

Newsletter

for the GB Regions



Teams

Equipes Notre-Dame • Teams of Our Lady • Equipos de Nuestra Señora • Equipas de Nossa Senhora • Ehegruppen E.N.D

December - January - February 2017

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Newsletter Editors

Please send contributions for the March - May 2017 edition by 1st January 2017 to: Newsletter Editors, Malcolm & Marilyn Studholme

If your team requires permanent change in number of newsletters, contact your Regional Couple. These are listed in the Teams Directory section of the Newsletter.

If you require one off extra copy(ies) of a particular edition, please contact your Regional Distribution Couple. These are:

Southern Region: Bob & Lucy Barnes

Central Region: Paul & Janet DeBoo

Northern Region: Mark & Dympna Edwards

Teams Diary

If there is an event you would like to attend, please feel free to do so!

Dec 2016 4 Sunday	North West Sector Teams Birthday St Joseph's Church, Meeting Lane, Penketh Warrington WA5 2BB 4pm Parish Mass followed by shared table All welcome.	Andy & Debra Pennington
Dec 2016 8 Tuesday	Wessex Sector Teams Birthday Our Lady Immaculate Church, Seamoor Road, Westbourne 6pm Mass followed by social All welcome.	Bernard & Susan Kelly
Dec 2016 17 Saturday	Noth East & Tyneside Teams Birthday & Backworth Team 50 years Celebration Our Lady & St Edmund Church, Station Road, Backworth NE27 0RU 12noon Mass: Celebrant Bishop Paul Mason Followed by refreshments at the Heart of Mary, West Monkseaton All welcome.	Colin & Denise Nelson If you intend to join Backworth's 50th Celebration, then please contact: Peter & Doreen Kellyn by the first week in December.

For your diary
GB Southern Regional Gathering 2017
for details see Notice Board

Southern Region Couple's Letter

Dear Friends in Teams

At the time of writing this article we will nearly have completed our first year in office as Southern Regional Couple. We have made it our mission during this year to begin the process of promoting Teams within three of the diocese in our region. So far we have had a positive response from two of these.

In April this year we travelled to Plymouth and met with the Rt. Rev. Bishop Mark O'Toole, Bishop of the Diocese of Plymouth. We received a very warm welcome and were able to discuss the many positive aspects that Teams can offer engaged and married couples of all ages as well as the clergy. Bishop Mark was keenly interested in the support and spiritual development to the sacrament of marriage that Teams gives. He offered to write to all the Deans in his diocese recommending Teams to them and suggesting they might like us to attend one of their deanery meetings to give a presentation about Teams. This he has kindly done and we are to give our first presentation in Dorchester in November this year. We have also met with the Deborah van Kroonenburg the Vicariate for Evangelisation who is reviewing marriage preparation within this Plymouth Diocese.



In September we travelled to Crawley to meet with the Rt. Rev. Bishop Richard Moth, Bishop of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and Katherine Bergin, his Marriage and Family Life Advisor. The hospitality, warmth and kindness we received at this meeting were a humbling experience. We left feeling spiritually uplifted and a little overwhelmed with the support that has been offered to Teams. Katherine is going to promote Teams at a large gathering in the diocese for engaged couples at DABCEC and we have been asked to supply literature on Teams and a display at this meeting which is to take place in November this year. She will also mention Teams at the next Grandparents Day in May 2017.

Bishop Richard suggested several ways in which we can give Teams a greater focus in 2017. In January he is going to write to all his priests introducing Teams to them and asking them that they support any contact made in their parishes. In March an article by us will be featured in the Arundel and Brighton News. Bishop Mark will mail 85 posters to his priests and in addition he will ask one of the Team Chaplains in the Diocese to talk at one of the clergy away days. The clergy will be asked to support Teams by allowing pulpit talks in their churches. We will be looking for couples to join us in this campaign by giving short pulpit presentations during the course of 2017 to build upon the work we have started. Bishop Richard suggested that the best time for couples to give talks would be after Eastertide and during September 2017.

Expanding the Movement and spreading the word to other couples features on the Responsibilities Within Teams card, so how about making this action one of your New Year resolutions! There has never been a better time to evangelise our Movement, many of the aspects of marriage preparation and family spirituality that Pope Francis



Southern Region Couple's Letter

speaks about in his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*¹ are already encompassed within Teams. This was very evident at the GB Regional Gathering in Swanwick in October, where we were moved in turn by the witness to faith of young couples and their children, as well as by couples who have been in Teams for more than forty years.

As you read this we will already be in the grace-filled season of Advent “a time of waiting and hoping, of renewing our trust in God’s merciful love and care, and of reflecting on the several comings (advents), of Christ in our lives.”²

Advent is a joyful time of prayer and preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. May the light of Christ shine brightly on you, your families and your fellow Team members at

Christmas and during the coming year.

God Bless

Bernard & Susan Kelly

GB Southern Region Couple

¹ Pope Francis “*Amoris Laetitia*” Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family. St Peters Rome. 19th March 2016

² Vatican Radio website 2015

Erratum

The Autumn edition of the Newsletter contained an article on Bishop Paul Mason’s Episcopal ordination which erroneously stated that Bishop Mason served as the Director at Allen Hall Seminary. This should have read ‘the Pastoral Director at Allen Hall Seminary.’ We apologise for this error and hope it did not cause any embarrassment.

Editors

A Poem by Fr Rob Esdaile

Divine Flux

"I am," said God. And in an eternal instant
The Word was spoken, fathered, birthed
into the infinite No-thing-ness of God:
A Word who is life, truth, hope and understanding.

And the Word heard the Father's voice,
obedient, with a listening heart.
And the Father gazed at the Word
with such a look of longing love.

And from that same eternal instant Spirit flowed electric
between Speaker and Spoken, Father and Fathered;
pure flux, flash, quicksilver, passion, fascination.
The fusing of a free embrace, making Three as One.

Then God said, "in our own image let us make Adam -
with our own gift for fecund thought,
for birth, delight, embrace and dance."
And thus the Word took on divided flesh
and prayed in it: "Be one!" and died.

© Rob Esdaile 2016.

From his third collection of selected poems: Yes, thanks!, with all profits
going towards the refurbishment of Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Copies are available £6 including postage, from Parish Office, Our Lady
of Lourdes, Hampton Court Way, Thames Ditton KT7 OLP

Obituary - Michael Timlin

Michael was born in Hampstead in London in December 1934 into a Catholic family. The family moved to Holyhead where he spent most of his childhood. After school and National Service, Michael trained for the teaching profession. He taught in Catholic schools, first in Clapham at St. Mary's and later in Manchester.

His faith was precious to him and he was a committed Catholic active in the SVP from his early days. He was well known for taking on the most difficult cases. He was totally self-effacing and would never complain either of his own ailments or any difficulties he encountered. Never saying a bad word about anyone, to anyone who disparaged a delinquent person his comment was 'Oh! God Bless him'.

Marrying Mary O'Reilly in 1963 was the start of a long and happy marriage that took the couple to Kenya with their children Branwen and Aidan. Michael taught in a teacher training college. During their time in Kenya, another son, Damian was born.

Returning to England, Michael took up a teaching post at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Banbury where soon after Ciaran was born. The family set up home in an old farmhouse at Nethercote on the edge of town where Michael and Mary lived for the next 43 years. Their home became a place of welcome for many friends and acquaintances and a meeting place for the many activities that Michael and Mary involved themselves in. Many of these were faith related, SVP as already mentioned but also Life Groups, fund raising for various charities and of course Teams of Our Lady.

Taking early retirement in 1988 a house was purchased in France where they and the family passed many happy times. Again they became well known in the local parish and Michael was always especially pleased to attend the Brittany religious festivals known as 'Pardons'.

In 2013, when the children with their own families were scattered, mainly in Southern England, the move was made to Rottingdean, to be nearer to them. For a long time Michael had not known good health and soon it deteriorated. The close proximity of the family, especially Ciaran and his wife who were the nearest, was a great help to him particularly as Mary's health had also declined. In his final days the closeness of the children, gave him great comfort and he finally died on Saturday 20th August 2016 with the knowledge that they were all with him to the end.

Paul & Clare Callaghan

Banbury 1

Swanwick GB Gathering 2016 Poem

We've been in Teams, off 'n on, for 39 years
That's half a lifetime of blood, sweat and tears
Our marriage limps along, well, it's 49 years old
We're para-limpian teamsters but we're going for gold.

If you count hours in meetings, we've done 1491
Miles of meals, prayers, and apologies for endeavours not done
Except for the sit-downs, on bottoms quite sore
Well, you would if you'd sat through five hundred and four!

Our meals when we started were soup, tea and toast
Then later we changed it to red wine and a roast
Agreed that wasn't good enough so we gave it a blitz
Changed the team venue, now we meet at the Ritz.

As we have grown older our sharing at meals
Has suffered a change - what a lot it reveals
It once led us into a deep meditation
Now we all share the latest on our medication.

What have Teams done for us, that's the question we face
Are we wiser? Smaller minded? Or fuller of grace?
We don't know. What we've found after years of research
Is that most of our children just don't go to church.

So what, oh dear Lord, are we doing so wrong?
If we knew that we wouldn't be singing this song.

Performed during the Saturday entertainment.
Sent in by Elsie & Paddy Lyons

Living The Gospel Through The Children's Eyes

On Saturday October 1st at the Hayes Conference Centre Swanwick, the children gathered after the Opening Liturgy with their two Leaders Anna and Becky to have fun and reflect on the Gospel message. They would explore this message through music, prayer, drama, craft and even film. But there was also time for playing, both in the Sports Hall, the grounds and the delightful corridor of the Derbyshire Suite.

So, what were the Gospel themes they were exploring? The Sunday Gospel gave the children two messages. They were called on to increase their faith and to live a life of service.

One of their first craft activities was to look at their banner; a tree with branches but bereft of leaves. They provided the leaves by drawing round their hands on green felt, cutting them out and putting the 'leaves' on the tree. Jesus asks us to be his hands in the world, to do his work. They also reflected on what they were called to do. Taking raindrops, suns and rainbows, they wrote what they tried to do or liked to do to answer Jesus' call. Among their reflections were; "Praying with friends nicely and having fun," "Doing chores without complaining," "Singing and praying to God," "Singing to God and loving my friends and family," "Doing jobs without complaining," "Looking after his world and creation," "Playing a musical instrument." Their prayers and reflections were hung upon the Prayer Tree, later to be brought into the Main Conference Hall for Mass.

The afternoon Sit-Down time at the Gathering was also a quiet time for the children. They sat to watch the film 'Evan Almighty'. This American family film is an updated 'Ark' story and so tied in with the second theme of the weekend; 'Caring for God's World and all his Creation,' a very apt theme as we come to the end of Pope Francis' month of caring for our world.





Did they crowd anything else into this day? Yes, they also developed a drama to explain Jesus' message in the Gospel, which they would act out. Led by Becky and Mary, the volunteers planned their script and actions. Becky also taught them "Jesus is the Rock" to sing at Mass which they taught to the adults during the Entertainment Evening that night.



Their Saturday sessions were completed as they lit their lanterns and walked from the Kinder Room to the Prayer Labyrinth, reflecting on their Prayer Tree promises. They took shelter from the rain enjoying their last few minutes together, clutching their lighted lanterns.

And so to Sunday morning, a time for rest, play, preparation and reflection on their two themes. They took and decorated plant plots and planted seeds. They thought about the care needed to make things grow. They also thought of how they could water and help their own faith grow. Looking again at their Tree Banner, they added butterflies and animals enjoying all of God's Creation.

Then it was time for Mass where, watched by a bemused Abbot Martin, they acted out their own take on the Gospel, sang "Jesus is the Rock", held up their bunting saying 'Faith and Service' and brought up their



plant pots to decorate the altar at the Offertory.

What were the children's favourites? Zofia liked everything, Rachel - the sports Hall, Marie Therese - helping the little ones and 'Evan Almighty', Mary - the drama





and singing, Owen – the craft activities and helping the little ones. Planting seeds and the lanterns were great favourites with all. So was meeting Anna and Becky.

And what of our two children's leaders? They were certainly challenged with an age range from three to ten years but said they had enjoyed meeting and spending time with such lovely children.

Our thanks go out to both of them. Thanks to our two oldest children, Owen and Mary and to Karissa Kowlessar from Trinidad. Owen befriended 3 year old Stanislav (Stash) and Mary helped develop the drama for Mass and held a Sunday Workshop to make decorated Prayer Scrolls. Karissa left her school studies on Sunday morning to help with the children and the Mass.

Anna's two children, Mary and Charlie, have both asked if they can come back again. You can't ask for more than that.

Tony & Pat Banks

Northern Regional Couple



Prayers & Reflection for December

Text for Meditation Romans 15: 4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

Responsorial Psalm 71 (72)

Response "In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails"

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R)**
2. In his day justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R)**
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R)**
4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name **(R)**

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, grant us the hope and courage to live out our Christian vocation. When the going gets tough help us 'to persevere in a love strengthened by the virtues of generosity, commitment, fidelity and patience' (Amoris Lætitia, 5). **Amen**

Reflection

Our text for meditation this month is all about 'keeping going' - persevering - not always easy! St Paul says that everything in the scriptures 'is meant to teach us something about hope [and]... of how people who did not give up were helped by God.'

So, how are we about 'hope' and 'perseverance'? Do we fall at the first hurdle? Or are we long distance runners?

I suspect as couples we're a bit of both - and no doubt complementing each other at different times.

St Paul certainly knew about each of these and he cites Jesus as the One who has given us the supreme example. 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.' (Luke 22:42; NRSV). Jesus hoped and trusted in his Father's love and never lost faith.

Paul himself struggled with many things and never gave up. I think of his patience after his conversion and giving the disciples time to come to terms with the new and enthusiastic Christian (as opposed to the persecutor)! I think of his dispute with Peter over the imposition of Jewish rituals on newly baptised pagans. And finally, as well as his final imprisonment, his 'thorn in his flesh' (2 Cor 12:7) which he implored the Lord to remove from him, to no avail.

In what ways do we struggle with our gift of hope? How easy is it for us (as couples) to 'keep going' when times are tough (and they are sometimes) and do we have a 'thorn' that we would wish the Lord to remove from me/us?

Take comfort from our psalm today 'For He shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.' And I leave the last word to Paul 'For whenever I am weak, then I am strong.' (2 Cor 12:10).

Fr Chris Dobson

¹ For more examples see Luke's Beatitudes and woes (Lk 6:20-26) which are more strongly social justice oriented than Matthew's (Mt 5:1-11) e.g. "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied." "Woe to you who are rich...Woe to you who are well fed now" (NIV). See also Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55).

Prayers & Reflection for January

Text for Meditation John 5: 14-21

We are quite confident that if we ask the Son of God for anything and it is in accordance with his will, he will hear us; and, knowing that whatever we may ask, he hears us, we know that we have been granted what we asked of him.

If anybody sees his brother commit a sin that is not a deadly sin, he has only to pray, and God will give life to the sinner - not those who commit a deadly sin; for there is a sin that is death, and I will not say that you must pray about that. Every kind of wrong-doing is sin, but not all sin is deadly.

We know that anyone who has been begotten by God does not sin, because the begotten Son of God protects him, and the Evil One does not touch him. We know that we belong to God, but the whole world lies in the power of the Evil One.

We know, too, that the Son of God has come, and has given us the power to know the true God. We are in the true God as we are in his Son, Jesus Christ.

This is the true God, this is eternal life.

Children, be on your guard against false gods.

Responsorial Psalm 149

Response "The Lord takes delight in his people"

1. Sing a new song to the Lord,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,
let Zion's sons exult in their king. **(R)**
2. Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people.
He crowns the poor with salvation. **(R)**
3. Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips;
this honour is for all his faithful. **(R)**

Concluding Prayer

Father God, we thank you for the gift of prayer. We pray that your will be done in our lives, our Team, the Church and the world. May we share your love and joy with everyone we meet this week. **Amen**

Reflection

St Ambrose, one of the first Doctors of the Church, wrote these words in the fifth century that still apply to us today:

“Above all, you must pray for the whole people: that is, for the whole body, for every part of your mother the Church, whose distinguishing feature is mutual love. If you ask for something for yourself then you will be praying for yourself only – and you must remember that more grace comes to one who prays for others than to any ordinary sinner. If each person prays for all people, then all people are effectively praying for each.”

Today’s reading from St John encourages us to ask the Father to show us his will for our lives, for our Team, for the Church and for the world. We are challenged not to pray selfishly, but for the breadth of needs that God brings to our awareness as we ponder his will in the quiet of our hearts.

St John also highlights that when we pray for others then, in the world of the Spirit, we bring others life, and he reminds us that our lives, both individually and as the Church, are lived in a kind of tension as the devil constantly seeks to draw us away from the Holy Spirit of Jesus who dwells within us.

St Ambrose reminds us in what he writes that when we pray for others we are meeting these needs and so much more: we are tapping into the Father’s will; we are bringing others life; and we are helping each other turn away from sin to the wonderful blessings that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have in store for us, as “the Lord takes delight in his people”.

Fr Simon Penhalagan

Sion Community

Prayers & Reflection for February

Text for Meditation Matthew 4: 12-23

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.”

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Responsorial Psalm 26 (27)

Response “The Lord is my light and my help”

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **(R)**
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **(R)**
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, Hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **(R)**

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us once again, to hear your call to repentance. Let us joyfully accept your invitation to travel the 'lifelong road of liberation' in the knowledge that your grace will provide all we need to follow you faithfully. **Amen**

Reflection

What an adventure began that day for those first apostles! And all because they opted to answer the invitation from that mysterious stranger passing by, 'Follow me'. Because they were willing to leave behind what was familiar and have the whole course of their lives altered as a result. That day would be the first in a long line of turning points. Following this Teacher would mean they would have to get used to having their minds changed. And the possibility of that change, the promise of that change is right there in the very first word of Our Lord's very first sermon: 'Repent'. If there is one word that sums up the whole gospel message, it is that mysterious, word. It means 'move your mind', 'shift your heart', 'alter your life', 'turn around', 'change!'

How sad that we sometimes hear that word as a threat, rather than as a promise. What we hear is, 'repent or else'. But repentance is not just a warning, it's a whole way of life. It is not a once-in-a-lifetime event, but a deliberate daily decision. Following Jesus means a continual conversion. Repentance is the constant upheaval of our hearts. Repentance means travelling a lifelong road of liberation. Moreover, when Jesus says, 'Repent' he doesn't just mean 'you must repent.' He means 'you can repent.' He means 'I am giving you the power to repent.' Just like that other amazing invitation he made that day - 'follow me' - it actually conveys the grace of that possibility.

Canon John Udris



Notice Board

Southern Regional Gathering 2017

Saturday 23rd September 2017

Arundel Cathedral Centre

“Mission of Love”

The 2017 Southern Regional Gathering will be held on
Saturday 23rd September

at the Arundel Cathedral Centre with mass in the
Cathedral Church of Our Lady and St Philip Howard,
London Road, Arundel BN18 9AY.

Complimentary private parking has been arranged.

Full details and booking details in next newsletter.

Please put this important date in your diary.

Team Prayer • The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Holy is His name, and His mercy reaches from age to age
for those who fear Him.

He has shown the power of His arm,
He has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.
The hungry He has filled with good things, the rich He sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy

- according to the promise He made to our ancestors,
of His mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.

Our Lady of the Home, pray for us.

final thought . . .

Always remember seven days without
prayer, makes one weak.

Prayer Cascade: www.teamsgb.org.uk/prayercascade