

Parish Magazine

Our Lady and St Peter

East Grinstead

St Bernard

Lingfield

Summer, 2017

Issue 72

The Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Peter,
with St Bernard, Lingfield

Priest in charge of the two churches

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During the summer—in the middle of August, no less—when a lot of people are away, the universal church celebrates the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Tuesday, 15 August).

It celebrates that Mary has gone “body and soul into heavenly glory”. We pray that we may keep our eyes fixed on where she has gone, be “attentive to the things that are above”, and so come one day ourselves to share in her glory.

Through our Lady’s intercession, we pray that our hearts may be “afire with the fire of love” and the longing for God and doing His will that was in her.

The Church proclaims that God would allow no decay to touch Mary’s body because from her body Christ “the Author of life” was born. In Mary’s Assumption into heaven we glimpse our own destiny. So the solemnity of the Assumption flows from the Resurrection of Christ, in which Mary already shares body and soul. May we share that glory too.

Father Steven

In the name of the parishioners, I would like to thank all those who took the time and trouble to contribute to this issue of the Magazine.

Plans for the next issue will be announced in the Parish Newsletter. In the meantime, if you have something to share with us for the magazine please do so while the idea is fresh, and email it to me at the address below.

Klara King (EG321581)
klara.m.king@comcrafts.co.uk

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Programme 2017

This year, 23 children (and parents/carers) successfully completed our programme. Our programme was based on the Growing Up Catholic sessions, which we have shaped over the years to meet the needs of our Parish children.

The programme emphasizes parent-based, rather than child-based, catechesis. It is designed to coach parents alongside their children and, with effective handouts, explicitly brings the faith home and helps children and parents enter into a deeper relationship with Christ. This means that the parents, carers, or other family members come to most of the sessions with their children, and the Catechists guide them to work through the programme together with their child.

There were two Retreat mornings for the parents at St Bernard's, one on Reconciliation and one on the Eucharist. These mornings consisted of creativity for the children and formation for the parents, ending with music and prayer/preparation for the sacrament – and a pizza party!

The programme received very positive feedback from our parents and children. Our Catechists worked really hard with this programme and should be commended highly for their dedication and flexibility to change their methods of meeting the needs of this programme. If you would like more information the link is:

www.growingupcatholic.com/sacramental-preparation.html

Please pray for the children and their families who completed this sacramental programme. The children are listed below.

Our Lady and St Peter – 13 May 2017

Evie Cherry	Joshua Hunt
Lewis Drewry	Natalia Lane
Holly Gibbons	Ben Mason
Fenella Greenacre	Lois Riddles
Bridin Hickey	Finlay Weight

Our Lady and St Peter – 20 May 2017

Chloe Barrett	Zachary Kinsella
Peter Bindloss	Connor Lemon
Kieran French	Hannah McKenzie
Anya Geraghty	Titu Mendy
Joshua James	Charlie Pepper
Orla King	Amelia Shaw

Sunday St Bernard – 21 May 2017

Ellie May Kapitan

We thank God for His continued blessing and guidance throughout our Sacramental programmes.

We must also thank all our parishioners who have prayed for our children and their parents/carers over this Sacramental year. We also thank Fr Steven, Deacon Ted, and the Catechists who have all given their time and dedication to the programme. A big thank you also to Liam and Mary and the choirs, our flower and church-cleaning teams in both churches, also to Mrs Claffey and the St Peter's choir who sang their hearts out! Last, but not least, to the children and their families who have, once again enjoyed and fully participated in their children's and their own faith journey throughout the year.

Eileen Lyons

Confirmation 2017

Stirred by the spiritual power of Confirmation

It seems that we are blessed each year in our parish with our young people who make their Confirmation. They are a credit to their families and



themselves in having the courage to put themselves forward, engage with the programme, and receive the Sacrament.

It was a great joy to see the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred by Bishop Richard at Worth Abbey upon Harrison, Andrea, Lykha, Max, Grace D., Violet, Orla, Edwin, Adrian, Bronwyn, Francesca, Grace R., Elena, Natasha, Oliver, Alex, and Aisling. We ask you to pray for them. They have such gifts and talents that we pray that they put them into action and are stirred up by the spiritual power of Confirmation.

We are grateful to parish helpers for supporting us with marshalling the car park.

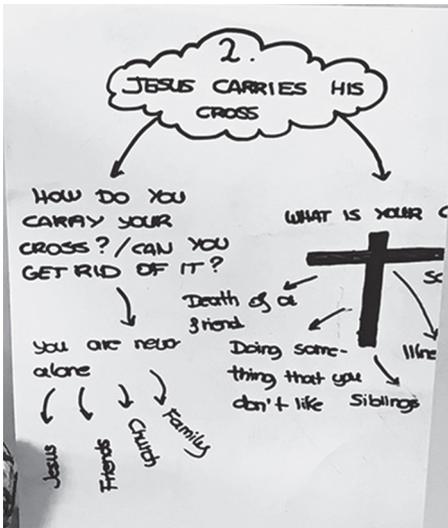
Perhaps unlike other sacraments, for many it is difficult to explain what confirmation is. Confirmation is the sacrament that confirms our Baptism! When we were baptised our parents and our godparents stood on our behalf and said those words that made us part of the universal Church. Our young people have now taken on those vows themselves and are ready to continue with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses of Christ's love in today's world.

Our wonderful Confirmed/Confirmandi group provided such a witness which was rich and diverse that we wish to share with you. The pictures show examples of the group activity at Worth Abbey during our spring



retreat based around the Stations of the Cross. It was part of a morning devoted to “finding your Jesus” backed up with artists’ interpretations of Jesus and film clips of the Passion.

More details about the Confirmation programme in preparation for receiving next year’s candidates in the next issue. We ask you to pray for

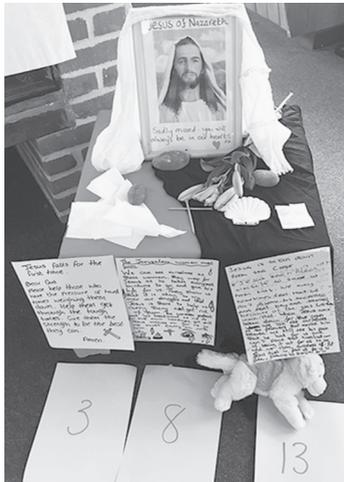
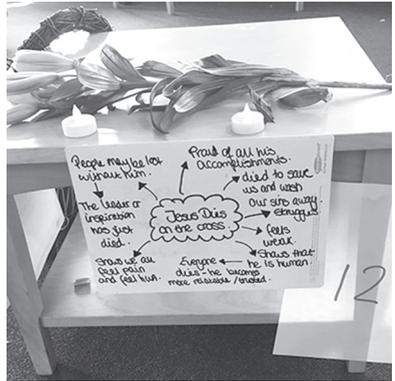
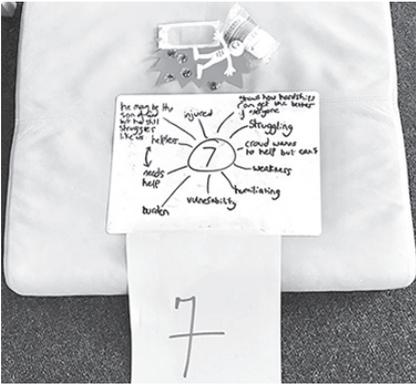
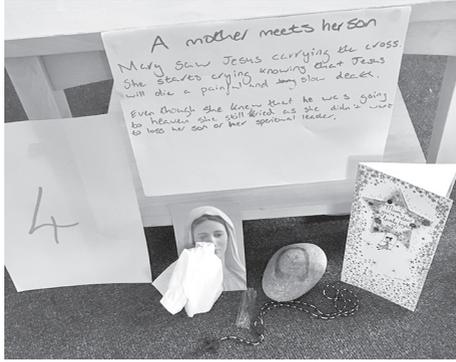


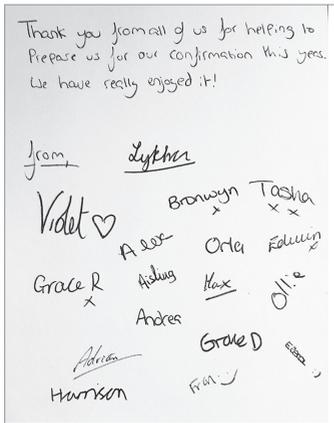
Jesus falls for the first time.

Dear God please help those who have the pressure of hard times weighing them down. Help them get through the tough times. Give them the strength to be the best they can.

Amen. ✕

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those confirmed and the Holy Spirit to stir up future candidates and their families to feel invited to join the programme.

"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth."

Catechists: Fr Steven, Thaddeus Dell, Mike Hope, Ruth Longley, and Eileen Lyons

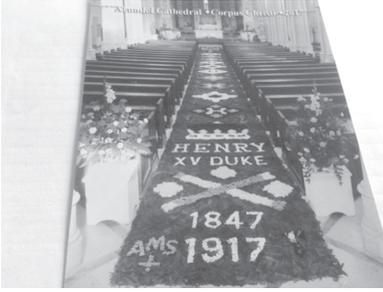
Thaddeus Dell, Mike Hope, Ruth Longley, and Eileen Lyons

Catholic Women's League

In May this year we celebrated our 50th anniversary. This deserved a special celebration, and we enjoyed a meal at Sweetwoods Golf Club. There were 29 of us, including guests from the Branch and Fr Steven and Pat. It was a great get-together.

Thanks to all who supported us at our annual National Coffee Morning in April. Monies raised from that will go towards our charities at Christmas time.

In June several members and partners visited Arundel Cathedral to celebrate Corpus Christi and the Carpet of Flowers (pictured overleaf). This custom was adopted by the church to honour the Blessed Sacrament, carried in procession. Henry Fitzalan-Howard, 15th Duke of Norfolk and founder of the Cathedral, introduced the custom, having seen the



carpet in the streets and church in the village of Sutri outside Rome in 1877. It was revived in 1919, after the First World War. The work is carried out by the parishioners instead of the castle gardeners, who originally undertook the task. The whole Cathedral is decorated with beautiful arrangements and is well worth a

visit. After the procession, Mass is celebrated.

Our next meeting in July is a cheese and wine event. In August we are having an event for refugee week, which was requested by our National President.

Gill O'Driscoll (EG 323601)

SVP Our Lady & St Peter SVP Conference

It is opportune for me to give the parish an update of what we have been doing in the past year, having just completed our Conference Annual Secretarial Return to our National Office.

We are operating in the parish with eight members who visit. I thank them for both attending meetings on a fortnightly basis and for carrying out their visiting work with real commitment to the Society. The purpose of our meetings is not only to discuss visits carried out and to be done, but also to meet in a prayerful environment invoking the Holy Spirit, to help us in our work.

In the financial year 2016–17, we made 251 visits to elderly parishioners in their own homes; 180 visits to people in nursing homes; and 63 visits to those in hospital, mainly Redhill General and Crawley Hospitals. We also gave 252 lifts to Mass and to the Parish Lunch Club. We thank Fr. Steven for the Anointing Masses for the sick, before every other Lunch Club meeting; this is a great comfort to elderly infirm parishioners, in particular.

Members of the SVP feel privileged to help support the Parish Lunch Club, which meets every third Wednesday in the month. SVP members help to give lifts to the event, serve at table, and do the washing up.

On a wider front, we support the Broadfield SVP Shop, and the Crawley Open House.

Abroad, we are committed to supporting the SVP Twinning system, which involves twinning with an Indian SVP group in Trivandrum, Southern India, in respect of £150 per year, supporting financially a fish-vending project in the same area and assisting three young Indian students financially.

We are sending one of our parish families to the SVP's spacious caravan in Bognor Regis during the summer school holidays.

I appreciate that being a member of the SVP requires a real commitment, but, for most, it is a rewarding one. So, if you really want a challenge, please contact me on 07484 330899. The SVP website (www.svp.org.uk) is also a useful source of information.

Lastly, a special "thank you" for your donations to the SVP, which are much appreciated.

Peter Wells
Conference President

East Grinstead Catenian Circle

It has been another busy few months for the East Grinstead Catenians, with a range of activities for members and their families, based around the foundation of our Catholic faith.

Last year ended with our annual black-tie dinner at Yew Lodge, an event at which the parish clergy are traditionally our guests. More informal social events in the first few months of this year included a Nepalese meal at a local restaurant and a repeat of the highly successful skittles evening in Barcombe, jointly with the Haywards Heath Catenian Circle.

For the fourth successive year, a team from the East Grinstead Circle won the annual provincial quiz, attended by Catenians from all around Sussex. This and other provincial events, such as golf, darts and croquet, provide opportunities for wider socializing.

For many the highlight of the year is "President's Sunday", which combines the four key words that express what the Catenians are all about: Faith, Friendship, Family, and Fun. It starts with the 10.30 Sunday mass being offered for the President and members of the Circle and then continues with a buffet lunch at the home of the President and his family. This year around 35 attended the lunch, including wives and children of all ages.



The victorious East Grinstead Catenians Quiz team receiving the Provincial Quiz trophy for the 4th consecutive year.

Assisting worthy causes is an important facet of the organization, and Catenians raise over £250,000 each year at a local, national, or international level to support a wide span of charities and interests. The support of young Catholics is a particular focus, and our



Members of the East Grinstead Catenians Circle and their families celebrate 'President's Sunday' at the home of Circle President Bill Blackledge and his wife, Vicci.

“Bursary Fund” helps Catholics aged 16 to 24 who are to take part in community-based projects at home and abroad that have a clear benefit for others as well as for the participant. Applicants for grants from the Bursary Fund do not need to have any connection to a member of the Catenian Association, and grants exceed £100,000 nationally each year. If you know a young Catholic who could benefit from such a grant, please contact us.

Locally the East Grinstead Circle is actively supporting young parishioners who are attending the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer as ‘Redshirt’ helpers.

Summary

In a nutshell, the Catenian Association is an international brotherhood of Catholic men who meet socially, at least once a month. The East Grinstead Circle meets at the Dorset Arms in East Grinstead High Street on the third Monday of each month. While the meetings start and end with prayers, they are above all an opportunity for Catholic men to socialize together, to enjoy each other’s company and thereby strengthen their family life and faith through friendship.

Come and join us.

If you are a practicing Catholic man, over 21 and like any of the above, you will be welcome to come and have a look at our Circle. There is no obligation to join unless you think it is right for you after experiencing Catenian fellowship. Wives of members are not required to be Catholic; many are not and enjoy Catenian life to the full.

To find out more, contact Bill Blackledge on EG 317599 or visit our website (www.egcats.com).

Nick Bozzini

A Feast – for all!

The Charity Feast event is an idea that arose around ten years ago when a local restaurateur spotted a group of people sleeping out on the pavements of East Grinstead and wanted to know what they were doing and why. This was one of the 27 annual Sleep Outs that people have done to raise money for local homeless charities. Homelessness is a real and increasing problem in our society, and many individuals from all walks

of life find themselves with no home and the prospect of cold nights, and, sadly, the situation is getting worse.

The restaurateur then offered to help by sponsoring a Charity Feast event – a meal where he gave 50% of the money paid for a two-course dinner to Crawley Open House. As a result, over £1500 was raised that night!

Initially supported by churchgoers through the Churches Together in East Grinstead network, the events are now supported by a wide range of townspeople – those of all faiths and none. Around four years ago, the idea was extended to organizing a number of charity meals over a four-week period – usually on a Monday or Tuesday, as these nights are quiet for local eateries. The events are all promoted by the East Grinstead Justice and Peace Group, which has been running for 27 years and includes members from all the churches in our town. The Group is involved in a wide range of social justice issues, ranging from concern about housing and homelessness, refugees, prison visiting and Amnesty letter writing.

Apart from bringing people from all the various churches together, the events also draw upon the general public who spot the advertising done by shops and businesses as well as seeing posters and leaflets, newspapers, and, of course, word of mouth.

The restaurants offer their two-course meal at a price of £16 per head, of which £8 goes to the nominated charities. Normally there is also a raffle, with many prizes donated by local shops and businesses, and a list of donors is left on all the tables for participants to see. All the raffle money, together with half the meal money, makes up the takings for the charities, while the restaurant keeps the money made on drinks plus half the meal money—an all-round win-win scenario.

In 2016 there were two Charity Feasts, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn. The one in the Spring included meals at La Farola and Tarana and raised £2,000 with Barclays match-funding, making a total of £4,000. The Autumn series had five meals at La Farola, The Ghurka and Paglia e Fieno in East Grinstead and at Tarana and Konak in Lingfield. A house survey prize from Redmond & Associates raised £300, and East Grinstead Charcoal Grill together with Glanfield Food and Wine donated £500 to the cause. The total from meals for the Autumn came to just over £3300. The two events together raised around £7,300 for the year.

The local charities benefitting in 2016 were Crawley Open House, The East Grinstead Street Pastors, Crawley Prison Fellowship, Age UK East Grinstead & District, East Grinstead Community First Responders, and the East Grinstead Foodbank.

The Spring Charity Feast 2017 went very well. This raised just over £4,100 from five sittings at La Farola, The Ghurka (x2), Paglia e Fieno, and Tarana, with Barclays matching the first £1,000, making a total of just over £5,100.

The five charities who are benefitting in 2017 are Crawley Prison Fellowship, Age UK East Grinstead & District, Crawley Open House, East Grinstead Foodbank, and the East Grinstead & District Mental Health Association.

The Autumn Charity Feast 2017 will take place during the first four weeks of October:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Monday, 2 October | La Farola (EG 322399), seats around 90. |
| Monday, 9 October | Ghurka @the Woodcock Inn (in Felbridge on the A22) (EG 325325), seats around 100. |
| Monday, 16 October | Paglia e Fieno (EG 328713), seats around 75. |
| Monday, 23 October | Tarana Lingfield (EG 832222), seats around 175. |

Further information about the Charity Feasts and East Grinstead Justice and Peace Group can be obtained from Susan Joy (EG 835190; email susanjoy471@hotmail.com) or from Nick Castiglione (EG 410100; email Nick@wealdenmarketing.co.uk).

From the meals in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, the Justice and Peace Group has raised £14,500 in this way. Add to this the £5,100 raised in spring 2017 – what will autumn 2017 bring?

In addition to the Charity Feasts there is the annual Sleep Out, which raises money through sponsorship and a town street collection. The 2017 event took place on Saturday, 1 July; the street collection has already raised £527.86 (our best so far), and the sponsorship to come in over the summer months will probably be in the region of £3,000. The charities that gain from this are Crawley Open House, The Easter Team, and Worthing Churches Homeless Project. Over the last 27 years, the East Grinstead Justice and Peace Group has raised over £100,000 for organizations working with homeless people – a great achievement for a small group and for such a worthy cause.

Susan Joy



Crown of Thorns

Crown of Thorns is a registered charity (No. 1042751; www.crownofthorns.org.uk) based in the parish and working with priests both in the UK and in many other countries. Our work supports the pastoral work of both clergy and dioceses and spans over twenty-five years.

Over the years we have been greatly inspired by the kindness of people, including notable specialist professionals, all willing to assist in the support of priests. Even in the most extreme and difficult circumstances, we have had nothing but admiration for the kindness we have been shown by advisors when a priest needs help, whatever the circumstance. This support so often builds a bridge between what may appear as an overwhelming problem and a solution. I take this opportunity to thank those of these people who live within our parish for their dedicated care and assistance.

Priests need our support.

Priests don't always want to talk religion, but have other interests and need good friendships from warm and welcoming families and good people. We have a married priest and a married deacon, so our situation is slightly different from most parishes, but the basics remain the same.

One aspect of the basic care of our priests always applies. This is the importance of keeping in mind that priests are no more able to take on everybody's problems than you or I. They are not designed as general councillors and nor should they be expected to be so. In asking their spiritual advice, we should, for both their sake and ours, take care not to bring to them all our burdens! And it is of critical importance that they are understood as free persons at the call of all the community, but who nevertheless know where it is safe to find refuge, just for company or maybe in times of exhaustion and pain.

I ask the housebound and elderly to actively support priests in prayer! Let your priest know you are doing this, as it is a great encouragement and blessing.

As a shepherdess, I know how completely dependent a sheep is on its shepherd for health and well-being, and the shepherd dependent on the joy and trust of the sheep. A priest also needs this relationship with his parishioners. It is up to the sheep to show friendship to the shepherd, and gratitude, to keep the shepherd well. Sheep do need endless care and attention, but also respond joyfully, forgive quickly and so keep the shepherd in good heart.



*Bernie Laird, Lisa de Quay, Bishop Richard, and Ania Sikorska
at West Grinstead*

A “Shepherding and the Gospel” talk was recently given at West Grinstead and another later this month, with our sheep, locally.

We can be contacted at: Crown of Thorns, P.O. Box 49, Lingfield, Surrey, RH19 2NQ (email office@crownofthorns.org.uk).

*Lisa de Quay
for Crown of Thorns*

Silver Wedding Anniversary

St Bernard’s is a quiet, peaceful church away from the noise of traffic and aeroplanes. On such a day, enjoying the tranquillity, I became aware of two figures peering in at the side windows, so I went and invited them in. They told me their story, that 25 years ago on that day, 1 February

2017, they had been married at St Bernard's. They had come back to celebrate.

The bride remembered that the day had been wild and windy. As she stepped out of her bridal car, she had to hold on to her veil. As she entered the church, the wind tugged at the flying veil. The church door had then caught hold of it and dislodged her headdress, dragging the long train away. Not knowing how to cope further with this unwieldy, flying bird except to hold on to it as she walked down the aisle, she then, to the delight of the congregation, removed and tossed the veil, headdress and train amongst them all! Twenty-five years to the day, the couple again entered the church, gave thanks for their happiness over the years, and walked down the aisle and out into the sunshine. Congratulations!

submitted by Margaret Vasey

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week was in May again this year, and you may recall receiving a red Christian Aid donation envelope through your letterbox. Volunteers from the Christian Churches in East Grinstead delivered envelopes and collected them from each house later in the week. The local roads were shared out among the churches, and the volunteers from our parish collected a total of £412.75 from the roads we deal with. So thank you to our volunteer collectors:

Brigid Armstrong	Jonathan Jenkins
Nick Bozzini	Gabrielle Joyce
Mike & Tina Causton	Sue Joy
Tom Clarke	Judy Lilley
John Donohue	Josie Webb
Mike Hope	

We don't yet know the overall amount collected from East Grinstead homes during Christian Aid Week by all the local churches this year, but last year it was over £18,000.

This Christian Aid Week fundraising is a very significant contributor to the charity's ability to carry out its work. This year's total is not yet available, but £11.3 million was reported from Christian Aid Week across the UK as a whole in last year's annual report, 18% of Christian

Aid's overall donation income. All the amounts we each collect, which can seem small sometimes, contribute to that overall significant total. Christian Aid Week also raises the profile of the issues that the charity aims to address and of examples of their successes.

For every £1 donated, Christian Aid spent 45p on long-term development projects, 29p on emergencies, 15p on fundraising, and 11p on education, advocacy, and campaigning (e.g., for better situations for the world's poor). They often do their charitable work and their funding through local church agencies and other local partner organisations, rather than giving money to governments. They work with people of all faiths and none.

Thanks again to the volunteer collectors and all contributors.

Mike Hope

Welcoming the stranger

Could you let a home to a Refugee Family?

Millions of refugees are Syrian families forced to flee during six years of war. The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) enables the most vulnerable families to be relocated from refugee camps in the Middle East to a safe country where they rebuild their lives. Do you know someone who could help with

- self-contained family homes
- available for 12 months minimum
- near good public service and transport links
- available now or anytime in the next 3 years?

At present there are two Syrian families living in flats made available by local landlords here in East Grinstead and a neighbouring village. The families are slowly settling very well into those communities and rebuilding their lives. The children attend school/playgroup, and everyone is learning to speak English at special classes and also at a weekly Talk Club run by members of EG Justice and Peace Group and Crawley Refugees Welcome Group. There is ring-fenced UK Home Office money available for SVPRS as part of the Government's commitment to resettling 20,000 Syrian families over the next five years – it is not local authority money.

Further information from Graham Tabbner, West Sussex CC (graham.tabbner@westsussex.gov.uk), who would be pleased to discuss this with you .

For other information about refugees and what the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton is doing, please take the free *Refugee Crisis Newsletter* available from both Our Lady and St Peter and St Bernard's. Further information from Aidan Cantwell, Diocesan Refugee Response Coordinator (01293 651154; aidan.cantwell@dabnet.org).

A prayer for refugees, from Christian Aid UK

Lord, who changed the story from stranger to sibling, equip us to change the story.

From frustration to freedom, for those stuck in refugee camps.

From panic to peace, for those separated from their families.

From trafficking to safe passage, for those on perilous journeys.

From despair to hope, for hearts weary with grief.

From worry to hospitality, for minds uncertain of change.

From crisis to opportunity, for countries providing a home.

From foreigner to family, as we were welcomed by you.

May we never miss meeting your gaze, in the eyes of our sibling, the stranger.

Susan Joy

Fairtrade roundup

The Fairtrade town group – Fairtrade East Grinstead – continues to work with the Town Council, churches, schools, and community groups to promote Fairtrade, which changes the way trade works through better prices, decent working conditions, and a fairer deal for farmers and workers in developing countries. Recent activities include a Fairtrade-themed garden located near the War Memorial planted up by the Town Council (go and take a look), games and activities in primary schools undertaken by Imberhorne School, and a Big Brew day on 5 July at St Peter's School, attended by the Town Mayor. Imberhorne and St Peter's are both Fairtrade Achiever schools. Fairtrade EG is also part of a wider

county group, Fairtrade West Sussex, which has applied to the Fairtrade Foundation to be a Fairtrade county, following in the footsteps of Surrey, of which Fairtrade Lingfield and Dormansland are a part.

Thanks to Mike and Tina Causton, and Chris and Margaret Vasey, who continue to run Fairtrade stalls at Our Lady and St Peter and Moat Church, and at St Bernard, respectively. Thanks also to Danny Favor who was Fairtrade EG's nominated town councillor for the last year. The Group now welcomes Councillor Norman Mockford as his replacement.

Fairtrade EG, along with many other Fairtrade towns and villages etc., has written to Sainsbury's to say how disappointed we are that this supermarket intends to stop stocking Fairtrade certified tea and replace it with its own-brand "Fairly Traded" tea – not the same thing at all. This means that Sainsbury's will have control over the premium paid to farmers and producers rather than letting them make their own decisions as the Fairtrade certification currently allows. Over 220,000 tea producers stand to be affected by the change (www.traidcraft.co.uk/blog-entry/traidcraft-statement-on-sainsburys-announcement-of-a-pilot-fairly-traded-tea-programme).

Further information about Fairtrade EG is available at
www.fairtrade-eg.co.uk

and Fairtrade West Sussex at

www.fairtradewestsussex.org.uk

Susan Joy (SusanJoy471@hotmail.com)

Spiritual India

No matter how many times I visit India, I never fail to be mesmerized by the culture, customs, and the way of life. Everything looks so disorganized – noisy, colourful, yet quiet and beautiful.

From this subcontinent of 1.34 billion people rise golden temples and mosques of white marble.

I am still reeling from the culture shock of my last visit – a pilgrimage to some of the most holy places in India.

More than half the population of Amritsar are Sikhs, and yet thousands more come here from all over India to pray and bathe in the water that surrounds the Golden Temple. The architecture is fabulous and the 750



kilos of gold on the temple rooftop is dazzling in the bright sunshine. The people queue for up to 8 hours, 24 hours a day to “walk past” the Holy Book which is housed here. But mostly they pray; some join the chanting, and some pray quietly alone. And some – men, women, and children – bathe in the Holy Water to cleanse their bodies and minds. Our guide took us on a tour of the kitchens – I wasn’t sure what that was about, but I was soon to find out! Run entirely by volunteers and food provided entirely through donations, thousands of visitors, pilgrims, and beggars are fed every day, free of charge – it’s a major operation! The preparation, cooking, storing, serving, and washing up involved are phenomenal! No one goes hungry in Amritsar.

From Amritsar, via Delhi, I flew to Varanasi – an important place for Hindus, who flock from all over the world to the sacred Ganges River. The city is very old and the streets are too narrow for traffic in places, so we walked the last couple of hundred yards to our hotel. Weaving through cows and bulls and dung – it was a challenge for me, but the locals don’t seem to notice at all.

Hindus have many Gods – there’s one for everything you may need: long life, fertility, wealth, love, etc, etc. Varanasi is the home of Lord Shiva, and Lord Shiva’s vehicle is the cow. So sacred, cows have right of way, are never shooed, and even have particular places to sleep at night in shop doorways under cover!

Life – and death – is centred on the riverbank: prayers at sunset where thousands gather, and dawn cremation on wooden pyres. Life is fatalistic, and it is every Hindu’s wish to have their ashes scattered on the Ganges River.



We were up at five and sailing down the river before dawn – the sights and sounds are imprinted in my mind, better than any photograph. People embracing the water, bathing, some fully clothed, some almost naked – “taking the dip”, our guide called it. Next to them, the dhobis, waist deep, beat clothes on rocks and then spread them flat in the sunshine to dry, held down on four corners with stones. A little way along a group of novice priests were gathered chanting mantras, facing the sunrise, all dressed in white. All the while our boat was skilfully manoeuvred by a boy (who couldn’t have been more than 15) through other boats, fishermen, traders, and lit candles left to float down the river.

The river bank is lined by ghats – wide steps that lead to the water, which were built as walkways from the beautiful houses and palaces of the Moghuls and aristocracy when they visited the Holy Waters.

There are many other sights to visit – Buddhist ruins, museums, markets – but I was drawn like a magnet to the river and could have sat and contemplated by the side of it for days or weeks, it was so calming. Maybe one day, when I retire . . .!

Charmaine Hallmark

The tourist’s prayer

Our heavenly father, look down on us your humble, obedient servants doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, mailing postcards, and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

We beseech thee, oh Lord, to see that our luggage is not lost, and that our overweight baggage goes unnoticed.

Protect us from unscrupulous taxi drivers, porters and unlicensed English-speaking guides.

Give us this day, divine guidance in the selection of our hotels, that

we may find our reservations honoured, our rooms made up, and hot water in the taps.

We pray that the telephone works, and that operators somewhere speak English and that there is no mail waiting for us from loved ones needing money.

Lead us, oh God, to good, inexpensive restaurants, where the food is good, the waiters are friendly, and the wine is included.

Give us the strength to visit the museums, cathedrals, palaces and castles listed as a “must” in the guide books. And if perchance we take a nap after lunch or skip a historic monument, have mercy on us, for our flesh is weak.

Please, God, keep our wives from spending sprees and protect them from bargains they do not need or can afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women, and comparing them to us. Save them from making a fool of themselves in cafes and night clubs. Above all, do not forgive them their trespasses, for they know exactly what they do.

And when our travels are over, and we return to our loved ones, grant us the favour that someone will look at our videos, and listen to our stories, so that our lives as tourists will not have been in vain.

Amen

submitted by Tina Causton

The art of raising 15 children – alone

Against all odds, Rosa Pich and her husband, Chema, became the parents of Spain’s largest family. Then tragedy struck

From the Catholic Herald, 19 May 2017

When I get in touch with Rosa Pich by Skype during Holy Week, I discover that she is on holiday with 12 of her children in Torreciudad, a shrine dedicated to Our Lady in northern Spain. “We are trying to return to normal life,” she says, following the death of her husband, Chema, of liver cancer little more than a month earlier.

“We have cried a lot, we have prayed a lot, but life continues,” she says. “I have come to see that when God gives you a cross to carry, he always gives you the grace you need to bear it.”



Rosa Pich (back row, centre) with 12 of her children in Torreciudad

Rosa is a supernumerary member of Opus Dei and is the ninth of 16 siblings. Chema Postigo, who also belonged to Opus Dei, came from a family of 14. They got married young and aspired to have a family as large as those they came from. Their first child, however, was born with a congenital heart defect and was not expected to survive for long (although she actually lived till the age of 22). The second and third children died in infancy. It was then that a doctor advised the couple not to have any more children.

But after much prayer and discernment they decided against this advice. “Nobody other than the spouses should enter the marriage bed,” she explains, “not the doctor, or one’s mother or mother-in-law, or the priest. Rosa and Chema resolved not to give up on their dream of a large family and went on to have 15 more children, all alive to this day, aged now from 25 down to seven. They became the parents of Spain’s largest family and have appeared in documentaries in several countries including one made by the BBC.

How did they manage? They lived in an apartment in Barcelona with five bedrooms: two for boys, two for girls and one for the couple. In one of the boys’ rooms, there is a four-level bunk bed and another two-level bunk bed with a spare bed for guests, since their children are positively encouraged to bring their friends home to play and to stay the night.

Each of the older children is assigned a younger sibling to look after,

ensuring that they make their bed, eat enough, do their homework, clear their toys and get their clothes ready for the next day. Chores in the house are distributed monthly according to a schedule which is agreed by all. This allowed Chema to have a full-time job and Rosa to work part time in the mornings, while they spent many weekends travelling the world to help other couples make their families a success through a programme developed by the Family Development Foundation (FDF).

Rosa's daily schedule entails getting up early to go to Mass, then on to work as a sales executive in a textile firm, getting back home for lunch. Meanwhile, the children help each other to get up, have breakfast, and travel to school and university.

Their dining table is round, with room for 20 people. This allows everyone to see and hear everyone else as the conversation around the dinner table is always very animated.

"We have three rules about our meals," Rosa tells me. "First, you need to ensure the person to your right and to your left are served before you start eating. Secondly, when you get the tray of food, you should choose the worst for yourself, leaving the better portions for your siblings. And third, all of us, including mum and dad, should aim to do one small sacrifice in each meal."

This sacrifice could be as simple as taking a bit more of what you don't like or a bit less of what you like, or delaying drinking the glass of water till the end of the meal – something small that shows solidarity with those who don't have enough to eat or are otherwise suffering.

These and many other experiences are collected in a book that Rosa wrote in 2013 and has now been translated into 10 languages, including Chinese. It was published in English by Scepter Publishers in New York this year, with the title *Rosa, What's Your Secret? Raising a Large Family with Love*.

But isn't it very expensive to have such a large family? The Postigo-Pich family consumes 1,300 biscuits, 420 pints of milk and seven lots of a dozen eggs per month. But they are extremely careful where they buy their provisions, searching for the biggest discounts they can get. Every day one of the children walks to a bakery 15 minutes away from home because each loaf is 20 cents cheaper. This adds up to a saving of many euros per month. Sometimes the fridge becomes empty before the end of the month, so they have to skimp and make do with the basics until the next salary comes in.

In the last four months of Chema's life the couple were able to travel

to six countries in three different continents to promote FDF courses: South Korea, China, Ivory Coast, Portugal, Italy and Belarus. In the latter they had the distinct feeling they were being followed by KGB-type secret police who were about to deport them. But all was fine, and in fact they appeared in the main news programme in Minsk.

Chema felt ill during these months, losing almost two stone in weight. Eventually he went to hospital to have a number of tests. In late February, he was diagnosed with aggressive liver cancer with a metastasis in the lungs. Clearly he was not going to live much longer. He then called all his children together.

“Jesus is very good. He loves us a lot,” he told them. “He took Javi and Montse to himself when they were young and Carmina when she was 22. Now it is my turn.”

He then spoke to them one by one. Less than two weeks later he died.

The funeral was held in the largest church in Barcelona and was attended by more than 4,000 people from all over the world. At least 30 people told Rosa that Chema was their best friend. Each person who attended was given a rosary in a little pouch prepared by the children the day before. One of the people who came to the funeral said that “in the midst of the pain, these days we have touched heaven.”

Their son Gaby, 17, went to Rome for Holy Week and was able to greet Pope Francis personally after the Wednesday audience. Chema



Rosa's children prepare the rosaries given to each guest at their father's funeral

had written to the Pope, who had answered by sending his prayers and blessings. Gaby told the Holy Father that his father had died recently: would he have a message for his mother? Pope Francis said: "Tell your mother to always look up to heaven. as your father looks at her from there."

How can Rosa cope as a young widow with so many children? Yet it is precisely having so many children which allows her to live surrounded by love. The week after the funeral there was a family meeting at which all the jobs done by Chema up to then were distributed among the family members. Rosa admits that dealing with banks is not her forte and is happy that one of the older children has taken that on. As she puts it: "In a large family, joys are multiplied and sorrows are divided."

Recently she spotted her 10-year-old reading the newspaper, something he had never done before. When she asked him, he said that dad would always explain the news to him every night but that now he had to find it out by himself.

Rosa knows she will never be alone. "The problem today in developed societies is loneliness," she says, "something we have never known in our families." She adds that, although having small children takes a lot of time and effort, the years of looking after them pass quickly, and then you have around you "these wonderful human beings, who will exist forever, forever, forever."

Each child was a gift of God and there was nothing like it: "I have many friends," Rosa says, "who later in life have one regret: not having had more children." She believes this is the best present parents can give to their older children.

At school, many of the boys and girls want to be friends with her children because they are used to being generous and sharing their lives with others. "I believe in this house they are getting the best possible training to run multinationals," she says, "because they learn to negotiate, to spot the needs of others, to make the case for their suggested course of action, to give in when needed, to ask for forgiveness when they make a mistake."

What is the most important thing in a family, I ask her as we are finishing our conversation. She does not hesitate: "That the mum and dad love each other. Everything else comes from that."

*Jack Valero
Press Officer of Opus Dei UK and a founder of Catholic Voices*

submitted by Isabel Fernandez

1872 INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TEACHERS

- 1) Teachers will fill lamps, clean chimneys and trim wicks each day.
- 2) Each teacher will bring a scuttle of coal and a bucket of water for the day's use.
- 3) Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs for the individual tastes of children.
- 4) Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
- 5) After ten hours in the school the teacher should spend the remaining time reading the Bible and other good books.
- 6) Women teachers who marry or engage in other unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
- 7) Every teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reasons to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity and honesty.
- 8) The teacher who performs his labors faithfully without fault for five years will be given an increase of 25 cents a week in his pay - providing the Board of Education approves.

MASON STREET SCHOOL
SAN DIEGO COUNTY HISTORICAL DAYS ASSOCIATION
3966 MASON STREET
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110

Punishments

	Lashes
1. Boys and Girls Playing Together.....	4
2. Fighting at School.....	5
3. Quareling at School.....	5
4. Gambling or Betting at School.....	4
5. Playing at Cards at School.....	10
6. Climbing for Every Foot Over Three Feet Up a Tree.....	1
7. Telling Lies.....	7
8. Telling Tales Out of School.....	8
9. Giving Each Other Ill Names.....	3
10. Swearing at School.....	8
11. For Misbehaving to Girls.....	10
12. For Drinking Spiritous Liquors at School.....	8
13. Making Swings and Swinging on Them.....	7
14. For Waring Long Finger Nails.....	2
15. Misbehaving to Persons on the Road.....	4
16. For Going to Girls Play Places.....	3
17. Girls Going to Boys Play Places.....	3
18. Coming to School With Dirty Faces and Hands.....	2
19. For Calling Each Other Liars.....	4
20. For Wrestling at School.....	4
21. For Weting Each Other Washing at Playtime.....	2
22. Scuffling at School.....	4
23. For Going and Playing about the Mill or Creek.....	6
24. For Going about the Barn or doing any Mischief about the Place.....	7



Mason Street School

3966 Mason Street, Old Town, San Diego, California 92110 - Under the auspices of the San Diego County Historical Days Association February 1997

submitted by Maureen Cheesman

Parish Organizations East Grinstead

Altar Society: Flowers – Margaret Pond [01342 327002]

Catholic Women's League: meetings second Wednesday of the month,
October to March: 2.30pm, April to September: 6.00pm
Brenda Crannigan [01342 328110]

Children's Liturgy: at the 10.30am Mass on Sundays,
Parish Catechists: Eileen Lyons [01342 317424]

Christian meditation group: Thursdays, 7.30–8.30pm, term-time,
at the Parish Centre, East Grinstead;
second and third Wednesday of each month, from 8 pm, term
time, in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, Worth Abbey
Gabrielle Joyce [01342 326118]

Crown of Thorns: Lisa de Quay [01342 870472]
www.crownofthorns.org.uk

East Grinstead Catenian Circle:
President: Bill Blackledge [01342 317599]

Friends of St Peter's: Sara Vaughan [contact school: 01342 321985]

Gift Aid Secretary: Frank Lilley [01342 321987]

Gospel of Life Group: Les Whittaker [01342 315484]

Guild of St Stephen: Jim Fitzpatrick [01342 317493]

Justice and Peace Group: Sue Joy [01342 835190]

Lifts to Mass: Peter Wells [07851938727]

Lunch Club: third Wednesday of the month,
at the Parish Centre, East Grinstead
Ivy Pimenta [01342 323240]

Music Ministry: Choir practice Friday 6.45pm, on location;
new singers and players most welcome
Director of Music: Liam Bauress [01342 825035]
liambauress@me.com

Parish Magazine: Klara King [01342 321581]
klara.m.king@comcrafts.co.uk

Readers at Mass: Sue Wade [01342 317246]

Saint Vincent de Paul Society: Peter Wells [01342 811543]

Safeguarding Officer: Janette Pentney [01342 327109]
pjpentney@binternet.com

Welcomers: Maribel Favor
[for copy of rota: maribelfavor@gmail.com]

Times of Services

Our Lady and St Peter, East Grinstead

Saturday Mass: Vigil 6:15 pm

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am

Weekdays: Morning Prayer: 9:15 am; Mass 9:30 am

Holy Days of Obligation:

Vigil 8 pm evening before the feast; on the day 9:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 10 to 10:30 am and
5:30 to 6 pm and on request

St Bernard, Lingfield

Sunday Mass: 9.00 am,
preceded by Sacrament
of Reconciliation:
8.15 to 8.45 am

Weekdays:

Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament: 9.00 am
Morning prayer: 9.15 am

