

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015



Saturday January 23rd

Coffee from 10.00am

**10.30am The Society Meeting
with the Society Bishops**
in Chichester Diocese a day to roll out a
program of support for our Parishes

at St Paul's Church, Brighton

12.30pm CONCELEBRATED SOCIETY MASS
Celebrant and Preacher Rt Revd Alan Chesters

Come along and bring others with you.

Please email sswshchichester@msn.com with name and numbers
in your party or sign up on the web site by Jan 16th



www.sswshchichester.weebly.com

ENCOURAGING NEWS

On June 7th Bishop Martin gave a very encouraging vision to the Catholic constituency in the Chichester Diocese. His address can be found on the website or in New Directions.

On October 13th the Licensed Clergy had an inspiring day with +Martin in the Palace.

The day was split into two halves. +Martin started by giving an outline of the Diocese and the problems it faces. These are some of his points:-

This Diocese has been viewed from outside as being "unsafe" in safeguarding children and misogynistic. But this view is changing, which should help in recruitment of clergy. There should be no place in the Diocese for discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, or sexual orientation. These things are behind us and we need to move on.

Parishes need to be confident and outward facing as does the Diocese. We need to be confident, looking forward in joy and hope. The Bishop spoke of the importance of us being engaging fully with the Diocesan Strategy and made several references to the Charge given by him to all Licensed Clergy.

This will be available to refer to after Diocesan Synod on the 7th November on the Diocesan web site.

<http://www.chichester.anglican.org/diocesanstrategy>

Life of the Clergy

We need to practice scholarship and devotion. This is not necessarily about undertaking academic training, but in valuing theology and spirituality. We are all capable of theologising – reflecting on pastoral situations theologically and so applying theology to our mission and life. This leads to a deepening of devotion, liturgy and prayer.

The bishop commended the daily public recitation of the divine office in church and encouraging laity to join us in the prayer of the church. We should aim for the daily celebration of the Mass.

There is new thinking about the Church – Communion-ecclesiology:

All are part of the one Church of Christ. This is developed in Walter Kasper's book *The Catholic Church: Nature, Reality and Mission*.

He says – “the Church is wherever the Eucharist is celebrated, and the Community/unity of the Church is made present. Since the One Lord is present in every celebration of the Eucharist we are in the event celebrating, connected to all the communities also celebrating the Eucharist at the same time. For precisely this reason I do not see a fundamental contradiction between the Eucharistic Ecclesiology, which proceeds from the local church and the Universal Ecclesiology which is formulated in the Western Tradition and proceeds from baptism. The Communion-ecclesiology has largely become a common feature of good Catholic, Orthodox, and also Protestant theologies – even though this is worked out in differing and at times seemingly conflicting ways.”

There followed Contributions from Attendees

Here are some of the Examples of good practice which came from those attending:

1. Cross parish partnership among 5 Catholic parishes in Eastbourne has helped to build friendships among the laity.

2. Links are developing between the parishes of St Andrew's Tarring and St Symphorian's Durrington with clergy and people working together to forge links.

3. The Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham organised by the Pilgrimage committee and led by Fr John Eldridge attracts wide support from parishes across the diocese, as does the Children's Pilgrimage led by Mary Nagel and Fr Mark Gilbert.

4. Deacon Rebecca Swyer and Fr Robert Norbury spoke of vocations and the bishop emphasised that we need to foster and promote vocations across the traditions.

5. Fr Steve Davies spoke of the Fan the Flame renewal week happening at East Wittering and the excitement and energy that it has realised in the Parish.

6. Fr Sean Gilbert gave encouraging news of the number of Ordinands at St Stephen's House and those recently ordained.

The Society Bishops

+Martin introduced the Society Bishops and the role they will play in supporting our Parishes in the Diocese.

+Geoffrey Rowell spoke about how he might help us with practical outworking of theology to underpin our ministry.

+Peter Wheatley outlined how they would assist with practical strategy.

+ Michael Langrish gave a moving account of trying to find the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Australia and spoke of the need for a lived spirituality.

+Nicholas Reade was not able to be there .

They are all meeting together with +Martin to see how they can roll out a program for help for our Parishes which we will hear about on January 23rd.

In the afternoon +Martin encouraged us to ask questions ranging from:-

- the Unity of the Church and the role of The Society and The Church of England in the ecumenical process
- Preferment in the Church and the need for those with skills and gifts to be encouraged
- Practical arrangements for Confirmations and sacramental and pastoral care. +Martin stressed the need accept the pastoral care of the Bishops and Archdeacons of the Diocese whilst writing to him for sacramental care. We always must seek to find the highest level of communion whilst being true to our conscience.
- The new Communion Statement from The Society Bishops - communion being torn not sundered.
- Questions on Liturgy (Where two or three clergy are gathered together they will discuss Liturgy!)
- Passing resolutions.
- +Martin spoke about the need to hold with us the people on the fringes - that is, those who are not quite sure about The Society but want to identify with Catholic discipline and practice in their lives.

After a very informative discussion we discussed arrangements for next year.

On January 23rd all Society clergy and laity and anyone else we can encourage to come are welcome at St Paul's Brighton to meet with The Society Bishops, who will outline the areas of apostolic life that they will be working on as part of our response, in the Society, to the diocesan strategy and participation in it through the renewal of our personal discipleship and parish life.

The area's the Bishops will lead on are: +Geoffrey: Theology for everyone; +Michael: Spiritual and pastoral life; +Peter: strategy and growth; +Nicholas: Pilgrimage and evangelism

We will hear from Colin Podmore about the national scene, hear good news from our Parishes, answer questions and finally celebrate Mass together.

Please email Fr Mark sswshchichester@msn.com with numbers.

+Martin spoke about the Year of Mercy and the joint ecumenical response to the refugee crisis. The Diocese of Chichester will be working in partnership with the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton to celebrate the year of Mercy. The opening of doors in our respective cathedrals will take place at Evening Prayer on Sunday 6 December (Chichester) and Sunday 13 December (Arundel).

Year of Mercy Lapel Pins



Jesuit Father Marko I. Rupnik's striking logo for the Jubilee Year of Mercy is now available as a lapel pin, thanks to a touching gesture of generosity by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation in Rome. In response to a request to use the logo for a series of lapel pins, and 'in a spirit of ecumenical fraternity', the Archbishop has granted permission for the logo's use as part of an Anglican fundraising effort to further the Jubilee aim of showing and sharing the merciful love of God.

The pins are available to parishes and other groups in sets of 20, at a cost of £40 per set inclusive of postage and packing. At least 75% of the money raised will go to the Youth Pilgrimage at The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Sets of pins will be available for sale at Society events and at St Olav's bookshop in Chichester. Please consider supporting this appeal as a means of prayerfully entering into the spirit of the Jubilee Year, which begins on the Solemnity of the

Immaculate Conception, December 8th 2015. To order one or more sets of pins, please e-mail Fr Richard Norman SSC via rjnorman@hotmail.co.uk.

We talked about the Year of Mercy and the importance of Pilgrimage to the Cathedral. After consideration +Martin wants to encourage groups and Parishes to consider a Pilgrimage to the Cathedral during the year 'in the steps of St Richard' and as a means of encountering the mercy of God, a time of reconciliation and healing. There will be further thoughts about this at our meeting in January at St Paul's Brighton, and a Lent Course is being written.

Chichester Diocese

Walsingham

CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th February 2016



Leaders, Mrs Mary Nagel & Fr Mark Gilbert will lead a team of Adult leaders. (Groups may bring their own leader if they wish)

Children aged 7-11 (Year 6) Cost £85 for transport, accommodation and all meals. (Cost for Adult leaders £100)

Fun Work Shops drama, music, art & Craft. **Great Worship** with young people from all over Britain

Disco Party & Outdoor Games

and lots to discover and explore in Walsingham.

We will ask permission for you to be excused from school on the 26th as it is an educational trip

www.sswshchichester.weebly.com

The major celebration for the Year of Mercy for us will be a Service of Reconciliation and Healing followed by Benediction on **Sunday June 5th at St Saviour's Eastbourne.**

We finished our day talking about a residential for the Clergy with our Bishop. We were very grateful to +Richbough for the invitation to join in with the Richbough Clergy residential next year. However, there was a general consensus of opinion regarding the importance of gathering around our own bishop and continuing the growing sense of identity and how we can engage with The Society in our Diocese. We need to first engage with mission at home, and it was decided that we should have a residential in the Autumn next year.

We also want to join in with the rest of The Society and there is a real need for a new Caister to enable us to get together and support one another.

Canon Mark Gilbert SSC

WALSINGHAM YOUTH PILGRIMAGE 2016 AUGUST 1ST -5TH
PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

