



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does.
(Margaret Mead)



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

"Come, Lord Jesus" is a leap into the kind of freedom and surrender that is rightly called the virtue of hope - the patient and trustful willingness to live without closure, without resolution, and still be content and even happy because our Satisfaction and our Source are beyond ourselves. We are able to trust that he *will* come again, just as Jesus has come in our past, into our private dilemmas and into our suffering world. Our Christian past then becomes our Christian prologue, and "Come, Lord Jesus" is not a cry of desperation but an assured shout of cosmic hope." *Rohr*



STARTING ADVENT

The Community gathered with many friends at the Blessed Sacrament Church in Melbourne to watch a new film - 'Mediterranea' - highlighting the plight of migrants in our world. This was followed by the first Evening Prayer for Advent which linked the themes of the Season to the waiting and longing of millions of refugee families and children.



FAREWELL

In October ten members of the Community travelled to Maarssen in Holland for an Association gathering of over fifty Sisters to bid a final farewell to the Dutch Priory which has been sold. The few remaining Dutch Sisters will leave the Priory after Christmas.



OUR LEGACY



On the weekend of the 374th Anniversary of our Foundation the Community and Companions gathered for social time and prayer of thanksgiving. It was also the opportunity to launch our project 'Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow' which depicts in creative ways, the history of the Community, insights into the present and hopes for the future. The work is enclosed in a folder shaped like a butterfly, (see the picture left).

Dr Hannah Thomas gave a further presentation of her Research into our history, with particular reference to the Cemetery. Her discoveries and insights were much appreciated by the group which gathered at New Hall to hear her talk.



"Is there no hope at all? 'Not really' would seem to be the answer, except perhaps for the grace of the Incarnation."

Saint Augustine

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME IN RWANDA

Sarah Stevenson, the first of three new volunteers to teach English to our Sisters in Rwanda spent happy weeks there in October. She returned enthused and excited by the experiences and insights she gained there. She has since spent time with Jackie and Marilyn who will both be going to Rwanda in January for six months.



MULTI FAITH GATHERING FOR ESSEX

On November 19th Essex County Council facilitated a Multi Faith Gathering for Essex. This was held at First Site in Colchester, and more than 250 people attended, including S. Diana and S. Teresa who led a workshop. They hope that this will be the first of many such events.



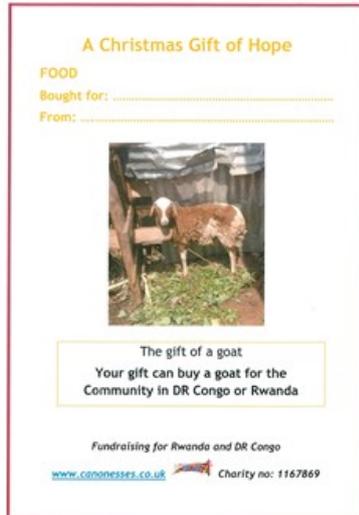
MASS FOR THE DEAD



Fr. Dan Mason was the celebrant this year at our Annual Mass for the Dead at New Hall. After Mass many of us visited the Cemetery and Fr. Dan gave a special blessing for those buried there and their families. Fr. Dan was himself ordained in our Chapel at New Hall in 2003.

THANK YOU

The Community would like to thank everybody who has supported them through the long months of S. Mary Magdalene's illness, and S. Ann's more recent hospitalisation. Both are very pleased to be back at home and are making good progress.



CHRISTMAS GIVING

Thank you to all those people who have already bought our 'Gifts of Hope' for Africa this Christmas. If you follow the link below you will find a whole range of gifts which will provide medical, educational and nutritional support to the peoples of DR Congo and Rwanda.
<http://www.canonesses.co.uk/news-events/africa-fundraising/>

FROM THE ARCHIVE TEAM

Dr Hannah Thomas and Pauline McAloone were recently in Belgium researching sites for the convents inhabited by the English Community in Liège, and possible burial grounds, from 1642 to 1794. They will report back in the next Newsletter.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 9th December: Quiet Day at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD, 10am-3pm.

Friday 9th December: Advent Reflection, Blessed Sacrament Church, Melbourne, Chelmsford, CM1 2DU, 7pm.

Sunday 11th December: Tea 4pm, followed by 4.30pm Evening Prayer for Advent, 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD.

Wednesday 1st February: Quiet Day at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD, 10am-3pm.

All are welcome to any of the above - for details and booking please contact

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