



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

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)



We have often used reflections from Fr Daniel O'Leary to begin our newsletter. The following piece was written by him shortly before his death on January 21st.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

'When discussing the core of spirituality, of true self-possession, of tracing the contours of the Christ-child's face within me, the presence of fragility, failure, falling, inner confusion is always emphasized. Without this poverty of spirit, we miss the whole point of salvation - the suffering, the cross, the death of the ego, the weakness.... This is the dark night of my soul that I will embrace, that I *must* embrace; it is God's greatest incarnate gift of self that lights up, so surely, my way home.'



Our love, prayer and gratitude go with you on your journey home, dear Daniel - 'prophet for our time'.

VOLUNTEERING IN RWANDA



Our latest volunteer, Valerie Francis, is very much enjoying her time living with the sisters in Rwanda. After having spent her first month in Masaka, where she has enjoyed many a lively conversation with the sisters both at the dinner table and in a one to one setting, she left to spend her next month in Busasamana, where she is practising English with the five postulants living there. She says that she is learning far more from the sisters' example than they could ever learn from her.



St AUGUSTINE

"We are called home from the noise that is around us to the joys that are silent. Why do we rush about...looking for God who is here at home with us, if all we want is to be with him?"

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

In December 2018, the Community and a team from the University prepared our archive to move to Durham.

Specialist packing materials were ordered in advance. Each of the 600+ books and manuscripts had to be tied with cotton tape, wrapped in foam roll and then carefully packed. Some 50+ crates of books and archive boxes were then stowed in the removal lorry and are now safely in strong rooms in Durham.



The Community was pleased to welcome Dr James Kelly from the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University to a meeting in January. He spoke of the importance of our Archive collection within the history of society and the Church. He also explained how the collection would be of great value to researchers both now and in the future.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S VISIT TO CHELMSFORD

S. Margaret Mary and S. Moira were thrilled to be invited to Evensong in Chelmsford Cathedral, where Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury was the preacher.

They then went to a small supper party hosted in his honour and were able to speak with him personally.



The photo is of the Archbishop with Margaret Doyle, one of our Companions and an Evangelist at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Melbourne.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?



Reflections on this key Gospel question have continued with Community, Companions and other friends and parishioners. There have been discussion groups as well as a large gathering at St John Payne Church Hall in Greenstead where Fr Michael Winstanley SDB gave some inspiring insights in to the parable of the Good Samaritan.

An outline of his talk can be found on our website:

http://www.canonesses.co.uk/media/45742/texts_and_outlines_who_is_my_neighbour_27th_jan_2019.pdf

A SEASONAL OUTING

A full coach of about fifty families from Melbourne were privileged to spend an afternoon at the Speakmans' farm in Sandon. They not only saw lambs being born, but were also allowed to hold the lambs in their arms. It was a memorable outing much enjoyed by all.



QUIET DAYS IN COLCHESTER

There have been two further Quiet Days hosted by the Community in Colchester - in December and in February. These days are always well attended and much appreciated by those who come, as they offer the opportunity for reflective quiet in a prayerful atmosphere. The next Quiet Day is Wednesday 10th April.



VISIT OF THE HIGH SHERIFF

This years High Sheriff of Essex, Bryan Burrough, visited Homework Club in Melbourn. The children were in awe of his position and uniform, and were particularly interested in the sword that he carried. (*See photo*). He spent time talking to all the children and encouraged them to have high aspirations.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 10th March: 7pm, Guided Lenten meditation, Blessed Sacrament Church, Melbourn Avenue, CM1 2DU.

Wednesday 20th March: 7.30pm, 43 Anderson Avenue, CM1 2DA, Reflection and Discussion Evening, "What does Lent mean to me?"

Sunday 24th March: 2.30pm, Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, Melbourn Avenue, film "Babette's Feast".

Tuesday 2nd April: Quiet Day at Clare Priory led by S. Angela on death and resurrection themes in some of the poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins. Contact clarepriory@clarepriory.net

Wednesday 3rd April: 7.30pm, 43 Anderson Avenue, CM1 2DA, Reflection and Discussion Evening, "Being alongside Christ in Holy Week".

Wednesday 10th April: Quiet Day at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD, 10am-3pm.

Saturday 13th April: 10am to 3pm, St Mary's Church, Maldon, "Day of Reflection to prepare for Holy Week" led by S. Moira. (Booking essential).

Holy Saturday 20th April: 11am, Time of Reflection preceded by coffee at 10.45am, at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD.

Holy Saturday Reflection 20th April: 11.30am, Blessed Sacrament Church, Melbourn Avenue, CM1 2DU.

All are welcome to any of the above - for details and booking please contact crssuk@canonesses.co.uk or phone 01206 867296

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