

# VENERABILE VIEW

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July 1999

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our very grateful thanks to Jeremy Hudson for all his hard work in dealings with the Charity Commission and in getting us our own charity status.

(Our Charity Number is 10754 1). We now need to sort out all our paper work and renew our drive for more members.

I know that you will all be saddened by the death of Bernard Sullivan who has served the Friends for so many years. We had a Mass said for him on your behalf and Elizabeth and Stephen Usherwood and Ivan Kightley attended his funeral. I was away and unable to get there.

Our main financial outlay this year will be on the Rector's portrait. We are at present deciding on an artist to undertake this work which will be done once Mgr Toffolo returns to England in the autumn.

During his time as Rector, Mgr Toffolo has been very kind to the Friends and very appreciative of our help. It has been a pleasure working with him. We thank him for all his co-operation and the time he has given us, especially coming to our Annual Meetings. We hope to be able to keep in touch with him.

It is a pleasure too to welcome Fr Pat Kilgarriff as the new Rector who will be taking up his post in readiness for the next academic year.

On my trip to the College in Rome in March I was shown a great number of projects that could benefit from our help. Unfortunately the Bede Chapel Prayer Room is not a possibility at the moment, so the money we gave last year for that project has been switched to help pay for the new Guidebook. The old 'Blue Room' which has now been renamed the 'Friends' Room' has been refurbished with a great amount

Just before Fr Pat left Coventry I went up to see him for a cup of tea and a chat. I had an agenda to work from but we spent most of the time talking about the mountains of Austria.

We decided that as Rector Fr Pat will be writing us a piece for each *Venerabile View*, so I would write this introduction.

His last few days here in St Osburg's Parish in Coventry, where he was parish priest for the last seven years as well as rural dean, were made even busier as they coincided with the Cardinal's Requiem which he attended and the Requiem Mass in Coventry in the evening at which he preached. Our Archbishop of Birmingham retired in the same week.

Fr Pat has had experience of life in Rome, having been on the staff of the English College from 1985-1992, but he has also had many years experience of parish life.

His first parish after ordination was the Holy Family here in Coventry in 1966, then in 1972 he moved to Wolverhampton. From 1977-1984 he served with the Irish Liturgy Institute and the Catholic Missionary Society.

of care and taste. Our thanks to the students who worked hard to plan the details. I thank them too for organising the Official Opening, with the refreshments, the talk and video and the chance for me to cut the tape and declare it open. The students and staff pass on to you all their thanks for providing a good part of the funding and the comfy new sofas. They have plenty of ideas to keep us busy for the time to come.

## THE NEW RECTOR FR PATRICK MICHAEL KILGARRIFF

From 1984-1985 he was at Norton-le-Moors until going to Rome.

Fr Pat was born in Chasetown, near Lichfield, in Staffordshire and studied for the priesthood at Oscott College. He comes from an artistic family and is himself no mean artist. He is fond of art and architecture and he is looking forward to being in Rome again where there are so many riches. But he is never happier than when donning his boots and setting off for a day in the mountains. The mountains of Austria are his favourite and he is off there again in August with his three regular companions. He can recount trips that he has made to all the mountain groups in Austria.

Amongst all the talk of mountains I did remember to tell him about the Friends and how we helped. He had not realised the extent of our financial help. I also told him how pleased we were at his appointment, and how we were looking forward to working further with the College under his Rectorship.

Incidentally, he is also an excellent cook.

With reluctance we send him FROM Coventry.

**Jo Barnacle**

**N.B. ANNUAL  
MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 18th AT  
ARCHBISHOP'S  
HOUSE  
WESTMINSTER  
SEE YOU THERE**

## MILLENNIUM PILGRIMAGE

The proposed Friends' pilgrimage in 2000 to Rome and Palazzola will take place between the 18th and 29th September. Further details will be sent with the annual meeting information.

## BERNARD SULLIVAN KHS (RIP)

With the death in April of Bernard Sullivan, The Friends of the Venerable lost one of its most faithful voluntary workers.

From the society's inception he served on the committee, for most of the time in the arduous post of Secretary, seeing the office through an administrative up-grade from pen to computer, and three moves.

Journeys for recruitment drives and to view suitable venues for the annual meeting were as nothing to a man who had travelled the world. More penitential were the winter days spent up-dating records and coping with correspondence in an unheated office.

In recognition of his devotion to the College, Bishop Cormac Murphy O'Connor presented him, on 26th February 1997, with the medal *pro Ecclesiae et Pontifice*.

Bernard will be greatly missed by all the Catholic organisations to which he gave unstinting support. They, like the Venerable English College, Rome, have indeed lost a friend.

Elizabeth Usherwood

## 'OLD ROMAN' NEWS

### MARTYRS' DAY MASSES

Once again this year the Roman Association, the 'old boys' of the College (both priests and lay), will be marking the Feast of the College Martyrs with Mass at various venues. It is hoped that Mass will be celebrated at Tyburn Convent on Wednesday, December 1st and on or around that

date in the North-West, at Ushaw College, Durham, in the Midlands, and at Salisbury. Final details will be arranged nearer the time. Friends of the Venerable are very welcome to attend any of the Masses, and the Secretary of the Roman Association, Fr Paul Daly, will supply further details.  
(Tel: 020 8731 9796  
or 07803 246 983)

## APPEAL 2000

For several years the members of the Roman Association have attempted to collect sufficient funds to endow the College with a regular and substantial source of income, a kind of endowment fund. This will enable the College to fund major projects over and above the ordinary day to day maintenance work. To date the members of the Association have raised, largely from their own resources, over half a million pounds. They are now attempting to complete their hoped-for total of **One Million** pounds.

Further information can be obtained from the Treasurer, Fr Anthony Wilcox, Sacred Heart Presbytery, 31 Vicarage Rd, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1HT (Tel: 01491 573 258), or the Secretary, Fr Paul Daly, The Mission House, 114 West Heath Rd, London NW3 7TX (Tel: 020 8731 9796).

Fr Paul Daly

## BISHOP BISHOP

As several dioceses in the British Isles now anxiously await the naming of their new bishop it is interesting to recall the situation before 1623.

Not surprisingly, when the Catholic clergy of England and Wales petitioned the Holy Father for a Bishop in Ordinary, they chose as one of their delegates Fr William Bishop, who, despite imprisonment and banishment, had always returned to the home mission as soon as possible.

With Fr Robert Charnock he set out, in 1598, for Rome (which he knew well, having been a student at the Venerable), arriving on November 19th. They spent five days in the Hospice attached to the College before

moving to lodgings in the city.

In the middle of the night of December 28th their rooms were entered by a company of the Pope's guard. They were arrested, taken to the College, and committed to the custody of the Rector, Fr Robert Persons SJ, who confined them in separate rooms. Deprived of contact with friends or Vatican officials, their papers were seized and they were continually interrogated by Persons and other Jesuits.

On 17 February two Cardinals came to the College to conduct the equivalent of a trial, accusing Frs Bishop and Charnock of being ambitious, turbulent persons; heading a factious party; and trying to procure mitres for themselves. These charges being obviously untrue, the two priests were released on April 23rd, on condition that they left Rome within ten days, and did not return to the British Isles without papal permission.

This permission was soon given, but it was another quarter of a century before a bishop was appointed, and then it was not a Bishop in Ordinary, but a Vicar Apostolic with jurisdiction over England, Wales, and Scotland. The man chosen by Pope Gregory XV for this difficult task was William Bishop, who, on June 4th 1623, was consecrated Bishop of Chalcedon.

He reached Dover at the end of July, and took up residence at Bishop's Court, the home of Sir Basil Brook, in the parish of St Sepulchre, just outside the walls of London, where he died on April 13th 1624.

In those brief nine months he reorganised the Church structure in his area, appointing a chapter of twenty Canons to advise him, giving them episcopal power in the event of the See becoming vacant.

This happened for the thirty years following the death of his successor, Bishop Smith, in 1655, so it can be said that the foresight and administrative ability of William Bishop made possible a peaceful transition to the appointment of Bishop Leyburn in 1685.

Elizabeth Usherwood