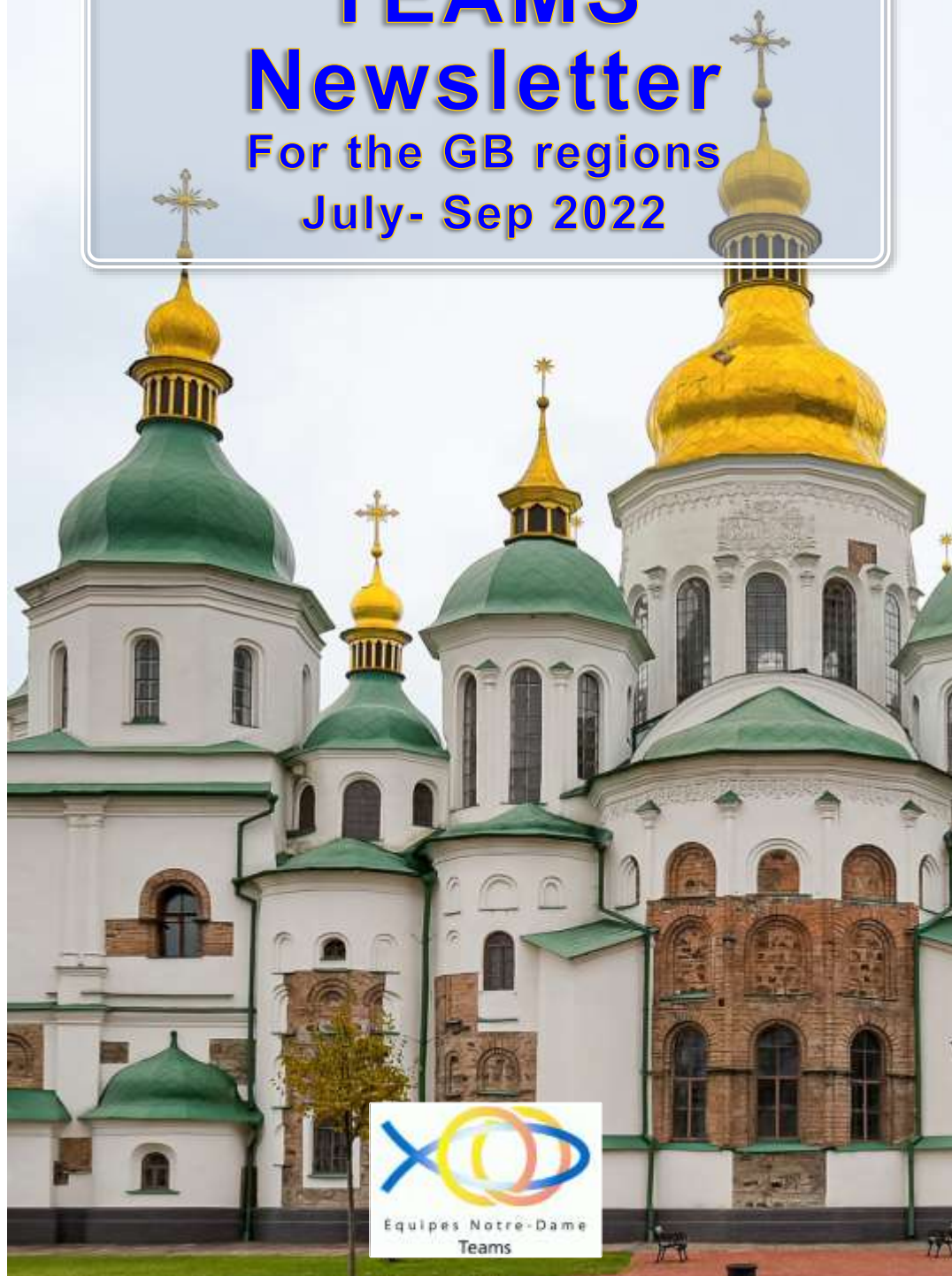


TEAMS

Newsletter

For the GB regions
July- Sep 2022



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I asked an elderly gentleman I know, "Even after 60 years of marriage, you still call your wife 'Darling', 'Sweetheart', 'Love'. "What is the secret?"

The old man replied "I forgot her name after 10 years and I'm scared to ask her!"

Save the Date 21-23 April 2023 Teams Re-gathering, Swanwick

Tell us about your team

Send us a profile of your team, any news photos or reflections for the October to December 2022 edition to us by **27th August**

Need more Newsletters?

For extra copies of this newsletter, contact Dymphna & Mark

Changed address?

Contact your regional couple for any change of postal address or any ongoing change in the number of newsletters you need.

Front cover:

Saint Sofia's Cathedral, Kiev

Photo on this page - from South Sefton Ukraine Welcome Centre

Regional Couple Letter

Dear friends in Teams,

A while ago, Paul started watching a new Italian TV series on one of the streaming channels. The main object was to try and develop his listening skills in Italian. One of the opening scenes of the series was about a group of friends arranging to meet for a brunch on a Sunday morning when the main protagonist was going to make a “big announcement”. The scene was set by the friends arriving on a beautiful sunny day in Rome, gathering to prepare food, swap news and then sit down around a table on a rooftop terrace with views of the Coliseum in the distance.



A simple scene, but it reminded us of what we have been missing. After 2 years of restrictions we are able to venture out into the world again to meet up with family and friends and also have face to face meetings with the rest of our Team with a shared meal. A Zoom Teams meeting is possible, but it misses out on so much of the intimacy of a face to face meeting.

We enjoy the time when we gather before the meeting proper starts, preparing the table for our meal- What food has been shared? What wine? We discuss inconsequential items such as ‘Is that a new haircut?’ ‘How was the golf yesterday?’ and share pictures and stories of our children and grandchildren: All small yet important things which contribute to our shared lives and give colour to the meeting to come when we share about our lives in more depth; our ‘Highs and

Lows’. We enjoy the laughter and joy that comes from seeing couples who tease each other in ways that only a happy and loving couple can do.

Knowing that we had missed all of this for 2 years was highlighted by one scene in a TV series.



We have now had our first face to face Teams meetings and sat around a table with our Team. It wasn't as picturesque as a roof top patio in Rome, yet to be with friends to share our lives, our 'high and lows', to offer prayers together and to share food together is beautiful.

We are now out and about in the world and have travelled to see friends and families and enjoyed sharing food and our lives with them. Yet we are still aware what a privilege this is, how fragile the world is. Many people died during the pandemic and their absence around family tables is missed by all who knew them. Many people are still dying in wars and conflicts around the world. As we have seen recently in Ukraine, entire communities can be wiped out overnight. We give thanks to God for the privilege He has given us to share with others in Teams over a simple meal with friends and learn more about the gifts we receive from Him.



Sue and Paul Rowney
Regional Couple, Northern Britain

Letter from Editors

We have all been touched by the unfolding crisis in Ukraine over the past few months. There was the initial disbelief of the Ukraine people, that a sister country would invade them. For those of us observing from the outside it would appear that the lessons of previous wars have been forgotten and the path of progress has been turned back decades if not centuries. It almost seemed that we were back at the beginning of World War 1 or 2 in Europe.



As the war unfolded we witnessed on our screens the human stories of heartache, endurance and flight. With this came an outpouring of generosity and empathy. People in neighbouring countries opened their hearts and homes to families fleeing from the conflict and in this country many collected supplies to send to the countries bordering Ukraine. There has been a recognition of our common humanity which binds us together with our differences seeming less important.

Having seen the news footage like many others we didn't hesitate to sign up to the Homes for Ukraine scheme once it opened. We have spare rooms in our home and although we anticipated some hassle

and disruption, we thought that this might also do us some good in our middle age! What followed was several weeks of anticipation and frustration while seemingly nothing happened in finding a match. Then we had a phone call from a friend of a friend who was hosting a mother and child. They knew of two families of 5 who were currently sheltering in a church in Austria. Within a couple of hours of WhatsApp messages and call we agreed to take one family and found a host sponsor locally for the second family.

As we set about a major tidy up and declutter of bedrooms and living areas we reflected on how little of the stuff we surround ourselves with is really necessary. We discovered a very supportive and informative local group of people who were already hosting or hoping to host and this helped us to learn about what we needed to do. Several weeks of uncertainty followed as we waited for and weren't sure when our guests would arrive.

After much messaging, prayer and following a three day car journey from Austria, with overnight stops, trips to A&E and other dramas, they thankfully made it here, exhausted, on 12th May, about a month after we first were in contact.

As we write we are experiencing the joy of getting to know our guest family. We were surprised how quickly we have built a rapport and our guests have settled in. It is a privilege to journey with them and witness the resilience of the human spirit. As native Russian speakers they are appalled by the events taking place in their home country and keep in contact with friends and relatives. Through the worries and uncertainty they find ways to live their lives and find joy in everyday life. Love and humour find ways through cultural and language barriers and our home has been enriched by love, laughter and is definitely more lively.



We have been humbled by the outpouring of goodwill that they and many others have received. Not everyone is in a position to host a family but many have donated items to be sent to Ukraine, offered our guests friendship, support, toys and bicycles for the children. This crisis more than other recent tragedies seems to have touched the hearts of many in Europe and beyond and reminded us that we are all children of God. We pray that this is not a one-off and that our hearts do not harden to those who face other struggles and have had less media attention. We also pray for the people of Russia who are suffering the economic consequences of the war through no fault of their own.

We included a picture of St Sofia's cathedral in Kiev as a sign of solidarity and pray for a just and peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Mark and Dympna Edwards
Formby Team & Newsletter Editors

New Teams Study Topic 2022-23

Our new Study Topic, "**Serving in the imitation of Mary**" prepared by the ERI (International Responsible Team) will soon be available for Teams. The theme this year focuses on the human gifts of Mary and invites us to consider how these might help to guide us.



We share a summary below:

Meeting 1: They have no more wine

- ⇒ To become aware of what the "lack of wine" means in the different realities that surround us.
- ⇒ To know Mary's method for learning and discerning the different realities where "the wine is lacking".
- ⇒ To experience and live the virtue of solidarity, which the mother of Jesus demonstrated at the Wedding at Cana.

Meeting 2: They no longer have a home

- ⇒ To become aware of the "absence of wine" for many individuals and families who do not have decent housing.
- ⇒ To discover the creativity of Mary and Joseph in the face of adversity, finding themselves homeless for the birth of their son Jesus.
- ⇒ To experience and live out the virtue of humility that the mother of Jesus demonstrated in this context.

Meeting 3: They no longer have a country

- ⇒ To become aware of the "absence of wine" of those who have been forced to abandon their country.
- ⇒ To understand that in God's plan there is no room for indifference because we are all brothers and sisters.
- ⇒ To experience and live the virtue of Mary's resilience.

Meeting 4: They no longer have education

- ⇒ To become aware of the "absence of wine" of those who do not have access to quality education.
- ⇒ To reflect on the importance of an integral education that includes both technical knowledge and human and Christian values.
- ⇒ To understand the value of ongoing formation as an essential part of spiritual growth - individual and as a couple.
- ⇒ To contemplate and experience the example of Mary as mother and educator.

Meeting 5: They no longer have their health

- ⇒ To become aware of the "absence of wine" in people who suffer from some illness and disease.
- ⇒ To recognize that there are people who live without the minimum sanitary conditions.
- ⇒ To experience the availability of Mary who goes to meet her cousin Elizabeth to be with her.

Meeting 6: They no longer have dialogue

- ⇒ To become aware of the "absence of the wine" of dialogue between individuals, couples, families, in society, in our Church, between nations.
- ⇒ To understand that radicalism and polarization do not build dialogue and fraternity.
- ⇒ To experience and live the virtues of listening and dialogue, and the human sensitivity of Mary.

Meeting 7: They no longer have company

- ⇒ To become aware of the "absence of wine" of those who feel lonely.
- ⇒ To realize that there is a difference between loneliness and solitude.
- ⇒ To experience the virtue of Mary's serenity before the Cross.

Meeting 8: They no longer have respect for Creation

- ⇒ To become aware of the "absence of wine" in everyone's responsibility to care for our Common Home.
- ⇒ To experience a spirituality that guides us on the path of caring for and cultivating the earth.
- ⇒ To experience and live the virtue of Mary's perseverance as defender of life.

Review Meeting: The new wine

- ⇒ To evaluate what miracles of "new wine" have happened in your team throughout this year.
- ⇒ To realize what, during the year, we have not been able to listen to and do in the face of all that Jesus has said to us.
- ⇒ To understand, inspired by Mary's trust and hope in the Holy Spirit, that everything can be transformed, starting with each one of us.

The study topic will be available on the Transatlantic website
www.Teams-transatlantic.org

Profile of the Edinburgh Team

TEAM PROFILE

Who are your team members?

4 couples married between 4 and 38 years with 9 children between us and a chaplain, Fr Jeremy Milne, also Vicar Episcopal for Marriage and Family Life in the diocese.

When & how did your team start?

Our Team began as a Pilot in early 2019 after an Information Evening late 2018 at a local parish arranged by Andrew & Rosemary Milligan and with the support of Pat & Tony Banks and later Paul & Sue Rowney.

How has it changed over the years?

We have lost a couple and, because of Covid, have rarely been able to share hospitality.

Tell us two things you have learned.

How difficult it is to coordinate diaries and how offering one service inevitably leads for some to more offers e.g. Teams to Marriage Prep, to the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Commission.

Teams offers an experience of unity in diversity – we get a snapshot of how marriage is across our diocese at different stages of life.

How would you describe your Team in three words? Still early days.

Describe any highlights or funny moments in your team

Not funny during Covid, but instead receiving loving support from new friends when at a low ebb.

What does your team do well? Listens and offers support.

What is the best thing about marriage? Trust

SPIRITUAL COUNSELLOR: Fr Jeremy Page

When did you join Teams? April 2019

How would you describe your Team in three words? Caring, attentive, resilient.

Describe a highlight in your team- There's food and drink every time! (Except when we're on Zoom due to covid – booo!).

How has Teams enriched your life?

I get to spend time with these lovely people! Teams also helps to keep me grounded. It gives me insights into the reality of what the 'joys and struggles' of marriage and family life means while giving me the opportunity to share my own joys and struggles in a supportive environment.



What one piece of advice would you give to a potential Teams spiritual counsellor?

Look on it not as a demand on your time but as an opportunity to spend time well, sharing faith with others.

What one piece of advice would you give to a couple about to get married?

Reach out to God together in prayer for the blessings that he desires for your marriage.

What are your hopes for the future?

That other couples in Scotland may find in Teams help and encouragement to live their marriage well.

COUPLE PROFILE: Andrew and Rosemary Milligan

How did you meet?

We met at University, when we both served on the Freshers committee but it was five years before we started 'going out'

What one word would you use to describe your spouse?

He is Tiggerish; She is Empathetic

What do you love most about your spouse?

His enthusiasm; Her high moral integrity

What do you disagree on?

She wishes he would pay more attention to detail; He wishes she weren't quite so untidy.

When did you join Teams?

35 years or so ago when we were fairly newly married and were invited to an information evening. We have spent nearly twenty years 'unattached' before piloting Edinburgh.

How would you describe your Team in three words? Together despite obstacles.

Describe a highlight in your team Our first garden meeting after months and months via Zoom

How has Teams enriched your life?

It reminds us to do the things we should be doing anyway as Christian spouses

What one piece of advice would you give to a couple about to get married?

Love is a Decision.

What are your hopes for the future?

To grow in love as we 'walk hand in hand to Heaven' – as the priest officiating at our wedding told us to.

Why not send us a profile of your team for the next newsletter?

Tandem Teams In Ireland & beyond

Tandem Teams is a project for young couples, married, engaged or in a stable relationship, with two teams meeting in Ireland and beyond by zoom.

The structure of a Tandem meeting is similar to that of Teams: there is a pooling on our past month, the discussion on a different monthly topic and a moment of Bible reflection and prayer. The difference is that the program has a set number of meetings only (usually runs over 18 months, and then it's finished) and the topic is not on a shared book but on different everyday life issues, ranging from the management of our time, our relationship with God and religion, to the allocation of chores in the couple, the in-laws, tenderness, communication, conflict resolution and many more - an ideal way to start off your married life on the right foot. These themes do spark some nice discussion... and not only among the youngest couples!

The Tandem program is a great opportunity to have some profound sharing on a diversity of topics in a safe and respectful context, with couples who find themselves at roughly the same stage in life. Tandem is a Christian program open to people of every faith or none.

So, if you know of any young couple who may be interested in this program, do not hesitate to put them in touch with us, at our email address:

tandemireland@gmail.com or check us out at our website **www.tandemteams.ie**. You can also share the news with your parish!

Rosemarie & Brendan Gavin

Regional Couple Ireland

"Tandem has been an amazing experience, helping us to growth as a couple and reinforce our belief in God" - Iliana and Mario, Belfast



"Our marriage has been so enriched through our participation in the monthly tandem meeting. The topics are so relevant to our everyday lives and it's been inspiring getting to know other couples at various stages of their marriage vocation."
- Aoife and Thomas, Dublin

More information and testimonies to come in the Transatlantic Newsletter

Malawi rebuilds after floods

"We are pleased to inform you that we have managed to distribute the aid in form of materials, April and May and we are now through.

We reached those who were affected by cyclone, the aged, Orphans, those with inabilities (visual, hearing, deaf and motor impairment + the bed ridden).

Malaza Teams are very appreciative as well as the vulnerable members. May God continue blessing the hands that took part in donating."

Teams couples in Britain and Ireland donated £2400. Teams in Malawi used the funds to provide food aid to those most in need and building materials to the 13 families whose homes were most badly affected. Thank you for your generosity.



TOGETHER IN TUGH TIMES - Beneficiaries and members of the group during the donation

Catholic body engages in humanitarian drive

By MICHAEL KAMUKA

THE CATHOLIC Church in Malawi is leading a humanitarian drive to help the most vulnerable people in the country who have been affected by the floods.

The drive, which is being led by the Malawi Catholic Bishops' Conference (MCB), is aimed at providing relief to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods.

The MCB has received support from various international organizations, including the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The drive is expected to last for several months, as the floods have caused significant damage to infrastructure and agriculture in Malawi.

The MCB is also providing psychological support to those who have been affected by the floods, as many people are experiencing trauma and loss.

The drive is a testament to the solidarity and compassion of the Catholic Church in Malawi, as it seeks to help those who are most in need.

More information and pictures to come in the next Transatlantic Newsletter

New Zoom Teams Ireland

The Irish movement has promoted a new initiative - Introduction to Teams by ZOOM - with the aim of reaching out to Christian married couples who live in areas of the country where it is currently difficult to join a face-to-face team.

Seven couples spread out across Ireland feel blessed by the gift of Teams and the spiritual guidance of Deacon Barry. The international vibe is a special blessing, as members come from Croatia, Italy, South Africa, Slovak Republic and Ireland, of course. *“We met couples from all over the country and despite being a virtual meeting, a really strong bond developed between us, until we could have the opportunity to meet in person.”*



This initiative seems to have turned one of the main challenges of Covid times – meeting in ZOOM – into a new way of evangelization. *“We first joined Teams during covid lockdown, when zoom meetings were the only option. We found the fellowship with other couples an incredible support, especially at a stage in our lives where we were both physically and emotionally isolated from other Christian couples.”*

Couples had the opportunity to live the powerful gift of the endeavours. *“The Endeavours, particularly the scripture reading and couple prayer, are helpful to us in our marriage, binding us as one through His word. The rule of life provides a true challenge to make a genuine effort for self-improvement and self-reflection.”*

We feel blessed. *“Teams have played an important part in our marriage and on our spiritual journey as a couple and as individuals. It is our anchor which helps us to stay focused and to go deeper in our mutual relationship as a couple and in our personal relationship with God.”* *“Teams of our Lady has become the backbone of our marriage, knowing the support is always there, the joy of meeting the other couples and sharing the ups and downs, is a true blessing for us from the Lord.”*

In a society in continuous evolution, we can find a safe Christian community even in the virtual space. *“In teams we met couples with similar values like ours and we made great friendships and we are very grateful for them.”* *“We recommend Teams of Lady to all newly married couples, especially in our modern world with declining Christian marriage values.”*

“We felt a mix of excitement and nervousness when the regional couple offered us the opportunity to pilot the team. How to recreate a Teams’ experience in ZOOM? Well... our companions made it possible through their deep spirituality and Christian openness.”

We continue our virtual journey, aiming to help each other to create face-to-face teams in our areas as we grow stronger in faith. *“The deep sharing in ZOOM created a strong union and a tangible desire to meet in person. Our face-to-face meeting in April was an enriching spiritual fulfilment”*

We thank the movement for embracing us and pray the Holy Spirit to send us new couples, wherever they live.

Team by ZOOM- submitted by **Brendan & Rosemarie Gavin**

Listening reflection

‘Tradition is not a museum, true religion is not a freezer and doctrine is not static but grows and develops, like a tree that remains the same - but grows and bears more fruit’ (Let us Dream.p.57).

The Spirit shows us new things through what the Church calls the ‘signs of the times’. We are clearly going through a process of significant change: in society, on our planet, in science and evolution. And we, as Church, are all part of the process of significant change. ‘The whole of creation is groaning in one great act of giving birth’ (Romans 8.22).

The Spirit will guide us and waken us up to one another’s dignity in the ‘here and now’, giving us the grace to move forward together. I am learning more and more that the only way we can do that is through listening. Pope Francis tells us that listening is much more than hearing. He said, ‘listening means paying attention, having the desire to understand, to give value, to respect, to treasure the word of others. It is necessary to stand beside them and listen: Don’t say: ‘I have the solution for you’. Give them strength by your listening, that medicine which sadly is being forgotten - the therapy of listening’. Francis has given us all enough home work with these words for the months ahead.



We are at a stage where we are just learning to listen to one another and it’s a big learning curve for us all and not easy in the society we find ourselves. We tend to have a ready answer for the other on the tip of our tongue. But once we grasp the true meaning of listening we will be able to listen to the Spirit within us and within others. Then more and more we can embark on a discernment of the times in which we are living.'

Fr Tom O'Neill
Holy Name of Mary, Middlesbrough

Trip to the Holy Land

In March 2022 Paul and I set off with our Parish priest and 22 others from our parish for our postponed trip to the Holy Land. It had been a case of -was it on or not! Israel had high Covid cases in January in spite of high vaccination rates and it looked unlikely. However, it was only a few weeks before our departure date that the decision was taken to go ahead if people felt comfortable. We decided to take a chance as we had had our 3rd vaccination- what did we have to lose? We had to get PCR tests before leaving to show we were Covid negative, and on arrival also, after which we picked up our coach and headed down to the desert to our first stop in a kibbutz near Beersheba. Food was waiting in each of our rooms and we would be free once our negative results came in!! Easy! Next morning by 8.30- our planned departure time- only half of the group had their results! As we sat in the sun, Annette suggested we pray – as we started praying the rosary our phones started to ping with results – miraculous! and so it was for the 10 days!



We spent 2 days in the southern desert area like Abraham We visited mountain fortresses, valleys and rivers and a waterfall. We had a sense of walking through the Bible. We prayed at each point and had amazing Masses in incredible spots-eg in the fortress of En Advat and at Ein Gedi. We eventually reached the Dead Sea having been to Masada where the Dead Sea scrolls were found. The sea is disappearing but still so salty that you float!

We moved on to Jerusalem, which was colder and wetter than usual, but this did not dampen our

enthusiasm. There we visited the holy places, the Holy Sepulchre, we walked the Via Dolorosa carrying a cross, at St Peter in Gallicantu, site of Caiaphas' house, we walked on the very steps Christ trod on his way to be condemned, walked down the Mount of Olives to the Dominus Flevit church where Christ wept, down to Gethsemane in the Kidron valley. Special moments - Mass at Calvary in the Holy Sepulchre early one morning and in a cave in the Shepherds fields in Bethlehem.

Highlights were our visits to Bethlehem and Nazareth. In Bethlehem there was no queue



in the church which those of you who have been to the Holy Land will know is unbelievable! We prayed at the spot where Jesus was born for half an hour uninterrupted and at the end of that time a family came in and their baby cried right at that spot!!! In Nazareth we were the only people in the Basilica, and we were there for the Angelus with the Franciscans at the cave where Mary's parents lived! Such precious moments.



We spent our last 3 nights in a hotel on the shore of the Sea of Galilee which was an incredible place. Every room looked onto the sea, and we were woken each morning by the sound of the fisherman putting out their nets! We visited Magdala which is an amazing place with a wonderful chapel with an altar shaped like a boat and mosaics and we went to Capernaum and ate Peters fish at the convent on the Mount of Beatitudes.



As a group of pilgrims we worked together to support each other with walking, going up hills, praying and we were so privileged with the peace and calm we experienced everywhere we went. Our coach driver even bought us each a set of rosary beads which were blessed in Nazareth. Our guide was knowledgeable and led us well.

An incredible experience was being baptised in the River Jordan, admittedly by having water poured over our heads as it was too cold to be immersed completely.

We finished our trip by visiting Caesarea Maritima on our way to the airport.

It was an amazing spirit filled experience!

Annette O' Beirne
Fareham 2 team



Could you help scanning and archiving Teams newsletters?
Contact Tom Hoban: 0191 3867033 email tomhoban67@gmail.com

Remembering Fr E Michael Peters

Fr Michael Peters 1936 - 2022

Ordained June 1968

While Fareham 2 celebrate the life of our chaplain of over forty years, we are also grieving his loss. Bishop Philip of Portsmouth used 'diligent and dedicated' to describe Fr. Michael. He was both, but so much more!



He promoted Teams at every opportunity and held family and the domestic church as a vital priority. He kept in touch with families long after his transfers as parish priest across the diocese and influenced many young people in their faith journey. For over forty years he persevered in his commitment to visit schools, hospitals, the housebound and nursing homes.

Fr. Michael worked for the Inland Revenue and performed Military Service with the Royal Air Force based in Germany before finding his vocation. He trained at the English College in Valladolid. After ordination, Bishop Worlock asked him to do a youth training course. He reluctantly accepted! In later years this proved to be invaluable as over half of his ministry was with children and young people.

For many years, although it took time and energy to organise, he promoted Don Bosco camps as a summer break. After thirty three years as school chaplain at St. Mary's Independent School in Southampton he was due to retire to a bungalow near the convent where he regularly celebrated Mass for the community.

It was very fitting that it was Fr. Ben, a priest of Bamenda, who gave the homily at the funeral Mass in a packed cathedral. Fr. Michael's time in Bamenda was cut short by illness, but within the year and a half that he was there he formed a vocation group from which three became priests. He continued to serve Bamenda through the Portsmouth Bamenda Link.

As Fr. Ben said, 'Thanks for your simplicity of heart, soft spoken nature, compassion and care for others, generosity and gentleness. Yes, you fought the fight. You have won the race. May the Good Lord grant you the eternal peace and happiness you brought to his people as priest.' (and as a Good Shepherd to our Team).

**Pat Gilhooley
Fareham 2 Team**



Fr. Michael second from right. On retreat with the Team at Douai Abbey.

And Deacon Langford Vincent

**Tributes to Fr Eugene Michael Peters (RIP 17 March 2022)
and Deacon Langford Vincent (RIP 9 August 2019)**

Langford and Margaret joined Teams of Our Lady in 1979 and in the 1980s went to India, Langford's country of birth, and met people in Bombay and Delhi who were interested in the Teams movement. On returning to England, they set up correspondence with interested people in several towns in India. It was a long slow process as it was all done by letters going to and fro as there were no phones or computers in those days! The British newsletter was sent out to them, and several Teams were formed. Margaret and Langford attended the International meeting in Lourdes in 1988 and some of these Indian couples and a priest also attended and so the Indian Region was formed. These couples were encouraged to form their own newsletter and to vote for their own Regional and Sector couples and the organisation was handed over to them to be independent. Langford and Margaret visited the Teams in India in the year 2000 and they were well received in Kerala where many Teams had been formed by then. Langford had been ordained a Deacon by then.



Fr Michael Peters was the parish priest who had encouraged and supported Langford in his training for the diaconate. After Langford was ordained in 1984, he and Langford worked well together in the Sacred Heart Fareham Parish. Fr Peters said the Thanksgiving Mass for Langford in the Sacred Heart church in Fareham on Wednesday 28th August 2019, and he gave the homily at Langford's Requiem Mass in Portsmouth cathedral the following day. He was a great family friend and Margaret gave him Langford's TOL stole which had been presented to Langford at the TOL International conference in Lourdes in 2006, when Langford was given the task of "Deacon of the Altar" at all the Masses.

**Margaret Vincent
former Fareham 1 Team**

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. He then became an itinerant preacher. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three when the public turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. He was laid in a borrowed grave. Nearly 2000 years later all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that have ever sat and all the kings that have ever reigned have not affected the live of people on this earth as much as him.

July Team Meeting

Reading Luke 10:38-42

Martha works; Mary listens

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 14(15):2-5

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

They who walk without fault;
they who act with justice
and speak the truth from his heart;
they who does not slander with his tongue.

They who do no wrong to their brothers and sister,
who cast no slur on their neighbour,
who hold the godless in disdain,
but honour those who fear the Lord.

They who keep their pledge, come what may;
who take no interest on a loan
and accept no bribes against the innocent.
Such a person will stand firm for ever.

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, in this time of busyness and electronic communication give us a heart to listen and be truly present for one another, to take notice and support one another day to day, throughout our lives. Amen



July Reflection

In this month's Gospel we meet two sisters who seem to be very different – Martha thinks hospitality is the most important thing to do while Mary thinks listening to the words of Jesus is important. Many of us identify with one or other of the two sisters and say we are a 'Martha' or a 'Mary' as though each were competing against the other. It seems to me it is more likely that we are called to be both, not one or the other. One is not better than the other but we need both sides of ourselves depending on the situation we find ourselves in. In couples this may also be the case – where each ones' gifts, talents and personalities complement each other.

In the passage Martha is doing what she thinks is right – she welcomes Jesus into her home. Mary, on the other hand, was doing what she thought was right – she was listening to Jesus and what He had to say was important to her. Martha was obviously caught up with her hospitality duties and felt Mary should be helping her. She even appealed to Jesus to see if He was bothered that Mary didn't seem to be helping. She got an answer she was not expecting from Jesus because it can seem that He was reprimanding her by saying that Mary has chosen the better part. Indeed, over the years, it has been interpreted by some to mean that it is better to be Mary than Martha.

Jesus is giving us clear messages which may include:

Getting our priorities right – yes it is important to be hospitable but not at the expense of actually spending time with and listening to your guests.

Thinking about what worries us – are the things really important or have we made them important?

What are our priorities in life? Are they what they should be?

What is our number one priority in life? WHO is our number one priority?

If we can answer these questions truthfully then, hopefully, we will be able to discern when we should be 'Martha' and when 'Mary'. Whatever we do for Jesus or for others should be done in love, no matter what it is or how small or important it may be. It is not always WHAT we do but HOW we do things. Ecclesiastes 3: 1 says 'there is a time for everything' – all we need to do is to ensure we are doing the right thing at the right time. Now that can't be too hard, can it?

Sr Margaret Mattison

Warrington 1 team

August Team Meeting

August Reading Ecclesiasticus 3:19-21,30-31

Behave humbly, and you will find favour with the Lord

My child, be gentle in carrying out your business,
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.

The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly,
and then you will find favour with the Lord;
for great though the power of the Lord is,
he accepts the homage of the humble.

There is no cure for the proud person's malady,
since an evil growth has taken root in them.
The heart of a sensible person will reflect on
parables,
an attentive ear is the sage's dream.



Psalm 67(68):4-7,10-11

In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,
they shall exult and dance for joy.

O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence.

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,
such is God in his holy place.

God gives the lonely a home to live in;
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom:

You poured down, O God, a generous rain:
when your people were starved you gave them new life.

It was there that your people found a home,
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.

In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, we praise and thank you that your way is not the way of our world. You take us as we are and transform our lives with your love. May our pride not hinder us from wanting and accepting your grace. Amen.

September Team Meeting

Wisdom 9:13-18

Who can divine the will of God?

What man indeed can know the intentions of God?
Who can divine the will of the Lord?
The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable;
for a perishable body presses down the soul,
and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,
laborious to know what lies within our reach;
who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from above?
Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened
and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

Psalm 89(90):3-6,12-14,17

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

You turn people back to dust
and say: 'Go back, children of mankind.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.

You sweep men away like a dream,
like the grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades.

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Concluding Prayer. Lord help us to trust not in ourselves and our own strengths but in you. Grant us the wisdom to see as you do and to be guided by you in our lives. Amen.

**Wisdom is the
Knowledge of God
and a life lived
for God**

Tripp Prince

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: 21-23 April 2021.
Teams Re-Gathering @ Swanwick, Derbyshire***

