

VENERABILE VIEW

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The English College Rome

FROM THE RECTOR'S WINDOW

Spring 2019



As the Friends will recall from the Autumn issue of *Venerabile View*, the year 2018 saw a number of important anniversaries for us. There was of course a rather sombre anniversary last November, namely the centenary of the Armistice. And it was our turn to lead the celebration of Remembrance Sunday at the Church of San Silvestro in Capite on the day itself, 11 November. We were delighted to welcome Mgr Phelim Rowland, parish priest of Hampstead and a former Principal Chaplain to the Army, who presided and preached for us.



It was good to be joined, as ever, by our brethren from the Scots College and the Beda College, as well as Embassy staff from the British and Irish Embassies.

It was commented by some that, in any other city, a church where the head of St John the Baptist was enshrined would attract many visitors. In Rome, though, there are so many relics that even so significant a skull as this could easily be overlooked.

November is also the month when we are visited by Jubilarians: this year marked the tenth such gathering.

Bishop Peter Doyle of Northampton was one of the Golden Jubilarians and we were delighted that he was able to be principal celebrant and homilist for the occasion. Whereas last year the Holy Father was away on his Apostolic Visit to Myanmar and Bangladesh when the Jubilarians came, this year the Diamonds were able to greet him personally at the end of the General Audience on 28 November.



On Martyrs' Day we welcomed Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and a former Archbishop of Baltimore. We were delighted that he was able to preside and preach for us on this great occasion. The 18th-century chasuble he wore was a gift to the College from Nick and Pam Coote, our great friends, who rescued it by buying it at Christie's, eager to ensure that it would be put to its proper use.



Cardinal O'Brien has been very supportive of the work we are doing to develop the

College Archives, and here his Baltimore connections are of great assistance to us. Baltimore was the first diocese established in North America and our archives include many papers from the early 19th century concerning the fledgling Church in North America. One way we are seeking to "spread the word" about the College Archives is through a dedicated website, www.vecarchives.org. The site includes a monthly blog contributed by Fr Nicholas Schofield, called "Tales from the Archives". I do recommend it to all our Friends.



The Friends recently provided us with a table for the new Schwarzenbach Reading Room, where we can accommodate visiting researchers who come to explore the College Archives. Thank you to the Friends for supplying the table, which will be put to good use. The Reading Room is located where the Bar used to be - and the Bar has been moved into the more spacious Garden Room. The new location has proved popular - and few, if any, look back to the days when bar users had to squeeze into the rather cramped surroundings at the base of the Tower.

The gym has been moved to an underground location below the Garden Room. Here the Friends have been generous in supplying the air-conditioning system. The whole area has been smartened up and should provide an added incentive to keep fit during the years ahead.

One of the developments that has really transformed the lives of seminarians since I was at the College, 25-30 years ago, is the internet. As everyone knows, technology moves forward at an astonishing pace, and it's necessary to be constantly updating, in order not to be left behind. One of the recent changes in the College is that the wi-fi system has been completely overhauled, and this is another development made possible by the generosity of the Friends. The volume of wi-fi use is high and ever increasing. It is good to be able to provide facilities adequate for our needs in this area.

January and February are not normally popular dates for ordinations - but this year was an exception. On Saturday 12 January, Peter Taylor was ordained to the diaconate in Middlesbrough Cathedral by Bishop Terry Draney. Peter left the College last summer, in order to spend time in the diocese preparing for his diaconate. I was pleased to represent the College on that happy occasion. Three weeks later, as you can read later in this issue, Michael Vian Clark was ordained deacon in far-away Connecticut, for the diocese of Bridgeport. Happily Fr John Metcalfe was able to be present. We wish Peter and Michael *Ad multos annos*, and await news of their respective ordinations to the priesthood.



We have been pleased to welcome back David Irwin, a Shrewsbury seminarian who was with us from 2012 to 2016. After some years away from seminary formation, he has discerned that he really does want to pursue the path towards the priesthood and it was good to see him return in February. He has been put to work straight away, as Choirmaster - with responsibility for all the music in the College liturgy.



David was with us just in time for the celebration of St David's Day - and as we now have a Welshman among us for the first time in many years, in the person of Elliot Hanson from Cardiff, it was only right that we should celebrate. Daffodils and leeks were much in evidence, and the Welsh flag flew proudly at the College entrance. Our Church has what we understand to be the only image in Rome of St David - and two of our College martyrs, Venerable Edward Morgan and St David Lewis, not to mention the first rector, Morus Clynnog, were from Wales.

Once again we thank the Friends for all that you do for us - most of all, your prayers and your friendship, but also your many gifts. They are greatly appreciated. God bless you all.

Mgr. Philip Whitmore

Rector

Introducing the new Senior Students

Greetings from the College. The house recently elected me Senior Student and I would like to introduce myself. My name is Dominic and I am a 35 year old candidate for the diocese of Hallam. I am currently in the final stages of preparation for ordination to the Diaconate, God willing this July at Palazzola.

I am blessed to be the eldest child of a large Catholic family. Before seminary I worked with my father and brothers in the family building firm. When I turned 30 I felt called to embark on this vocational journey and Bishop John Rawsthorne, then of Hallam, invited me to begin with a propaedeutic year at the Royal English College in Valladolid. Then under the new Bishop of Hallam, Ralph Heskett, I was invited to continue my formation in Rome. I feel incredibly blessed to have been formed at the Venerable, enjoying my time here immensely.



As I approach ordination my mind focuses more intently on the mission to come. Last year Mgr. John Armitage, Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, came to Rome to give an inspiring retreat weekend. He explained that the English priest has always needed to be flexible to adapt his ministry to the needs of the time. From the first missionaries to our martyr saints to the present day this remains the case. The Church is now calling us to engage in the New Evangelisation of our lands. Therefore I am focused on proclaiming the saving truth of Jesus Christ and the fullness of life found in Him to those I encounter in ministry. I hope to accompany those who are already in the Church in missionary discipleship, as

we together proclaim the Gospel afresh to those yet to encounter the Lord. In this era, to survive and thrive in our Catholic faith, we each need to cultivate an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As such I am interested in the forms of spirituality that draw us deeper into His Sacred Heart and empower mission. An appreciation of the gift of the Sacraments, the wonder of the Mass, Eucharistic adoration, accessible resources for delving into sacred scripture, Marian devotion and consecration and a renewal in faith formation are vital. I am also enthused to see various programmes being rolled out in parishes to encourage each of us into a more intentional and mission orientated discipleship.

Thank you for all your support of the College over the years. Please continue with your prayer and encouragement as we work together to form priests for mission today. I look forward to getting to know you better in the year to come and beyond. With prayer and great appreciation,

Dominic Jenkinson, Senior Student

Prior to coming to seminary I studied for a Masters in International Development at Bristol University. I then applied for the Bishops' Conference Catholic Parliamentary Internship scheme, the internship interested me as it offered an insight into the reality of political life - in the UK and overseas -



whilst also offering a chance to explore my faith and consider how I would be able to live this in the political sphere. It was a fascinating experience, providing insights into different business fields and opportunities professional development, but for me the most transformative element was the retreat at the start of the year. The opportunity for silence with the Lord allowed me to recognise that He might have a different plan of life for me and that I should put my trust in him. After much time discerning I applied to begin training for the priesthood for the Diocese of Westminster and within two years I found myself at language school in Tuscany studying Italian and preparing to come to the English College.

I love Rome as a city, it continues to inspire and surprise me with its many beautiful churches, dramatic countryside and cultural opportunities, I'm also a keen runner and photographer which has motivated me to explore the city in my free time. The College is obviously at the heart of any seminarians' life, being the place where we come to appreciate the Lord's guiding presence in our lives, for me the strong fraternity in the community and tradition of hospitality have made my time here all the more enjoyable. Back in the Diocese my parish base in St Aloysius, Somers Town, an area of London I've lived in for over 6 years and very much think of as home.

Reflections from a Seminarian's Mother

I was never surprised when my son announced that he felt he had a calling to be a priest. To give up a successful legal career, and his house only served to demonstrate his commitment to his chosen path. So, as he embarked on his formation as a seminarian at the VEC, my husband and I fully expected him to be ordained in the Diocese of Plymouth. BUT God had other plans for our boy and so he found himself in the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut in November 2017. After a nine month placement in St Thomas More Parish, Darien we were overjoyed when the Bishop declared last September that he was to be a candidate for Ordination. I attended that ceremony and was overwhelmed by the love expressed by those parishioners for my son of whom 400 turned out for the service of candidature.

He went to live in the Seminary named after St John Fisher-strange how these English saints are featuring in his life! Assigned to the Catholic High School in Stamford to assist the chaplain ,he found himself not only assisting pastorally but teaching Religion classes daily , teaching some Music and being asked to teach in three other Catholic schools-lucky he comes from a long line of teachers! Then at last the Bishop decided that he should be ordained Deacon.



On February 2, 2019 that great day took place. It was fitting that it was Candlemas since he was to embark upon a life of witness to the light. My husband and I and two friends who live in the States assembled in St Gabriel's Church which is next to the High School and the Seminary. We were delighted that Father John Metcalfe from the VEC and Fr David Charters , one of the Papal representatives at the United Nations, together with Canon Carl Turner, formerly of Exeter Cathedral and now in charge of St Thomas' Church, Fifth Avenue and his wife were able to attend.

It was a lovely service and deeply moving. My abiding impression is that it is akin to a marriage service-here we were witnessing our son making his vows to serve God for the rest of his life. As a parent I have always believed that a child is a precious gift from God who is on loan to us so that we can nurture them and see them develop as independent spirits. Participating in this service made me very proud and grateful to God for giving us the gift of Michael and now he is to do God's work. Bishop Caggiano in his homily said "that the light had led Michael to this moment. A remarkable odyssey , one that you could not ever foresee as a little boy. I applaud faithfully your courage and fidelity to have walked faithfully where the light has led you. There will never be a moment in your life that for whatever the Lord asks of you He will not give you the abundance of His grace to respond as generously as you can. The light will always be there no matter how dark the horizon may be." What stirring words for a newly ordained Deacon to hear.

I now realise that the USA is where my boy is meant to be and am happy that the warmth of those he has worked amongst is so genuine. They certainly made us feel very welcome and were very complimentary about what he has achieved so far.

Lesley Clark-a very proud mother

Spiritual Conferences by Mgr. Tony Philpot

One of the most gifted British priests of recent times. What Mgr Tony Philpot had to say was borne out of faithful prayer and years of parochial ministry.

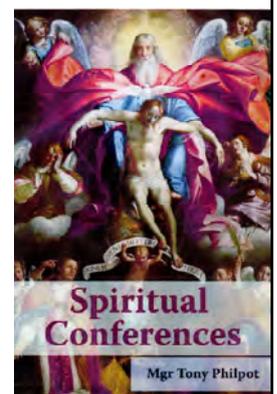
As Spiritual Director at the English College in Rome and throughout the British Isles, he helped form and renew seminarians and priests alike.

This book of spiritual conferences will be a resource for seminarians and priests, for spiritual reading, days of reflection and retreats.

Any Christian, however, will be nourished by the reflections contained within these pages.

ISBN 978 085244 938 7

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PALAZZOLA

A very warm hello from Villa Palazzola!

We are experiencing, as I write, some lovely spring weather. The place is bustling with various jobs; painting, repairing, mowing and weeding. We have just completed roof revision and repairs on the conference room, which was badly needed. We have had all our rooms and bathrooms painted and the corridors too. We had hoped that we could refurbish some of our rooms, but sadly this will have to wait until next year.

We have been very lucky to have some donations in from individuals to help us with new armchairs in our bedrooms, and a new carpet for the TV room, the carpet is straight forward (if we find a supplier who will issue invoices!) but for the armchairs we will probably need further donations for all the rooms, so we may wait until we accumulate to speculate.

However, we have a new lift! The late Father Grimshaw's "tiramisu" (pick/pull me up, in Italian, or a famous Italian desert!) sadly went to the lift cemetery and we now have a super updated version with automated phone calls in case of emergencies.

Due to Brexit our bookings are quite scarce this year. This will hopefully improve once the British people know what Brexit entails!
no more on this subject

We are looking forward to welcoming you all in May 2020, and hope that in the meantime we can welcome you during 2019. May I thank you all for your generosity throughout the past years, we really appreciate your support.



My personal best wishes
to you all,

Joyce Hunter
Director Palazzola

Chairman's Report

At the November Committee meeting it was decided that the Friends should organise a group visit to DOP and the villa has been booked for this visit from 15th May to 22nd May 2020. This visit will take place close to the hundredth anniversary of the purchase of Palazzola (please contact Jim Holroyd if you wish to join this group).

During the February Committee meeting a suggestion was made that we should offer help to our young priests by producing a collection of recipes (savoury or sweet) for one person and simple to make. Please see the first of these recipes on the back page. If any one has "easy to cook" recipes for one person please send them to me for insertion in the next issues of VV.

The Friends' gifts to the College since the last issue of VV have been:

- a) The updating of the College Wi-Fi system to 2019 standards. The reports coming from the College indicate that the work has been successfully completed.
- b) Providing funds to enable the Reading Room (part of the new Archive project) to be furnished in an appropriate manner.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the Annual *Friend's* meeting which will be held in Lichfield on Sat 14th September.

Mike Lang

Here are two pilgrimages that members of the *Friends of the Venerabile* may be interested in.

A PILGRIMAGE TO ESSEX, SUFFOLK and the borders of CAMBRIDGESHIRE **Monday 01 to Friday 05 July 2019**

This pilgrimage, designed by *Friend* member *Dr Michael Straiton* and organised under the umbrella of the Friends of the Holy Father and the Friends of the Venerabile will be visiting **Colchester** (St Helen's church), **Ipswich** (for the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace - the original statute now being in Nettuno, Italy and **Sutton Hoo**), **Ingatestone** (to be hosted by Bishop Thomas McMahon and to visit the recusant Ingatestone Hall), **Bury St Edmunds** (one of the most historical Catholic parishes to be hosted by Canon Mark Hackeson, previously a seminarian at the English College and to visit **West Stowe Anglo-Saxon Village**) and **Ely** (with its beautiful Cathedral). With chaplain *Fr Guy Sawyer*, parish priest Harrow-on-the-Hill.

Cost: £695 sharing in double room, £895 single occupancy

SAINTS AND MARTYRS OF SOUTH WALES **Monday 08 to Friday 12 July 2019**

This pilgrimage, designed by *Friends* committee member, *Louise Sage* and organised under the umbrella of the Guild of St John Southworth at Westminster and the Friends of the Venerabile will be visiting **Cardiff** (to be hosted by Archbishop George Stack and where formerly two of the six Welsh martyrs were executed), **Carmarthen** (for the largest church in Wales, built in 1107) **Haverfordwest** (to be hosted by Fr Liam Bradley, previously a seminarian at the English College), Tenby (for **Caldy Island**) and **St Davids** (the smallest City in the British Isles). With chaplain *Canon Christopher Tuckwell*, Administrator of Westminster Cathedral.

Cost: £495 sharing in double room, £645 single occupancy.

For further information on all these pilgrimages, please contact Anthony Coles, 18 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX - Tel: 020 7431 3414 - Email: arctc@btinternet.com

Mum's Carbonara (otherwise known as English Style Carbonara)

100 grms tagliatelle pasta
Schwartz garlic (shake on) or half garlic clove
35 mls milk
Small onion

1 tbsp. olive oil
90 grms of soft cheese (*I use Philadelphia with no added flavours*)
3 slices of pancetta (*available in 105 gm packs in the supermarket*)
Flat leaf parsley or dried shake on parsley (*for decoration*)

Method

- Place the pasta in a saucepan of boiling water and leave to cook.
- Place the olive oil in a large saucepan and heat. Add the chopped onions and cook until very soft and just on the point of turning brown. Don't overcook or this will spoil the overall appearance of the completed dish.
- Now add the diced pancetta and cook with the onions
- Add the garlic and salt pepper if desired. At this stage you may need to add a little more olive oil to the saucepan. Keep an eye on the cooking pasta!
- Now stir in the soft cheese and add the milk gradually so the mixture is a soft creamy consistency. Cover with a lid and take off the heat.
- When the pasta is cooked, drain and stir in the carbonara mixture. Mix well and serve .
- Add the chopped parsley to decorate.

Useful tip

- As a variation on this method, you can swap the pancetta for pieces of smoked salmon and continue in the same way. You will then have made, for yourself, Mum's "pasta al salmone" - a tasty dish for a Friday.

Louise Bradley

Ordinations to the Priesthood

Provisional dates are as follows:

Sat 22nd June 2019

Rev. Hai Nguyen Oslo Norway
Rev. James Barber Plymouth Cathedral

Sat 20th July 2019

Rev. Ben Hilton Leeds Cathedral
Rev. John Waters St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham
Rev. Ryan Service St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham
Rev. Marco Egawhary St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham

Sat 27th July 2019

Rev. Ben Woodley Westminster Cathedral

May God bless them and remain with them

We welcome the following new members

Mrs C Tucker (Harlow)
Mr & Mrs C Flynn (Kirribilli Australia)
Mr & Mrs M Cawley (Shipley)
Mr S Fachada (London)

Mr P Egawhary (Kidlington)
Mrs H Hauschild (Southampton)
Mr & Mrs I Perryman (Marlborough)
Mr M Berry (Manchester)

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