



Spring 2007

Southwark Diaconal Newsletter

Vol.1 : No. 2

Welcome to our second edition of the official newsletter for the Permanent Diaconate in our Diocese. Reaction to our first issue was very favourable and the Newsletter was circulated far and wide both within the Diocese and outside via the National Conference for the Permanent Diaconate. Comments and suggestions for content and improvement are always very welcome.

Deacon John Greenwood. (Assistant Director for On-Going Formation)

We're on the web!
www.rcsouthwark.co.uk
Click Diocesan Links then
The Permanent Diaconate

On-going Formation (OGF)

Our first Diocesan Diaconal Day (DDD) was held at St Edmund of Canterbury, Beckenham on Saturday 4th November 2006 with twenty-four Permanent Deacons present as well student deacons and aspirants. Reaction was very favourable and a subsequent Evaluation Questionnaire gave an overall assessment of 4 "Good" on a scale of 1 "Poor" to 5 "Very Good."

Some comments from participants:

"The bookstall was a good idea. I'll bring my cheque book next time."

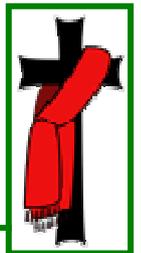
"I enjoyed the day."

"It was just like being back at the Seminary but without the essay!"

There was also, of course some helpful criticism which the PD Team will use to make future days hopefully even more interesting and enjoyable.

It was fitting to have our first DDD at a church dedicated to Saint Edmund of Canterbury who was himself a great teacher and theologian. Our thanks go to Canon John Madden, the clergy and laity at Beckenham for making us so very welcome.

The next DDD is to be at New Malden on 3rd February. Following his general introduction to the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church Fr Ashley Beck will concentrate in more detail on Part 2 of this document - the family, human work, economic life, the political and international communities, the environment and peace. In the afternoon Jeremy De Satgé of "The Music Makers" will lead a session on singing for deacons.



Dates for your Diary!

February 2007

3rd February-10.00am

Diocesan Diaconal Day at New Malden.

St Joseph's,
Kingston Road,

New Malden.

**PLEASE COMPLETE
AND RETURN THE
BOOKING FORM NO
LATER THAN 27TH
JANUARY**

April 2007

20th - 22nd April

Diocesan Diaconal Retreat
(deacons and wives or
deacons only) at Merville,
near Lille, France

BOOKINGS CLOSE

31st JANUARY.

28th April 11.00am

Annual Renewal of
Commitment to Diaconal
Service at St George's
Cathedral.

May 2007

19th May from 10.30

Diocesan Diaconal Day at
Maidstone.
St Francis Parish Hall,
Week Street,
Maidstone, Kent..

September 2007

14th-16th September

Diocesan Diaconal Retreat
(deacons only) at

The Friars,
Aylesford.

Stop Press

Saturday 10th March

A Study Day for deacons at Heythrop College, London.
For details contact Judith Crimmins on 020 7795 4207
E-mail: j.crimmins@heythrop.ac.uk

Retreats

Diocesan Retreat for Southwark deacons and their wives at Maison Diocesaine d'Accueil, Merville, France: Friday 20th April 2007 to Sunday 22nd April 2007.

Deacon Tom Berrie reports:

“For the last two years, some of us have taken part in a retreat at a centre run by the Lille Diocese in the small town of Merville. Merville is on the edge of French Flanders, between Lille on the one side and Dunkirk – about 30 miles away – on the coast. It is about an hour’s drive from Calais or Dunkirk and therefore easily accessible to us in the Diocese. The centre is an ideal place for a retreat. It is very well run and, being *la France*, both food and wine are plentiful! And the staff are always pleasant and friendly.

Most importantly, it has a quiet, very prayerful atmosphere. We always have a retreat director to lead us; for 2006 it was Canon John Watts, in 2007 it will be Canon Jeremiah Cronin. We have talks, Mass and daily prayer, but time too for quiet reflection. It is also an appropriate opportunity to meet and share with fellow deacons and their wives. The charge is very reasonable; this year it will be £93.00 per person, which is a charge on your parish. The retreat lasts from teatime Friday to lunch on Sunday. However, most of us stay for at least one extra night as there are interesting places nearby to visit, including the historic town of Hazebrouck, cemeteries and battlefield sites from the time of the Great War.

There are also local supermarkets to stock up on your cheap French booze!”

To book for this year contact Deacon Kevin Dunne: Tel: 01892 689800, Mobile: 07977925575,

E-mail:

kevinjeandunne@btopenworld.com

BOOKINGS CLOSE ON 31ST JANUARY!

A further retreat for deacons only will be at The Friars, Aylesford 14th to 16th September, 2007. Details will be circulated later.

Prayers for Sick Deacons

Some time ago I was asked by Fr Peter Edwards if I would send by e-mail, information about any deacons and their families in need of prayers to all other deacons. This I have endeavoured to do and I will use the new Diocesan Directory as a basis for e-mail addresses. If your e-mail address is incorrect in the directory or you change it, could you please let me know. Also if you know of other deacons who do not have an e-mail address could you please inform them of any prayers needed. My e-mail address is:

dale.family@tiscali.co.uk

Should any prayers be needed in the future please contact me as soon as possible.

Deacon Mike Dale

Permanent Deacons in the Parish

This CTS booklet is available for just 20p. It is a must for all deacons and parishes. It has the following headings:

- What is a deacon ?
- A brief history of the Diaconate
- The Deacon — a man of service
- Service of the liturgy
- Selection and formation
- Further Reading



Diocesan Dalmatic

has been well received - our Deacons are certainly prominent when wearing them! Just a few more are available from Deacon Roger Evans Price £122.00 -a parish expense.

Deacon Support Groups

NEWS FROM DEACON SUPPORT GROUPS

Chatham

This Group meets every other month for deacons and wives in the Chatham Deanery. But deacons and wives from neighbouring deaneries are very welcome as well as student deacons in formation. Evening Prayer is followed by discussions and reports. Recently they have been discussing The Archbishop's paper "Towards a Vision for the Diocese" and the deacon's role in Prison Chaplaincy. The Group meets at Rainham on Mondays at 8pm. The next meetings are 15th January and 12th March. For details please contact Deacon Alan Boxall: Tel: 06434360637,

E-mail: alan-josie@blueyonder.co.uk.

Hayes

This group has been regularly meeting since June 2006. Deacon Vincent Morrison presented an interesting and very challenging list of topics for discussion in the Group and for possible use in the OGF programme.

In November Deacon Michael Baldry gave a talk on the Christian Unity Commission and led a discussion on ecumenism.

In December there was a small social evening with deacons' wives. On January 10th the group shall be discussing Archbishop Kevin's paper in relation to the role of deacons in the diocese.

On February 14th Canon John Watts will come to talk about Pastoral Ministry. The group normally meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 8 pm in the hall at Our Lady of the Rosary, Hayes. For further details contact

Deacon John Greenwood: Tel: 020 7735 8787,

E-mail: WJohngreenwood@aol.com or Deacon Michael Baldry: Tel: 020 8850 0566,

E-mail: michael.baldry@btinternet.com.

Clapham Common

An inaugural meeting was held at St Vincent de Paul Church, Clapham Common on Saturday 23rd September 2006 and future meetings agreed for Saturdays 13th January and 12th May 2007 commencing 10.30 am. The Group is to have a "business" focus, involving discussion of both diaconal and diocesan news and developments, but also to include an opportunity to exchange notes and experiences on matters of practical ministry as well as, from time to time, an OGF element. For details please contact

Deacon Christopher Road: Tel: 020 8788 5601,

E-mail: christopher.road@virgin.net.

Kent

We are still seeking offers from deacons in Kent to establish groups for this area.

The Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Southwark

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

Preach like the Apostles

In an Advent sermon Father Raniero Cantalamessa once observed that preaching is what awakens faith. But the exclamation "Jesus is the Lord!" must not only resonate in evangelization, but within the Church herself. The preacher for the Pontifical Household pointed out that in a post-Christian world where Jesus Christ is often absent from the lives of even people who call themselves Christians, "it is indispensable to know the way followed by the apostles to 'evangelize' the pre-Christian world!"

"But what is, precisely, the object of preaching?" asked the Franciscan. "In the words of Jesus, it is the great news: 'The kingdom of God has come to you!' But there is something even more concrete, the germinating nucleus of everything, the exclamation: 'Jesus is the Lord!' pronounced and accepted in the wonder of faith." To say "'Jesus is the Lord!' is as though saying that in Jesus, crucified and risen, the kingdom and the sovereignty of God over the world has at last been realized," said the priest. He said that when the apostles proclaimed the faith for the first time after Pentecost, they went "directly to the heart of the gospel," announcing that Jesus died for our sins, and rose for our justification.

"What is most accentuated of the faith," said Father Cantalamessa, "is not so much the initial moment, the miracle of coming to faith, but rather the fullness and orthodoxy of the contents of faith itself. One is less aware of the importance of the initial choice with which one becomes a Christian and this situation greatly affects evangelization today. We are more prepared by our past to be 'shepherds' than 'fishers' of men,...better prepared to nourish the people that come to the Church, or catch again those who have fallen away and live outside of her." This is how to explain that many Catholics leave the Church for "other Christian realities," attracted by a simple and effective announcement that puts them in direct contact with Christ and makes them experience the power of his spirit."

From this truth stems the need to propose "the fundamental announcement clearly and sparingly at least once among us, not only to catechumens, but to all, given that the majority of today's believers have not been through the catechumenate," he said.

"To say 'Jesus is the Lord' means to make a decision in fact," said the preacher. "It is as though saying: Jesus Christ is 'my' Lord; I recognise his full right over me, I hand the reins of my life over to him; I do not want to live any more 'for myself', but 'for him who died and rose for me.'"