

VENERABILE VIEW

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The English College Rome

FROM THE RECTOR'S WINDOW

Autumn 2019

We hit the ground sprinting at the start of this academic year: in addition to all the normal activity of returning to seminary, we had the canonisation of John Henry Newman on Sunday 13 October - the first time an English “confessor” (as opposed to a martyr) has been declared a saint since the Reformation.

**Saint John Henry Newman,
Pray for us!**

We were asked to supply six servers and a deacon for the Mass itself. It was a proud moment to see our students so close to the Holy Father on such a momentous occasion, and particularly to see Deacon Piotr Wygnanski of East Anglia assisting at the altar and proclaiming the Gospel.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for the Holy See were present in force and the UK Government was also represented, even though the Queen’s Speech was due to take place the following day.



The Prince of Wales represented the Royal Family - despite the fact that he too had to be alongside his mother in Parliament the following day. Not a few noticed how he had caught the sun after his brief visit to Rome. The Friends will remember that His Royal Highness visited the College in April 2017. This time it was a quiet visit - he needed somewhere to relax between the ceremony itself and the official reception, for which he could not be the first to arrive! We were honoured that the College was chosen for this purpose.



While he was with us, the Prince took the opportunity to view a small exhibition that we hosted in the Salotto, regarding St John Henry's four visits to Rome. This had been organised in collaboration with the British Embassy to the Holy See, making use of documents on loan from *Propaganda Fide*, where Newman studied for the priesthood and where he was ordained. The four visits rather neatly summarised the saint's life - he came first as a young Anglican, the second time as a new Catholic, to prepare for ordination, the third time to discuss an internal dispute on behalf of the English Oratorians, and the fourth time to receive a Cardinal's hat. The exhibition received around 1,000 visitors in the five days that it lasted.

Exhausting though the weekend was, it was a great joy to be here in Rome at such a time and to be able to welcome so many pilgrims and visitors who travelled to Rome for the occasion.

The summer saw a number of ordinations. At Palazzola in July, four of our students were ordained to the diaconate, including Piotr, who subsequently sang the Gospel at the canonisation in October. Matthew King has returned to his diocese of Portsmouth, where he is now hard at work in Sacred Heart Parish, Fareham, while the others - Alex Balzanella, Dominic Jenkinson and Piotr - are with us for two further years of licence studies.

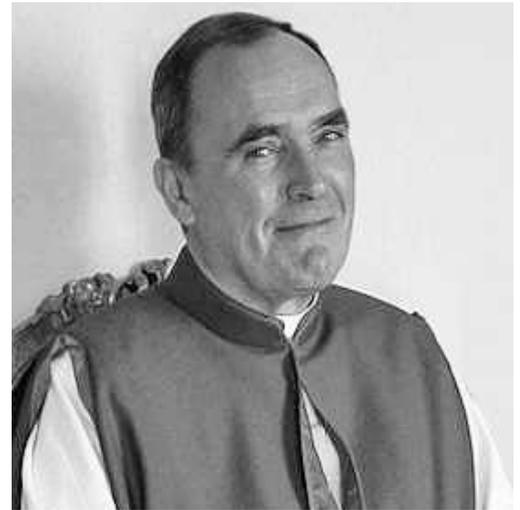


We had five ordinations to the priesthood in England after the villeggiatura, including the "Birmingham Three" - Fathers Marco Egawhary, Ryan Service and John Waters, ordained together in a ceremony at St Chad's Cathedral on 20 July. Fr Ben Hilton was ordained on the same day at St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds. It often happens that ordinations clash on the first Saturday after the villeggiatura, but sadly it is hard to avoid. The following weekend, Fr Ben Woodley was ordained at Westminster Cathedral.



Meanwhile, back in Oslo, our Vietnamese deacon Hai Nguyen had been ordained to the priesthood on Saturday 22 June - the same day that deacon James Barber, who left the College last summer, was ordained to the priesthood in Plymouth. Perhaps it is a “good problem to have” that there are too many ordinations for any of us to be able to attend them all! *Ad multos annos* to our new priests.

There is always sadness in recording the deaths of those we hold dear - and this summer we bade farewell to Mgr Bryan Chestle, a long-time resident of the College. Mgr Chestle lived here, while working in the Vatican, from 1969 until 2010, when he took up residence in a retirement home back in the UK. Having spent so many years at the College he is fondly remembered by generations of Old Romans and Friends. Very much a College “character”, he is the subject of endless stories. One of my favourites took place at the 1989 meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Pope John Paul II. A fluent Russian speaker, Mgr Chestle found himself looking after Raisa Gorbachev while her husband was with the Holy Father. “How many columns are there in St Peter’s Square?”, she asked. “I haven’t the least idea”, he replied. “Well you should know,” she said, “you work here”. How expectations differ from one culture to another!



We welcomed six new seminarians to the College in August. This year’s intake was nothing if not international.

From left to right, the photograph shows Daniel Ebert (Copenhagen), Ryan Browne (Portsmouth), Viktor Torres Airava (Helsinki), Antonio Bajlovic (Stockholm), Mathias Ledum (Oslo) and Marc Pitson (Leeds). A short time into the year we were joined by Fr Steven Billington of Leeds, studying for a licence in Spiritual Theology at the Angelicum. That makes 25 seminarians, 10 priests and 5 formators - a community of 40.



It was a pleasure to be able to join the Friends for their Annual General Meeting in Burntwood this September, assisted by our Senior Student, Deacon Dominic Jenkinson. After a brief battle with the technology, I was able to show them a virtual 3D tour of the College Church, which can now be viewed on the College website (www.vecrome.org) - just choose the “About” menu and scroll down. This was prepared for us by some of our new American Friends - indeed, when I attended the AGM in Staffordshire, I had just arrived back from New York, where I had been helping to build support for our new association of North American Friends. They, of course, have their own seminaries and even their own College in Rome, but what they don’t have is a history reaching back many centuries. That’s where we come in - especially since so much of their history is rooted in ours.

It remains only for me to thank our Friends once again for all your encouragement and support. Your prayers and your generosity are greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you back with us soon!

Mgr. Philip Whitmore **Rector**

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.
mikelang537@btinternet.com

A parents thoughts:

Fr. Marco Egawhary

The lad was the dream of every parent. Even at the most tender of years, he was always conscientious and thoughtful, which made it easy for us as hardly any input or direction was called for in our role as parents. It was quite funny really, it was as if whatever seed was planted in Marco's heart nurtured itself and grew into the man we see and know today.

He encouraged us from his early adolescence to invite our Lord Jesus in to be at the heart of our family and to place all our trust in Him. The Lord has been kind. As if that wasn't enough, He placed a wonderful sense of gentle humour on top of all Marco's wonderful qualities, almost as if it was our 'family bonus' that we had somehow won in a Divine lottery of sorts.



As a parent, I would look forward to taking Marco along with me on our family holiday as I knew that I would be in safe hands. I remember on one occasion, how he persuaded me to swap the booze cruise for a boat cruise around the Mediterranean island of Malta. Oh boy, we had such a lovely voyage on the schooner that day and I still am grateful to dear Marco to this very day in allowing me to trust him in calling the shots that splendid summer's afternoon.

Although when Marco first mentioned his thoughts about the Priesthood to us as a family in the living room of our family home one evening on his return from University, we were all a little apprehensive. In particular as he was our only son, his mother could not easily hold back the tears. We wondered if Marco had ever considered becoming say a Doctor, with his deep sense of vocation, as he was only still in his early twenties. So, four years on, Doctor Egawhary came back once again from University and gently murmured that he was thinking of arranging to meet and consult with His Eminence, the Most Reverend Bernard Longley Archbishop of Birmingham.

I gasped
to which he simply smiled and replied.....
and the rest, as they say, is.....

**“But son, what of your mother’s apprehension?”,
“Father do not fret, our Lord God will take care of that!”
History.**

Fr. John Waters

As we stood in St Chads that morning, we witnessed the joy and celebration of the ordination of our son John and his friends Marco and Ryan. Jan and I and his brother Matthew saw the fulfilment that day of his ambition in the most moving of ceremonies. The three newly ordained young men had brought with them a packed cathedral, a staggering number of priests, and an Archbishop whose heart was visibly swelling with pride. Even our non churchgoing friends were moved by the great occasion.

John's ordination had obviously been on our minds throughout his seminary years but the last few months seemed to gallop by. Friends and family from all over the country (and indeed, the world) arrived to join with us that weekend. Arrangements for accommodation, transport, catering, and ideas for gifts all needed to be sorted.



We had watched John grow throughout his childhood and teens, always knowing that he would, like his brother, make his mark and this was the moment it all came together and his path for the future was set. There were no prouder family members than Jan (a devout Anglican), Matthew and myself and we are sure that our feelings are echoed by those of the families of Marco and Ryan. The church is indeed lucky to have three such fine young priests in the diocese.

Further celebrations followed, particularly after John's first mass, fittingly said in the parish church he had grown up attending. With the sunny July weather, visitors from all corners, friends old and new, a great occasion remains in our memories to carry with us for all of Johns coming ministry.

Fr Michael Vian Clark



Family and friends from the British Isles and the USA gathered to celebrate Fr Michael's ordination in Darien, Connecticut.

We were delighted that Fr Anthony Doe was able to join us from the VEC.

A most joyful day, may God be praised for allowing our son to serve Him in this way.

Lesley Clark

Fr Michael with Bishop Caggiano

Fr Michael (First Mass)



Chairman's Report

This Spring I received an invitation to join the Roman Association for their AGM which was held at Palazzola but for medical reasons I was unable to travel. I asked Anthony Coles to represent the FOV and at the July Committee Meeting he reported that the Rector had expressed concern about the number of visitors to Palazzola. Please note the report from Joyce (below) and indeed the "winter offer" of 3 days for £100.

Once again we failed to arrange an "away day" for the *Friends* but a group joined up with the Westminster Diocesan group who were going to have a look around South Wales (Report on page 6/7).

I was able to attend two ordinations this year, In June Bishop O'Toole ordained Fr. James Barber and then in July it was wonderful to see the "Birmingham Three" standing before the Archbishop in St Chads Cathedral in Birmingham (as an aside I noticed that there were three Deacons on the Sanctuary and I discovered after the service that they were from Oscott and due to be ordained in 2020). The Archdiocese will have six young Priests ordained in 13 months. Other Committee members attended the ordinations of Fr Ben Hilton (Leeds), Fr. Ben Woodley (Westminster) and Fr. Gary Dench (East Anglia).

With the increase in email there has been a reduction in the use of Postal Services. this has led to the reduction in the volume of used stamps available for Stamp Collectors.

Reduced Volume equals Increased Values.

This effect provides an opportunity for Fund Raising especially when one hears that the used Vatican Postal Service and Italian Stamps are both of significant value. The committee have accepted my suggestion that FOV members have been asked to collect used stamps. If you work in a Diocesan Office please ask your colleagues to collect stamps for you. Dealers state that the ideal technique is to leave 1 cms of envelope or packing paper around the Stamp and its Franking. I will give further details in VV (Spring 2020).

Mike Lang

PALAZZOLA

This year has seen a slump in occupancy at Villa Palazzola. We have blamed Brexit! However, it has been very trying, but the good news is that next year is looking much better. Next year is also our Centenary! For this occasion we are planning some great discounts during the low season, and during the high season we have decided to also offer some random vouchers worth €100. The low season discounts will run from 1st January until 31st March, and from 1st November until 20th December. The voucher prizes will run from 1st May until 30th September.

Anthony Coles is also organising our Centenary package groups. All in all we are hoping for a boost to our occupancy levels. Due to the aforementioned, there has not been much activity in the way of refurbishment and re-structuring. We hope that during the coming years we are able to fulfil our dreams of refurbishing the old wing rooms and the Hinsley lounge and Hume room (games room).

We ask you all to promote our offer below, to friends and family around the globe. We are also looking forward to welcoming some of the Friends members to Palazzola in May, so if you have not already signed up, please do so! May is a great month to visit Palazzola, and if you have never done so, this is the year to commit. We would love to welcome you here.

In the meantime, as I write we have 47 Jubilarian priests residing at Palazzola, celebrating their 40th, 50th and 60th priesthood anniversaries! If that is not an achievement then I do not know what is! We are honoured and privileged to have them with us.

May I thank you all for your support over the years, and long may it continue! Your generosity has helped us achieve some great additions to Villa Palazzola.

Sending best wishes and many prayers to you all,

Joyce E. Hunter Director, Villa Palazzola

**1920—2020 Our Centenary Offers: €100 for 3nights Book now before they go!
The valid inclusive dates are: 1 January—31st March 2020 1 November—20 December 2020**

Saints and Martyrs of South Wales Pilgrimage 8th-12th July 2019

Monday 8th July saw 22 of us, with our Chaplain, Fr. Michael Donaghy, set out for Cardiff on the trail of the Saints and Martyrs of South Wales. Nine members of the *Friends of the Venerable* were included in this group. The first stop was the City's castle, an imposing first-century Roman fort where we were faced with a large red metal dragon, the symbol of Wales.

Having passed through the hands of many noble families over the years, the castle in 1766 passed by marriage into the Bute family. John, the 2nd Marquess of Bute was responsible for turning Cardiff into the world's greatest coal exporting port. The Castle and Bute fortune passed to his son John, the 3rd Marquess of Bute, who by the 1860's was reputed to be the richest man in Britain. He converted to Catholicism in 1868. From 1866 John employed the genius architect William Burgess to transform the castle lodgings. Within gothic towers he created lavish and opulent interiors, rich with murals, stained glass, marble, gilding and elaborate wood carvings, each room having its own special theme, such as the Indian, Arabic and Chaucer rooms. The Marquess had four children who wanted for nothing and the walls of their Nursery were beautifully decorated by figures from English folklore and nursery rhymes e.g. Robin Hood, Little Jack Horner and such. We enjoyed a wonderful tour of all the rooms including the Chapel situated behind the Library.

It was his son, the 4th Marquess who commissioned St. Andrew's Chapel in Westminster Cathedral, and then **his** son, the 5th Marquess of Bute, who in 1947 moved out of the Castle and handed it over to the City and people of Cardiff in perpetuity. Of particular interest was the fact that two of the Welsh Martyrs, Frs. John Lloyd and Philip Evans were imprisoned in the Black Tower of the Castle prior to their execution in 1679.

We then walked to St. David's Cathedral where we were warmly welcomed by Archbishop George Stack (formerly the Administrator of Westminster Cathedral 1993-2001). Before taking us into the Cathedral he showed us around Cornerstone which had been a dilapidated Grade II listed building originally opened in 1855 as Ebenezer Presbyterian Chapel situated directly opposite the Cathedral. The building was vacated in 2010 by its Welsh-speaking congregation as it required prohibitively expensive restoration. The Chapel was then purchased in 2012 by the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff with the help of a £1,500,000.00 Lottery Grant. With the vision of Archbishop Stack and his team this was converted into a unique venue providing a flexible hub for the community for conferences, seminars, meetings, corporate hospitality, private parties/dinners or just popping into the Café. Around the building is a sensory garden for the blind and disabled. The whole project was very impressive and was officially opened by Prince Charles in December 2016. In 2017 it was awarded the Royal Institute for Chartered Surveyors Awards, Wales Building Conservation Award. Mass was concelebrated in the Cathedral and we were also privileged to be shown some of the Cathedral's Church Treasures by Canon Peter.

Setting off the next day by coach to Tenby, 10 minutes' drive outside Cardiff centre to Roath brought us to the Pwllhalog crossroads where Frs. Philip Evans and John Lloyd were executed together in July 1679 in the middle of a field - today it is a busy town thoroughfare. Plaques in Welsh and English are situated high on a wall and there Fr. Michael led us in prayer.

Travelling via Carmarthen we found St. Peter's Church (built in 1107 and one of the largest in the Diocese of St. David) where the Churchwarden, Nigel Evans welcomed us and guided us through various points of interest in both the pre-and post-reformation history of the building. Mrs Evans kindly provided us with liquid refreshment and Welsh cakes.

Continuing towards Tenby, we stopped at St. David's & St. Patrick's Church in Haverfordwest. Built in 1871, it accommodated approximately 60 people, but an extension has been built at the side. The Parish Priest, Fr. Liam Bradley, a former Seminarian at The English College in Rome, has been at St. David's for five years. His parents, uncle and aunt were part of our group and they have every reason to be proud of him. After a warm welcome he gave us a very informative 20 minute history on St. David and his place in Wales before a concelebrated Mass. So by the evening we arrived in Tenby, a resort whose beach has just been declared the best in the United Kingdom for 2019 by the *Sunday Times*.

Following dinner on the Tuesday evening, we all went for a long walk through the town of Tenby, down to the Harbour, past the old Lifeboat Station and round the point - very good for the digestion. We did not realise that so many famous people had visited or stayed there, e.g Horatio Nelson and Lady Hamilton, George Elliot and Prince Albert, as evidenced by the Blue Plaques on the houses.

The following morning saw us on the coach to St David's (Britain's smallest city) to visit the Cathedral after a stop at St. David's & St. Patrick's Church in Haverfordwest for a concelebrated Mass. Fr. Liam Bradley, who accompanied us to St. David's, is also parish priest at the market town of Narbeth, a few miles from Haverfordwest, which was also featured as a Great British Break by the *Sunday Times* in its August Travel section.

The Cathedral, with approximately 300,000 visitors a year, lies sunk in a hollow, quite invisible from the nearby sea, and so the first sight of it is looking down rather than being seen from afar. It was built in the Norman style in the 12th century, giving pilgrims the opportunity to visit St. David's shrine. Constructed of the local fine-grained purple Cambrian sandstone, it has survived both the collapse of its central tower and an earthquake in the 13th century. The floor slopes noticeably, the levels at the east and west ends of the building differing in height by about 14 feet. St. David was an ascetic, misogynist and charismatic leader who established a monastery here in the 6th century and spread the Gospel right across South Wales. His shrine was restored and rededicated in 2012, and large colourful icons of St. David, St Patrick and St. Andrew now adorn the niches. At Westminster of course, we have the splendid mosaic of St. David made by Ivor David and installed in the Cathedral in 2010 prior to being blessed by Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to Britain.

We then walked to St. Non's Retreat, run by the Sisters of Mercy, who warmly welcomed us with refreshments. The Retreat has both a ruined and a modern chapel and a holy well considered to have healing and miraculous powers. St. Non was the mother of St. David and the site of the ruined Chapel is traditionally his birthplace. Although the ruin cannot be accurately dated, it is considered to be one of the oldest in Wales. It was wonderful to be there, so peaceful, so spiritual, with stunning views across the rocks facing out to the Atlantic.

Our prayers for good weather were answered, as we travelled by boat for a full day visit to Caldey Island on the Thursday. One and a half miles wide and two miles long just off the coast near Tenby, the island has been home since the 1920's to a small Community of Cistercian monks and a number of villagers, some employed by the Abbey Estate, and each summer Caldey it receives around 55,000 visitors. However, it is known that Celtic monks settled on the island in the 6th century with a monastery standing there for the next 1,000 years. We were met at the landing slip by Fr. Gildas, the Monastery cook who was great fun; over 6 feet tall, well built and suitably bearded, he had been a Monk in the community for 36 years. As he guided us around the island, he talked us through the history of early Christianity in South Wales at the same time.

The island offers an enjoyable experience, with its own Post Office and museum, a perfumery and a chocolate factory. There are nature trails, with many varieties of flowers and plants, including rare orchids and the monks have introduced red squirrels to the island which flourish alongside black swans and loads of ducks on ponds. There are also two ancient chapels - St. David's and St. Illtud's. The former, dating from Norman times, has foundations thought to be those of a Celtic chapel built in the 6th century. Its baptismal font was made by the artist and sculptor Eric Gill, creator of the Stations of the Cross in Westminster Cathedral. At the invitation of the Abbot, we were privileged to join the Community for Sext at 12.15 p.m. in the Abbey Church. A few of us also walked right across the island to the lighthouse with its fantastic views, whilst in the evening we attended an excellent Concert given by the Tenby Male Voice Choir enriched with much audience participation.

Friday, our final day, was the feast of St. John Jones which we kept at a concelebrated Mass with Fr. Mansel Usher who warmly welcomed us to St. Teilo's Church. On the train back to London everyone agreed that we had spent a great week in a wonderfully different country. We are now looking forward to another Pilgrimage organised by the Guild of St. John Southworth in 2020.

Due to lack of space, photos accompanying this article may be found on the *Friends* website: www.friendsofenglishcollegerome.org.uk

Louise Sage

Broccoli pesto with Chilli and Garlic

150 g. Wholewheat Penne	3 tsp. olive oil
200 g. Broccoli Florets	2 cloves garlic thinly sliced
30 g. pack Basil	15 g Flat leaf parsley
20 g. Roasted Chopped Hazelnuts	1 large red Chilli sliced into thin rounds
30 g. Hard Cheese or Parmesan finely grated plus extra to serve	

Method

In a pan of boiling water, cook the pasta following the pack instructions.
In another pan of boiling water, blanch the broccoli for 3 mins, drain and refresh under cold water.
In a food processor, whizz the broccoli with the basil, parsley, nuts and 1 tsp oil, until finely chopped.
Add the cheese and 4-5 tbsps of the pasta cooking water to loosen the pesto, then pulse. Season to taste.
When the pasta is ready, drain and return to the pan. Add the broccoli pesto and mix through the pasta to coat.
Heat the remaining oil in a pan, add the garlic and chilli and stir-fry for 1 min over a high heat, until softened and browning slightly.
Divide the pasta between 2 serving bowls, and spoon over the garlic and chilli sizzle.
Serve with a few cheese shavings, if you like.

ANNUAL MEETING – 2019

The annual meeting was held on September 14th at St. Joseph's Parish Centre, Burntwood, Staffordshire.

27 Members welcomed the Rector, Monsignor Philip Whitmore, and the Senior Student, Deacon Dominic Jenkinson, as our guests for the day.

Monsignor Philip began his Report on the past year at the College by playing a 3D virtual video tour of the College Chapel. This is something very new to the College and will be developed to introduce the College to a wider audience.

One of the many highlights of the College year had been 15 of the Seminarians being invited to serve at the Holy Father's Pentecost Mass. In August, 6 new Students were welcomed to the College, bringing the total number currently studying there to 25, including 7 from Scandinavia.

Monsignor Philip thanked the Friends for their continued support of the College, especially through the Pilgrimage Fund. He was pleased to announce that the College would travel to the Holy Land again in 2020, and looked forward to the Friends supporting the pilgrimage financially. He told us that discussions were beginning about the way forward for the future of Palazzola. Jeremy Hudson thanked the Rector, on behalf of all present, for his presentation.

Deacon Dominic, in his address to the meeting, introduced himself by relating his journey from Rotherham to Rome. He described the reawakening of his Faith during a memorable weekend of Easter Services which led to his arrival at the College at the age of 30. He is now very much looking forward to his ordination in July 2020. He then described the fulfilment he receives from his work with the Sant'Egidio Community in Rome helping them with their work with the homeless and the down and outs. On behalf of all his fellow students at the College, he thanked us for our support, both practical and spiritual.

The AGM part of the Annual Meeting included the election of Officers and Committee –
The Officers – Mike Lang, Chairman; Adrian Rogers, Treasurer; Jim Holroyd, Secretary - were all re-elected unopposed. Following a ballot, the following members were elected to the committee – Louise Bradley, Sarah Gough, Jeremy Hudson, Michael L'Estrange, Alice Reeve, Louise Sage and Paul Waters.

In his address to the AGM, the chairman expressed his thanks and appreciation to Theresa Savereux for her time on the committee in recent years. On behalf of the Friends he thanked her for her very positive contributions to the business of the committee. He also thanked Alice Reeve, and her parish priest Fr Linh, for their welcome and hospitality at St Joseph's Burntwood.

It was agreed that next year's Annual Meeting would be held in the Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Southwark, London on Saturday 12th September 2020..

We welcome the following new members

Mr & Mrs Z.J. Matejko (Wroughton)	Mr S Pound MP (London)
Mr & Mrs P. Curtis (Chesham)	Mr & Mrs W Ware (Ormskirk)
Ms J Smithson (Monkseaton)	Mr A Jennings (Knaresborough)
Mr I Hamilton (Bradford)	Mr D. Murphy (London)
Rev. A. Bartlett (London)	Miss M. McKew (New York)

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