



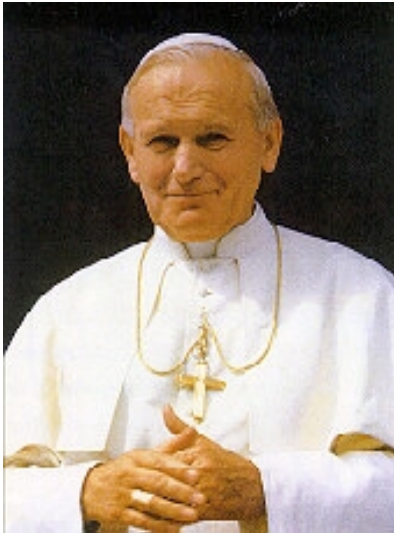
THE MESSENGER

St Joseph & St Nicholas Moorends

Issue 13

September 2004

POPE JOHN PAUL II



When our present pope was elected way back in 1978 he was an unknown quantity. The first non-Italian pope for centuries and the first Polish pope ever. In the twenty five years of his papacy he has travelled the world several times over visiting as many countries as possible and always trying to bring a message of love and peace. His amazing gift for languages has enabled him to speak to many different peoples in their own language, which brings him much closer to them. I remember seeing him in Cardiff on his visit to Britain in 1982, the first time the Pope had ever set foot on British shores. The excitement of his visit and his words of encouragement were greeted with heartfelt joy by the huge crowds gathered to meet him.

What a contrast today with the vigorous, dynamic and seemingly tireless man of those early years who travelled the world to bring the love and peace of Christ to all. Now we see an old man frail and clearly ill whose faltering speech is often difficult to understand. We watch the pictures of him on our television screens with deep sadness and pity but I would like to suggest that he is of greater importance now in these final years than perhaps he was in his prime.

St. Paul puts it precisely in his words: The Lord says this "My grace is all you need; power comes to its full strength in weakness." The message contradicts all that our society seems to value most – youth, physical fitness, health, bodily attractiveness and

complete control of all one's life. Most Christians know that all these attributes, while important, are not the chief reasons why each human life is of value to God but it is only when faced with disabilities, failing strength through age or illness, that we begin to understand better what makes each person unique and worthwhile. It is not in what we do but what we are. Great

though the achievements of Pope John Paul II were, it is now, as an old man, in failing health, whose loss of physical power over his own movements moves us to tears, that the Gospel message shines out clearly. Through the Pope God gives a sign to the world that even if you are getting old, your powers are failing, you are reduced to complete dependence on others for the simplest things, and all human strength seems to have gone, you are as much his beloved child as when you were fully fit, possibly even more so. The dignity of each person is precisely that each is loved uniquely by God. Despair and loneliness, frustration and isolation seem to increase as one becomes more advanced in age but our Christian faith offers hope and encouragement. Pope John Paul II continues to proclaim God's love to the world, in the full glare of world publicity dwelling on his obvious frailty. His faith is indomitable. Take heart, then, all senior citizens, like the Pope, you may be doing God's work more effectively now in your twilight years than ever before.



SHOW ME MORE CLEARLY THE WAY TO SERVE AND LOVE YOU MORE EACH DAY

God, help me in my feeble way,
To somehow do something each day.
To show you that I love you best.
And that my faith will stand each test.
And let me serve you every day.
And feel you near me when I pray.
Oh, hear my prayer, dear God above.
And make me worthy of your love.

Helen Steiner Rice

WELCOME TO OUR MAGAZINE

Hello and welcome once again to the "Messenger". A very big thank you to all those of you who contributed articles, photographs, poems and prayers for this edition. Please keep up the good work! Should you have any news, views or other items for the parish web site, then please pass them on to Kate. www.ourjo.org.uk

Adventure aid

Five years ago, in March 1999, many parishioners will remember sponsoring Anna Heywood, Keith and Kate's youngest daughter, on a sponsored hitch-hike to Morocco. This was a fund-raising initiative of the charity Link Africa based in Cambridge. The aim of this organisation is to help lift children out of the poverty trap by providing access to education. This benefits the child, the community and ultimately the world. We take the right to free education as a basic one in our country but for millions of children worldwide this is not the case.

The sponsored hitch that year raised an astonishing total of £83,000. Each year since then more and more students have taken part from many universities in the UK and Link Africa has been able to set up and fund schools in Uganda and Ghana as well as South Africa. This year the amount raised so far from the hitch is £110,000 and rising. However, the hitch planted the seeds of an idea in Anna's mind which has grown over the years. The idea was to cycle the entire length of the continent of Africa and by doing so raise awareness of Link Africa's work; raise funds for Link through sponsorship, and promote cycling as a healthy and environmentally sound method of travel. Naturally Anna and her boyfriend Luke hope to enjoy themselves as well in this adventure of a lifetime, see many different countries and experience a wealth of cultural diversity most of us can only dream of. After three years working in London after graduating from Cam-



bridge to earn the money to pay for their trip, Anna and Luke set off from Greenwich on Sunday August 1st. Glorious sunshine blessed the start – we have not seen much since then!! The total trip is 30,000 kilometres of which they have covered 2,000 so far. The first week in France was warm and sunny but then came the rain – so cycling and camping have been less than thrilling. They have now crossed the Pyrenees passing through Andorra and on into Spain.

We spent a long weekend in Girona, and from there drove to Monserrat to see them for the day. Their campsite had magnificent views over the monastery, home of the famous black Madonna, and down to the valley far below.

The entire route and the online fund raising sponsor donations link can be found at www.africabybike.org. If you are interested to see how they are progressing, read the updates or make a donation then please do look at the website. All money donated goes to the charity – now called Link Community Development. None of it will be used by Anna and Luke who are paying their own way. They are hoping to raise £10,000 and have to date £2,800 – much of which was given by friends, family and colleagues who went to the farewell do in London in July and bought raffle tickets. One of the best raffle prizes was won by one of our parishioners. I will leave you to guess who it was!! Rose Shay mentioned in her talk on the McAuley pilgrimage to Lourdes how important it is to find new ways of engaging the hearts and minds of our young people for the things of

God and how enthusiastic they are when they are doing something really meaningful – whether it is helping handicapped pilgrims or cycling for charity. Please pray for all our young people and remember Anna and Luke as they cross over into Africa at the end of September. Then the most challenging part of their adventure will begin. Hopefully we will be able to give an update in the next issue so that you can travel with them in spirit and prayer.

LCD (formerly Link Africa) was founded in 1989, having emerged through the spontaneous activities of Cambridge University students in support of Black education in South Africa. They established a separate South African partner organisation in 1995, a Ghanaian partner in 1999 and a Ugandan partner in 2000. They have over a decade of experience in implementing district education development projects. LCD is now probably the leading specialist NGO in district to school interventions.

Link's vision is of a future where children are given a chance to flourish and fulfil their potential. Their mission is to improve the potential of disadvantaged people in Africa to gain meaningful employment by sharing and developing appropriate skills through education and training. They believe that education is a basic human right and fundamental to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Aims

To improve schools and the quality of education they deliver so that children and their communities have better opportunities;
To build the capacity of district departments of education so that they can better meet the needs of their schools and communities;
To support government education policy by using lessons learned at the grassroots level to inform national and regional strategies with sustainable and replicable models;
More details at www.lcd.org.uk



SAINT BERNADETTE

On June 30th this year, around 500 pilgrims, led by Bishop John, went to Lourdes with the 23rd Hallam Diocesan Pilgrimage.

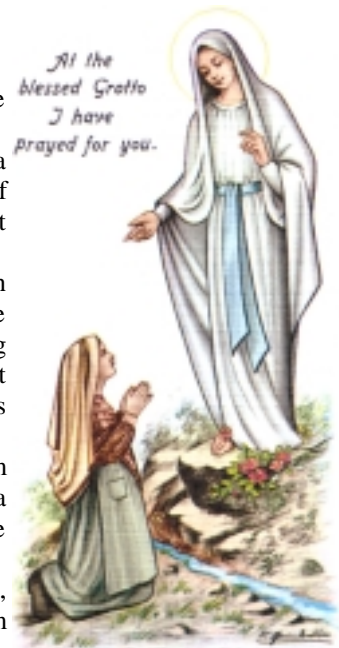
On February 11th 1858, a young girl, Bernadette Soubirous, was gathering firewood near a cave in the rocks at the side of the river Gave in the little town of Lourdes in the foothills of the Pyrenees, in south-west France. She was a frail and sickly child, small for her age, almost illiterate, and at the age of 14 had not yet made her First Holy Communion.

Yet it was to her, poorest of the poor, that the Blessed Virgin Mary chose to appear on eighteen occasions, in the grotto of Massabielle. It was during the ninth apparition that the spring of clear water welled up in the Grotto, and Bernadette was told "Drink at the spring and wash yourself there". The water now flows at the rate of 5,000 litres per hour. Since that time many unexplained healings have taken place as people have followed Bernadette's actions, although tests show the water to be pure drinking water with no special properties.

Now every year more than five million pilgrims, visitors, or tourists come to Lourdes from all over the world. Some come to experience the special appeal, some are looking for a renewal of faith, or reason to hope, perhaps for a healing of mind or body, and some come out of curiosity.

Bernadette died at the Convent in Nevers on 16th April 1879. She was thirty-five years old, and although many people found themselves cured at Lourdes, or were given relief from their illnesses, Bernadette suffered all her life, particularly in her last few years.

She was declared Blessed in 1925 and a Saint in 1933



DOWN MEMORY LANE GUILD OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



We think this photograph was taken in the very early 1950's. Do you know when it was actually taken, and also where?

Back row – left to right

Tom Malley, Tow Hardwick, Tom Kelly, Bill Tolley, Laurence Buckley, Bernard Round, Wilf Blackham.

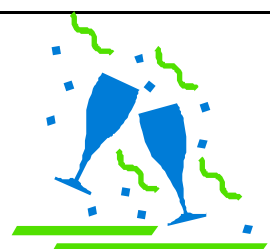
Front row – left to right

Jack Harker, John Mongon, Jim Corrigan, Les Ward, Andy Round.

PASTA PARTY

Celebrating the 25th Birthday of Traidcraft
Friday 1st October at 7-30 p.m. in the Presbytery.

Admission £1.00. Tickets are available from
Kate Heywood, but are limited in number, so please book early.



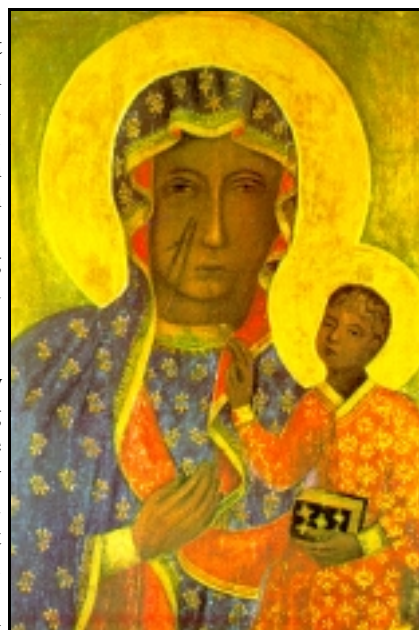
HOLIDAY MEMORIES

In April Keith and I went to Poland for the first time. We were a bit apprehensive, not knowing one word of the language, and this didn't improve as we waited at Katowice airport to be taken to the hotel. All the other groups were met and taken off by their couriers and we were almost the last people left from our flight still waiting. Then in rushed Henryk. He spoke not a word of English but fortunately a bit of German – so we reached our hotel safely that night. This was to be the pattern of the holiday – great enthusiasm and friendship, no clear planning or information but yet everything turned out well in the end.

Our ten day trip was spent equally in the country, mainly with a small bird watching group and walking and then five days on our own in Krakow. I want to tell you about one excursion we made from Krakow to Czestochowa – the world famous shrine of Our Lady Queen of Poland.

Our visit was on a weekday in April, no longer school holidays. “ It'll be really quiet” I said to Keith, “There'll just be a few little old ladies in black.” How wrong can you be! When we arrived on a glorious sunny day, the place was packed, like Blackpool during the Illuminations. There were thousands of people, mainly teenagers with their teachers or parish priests. The buzz was amazing. Our guide – a lovely Polish lady called Barbara told us it was the custom to visit the shrine just before the final school exams to pray for help and good results. She had made a similar trip twenty years ago – to the very day – and did well in her exams!

The famous icon of Our Lady – now crowned as Queen of Poland – is traditionally believed to have been painted by St. John. It arrived in Poland in the fifteenth century and for the six hundred years since that time, has been guarded by the Pauline monks at Jasna Gora, which means the Bright Hill. The image has been in danger many times. It was slashed twice by the sword of a Hussite soldier in 1430 and the two slashes to Our Lady's face are still visible. Every attempt by art restorers to repair them has failed. The face of Our Lady is thought to have become so dark through age and being hidden away, as well as through the smoke from all the candles lit in her honour, which is why she is called a Black Madonna. The devotion of the Polish people to their faith and especially to Our Lady at this shrine is inspiring. Having joined the European Union in May of this year many are praying that their faith will prevail against the materialist culture which pervades much of Western Europe and that the Christian values which formed Western Europe a millennium ago will be restored. May Our Lady of Czestochowa be with us in this quest.



YOUR LETTERS (or emails)

This week The Bungalow Project completes yet again another summer activity season for children and families alike. The next venture, which has already gone from strength to strength, is the provision of a children's breakfast club situated at Number 6 The Circle. This week we interview for the post of two assistants to prepare basic meals for children on their way to school.

Instead of a packet of crisps or the like, they can call into the breakfast club and for just 30p can have beans on toast, spaghetti on toast or beans and sausage on toast, alternatively cereal and a drink. The service will operate every school morning between 7.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. It will also cater for the elderly who want a hot meal for the same price.

We are also this week busy with meetings (on top of the general Bungalow business) with health officials, DMBC food hygiene officers and sponsors. The grant that has made this all possible has been obtained from The PCT (East), this to all of us is the east side of Doncaster Primary Health Trust, who also organise the local surgeries.

Father Roy and Father Richard Parker will visit the club on the first day to see for themselves what impact it has. I think at first it will be slow but as the weeks go on, children will rather go there for a hot meal (I hope) instead of crisps. All our food and milk etc will be purchased locally within The Circle, which will also provide business for the community shops.

Mick Ball
Trustee (oh yes and retired bobby)

A THANK YOU NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART

Dear heart of Jesus,
In the past I have
asked you for favours,
this time I ask you this
special one.
Take it dear heart of
Jesus and place it
within your heart
where your father
sees it, then in His
merciful eyes it will
become your favour
not mine. Amen.

*Say this prayer three times for three
days and your favour will be
granted. Never known to fail. Must
promise publication of the prayer.*

BABIES THAT LIVE AFTER ABORTIONS ARE LEFT TO DIE

MIDWIVES have revealed that babies are being born alive after botched abortions by doctors and allowed to die without receiving life-saving medical treatment.

An investigation by The Sunday Times has uncovered at least six cases where babies have been born alive after terminations have gone wrong.

They include a mother whose handicapped baby lived for three days after the termination procedure failed to kill the infant. A diary kept by one midwife up until last year claims there was an "unwritten rule" in her hospital unit of not resuscitating aborted babies that survived termination procedures.

"Sometimes the aborted babies were alive at birth," it states. "There was an unwritten policy on the unit that babies would not be given assistance."

The midwife, who does not want to be named, claims to have witnessed one 23-week-old baby with Down's syndrome breathe and move for more than three hours after an abortion.

The practices will be debated at next week's annual British Medical Association conference' where one motion demands new guidelines that babies born in botched abortions should receive the same care as ones delivered prematurely.

Medical advances mean doctors can now save premature babies born at 22 or 23 weeks. However, doctors and midwives admit botched abortions are often concealed and the damaged infants, which have very little chance of survival, are simply kept warm and allowed to perish. Sue MacDonald, education and research manager at the Royal College of Midwives, said she had witnessed a baby born alive after termination. The baby, which survived for three days, was fed and kept warm but not given medical treatment to try to save its life.

"Full neonatal care may not be appropriate for all the babies," she said. "This is very rare but it does happen. His abnormality was such that he would not have survived and the parents knew that."

Other incidents include:

Two cases at Leicester Royal Infirmary, according to David Field, the hospital's professor of foetal medicine. Although both babies initially survived and received intensive care, they subsequently died of their original handicaps and the damage caused during the failed attempts at abortion.

A baby destined for abortion for Down's syndrome at an unidentified Home Counties hospital. It was cared for afterwards by specialists at St George's hospital in south London and is believed to have been adopted. A spokesman for the hospital said that as a neonatal intensive care unit it received cases of botched abortions from other hospitals across the southeast, but it happened less than once a year

A severely handicapped child now aged seven, born following a failed termination at a Midlands hospital. Although the parents were determined to take the child home and care for it, they are now suing the hospital for the trauma and cost involved.

Babies can be aborted for social reasons" up to 24 weeks, but right up to nine months if there is a risk of severe handicap.

Latest figures show 1,354 babies of 22 weeks or more, which may have been capable of, surviving, were aborted in England and Wales in 2002.

This article was taken from the Sunday Times 20th June 2004

OURJO

Have you looked at Ourjo, your web-site, lately? "Don't talk daft", I can hear you saying, "I don't have a computer, new-fangled gadgets, waste of time!" Well, maybe you don't - but what about your friends and relatives? Ever go to the library? They have computers which are free to all - and the staff will be only too pleased to show you how to use them.

So, why not take a look and see what is there? For a start there are all the past issues of "The Messenger", that is nearly a hundred pages of news and views over the last 3 years. We have a history of St Joseph's, what is happening in the parish, last week's bulletin in case you lost yours or weren't able to get to church last week. Details of campaigns that the parish supports. A section on the children's liturgy group, even minutes of meetings. We have some information on Stainforth, including their very popular Quiet Garden. There is an extensive collection of "links" to other interesting web-sites. For visitors times of Masses are given, including special programmes at Christmas and Easter. We even have an opinion column open to everyone, as well as a guest book.

There is more, just look and see what you can find. Just type in www.ourjo.org.uk and click the GO button to see Moorends in Cyberspace! Tell friends and relatives too, who used to live in Moorends but have moved away.

But there is a lot more that isn't there, and that is where you come in. What else would you like to see on Ourjo? How can we make it bigger, better and more interesting? One good thing that we can add a lot more material without it costing any more (not as the website costs much, less than £20 a year, completely covered by donations so far, so not a penny has come out of church funds). The other good thing is that anyone can contribute. It is your web-site, you are in control, the more you use it, the better it will become.

MUM'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT

Last month I took my mother for a weekend to London. This was a belated birthday present for her, as she was eighty-six years old in July. We were booked to go on the London Eye, a river cruise and to see The Lion King in the West End.

The weather on the Friday morning was appalling and driving conditions were really dreadful, but our coach driver just took his time and by eleven o'clock the rain had ceased and the sun had come out, and was to stay out for the rest of the weekend.

On the Saturday we were to have a tour of London before going on to the afternoon performance of the show. We passed a number of the monuments quite a few times, due to the fact that the coach driver happened to take a wrong turning, and being in a one way system, it was round we go again, but we didn't mind. The show was fantastic!

The next day it was the rest of our itinerary. My mum, bless her, is now not the quickest of movers, so when it came to stepping into the "pod" on the London Eye, as this was moving slightly, I more or less lifted her on. The view from the top was amazing! To alight from the "pod" I did the same, no time to dither, just up and out.

We then sat for about half an hour watching the mime artists performing along the river embankment, before boarding our Thames cruise boat.

Our last stop was at Covent Garden. This was all hustle and bustle and full of "tourists". It was then time to make the journey home. Everyone on the coach agreed how nice the weekend had been, but how different it would have been had Mr. Sun not been out. Although Mother is still recovering from tired legs, she really enjoyed it!

Sheila Bentham

A PRAYER OF THANKS

Thank you God for everything,
I've experienced here on earth.

Thank you for protecting me
from the moment of my birth.

And thank you for the beauty
around me everywhere.

The gentle rain and glistening dew,
the sunshine and the air.

The joyous gift of "feeling",
the soul's soft whispering voice.

That speaks to me from deep within,
and makes my heart rejoice.

Oh God, no words are great enough
to thank you for just living,

And that is why every day
is a day for real thanks giving.

Helen Steiner Rice

NOVENA TO ST. MARTHA

O St. Martha. I resort to thee and to thy petition and faith. I offer up to thee this light which I shall burn every Tuesday for nine Tuesdays. Comfort me in all my difficulties through the great favour thou didst enjoy when Our Saviour lodged in thy house. I beseech thee to have definite pity, in regard to the favour I ask, (mention favour). Intercede for my family that we may always be provided for in all our necessities. I ask thee St. Martha to overcome the dragon which thou didst cast at thy feet.

One Our father and three Hail Marys, and a lighted candle every Tuesday and the above prayer made known with the intentions of spreading devotion to St. Martha.

This miraculous Saint grants everything before the Tuesdays are ended. No matter how difficult.

Feast Day, July 29th

DECK IT

**Give your garden a new look!
Why not have Decking?**



**All the latest Styles Available
Top Quality Materials Used
Competitive Prices
Free Estimates
All Genuine Quotes Beaten**

**28 Fenland Road, Thorne, Nr Doncaster
Tel: 01405 818248 Mobile 07900 967664**

TRUST IN GOD

Do not look forward to the trials and crosses of this life with dread and fear. Rather, look to them with full confidence that, as they arise, God to whom you belong, will deliver you from them. He has guided and guarded you thus far in life. Do you but hold fast to his dear hand, and he will lead you safely through all trials. Whenever you cannot stand he will carry you lovingly in his arms. Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. The same Eternal Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day of your life. Either he will shield you from suffering or he will give you the unflinching strength to bear it. Be at peace then, and put aside all useless thoughts, all vain dreads, and all anxious imaginations.

St. Francis De Sales

MIND YOUR FAITH!

Well – that’s a strange heading, what does it mean?

In essence it means you can never stop learning about your faith. There is always some new insight; a new way of looking at the doctrine learned as a child from the Catechism; a new approach and deepening of understanding as the experience of life reveals the deep wisdom in the teaching of the church. Our diocese offers several ways to deepen personal understanding of our faith – see the leaflets in the church porch on the CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies), Foundation Degree in Theology and Ministry, and Postgraduate Diploma and Masters Degree.

Five years ago, as my youngest child left home for University and, I realised that I could fulfil a long held desire to study for a Masters degree, without having to go away from home to live in a residential college, and in an affordable way. I enrolled on the MA Theology course which is offered at the Hallam Pastoral Centre in Sheffield and became a student again, a mature one this time!

One of the greatest benefits to me in the course was the enjoyment of study itself and of meeting fellow students, all from very diverse backgrounds and a wide age range. We were not all Golden Oldies by any means. The second revelation was the vital relevance that theological study has to everything in life, and that humanity’s perennial quest is to understand the meaning of life. Far from being some dry, dusty poking about among ancient books, Theology brought me face to face with all the challenging issues of modern life – and provided some unexpected answers.

There are modules of study, each one a two hour session on Monday evenings from 6.30 – 8.30 p.m. The cost now is £160.00 per module which is a fraction of what it might cost for full-time study. The number of modules you need to take varies depending on your own previous academic background. I took six and then wrote a dissertation which counted as two modules. There are choices of subject for the modules and each one requires a written assignment to be completed. The credits gained for each module are added up to determine which level you have reached. You may well be able to complete the course more quickly than the five years it took me. My dissertation was on the attitudes of young Catholics to Christian marriage which I completed last Autumn after much toil, some tears and much burning of the midnight oil. This summer I gained my hard won MA, you will be glad to know.

Please consider the marvellous opportunities offered to learn more about the most important treasure we possess - our faith. Look at the leaflets, find out more and HAVE A GO!!

* Every Tuesday evening after the 6.00 p.m. Mass, the Rosary in honour of our Blessed Lady is said, *
* and the intention is for "*Peace throughout the world*". *

Thank you is just a little word,
We all use to express,
How much we appreciate,
Another’s helpfulness.

You’ve sorted out my problem,
And much more than I expected,
You’ve shown me human kindness,
Hasn’t been neglected.

So I hope your skies are always blue,
And you never fail to find,
That all your dreams are coming true,
Because you’ve been so kind
THANK YOU

GOD'S WATERFALL

Words for those broken
in heart or spirit.

If you have tears
then let them flow
for they have nowhere
else to go.

From God the healing
waters stem,
so let them fall
Yes, all of them
Then, when at last
the waters dry,
You'll smile again
no need to cry.

HOLD ON TO YOUR DREAMS

No matter what life brings
Onto your dreams keep hold,
Always try to cherish them
And treasure them like gold.
For, if you keep them in your heart
And nurture them each day,
They will sprinkle you with magic
As you walk along life’s way.

So, cast them to the stars,
Kiss them as they go,
And you shall find more happiness
Than you could ever know.
So, if you keep this in your mind
In everything you do,
You very soon will find
Those dreams will all come true.

THE ROSARY

What a gift I received today
An aid to teach me how to pray
A reminder of God's life and death
The Mysteries of the Rosary

I wonder how I can ever repay
Your kindness and generosity
As I hold each bead and start to say
The Mysteries of the Rosary

Such consolation such tranquillity
Words of prayer to follow your way
What joy what peace I feel each day
Thank you and thank God for my Rosary.

* On Thursday evenings after the 7.00 p.m. Mass, there is the *
* lovely devotion of the Novena to *
* *Our Lady of Perpetual Help* *
