



THE MESSENGER

St Joseph & St Nicholas Moorends

Issue 9

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THE PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

"Hail, Queen of Heaven, the ocean star Guide of the wanderer here below"



This much loved hymn rang out as our coach approached Walsingham, the National Catholic Shrine of Our Lady. Our excellent driver proved expert at finding his way along the little lanes to the shrine, and we arrived there by 11.30 a.m., having set off from Moorends about 7:30 a.m. The shrine itself is very compact, with the chapel of reconciliation, built in 1981 and consecrated by Cardinal Basil Hume, the central focus for Mass and the sacrament of reconciliation. This chapel is in the style of an old Norfolk barn, built of wood with huge sliding windows, which can be opened so that the altar is the central focus for pilgrims inside the church and outside in the grassy courtyard in the open air. Around this green space are fourteen stark, plain wooden crosses carried on pilgrimage to Walsingham in 1948 by 400 men from 14 cities in Britain. The furthest distance was 231 miles from Middlesborough. Interestingly, one of our group, Mrs Veronica Kelly, thinks she may have seen men carrying this cross through Wakefield on their way to the shrine. This act of devotion was to pray for peace in our own country and throughout the world,

shortly after the devastation and end of World War II.

How did Walsingham become a shrine to Our Lady? In 1061 Richeldis de Faverches, Lady of the manor at Walsingham had a vision of Our Lady, who requested that a replica of the holy House of Nazareth be built in Walsingham as a perpetual reminder of the Annunciation. The miraculous intervention of Our Lady and the angels finally secured this, and Walsingham became as important in its way as the other great places of medieval pilgrimage, Jerusalem, Rome and Santiago de Compostela. Walsingham lies in Norfolk, about 30 miles from the coast of East Anglia at Wells by the sea. It is a peaceful rural setting in gently rolling countryside. The small village has the old Abbey ruins, which were the site of the original shrine of Our Lady, a place of pilgrimage for almost 500 years before destruction in 1538. The famous statue of Our Lady was burnt at Chelsea and the shrine laid waste. For 300 years it lay desolate, and was then restored due to the devotion of Miss Charlotte Pearson Boyd (1837-1906), who bought the Slipper Chapel in 1896.

The village of Walsingham has lots of ancient buildings, the Anglican shrine of Our Lady with the Holy Well and the tiny Russian Orthodox Church, where Icon painting has flourished since 1967. The peace of the village aids the spirit of reconciliation, which Our Lady so desires. On a practical note there are lots of nice teashops and gift shops to browse in, too.

Returning to our own pilgrimage. After the Angelus and Mass were celebrated at noon we all scattered for lunch, some had sandwiches on the coach, others sat out in the rainy courtyard, or in the café, There was time to look round the shop, which had a very fine collection of books, cards, statues, medals and prayer cards. The favourite place of prayer for most seems to have been the Holy Spirit Chapel, a small shrine with niches for candles to burn constantly on every side, a continuous offering of prayer to God. Next to this the Slipper Chapel, or, as one lady called it, the "Slippery" Chapel. This was the original heart of the restored Catholic shrine. Here there was a box for petitions to Our Lady. Almost a thousand years ago Our Lady had asked for remembrance and promised "All who are in any way distressed or in need, let them seek me here in that little house in Walsingham. To all that seek me shall be given succour." Together, reassembled after lunch, we recited the new mysteries of light, recently inaugurated by Pope John Paul II to celebrate the public life of Jesus. The Holy Father suggested that these mysteries be said on Thursdays, so, along with Fr. Richard from St Wilfrith's, Moorends, who was staying in Walsingham with a small group of parishioners, we did just that. The Rosary was followed by an hour of Exposition, a time for personal silent prayer and meditation, guided with reflections from the resident staff of the shrine. Throughout our visit there was a chance for anyone who wished to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.



Later, approaching Doncaster, a gleam of light pierced the clouds, as we all arrived home safely, thanks to the excellent service from Swift's Coaches. Our happy band of pilgrims had had a fulfilling day, and returned strengthened in faith and love with prayers that England may once again become Mary's Dowry.

Kate Heywood

I'VE LEARNED

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life goes on and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas lights.

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.

I've learned that making a 'living' is not the same thing as making a 'life'.

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands.

You need to be able to throw something back.

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, your friends, and the needs of others, your work and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I do not have to be one.

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone: People love the human touch--holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learned that you should pass this on to someone you care about...I just did. Sometimes they just need a little something to make them smile.

People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel.

THANK YOU

A very grateful thank you goes to everyone who kindly donated items for the Kosovo School equipment appeal. These items have now been passed on for dispatch to Kosovo, where they are so desperately needed.

S.S.A.F.A. (Thorne)

Soldiers Sailors Airmen and Families Association

Forces Help

5A Browns Lane, Thorne

01405 812291

All Members and Families of H.M. Forces both serving and Ex-servicemen and women are entitled to support and assistance where appropriate

Office open between
2 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

All appointments are treated in the strictest confidence

HELP NEEDED ON LOCAL HISTORY

Does anyone have any information regarding the Makin-Durham family, who lived in Thorne Hall, now the Council offices, opposite the park on Ellison Street?

An American lady is trying to trace her ancestors, and would be grateful for any information. Please pass any details to Kate.

THE CLERGY REVUE - SHEFFIELD CITY HALL

On Friday 26th September the Leeds and Hallam region of CAFOD will be hosting the popular Clergy Revue, with proceeds going to CAFOD. The Revue is an excellent show, with more than 30 priests coming together to support CAFOD. Look out for Mgr Kilgannon, Fr John Cook, Fr Roy and many others. The total cost is £12.00 per person; this covers the cost of the coach and admission.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT De PAUL

Hallam Assembly has, as one of its major themes, Prayer and spirituality, and in particular to provide resources for spirituality, with local links. To encourage existing bodies to revitalise the full spectrum of the public prayer of the church at parish level; and to set up diocesan/parish groups to investigate the area of ongoing formation in prayer and spirituality.

Vincentian spirituality is one particular way of understanding and living the Gospel. "I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick or in prison and you came to see me". The motto of the Society is "Turning Concern into Action". In this locality this is done by visiting the sick and elderly in their own homes; visiting residential homes, hospices, hospitals and prisons. Also by giving lifts to Church, Charity shops and a furniture store. These are opportunities for putting into effect the theme of the Assembly.

By way of Christian formation the Society starts and closes all its meetings with prayer. It has the added advantage of a structured Rule, which the Church in its long experience sees as essential. There are occasional retreats and also days of recollection.

Peter Pennington

SPONSORED WALK FOR LIFE

Off we set again, sixteen intrepid walkers braving the unknown territory of Wortley, near Stocksbridge on Saturday 30th August to do our bit in raising funds for LIFE. I had to look it up on the road map to see exactly where it was. Four of us from Moorends Reg, Kate, Barry and David met up with friends from other parts of Doncaster in the beautiful village of Wortley to begin the walk, excellently organised, planned and led by Bob Bestwick as always.



The splendid grounds of Wortley Hall (looks a nice place for a wedding reception!) were our starting point. The day was bright and sunny but not over hot so we were able to walk comfortably through the gentle rolling fields at the foot of the Pennines, along well-trodden paths. Throughout the walk there were fine vistas and Emley Moor mast in the distance. The sense of peace, of being far from the hectic crush of traffic on the motorways and shopping hordes at Meadowhell (sorry - Meadowhall) pervaded the entire area, yet these were only a couple of miles away.

A short break at lunchtime, and Joan Mangham was on hand to keep us supplied with refreshments, which were very much appreciated. Drama was supplied by David's dog, Jess, who decided to collect her own take-away and emerged from a ditch with a young pheasant, which had clearly died of shock, in her jaws. The humans contented themselves with the vegetarian option of the rich, ripe blackberries from the hedgerows. Time passes very quickly as you walk along chatting to friends and enjoy the fresh air, the countryside and good company. To be doing that for a good cause makes it even more worthwhile.

Sponsor money is now being collected in and we will let you know the final total from our parish, and the overall amount raised when they are known. Thank you to all the stalwarts who work for LIFE in whatever capacity and to the generosity of walkers and sponsors who enable the work to continue.

Kate Heywood

REMEMBER THIS?

If so please tell us the names of the girls in the picture.



OUR LADY'S MONTH

May is usually associated with Our Lady, as many of you will recall the May processions of the past through the streets of Moorends and the crowning of Our Lady's statue with flowers. There are three photographs from the parish archives that some of you may recognise and put some names to the faces. Yet September is just as much Our Lady's month for it is then that she celebrates her birthday – on September 8th and just four days later the church in turn rejoices in the feast day of The Holy Name of Mary on the 12th. Virgo is the zodiac sign for this month, which is very appropriate. Some people may have the beautiful white rose Virgo in their gardens – its purity another lovely reminder of Mary.

Of particular interest for us is the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham on the 24th since we visited her shrine there earlier in the summer on our parish pilgrimage. The same day is also important for the whole of England since it is the feast day of Our Lady of Ransom. She is the special patron of our country, which is called The Dowry of Mary. The ransom referred to came originally from Spain where money was paid to free Christians who had been taken captive and enslaved by the Moors in early medieval times. After Henry VIII separated England from the Roman Catholic Church there have been many good people, saints and martyrs who have prayed that England should return to the safe keeping of Mary, our mother. The prayer to Our Lady of Ransom is well known where we pray, "Look down in mercy upon England, thy dowry and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee".

Recently a new book of Masses of Our Lady has been bought for the parish containing fifty Masses honouring Mary under many of her different titles as Virgin, Queen and Mother, for her virtues as chaste, prudent and merciful as well as the numerous descriptions of her like Star of the sea and Refuge of sinners. Do you have a favourite title of Our Lady? If you do let me know and the reason why you have chosen it. We could see which are the most popular. At this time while we still have roses blooming in our gardens perhaps the title Mystical Rose would be the right one.

Kate Heywood

RAINBOW

Every Sunday we recite the creed with the words: *I believe in the communion of saints*. Have you ever wondered what we really mean by that? Most of the time I think we have a vague notion that all those who have gone before us will be there waiting to welcome us when we, too, finish this stage of our journey. We may think also of the support given to us by all the named saints who likewise have gone before. Times of great suffering or sorrow are when we need to feel we are not alone. If, like me, you have recently lost a close member of your family then perhaps the following story may help you. Fr. Ronald Rolheiser in his book *Against an infinite horizon* recounts this story.

At the final liturgy of a conference in Los Angeles a young couple spoke to the delegates of the death of their son. He had died a year previously of cancer, after a long struggle, at the age of twelve. Nothing can prepare parents for the death of a child. In the natural course of things we expect them to outlive us. The morning after their son's death the two parents were sitting with friends in their living room, trying to console and support each other in their grief. The phone rang. It was a neighbour who urged them to go and look out of the front door. "You will see an amazing sight. Something unique." So urgent was his voice that they rushed to the door. A perfect rainbow in the brightness of all its colours and a complete semicircle met their gaze. They understood in faith that the rainbow is a symbol of hope, of God's promise and the resurrection....but as they looked they became convinced beyond any doubt that it was their son who had given them this sign. The mother, in her heart, heard her son say: "Mum, this is for you! And because it is hard for you to believe it, I will do it again, the same way, for you tomorrow at the same time." All doubts they might have had that this was a trick, or the result of imagination in their grief, fatigue and longing were erased the next day when, at exactly the same time, the identical rainbow re-appeared. For them their son was speaking to them to show that the communion of saints is real. We can talk to them and they to us. The bond of love, which unites us all, is not broken by death at all.

Fr. Rolheiser' book is published by Hodder & Stoughton (1995)

Kate Heywood



WELCOME TO OUR PARISH MAGAZINE

Hello and welcome once again to the "Messenger" Although not intentional, this edition seems to be very much devoted to Our Blessed Lady.

If you have any old photographs of the procession, or any other occasion, which you would like to be included in a future publication, then please let us have them as soon as possible. Thank you once again for your continued support, and don't forget to have a look at the parish website www.ourjo.org.uk

JOKES

What do you call a sheep with no legs no head and no tail?

Why did the gum cross the road?

What do you call a three-legged donkey?

What do you call a three-legged donkey with one eye?

A Cloud

Because it was stuck on the chicken's foot!

Wonkey

Winkey Wonkey

OUR LADY OF DONCASTER

Sunday 21st September sees the pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Doncaster from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Below is a brief history of the shrine and also it's long association with the Carmelite Order.

John Nicbrothere of Eyam and Richard Euwere of Doncaster established a Carmelite friary in Doncaster in 1350, under the patronage of King Richard II and John of Gaunt, his uncle. This was only a century after the Carmelites first arrived in England from the Holy Land.

The friary fronted onto what is now Priory Place (where the Post Office now is) and extended on the one hand to High Street and on the other to St Sepulchre Gate, following along Printing House Street (then the town moat) and Cleveland Street as far as the Reindeer Hotel. It occupied some six acres of land.

Doncaster, situated on an important river crossing, had had a key position on the road from London to Scotland since the time of the Romans. They had protected the crossing with a fortified camp, 'Danum'. Later, when a stone bridge was built across the river, a beautiful chapel was erected at the southern end, and this seems to have given the name to St Mary's Gate. Attached to the friary was a shrine containing a statue of Our Lady of Doncaster. By the time of the reformation this was one of the best-known of her statues in England, alongside those at Worcester, Walsingham, Islington and Ipswich.

In 1538 the Friary was taken over by the reformers, and the Carmelite statue was taken, with others, to London and destroyed in an attempt to eradicate all devotion to Mary from England, her dowry.

The faith then survived three hundred years of persecution and oppression in this area through the ministrations of visiting recusant priests. Only in 1835 was a resident priest appointed to Doncaster, and a parish church dedicated to St Peter's Chains was opened in Prince's Street in 1855. In 1867 a lady chapel was added to house a new statue of Our Lady.

A new church was built for the parish in 1973 in Chequer Road and the statue of Our Lady of Doncaster was transferred there to form the centre of the present shrine.

It was in 1986 that the community of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites was established at the shrine by Invitation of the parish priest of St Peter's, Fr Harney, through the good offices of Pat Haigh.

In 1954 (a Holy Year) Bishop Heenan composed this prayer in honour of Our Lady of Doncaster.

*O Lord Jesus Christ, who from the cross bequeathed Mary thy Mother to be our Mother also,
grant us the grace to be worthy to be called her children.*

May Mary be Queen and Mother of every home.

*Our town in ancient days was renowned for devotion to
Our Lady of Doncaster.*

Today once more we crave the comfort of her motherly protection.

Bless all who invoke her sweet name and may Mary lead us to thee who art the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Who livest and reignest with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

TWELVE THINGS TO ALWAYS REMEMBER AND ONE THING TO NEVER FORGET

Your presence is a present to the world
You're unique and one of a kind
Your life can be what you want it to be
Take the days just one at a time.

Count your blessings, not your troubles,
You'll make it through whatever comes along
Within you are so many answers
Understand, have courage, be strong.

Realize that it's never too late
Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way
Have health and hope and happiness
Take time to wish upon a star

And don't forget for even a day
How very special you are.