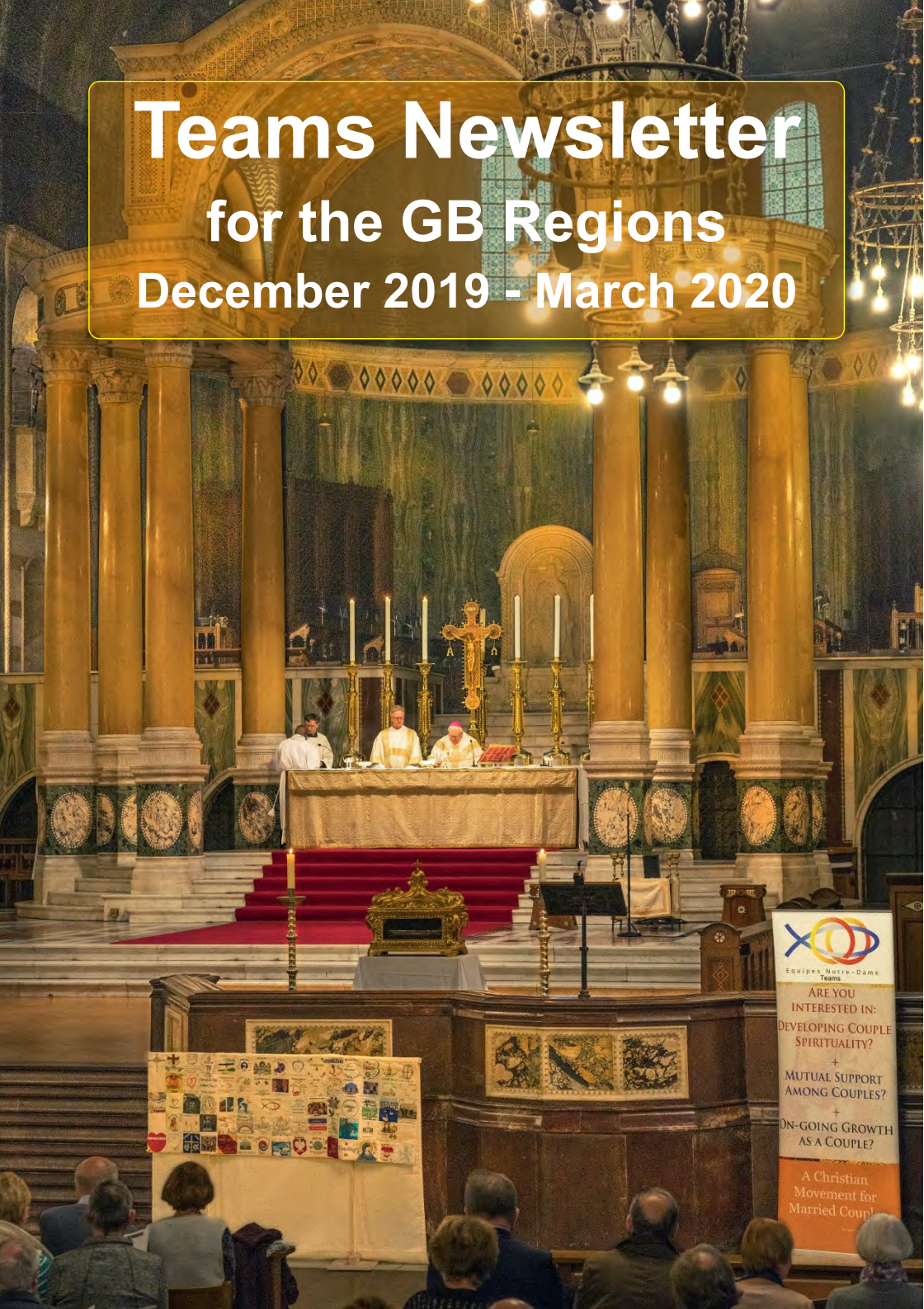


Teams Newsletter

for the GB Regions

December 2019 - March 2020



XOQ
Equipes Notre-Dame
Teams

ARE YOU
INTERESTED IN:
DEVELOPING COUPLE
SPIRITUALITY?
+
MUTUAL SUPPORT
AMONG COUPLES?
+
ON-GOING GROWTH
AS A COUPLE?

A Christian
Movement for
Married Couples

Contents & Dates for diary

Dates for your diary	1
Letter from Outgoing Southern Regional Couple	2
Letter from incoming Southern Regional Couple	3
Letter from New ERI zone couple	4
Teen STAR	6
60th Birthday Celebrations - Westminster	8
Diary reflection on Teams 60th birthday celebration	10
Congratulations letters from ERI leading & zonal couples	13
Teams banner & photos	16
Homily- Canon John Udris	19
<i>The Holy Couple</i> - New ERI study topic	22
Endeavours leaflets	22
Copyright for hymns	23
Prayers and reflections for December	24
Prayers and reflections for January	26
Prayers and reflections for February	28
Prayers and reflections for March	30
Contact details - Regional and Sector	32

Got something to share?

Please send all contributions for the April-June 2020 edition by 1st March to Mark & Dymrna Edwards:-

Teams Literature

Copies of all teams leaflets are available from the Teams GB publicity couple Alan & Gaynor Hakes.

Dates for your diary

23 November 10-4	"Breakthrough workshop", St Philip Howard Church & Hall, Fareham. More info www.smartloving.org/breakthrough . To book: mandfl@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
30 November	Formby Village Nativity - Outdoor performances at Formby Pool Gardens at 10.30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m. followed by refreshments at 15 Brows Lane, Formby L37 3HY
3 December -9 p.m.	8 Advent Evening of Reflection. London SW Sector. St Joseph's Church, New Malden KT3 3PB
7 December	Surrey South & Sussex Teams Birthday combined with Missions Fair. Contact Sector couple for details
8 December 10 a.m.	Teeside & Yorkshire birthday mass & shared lunch St Joseph's Church, Westgate, Wetherby LS22 6LL.
8 December 11 a.m.- 12 p.m.	French Teams birthday celebration Mass Church of Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place London WC2H 7BX
8th December 4 p.m.	North West Sector birthday Mass followed by shared table, St Joseph's Church Penketh, Warrington WA5 2BB.
8th December 5.30-6.30 p.m.	Wessex Sector birthday Mass followed by shared supper, St Mary's Church, 211 Wimborne Rd, Poole BH15 2EG
8 December	London SE sector Birthday Mass & party, Norbury London SW16. Contact Sector couple for details.
22 Feb 2020 10 a.m.- 3.30p.m.	North West Sector Retreat, St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Ave, Formby, L37 1PH. Bookings: 01704 875850

Save the Date

Regional Gatherings 2020

The sacrament of Marriage, Graces & Mission

26 September- Central Regional Gathering, - venue TBC

3 October- Southern Regional Gathering, St John's Catholic Seminary, Guildford GU5 0QX

10 October- Northern Regional Gathering, - venue TBC

Regional couple letter

Dear Friends in Teams

Four years ago we took over the role of Southern Regional Couple in the October Regional Gathering in Epsom. Having said yes to God's call to service we embarked on a journey filled with many blessings and we could never have imagined that our term of office would end in the magnificent setting of Westminster Cathedral at the Teams 60th Anniversary celebration last month.



It is was sad to say farewell to our fellow regional couples and in particular, our Super Regional Couple Piotr and Dzidzia who started their role on the same weekend as us and who have been a great source of encouragement.

We would like to thank everyone in the region for their love, support and prayers which was a great source of inspiration to us and a special thanks goes to our Sector Couples for their service to Teams and for responding to our requests. We would especially like to thank all our regional team Richard and Maggie Acres who continued to maintain the regional database for us, Lucy and Bob Barnes for distributing the Newsletters and David and Francis Ryan our Regional treasurers. Without the unstinting support from these people our role would have been much harder. May God bless you all for your service to Teams.

We can honestly say that when looking back over our term of office there have been many more highs than lows. You never know where your journey will take you if you answer God's calling. It is every team member's responsibility to serve the movement at some point in their married life so next time you are asked, consider saying yes.

Finally the region is truly blessed that Paul and Annette O'Beirne have now taken over the role of Southern Regional Couple and we wish them every blessing as they embark on this wonderful journey together.

God bless you and your families.

Bernard and Susan Kelly

Outgoing Southern Regional Couple

Regional Couple letter

Dear Friends in Teams

We are Paul and Annette O'Beirne from Fareham 2 in Solent Sector right in the south of the Southern Region of the UK. We joined Teams as a newly married couple almost 40 years ago. Our Team will celebrate its 40th anniversary next March and our 40th wedding anniversary is in August.



We have three children who are all married and living about an hour away in different directions, three grandchildren and a foster grandson. Our youngest daughter got married in September.

We have been involved in Teams in various roles in our Sector and supporting Regional events on the animating Team usually with booking, banking and badges. We are involved in Marriage preparation and Marriage enrichment locally as we believe that valuing Marriage and Family life is crucial for our society. Since retiring five years ago from secondary school teaching of languages Annette has completed study in Catechesis and Marriage and Family Life.

Paul retired just over a year ago from working for the Voluntary Sector running a charity. He is involved in Hampshire Scouts and is the Lead on the Diocesan Formation Team for Liturgy of the Word with Children. Last year we were lucky enough to attend the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August and to meet many Team members from Ireland. Then we attended the Catechetical Congress last September in Rome which was inspiring.

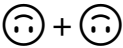
We are lucky to have had few changes in our Team and to have a wonderful Chaplain, Fr Michael Peters, throughout our whole time together. We thank Bernard and Susan for their solid leadership and inspiration as Southern Regional Couple and hope that we can continue to build on what they have achieved. We look forward to meeting many of you in the Southern Region in the weeks and months to come and to supporting your endeavours to spread Teams and to evangelise Marriage.

Paul and Annette O'Beirne

Incoming Southern Regional Couple

Letter New ERI Zone couple

A letter from the New ERI Zone Couple from down under:



As we begin our six-year journey on the International Leading Team (ERI), we are very much looking forward to our liaison role and meeting Teams members in our Zone.. We are particularly excited about the opportunity to renew treasured friendships in Transatlantic.



They say Australia is a long way from everywhere, and in many ways it is true.

Our home is almost exactly on the other side of the world from most of the Transatlantic Super-Region. However, in the 21st century, nobody is really all that far away.

Long distances also offer some advantages, because it is now easy for us to visit many locations on the way to meetings and events. As we write this letter, we are preparing to visit Ireland on our way to the next ERI meeting in Paris. Coming home, we hope to visit Teams in the Middle East.

Technology is also helping us to bridge long distances. Early this year, we were able to pilot a Team of young couples in New Zealand via Skype, and we learned a few tricks along the way. At each meeting, we positioned our laptop at the other end of our dining room table, so that we were able to see each other at the table as we each shared some wine and food!

In March this year, we travelled to New Zealand to help commission four new teams. We were welcomed by the local bishop who has just become a Spiritual Counsellor to the team we piloted. For the first time, we were finally able to meet our young team in person. What a joy! They were already like family to us, even though we had met entirely over Skype.

Teams is an organisation built on a foundation of personal encounters, and these are just as important today. So much can be learned from the joys and struggles in the everyday lives of couples, even if we may occasionally need modern technologies like Skype to lend a helping hand!

We would also like to share with you some sadness we have recently experienced. Our fellow Team member and mentor of forty years, Gerard, recently passed away after a number of years suffering from Alzheimer's

Kevin & Faye Noonan

disease. Gerard and his wife Margot invited us to join Teams just six months after our marriage. We were a newly married couple settling into a new city, 1200km from home.

With his wry smile, Gerard was always quick to challenge us, when a commonly held assumption needed to be put under the microscope. Then he would reach into his encyclopaedia-like knowledge and carefully explain how many things we had just taken for granted, had actually evolved over time. He was someone who would not accept the world at face value. Instead he looked carefully for the good in others, as he believed deeply in the power of lived experience. We will miss Gerard dearly, and we thank him for the way he influenced our lives.

Since we were asked to join Teams almost forty years ago, we have been asked to undertake many roles in the movement. We have never yet been sorry for saying “yes”, even though we must admit to some extreme trepidation at the beginning. Each time, we have learned so much from the people we have been privileged to meet and we are thankful for the support they have given us.

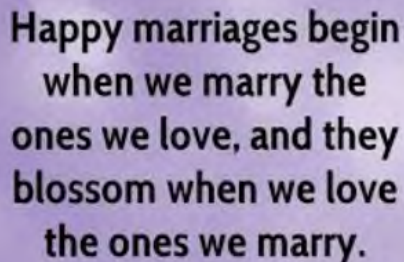
As we begin this new role, we are especially grateful to our predecessors on the ERI, Paul and Helena McCloskey. They have been extremely generous and patient with their time, while we have been slowly learning about the role. We hope to build on their good work.

As we begin the first of many visits to the Transatlantic Super-Region, we reflect on the diversity of countries and cultures. It will be a delight to meet you and hear about your own life’s experiences. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Blessings

Faye and Kevin Noonan

Eurasia Zone Responsible Couple



**Happy marriages begin
when we marry the
ones we love, and they
blossom when we love
the ones we marry.**

Our teenagers nowadays live in a world which is highly sexualised. Films often contain love-making scenes, advertisements display more than half-naked bodies in erotic poses, LGBT campaigns are all over the place, and homophobia is a word that even a child is able to understand

Our teenagers have to navigate in this world with what they are given through conversation with adults, through the media, in biology lessons, when chatting with their friends and via the internet and everything it contains, and so on. How can they find clarity in this confused world to help them build a happy start to their lives?

Teen STAR provides programmes which offer time and space for teenagers to stop and think, and to talk together with a trained Teen STAR tutor about love, relationships and sexuality.

It all started in the 80's through the wonderful intuition of Doctor Hanna Klaus (MD, FACOG). While she was meeting a lot of pregnant teenagers in the 80's and although the pill was already easily available on the market, she thought that if teenager girls were given a sound knowledge of the way their body worked, they would become more responsible for it and make different decisions for themselves.

From this fantastic intuition, a grass-root programme was developed by Sister Hanna Klaus and Mary-Lou Briand, a teacher, based on questions girls had themselves posed. Parents were so happy to see their daughters acting more responsibly and blossoming in a more mature way, that they then asked for a programme for boys to be created.

Years later Teen STAR programmes are now delivered in more than 30 countries around the world. Teen STAR programmes in the UK started in 2016 under the guidance of Teen STAR France (25 years' of experience, 2,000 teenagers attending each year).

Programmes are based on natural law and address all aspects of the personality of the person: spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and social. They lead teenagers to learn about their own body (fertility awareness e.g. charting of their cycle for girls) and that of the opposite sex, to think about who they truly are and what they want in life, to analyse advertising critically, to know how to manage their relationships, to reflect on what love really is, to improve the way they make decisions and to act accordingly ...



Teen STAR

Programmes are led by trained Teen STAR UK tutors using the Socratic Method. Boys' groups and girls' groups are led separately, respectively by male tutors and by female ones. Each programme is usually run as after-school clubs and consists of 16 to 20 workshops. Programmes encourage cooperation with parents, who are primary educators of their children.

Here are some testimonies from teenagers who attended a Teen STAR UK programme:

"I liked the fact that we had so many open discussions, which made discussing some more sensitive subjects a lot easier!" (Isabel, 14).

"The Teen STAR course has been amazing; it has shown me a lot of stuff that I wouldn't have learned at home or at school. And it has helped me to build up my personality" (James, 17).

"It really changes the way one thinks; I understand life much better" (Sara, 14).

"I think the course has helped my understanding of my body ... as now I know myself better and I can control myself more" (Tom, 18).

"Teen STAR has benefited me in clarifying a lot of things and it also talked about things that you don't talk about at school like in PSHE" (Anna, 14).

Teen STAR is developing in the UK. We had more than 10 programmes running in 2018/19, benefiting nearly 60 teenagers. We need to train more tutors in order to run more programmes. Everybody can be a Teen STAR tutor: parents, teachers, nurses, doctors, youth group leaders, educators ...

We are organising another Teen STAR Tutors Training Course in January 2020 (8th to 12th) in London (Centre for Catholic Formation, Tooting Bec, London). We welcome anybody who shares our philosophy and is willing to help young people to build their emotional lives successfully.

We are very lucky to have Christian Théry, our International Vice-President, who has more than 15 years of experience, coming to train our new tutors in January.

For more information, write to: info.teenstaruk@gmail.com

You can also visit: www.teenstar.org

Article submitted by Piotr & Dzidzia Chodzko-Zajko,

Superregional Couple

60th Birthday Celebrations Teams in GB



A wonderful celebration of 60 years of Teams in Great Britain took place on Saturday 16th November. Prepared by the couples with responsibility for the 3 GB Regions and Transatlantic Superregion it was an uplifting and joyful occasion. This newsletter will show some pictures and early reflections- more in the next newsletter.

The celebration started with mass in the great Westminster Cathedral concelebrated by Teams spiritual

counsellors and four bishops: Bishop Nicholas Hudson – Auxiliary bishop of Westminster; Bishop Paul Mason – the Ordinary of the Bishopric of the Forces; Bishop Peter Doyle – Bishop of Northampton and Chair of Bishops' Conference Committee for Marriage and Family Life in England and Wales; Bishop Richard Moth – Bishop of Arundel and Brighton.



Over 250 adults and children took part in the mass. Teams members from every sector and every era over the past 60 years were joined by Hubert and Brigitte Wattelet – the Belgian SR Couple; Jim and Elaine Keogh – the Irish Regional couple; Eric and Caroline Moulinet – Sector RC for the French teams in London. Teams of all ages celebrated including Jim and Maria Mason from Tyneside who have been in Teams for over 50 years along with newly formed teams.



Piotr & Dzia the superregional couple thanked Bernard and Susan Kelly for their service as responsible couple for the Southern Region and welcomed Paul and Annette O'Beirne as the new Southern Regional couple.

Two new teams were commissioned; Greenford 1 and Banbury 3 – both from the Central region of the GB Province and were

welcomed along with their children. It was lovely to see so many children enjoying the celebration along with teams members of all ages.

Canon John Udris gave a very interesting homily on the abiding love of God and gave much food for thought:- see pages 19-21



After mass we met in the chapter house for an afternoon tea reception. It was a time to catch up with friends and teams couples that we hadn't seen for a while. There were also displays of teams throughout the 60 years. We were welcomed by Piotr & Dzidzia Chodzko-Zajko, our superregional couple who thanked everyone who had made the day possible and read a letter of congratulations from Kevin and Faye Noonan, our Eurasia ERI couple and from Edgardo and Clarita Bernal the leading couple in the movement. See pages 16-18.

Priscilla Meigh, the daughter of Harry and Clothilde Meigh who first established Teams in GB shared a reflection on the early days of the movement in GB and presented a booklet created by her father about the start of teams in GB.



As with all Teams events it was lovely to spend time with Teams friends old and new, to appreciate and be thankful for the legacy that we have been given and to be inspired to live the vision today and in the future.

Mark & Dymrna Edwards
GB Newsletter editors.

Compiled with information kindly provided by Piotr & Dzidia Chodzko-Zajko,

My diary of Teams GB Celebration

Wednesday, 13-Nov-19: Okay, chill. Yes, I did say at the Teams GB Province Meeting on 25 October, where GB Regional Couples meet with the GB Treasurers and Super-Regional Couple, that I'd provide a rapid article for the December-February GB Newsletter about the Teams GB 60th Anniversary Celebration. They've stopped-press specifically for reporting on the Anniversary, which otherwise wouldn't happen till the first issue next year when the event might rather have faded in memory. No pressure, then. Canny chaps would write this kind of article speculatively in advance, touching up afterwards with a few real numbers, like how many priests attended, and a bit of colour and atmosphere. Must make a start.



Thursday, 14-Nov-19 20:00 pm: Dzidzia just phoned. Janet took the call and has agreed we're not staying over with them Friday evening, but driving down instead on Saturday morning to load banners, photo displays, and Order of Service booklets into their car. They'll then motor to Central London with Paul and Annette O'Beirne, who at Saturday's service will inherit the mantle—or rather, the apron—from Bernard and Susan Kelly of Regional Couple for the Southern Region, while we navigate to Westminster Cathedral via TfL. Dzidzia has kindly invited us for chili back at their house afterwards—sounds fun—but crucially, Friday Night Pizza Night at home has been salvaged. Win-win.

Friday, 15-Nov-19 18:15 pm: Pizza sauce has been made, salad dressing, apple slices for afters, and pizza dough is proving in the oven. A priority all day, I've finally climbed to the attic to retrieve all of tomorrow's must-not-forget items. Regional candle, tick; candle fuel, tick; Order of Service, tick. I've been muscling these literature boxes for 15 minutes to find those recent leaflets on the Role of the Responsible Couple for the new Greenford and Banbury Teams being commissioned at the Mass. (There's certainly no shortage of those Polish-language trifold publicity leaflets.) Before setting off, our Regional Candle could do with a "Central Region" label, but beyond that, I think that's everything I need here. If there's a chance in a minute, I'll launch into that article.



Saturday, 16-Nov-19 10:00 am: Sixteen months in planning, today at last is the day. It's not raining! Nor exactly is it sunny, but Janet driving has drawn my notice to the strikingly pretty orange-tinted clouds ahead on the M1 horizon. We already fielded an early query from Agnieszka and Patrick at Bedford about arrangements after Mass at the Cathedral. How great after so long that we'll see them! Now in these 30 minutes since hitting the road I've traded texts with Gaynor and Alan from our own Team making their way to board the Tube at Stanmore for the rest of the journey. Our excitement is

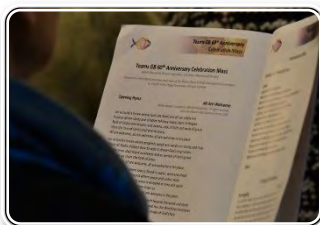


really building! I just realised the Regional Candle never got its label. Oops.

Saturday, 16-Nov-19 12:15 pm: Almost straightaway on arriving, Dzdizia asked if we'd brought copies of the Teams Charter for the new Teams being commissioned. Nope, I missed that in the Order of Service when itemising our must-not-forgets. They have a few copies that can make do. Piotr checked

the Tube status, which looks clear, and dropped us at the bus stop towards the District Line at Ealing Broadway. Aboard the bus, our route started looking increasingly familiar. "We've walked round that park on the left," remarked Janet, "once when we arrived early for a Teams Regional Meeting at Andrew and Marysia's house." "In fact," she continued, "we parked along that road down near their house and...hang on, a minute...that's Andrew and Marysia!" The queue at the next stop gave just enough time for Andrew and Marysia to catch up, hop on, and having weathered the surprise of initial recognition, we're now travelling the rest of our way together.

Saturday, 16-Nov-19 14:00 pm: Okay, chill. Who knew of the maintenance closures on both the eastbound District and Circle lines? Backtracking to the Piccadilly and Victoria lines, we arrived here half an hour ago. Janet has disappeared in this vast place to distribute Order of Service booklets, and I'm trying to steer our Readers to the foot of the sanctuary for a rehearsal starting imminently. Many are lingering at the entrance for snaps of the eye-catching patchwork cloth to be presented at the Offertory. It's fantastic chatting here now with the new Banbury Team, after we first met them back in July and urged them about this event. We've covered the protocol for the Team Commissioning after the homily and the question they should answer with "We do." "Like a wedding?" asks one of the Hume daughters. I hadn't thought about it that way, but yes, why not?



Saturday, 16-Nov-19 16:15 pm: God is good; our hopes are met. Bishop Peter Doyle, Chair of the CBCEW Committee for Marriage and Family Life, and our main celebrant, entering to the organist's stately accompaniment, was assisted by no fewer than 3 concelebrating Bishops and 10



Priests! Our congregation spilled halfway along the cavernous central nave, many drawn, we're guessing, by squares they contributed to the fabulous patchwork.

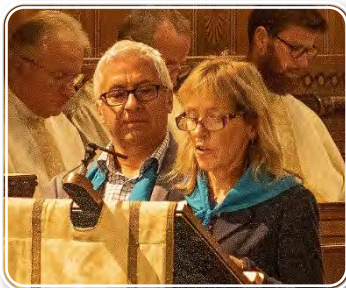
60th Birthday Celebrations Teams in GB



Inspirational as ever, Canon John Udris opened his homily quoting Father Caffarel about the essential aim of Teams in helping couples strive for holiness, and immediately tied this to the first words of our first reading from Colossians: “You are God’s chosen race, his saints.” Cueing from our gospel reading from John Chapter 15, he emphasised how holiness is achieved through relationships—especially marriage—that lead us to identify and abide outside our own selves, mirroring the abiding of the Trinity. He described a boyhood moment wedged on a sofa between his mother and father, physical warmth both left and right, suspended in the assuring radiation of their abiding in each other. With Mass now finished we’re thrilled mingling with couples we met through piloting in

Islington: Marie and Tsegaye, Melina and Mauricio, all their little children, and the new couple who’ve joined them, Christine and Gilles. And we’re equally pleased that our son Peter and his wife Clare could join us here with their little Tobias, whose name means “God is good”.

Saturday, 16-Nov-19 21:00 pm: Piotr and Dzidzia’s easy hospitality is a marvel; Piotr mixing a gin and tonic is a revelation; their son Ludwig’s cooking is an inspiration. This evening, in their company with Paul and Annette, today’s blessings have revisited and bathed us. To a packed and buzzing Cathedral Hall at the reception after Mass, Piotr and Dzidzia read congratulatory letters from Edgardo and Clarita Bernal, the International Leading Couple, and from Kevin and Faye Noonan, the new Liaison Couple for the Eurasia Zone, before introducing Priscilla Meigh,



daughter of Harry and Clotilde Meigh, who shared childhood reminiscences of Teams and its pioneering GB couple, and read extracts from her father’s pamphlet on the birth of the GB Movement. Amid reunions and introductions, business was addressed. With Father Rajiv Singh of Westminster Cathedral we settled a date to come and meet some couples in hopes of forming what we think would be the Cathedral’s first Team. We met Father Adam Tomaszewski who is energetically promoting Teams around Willesden Green and discussed a possible kick-off for planning next year’s Central Region Gathering. We absorbed the joy.

Saturday, 16-Nov-19 22:45 pm: Home at last, we’ve locked the front door. What a great day! Forget the nightcap, straight to bed; there’s an article to write tomorrow.

Paul DeBoo, Northampton St. Thomas Team

Letter from Eurasia Liaison couple

Faye and Kevin Noonan
International Leading Team (ERI)
Liaison Couple for the Eurasia Zone



12 November 2019

Dear friends in Teams

We are delighted to send our warmest greetings on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Teams in Great Britain. We are sorry we cannot be with you on this special day, as our home is on the other side of the world in Australia.

We already feel a great closeness to many of you. Since commencing our new role in July, we have become regular visitors to your part of the world. When there has been an ERI meeting in Europe, we have taken the opportunity to visit on the way. We have already spent time meeting Teams members during separate visits to Great Britain and Ireland. It is our hope that we will be able to get to know you even more closely in the coming years.

This is an important time to reflect on how much the world has changed since Teams began in Great Britain in 1959. This was the year when Pope John XXIII proclaimed the 2nd Vatican Council. It was also a time when the troubles of the Cold War were just beginning to gather pace; and a time when computers were reserved for only specialist engineers and science fiction movies. Little could we have known the profound changes still to come.

Against the background of a turbulent and changing world, Clotilde and Harry Meigh introduced Teams to Great Britain. Since then, Teams has continued to provide valuable support to married couples. Today, on this 60th anniversary, it is an important time to look back and give thanks for the hard work and dedication of all Teams members in Great Britain.

But, of course, the job is never complete! The next sixty years are likely to be even more turbulent, and we must lay foundations for the movement that are relevant to the times.

We can also take comfort that some things will not change. As Teams members, we will continue to draw strength and inspiration from our Faith and from the everyday lives of other married couples. In our own visit to Dublin last month, John and Elaine Cogavin reminded us that at its core, Teams continues to be about “one heart speaking to another”.

As we join with you in spirit from Australia, our hearts reach out across the ocean to embrace yours, in thanks and celebration.

We wish you God’s blessings, and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide you on the path ahead.

Faye and Kevin Noonan
Liaison Couple for the Eurasia Zone

60th Birthday Celebrations Teams in GB



EQUIPES NOTRE-DAME
TEAMS OF OUR LADY
EQUIPOS DE NUESTRA SEÑORA
EQUIPAS DE NOSSA SENHORA
EQUIPES DE NOSSA SENHORA
EHEGRUPPEN E.N.D.
أخويات عائلات مريم

Bogotá, 11 November 2019

Dear friends of the Transatlantic SR and specially the members of Teams of Our Lady in Great Britain:

Today is an important day for the movement of Teams of Our Lady in Great Britain which we and all teams around the world accompany. We are celebrating 60 years of a life project that started more than eighty years ago, through the docility to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of a priest and four couples. This life project found fertile land in other visionaries who, after overcoming some doubts and encouraged by Father **Henri Caffarel** himself, placed their trust in this same project: **Harry and Clotilde MEIGH**, who with six other couples, on November 26, 1959, held the first Cheltenham 1 team meeting.

Thanks Harry and Clotilde, for not being afraid and for daring to go out and embark on this adventure.

As international leaders of the movement, from the bottom of our hearts, we want to express, our regret for not being physically present to celebrate with you, as we would have liked. We'll do it in spirit, prayer and deep communion with each and every one of the 428 couples, 42 widowers, 65 Spiritual Counsellors and 12 Spiritual Advisors in Great Britain, with whom we share this same path of faith.

The road has not been easy and at times there has been fatigue and doubts. Today, the movement of the Teams of Our Lady has a great challenge in Great Britain: the imperative need of not losing its youth. We are not only referring to the chronological age of many aging teams and servers who, in the natural rhythm of life, need to give the post to new generations, but also to the spirit of the movement, which must not lose its freshness and capacity to reinvent itself every day, faithful to its essence, but attentive to giving a concrete response to the new realities that today's world presents to us.

The celebration of these 60 years of the movement in Great Britain should remind us of the past on which today's reality has been built, analyze the present with its achievements and difficulties and from this, project the future with optimism and decision.

Today the movement encourages us not to remain in the safety of our shores but to paddle forward, assuming the important role that the Church and the world demand from us due to our charisma. We cannot respond to this challenge in an insufficient way.

At the last meeting of the International Responsible Team in Paris, during the evaluation of our mission as International Responsible Team, we read this excerpt from the introductory text of CNBB,

SECRÉTARIAT INTERNATIONAL

49, rue de la Glacière (7^e étage) - F 75013 PARIS Tél. : + 33 1 43 31 96 21 - Fax : + 33 1 45 35 47 12
Site Internet : www.equipes-notre-dame.com e-mail: end-international@wanadoo.fr

Letter from leading couple



EQUIPES NOTRE-DAME
TEAMS OF OUR LADY
EQUIPOS DE NUESTRA SEÑORA
EQUIPAS DE NOSSA SENHORA
EQUIPES DE NOSSA SENHORA
EHEGRUPPEN E.N.D.
أخويات عائلات مريم

the Brazilian national bishops' conference, on the planning of its evangelizing work for the next four years. We found it truly inspiring for the present reality of our Movement:

"Communities that do not generate missionaries are sad expressions of the sterility of those who have lost their way in evangelical life. Missionaries who are not based on community life run the risk of becoming lonely walkers, without existential references for their actions."

Dear friends, these two premises clearly express the perspective of the path proposed in the orientations of Fatima 2018, having as reference the document Vocation and Mission, which we have presented to the the movement and that today, in the framework of this celebration, we would like to reiterate.

Each one of you, each one of the almost one thousand team members of Great Britain, is a missionary, a bearer of a treasure and of a wealth that the world needs to know. For this, you can count on the commitment of the animation structures of the Movement, of the International Leading Team, of your Super Region, so that, while we work to strengthen our spiritual life, we may become the salt of the earth wherever our field of action is.

Today in a special way, we ask Our Lady, a model of service and docility, always attentive to our needs, her blessing and intercession for the movement of Teams in Great Britain to keep alive the legacy of those who preceded us.

We wish a long and fruitful life to the movement.

Your brothers in Christ,



Clarita & Edgardo BERNAL | Couple Responsable International
| ERI - Equipe Responsable International
| email: cr.international@equipes-notre-dame.com
| site: equipes-notre-dame.com



SECRÉTARIAT INTERNATIONAL

49, rue de la Glacière (7^e étage) - F 75013 PARIS Tél. : + 33 1 43 31 96 21 - Fax. : + 33 1 45 35 47 12
Site Internet : www.equipes-notre-dame.com e-mail: eri-international@wanadoo.fr

60th Birthday Celebrations Teams in GB



Each square in the banner represents a team in Great Britain.

The banner was put together by Sue Rowney and Pat Banks from the Northern Region. The banner, representing the Teams in Great Britain was presented by Pat and Tony Banks as part of the offertory procession.



Wirral Team at Westminster

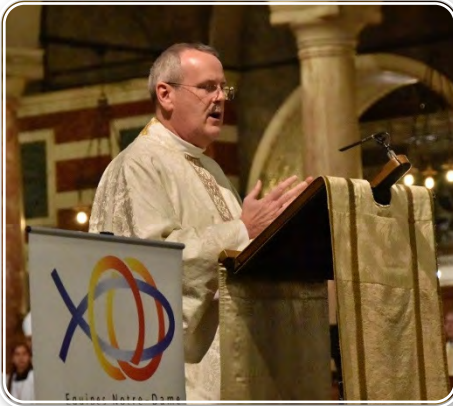


More photos available on the following link <https://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicwestminster/sets/72157711806548831/> Why not send us your favourite photo for inclusion on next newsletter?- to teams@mdedwards.co.uk

[illegible]

Teams GB 60 Birthday Celebrations- Photos





Dear Friends in Teams,

When Fr Caffarel sought to pin down the purpose of the movement he founded he said this: *"Equipes Notre-Dame has as its essential aim, to help couples, to strive after holiness – no more, no less."*

Those words contain a simple conviction which with as married couples and as members of Teams, I hope, we can wholeheartedly agree, because it's something we have all experienced unmistakably. It's the fundamental blessing of belonging to Teams. It's the remarkable difference it has made to our lives. It's the

reason we have come to give thanks here in this Cathedral this afternoon.

Which is why the first word we heard from the Scriptures just now is so fitting: *'you are his saints.'* Literally, *'you are his holy ones.'* You know the first time we hear the call to be holy in the Bible in the Book of Leviticus, it's from the lips of God himself, *'Be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.'* And in that one sentence there are three significant, mind-blowing, potentially life-changing things about holiness. First and foremost, it's about being like God. *'Be holy for I am holy.'* So growing in holiness is growing in God-likeness, growing in God-li-ness. And so when we pray at the beginning of our meetings that marriage will be *'a way to holiness'* we mean that this is the way we hope to mirror increasingly the face of God; our marriage is the way we hope to reflect more and more clearly to each other, to our children, to those in whose lives we share the features of the Father's face. But secondly, and this isn't so obvious when we hear 'be holy'. That invitation is actually in the plural: *'be ye holy'*. God is addressing not an individual but a people. Holiness isn't ever a private affair. It happens in relationship, in community. And family is the fundamental community. Marriage is the sacred place where husband and wife help to make each other holy. We go to God together. God comes closest to us in that togetherness. And thirdly, and again on the face of it it's not obvious, holiness is not an idea but an identity. *'Be holy for I the Lord your God am holy'* in the original language literally reads *'be ye holy ones for the Lord your God I am the Holy One.'*

So holy is who our God is, and therefore who we are.

Dear friends, I feel sure for you as for me Teams of Our Lady is not only where we have learned this but where we have experienced this. I know I go to my Teams meeting each month because there I encounter holy people who inspire me, who encourage me in my vocation, who help me see the wood for the trees. And that wood, that big picture is holiness. Teams is where I get in touch again with my identity and my destiny, my vocation and my mission. It's where I recover my balance, it's where I return to my centre of gravity.

And that's just what that beautiful gospel is all about. And there is one wonderful word Jesus uses no less than 11 times in the space of those 12 verses that captures this. It's the word 'abide'. Sadly in our translation it's a bit obscured because different words are

60th Birthday Celebrations Teams in GB

used to translate the same single word the Lord actually uses. 'Remain' is another way it's often translated. But I shall refrain from using that word, in case I get accused of making a pre-election pitch! So let's stick with 'abide' and listen to how it comes up again and again in that gospel:

'**Abide** in me and I in you.' 'Whoever **abides** in me and I in them bears fruit in plenty.' 'If you **abide** in me and my words **abide** in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be given to you. **Abide** in my love. If you keep my commandments you shall **abide** in me just as I have kept my Father's commandments and **abide** in his love. I have commissioned you go out and bear fruit, fruit that will **abide**.'



I hope you can hear how rich a reality is being referred to here. It has a dynamic quality about it doesn't it? It's about inhabiting something more and more profoundly. It's about a deeper and deeper relationship. Abiding is about finding our centre of gravity, about being grounded in it, about moving out from it, and returning back to it - as to a source of energy and nourishment and life. Doesn't this speak to the distinctive character of the dignity to which you have been called in marriage? Isn't it exactly is meant by what our Movement calls 'conjugal spirituality' and which is its purpose to promote?

But what makes that word 'Abide' really take wings for me is to realise that it describes the very being of God. Abiding we might say is the divine DNA.

To use the language of St John's gospel, the Father abides in the Son, the Son abides in the Father. Their love means that each makes the other their centre of gravity. And the rich and beautiful fruit of that mutual abiding is the Holy Spirit. Who then reaches out to us to invite us into that abiding. And that's what we experience in such a privileged way in the grace of Holy Matrimony.

All this of course has huge implications. Abiding with one person for better for worse, for richer for poorer, till death do us part, means experiencing in such a vital and visible way the abiding, unchanging, enduring nature of the love of God. And this stability, this rootedness, is such a fundamental blessing in our fast-moving fashion-driven culture. It's where we learn first hand and pass on to our children some of the most important of life's lessons, like trust and trustworthiness. Like reliance, responsibility and resilience. I know this has been so true in my own case having been blessed with parents whose abiding with each other has been such a crucial reference point, has given me the brightest and best clue as to who God is and what his love is like.

My dear Dad died just last week at the ripe old age of 99. Over the past few days I've found myself feeling so grateful for the simple fact that his love, along with my Mum's, was something permanent, something I could always guarantee to be there. I found myself reminiscing about a time I was sitting on the settee with Mum on my left and Dad on my right feeling their mutual warmth. And rejoicing in the grace of that, the holy place of that. Registering in my body that somehow I, as their child, was privileged to abide in the in-between of their mutual abiding. That they have given me the most accurate feel for the guaranteed, never-to be-doubted, ever-to-be-counted-on nature of the love of God

himself. Actually, as I think of it the other day I found myself sitting on the very same settee sandwiched between my two brothers. Again sensing our brotherhood built on the strong and stable foundations of our parent's lifelong abiding. You can't put a price on that!

That abiding is so beautifully captured in the Lord's image of the Vine - the vitality of whose fruit is due to and dependent on the vigour and depth of its roots. And the tending of that vine is what Teams is all about. The daily dressing of that vine is what the Endeavours are all about. Like praying together. Fr Caffarel names it so well when he says, *'Everything withers when prayer is missing, everything is reborn, ripens, when prayer is present.'*

But for me the Sit-Down is the Endeavour I would single out as one of the secrets of this mutual abiding we call marriage and which our membership of Teams helps to keep constantly before our eyes. It makes me think of something our newest saint, canonised just over a month ago once said:

Perhaps the reason why the standard of holiness among us is so low is that we dare not trust each other with the secret of our hearts. We have each the same secret, and we keep it to ourselves, and we fear as a cause of estrangement that which really would be a bond of union.' Teams of Our Lady is an antidote to this. Teams teaches us, especially in the monthly Sit-Down, to entrust each other with the secret of our hearts. And perhaps of all the Endeavours there is none so key in helping each other to sanctity. And why do I say that? Because that Sit-Down is where we experience the Holy Spirit. To borrow Newman's phrase, He is the *'bond of union'* between you. Just as He is the bond in the mutual abiding of the Father and Son, He is the bond we experience in the mutual abiding of husband and wife. Union is his business. Holiness is his business. Which is why we call him Holy Spirit, 'the sanctifying Spirit.' And why invoke him at the beginning of every Teams meeting, why we should be sure to invoke Him at the beginning of every Sit-Down, indeed at the beginning of each new day.

I wonder how many Sit-Downs have happened in our country in the past 60 years! I wonder how many graces have been poured out during those conversations. How many marriages have been enriched, strengthened, re-focussed, centred, perhaps even saved. How many marriages have become a reference point for others as a result. Which is to say how many marriages have become more missionary as a fruit of those conversations. I wonder just how many graces have been bestowed on the Church in this land and indeed on society at large, by means of Teams. This Mass is a Magnificat (with Mary) for all that. Dear friends, today we acknowledge the vision, the drive and determination, of the likes of Harry & Clotilde Meigh and the first Teams in Cheltenham, Gloucester, North Shields & North London. We are the beneficiaries of their blessed legacy. We stand on their shoulders. We thank the Lord this day for all the ways their work has borne fruit sometimes in very visible ways, often in ways we may never know until till we meet in heaven. But for those of us here today to mark this milestone in our Movement, I invite us most of all to be mindful of past blessings, grateful for present ones, and hopeful for future ones - blessings, that by means of Teams, will help us grow in holiness. Amen!

Canon John Udris

Northampton Team

16 November 2019

New Study topic/ Endeavours

THE HOLY COUPLE:

JOY OF THE CHURCH. WITNESS TO THE WORLD.

DO NOT BE AFRAID, LET'S GO...



Saints Zola and Louis Martin

2019 – 2020 STUDY TOPIC



A new study topic developed by the ERI leading Team for use by Teams across the world. A new study topic developed by the ERI leading Team for use by Teams across the world.

Please note that although the Study Topic form the centre is highly recommended it is up to each Team to chose a suitable study topic for their situation and they can just as readily chose from the large archive of previous topics, or decide on their own.

The study topic is available on the Transatlantic Teams website

www.teams-transatlantic.org

Need to refresh Endeavours in your team?

Lets be honest, which teams don't need to refresh endeavours from time to time? Well no fear, the series of 7 leaflets about the endeavours have just been reprinted.

Why not get a set for your team and work through each one in turn at your team meetings in 2020?



Copies are available from the Teams GB publicity couple Alan & Gaynor Hakes. Contact gaynor.hakes@btinternetcom or phone 01604 409 578.

Organising a Teams event?- what to do about copyright

We often have very fulfilling and enjoyable gathering which includes a service with hymns. At our recent meeting with regional couples we talked about how to ensure that we did this in the right way. Many hymns, including most modern ones, are covered by copyright and the Equipes Notre-Dame GB is registered to use them, but we need to report our use, so we are doing a short note for couples organising an event. Copyright covers the copying and distribution of words and music, so if you are doing an Order of Service you need to include your authority for using them. Many hymns are out of copyright and in the public domain, but others are covered by the two managing agencies CCLI and One License (sic, formerly Calamus). If you are using hymns covered by CCLI, you should quote licence number 516407, and One License A-631187, in the Order of Service. If you are not sure what the copyright status of your chosen hymns is, the GB Treasurers can clarify that (treasurers@teams-transatlantic.org).

There is, of course, no copyright on singing hymns. We know many hymns without a copy of the words and this is not covered by copyright. If you use the hymn books of the location that you are using, that is already covered for copyright purposes. However, any copying and distribution of words or music is subject to copyright: this applies whether it is done as a hymn sheet or an Order of Service. If you are doing either, we need to report use to the appropriate agency, so can you e-mail a copy of your Order of Service or hymn sheet to us, please?

We should remind you that if you charge for admission to an event where hymns are sung, the copyright position is different, but we can't think of any circumstance when you would.

Chris and Dominique Manser, GB treasurers

Readings & Prayers for December

Matthew 11:2-11

John was in prison when he heard what Christ was doing. So John sent some of his followers to ask Jesus, "Are you the one we should be looking for? Or must we wait for someone else?"

Jesus answered, "Go and tell John what you have heard and seen. The blind are now able to see, and the lame can walk. People with leprosy are being healed, and the deaf can hear. The dead are raised to life, and the poor are hearing the good news. God will bless everyone who doesn't reject me because of what I do."

As John's followers were going away, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: What sort of person did you go out into the desert to see? Was he like tall grass blown about by the wind? What kind of man did you go out to see? Was he someone dressed in fine clothes? People who dress like that live in the king's palace. What did you really go out to see? Was he a prophet? He certainly was. I tell you that he was more than a prophet. In the Scriptures God says about him, "I am sending my messenger ahead of you to get things ready for you." I tell you that no one ever born on this earth is greater than John the Baptist. But whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John.

Psalm 145: 6-10

Come, Lord and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
Who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is He who gives bread to the hungry,
The Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age

Concluding Prayer

Lord, in amongst all the preparations for Christmas may we open our hearts and spirit to welcome you and show the signs of your love in our world through our words and deeds. Amen.

Reflection for December

Advent is a time of expectation in many senses of the word. Children have expectations and parents have other things to plan for! At the time of Jesus there was the expectation that a Messiah would come to rescue Israel from Roman domination and inaugurate a time of prosperity hinted at in the first reading from Isaiah that is paired with this Gospel reading. The writer of Matthew's gospel had to show that John the Baptist had to give way to Jesus and that this was the fulfilment of what had been promised in the Old Testament.

Jesus acknowledged the greatness of John the Baptist as a prophetic figure but challenged his followers to reflect on what type of prophet they were expecting. Was John one who would court popularity? Probably not because he was already in prison because of his stand on Herod's marriage. Was he an establishment figure? His clothing challenged this perception which was linked in simplicity to that of Elijah the Prophet.

In such passages as this Matthew is foreshadowing the fact that Jesus would also be in the mould of John: challenging both the Roman and Jewish establishments as exemplified in Herod's later reaction to news of Jesus' birth; being born into what was regarded at the time a small and insignificant tribe with its capital in Bethlehem.

When we reflect on these readings we need to also reflect on how we are anticipating the Christmas season and the birth of Jesus Christ. How are we going to be prophetic as consumers? - in making choices in favour of Fairly traded goods and goods that are sustainably package? John advocated selflessness in human conduct and the faith in Jesus is a faith that can result in family harmony and a sense of wellbeing that can transcend the stress that often goes with the Christmas Season. Advent is a time of looking forward and preparing. Will we be prepared when the time comes?

Fr Bill Muir

Our Marriage Mission

TO HAVE A CHRIST-CENTERED
MARRIAGE THAT BRINGS GLORY
TO GOD THROUGH THE WAY
THAT WE LOVE AND THE WAY
THAT WE LIVE.

THAT WE WOULD BE SERVANTS
OF GRACE WHO GIVE MORE
THAN WE'RE GIVEN
AND FORGIVE BEFORE
WE'RE FORGIVEN.

Readings & Prayers for January

Mark 2:13-17

Jesus went out to the shore of the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Psalms 21

O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king

O Lord, your strength gives joy to the king;
How your saving help makes him glad!
You have granted him his heart's desire;
you have not refused the prayer of his lips.

You came to meet him with the blessings of success,
you have set on his head a crown of pure gold.
He asked you for life and this you have given,
days that will last from age to age.

Your saving help has given him glory.
You have laid upon him majesty and splendour,
you have granted your blessings to him forever.
You have made him rejoice with the joy of your presence.

Concluding prayer

Lord, may we be open to others who are different from us, welcome you in the stranger, serve you in the needy and never lose sight of our own need for your salvation. Amen

Reflection for January

One of the greatest privileges I have experienced is to visit the Holy Land and to walk in Jesus' footsteps, especially where He preached the Gospel of joy on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Above the sea of Galilee, of course, is the town of Cana, and it's particularly poignant for married couples to renew their marriage vows in the church there, although it can be painful for those recently widowed or separated, etc.

In the scene painted by Mark in our reading, Jesus is calling his disciples and sees Levi (is he the same as Matthew?) sitting there at the tax (or toll) collector's booth. Nobody likes paying tax, even if we know it's a necessity in the support of the common good. Of course, when Maggie Thatcher tried to introduce Poll Tax as an alternative to Council Tax, the country went up in arms!

In Galilee at that time, the tax collectors were particularly despised because they were collecting taxes on behalf of an occupying foreign power, the Romans.

Levi having responded to Jesus' call to follow Him, then invites Jesus to dinner. Perhaps it was a little like a Teams evening – some prayer, teaching, sharing of food and where we are as a couple and fellowship. Levi clearly invites his tax collector friends to meet Jesus – a wonderful response to being called is to evangelise. Perhaps a little like Mary's response to the Angel's invitation (and her 'fiat') was to hurry to help Elizabeth.

It seems that tax collectors are lumped together with 'sinners', at least in the judgemental eyes of the Pharisees. Some of the 'sinners' may indeed have been living notoriously immoral lives but their characterisation as 'sinners' was probably more 'social' rather than 'moral'. Irrespective of this, Jesus' willingness to sit down at dinner with them is remarkable. For Jesus nobody is irredeemable and he reaches out to each and every one of us in our sinfulness and imperfections.

Jesus' response to the Scribes judgementalism, to say 'it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.' Thank God! None of us is perfect and we all so need Jesus' healing power, his merciful love!

I think it was James Mallon who suggested that our churches should be open to all – not just good committed Christians. If we feel we can safely leave our handbag or briefcase on the pew when we go to Communion, perhaps we should look at the make up of our community and reach out to needy and less perfect and ask them to join our Eucharistic meal – even if it means risking our handbag being stolen!

Pope Francis suggested our confessionals should be more like 'field hospitals' than 'torture chambers'. That would apply to our church communities as well. Rather than wagging our finger at sinners, we should be reaching out in love and in Christ's healing power.

And so we thank God for his call to each and every one of us. We ask the Lord to help us respond appropriately – with generosity and hospitality.

Fr Chris Dobson

Readings & Prayers for February

Reflection: Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Psalm

They are happy who follow God's law!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts.

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes.

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may see
the wonders of your law.

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart.

Concluding Prayer

Dear Lord, teach us to how to practice the "be-attitudes" in how we live our lives so that your light, not ours shines for all to see. Amen.

Reflection for February

The Gospel passage follows Jesus' Sermon on the Mount when he gives the Beatitudes which are a radical challenge on how to live as Christians, imitating Jesus. It is what makes us different. The Christian's values and way of life has to be different from the world's values and ways. Blessed are the pure in heart, the gentle, the peace-makers, the merciful etc are not characteristic of secular life.

Jesus, in the wider context of the Sermon on the Mount, says that we are to pray, fast and do good works secretly, our left hand should not know what our right hand is doing.

So when Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world and that our light must be seen by others, that it is not to be kept a secret, it is quite a statement and it is a challenge. The light comes to us when we have embraced the challenge of living the Beatitudes. If we do not live the Beatitudes we are not Christians. That light which we are to share is created for a purpose. We have been given that light and we are given responsibility for that light; It is to be seen by people, it is not to be hidden away. The Christ light is here in each of us to shine and glorify God. Let it shine! St John Henry Newman wrote:

The Mission of My Life

"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about."

Abbot Martin McLaughlin O.S.B

Gloucester 1

Let's
{RECAPTURE}
the "US"
in the midst of our
"RUSH."

Readings & Prayers for March

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' Jesus answered, 'It is written: *'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' Jesus answered him, "It is also written: *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'*

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'* Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O Wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

A pure heart create for me, O God
Put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
O Lord open my lips
and my mouth shall announce your praise.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, none of us like to be tested, yet face many trials in our lives. Give us the courage to face difficulties and help us to remain steadfast to what is true. Amen.

Reflection for March

Our lives parallel that of Jesus as he goes into the wilderness and we begin our Lenten effort. He goes out to reflect on setting out on his public ministry. We work to prepare ourselves to properly celebrate the Paschal Triduum - the institution of the Holy Eucharist, Jesus death and most importantly his resurrection.

It often doesn't feel like that. We may give up something we really enjoy as a nod towards sack cloth and ashes penitence, although in my own case taking less food and wine usually has a beneficial effect on my waist line and health, so who are we giving these things up for anyway? We may redouble our efforts to do something more of what we know we ought to have done all along. We may also gather up the money we would have spent on what we have given up and give it as alms to the poor as part of our 'love in action'

But we may still be missing the point. Back to Jesus. He went into the wilderness to help him see his purpose properly, gain the courage to do it and show by the tests that he would not be swayed. We therefore should consider Lent as a preparation for our public ministry. We will be spiritually fed by our restraint or generosity in actions or money.

Not so at Easter we can say 'Phew, that was tough!' and relax with our glass of something, a super dinner and much chocolate but like Jesus, we are ready to launch ourselves onto our missionary journey, spurred on by the Resurrection and the gift of the Spirit. Lent is not meant to weaken us but give us chance to get our breath back, gain strength and courage and be inspired for the work in hand that follows.

Fr Nick Johnson

In every marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find and continue to find grounds for marriage.

Last notes...

The Magnificat (Lk 1: 46-56)

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 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 forever.

Our Lady of the Home, pray for us.

Save the Date

Regional Gatherings 2020

The sacrament of Marriage, Graces & Mission

26 September- Central Regional Gathering, -
venue TBC

3 October- Southern Regional Gathering,
St John's Catholic Seminary,
Guildford GU5 0QX

10 October- Northern Regional Gathering,
- venue TBC



Equipes Notre Dame, Teams, is an
international Christian movement for
married couples of all ages.
Charity Reg No: 1044902