

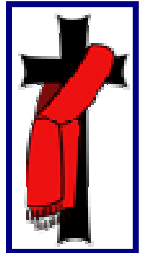


Spring 2009

# Southwark Diaconal Newsletter

Vol.3 No. 2

**Welcome** to our latest issue of diocesan Diaconal News. As this is now sent out electronically only please assist in passing on copies to deacons in your area who are without an e-mail facility. And if your parish does not have an e-mail please let the priests and others who might be interested also have copies. I am happy to say we are now beginning to receive contributions for the Newsletter. If you have items of news, comment or interest for permanent deacons please send them to me : [WJohngreenwood@aol.com](mailto:WJohngreenwood@aol.com)



*He did this that He might show us an example of charity and brotherly love, that we also should do in like manner one to another. If then Our Lord did this, will you, O deacons, hesitate to do the like for them that are sick and infirm, you who are workmen of the truth, and bear the likeness of Christ?*

From "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles" on Jesus' washing of the apostles' feet (John 13:1-20).

## On-going Formation (OGF)

The On-Going Formation Programme for this year continues on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at Sittingbourne and everyone should have received the notice and booking form. We continue the theme for this year of the Eucharist and Sacramental Ministry of Deacons with lectures and discussion led by Fr Tom Creagh-Fuller on Sacramental Theology and Fr Peter Edwards on The Deacon at Mass. Our previous Diocesan Diaconal Day in October with Canon John Redford was very successful and his lecture can now be accessed on the diocesan website. Our thanks go to Canon John for making the trip from Maryvale back to his old stomping grounds in Southwark and for giving us so instructive and helpful a day. Our thanks also go to Fr Des Hanrahan and our Deacon Peter Varnes for making us so welcome at Sidcup. Our OGF programme will conclude on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009 at New Malden and not, as previously notified, on 6<sup>th</sup> June (see below).

**We're on the web!**  
[www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

## Dates for your Diary!

### Diocesan Diaconal Days

#### March 2009

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 10 am:  
The Sacred Heart Church,  
West Street,  
Sittingbourne. ME10 1AN

#### May 2009

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009, 10 am:  
Saint Joseph, New Malden.  
KT3 3QW with

**Renewal of Commitment to  
Diaconal Service at 2.30pm.**

## Renewal of Commitment to Diaconal Service / Diocesan Diaconal Day

This will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009. As the Amigo Hall will be unavailable it will be at Saint Joseph Church, New Malden and form a part of one our three annual Diocesan Diaconal Days. Regrettably Archbishop Kevin's continuing health difficulties will prevent him from being able to attend for the Day which instead will be led by Bishop Paul Hendricks. The Renewal Mass itself will be at 2.30 pm so as to help travel from parts of the diocese remote from New Malden. Deacons and wives may attend either the full Day for the usual fees or simply the Renewal Mass with refreshments afterwards for free. The conferral of ministries on students in formation for the Diaconate will take place at the same Mass. Please make a careful note in your diaries of this important day for Deacons in the Diocese.

## Diaconate Conferences - A Report from Deacon Roger Evans

In September 2005, Deacon Stephen Newman and I, together with our wives, represented the Diocese at the International Conference of Deacons in Munich, which conference is held every four years – in fact we were the only English deacons there. The theme of the conference was ‘The Prophetic Ministry of the Deacon’, and there was time for listening, time for sharing and time for learning (There was also time to share the cultural activity of the Munich Beer Festival, but that’s another story!)

The keynote speaker was Archbishop Ncube of Bulawayo, since the subject of a dirty tricks campaign by the Mugabe regime. We were impressed by his honesty when he spoke openly about what was happening in Zimbabwe, and his fear for his life as a critic of the regime. There were workshops in which we were asked to speak about how the various countries represented were coping with the lack of priestly vocations. Nelleke Wijngards from the Netherlands spoke on behalf of deacons’ wives, and was particularly anxious that more care should be taken of the widows of deacons.

It was a very worthwhile experience, so much so that we are now preparing for the next conference which is to be held at the end of March in Vienna. Stephen Newman and I, together with our wives will again represent the diocese, and we will be joined by Fr. Ashley Beck. I know that Westminster Diocese will be represented, and I hope there will also be other deacons. At the time of writing places are still available if anyone else wishes to join us, but the deadline for bookings is fast approaching.

Perhaps of more general interest is the next National assembly for Deacons of England and Wales, which is to be held in Hereford from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Those who attended the last assembly in Lowestoft in 2006 will know what an enjoyable and worthwhile experience this was. Speakers in 2010 will include Archbishop Peter Smith of Cardiff and William Cavanaugh, associate Professor of Religion at Minnesota University.

You should by now have received booking forms and details. Hope to see you there.

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## The art of liturgical celebration (*ars celebrandi*)

“Many abuses in matters liturgical are based, not on bad will but on ignorance, because they ‘involve a rejection of those elements whose deeper meaning is not understood and whose antiquity is not recognised’ (Redemptionis Sacramentum). Thus some abuses are due to an undue place given to spontaneity, or creativity, or to a wrong idea of freedom, or to the error of horizontalism which places man at the centre of a liturgical celebration instead of vertically focussing on Christ and his mysteries...

A consequence of sound theological-liturgical grounding and proper formation in faith and reverence is that the ‘ars celebrandi’ will be promoted not only by the celebrating priest but also as regards all others who take part in liturgical functions, above all, the deacon, but also altar servers, readers, those who direct the singing and all the faithful who participate.” (Cardinal Francis Arinze, 2007.)

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## The Fifth National Assembly for Deacons of England & Wales

You should have been notified by post but, if not, please note the Fifth National Diaconate Assembly of England and Wales will be held at Holme Lacy House Hotel, Hereford from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Among the speakers will be Archbishop Peter Smith of Cardiff and Professor William Cavanaugh of Minesota University. The cost will be £260 per Deacon and £210 for accompanying wife and bookings must be made no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. For further information or to book please contact:

Deacon Len Mathews  
 Diaconate Assembly Booking Office  
 82 Mountbatten Road, KINGS LYNN, Norfolk. PE31 6YE  
 Tel: 01485 541502.

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## New Diaconal Review

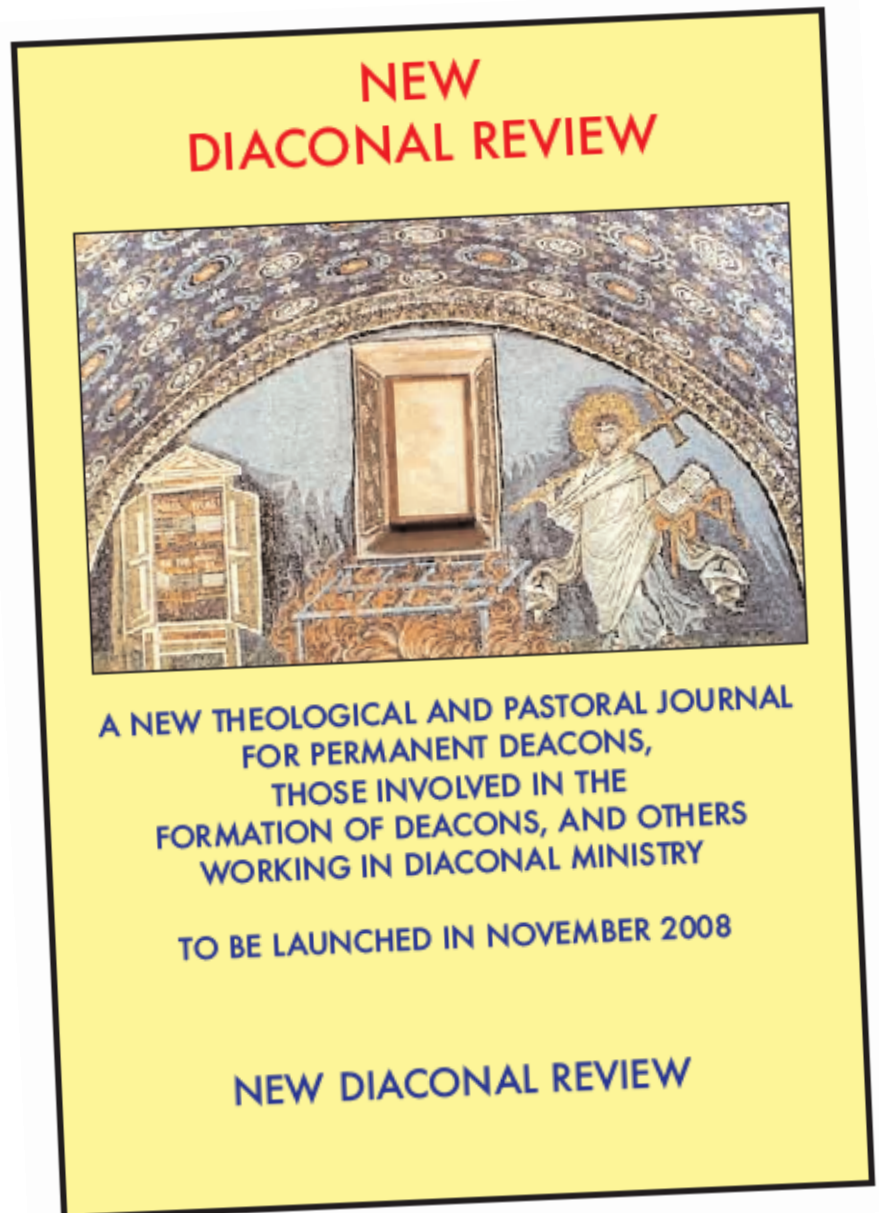
**A NEW THEOLOGICAL AND PASTORAL JOURNAL FOR PERMANENT DEACONS, THOSE INVOLVED IN THE FORMATION OF DEACONS, AND OTHERS WORKING IN DIACONAL MINISTRY. LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER 2008**

For many years in the Catholic Church the International Diaconate Centre (IDC), based in the diocese of Stuttgart-Rottenburg in Germany, has been the main centre for theological reflection about the diaconate, organizing a study conference every four years and publishing the review (largely in German), *Diakonia Christi*. In recent years local regional IDC networks have been set up in various parts of the world, and in 2007 a new North European Circle of the IDC was established, the IDCNEC. This network aims primarily to support deacons, those involved in their formation and others, laypeople and religious, working in forms of diaconal ministry, in northern Europe and places which are primarily or partly 'Anglophone': England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium (Flanders), Scandinavia and the

Baltic states. The aim is also to draw interest from deacons in the USA and Canada. The network aims to organize regular international conferences (the first being planned for 2011) and to publish twice-yearly the *New Diaconal Review*. This journal will combine academic articles originally published in other languages, original material reflecting the pastoral work of those in diaconal ministry, news items, articles focusing on the deacon's specific ministry of Eucharist, Word and Charity, and book reviews. The journal is to be published alongside the English journal *The Pastoral Review* (formerly *Priests and People* and *The Clergy Review*) and new subscribers will also receive a free copy of that journal twice a year. Deacons need resources to help them in their ministry, in the process of theological reflection; many work in isolated situations and *New Diaconal Review* is designed to help them by sharing the good that is done in different places. The editors of *New Diaconal Review* are Fr Ashley Beck, Dean of Studies of the Diaconate Formation Programme in Southwark and Chair of the Conference of Diaconate Directors and Deacon Delegates for England and Wales and Deacon Tony Schmitz, Director of Studies for the Permanent Diaconate for the Dioceses of Scotland.

To join the IDCNEC and subscribe to *New Diaconal Review* (£15 per year), contact:

*New Diaconal Review*, IDCNEC, Ogilvie Institute, 16 Huntly Street, Aberdeen AB10 1SH, Scotland.



## 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 3QW

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Phone: 020 8698 5097

**Assistant Director (and Inter-Diocesan Bursar)**

**The Rev'd Roger Evans**

Email: [evansrf@btinternet.com](mailto:evansrf@btinternet.com)

Phone: 020 8467 3886

**Assistant Director (Kent)**

**The Rev'd Stephen Newman**

Email: [stephenpha@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:stephenpha@blueyonder.co.uk)

Phone: 01795 427195

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

22 Alberta Street, London SE17 3SD Phone 020 7735 8787 Email: [WJohngreenwood@aol.com](mailto:WJohngreenwood@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](mailto: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: [kevinjeandunne@btopenworld.com](mailto:kevinjeandunne@btopenworld.com)

## New!

**A website for the permanent diaconate in England and Wales –**

<http://www.diaconate.org.uk>

The website is public and contains information that may be useful to someone discerning a vocation to the permanent diaconate, students in formation or ordained deacons.

## Retreats:

**May 2009: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009:**

Diocesan Diaconal Retreat (deacons and wives) at Maison d'Accueil, Merville, France.

*Bookings now closed.*

**September 2009: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009:**

Diocesan Diaconal Retreat (deacons only) at The Friars, Aylesford.

This will be led by Bishop John Hine.

## International Conference

**International Diaconal Study Conference: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009: Vienna.**

For details please contact Roger Evans; [evansrf@btinternet.com](mailto:evansrf@btinternet.com)

## Fifth National Diaconate Assembly of England and Wales

This will be at Holme Lacy House Hotel, Hereford from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

## Please Pray for:

Our students in formation for the Permanent Diaconate:

Mathew Manoharan and Jolyon Vickers who are in their first year,

Felim McCarthy and Errol Quagraine who are in their second year and

Javier Elderfield, John-Simon Lawson, John Tuggy and Peter Rennie who are in their third year and approaching their ordination this summer.

Our aspirants for the Permanent Diaconate:

Jim Coleman, Jim Durkan, Alfred Banya, Graham Price and Christopher Richardson.

The wives and families of all the above.

Deacon John O' Donovan who died 14<sup>th</sup> February, his wife Margaret and their family.

May he rest in peace.