

VENERABILE VIEW

Published by The Friends of



The English College Rome

FROM THE RECTOR'S WINDOW

Autumn 2017



Consistory 28th June 2017

There are plenty of opportunities to see the Holy Father if you live in Rome - there is the weekly General Audience, the Sunday Angelus, not to mention all the public liturgies at which he presides in St Peter's or in the Piazza. But meeting him personally is a rare privilege. It is always a joy when we are invited to provide servers for a Pontifical liturgy, and in June 2017 the Consistory for new Cardinals brought just such an opportunity to the English College. The Holy Father always takes the trouble to greet the servers personally. On this occasion he instituted five new Cardinals. Friends will probably recognize Dominic Jenkinson holding a tray of new scarlet birettas, while Joshua Dixon and Andrew Coy manage the microphone and the book for the Holy Father, with Francis Murphy and Anthony Fyk close at hand.

The Consistory fell on 28 June, which delayed the start of the villeggiatura by a few hours, but the coach was able to set off for Palazzola at 9:00 that evening. Pastoral courses and “safeguarding training” kept us busy for the first two or three days. We were all ready for a celebration when the moment came for the institution of six new lectors on Sunday 2 July.



J. Dixon S Elliott A Coy A. Wasowski O. Welsford H Woodhouse

Before the summer was out, we had acquired four new acolytes, seven new deacons and four new priests.



R. Marsden A. Pineda M. Radowski J. Breeding F. Murphy T. Cranfield

During the summer, work continued on the College facades, this time in the Garden. By the time the students returned, the Garden Room facade was looking magnificent, while the longer wall, along the outside of the Refectory, remained covered in scaffolding. It is hoped that this work will be finished soon. It is encouraging to see that the little church of Santa Caterina della Rota, opposite the College, has also had its facade cleaned. The neighbourhood is beginning to look much brighter!

Another project that gained momentum during the summer was the redesign of the Student Common Room. For years, the room has been little used by the students other than for film showings or public celebrations.



A questionnaire filled in by the students on ways of improving the social spaces available to them led to some radical steps being taken to make the Common Room more inviting. The stage has been removed, the notice-board and the pigeon-holes have been moved into the Common Room and a drinks machine has been installed at the far end, where the stage used to be. From the moment the students returned, the room became much more of a focal point than it has ever been. The Friends will be pleased to know that the sofas, so beautifully upholstered three years ago through their generosity, are now being used more than ever before.

We have a new member of staff joining us this year as Academic Tutor, namely Fr James McAuley from Portsmouth, who was a student at the College from 2003 to 2010. Readers will be aware that last year we had two short-term Academic Tutors in succession, but we are happy now to welcome a full member of staff for the longer term.



Ben tornato, Fr James!

The year began with a pilgrimage to the Churches of the Apocalypse in modern Turkey, as recounted elsewhere in *Venerabile View*. The Friends generously paid for two of our students to take part, through the recently-established Pilgrimage Fund, while the others were paid for from the Coote benefaction given to the College some years ago. Once again we were led by Canon Mervyn Tower, who brought to life the ancient sites and focused our attention on key events that had taken place there among the Christian communities of the first century. We were particularly moved to visit the tomb of St John and the House of Mary at Ephesus.



One advantage of beginning the year with a pilgrimage is that it provides an excellent opportunity for the whole community to get to know the new men. This year we are blessed with five new seminarians: Edward Hauschild (Portsmouth), Connor Hey and Theo Sharrock (Salford), Trym Hellevig and Joakim Teigen (Oslo) as well as two Anglicans on a six-month exchange programme (Aidan Bartlett and Christopher Rogers) and one priest beginning further studies (Fr Brian O'Mahony) from Westminster).



Scarcely had we caught our breath after a late flight back from Istanbul than it was time to begin the new term. In our very first week we had the pleasure of meeting a large number of the Friends, who had come to Rome for the AGM at Palazzola. The Friends visited us on the afternoon of Wednesday 4 October, and were received by Rev. Francis Murphy, Deputy Senior Student, who gave them a talk about the recent pilgrimage.



The Friends remained with us for Mass and for supper and it was a lovely opportunity for us all to meet one another. It certainly gave a boost to the students to meet so many people who support us with their prayer and friendship and we trust that the Friends too enjoyed their opportunity to meet so many of the students.

We were all saddened during the summer to learn of the death of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, patron of the Friends, former rector of the College, Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster and a great friend to us all. We held a Memorial Mass for him in College on Tuesday 17 October, at which Archbishop Paul Gallagher presided and Archbishop Arthur Roche preached. Archbishop Gallagher had been a student during the years when the deceased was rector, and Archbishop Roche had been an Auxiliary bishop of Westminster assisting the late Cardinal. The British Ambassador to the Holy Sea, Her Excellency Sally Axworthy, delivered the first reading. The Irish Ambassador to the Holy Sea, Her Excellency Emma Madigan, was also present. Among the concelebrants was Bishop Brian Farrell, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for promoting Christian Unity, in recognition of the late Cardinal's ecumenical work. Among the ecumenical guests, we were pleased to welcome, for his first visit to the College, the newly appointed Director of the Anglican Centre, Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi from Burundi.

The Memorial Mass provided us with an opportunity to try out some new equipment, namely an additional loudspeaker in the Tribune, where the organist sits. Now at last, the organist can hear what is being said through the microphones in the Church. This is the most recent gift from the Friends, and the organists, to a man, wish to say thank you to all the Friends for enabling them to participate more fully in College liturgies.

During the AGM we had an opportunity to tell the Friends just how much we appreciate your friendship, your prayers and your support. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate that message and to wish you every blessing for the year ahead.

Mgr. Philip Whitmore

Rector

THE VEC PILGRIMAGE TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

Seven sites of great significance in the life of the early Church; seven names familiar to readers of the New Testament and the writings of the Church Fathers. These were the locations visited in the course of the VEC pilgrimage to the seven churches of the Apocalypse, early Christian communities addressed by name in the second and third chapters of the last book of the Bible. In some respects a “sequel” pilgrimage to that which the English College undertook to the Holy Land in 2014, this was an opportunity to get to know first- and second-century Christianity while travelling through twenty-first century Turkey. We reflected on the experience of early Christians while also praying for our brothers and sisters living in the Middle East today.



Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Venerable, two of us - myself and the Senior Student, Richard Marsden - were able to travel to these seven sites of great significance. Gathering at 4am on Tuesday 26 September, we headed out to Istanbul from Fiumicino, connecting there to what is now called Izmir (previously Smyrna). There we met Mine, our local guide, who would work in the days to follow with Birmingham’s Canon Mervyn Tower (pictured) to bring the various sites to life. Having caught a



coach to the city centre in order to visit the Church of St Polycarp, we received a warm welcome from the Archbishop of Izmir, Lorenzo Piretto, and then proceeded to meditate on the text of Apocalypse 2:8-11 while contemplating the ruins of the Ancient Agora of Smyrna. Mass in the Cathedral of St John followed; many students were struck by the level of security surrounding the building, and there was evidence of vandalism having been committed by parties unknown against the statues in the courtyard.

Subsequent days’ travel - taking us to Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and finally Ephesus - followed a similar pattern: after arriving at an archaeological site, we would share texts from Scripture and the Church Fathers which served to bring the places to life. Some memories will not fade quickly: splashing around in the thermal waters near Laodicea; wandering the site of the Temple of Artemis in Sardis before

hearing the Word of God in the remains of a Byzantine church; the extensive and impressive ruins of the great city of Ephesus, which afforded us a chance to sit and pray on the site of the council which in AD 431 gave Our Lady the title *Theotokos* (“God-bearer”). Perhaps most moving of all was the chance to visit the very house of the Virgin - also in Ephesus - where we had the privilege to celebrate Mass. Istanbul’s Hagia Sophia, once the jewel of Byzantine Christianity but subsequently converted into a mosque before becoming - as it remains today - a museum, provided a poignant conclusion to our days of pilgrimage.



It was a wonderful way to start the year - an opportunity to deepen our sense of communion with the first generations of Christians, and to consider how many of the challenges which confronted the early Church are also our own in this present day. A reminder that the words addressed to the churches, calling for fidelity and courage, still speak to us: “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Apoc. 2:10)

Francis Murphy

Archivum Venerabile Collegii Anglorum de Urbe.

The Archives of the Venerable English College.

On Tuesday 3rd October a group of the Friends who had travelled to Palazzola to spend the week there and attend the AGM were enthralled by a very interesting and informative talk from Professor Maurice Whitehead who is conducting a three-year project on the Archives of the College.

He explained briefly the enormous task of cataloguing and referencing all the College Archives using very up-to-date software in order to make them accessible. His research into these archives has led to international links with other academic institutions.

His enthusiasm for the work shone through as he outlined a small part of the work he is doing. We were treated to a slide show of many different types of documents, books and artefacts. These ranged from the 400 original scrolled documents dating from the 14th century, as well as the carved sculpture in the Cardinals' Corridor, which may possibly be of Edward III who was on the throne in the mid-14th century when the College began as a hospice, through to the digital records and photos of present-day students.

Many documents in the Archives have, of course, been catalogued before, but not on this scale. The Archives provide a record of more than 650 years of the continuous existence of the English Hospice and College in Rome.

There are strong connections with the Crown, as seen in the Hospice inventory ledger of 1523, donated by John Clerk, the then bishop of Bath and Wells, who had acted as the intermediary between Pope Leo X and Henry VIII on the granting to the king of the title, Defender of the Faith, in 1521. Professor Whitehead was very proud to have been able to show this document to the Prince of Wales on his visit to the English College earlier this year and Prince Charles was delighted to view it.

But the collection is growing all the time as new material has been donated to the College during the three years since the project began. On hearing of the project, a visitor to the College turned out to be a former librarian at All Hallows' College, Dublin, and as a result, when she returned home, she arranged for their collection of Catholic Directories to be sent to the College. These, dating from 1837 onwards, have now been rebound and cover not only England and Wales, but also include several volumes for the whole world. These are an invaluable source of information on the worldwide Catholic Church in the 19th century. Another visitor came to Mass and donated a printed 20th-century copy of the poem *The Burning Babe*, written in 1595 by Robert Southwell, which had the College coat of arms and motto across the bottom of it. The visitor left no name or information about how or why she had acquired this fine document.

One aspect of Maurice Whitehead's work which has been particularly rewarding is the reaction of the students. As a result of his enthusiasm, some are engaged in archiving and preserving documents. One group was inspired to start a discussion on how present-day digital information and photos can be preserved for the future. As a result they have started to produce a Yearbook of photos and information showing a record of the College each year.

We were left in no doubt of the importance of the Archives not only for the English College but also the role it has played through the centuries in the history of England and Wales.

Professor Whitehead is keen to hear from any individual or parish with documents or books relating to the English College, or to the history of the English and Welsh Catholic community, which could be donated to the collection. His email address is: schwarzenbachfellow@vecrome.org.

More than anything, my own memory of the talk was not just the size and quality of the Archives, as one might suppose for such a prestigious and longstanding institution, but the Professor's enthusiasm and the insight he gave us into the work of an archivist and historian.

Jane Holroyd

Friends of the Venerabile : Visit to Palazzola and AGM.



Lightning doesn't strike twice. Really?

It did in October 2017 when the band of pilgrims flying with the world's favourite airline [sic] experienced a lengthy delay outward and an even longer one on the return leg. At the time of writing your reporter does not know the fate of those who entrusted themselves to the care of Michael O'Leary's gang of cattle raiders aka Ryanair.

However the intrepid engineers managed to locate the defective elastic band and, with it replaced, the aircraft departed for the UK arriving in nice time to miss the last Tube and the last Heathrow Express. Oh, it was good to be back in a world city. As the Smiths exited taxi-wards a rat shot across our path - which summed things up.

Anyway, those were the book-ends. How was the content ?

Well-----when I rashly or otherwise promised a 'report' on the trip for Venerabile View [VV] I said that I would try to avoid the dreaded blow-by-blow account of 'How I spent my School Holidays'. After all I can only write about what I experienced and the Programme offered attractive alternatives.

There were common denominators: Palazzola itself and the spell it slowly weaves; the smell of box in the garden; the blue of the sky; the lizards scuttling across the sun-warmed stone. Each person there would have different suggestions to add. Mine would include the open air Lunches - in October! - the Dinners - the Breakfasts with strong arms attempting to saw through the bread crusts - the wine flowing like a river - and of course the friendliness of the Staff.

For me though the big umbrella has to be the superbly prayerful liturgies conducted by Fr Andrew Behrens. The work that man did - new every morning indeed - a fresh homily at each Mass - Grace before and after meals - and just the joy of his company. One other person also deserves a very big hand Anthony Coles who, as usual, organised with style and panache and also had to cope with the transport implications of a cycle race in the area of Ciampino and the Castelli on the final day which had the Appia Nuova and the Via dei Laghi closed for a while.

What did attendees get up to then?

Well, there were two Quizes. A generalist one organised by Barbara Smith and a quirky one run by Theresa Savereux, both enjoyable and neither having any post-quiz disgruntled answer checking. One evening saw an excellent lecture by the current Schwarzenbach Research Fellow, Emeritus Professor Maurice Whitehead, which is being reported elsewhere.

Part of the attractiveness of such a Palazzola trip is the excursions on offer and the fact that they are optional. The week's menu included Subiaco, Castel Gandolfo (for either the garden tour or the papal apartments), Nemi, Anzio and Nettuno, Ostia Antica, and of course Rome herself. The visit to the English Cemetery at Anzio was a highlight for this writer - the marriage of the mown grass and the planting and the rows of white head stones - he walked around with damp eyes, full of admiration for the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and said several 'Eternal Rests'. Nettuno had two remarkable features : a visit to the Basilica with its tie-in with pre-Reformation England and Our Lady of Ipswich and also the shrine of Saint Maria Goretti. If Mike Lang deserved thanks for only one thing about this holiday it would be for his choice of venue for Luncheon - a superb fish restaurant at which, in true Italian style, the courses just kept on coming.

The AGM took place on the Thursday and featured the Rector's Report and the usual agenda items of all such events. The real highlight of that day was a pre-Dinner talk by Sr Assumpta Walsh on both her time at Palazzola and later in Kenya - emotional and gripping fall too short. As a result of her talk the Group raised well over £700 for the work of the Sisters in Kenya.

The Papal audience on Wednesday was duly attended by some stalwart souls - for many the spirit was willing but the flesh with a pre-dawn start.....well, you know. Wednesday also saw what was for many the trip's main event, a visit to the College. We are of course the Friends of the Venerable and not the friends of Palazzola much as we love the place. Your correspondent later received the impression that the tour and meeting with the Deputy Senior Student went well and were of great interest. He and his wife alas had visited the Barberini Gallery and lunched arriving at the College in good time for the Community Mass which was followed by drinks in the Garden Room and Dinner.

The seating arrangements for the latter were excellent in that we had already been given a list of current students which told us to which diocese each was attached and each diocesan group had a table to host. After all, in the terminology of Star Trek the prime directive of the Friends is the students and their journey towards the day of Ordination and the attainment of their hearts' desire. Students for Portsmouth hosted our table and so my wife Barbara, the Librarian at Allen Hall, was able to produce a postcard and pen which has resulted in personal messages going to the Allen Hall Portsmouth students from their VEC counterparts. These have been delivered and been received joyfully. At the close of the evening and well before the hour at which carriages become pumpkins the faithful were milling around on the Lungotevere awaiting the charabanc. And waiting. And waiting. But of course it came - in the end.

And so we arrived at Saturday evening and the final Salve, and Sunday with its drip, drip of farewells. One last luncheon under the trees and then what Tour devotees call Le Grand Depart.

Or in our case Le Grand Hangaround Fiumicino.

But we came in here. And so, farewell. Or should that be Arrivederci?

Paul Smith

Notes from the AGM

On October 5th 2017, during the Friends' group visit to Palazzola, 53 Members, including Monsignor Philip Whitmore (College Rector) and Fr. Phil Andrews (Friends' Chaplain), gathered for the 30th Annual General Meeting.

In his Address to the meeting, Mgr Whitmore thanked the Friends for our continued support. He reported on College life over the past 12 months, highlighting the celebrations surrounding Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor's 60th anniversary of ordination, Cardinal Vincent Nichols' 25th anniversary of Episcopal ordination and the visit to the College of HRH the Prince of Wales. This was the first visit to the College by an heir to the Throne and Prince Charles appeared very impressed with everything he saw, in particular Archive material relating to Henry VIII and the Reformation.

The following Officers and Committee members were elected to serve for the next 12 months – Mike Lang (Chairman), Adrian Rogers (Treasurer), Jim Holroyd (Secretary) and Louise Bradley, Sarah Gough, Jeremy Hudson, Michael L'Estrange, Alice Reeve, Louise Sage and Theresa Savereux. They are joined on the committee by ex-officio members Fr Phil Andrews and Anthony Coles,

In welcoming newcomers Jeremy, Alice and Theresa to the committee, Mike Lang thanked the departing Mary Ewing and Paul and Barbara Smith for their contributions and efforts on behalf of the Friends.

The Annual Accounts continue to show a healthy position, and the Treasurer's Financial Report was accepted by all present.

It was agreed by all present that the week at Palazzola had been a great success, and it is hoped that such group visits will become a regular event. Whether the AGM will be included during future trips is up for debate.

Next year's Annual Meeting will take place at St Anselm's, Tooting Bec, London (date to be confirmed), and in 2019 will be in the UK outside London.

In closing the meeting, Mike Lang thanked Anthony Coles for his arrangements and hard work over the whole week, and thanked Joyce Hunter and her staff for their welcome and help at Palazzola.

Jim Holroyd

TOWARDS ADVENT FESTIVAL

In the Venerable View Spring 2017 edition you might have seen an article giving the background information on this Festival which has been held at Westminster Cathedral Hall each year since the Millennium. The *Friends* have had a stand at this Festival for the last six years and we intended to man one on the 25th November this year when we were looking forward to seeing many of you on that day.

However, since that article was published we have heard from the organisers of this Festival that the event has been postponed until 2018 when it will appear in a slightly different format. The *Friends* of the Venerable certainly intend to participate in this event in 2018 and will fully inform Members of the details of our involvement as soon as they are known.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Louise Sage

From Kidlington to Rome



Hello! My name is Marco and I'm a sixth year seminarian at the VEC from the Archdiocese of Birmingham. After a wonderful chat with Mike Lang after supper one Wednesday, he suggested I might like to reflect on moving from Birmingham, where I was a university student for four years, to Rome.

Well as you can imagine, it was quite a shock. When I first arrived in Birmingham from Kidlington (near Oxford), I have to confess that I disliked both the city and accent! But after some time I grew to love both, and most especially the people.

It's true, Birmingham isn't much at first sight. If you arrive by coach, you find yourself in Digbeth, not far from Birmingham's surviving court of back-to-back houses that accommodated the poor workers of its expanding industries. Historically fascinating, but not the most picturesque of Birmingham's quarters! Arriving by train, you are likely to be in Birmingham's recently renovated New Street Station, clean, modern and clinical, it is efficient but not particularly imaginative or artistic. However, after a few months of living in Birmingham, you start to get a hint of its treasures. Of Catholic interest, there is Birmingham's own 'Little Rome', the Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception and home of the Birmingham Oratory, a baroque church of the early twentieth century built as a memorial to Bl. Henry Newman who had laboured so lovingly and tirelessly there to the rich and poor, especially those in nearby Handsworth. There is of course St Chad's Cathedral too, a church of A. W. Pugin and - Wikipedia reliably informs me - one of only four minor basilicas in England!

For a more contemporary scene, there is the Bullring, one of Europe's largest shopping centres, or, should you wish to go more upmarket, there is the chic canalside Brindleyplace ("We've more canals than Venice!" any Brummie will often remind you) and the Mailbox (yes, another shopping centre).

Rome, on the other hand, is the opposite: it's love at first sight! Who cannot but be enchanted by its Renaissance architecture, masterpiece-laden churches, ancient obelisks and plethora of Roman ruins? With seemingly more precious artwork than the city knows what to do with, one is constantly finding treasures in even the most obscure of one of Rome's 900+ churches! Then there is the fact of being so close to the Vatican, to the Holy Father; in the centre of Roman Catholic Church, one feels close to the action, even if Vatican news seems to reach other countries faster than it reaches the seminary!

Studying in Rome is an enriching experience: I was told that the Gregorian University is the most internationally diverse university in the world, and looking around the lecture hall - filled with 120 students from over 30 different countries - I can well believe it! That said, it is not all moonlight and roses. Yes, the food is wonderful, but after a few weeks one starts to regret all those pasta dishes! Yes, the streets are magical, especially in the soft pink glow of sunrise, but come 4pm and one has to watch where one is stepping!

And woe betide anybody who should need to carry out a bureaucratic task: be prepared for long queues, being ferried from one advisor to another, and endless paperwork, stamps and photocopies. Romans themselves will speak of its numerous political and infrastructural difficulties, in fact they have a website dedicated to it - romafaschifo.com (roughly translating as 'Rome is yucky'!) All of that said, one cannot help but love it - all it takes is an ice cream in Piazza Navona and all is forgiven and forgotten. What do I love most about Rome? I have to say, it is the same as Birmingham - its people. The religious, priests, seminarians, and lay people I have met in Rome have had an enormous effect on me that is truly priceless, and I cannot thank God enough for them. For in the end, 'heaven and earth will pass away' (Mk 13:31), but people are immortal. My thanks go to the *Friends* who continue to support us here at the VEC, you are assured of our prayers!

Marco Egawhary

Chairman's Report

I was very sad to receive an email from Fr T. Wood stating that after 10 years he was resigning as the *Friends* Chaplain. He suggested we should try to find our next Chaplain in one of the Southern Dioceses in order to limit travel time. Accordingly I looked towards Southwark and realised that Fr. Phil Andrews had worked with us during his time at the VEC. Fr. Phil – ordained in July 2016 – is Assistant Priest at St. Anselm, Tooting Bec, was keen on the idea and after discussions with his PP readily agreed to accept the position.

I was privileged to represent the *Friends* at the Funeral Mass for Cardinal Cormac. It was a very moving occasion and I would draw your attention to the homilies and the eulogy which are attached to this issue of VV.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has accepted our invitation to become our President following, I quote, “the death of our much loved Cardinal Cormac Murphy O’Connor”. Cardinal Vincent requests that we remember Cardinal Cormac and his family in our prayers.

The Seminarian Pilgrimage Fund (set up in 2016) at the request of a member has sponsored its first seminarians. Deacon Francis reports on the pilgrimage on page 4 of this issue. Please see the notice at the bottom of this page.

The decision to hold the 2017 Annual Meeting in Palazzola was welcomed by many members. There were 51 members present and it was a great joy to meet old friends from the Palazzola Holiday times and also those who had been unable to attend a previous AGM. Anthony Coles had produced an excellent itinerary .A report on our visits is on pages 6 & 7.

During my last visit to the College, I heard from one of the organists that he could not hear the homily because of the acoustics in the Church. It therefore came as no surprise when the Rector suggested that the *Friends* might like to provide additional audio equipment for the Church. The committee has accepted this request and at the AGM we were able to ask the Rector to carry on with the installation of suitable equipment.

For the first time in many years we needed to have a ballot for the committee! In welcoming new blood onto the committee it is also sad to lose existing members and so I would like to say thank you to Mary Ewing for her ideas and her support to both myself and Teresa and also to Paul and Barbara Smith for their contributions to the work of the committee. All three will be greatly missed. We welcome newcomers Alice Reeve and Theresa Savereux and the return of long serving committee member Jeremy Hudson.

During the summer we worked on a new Joining Leaflet and I hope you will approve of it. Within one day of it being available at Palazzola we had two new members and so I have included one with this VV hoping that you might consider handing it to a friend.

If you would like a some Joining Leaflets for your local Church please either email or phone me.

Please note that Page 11 is now available for Letters to the Editor. I look forward to receiving your comments on this proposed new feature of VV.

Mike Lang

Sadly the report on Sr. Assumpta's talk has been delayed until the next issue of VV

Pilgrimage Fund

Members wishing to contribute to this Fund should send their donations to the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer and mark them clearly “For Pilgrimage Fund”.

If you would like to make a Standing Order, please ask for a special Standing Order Form.

Letters to the Editor

Extracts from letters relating to the Annual Meeting in Palazzola:

May I first of all thank you and all the Friends for a most enjoyable week at Palazzola It was the most enjoyable AGM I have ever attended. We have so many happy memories of our little "Gem" in Italy as our family says and Rome's "Best Kept secret".

Surely the week must be repeated

We both enjoyed the week putting faces to names. We hope, God being willing to attend future events.

POSSIBLE GROUP MEMBERSHIP OF FRIENDS OF THE VENERABLE

We are introducing Group Membership options in 2018. This might, for example, be the choir or music group, the ministers of the Word, liturgy group, catechists, a school attached to the Parish, chaplaincy team, seminary, Union of Catholic Mothers, Cana Group or the Parish as a whole. We propose three levels of group membership and people will be able to choose which is most appropriate for their particular circumstances.

- Option 1. For small groups - £50 p.a.
The group receives one copy of each issue of Venerable View and one copy of the Venerable.
- Option 2. For medium groups - £65 p.a.
The group receives three copies of the above.
- Option 3. Larger groups - £85 p.a.
To include four copies of above.

All copies to be sent to one designated address to be distributed amongst members of the group.

Please contact our Chairman, Mike Lang, on mikelang537@btinternet.com.

Many thanks.

Louise Sage

Martyr's Day 2017

West Midlands 30th November
Holy Mass St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

Ireland 1st December
Holy Mass 1100 Long Tower Church, Derry

East Midlands 1st December
Holy Mass 1130 English Martyrs' Church Alvaston
Derby DE24 8QU

South West 1st December
Holy Mass 1200 St Mary's Bath BA1 2SF

South East 1st December
Holy Mass 1200 Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Road W2 2LJ

North West 4th December
Holy Mass 1200 Our Lady of Grace Prestwich M25 1AS

We welcome the following new members

Mrs S Francis Mullins (London)
Dr V Doyle (Liverpool)

Mr & Mrs G Doyle (Southampton)
Mrs H Peck (Ripon)

Compiled by Mike Lang. Many thanks to all who have contributed text and photographs.