



Autumn 2007

Southwark Diaconal Newsletter

Vol.2 : No. 1

Welcome to a new year of Southwark Diaconal Newsletter and a new year of Diaconal On-Going Formation. In this issue we have news of the OGF Programme for 2007-2008 as well as a report on our recent Retreat at Aylesford, news of other Deacons and Deacons' Groups. We hope you find it helpful and interesting. As always, suggestions for improvement and items to be included in future issues are very welcome. Please send them to me, the editor - Wjohnngreenwood@aol.com

On-going Formation (OGF)

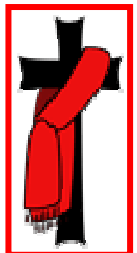
We're on the web!
www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

Last year's OGF came to a conclusion on 19th May at St Francis Church and Hall, Maidstone. Fr Ashley Beck completed his detailed exploration of the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church in the morning. In the afternoon there was a very lively and productive discussion on Archbishop Kevin's document *Towards a Vision for the Diocese* with particular reference to the future role and profile of Permanent Deacons in our Diocese. We are grateful to Dr Amand Chitnis for very ably and sympathetically facilitating this discussion. A summary of it can be found on the PD pages of the diocesan website - www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

This year, 2007-2008, we move into Year A of the Sunday Mass Lectionary and consider, in particular, Holy Scripture and our Ministry of the Word. On Saturday 3rd November the lectures will be given by Fr Michael Winstanley SDB. He is Provincial of the Salesians in England and Wales, a Scripture scholar who has published several works on the subject. He says too that he is "used to coping with deacons" as he has done similar diaconal days for the Shrewsbury diocese. His subject for our DDD will be the Gospels and the understanding of the Gospels as a basis for preaching.

For our March DDD Fr Peter Burrows will be coming. He is a priest of Plymouth Diocese and lectures at Allen Hall. He also writes about Scripture and tells us, "The Permanent Diaconate is very dear to my heart." Our final DDD of the year will be linked with our Annual Renewal of Commitment at St George's Cathedral. It will be held in the afternoon in the Amigo Hall and led by Bishop Pat Lynch.

We hope this will provide an attractive and helpful programme for all. Our DDD's seek to gather together the whole Diaconal Community of the Diocese - established deacons, recently ordained deacons, students in formation and aspirants in their propaedeutic period. By attending these days we can strengthen, hearten and encourage one another. Our Diocesan Diaconal Retreats and Support Groups aim to work in the same sense and direction.



Dates for your Diary!

November 2007

3rd November 10 am
Diocesan Diaconal Day at the Christian Education Centre, 21 Tooting Bec Road, London SW17.

March 2008

1st March 10 am
Diocesan Diaconal Day at The Hermitage, More Park, West Malling, Kent.

April 2008

Friday 18th April to Sunday 20th April:
Diocesan Diaconal Retreat (Deacons and wives) at Maison Diocesaine d'Accueil, Merville, France.

May 2008

3rd May
Annual Renewal of Commitment to Diaconal Service at St George's Cathedral with OGF in the Amigo Hall pm.

September 2008

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th September:
Diocesan Diaconal Retreat (Deacons only) at The Friars, Aylesford.

OGF Continued

Forty Pounds! £40?

We are sometimes asked why we charge as much as £40 for our DDD's. Your Parish is supposed to pay it, but even then isn't this a hefty charge on a Parish? Those of you who attend secular training and development programmes in either the private or public sector will appreciate that £40 is by comparison very reasonable. Out of our £40 we aim to provide a decent lunch for everyone. As far as possible we keep that cost below £15 per head, but we do not charge various people obviously for their lunch – our lecturers, our hosts for the day, our Director and Assistant Directors. We also think it is only right to pay a modest fee to our lecturers and so far these have been very modest. Finally we need to pay for a print run of our Diaconal Newsletter three times a year. This means that we struggle on that £40 to make ends meet. (But of course the more people who attend the easier it would be!)

This year we are moving the last DDD to the same day as our Annual Renewal of Commitment when we shall need to charge only £10 for the OGF afternoon. So this will be an economy. We are also asking the Diocese to assist with the financing of the Diaconal OGF Programme.

It is good to see wives at our DDD's and the PD Team decided that in future we should charge only £15 each for the wives to cover the cost of the meal.

News

Deacon Daniel Mulcahy has been in the news. He is sea chaplain for the Medway Ports and you can read about this in the latest issue (number 19) of "Alongside," the magazine of the Apostleship of the Sea. Chaplaincy work whether to seafarers, prisoners or those in hospitals is a growing and important area of work for Permanent Deacons. We hope to include a session on the subject at one of our DDD's.



Deacon Daniel

Deacon Nick Bruce from New Zealand has been in touch. Nick was brought up in South West London but after he married Sue who comes from South Africa they went there. It was in South Africa that Nick was ordained Deacon. Now Nick and Sue live in Hamilton, New Zealand. Hamilton is the only diocese in New Zealand to have ordained Permanent Deacons. You can find out more about the Diaconate in Hamilton from their quite excellent website – <http://www.diaconate.co.nz/> Nick was over here to visit his daughter this September so it was good for some of us to meet him at a Hayes Group barbecue on 12th September. Please pray for him and Sue, their five children and the future of the Diaconate down under.

Pray for one another - for four men from our Diocese, who have completed their propaedeutic period and now started on the formation programme at Wonersh – Errol, Felim, Gerard and James. Pray for Deacons Robert Higgs (Beckenham) ordained 30th June and Michael Knight (Gillingham) ordained 22nd July. Pray for all our students and aspirants, for the sick and the retired and for continuing vocations to the Diaconate in our diocese.

Aylesford Retreat 2007:

A Southwark Diocesan Retreat for Deacons was held at the Friars, Aylesford, from Friday 14th September to Sunday 16th September.

Twelve deacons attended. The spiritual conferences were given by Fr Michael Woodgate. Our weekend was blessed with glorious summer weather, the Carmelite Community and staff at Aylesford, as always, looked after us wonderfully and we were all very grateful to Fr Michael for his work in preparing and presenting the Conferences. These were very much to the point and struck many chords; they were based on chapter 13 of St John's Gospel, the washing of the disciples' feet.

Those of us there discussed the future of the Deacons Only Retreat and decided to stay with The Friars for the future venue. Next year's Deacons Only Retreat has been booked, therefore, for **26th to 28th September 2008**. I am sorry this is a bit later than we planned but it is the only September weekend available for next year, such is the pressure of bookings at Aylesford. So as a precaution I have also booked 2009 which will be the second September weekend as we planned. We also discussed Support Groups for Deacons and the Kent Deacons agreed that we should try to get a Group started for Thanet and Canterbury Deaneries.



Bookings for the retreat for Deacons and wives at Merville, France, on 18th to 20th April 2008 are now being accepted. Contact Deacon John Greenwood as places are limited.

Deacon Support Groups

These continue to meet at:

Kent - Rainham – contact Deacon Stephen Newman.

South East London – Hayes – contact Deacon John Greenwood. As you will see elsewhere we started this year with a barbecue and were very pleased to welcome, among others, Bishop Pat Lynch to the occasion.

South West London – Clapham Park – contact Deacon John Dal Din.

The Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Southwark

Director: Father Peter Edwards (and Chairman of the Inter-Diocesan Directors' Committee)

St Joseph's Presbytery, 1 Montem Road, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3WQ

Telephone: 020 8942 2602 Email: frpeter.newmalden@btinternet.com

Assistant Director (South London)

The Rev'd Jeffrey Singleton

9 Daneswood Avenue
Catford, London SE6 2RG
Phone : 020 8698 5097
Email :
jeffrey.singleton@btinternet.com

Assistant Director (and Inter-Diocesan Bursar)

The Rev'd Roger Evans

38 Sandy Ridge
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5DR
Phone : 020 8467 3886
Email : evansrf@btinternet.com

Assistant Director (Kent)

The Rev'd Stephen Newman

11 Genesta Close, Milton Regis
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 2HL
Phone : 01795 427195
Email :
stephenpha@blueyonder.co.uk

Assistant Director for On-Going Formation: The Rev'd John Greenwood

22 Alberta Street, London SE17 3SD Phone 020 7735 8787 Email: WJohnngreenwood@aol.com

Dean of Studies: Father Ashley Beck (also Chairman of the National Assembly of Directors & Assistant Directors)

20 Village Way, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2NP Phone: 020 8650 4117 Email: ashleybeck88@hotmail.com

Archbishop's Delegate for the Pastoral Care of Permanent Deacons: The Rev'd Kevin Dunne

22 Riddlesdale Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9AB Phone: 01892 6898000 Email: kevinjeandunner:btopenworld.com

Apostolic Letter *Summorum Pontificum* of Benedict XVI given *Motu Proprio*

Given in July of this year, this is the Letter which clarifies the permissible use of the Roman Missal promulgated by Bl John XXIII in 1962. Given the likely wider use of this Missal one of the questions which arises is of the role of Deacons in celebrations of Mass in this the extraordinary form.

The answer is that in a Low Mass or even High (Sung) Mass there is NO provision for a deacon and it would be quite wrong to try to fabricate one. There is a role at a Solemn High Mass which requires both a Deacon and a Subdeacon. In the past these roles were normally assumed by priests but now it would be wholly appropriate for Permanent Deacons to serve as Deacons in such Masses according to the old form. We could also serve as Subdeacons with the vestments appropriate to Subdeacons. The subdiaconate is one of the minor orders no longer in existence in the new liturgical forms but still used in seminaries adhering to the former usage in all their rites.

In addition to Mass, as a Deacon you might be asked to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism or Marriage in the old form as well as funeral rites.

The Homily

“By its very nature the liturgy operates on different levels of communication which enable it to engage the whole human person. The simplicity of its gestures and the sobriety of its orderly sequence of signs communicate and inspire more than any contrived and inappropriate additions. Attentiveness and fidelity to the specific structure of the rite express both a recognition of the nature of the Eucharist as a gift and, on the part of the minister, a docile openness to receiving this ineffable gift...

Given the importance of the word of God, the quality of homilies needs to be improved. The homily is ‘part of the liturgical action’, and is meant to foster a deeper understanding of the word of God, so that it can bear fruit in the lives of the faithful. Hence ordained ministers must ‘prepare the homily carefully, based on adequate knowledge of Sacred Scripture’. Generic and abstract homilies should be avoided. In particular, I ask these ministers to preach in such a way that the homily closely relates the proclamation of the word of God to the sacramental celebration and the life of the community, so that the word of God truly becomes the Church’s vital nourishment and support...During the course of the liturgical year it is appropriate to offer the faithful, prudently and on the basis of the three-year lectionary, ‘thematic’ homilies treating the great themes of the Christian faith, on the basis of what has been authoritatively proposed by the Magisterium in the four ‘pillars’ of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the recent *Compendium*, namely: the profession of faith, the celebration of the Christian mystery, life in Christ and Christian prayer.”

(Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis* February 2007)