever missed a meeting despite a far from easy journey from Leek but he had the support of Judith who also helped at Annual General Meetings selling at first the Christmas cards and then the ties and badges.

At our November 2010 Committee Meeting, Archbishop Vincent Nichols presented John with the Papal medal *Pro Ecclesiae et Pontifice* and Certificate and we will celebrate this at our AGM in September.



John Broun, Archbishop Vincent Nichols and Jeremy Hudson.

Photo courtesy of Fr Thomas Wood

John did stay on for a while as a co-opted Member of the Committee but has now decided to step down. We wish him a very happy retirement with our grateful thanks for his sterling work over the years.

Committee members

Our committee this year has consisted of Jim Holroyd (secretary), Simon Howell, Jeremy Hudson, Hamish Keith (treasurer), Mike Lang (membership secretary) Carol Richardson, Louise Sage, Yvonne Veale, Rodney Webb and myself.

Anthony Coles and Fr Thomas Wood (chaplain/Roman Association representative) attend our committee meetings as ex-officio members.

Louise Bradley (mother of VEC student Liam) also attended meetings, by invitation, to report on her recruitment efforts through newly ordained priests and parents of current students.

Carol Richardson and Yvonne Veale have decided to step down this year. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their contributions.

Your prayers

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following two *Friends*, both associated with *Palazzola Holidays* who died recently. They are Margaret Hill - who organised holidays to the College and Villa in the 1990 - and Monica Walsh (wife of Basil Walsh of the *Bradford Players* group). We rejoice in the work they did for the College. May they rest in peace.

2011 AGM

Our 2011 Annual Meeting will be on Saturday 17 September at St Teresa's, Crossgates in Leeds. The Rector is coming to talk to us. I do look forward to meeting you.

**Jo Barnacle
Chairman**

PREVIOUS RECTORS

This is the first in a series of articles about past Rectors of the English College. We hope that they will prove of interest.

THOMAS GRANT

Thomas Grant was born at Ligny-les-Aires, Arras, France, on 25th November 1816, the son of Bernard Grant, an Irishman who enlisted in the British army, became sergeant and finally purchased a commission. His mother, Ann MacGowan, was also Irish by birth.

He received his early education at Chester, under the patronage of the local priest, Dr. Briggs, later to become Bishop of Beverley, North Yorkshire, who encouraged him in his vocation. In January, 1829, under the auspices of Dr Briggs, he was sent to St. Cuthbert's College Ushaw, where he studied until 1836 and then went to the English College at Rome where Nicholas Cardinal Wiseman was Rector. He corresponded frequently with Dr Briggs from his time as a student until he was appointed Bishop of Southwark and these letters are to found among the Briggs papers in the Leeds Diocesan archives. Students travelling to the English College at that time were faced with a fairly arduous journey, across the Channel, through France overland as far as Chalon-Sur-Saone, by river to Marseilles and by sea to Civita Vecchia. They were then forced to spend some time in quarantine before being allowed to proceed by road to Rome.

Grant was ordained priest at the English College on 28th November 1841, created a Doctor of Divinity and appointed secretary to Cardinal Acton, a position in which he acquired knowledge of Canon Law, and acquaintance with the method of conducting ecclesiastical affairs at Rome.



Bishop Thomas Grant
Photo courtesy of Louise Sage

In October 1844 at the early age of twenty-eight, he became Rector and was also made Agent for the English bishops. In this capacity he assisted Bishop Bernard Ullathorne who was then negotiating for the restoration of the English hierarchy. He also translated into Italian the numerous English documents sent to the Holy See during the progress of those negotiations and he furnished Mgr Palma with the materials for his historical preface to the Apostolic Decree of 1850, re-establishing the Roman Catholic hierarchy in England and Wales.

During his time as Rector apart from being involved in

College affairs, the political events in Italy were very important for the College. Pope Gregory XVI died in 1846 and was succeeded by Pius IX. It was also a time of important visitors to Rome. Cardinal Wiseman, of course, was frequently in the city. Blessed John Henry Newman spent a year at Propaganda Fide and Cardinal Manning – whilst still an Anglican – also visited. All this without the benefit of a Vice Rector.

There had been a number of disputes at the time of the restoration of the Hierarchy not least about whether London should be one diocese. Pope Pius IX then resolved those issues by appointing Thomas Grant as the first Bishop of Southwark. At that time the Diocese covered Berkshire, Hampshire, Kent, Surrey, Sussex and the Channel islands and Grant was consecrated in the chapel of the English College in Rome by Cardinal Franzoni on the 6th July 1851.

Grant was a very saintly man known for his simplicity, self-denial and extreme modesty. His opinion was frequently sought by the government on points where the Canon Law and the law of the land appeared to be in conflict and, according to Bishop Ullathorne, he was very highly regarded for his work in obtaining official recognition for catholic chaplains to the armed forces and the appointment of salaried chaplains to prisons and workhouses. Though he came to England almost as a stranger, he soon won the confidence of Catholics and others and as the Government was shy of transacting business directly

with Cardinal Wiseman, many negotiations were carried on by Dr Grant.

Bishop Ullathorne testified that, "His acuteness of learning, readiness of resource and knowledge of the forms of ecclesiastical business made him invaluable to joint counsels, whether in synods or in yearly Episcopal meetings; and his untiring spirit of work and the accuracy with which he struck off documents in Latin, Italian, or English, naturally brought the greater part of such work on his shoulders".

In the administration of his diocese, he proved equal to the task of organisation, which was necessary in an age of rapid expansion, while the remarkable sanctity of his private life led to his being generally regarded as a saint, and caused Pius IX, when he learned of his death, to exclaim, "Another saint in heaven!" The last years of his life were spent in great suffering, caused by stomach cancer and when he set out to attend the First Vatican Council at Rome in November 1869, he knew that he would not return. He was considered the ablest theologian among the English Bishops and appointed Latinist to the Council and member of the Congregation for the Oriental Rites and the Apostolic Mission. He was too ill to take any active part in the proceedings after 14th February 1870 and died in Rome on 1st June 1870. He was buried on the 23rd in the cemetery attached to the Virgo Fidelis Convent at Upper Norwood, Surrey.

A monument with bust was originally erected to his memory in St. George's Cathedral, Southwark and I duly went along to the Cathedral to photograph same. However, I there discovered that following the bombing and destruction of the Cathedral in April 1941 his damaged bust, having been recovered from the debris, had been presented to Virgo Fidelis Convent by Bishop Cyril Cowdrey. Later still in 1959 the Bishop Thomas Grant School in Streatham which specialises in mathematical and computer studies was built in his memory and his bust was then placed in Reception. I then travelled to the School and was given permission to photograph this by the Sister Chaplain.

Dr. Michael E. Williams in his history of The Venerable English College when talking about Charles Michael Baggs, Grant's predecessor, said about him... "such rapid promotion need not surprise us, since the Rectorship of the English College in Rome was now being looked upon as a suitable first post for a promising young man" - a statement which is also more than amply borne out by the life of Bishop Thomas Grant.

**Louise Sage
Committee member**

This edition of Venerable View was produced and edited by Anthony Coles and Louise Sage.

For membership enquiries, please contact Mike Lang, 22 Kingsley Avenue, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire SN4 8LF - malang@ntlworld.com

TOWARDS ADVENT 2011
Annual Festival of Catholic Culture

Saturday 19th November
Westminster Cathedral Hall
10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Opening Ceremony at 10.30 with
Archbishop Vincent Nichols

Displays by Catholic groups,
organisations and charities
Refreshments available all day
Talks and discussions
Play corner for children
Film *John Paul the Great*
Books, DVDs, CDs and Cards on
sale

ENTRY FREE

Tickets for talks and film £2 each

This year the *Friends of the Venerable* have taken a stand at this Festival

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

**VENERABLE
CUFF LINKS**



In association with the *Friends of the Venerable* we offer you the opportunity to purchase a pair of sterling silver cuff links relief engraved bearing the details of the shield of the *Venerable*.

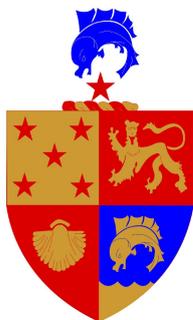
The cost is just £55, gift boxed and with free p&p within the United Kingdom.

The Edition is limited to 100 pairs with profits to the *Friends of the Venerable*.

Cheque with order to Fr Thomas Wood, LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool, L17 1AA.

PALAZZOLA CREST

(reprinted by request from *Palazzola Holidays* newsletter - January 2009)



Mgr Charles Scicluna, a priest from Malta, who has been associated with College life for many years, designed this new crest for Palazzola.

“The shield is divided into four quarters. The first quarter (five red five-pointed stars on a field of gold) is taken from the arms of Fra José Maria Foncesca da Evora (1690-1752), natural son of King John V of Portugal, who was one of the greatest benefactors of Palazzola (1735-1740). His arms are still visible in a number of places at Palazzola.

The second quarter (a gold lion rampant with blue tongue and claws on a red field) is taken from the arms of England and Wales, as well as from the arms of the Venerable English College as adopted in 1951.

The third quarter (a golden dolphin above golden waves on a blue field) is taken from the arms of Cardinal Arthur Hinsley (1865-1943) who was rector of the Venerable English College from 1917 to 1929 and who took the important decision to buy Palazzola as the new summer residence of the College in 1920.

The fourth quarter (a golden scallop shell on a red field) is also taken from the arms of the Venerable English College as a reminder that both the College and Palazzola have been and still remain at the service of pilgrims.

The shield is surmounted by a band of red and gold cord. The crest sits upon the band and is composed of a five-pointed red star taken from the arms of Fonseca and blue dolphin adapted from arms of Hinsley.”

PALAZZOLA HOLIDAYS

Golf

Enjoy a game of Golf? Why not participate in our golf week with Fr Mark Harold from 11 to 16 October. Details from Siobhan Frecker, 56 New Wanstead, Wanstead, London E11 2SU. parker-travel@hotmail.com
Tel: 020 8989 6174

Christmas and New Year

Crisp, bright, clear days, mulled wine in front of a blazing log fire in the Library, bracing walks in the woods near the Villa, carols round the Christmas tree, Midnight Mass in the 13th century chapel of Our Lady of the Snows, a delicious traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings surrounded by family and friends, served in the wood-panelled refectory, day trips to Rome for sightseeing and shopping.

Or why not do something out of the ordinary and invite your friends to come to Palazzola for a traditional New Year's Eve dinner, followed by

fireworks and bubbly on the terrace. The perfect way to ring in the New Year.

Sound good? Best of all our special two four-night packages are fantastic value and take all the stress out of organising Christmas and the New Year, allowing you and your family to relax and enjoy this wonderful time in the calm and comfort of Palazzola. For details, see www.palazzola.it or contact *.

650th Anniversary

23/27 to 29 January.

A wonderful opportunity to enjoy Rome without the crowds. During the week whether staying at Palazzola or in central Rome there will be a number of optional visits and excursions, as well as opportunity for personal sightseeing. During the weekend (27 to 29 January), the programme is as scheduled in *from the Rector's Window* along with a number of optional visits including to some of the other national hospices erected in Rome at this time. *

Lenten Retreat

An opportunity for rest, prayer and relaxation as well as a number of excursions and inputs from great speakers from 12 to 17 March 2012. *

Easter Triduum

Friends are most welcome to join the Easter Triduum at Palazzola which will include Easter Sunday Mass at the English College in Rome. Accommodation is available between Tuesday 03 and Tuesday 10 April 2012.*

* For further details, please contact: Anthony Coles, 18 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX - 020 7431 3414
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