



## DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Newsletter Issue 28: January 2017



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## SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016

Another year, another opportunity to serve the Lord in His members. So it was with great enthusiasm that it was unanimously decided at the last meeting of the year 2015, that the Year of Mercy was one particularly applicable to our work as Ministers of Holy Communion since taking Our Lord to the sick and housebound, in the Diocese, was a significant way of fulfilling our obligation to the Care of the Sick and Infirm.

The attendance of Bishop Patrick at our Commission meeting in March, confirmed us in our work and our service. The Bishop listened to our discussions and our planning, asked questions and was reluctant to say what he wanted! He felt that he needed to know more before he would make decisions or suggestions. But we were assured that the Year of Mercy was special for all XMOHC.

For this reason we decided that all Renewal Days would be centred on the theme of Mercy. The reports following these days seem to have been most favourable and the talks helpful.

During Renewal days we have recruited several new members to the Commission and so we have said farewell to others. Whilst it is sad to lose some who have become good friends, the new blood is needed and so is new inspiration since both keep the Commission alive and vital.

The Formation weekends have been a great success. There were two for adults this year and a special one for the younger members of the Diocese which was run by the Youth Service under the care of Fr. David Cain and the Formation team. Paul Smith was still in England, on holiday from the Beda College, for the first of the weekends and so joined the team. This was a pleasure for us all and was an opportunity to be reminded of the beauty of the Liturgy since he's the expert! At the Cathedral, on November 26th 104 Ministers were Commissioned by Bishop Patrick.

However, having said all this, we are aware that we ourselves need help, spiritual support, and inspiration. This is especially so as many of the Commission are involved with the setting up of Renewal days and are therefore unable to really benefit from them themselves. With this in mind, we plan and hold a day's retreat for the Commission and the Formation Team. Spouses are invited to join us as they so generously support us. This year, the Retreat was held at the Rosmini Centre and Fr. Brian Dazeley led us through the day. His gentle, quiet and humorous approach made the talks acceptable, easy to listen to and worthy of reflection. Mass on the day was concelebrated by Frs. Brian and Michael Eastwood. It was gentle, devout and peaceful and summed up the morning's reflections. After a shared lunch, Fr. Dazeley offered thoughts about the Prodigal Son and Zaccheus which gave us plenty to think about during a time of Adoration which was followed by Evening Prayer of the Church.

As usual now, there is, in this Newsletter, a list of questions which we have been asked to answer. We have done our best! But one question which keeps arising is the one about what prayers should or may be said during Adoration. Since this is a Eucharistic event, the Rosary is not recommended. After a prayer of welcome to Our Lord, silence should be the order of the day. The prayer of the Church is acceptable if it closes the time of adoration.

Fr. Michael Eastwood always wishes to remind us that he is at all times available for us and for this we thank him. His enthusiasm, his commitment and his concern is a great inspiration to all of us who have the privilege of working closely with him and should be, for us, a spur to keep on serving the Lord.

Celia Bermingham (Secretary to the Commission)

## **COUNTY REPORTS**

### **Derbyshire**

In 2016 Derbyshire Extraordinary Ministers had a break with tradition as we welcomed our first woman speaker Sister Teresa Kennedy PVBM who led our Renewal Days at Our Lady of Lourdes Mickleover and St Anne's Buxton.

Sister Teresa considered what it meant to live Eucharistically- when we say " Body of Christ" what does it really mean to each one of us and also what does it mean to us living in a community. Our Holy Hour focused on the Year of Mercy with prayer for physical and spiritual healing, for the healing of others and for the healing of relationships. We had plenty of time to reflect and meditate on how we develop a closer relationship with God so that in our ministry we bring His healing, mercy and compassion.

Our Derby Day was very well attended with so many people spiritually uplifted by Sister Teresa's inspiring words. The day ended with mass celebrated by Father Michael. At the end of mass he said a few thought provoking words about Jesus standing on the shore whilst his disciples fishing failed to recognize him until the disciple Jesus loved said, "It is the Lord". Father suggested that we think of these three words and each time we give Holy Communion we stand back, make an Act of Faith and say, "It is the Lord"

The Buxton Renewal Day was again led beautifully by Sister Teresa but as Father Michael couldn't attend and Father Dennis was in hospital Canon Don Bowdren kindly celebrated mass. We pray both priests will be able to join the 2017 Renewal Day in Buxton

Our thanks go to all those Derbyshire Extraordinary Ministers and parishioners at Buxton and Mickleover who helped to make the Renewal Days so special. Sister Bernadette opened the Buxton church for us at Buxton and Father Dennis and Father Malachy (new to Mickleover) gave us their help and support. We must also thank the dedicated parish contacts who circulate all Diocesan and County information to their parish Extraordinary Ministers.

Special thanks go to Bernadette for her unstinting help and support to me and latterly for stepping into the breach and taking on the role of Treasurer. We have got to know so many of you over the past 6 years and hope when we come to the Renewal Day in 2017 we will have more time to talk to you all.

Fran Wickes is taking over as the new Derbyshire Secretary and John Cassidy is now Derbyshire Treasurer. Bernadette and I wish them every success in the future and may God bless you all.

### **Julie Corden**

I am grateful to Julie and Bernadette for all their support and encouragement in helping me take on the role of Derbyshire Secretary. John Cassidy and I will be working together to ensure that the EMs of Derbyshire are kept as informed as they were previously and we hope to continue to offer an uplifting renewal day each year.

Fr Joe Wheat from Sacred Heart Parish in Carlton, Notts, will be our speaker in 2017. He will lead us in thinking about 'Sainthood' and what it means to 21<sup>st</sup> century Catholics. The renewal days are March 11<sup>th</sup> at St Anne's in Buxton and March 25<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Lourdes in Mickleover.

I will shortly be in touch with our parish contacts to introduce myself.

Fran Wickes

## Lincolnshire

The renewal season in Lincolnshire began on April 16th at St John Fisher in Grimsby, a Chapel of Ease and our first visit for a renewal day. We were made extraordinarily welcome by this community and by our Celebrant for Mass, Father John Martin. In his homily Father John encouraged us to realise that God saw us, our commitment to our ministry as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and our service to those to whom we take the sacrament. He told us to hold on to the truth that God loved us and our sharing of his love and mercy with others.

Our speaker at St John Fisher was Sr. Eileen Keane who spoke with great wisdom about the practicalities of sharing that love and mercy of God within our parish communities. She paused during her presentation to allow for discussion and sharing. As always she held our attention with her prayerful and upbeat message of encouragement.

As is our custom this was the first of three days offered within the county. The remaining two days were offered later in April at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Sleaford and then again at Our Lady of Lincoln in Lincoln on 21st May. At both of these days our speaker was Father Colum Kelly, Port Chaplain at Immingham Docks. Father Colum spoke about his 'floating flock' and then directly applied his experience of caring for people alongside our roles within our parish communities. He spoke to us very directly about the need to take good care of ourselves spiritually if we were in turn to remain able to reach out to others and bring a real expression of the love and mercy of Christ to them. His presence with us and what he encouraged us to both think and pray about, made a deep impression.

Canon Bell at Sleaford and Canon Taylor at Our Lady of Lincoln celebrated Mass at the outset of our days, and we were fortunate to be joined by Father Michael who led the Holy Hour at the conclusion of each of our days of renewal. A big thank you to all of them and to the people of these two parishes that have been kind enough to host many days of renewal for us, and to the team at each who work to prepare in advance, meaning our days run smoothly.

The attendance at the 2016 renewal days was up on the previous year, and indeed the attendance has been increasing across the last three years which is very encouraging. The feed-back particularly in 2016 was quite the most positive that we have had in recent years across all three days, both in terms of comments given on feed-back sheets on the day, and subsequently on the email. One comment above all else predominated, that the priorities and approach of both speakers was what you wanted more of in the future. We have listened, please see below!

At all three days we were fortunate to have people who came forward to 'have a chat' about serving on the Lincolnshire Secretariat. This has resulted in two new recruits, Clare Harding from Grantham and Lesley Dover from Louth. They will join Anita Kerry who remains on the Secretariat, and I know that you will make them very welcome and wish them well in their new roles.

As we look forward to 2017 many of you will be delighted to know that Father Colum Kelly will join us for all three of our days of renewal which will be held at:

Our Lady of Lincoln – Lincoln on Saturday 8th April 2017

Corpus Christi – Cleethorpes on Saturday 27th May 2017

Our Lady of Good Counsel – Sleaford on Saturday 3rd June 2017

Ethne Dawson, Lesley Dover, & Clare Harding

## Leicestershire and Rutland

Two renewal days were again held in 2016 with inspiring and invigorating talks and a good attendance so well done and thanks to all who supported these days.

Our first renewal day was held at a new venue for us, the rustic surrounds of the Rosmini "House of Prayer" Centre on the 9th April and was led by Fr Ted Mullen. The second day was a return visit to the ever popular venue of Saint Joseph's Leicester on 30th April, once again generously led for us by Fr John Daley. Clearly a lot of hard work and preparation had gone in to both days and we were blessed by the inspirational words of both Fr Ted and Fr John and the wonderful welcome from both communities.

Fr Ted began with an introduction to the work of the Rosmini centre including the history of the building we were in (which was an old aircraft hangar). Although the venue was quite small the welcome was very big and it was a special day for all who were fortunate enough to be there (as the day was well over subscribed). The theme Fr Ted chose for the day was "prayer" and as he explored many aspects of prayer in his talks he created inspiring pictures through his words. He challenged us to think about what we are filling our minds with and what we allow ourselves to "feed off". Being more aware of this will help us stop doing the things which distance us from prayer and so find more time for prayer. His words were particularly helpful in helping us recognise we all have different ways of relating to God and this depends on what suits our personality best. He encouraged us to develop a "liberty of spirit" in our approach to prayer - in other words to be free and creative and recognise that it is when we live in the present moment that we are living in the presence of God. This approach can transform the way we relate to God. Finally, he recommended a short book by Brother Lawrence "The Practise of the Presence of God..." to help us on our prayer journey in our busy lives.

Fr John's talks were another treat - yet again he demonstrated his great ability to challenge and to explain complex matters in a simple and inspiring way. His first talk was a series of reflections on the question "Are we Big Catholics?" To explore this question he took us on a journey through some of the challenging themes which we must face up to if we are to become "Big Catholics". These included church history, different bible accounts, the virgin birth, marriage & divorce, societies & cultures. He posed a series of questions on these themes to challenge our minds. The point he was making was that it is not easy to answer such questions but in our roles as Eucharistic Ministers we should not shy away from them or simply deflect them to Fr! He helped us recognise that there are no uniform answers yet facing up to difficult questions will act as a prompt to engage our minds as well as our hearts in the missionary aspects of our ministries.

He counselled us that people we meet in our ministries may well be at a cross roads in their lives, and how we answer their challenging questions will be important and will be what makes us "Big Catholics". The second of Fr John's talks was a thanks for the work we do. He offered a special thanks to women - a thanks for putting up with any hurt and a thanks for the "beauty of the women's mind." He dwelled on this latter point drawing on examples from church history particularly St Catherine of Siena who was one of the most dynamic women in the life of the Church. He clearly embraced the ability of women to see and understand differently from men and their abilities for expressing truth differently from men. He concluded by saying the Church will be all the better for recognising this.

In 2017 there will only be one renewal day on the 13th May but it will be an extra special one because Bishop Patrick has kindly agreed to lead it. Space and facilities will therefore be even more important than usual and we are grateful that Fr Daly at St Peter's Hinckley has kindly agreed to host the day. We look forward to this extra special renewal day in 2017 and for your support in making it a success.

Anthony Baxendale, Mary Hunt & Ted Keller

## Nottinghamshire

Our renewal day for 2016 was held at the Becket School where we welcomed Bishop Patrick. The day started with a sung mass presided over by the Bishop, the theme being The Sacred Heart of Jesus. We then broke for lunch where everyone took the opportunity to meet and chat with friends and colleagues with the Bishop taking the time to talk to as many as possible.

In the afternoon the Bishop gave us an inspired talk on the theme of “The Year of Mercy”. He reminded us of the words of St. John Paul II when he spoke of the Eucharist, which we administer both in church and to the sick and housebound, as ‘the active school of love for neighbour’. He also reminded us of our love and commitment to Christ Jesus truly present in the Eucharist which carries with it a commitment to the presence of Christ in the poor and exploited of our day.

Unfortunately Bishop Patrick could not stay for the whole day as he had another engagement which was a long standing engagement. We all expressed our sincere thanks for his presence and his inspiring talk and look forward to meeting him again at our renewal day in 2020.

The last hour of the day was completed by Father Michael leading us in Eucharistic Adoration with prayers and readings followed by Benediction. Many thanks to Father Michael.

We also thanked the Becket school for their hospitality both for the excellent venue and the provision of much needed refreshments during the day

Just one blemish on the day and sincere apologies to anyone affected for the mix up with parking arrangements which unfortunately was beyond our control due to some double booking by the Becket. ***“This will definitely not happen again”.***

Best wishes to you all and see you in 2017

## COUNTY RENEWAL DAYS 2017

As you are aware one of the conditions of your commissioning is that you attend a Renewal Day each year. If you are one of the few who have not managed to attend recently please make a special effort to attend one this year.

Each county will be holding their County Renewal Days as detailed below: -

<i>County</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Nottinghamshire	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Our Lady and St Thomas - Ilkeston
	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2017	Holy Trinity - Newark
Derbyshire	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	St Anne - Buxton
	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Our Lady of Lourdes - Mickleover
Leicestershire	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	St Peter - Hinkley
		There is only one Renewal Day this year. The Bishop will be present.
Lincolnshire	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Our Lady of Lincoln - Lincoln
	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Corpus Christi - Cleethorpes
	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2017	Our Lady of Good Counsel - Sleaford

An invitation and further details will be sent nearer the time. There will be elections at some of the Renewal Days. Your County Secretariat will advise you of these. If you are unable to attend your own county day then why not attend the day of another county?

## POINTS OF CONTACT

If you have any queries, comments, suggestions or notifications of deceased Ministers please contact one of the people listed below: -

Position / Name	Address	
Secretary Mrs Cecilia Bermingham	52 Foxley Court Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9TY	Tel: 01778 426310 Email: celiabermingham@talktalk.net
Nottinghamshire Mr Alan Simmons	36 Holkham Avenue Chilwell Nottingham NG9 5EQ	Tel: 0115 849 4623 Email: maal_canis_vulpes@ntlworld.com
Derbyshire Mrs Frances Wickes	35 Swinerby Drive Oakwood Derby DE21 4RN	Tel: 07951 143648 fran@brightshark.co.uk
Leicestershire Mrs Mary Hunt	5 Landsdowne Avenue Shephed LE12 9RR	Tel: 01509 504801 Email: mchunt2310@btinternet.com
Lincolnshire Miss Clare Harding	4 Brisson Close, Grantham NG31 9EL	Tel: 01476 590855 Email: hccharding@hotmail.com

A full list of the Secretariat members is given in the yearbook and on the Diocesan website at [http://www.grasshopper-hosting.co.uk/Diocese/04\\_Liturgy+Euch/euch\\_ministers.htm](http://www.grasshopper-hosting.co.uk/Diocese/04_Liturgy+Euch/euch_ministers.htm) .

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS JUBILEE

In 2018 it will be 40 years since the first Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion were commissioned by Bishop James Mc Guinness. Currently a total of 4050 ministers have been commissioned in this diocese, of which about 2000 are active.

To celebrate this jubilee we are arranging a Mass, celebrated by Bishop Patrick, at St Barnabas Cathedral Nottingham on Saturday morning 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018.

The Cathedral will only hold around 550 people so we will be inviting three representative Extraordinary Ministers from each Eucharistic Community along with Priests and Deacons from the diocese. The representatives will be chosen locally and it would be appropriate if these could cover the age range of the ministers in each community and possibly a retired minister. The invitations will be issued in Spring 2018.

## REMINDER

Those who were commissioned in 2013 will need to have their faculty renewed by their parish priest if they wish to continue as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Once it has been renewed it is valid indefinitely.

## MINISTERS QUERIES

### **Q/ Does the Diocesan Insurance cover Ministers when they are visiting Sick and Housebound?**

**A/** A minister who is visiting the sick and housebound is covered by the Diocesan Insurance just as they would be in church.

### **Q/ People whom we are visiting sometimes raise concerns. Should we report these to anyone?**

**A/** One should be prepared to discuss them with the person concerned. However It will depend on the nature of the concern if further action is required. If it should involve religious concerns you could with their agreement arrange for the priest to visit. However other concerns may be a problem for the carers / social services. You may be able to help by just talking to them or in some cases putting them in touch with the appropriate person.

## ITEMS FOR SALE

During the past year our bank account and those of the Counties has changed. In future whenever you wish to purchase anything from the Commission for Extraordinary Ministries, whether at Diocesan or County level, please make your cheque out to NRCDT.

The following items may be purchased: -

Item	Cost	Availability	Apply to
Scapulars	£12.00	In stock	Alan Simmons, 36 Holkham Avenue, Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 5EQ
EM Handbook	£5.00	In stock	Searle Clark 75 Horsegate Deeping St James Peterborough PE6 8EW
Communion to the Sick Book	£3.00	In stock	
Celebration of Word and Communion by a Lay Person and an EM	£3.00	In stock	

## CWAC SERVICE CARD

The Commission have prepared a service card for members of the congregation to use at a Celebration of Word and Communion. It is similar in format to the Mass Card. This has been approved by the EM Commission and the Diocesan Liturgy Commission for use in the Diocese of Nottingham. It provides the responses both for when a Deacon or a Lay person is leading the service and includes the various texts for the Song of Thanksgiving.

Last year the Deans were asked to discuss at their Deanery Meetings whether this was needed in the parishes. The overall response has indicated that there is not a requirement for this card. Hence we have not printed it. However you may feel differently. There have been a few parishes that have required some, so for these we have provided an electronic copy so that they can print their requirements. Should you require such copy please contact [searle.clark@btinternet.com](mailto:searle.clark@btinternet.com).

## FORMATION 2016

I am writing at the end of another busy few months for the Training and Formation team – early in December we celebrated Commissioning for a further 104 new Extraordinary Ministers for the Diocese! It was a lovely day in Nottingham (the last two years have seen torrential rain on Commissioning Day, but this year it was lovely for a change!). Bishop Patrick was very accommodating with his time and words for the newly-Commissioned, and in a new first for us, the joy and celebration of the day made it swiftly onto Facebook and Twitter, courtesy of the Bishop!!

There were a number of highlights this year, but highest amongst them was the fact that we were able – in collaboration with the Diocesan Youth Service – to offer our “young persons” weekend again. Of the 104 Commissioned, around 25 were people aged 18-25, drawn from Parishes and schools within the Diocese. Whilst we enjoy all the work we do in the Formation Team, there is no doubt that supporting the youth weekends is one of the most enjoyable things in the year.

As usual, the two main weekends at The Briars were very busy but also very enjoyable for us. We were delighted that Paul Smith (currently one of our Diocesan Seminarians) was able to join us for one of the weekends; Paul was able to give us his practical input but also openly shared his enthusiasm for his studies, and most particularly, his Vocation. By chance the first weekend saw a good number of Polish people amongst the group, and even though they all naturally speak very good English, my colleague Anna was very happy to be able to offer part of her group module in Polish, to everyone’s surprise and delight!

Many thanks as ever to the entire Training Team who bring our work to life, both at Crich and beyond, and to those who came from their parishes this year as part of the weekend and gave so much energy. It is a journey that we make together, and it is our great privilege to spend the time with you, hopefully preparing you well to be Ministers within the Diocese. Thanks finally for your very generous collections held each weekend as a gift to the Briars young volunteers, which I know is much appreciated by them.

As you will know, the entire Commission led by Fr Michael remain at your service after Commissioning too. If there is any way you feel we can help you, either locally, or personally, please do feel welcome to be in touch. Likewise, we are also always on the lookout for people who may have an interest in joining the Diocesan Formation Team, either now or at some point in the future. If you already have some experience as a Minister and are interested in sharing your knowledge and interest with others, please do contact me. We continue to offer our wider services to the Diocese, and still run occasional modules out at Deanery level from time to time so I am keen to ensure that we can cover the geography!

Whilst most of the Formation Team are Lay People, I would like to finish by offering my thanks to the Priests who support our work each year, particularly Frs. Eastwood, Ziomek, Fellows, Bowdren and Cain who have contributed to the weekends this time around. There remain many concerns and thoughts that candidates prefer to discuss with the Priest, and it is wonderful to continue to have their cheerful support and encouragement alongside us.

Damian Norton  
December 2016

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Please remember all deceased Extraordinary Ministers in your prayers, especially the following whose names were added to the Book of Remembrance during the past year.

Name	Parish	Deceased
Bernard Butterfield	Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary - Leicester	2nd November 2014
John Pyle	St Pius X - Narborough	25th January 2016
Margaret White	St John Fisher & St Thomas More - Chapel-en-le-Frith	21st January 2016
Robert (Bob) Hughes	St Alban - Derby	24 October 2015
Terry Topliss	St Joseph - Shirebrook	3rd November 2015
Barbara Mary Skripek	Holy Family - Derby	2nd December 2015
Wynne Walker	Holy Trinity - Newark	14 March 2016
Josephine Anne Fallon	The Immaculate Conception - Charlesworth	16th April 2016
Nicholas James Reville	St Tomas More - Leicester	16th May 2016
Mary Williamson	Sacred Heart and St Margaret Mary - Leicester	17th February 2016
Anthony Joseph O'Brien	St Joseph - Mablethorpe	13th April 2016
Chris Bonam	St Winefride - Shepshed	23rd June 2016
Joseph (Joe) Holmes	St Philip Neri - Mansfield	5th July 2016
Bridget (Bridie) Coombes	The Holy Spirit - West Bridgeford	20th July 2016
Brendan Campbell	St Patrick - Leicester	8th September 2016
Peter James Nelson	St Thomas More - Leicester	24th September 2016
Jane Upton	Corpus Christi - Clifton	30th September 2016
Margaet Durman	St Margaret Clitheroe - Gamesley	7th October 2016
Margaret Jordan	St Peter and St Paul - Swadlincote	28th October 2016
Margaret Shaw	St Thomas More - Nottingham	27th October 2016
Alison Roper	St Hugh of Lincoln - Lincoln	23rd November 2016

Some of the listed Ministers died over a year ago but we have only received notification during the past year.

*Eternal rest grant to them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

Chris Bonan was a member of the Commission from 1985 – 1988

Brendan Campbell was an Extraordinary Minister who was ordained Deacon in January 2001.

We try whenever possible to send a condolence card to the next of kin and for a member of the Secretariat to be present at the funeral. This is only possible if we are notified promptly of a Minister's death. There are currently 469 deceased Extraordinary Ministers recorded in this book.

Please also remember in your prayers all those Ministers throughout the Diocese who are no longer enjoying good health especially those who are suffering serious illness.

If you know of a Minister who has died recently and is not mentioned above please let Searle Clark know (email [searle.clark@btinternet.com](mailto:searle.clark@btinternet.com)) or a member of the Commission.