

Southwark Diaconal Newsletter

Welcome to Southwark Diocesan News and Diocesan Diaconal OGF. Items you want to submit or suggestions for content are as always welcome and should be sent to me, WJohngreenwood@aol.com If you or someone you know is experiencing difficulty in receiving the Newsletter please contact deacon Mike Dale dale.family@tiscali.co.uk

Addendum to the 2010 Diocesan Directory:

Last summer (well in advance of his autumn resignation) Archbishop Kevin appointed the former Assistant Director of On-Going Formation, Deacon John Greenwood, as Director of On-Going Formation of Permanent Deacons, and thus relieved Fr Peter Edwards to be specifically Director of Formation.

This division of labour had been discussed by Fr Peter with the Archbishop over recent years and is in conformity with The Basic Norms 21.3 viz. that the Director of Formation should "preferably not be at the same time also responsible for ordained deacons. In fact, it would be better for this responsibility to remain distinct from that of forming aspirants and candidates". The two Directors continue to work in close cooperation as "The continuing formation of deacons ... must be seen in continuity with... the initial formation given to deacons, to the extent that these are considered two initial moments in a single, living process of Christian and diaconal life". (Directory on the Ministry & Life of Permanent Deacons, 63).

On-going Formation (OGF)

This year's programme commenced at Bromley in October. Stephen Barrie, Education Officer of the Linacre Centre, kept our close attention on the difficult subjects of bioethics. His starting point was the ethical approach to both fertility and infertility moving on to explain the human and practical complications of non-ethical behaviour. In particular he criticised the discrimination inherent in much screening of unborn children, the genetic dislocation and bewilderment likely with donor conceptions and what is rapidly becoming "free market eugenics". It was encouraging to us to learn that there is another way in these matters and that the Church's teaching is sound commonsense. It was also heartening to learn of the work of the Linacre Centre in the service of the Church in England and Wales. Their literature and speakers are always available to parishes for suitable occasions.

See www.linacre.org

In the afternoon, our own Deacon John Roberts, was no less interesting and lively in explaining what is counselling and what is the work of the Aylesford Centre for Spiritual and Personal Development, of which he is the Director. It is good to know that the Aylesford Centre is among the resources available for the pastoral care of deacons in the diocese (see below).

Dates for your Diary!

Further Diocesan Diaconal Days this year will be:

Saturday 27th February 2010, 10 am:

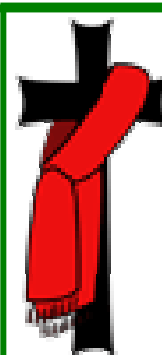
English Martyrs Church, Frindsbury Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 4JA.

A day presented by Fr Graham Preston and the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Team.

Saturday 1st May 2010, 10 am: Cathedral Church of Saint George, London SE1.

Stratford Caldecott, the well-known Catholic author and Director of the Second Spring Association, will lecture on Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical Caritas in Veritate.

Renewal of Commitment to Diaconal Service will follow at 3 pm.



Retreats

May 2010: Friday 7th May to Sunday 9th May: Diocesan Diaconal Retreat (deacons and wives) at Maison d'Accueil, Merville, France. Booking now closed. Further details on the retreat are available on the diocesan website.

September 2010: Friday 10th September to Sunday 12th September: Diocesan Diaconal Retreat (deacons only) at The Friars, Aylesford.

The Pastoral Care of Permanent Deacons

It is sometimes asked who is responsible for the pastoral care of deacons once ordained. This is a matter which our Archbishop Emeritus Kevin addressed in 2006 when, among other measures, he appointed Deacon Kevin Dunne as his Delegate for the Pastoral Care of Deacons. Kevin's contact details are on every Newsletter, and he reports to everyone that:

"When you were in formation, you always had the Directors to be of help in preparation for your new ministry. Now you may feel alone, but help and guidance is always available. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. All our conversations and information with me are in strict confidence."

Other aspects of the pastoral care of Deacons come within the ambit of the Director for On-Going Formation. In particular the annual Retreats for Deacons and the three Diocesan Diaconal Days per year are organized by the OGF Team. These are aimed at providing fellowship and mutual support as well as intellectual, spiritual and pastoral formation. We are responsible for the provision of a hopefully expanding network of Deacons' Fraternal Groups throughout the Diocese. These Groups are also your opportunity to give some input into the organization and development of the Permanent Diaconate in our Diocese — in other words your voice. Clearly much more needs to be done and so I aim to be visiting each of the Groups this year to discuss and hear views on this matter.

A further source of help for Deacons is the Directory of Supervisors, Counsellors and Psychotherapists issued by the On-Going Formation of Priests Team. This is intended not just for priests and is compiled and regularly updated by Margaret Philpot. It is available from her and she confirms to me that she is happy to act as a broker for those seeking supervision and to offer advice.

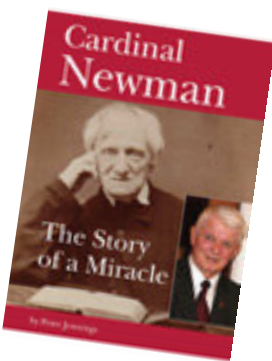
Contact individualsupport@ogfsouthwark.org.uk or telephone Margaret on 020 8265 9808.

Finally, it has to be said that no amount of formal provision for pastoral care will take the place of a well-founded and well-defined spiritual life of prayer, the sacraments and spiritual direction.

"Regular spiritual direction is truly of the greatest assistance to deacons. Experience clearly shows how much can be gained in sincere and humble dialogue with a wise spiritual director, not only in the resolution of doubts and problems which inevitably arise throughout life, but also in employing the necessary discernment to arrive at better self-knowledge and to grow in faithful fellowship with Christ"

(Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons 58.) *John Greenwood*

News



If you have not already read this please do so. This is the story of the miraculous healing of Deacon Jack Sullivan thanks to the intercession of John Henry Newman, published by CTS. Deacon Jack was recently here in England. Among other engagements he gave a very powerful account of his cure in the annual CTS lecture at Brompton Oratory last November. When he asked his surgeon to account for the cure of his crippling spine condition the surgeon replied he could not explain it; "ask God" he said. At the time Jack had not been ordained; he simply prayed to John Henry Newman to be able to get back to his studies for the diaconate and so complete them.

This, of course, is the miracle which now opens the way to the beatification of John Henry Newman (this year? in England?). Introducing deacon Jack's lecture at the Oratory was Fr Ian Ker, the well known Newman scholar. He explained how much of Newman's teaching is regarded as having influenced the Second Vatican Council. But perhaps, he suggested, Newman is still more relevant now nearly fifty years after this Council. Newman was the great theologian of development it is true, but he was also deeply informed by history and so with the continuity of the Church today with all its past. So at a time when the Church is trying to recapture this "hermeneutic of continuity" John Henry Newman is singularly relevant. Might it also be relevant that his first acknowledged miracle paved the way to the ordination of a man as a Permanent Deacon?

The Annual National Conference of Directors of the Permanent Diaconate 2009

The Annual National Conference of Directors of the Permanent Diaconate and Deacon Delegates is part of the Bishops' Conference of England Wales Committee for Ministerial Formation. Directors and Deacons from most of the dioceses are present. Michael Dale was last year's deacon delegate for Southwark and reports as follows.

The opening address was given by Dr Anthony Towey, Head of the School of Theology, Philosophy and History at St. Mary's University College, Twickenham. He gave a description of the foundation degree in Pastoral Ministry which now underpins the inter-diocesan formation programme for the permanent diaconate at Womersley. Discussion followed about the pros (mostly) and cons of the foundation degree, formation and spirituality.

Deacon Anthony Clarke from Westminster spoke on the IDC Study Conference in Vienna. The conference is European orientated with some delegates from South America and South Africa but only one from North America. There were also deacons and deaconesses from other church traditions. The main speaker had been Cardinal Napier, Archbishop of Durban. A priest from Mumbai also spoke about the progress of the diaconate in India. A great advantage of the IDC is to allow deacons from various places to meet, to develop friendships and to learn how the diaconate is progressing in different countries.

The delegate meeting of our National Conference then discussed various matters about the diaconate including sharing experiences, retirement age, training issues, leadership skills, deacons in parishes, OGF, support groups and the moratorium on diaconate training in Lancaster where a review has taken place and the results of which were still not known.

The keynote talk for the Conference was given by the Bishop of Nottingham, Malcolm McMahon OP, Chairman for Education and Formation of the Bishop's Conference. He spoke about the sacrifice of deacon's families, of deacons interpreting the church to the world and how priests should consider the diaconate and the deacon's orders. He commented at some length about the image of the deacon and how this varied from place to place and he stressed that the deacon needs to say "no" at times. He went on to talk about the need to have a clear vision of vocation, ministry and mission in the church. The mission should be based on the flow and life of Jesus: a movement in, that is the life of the community and the church, and a movement out, that is the mission to the rest of the world, evangelisation, service, etc. We as deacons should try to reconcile the world to God through Christ. Holy Orders help the well being and fullness of the church. The deacon is called to be a leader in the church as it leads out and reaches to the world. The priest is formed in a special way to mould and lead. The deacon is a servant in the world and is a central person in the movement of the church. A deacon is a leader who can cause movement of the church to occur and to take the body of Christ outside. He weaves back and forth between the world in which he lives and works and serves the Lord in his body – the Church. The deacon's role is of ordained ministry within the Christian community. All orders help people within the Church and share religious authenticity. They need to be for real and have a real relationship with God. They should take the life of prayer, devotion and study seriously. We can do what we are called to do so that we can become holy. The Lord will help us and give us strength.

Please Pray for:

Our students in formation for the Permanent Diaconate:

Alfred Banya, Christopher Richardson and Jim Coleman (first year),

Mathew Manoharan, Jolyon Vickers (second year),

Felim McCarthy and Errol Quagraine (third year),

Javier Elderfield (Lewisham), John-Simon Lawson (New Malden) and Peter Rennie (Purley) ordained deacons in 2009.

Our aspirants for the Permanent Diaconate – Michael Carrucan and Barry Mellish.

All their wives and families.

RIP Deacon John Tuggey

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Tuggey, ordained deacon last year, who died recently. Please also pray for his family and friends.

The Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Southwark

**Director of Formation: 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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Assistant Director (South London and Inter-Diocesan Bursar)

The Rev Roger Evans

38 Sandy Ridge

Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5DR

Phone : 020 8467 3886

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Assistant Director (Kent)

The Rev Stephen Newman

11 Genesta Close, Milton Regis

Sittingbourne,

Kent ME10 2HL

Phone : 01795 427195

Email :stephenpha@blueyonder.co.uk

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

22 Alberta Street,

London SE17 3SD

Phone 020 7735 8787

Email: 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

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

22 Riddlesdale Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9AB Phone: 01892 689800 Email: kevinjeandunne@btoopenworld.com

Roger Chandler-Honor R.I.P. 1924 - 2009

Born 1924. Ordained Deacon 12th March 1980. Died 15th December 2009.

An appreciation by Deacon Kevin Dunne at the funeral Mass on 22nd December 23009, Holy Cross Church, Catford. The principal celebrant was Bishop Pat Lynch.

It was in 1978, just after Michael Bowen was elected to be the new Archbishop of Southwark, that he started the formation and training programme for the permanent diaconate. There was great joy in the home of James Foley who had written many letters requesting a diaconate programme to start in this diocese, and others who wanted to go forward for consideration for the diaconate. These included Roger Chandler-Honor, Philip Gummett and Derek Ockenden.

After two year's formation and training at Allington Castle Maidstone, Archbishop Michael agreed to the ordination of these four men as Deacons. And it was in this church that Roger was ordained Deacon, on 12 March 1980, by Bishop Charles Henderson.

Through the sacraments of marriage and diaconal orders Roger served this community for many years, together with Vera his wife. Through Roger's work in this parish, deanery and diocese the words of John-Paul II about deacons were enacted:

"Public ministry as a deacon and married and family life should enhance and enrich each other. Through each sacrament, the grace of God anoints and blesses every aspect of the couple's life together."

Besides the parish, Roger was involved in the Art and Architecture of the churches across the diocese, and for many years was chaplain to the Army cadets. A member of the diaconate fraternal group at Eltham and very supportive of the diaconate over the years, Roger always had encouraging words for the new trainees to the diaconate, with humorous stories as well. Being one of the first Deacons in the Diocese he carried out his ministry for 29 years, although during the last few years he was looked after at St. Mary's, Tooting Bec Gardens .

The Deacons of Southwark give to Roger's family their prayers and sympathy. He will never be forgotten'

Eternal Rest grant to Roger, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Deacon Support Groups

Croydon: Contact Deacon Vincent Morrison marycrmorrisson@yahoo.co.uk Deacons come from West Croydon, Purley, Selsdon, Norbury and occasionally Bromley. They meet at a home every three months or so on a Saturday evening to socialise and take it in turns to host a meal.

Gravesend: Contact Deacon Tom Berrie janettom@tiscali.co.uk Meet four times a year, all welcome.

Hayes: Contact Deacon John Greenwood WJohngreenwood@aol.com Alternate months October to June, usually second Wednesday, 8 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary, Hayes.

Waterloo: Contact John Greenwood WJohngreenwood@aol.com Alternate months October to June, on Wednesdays, at 6.30 pm at St Patrick's Friary, Cornwall Road, SE1.

Rainham: Contact Deacon Alan Boxall alan-josie@blueyonder.co.uk Alternate months, usually five times a year October to June at St Thomas of Canterbury, London Road, Rainham.