

St Wilfrid's Preston



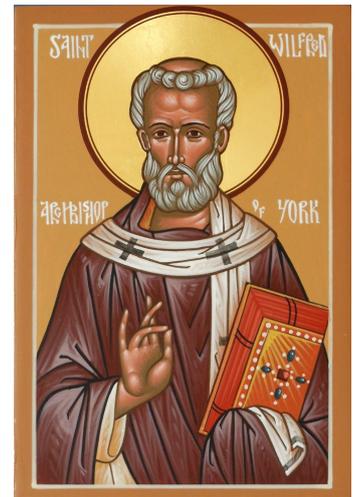
Michaelmas Magazine 2015



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Hello, and welcome to the *Michaelmas* edition of St. Wilfrid's parish magazine.

“Thank You!” to everyone who has donated their creative time and good will in contributing to the content and final production of our *Michaelmas* magazine. The term *Michaelmas* refers to St. Michael the Archangel whose feast we celebrate this coming Tuesday, the 29th September, along with the other archangels, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael.

As an archangel of God, St. Michael is a major figure in traditional Christianity, but he is also mentioned in Jewish and Islamic writings too. Apart from his well known encounter with, and ejection of Satan from Heaven, St. Michael is also identified as a healer and protector.

In Medieval history, *Michaelmas* marked the beginning of Autumn, and was a time for the settling of quarterly accounts after the harvest. In a wider context, *Michaelmas* is still used as a title by several traditional universities for the Autumn term of the academic year, and in the legal world is used with reference to the *dining terms* from September through to December of the *Inns of Court* of the English Bar and Ireland's *Honourable Society of King's Inns*.

We hope you enjoy the stories, reflections and anecdotes, found inside our *Michaelmas* magazine, and as we continue our collective journeys through Autumn, we can perhaps call on St. Michael to guide us and keep us safe in his role as healer and protector.

All Best Wishes and God Bless

Fr. Stephen, Fr. Peter, Fr. Matthew

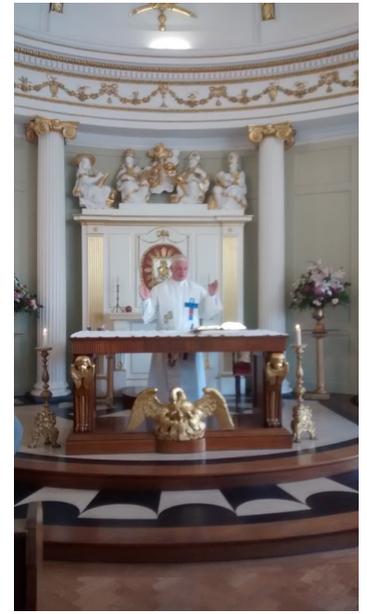
But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Jude 1:9 NIV



Parish Trip to York

by Gillian Leech



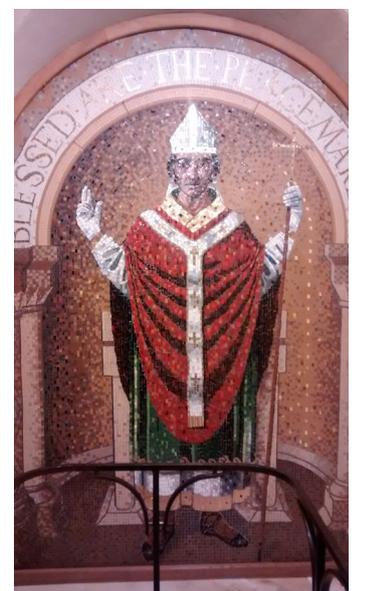
We heard Father Stephen announcing,
A proposed parish day trip to York,
We would ride on a fifty-two seater,
'Cos York is much too far to walk!
The trip was to raise lots of money,
For the charity HCPT,
With Richard and Josh to tease out our dosh,
With a quiz and a dud DVD.



So we all set off early one Sat'dy,
Though it took a bit longer than planned,
But we stopped for a break on the journey,
And the mood was all cheerful and grand.
We had Mass at the lovely Bar Convent,
With its dome that's not seen from outside,
And a talk about Margaret Clitheroe,
Whose hand hasn't changed since she died.
Within white and gold regency colours,
With all sorts of treasures on show,
We heard about Mary Ward's lifetime,
And the priest hole there hidden below.



Then most of us ate in the gardens,
Before splitting to do our own things,
Like walking the walls or just shopping,
Or visiting Jorvik Vikings.
There were those who said prayers in the Minster,
And those who perhaps stayed too long,
But when all had returned and were counted,
The number of folk was not wrong.
So we tootled back homewards to Preston,
With quiz answers to feed every brain,
And all fundraisers must have a raffle,
Tell me - when can we do it again?



Sister Shelagh Duggan's Funeral

6th August 2015 at Pantasaph.

Sr Shelagh Duggan's funeral took place at Bryn Mair Convent in the chapel. A group of 17 parishioners from St Wilfrid's attended the Requiem Mass. Amongst the group were friends and those who knew Sr Shelagh from her time at St Wilfrid's until she left with the other Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of Mercy to be re-located in Pantasaph. The Group laid a beautiful wreath in Papal colours with a message of condolence on behalf of St Wilfrid's.



The Mass was attended by friends and family and concelebrated by the local clergy and the Capuchins from the nearby Friary. Fr Joe also concelebrated the Mass which was led by the Bishop Peter Brignall of Wrexham. Although a sad occasion at losing one of our sisters it was

also a celebration of Sr Shelagh's life and there was a genuine feeling of happiness and community as gave witness to Sr Shelagh's journey to eternal life in Heaven.



The Group also took advantage of the occasion to visit the local Shrine to Our Lady at Holywell first thing, then after the funeral the Cathedral of St Asaph, which houses the only remaining reformation bible written in Welsh.

The Shrine at Holywell has Jesuit connections in that in 1868 Fr Charles Sidney de Vere

Beauclerk SJ reintroduced the Shrine as a Catholic place of pilgrimage and made it famous for its healing waters and known as the Welsh Lourdes.



Feast of St Francis Xavier

31st July 2015 by Shirley Russo

A group of 45 people including parishioners from other parishes including Stonyhurst boarded a coach to attend the Mass to celebrate St Francis Xavier at St Francis Xavier's church Liverpool. There was a bit of a panic when we thought we had left some passengers in the Church which caused a few giggles but thankfully all were present and correct - thanks Maddy!

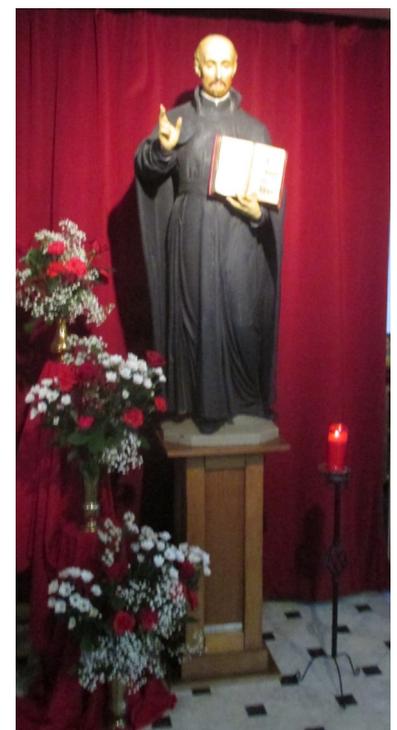
It has become a tradition now for some years that the mass be held each year at one of the four Northwest Jesuit parishes in rotation. The church was full and the one of the items of interest was the beautiful restored stained glass window of St Ignatius Loyola which was originally part of the main altar windows. The section was badly damaged during the bombing of Liverpool during the 2nd World War. Thanks to a generous donation from the National Lottery and donations from parishioners the window has been beautifully restored and is now placed on the left hand side of the transept, beautifully lit for all to view. The cost of the repair was in the region of £9,000!



The Mass was celebrated by the Parish Priest Fr Adrian Howell and concelebrated by other visiting Jesuit Priests including Fr Joe Duggan, the previous Parish Priest of St Wilfrid's. Charlie and Jimmy Doherty from St Wilfrid's did a fantastic job assisting as altar servers. The visiting priests at St Wilfrid's Frs Janssen and Guiney also concelebrated the Mass.

Refreshments were provided by the lovely ladies at SFX and everyone enjoyed

meeting old and new friends. Br Ken Vance was present to give information on the history of the church including interesting nuggets such as the distinct colour of our Lady's cloak on the Pieta statue being of a deep red almost burgundy shade rather than the traditional blue normally associated with Marian images. If you want to know why this is then you'll have to catch Br Vance at the next St Ignatius Mass next year! SFX is a beautiful church with lots of hidden treasures including a magnificent altar to St Joseph with a relief of Our Lady and St Joseph's' wedding and priests vestments, 100 in total are held at SFX but about four are on display. This was a very popular trip so if you're interested in attending the one next year, keep your eyes open for the notice in the newsletter.



Jesuit Churches we've visited: Sacred Heart, Lauriston

Since coming regularly to St Wilfrid's at the beginning of this year I've been drawn to other Jesuit Churches on my travels.

I thought it might be an idea if we shared some of the Jesuit (or former Jesuit Churches) we have visited on our travels. If you have pictures and a few words about, or thoughts upon a Jesuit Church you've visited on a trip in this country or a holiday abroad, please send them in to us to share in future editions.



Whilst in Edinburgh to watch some shows at the fringe festival I visited the **Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart**, located in Lauriston on the edge of Edinburgh's historic Old Town. The Church building dates from 1860. It is an historic building once the centre of a large Italian and Irish community based on the Grassmarket. Priests and Brothers of the Society of Jesus have served here in the centre of Scotland's capital city since the parish was started in 1859.



My impression of the church was that it is a very bright church in spite of having no windows in the walls of the main body of the church, it's natural light comes in through it's roof light. The body of the church is dominated by the large Stations of the Cross paintings on its walls.

Like St Wilfrid's the Sacred Heart appears to be a place of worship, prayer, reflection and quiet in the heart of the city.

Attached to the church is the Lauriston Jesuit Centre, designed to be a place for the Edinburgh Jesuit Community to present issues of spirituality, social justice and adult faith formation to the city of Edinburgh and beyond.

Geoff Thompson



When donations are sent on your behalf we get back some lovely thank you letters. Here are a few examples:

Medaille Trust

Catholic Church of St Wilfrid
C/O Fr. Stephen Patterson
1 Winkley Square
Preston
PR1 3JJ

7th September 2015

Dear Fr Patterson,

Thank you for the kind gift of £500 which you recently forwarded to the trust. Your cheque will be banked on Friday 11th September.

We would be grateful if you would pass on our thanks to the Parishioners of the Catholic Church of St Wilfrid. We very much appreciate their continued support of our work. Without their gifts we would not be able to provide protection and support to the victims of trafficking.

Thank you again

Yours gratefully



Edwin Landles
Finance Officer



8th September 2015

Donor 10146

Father Patterson
Catholic Church of St Wilfrid
1 Winkley Square
PRESTON
PR1 3JJ

Dear Father Patterson

On behalf of Derian House Children's Hospice, I would like to thank you for the wonderful donation of £500.00.

This is such a generous donation and one which is very much appreciated by everyone at Derian House. We are currently supporting 250 families throughout the North West who have a child or young adult with a life threatening condition, and a further 150 families who are receiving bereavement support.

As a charity which receives minimal government funding, we have to rely on our own efforts and the generosity of our friends in the wider community to help us raise the funds we need. A donation such as this is a welcome contribution towards this year's financial target of £3.5 million which will ensure that these children and families continue to receive the crucial care and support they so desperately need.

Yours Sincerely



Karen Birch (Mrs)
Finance Administration



Jesuit Refugee Service UK
2 Chandler Street
London
E1W 2QT
020 7488 7310 www.jrsuk.net
jrsfundraiser@gmail.com

September 2015

Fr Stephen Patterson SJ
Catholic Church of St Wilfrid
1 Winkley Square
Preston
PR1 3JJ

Dear Fr Stephen

Thank you for your donation of £500 to support the asylum seekers whom we accompany at Jesuit Refugee Service through advocacy and their basic needs.

With the journeys of migrants and refugees very much in the news at the moment, we keep in our thoughts and prayers each person who is finding their way to a safer and better life. JRS UK is part of the National Peace and Justice Network as well as other coalitions such as the Churches Refugee Network who are speaking out for the dignity and welfare of people who find themselves at Europe's borders in camps such as the one in Calais.

In our latest newsletter, Louise Zanré, Director of JRS UK, calls all of us to be diligent advocates, encouraging us to hold dear values that mean we do not denigrate another person because of their immigration or asylum status. There is much to be done to change the nature of our public conversation about forced migrants and to make the case for better provision for those coming to our country for safety and asylum.

We accompany those who are already here, many who have been waiting for a long time for a decision about their application for asylum which will enable them to continue with their future journey and rebuild their life or the life of their family.

Your gift will be put to good use, helping us to provide practical help where needed (for food, toiletries, nappies), community (at lunch each day, a warm welcome at our day centre) and a chance to grow (in one of our peer support or creative sessions).

We will continue to fundraise to ensure that we can do this work in a way that responds to the real needs of those we accompany and in a spirit that is true to JRS values of dignity and hospitality.

Thank you – your contribution shows that there is a wider group of people in the UK who do care and who are in fellowship with the work JRS does – thank you again.

Kind regards



Kate Monkhouse
Part-Time Fundraiser

September 2015

Dear Fr Stephen Patterson SJ and Parishioners @ St Wilfrid

THANK YOU for your continued support and generosity to Jesuit Refugee Service UK. The image on the front of the card is a picture that hangs in our Day Centre – the message of welcome and hospitality to all the refugees we accompany. You are also welcome to visit any time you come to London!
Thank you so much, your contribution is really appreciated. God bless.
Frances

Slam
Thank you so much for your contribution.
WJK
Jonathan
Thanks very much for all your help.
Always
JRS Staff, Volunteers, Guests



Luv Preston Homeless Drop In at St Wilfrid's



It's 5:30pm on a cold and windy late Summer Tuesday and already a small contingency eagerly await the opening of the doors at St Wilfrid's community centre. By 6pm a queue has formed, a rich variety of faces, ages, ethnicities and backgrounds. For some waiting nervously, its there first time attending whilst other have been coming weekly for over 5 years. It's 6:15pm and the doors are flung open, a mild cheer arises from the crowd of hungry, cold and hopeful men and women as the smell of a home cooked cottage pie and Yorkshire puddings greets them. Cheerful greetings ring out from volunteers standing at the door to welcome each person as they arrive. The diverse crowd shuffle in to the warmth of the centre, collecting a large plate of steaming hot food, a warm drink and large pile of toast. Sitting at tables they warm up and tuck into the feast before them. Cakes, biscuits and pasties are served and familiar and friendly volunteers chat casually with people at the tables catching up with what's been happening that week and offering encouragement and a listening ear.



This is the Luv Preston Homeless drop in at St Wilfrid's.

Coming into its tenth year in the city and seventh based out of St Wilfrid's the homeless drop-in, run and organised by the Luv Preston charity with the support of St Wilfrid's Faith and Justice group, has fed and supported countless individuals in the City of Preston. At the time of writing

we are seeing between 50-80 individuals attend the drop-in each week.

As well as a free hot meal, cakes and coffees the drop-in offers sleeping bags, toiletries, socks, gloves and warm clothing for those sleeping rough or who have poorly heated accommodation.

Whilst these practical needs are vital, we're told one of the greatest draws of our drop-in is its sense of community, a place people know they can come and be listened to and supported. Our fantastic volunteers team offer non-judgemental care and support to those who attend Tuesday nights and we work



with those individuals who want the extra help to signpost and refer them to other appropriate agencies and organisations . In recent months we have seen some of our volunteers trained up as advocates to further bridge the gap between those most in need and the wider support available to them.



We are also in the process of setting up a housing advice clinic that will run during our Tuesday night drop in to help those with issues finding housing or with issues in their current housing situations. As a smaller grassroots charity we also have been able to flexibly help with needs as we see them arising. For example, providing smart clothing for job interviews or family funerals, sourcing furniture for those moving into unfurnished flats and offering tuition in English to those who have migrated from Eastern Europe and further afield.

Those that attend our drop-in are some of the most unique and interesting individuals you could meet. Many with heart-breaking stories and backgrounds, many have made poor choices along the way (haven't we all!) but all come for and appreciate the same thing. A loving community and people who care about them. That is what the Tuesday night drop in is about.

As project coordinator I would like to thank St Wilfrid's for its ongoing support and partnership in this project and if you would like to find out more about what we do then please feel free to contact me on 01772 298107 or director@luppreston.com.



Thanks

Pete Carrington



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS WITH THE SVP

This is the time of year when our National SVP Council asks us to focus on a specific issue for reflection, prayer and action. If you remember, during October last year, our Awareness Month focused on 'Concern for others', whereby we were required to turn our concern into action by offering up specific actions in response to these concerns. This year, during our Awareness Month, we are asked to focus on the family. This focus raises diverse issues whereby we hope to be united in prayer and reflection with Pope Francis, as the Synod on the family grapples with these difficult issues.

St Wilfrid's SVP is part of the Preston District Council. During the last twelve months, the brothers and sisters in the Society have worked to support others by prayer, acts of concern, and contact with others via visiting, coffee mornings etc. However, the support within our own parish of St Wilfrid's has meant that we are able to offer some material/financial support to those in need. During the last year, at home, we have supported the homeless, the food bank, children with disabilities, individuals / families in need and we have made a donation to support the national development of 'Minnie Vinnies' in primary schools.

The SVP is an international organisation, and, as such, St Wilfrid's parish is twinned with two Indian Conferences who, though rich in spirit and commitment, are extremely poor in terms of their ability to give material support to those in real need. We give financial support to our 'twins' St James in Tamil Nadir and Mount Carmel in Kerala. Each Christmas, we exchange news and greetings. In addition, St Wilfrid's is sponsoring the training of five Indian students (for medicine, nursing, engineering, and technical training) in order that they can work within their communities and achieve self sufficiency.

The History of Twinnage at the SVP

The SVP's commitment to personal contact appeared to preclude it from assisting developing countries until Pope John XXIII suggested a twinnage programme whereby financial support be given to members in developing countries, by groups in the developed world. Groups in England and Wales are twinned with groups in India, Grenada, Guyana, Romania, Sudan and South Sudan. This enables members on the spot not only to provide "first aid" but also to finance projects and initiate schemes that make the local population self-sufficient - e.g. supplying bicycles, sewing machines, or animals, providing loans to start small businesses and digging wells. Correspondence and mutual prayer are essential features of this twinning. In 2012/13, Conferences in England and Wales were twinned with 1,786 Conferences overseas.

A scholarship scheme for students in India can provide a year's training for just £60. Students have been trained as teachers, nurses and engineers through this scheme.

What does Twinnage Involve?

Prayer is the key aspect of any successful Twinning. The promise to pray for the Twin is really what sets Twinnage apart from a secular exercise.

It is impossible to really have a good relationship with a Twin without a closer link. **Correspondence** is the answer and letters should be exchanged at least three times each year. In this way a true bond can be established.

The tangible evidence of our sharing is shown by our Financial Support. This helps our overseas Brothers and Sisters to increase their efforts to overcome the poverty in their own Parishes.

- See more at: <http://svp.org.uk/twinnage#sthash.MP833rzn.dpuf>

"I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity"

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam - the Society's Founder



Each quarter, our parish SVP donates on average, £300 to £400 to the SVP Disaster Fund. This provision facilitates an immediate response on the ground, when a disaster occurs either in this country or abroad. This year, the support has largely gone to Nepal. Vincentian brother Gabriel, a member of the SVP in Bangladesh, visited Nepal in May. In Gurkha, for example, the most affected area and the epicentre of the earthquake, where 1000 are known to have died, there is no food, shelter, water supply or medicine in the area. Volunteers are working tirelessly to distribute food, rice, oil, sugar etc. . During his visit to Nepal, he met with the Vicar General and the Bishop of Kathmandu. They discussed Caritas plans to build low cost housing for resettlement and the Bishop suggested the SVP call the resettlement the 'St Vincent de Paul Village'.

Sudan Sponsorship Appeal

The SVP in England & Wales has launched a long term sponsorship programme to aid the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and in South Sudan. The SVP in Sudan is already supporting hundreds of thousands of people. Together with local people, the SVP has developed projects including:

- baby feeding programmes
- the vocational training projects
- medical care
- foster homes for orphans



provided over 35,000 medical consultations and delivered water to tens of thousands of displaced people. The SVP is committed to continuing this support in spite of clear signs of persecution of Christians and harassment by the authorities.

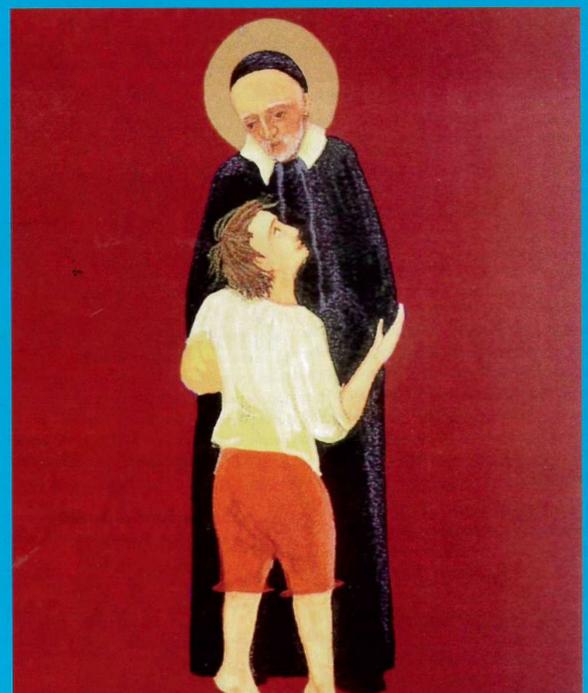
The members of St Wilfrid's SVP thank all our extremely supportive parishioners and hope that this summary helps to inform you how your interest is changing the lives of so many people in need, both at home and in other parts of the world.

Yours in St Vincent,

Brenda Chesworth (President)
on behalf of St Wilfrid's Conference

Finally, the SVP work in Sudan and South Sudan continues in dangerous circumstances. The SVP is caring for over 12000 internally displaced people from Bentinue, Malakai, Bor and Kworijik. The disaster fund is being used in part to alleviate suffering and improve living standards. In Sudan, last year, in spite of severe problems, the SVP in Khartoum fed 1,500 babies 3 times a week,

Changing Lives since 1844



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

ST WILFRID'S PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2015....

' A week of spiritual renewal'

by Brenda Chesworth



We arrived in Lourdes on Friday 4th September. Our coach from the airport skilfully negotiated the narrow Lourdes streets which, at 10 pm, were bustling with the sights and sounds of returning crowds from the torchlight procession.

By contrast, on the following day, we went up into the hills and visited Bartres. Here, there was an air of tranquillity. It was very still and quiet

and beautiful and as the courier pointed to the area where Bernadette had tended her sheep, you could imagine time suspended, and almost feel her presence there. Father Fairhurst said mass and opened our pilgrimage in the church of John the Baptist in Bartres. At the end of mass, however, we thought he might need to be 'retrieved' as a sizeable group of Spanish pilgrims tagged onto our group in order to venerate a relic of St Bernadette!

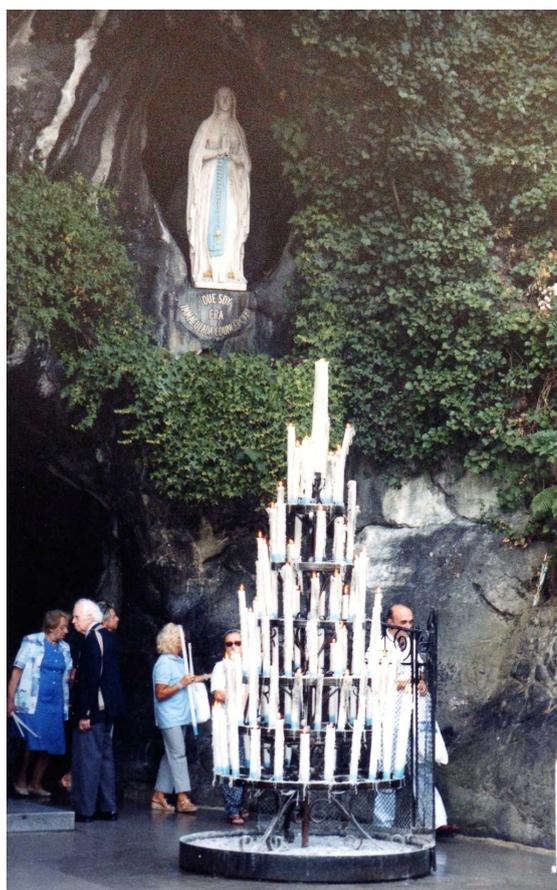
From Bartres, we visited Hosanna House. This is the HCPT residential holiday facility for young people with disabilities. The house is set in glorious surroundings with stunning views all around it. The only disappointment for St Wilfrid's Lourdes 'regulars' was the fact that our first Christmas cards of the year were usually purchased here, but this year, they had already sold out!



On the following day, a sunny Sunday afternoon, we gathered together to go to the grotto. Bill had organised the decoration of two large candles which were carried on the shoulders of our pilgrims to the grotto. Father Fairhurst reminded us, however, that these candles were simply external symbols designed to assist us with our internal prayer life and relationship with God. We offered up our prayers and those from our parish as the candles were lit and left by the grotto.

The next few days afforded many enriching opportunities.....either experienced collectively or individually. One group went to the Cite Saint Pierre.....a beautiful development originally created for individuals, families, or groups who were in need or difficulty. The city was sustained by the belief that Lourdes should be accessible for all...not just those who could afford to go. Trained and dedicated volunteers come for a fortnight each year to work there and act as guides for the many visitors.

Each evening at 5pm, the Blessed Sacrament procession moves to the underground Basilica. For many, this experience is special. You see that alongside suffering and illness there can be joy; as evidenced by the thousands of pilgrims coming to Lourdes for strength and spiritual renewal.



Others found inspiration from the powerfully emotive witness of Faith in the torchlight procession, which culminated in people from all parts of the world exchanging greetings with one another and wishes for peace.

For many, however, it was the private moments during our pilgrimage that they will remember. Several people spoke about crossing the bridge from the grotto to the tree-lined river bank and just walking. This area seemed so quiet, very calm and peaceful. Some people sat and read, others just walked and 'took stock' ...reflecting, away from the distractions of everyday existence..... reviewing life gone by and life yet to come. This is what Lourdes is all about!

Thank you to Bill, for organising this for us, and to Deacon John and Fr Fairhurst for leading us in prayer and reflection.

We are all spiritually renewed for another twelve months!



Fr Frank

- The War Years

In August, Fr Frank Hull celebrated his 90th birthday and I thought his many friends would like to know a little of his early life story

Born in Blackburn, on August 12th 1925, as the middle child with an older brother, Ronald and a younger sister, Audrey.

Both brothers were sent as boarders to the Jesuit school at Mount St Mary's near Sheffield. Here he enjoyed playing rugby and met Fr Duffy SJ who was to influence him later in life.

In 1943 there was no expectation that the wars in Europe or the Far East would finish any time soon, so Frank went to Liverpool University to do a Naval Short Course.



2012

In 1944 he was selected to do an officer training course in Deal, Kent. He was commissioned in November and became a 2nd Lieutenant. He proceeded to Stonehouse Barracks Plymouth where he was taught how to behave as a Royal Marine Officer - being silent at breakfast and how to reply to the Royal Toast!

With the war still raging he was sent north to Wentworth Woodhouse Intelligence corps depot to be trained as a battalion intelligence officer. It was here he learnt to ride motorcycles - it was good fun riding at speed across fields.

Next stop at Birchington on Sea as I.O. of 31 Battalion R.M. That didn't last long - he was then sent up to the Lake District for intensive training as part of 117 Brigade.

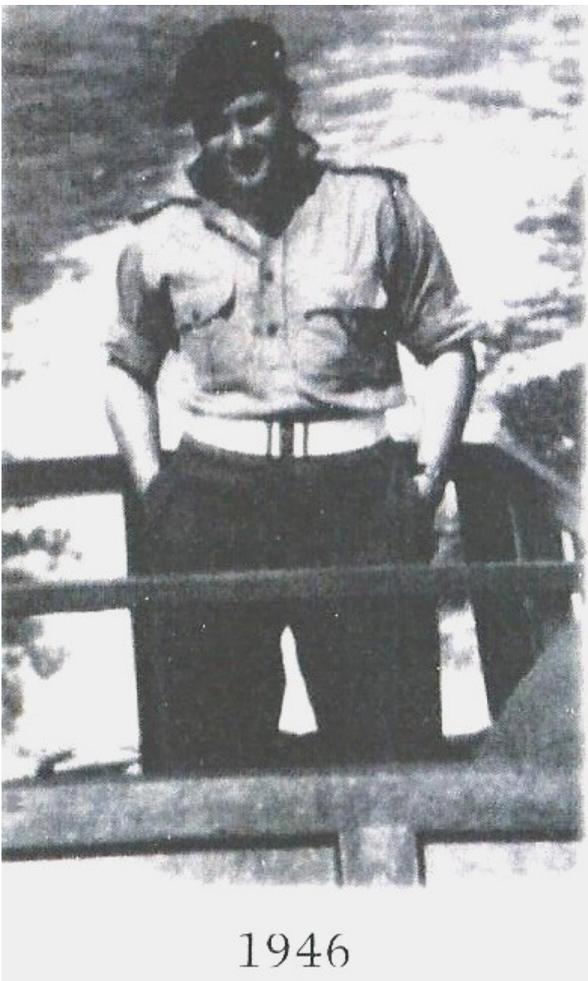


1929

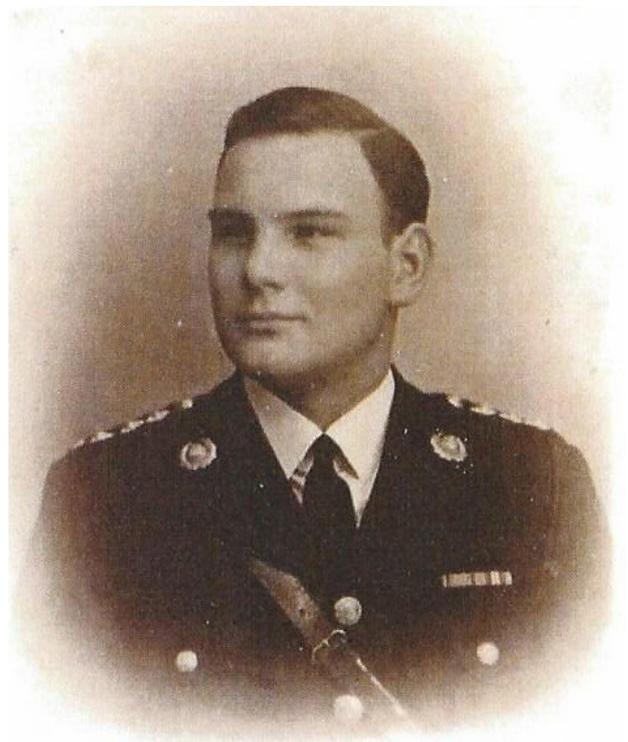
Here he learnt to read ciphers. Stationed in Barrow, he was able to take leave at home but one day, just as he was about to leave, a message came in to be deciphered. After a few minutes work it read 'END OF WAR IN EUROPE IMMINENT FOLLOW PLAN B' Momentous news but Frank's main memory of the day was that the last train from Preston to Blackburn had left but he reached home on the footplate of a locomotive.

On VE day Frank was at Tilbury, setting off to Ostend, to join the occupying forces where he was billeted in an ex-prisoner of war camp outside Kiel.

Next assignment was Towyn, Wales, under canvas. He regularly drove 100 miles in two hours on Welsh country roads. The war ended abruptly with the atom bombing of Japan. His next stop was Burford Oxfordshire where he upset the commanding officer. When asked what he would like to do he said 'Get out', -



1946



1946

but two days later he was on his way to Scapa Flow, in the Orkneys, to be adjutant in an Italian Prisoner of War camp. He was really enjoying this posting when in 1946 he was sent to Hamburg to take charge of a workshop. The visit of the Royal Marines bands led to him becoming an Assistant Naval Provost Marshal in Kiel.

In April 1947 Frank was finally demobbed.

He decided to follow in his brother's footsteps and entered the Jesuit novitiate in September 1947.

Fr Frank was interviewed by Margaret Nelson, who got to know him during the summers he stayed and supplied at St Ignatius Church.

‘Sympathetic Restoration’ of Winckley Square Gardens

A £1.2million project to breathe new life into Preston’s historic Winckley Square Gardens will go ahead after the Heritage Lottery Fund and BIG Lottery Fund approved a funding bid submitted by Groundwork for £950,000.

The project, which is also receiving funds from Preston’s Business Improvement District and smaller grants, will enable a ‘sympathetic restoration’ of the gardens to get underway as early as 2016.

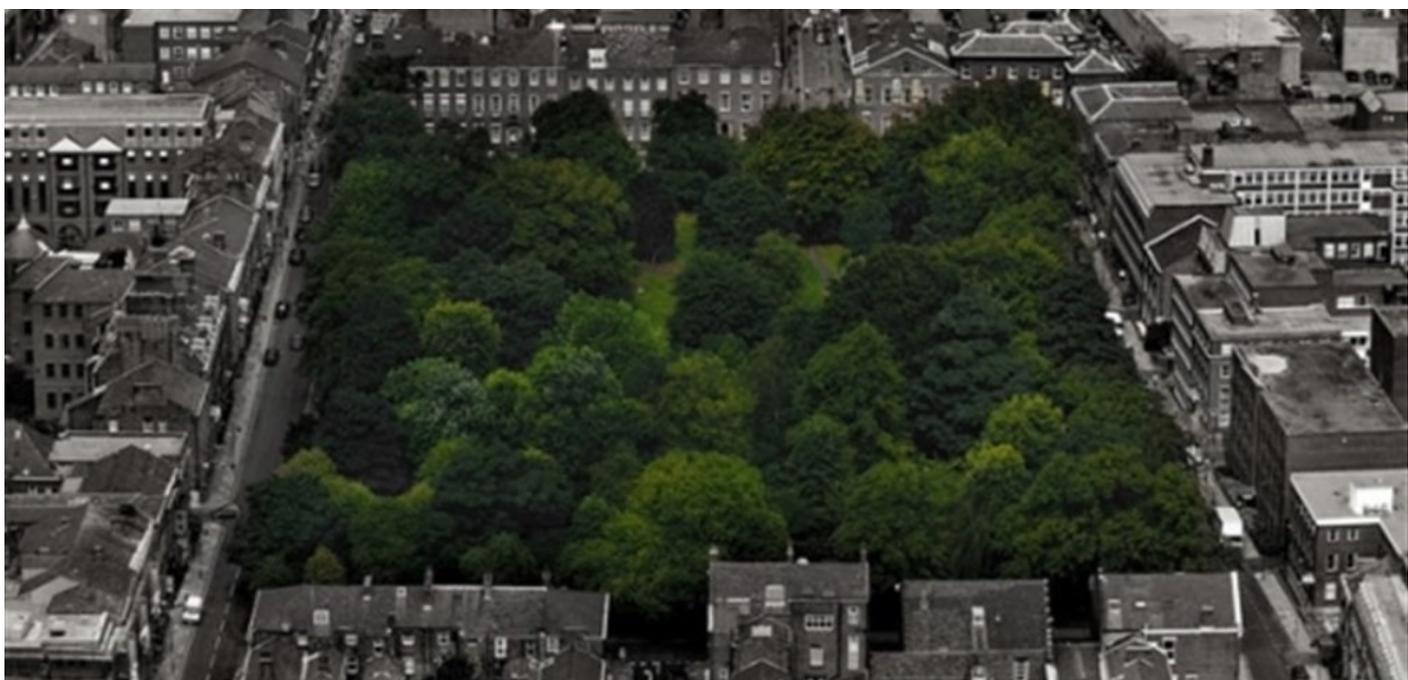
The campaign to renovate the Gardens started in 2011 when six local professionals started the WSCIC. It has since formed a partnership between environmental charity, Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside, Preston City Council, Preston Business Improvement District (BID) and Lancashire County Council. In addition, a group of local historians played a lead role in the new designs.

The proposed improvements include:

- ◆ *Resolving the current flooding problems through improved land drainage in the lower parts of the Gardens.*
- ◆ *Opening up lines of sight across the Gardens to improve visibility, and introducing lighting into the Gardens improve security at night times.*
- ◆ *Creation of new heritage reference points, plaques and displays throughout the Gardens allowing visitors to discover more about the story of the Gardens.*
- ◆ *Wider footpaths with new high quality surfaces that befits the status and the historic character of Winckley Square.*
- ◆ *Replacement of worn and outdated 1980s seating.*
- ◆ *Cleaning and repairing the Robert Peel statue, restoring its original inscriptions, and providing a higher quality setting for the statue.*
- ◆ *Removal of inappropriate modern additions to the tree population, and restocking to ensure the survival of the Garden's historic tree population.*
- ◆ *Creating a high quality social space at the convergence of the footpaths in the South of the Gardens, including provision of historical reference points.*
- ◆ *Reinforcing the turf in the Southern part of the Gardens, enabling greater year-round use to host events which celebrate the heritage and cultural richness of the City of Preston.*



Alongside the physical improvements to the Gardens we will also be delivering a 3 year programme of activities which will reconnect Preston's residents and visitors with the landscape and heritage of Winckley Square. This Activity Plan will enable people of all ages and backgrounds to understand the importance of Winckley Square, and the key role it played in shaping the development of Preston.



*Information provided by **Mike Crowther**, a new parishioner at St Wilfrid's. Mike is the Programme Director for Sustainable Communities (North) for Groundwork Cheshire Lancashire & Merseyside.*

A Migrant's Tale

by Joseph Cooper

In your mind's-eye see, if you can, the bridge over the River Ribble that crosses into Walton-le-Dale and South Ribble in Lancashire. Imagine that on either side of that bridge runs a 6ft tall wire fence. Stationed on both entrances to the bridge are patrol gates with armed officers. You can't go over the river to work or visit family without showing your passport.

Now imagine that Walton-le-Dale is the worst council estate in the whole of Europe, and South Ribble is the worst region in the whole of Britain. Preston is as it is - a small, prosperous, bustling city; but the once prosperous South Ribble has hit hard times. The whole area is dotted with run-down properties, shops and makeshift one-story dwellings. Off the main highways, the roads are unlit, unmarked and un-tarmacked. Huge, crater-like holes lie in wait for the unwary driver to crash into at night. Litter debris gathers wherever the wind blows it, while mange-ridden dogs wander unsupervised along the streets.

It's not safe to wander around South Ribble alone. In 2012, a humanitarian crisis was declared and it was nicknamed the 'murder capital of the world'. Drug cartel wars have been raging here since 2007. Over the intervening eight years, well over 10,000 people have been killed and the figure is still rising. Everybody knows somebody who has been killed in the conflict. Preston, however, has one of the lowest crime rates in the UK.

Of course, this isn't a true story about life in South Ribble, Lancashire, UK, but it is the daily reality lived out in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, which lies on the Mexican-side of the US/Mexico border and El Paso, Texas - a place known locally as the 'borderlands'.

In April this year, St Wilfrid's parishioner, Joseph Cooper, went there to see the situation for himself. His experience brought to light the terrible situations faced by non-documented migrant peoples.

Joseph said, "I travelled with the Columban Missionaries Britain as part of a British group involved in social justice to stay at their Mission Centre in El Paso, seeing the issues around migrancy firsthand and the work being done there to support people on both sides of the border."

"The experience opened my eyes to the reality of the problem both there and here," he added.

Joseph says the preparation training for the trip didn't quite equip him for what he would encounter.



“Just two days before I went, the BBC screened a documentary about the so-called 2012 ‘narco-wars’ in Ciudad Juarez. I was pretty shocked, not least by the thought that I’d soon be going to the area myself and I wondered, *what on earth have I let myself in for?*”

“The trip had many heartwarming and heartbreaking moments,” he added. “We travelled over the Easter period and spent time with communities on both sides of the border as part of their joyful Easter celebrations. We received a warm welcome from all the communities we visited and there was a vibrancy and aliveness amongst the people that persists despite all the troubles.”

Central and South American countries like Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador have huge problems with political and police corruption, drugs, kidnapping, murders and people trafficking. Every year, millions of people flee for safety and a better life to the US. In 2014, the Pew Research Centre put this figure at 11.3 million people. Many migrant peoples fleeing persecution never make it to the US border and the ones that do are not guaranteed asylum.

The height of the US migrant crisis was 2012 – 2014. These years saw many cases of children travelling unaccompanied by adults on their way to reconnect with a parent who had already successfully made it across the border. Migrant children were detained, often in adult facilities, while awaiting their cases to be heard.

“Some of the stories we heard from people working with migrant peoples were heartbreaking. A social worker told us about a boy he befriended in a detention centre who had travelled from somewhere in South America with his friend using the huge inter-continental train, The Beast, to hitch-hike their way up to the border. When they boarded the train and found a place on the roof to rest, they were told by a man there not to fall asleep during the journey. Of course, on such a long journey and in such heat the boys did fall asleep. When the young boy awoke he could not see his friend. Fearing that he had been attacked, he asked the man the whereabouts of his friend but the man replied, ‘what did I tell you? I said, do not fall asleep! Your friend fell from the train and now he is dead.’”

“It wasn’t all doom and gloom,” he quickly adds. “Over this year the situation in Ciudad Juarez has calmed down considerably and there have been encouraging signs that things are improving. However, while looking up, the migrants keep coming from the south.”

During the trip, Joseph met many different people involved in migrancy issues who exposed the complexities of the problems.



“Many charities, community and church groups provide assistance and support to non-documented migrants. We met with a judge and sat in on an immigration court hearing, spoke with border patrol officers, listened to advocacy, researchers and legal professionals, charity workers, volunteers and religious professionals. We met many incredibly inspiring people, not least the American Columban Missionary Fathers who ran the Mission Centre we stayed at and the brave migrants who shared their stories with us. I felt a real sense of community and hope there despite all the challenges and tensions.”

Joseph found celebrating Easter in the two countries a moving experience.

“I found sharing the Easter triduum with the El Paso and Ciudad Juarez communities profound. On Good Friday, we attended a moving service in a poor barrio in Juarez. After hearing the readings, all the church communities came together to process up a hill to a chapel and share communion together. Along the way, actors played out the passion scene with such gusto that I was drawn into realizing how closely the lives of the people in Juarez resembled those of people in Jesus’s own time.”



“The execution was a public spectacle whole communities gathered to watch. Street sellers lined the streets touting their wares – icepops and crisps – for the spectators. Dogs followed the crowds eating discarded bits of food. The heat and the dust and the arduous climb to the hill’s summit felt oppressive. At the sixth station, as the soldiers whipped the fallen Jesus, I had tears in my eyes. ‘How could they have been so cruel?’ I thought. After the crucifixion, the community assembled in the hill chapel and we shared communion amongst each other. At that moment, I ceased to feel like an outsider, observing a foreign culture. I felt one with the people, united by our faith in Christ.”

Four months on, Joseph reflected on the overall experience: “When I returned to England I felt bruised. I was deeply affected by the people, their stories and situations but when I tried to share my experience with people here nobody could relate to it. In fact, I’d often get asked, ‘how was your holiday?’ It was like talking to the wind: the impact of anything I said just blew straight off people because it was all so alien to anything they knew.”

With migrancy issues so pressing here in the UK and Europe, Joseph feels it’s important to share his experience in America.

“Immigration is a very complex issue. There are no easy solutions. What I learnt was that a non-documented migrant is a person like you or me. They are doing the best they can do under the most difficult circumstances and we’d probably do exactly the same in their shoes. For all the political quandaries and problems migrancy presents, we have to remember that migrants are people and share the same human dignity and rights as we do. We must also remember that Jesus was a migrant, too.”

Anyone wishing to find out more about the work of the Columban’s El Paso Mission Centre can visit <https://www.facebook.com/columbanmissioncenter> and for the work of the Columban Missionaries Britain visit: www.columbans.co.uk/

Joseph is a parishioner at St. Wilfrid’s RC Parish in Preston, where he is a member of St. Wilfrid’s Faith and Justice group. If you require further information, Joseph can be contacted on coopz18@hotmail.com or

My Favourite Paragraph.

Theresa Swann shares another paragraph from religious books she has loved.

This is a very thoughtful reflection from a book which I read in the 1980's - Rule for a new brother and sister - which, at the time of writing, was exploring new ways for people to share in a variety of Christian community experiences. The writings reflect how human beings change and develop throughout their lifetime and how God is the constant presence who journeys with us, comforting and supporting us through all the events of our life.



Your life unfolds in a continuous succession of experiences and expectations.

No two days are the same, no year leaves you unaltered.

Every day has enough trouble of its own.

When you go to sleep, bury all that has happened in the mercy of God - it will be safe there.

Stand back from what has happened, and be grateful for it all.

When the new day begins, be sure that you open yourself to be as new as the light – it is like a resurrection!

Greet each day with joy and the new opportunities God is offering you.

Your way through life will not remain the same.

There are years of happiness and years of suffering.

There are years of abundance and years of poverty,

years of hope and of disappointment, of building up and of breaking down.

But God has a firm hold on you through everything.

There are years of strength and years of weakness, years of certainty and years of doubt.

It is all part of life, and it is worth the effort to live it to the end,

and not give up before it is accomplished.

You need never stop growing, a new future is always possible.

Even on the other side of death a new existence waits for you -

in the fullness of that glory which God has prepared for you from the beginning!

So set out on the road together with the numberless peoples

who are making their way to the Kingdom of heaven.

Go on your way singing -

a song of hope on your lips and your heart burning within you!

Now you are being sown in the darkness of the earth;

When that day comes you will bloom in the light and warmth of God's eternity.

Set out on the road and peace be with you for ever.

UN International Day of Peace.



On the evening of Mon 21st September Preston celebrated the UN International day for peace. Two events organised by Preston Faith Forum, with Preston City Council and the third by Preston Churches Network with some input from the Preston Faith Forum. A number of St Wilfrid's parishioners and clergy took part in some or all of the events of the evening.



The first event was an inter faith walk, also attended by some city councillors, from the flag market to the peace garden on Friargate, followed a short service remembering the 'dead from conflict' in the past 12 months. The impetus for

this event came from the city council worried that events in Paris last January could easily spill onto the streets of Preston. They have continued to work with the Preston Faith forum to ensure that the different faiths in Preston continue to work closely together. Part of the service was remembering all those killed in January's Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris, as the name of each person killed was read out.

This was followed by a walk to River Ribble in Avenham Park, where we had a civil version of the Jewish Tashlich Service.



At this time in the year it is a custom of the Jewish community to go to a body of flowing water and, with appropriate prayers of forgiveness, to cast away crumbs of bread representing our misdeeds.

Micah 7:19 *'You will cast (Hebrew: tashlich) all your wrongdoings into the depths of the sea'*. Through this ritual of *tashlich*, we express not only our desire to be free from errors but our continuing hope that we will be forgiven for past misdeeds.



Later, at Carey Baptist church, we had Christian led prayers for peace, using a liturgy from the Northumbria Community. Various prayers for peace were said, with periods of silence, interspersed with the lighting of

seven candles, then the singing of psalm 23 in Hebrew and a reading of Romans 14:17-19

I quote from the lighting during the service of the seventh candle:

We remember that peace-making must begin inside ourselves, saying 'Foster peace in every place!'

Blessed are the Peacemakers.

We say 'introduce peace to your household'.

Blessed are the Peacemakers.

We guard the miracle of peace-making, saying 'Protect peace, nourish peace. Make peace your chosen companion'.

Let peace disarm the strong.

We say to others: 'Peace will bring you a spacious place within your own soul, wherever its generosity is welcomed'.

We remember that peace making must begin inside ourselves and light this candle that we too may find peace and live from its inner springs.

May we find peace, and live from its inner springs.



Geoff Thompson

‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’

From the gospel from John, the people do not find Jesus and his disciples where they expected him to be; but instead at Capernaum. I expect some of the parishioners coming to Mass at the end of July might have been momentarily disoriented like the people in the gospel reading when they found that their usual parish team had been replaced by four unfamiliar faces (and accents!): **Fr David Stewart SJ** (Britain), **Fr Tjeerd Jansen SJ** (Netherlands), **Fr John Guiney SJ** (Ireland) and **Kensy Joseph SJ** (Britain), who is training for the priesthood. Along with Fr Patterson, Fr Randall and Fr Power and Fr Brooks, these Jesuits and 96 others from the Jesuit provinces of Northwest Europe (Britain, Ireland, Flanders and the Netherlands) have been meeting, praying and working in various Jesuit ministries across the region to discern the future of Jesuit cooperation in the region – a kind of Jesuit exchange-study programme, if you will.

From the beginning we, the team missioned here to Preston, have found ourselves overwhelmed by the hospitality and generosity of the worshipping community here at St. Wilfrid’s. Deacon Adams and the various lay volunteers, servers, readers, choir etc. have supported us and made us feel at home. We have also been encouraged in the generous participation of the community in the various talks offered in the parish hall a number of evenings during the week.

On Monday, Fr. Guiney spoke of his experiences and work with the Jesuit Refugee Service in East Africa, of how



he found God in even the most heart-wrenching situations. On Wednesday, Fr. Jansen presented a brief outline of the major events in the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order, highlighting how his commitment to engagement with the world in ministry is a hallmark of the Jesuit order’s various works to this day. On Thursday, Kensy offered some Ignatian views and tips on improving one’s prayer life, and led the group in a guided Ignatian contemplation. Fr. Stewart has been promoting the Apostleship of Prayer, a ministry that the Pope has entrusted to the Jesuits since 1879.

By entering into the rhythm of Masses, confessions and other aspects of usual parish life, we were drawn close not only to the life of St. Wilfrid’s, but also to each other as an apostolic community and team. We experienced how St. Wilfrid’s participates in the worldwide Jesuit mission of serving faith and promoting justice, in dialogue with culture. We departed for Dublin with warm memories of our time here, however brief, and shared our experiences with the main group that re-convened in Co. Kildare. To paraphrase St. Peter, **it has been wonderful for us to be here** (Matthew 17:4).

Kensy Joseph SJ



God Child Home for Abandoned Handicapped or Needy Children

Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará
Religious Family of the Incarnate Word
PO.Box 825 (91007)-Jerusalem
Tel: 00972-2-2754520



Parish Lunch

A couple of weeks ago about 40 people enjoyed a parish lunch in the parish centre. Thanks to all who came to the lunch, helped on the day or where unable to attend and left generous donations. At present I have over £350 (after expenses for the meal) given by St Wilfrid's parishioners.

A few years ago I was introduced to the sisters along with 4 others who now come to St Wilfrid's at various times of the week, by a Palestinian friend of mine, Roni Tabash whilst in Bethlehem with a small pilgrimage group who wanted to encounter the Christians of Bethlehem, as well as visit the holy sites.

Roni, runs an olive wood shop in Manger Square with his family, 24 other families also rely on the shop for work as the produce olive wood gifts that Roni's family sell in the shop or export to Aid to the Church in Need in various EU Countries and parts of Australia. Roni has a beautiful voice, and helped organise Pope John Paul's visit to Bethlehem, even being asked to sing a solo for the Pope. On our visit Roni told us he had been singing for the children the 'Blue Sisters' look after. He told us about the home, the sisters and the children and encouraged us to visit.

We visited, and I fell in love with one little girl called Amani, who was sat in a wheelchair and all she could do was wail and swing her right arm. Over the years of visiting I have seen little improvements in Amani as she has benefited from physio given on their day off by Italian Physio volunteers at the Bethlehem Arab Rehabilitation Hospital.



We found out the sisters are from an Argentinian order who live in small groups around the world with the poor, responding to what the greatest need is in the area.

In Bethlehem have a home for abandoned and orphaned children with severe

disabilities, in a house donated by the Latin Patriarchy, whilst their priests run a nearby parish and look after the older boys. One of their priests looks after the catholic parish in the Gaza Strip, whilst other priests and sisters of the province are in Jordan and Egypt.

As a relatively new order they have no historical property or capital to fall back on and wait for God to provide for their needs, passing on any excess to other houses in the province.

Geoff Thompson



The Easter Card I received from the sisters and children



PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

**St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.**

**Be our defence against the wickedness
and snares of the Devil.**

**May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,**

**O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.**

Amen.