

# Isole of Wight Catholic History Society

(Established 2001 - Patron: Rt. Rev. Monsignor Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton)

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## November 2017

Greetings once again to all CHS members and supporters. This Autumn edition of our newsletter records the many events that we have organised or supported. The newsletter is somewhat shorter than previous editions because you will find that we have more news, reports and photographs on our web site which you can access at any time. The web site has received many positive comments and is updated each weekend. You can also follow our society on Facebook which is updated on a daily basis.



Pilgrims en route to Quarr Abbey from Ryde for the annual pilgrimage on the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham. Pictured here outside Holy Cross Church, Binstead.

### Quarr Abbey Bindery

The monks undertake the repair and restoration of old books especially bibles, missals and prayer books. Enquiries should be addressed to Fr. Nicholas OSB, Quarr Abbey, Ryde, IoW, PO33 4ES. Tel. 01983 882420

## Reports on past events

### Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August - Priory Mass

The Annual Mass at St. Dominic's Priory, Carisbrooke took place as usual on the Feast of St. Dominic. Frs. Joe and Emmanuel concelebrated and then led a procession to the cemetery, where the nuns' graves were blessed and the Litany of the Dead and De Profundis were recited. (See picture – above of blessing of graves)



### Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> August – Fatima Relics



Veneration of the relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco were at the cathedral for this weekend. Bishop Egan offered Solemn Mass and implored for the intercession of the two Fatima saints. Afterwards, the congregation went forward to venerate the relics. Read about the Fatima Relics on the Reports page on our web site.

### Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> September – Confraternity of the Rosary Pilgrimage

The annual visit to Quarr and St. Mary's by the Confraternity of the Rosary took place once again. It is always a joy to welcome this group for their pilgrimage and to admire their devotion and dedication to Our Lady and the Holy Rosary.

Fr. Ken Rimini offered Mass for them in St. Mary's. He spoke about role of Mary as a model of perfection and as an intercessor with her Son, Jesus.

I was pleased to speak about the history of St. Mary's and its dedication to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

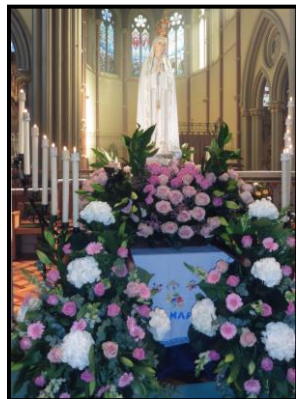
His Holiness Pope Paul VI (1963-78) declared:

*"I say: Pray the Rosary and do not grow weary in your efforts. Our ardent desire is that Mary should be invoked as our Mother by the practice of the Holy Rosary, especially in the month of October. This is a form of prayer very pleasing to God's Mother and efficacious for us in obtaining for us eternal joy in heaven"*



## Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September – “Day with Mary”

“A Day with Mary” was once again held at the cathedral. There was added significance this year, being the centenary of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima. The day included Holy Mass, offered by Bishop Egan, Exposition, Devotions, Procession in honour of Our Lady, crowning of the statue and Benediction. It was most encouraging to see the long queues of people waiting for Confession. Once again, you can read about these “Days with Mary” on our web site



## Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September – Annual Walk to Quarr Abbey

The annual walk from Ryde to Quarr Abbey is regarded as our main event of the year. It commemorates the Sunday Summer walks in Victorian times, when Catholics would walk from Ryde, led by their parish priest, to pray for the return of monastic life to Quarr. Twenty six walkers took part, walking first to the Holy Cross Church at Binstead, and then on to the Medieval Cistercian ruins for a history talk, poems read by Ed Matyjaszek and prayers led by Fr. Jonathan Redvers Harris. (See picture – below).



Arriving just after the Office of None, Fr. Xavier (abbot) welcomed our group once again and spoke to us about the abbey and on this particular occasion, the work of evangelization, as promoted in Bishop Egan’s recent pastoral letter.

The day concluded with Vespers and Benediction.

## Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> October. – Fatima film

After October Devotions in St. Mary’s, a DVD on the history of Fatima was shown in the church hall in Ryde after the October Devotions. It outlined the history of Fatima and the significance of Our Lady’s message to the three children.

If any individual or group wishes to borrow this DVD, our society will be pleased to lend it.





## Fri. 13<sup>th</sup> October. Annual Rosary Procession

This co-incided with Rosary Procession in Fatima for conclusion of the centenary. This date marked the final apparition of Our Lady to the Fatima children. The procession this year was at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church in Cowes, at the invitation of Fr. Jonathan Redvers Harris. This year we were joined by Fr. Joe from South Wight and Rev. Corinne Smith (Anglican Deacon). The procession went up Sun Hill and back down Terminus Road before re-entering the church and concluding with Benediction. (See picture –above).



## Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Outing to Bonchurch.

Despite all day drizzling rain we had an interesting visit to the two churches at Bonchurch, dedicated to the 8<sup>th</sup> century Apostle of Germany. Legend tells us that he stopped briefly at the coastal village en route to Germany and endeared himself to the local people with his preaching and by teaching them fishing techniques. We visited both the Medieval and the Victorian churches and received a very informative talk by David Brown, on behalf of Rev. Hugh Wright (Vicar), who was previously in Ryde, at St. John's Church.

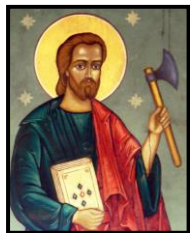
It was obviously the little Medieval church that (Catholic for over 400 years) we affiliated with more.

Thanks also to Yvonne Rowles (see picture right) for the account of St. Boniface's life and missionary work. St. Boniface died a martyr on 5th June, 754.

This date is now his feast day. He was buried at the famous monastery he had started at Fulda, Germany. Still today large numbers of people do not know the



true God. We can pray for them. If God inspires us to become missionaries, we can ask St. Boniface to help us follow the call.



Thanks also to Ed Matyjaszek for his appropriate and thought provoking (after lunch) poems at Bonchurch Inn.

At the Victorian church it was good to hear about the ups and downs of modern day Anglican church life; in many ways, similar to our own, with falling numbers and a declining amount of volunteers to cover all aspects of parish life, and wonderful stories the few dedicated people who keep the church going and lovingly care for it. Read more about St. Boniface's life on our web site – People page.

## Divine Mercy Services

Nowadays the icon, depicting Christ's abundant mercy flowing from His Sacred Heart adorns most Catholic churches.

Pope Francis encourages us to attend Divine Mercy Services; which will include Exposition, Confessions, Rosary, Benediction and concluded with veneration of the image.

There is now a monthly Divine Mercy Service at different churches on the Island. The next Services are on the Feast of Christ the King (Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November) at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, Cowes; and on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at St. Wilfrid's, Ventnor. Both Services start at 2-30pm.



## Abbey News

The Island is very fortunate to have the two well known (Solesmes) Benedictine abbeys of Quarr and St. Cecilia's.

We include below the Service times at Quarr Abbey

Vigils	05:30	Lauds	07:00 (07.15 Sunday)
Masses:	09:00	Sunday & Holydays	10.00
Sext & Angelus			13.00
None		(Sundays)	16.15
Vespers		Compline	20:00
Eucharist Adoration:	Thursdays		19.30
Confessions:	Saturdays		10.00am to 11.00am.

The Autumn is a good time for an individual retreat at Quarr. Most of the tourists have gone and there is



relative peace and tranquillity which is conducive to a retreat and which encourages one both to speak and to listen to Almighty God. Food and drink is available in the tea room.

One is encouraged to join the monastic community for Mass and the other Services. Private prayer, meditation and devotion can be undertaken in the abbey church and / or the crypt chapel and Confession and spiritual guidance is available by prior appointment.

## Internships

Quarr Abbey is inviting applications from men between the age of eighteen and twenty-five for a limited number of monastic internships. These will offer the successful candidates the possibility of living in the monastery for eight weeks, following a way of life similar to that of the monks. During this time, they will learn about the Benedictine tradition and have the opportunity to deepen their prayer and reflection on the Bible. They will be expected to contribute by their work to the welfare of the monastery and in return will receive board, lodging, teaching and guidance. The hope is that, with God's help, they will establish a lasting spiritual foundation for their lives.

Programmes will be arranged according to the dates that suit successful candidates. Early application is advised for the summer months, as this is when the greatest demand is. Those interested in applying are asked to write to Father Luke Bell at [interns@quarr.org](mailto:interns@quarr.org)

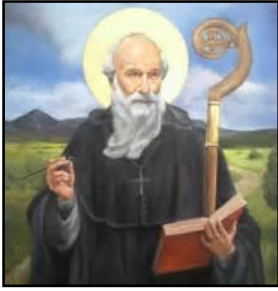
## Quarr Abbey Organ restoration

The restoration of the Quarr Abbey pipe organ was finished in August with a variety of celebrations including a service of blessing by Abbot Xavier; an organ recital by Hamish Dustagheer, maestro di capella, at St. John's Co-Cathedral in Malta, a concert by Loic Georgeault and Florence Rousseau, husband and wife organists at Rennes Cathedral, and a talk on the history and the features of the (Mutin-Cavaillé-Coll) French organ by local organ builder, Andrew Cooper. Abbot Xavier remarked:-

*“This restoration is good both for the abbey and the Island. Worshipers and visitors can now hear and enjoy this beautifully restored instrument”.*



## Feast of St. Benedict



On this feast (11<sup>th</sup> July) there was Solemn Mass as usual at our two Benedictine abbeys. At Quarr Abbey, Fr. Xavier spoke about the significance of the Rule of St. Benedict. This was written by him at around the age of 50, so he had great experience, by that time, of living as a he community. The Rule was the fruit of his experience, with the aim of a monk developing a strong and deep personal relationship with Almighty God.

On this feast, a relic of St. Benedict was displayed in the sanctuary.

Fr. Xavier reminded the congregation that relics signify the presence of the spirit of that particular saint. By venerating relics, we manage to get in touch with the saint's spirit and his actions.

Today, many young people may find difficulty in going to church for Sunday Mass, but they engage more with pilgrimages. There is a welcome increase in the number and the style of different pilgrimages, where people can share their thoughts, feelings, problems and their relationship with God and fellow human being, whilst they journey together to a holy place. Fr. Xavier mentioned the two important Benedictine sites of Subiaco and Monte Cassino, to which, many pilgrims travel. It is here, as in other Benedictine communities, that one can find peace, order, beauty and silence, which is at the heart of all monastic life.

## St. Cecilia's Abbey – Two Jubilee celebrations

Solemn Mass was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> August in thanksgiving for the diamond jubilee of Sister Catherine's profession as a Benedictine nun. Two months later, Sister Gertrude celebrated her Silver Jubilee on 7 October. At both celebrations there was festive recreation after lunch with community, family and friends.

## Sister Mary David OSB.

Sister Mary David OSB died recently on the Feast of St. Augustine (28<sup>th</sup> August), having served 30 years as a Benedictine nun, and having been fortified by the Rites of Holy Mother Church. Sister was the former Novice Mistress and Prioress of St. Cecilia's Abbey.

At her Funeral Mass Dom Abbot Xavier was the principal concelebrant. Also concelebrating were Dom Cuthbert Brogan (Farnborough Abbey), Dom Finbar Kiely (retired Abbot of Douai) together with Fr. Glaysher and four monks from Quarr Abbey. In his homily Abbot Brogan referred to



the gospel of the Mass, whereby we are encouraged to take up our Cross. He acknowledges that crucifixes can be much in evidence in churches, Catholic homes and schools etc, but actually taking up our Cross and following Christ is rather more challenging. Abbot Brogan asked the congregation to:- *“pray for Sr. Mary David that she will reap the harvest which results from her embracing the Cross and consequently, attain eternal life in heaven with Almighty God”*.

Requiescat in pace.

## **FLOWER & ART SUCCESS at COWES**

Fr. Jonathan Redvers Harris thanks to all who contributed to the Flower & Art Festival at St Thomas’s in July, which opened dramatically with the band of Ryde Sea Cadets (Fr Jonathan is their chaplain). The striking maritime-pilgrim themed arrangements involved almost all the Christian communities of Cowes.

The Art exhibition and sale drew a steady stream of visitors and customers in the hall, complemented by the reviving refreshments. Several local arts and crafts people were delighted to be involved, and a further art sale is planned, in the church hall, during Cowes Week.

Many of the visitors over the weekend made positive comments, pleased to see the inside of the church, and often commenting on the peaceful atmosphere of prayer. The harp music, especially, was much appreciated. Thank you to all our welcoming stewards, who



gallantly wore their hi-vis sashes! Flower festivals, directly of themselves, rarely bring in much financial profit, but the parish is pleased to have taken in, over the weekend itself, just over £500 from donations, sales and refreshments, while recognising that many prior gifts and donations made possible the purchase of flowers and the opening night’s hospitality. And there was a “Sea Sunday” collection for AOS of over £200 too!

St Thomas’s souvenir items, specially commissioned for the Festival, will continue to be on sale and available to be ordered. Likewise, the excellent new leaflets on our parish and the church’s history will continue to be available at the back for parishioners and visitors.



## Visits to Cemeteries in November

November is the month of Prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The blessing of graves during this month is usually carried out by most of our Island parishes. See church newsletters for details. As Catholics we have an obligation to pray for the souls of the faithful departed. The blessing of graves is also a reminder of the Church's preferment for burial as opposed to cremation. This makes the Church's doctrine of the "resurrection of the body" more understandable.

Once the Holy Souls in Purgatory have joined the Father in Heaven they are eternally grateful to us here on earth for the prayers and sacrifices we make on their behalf, praying for our needs continually before the Throne of God.

St. Alphonsus says that though the Holy Souls cannot help themselves, they can obtain for us great graces. They are not, formally speaking, intercessors as the Saints are but, through the sweet Providence of God, they can obtain for us astounding favours and deliver us from evils, sickness and dangers of every kind.

In the "Creed", mention is made of the Communion of Saints. This means that the faithful on earth, the blessed in heaven, and the souls in purgatory are united in one Mystical Body with Christ as the Head.

### 12 Reasons to Pray for the Dead

When we pray for the dead, we:

1. Obey the Lord and His Church,
2. Love our neighbour,
3. Express our unity with the other members of God's family,
4. Help purify people in purgatory,
5. Help those in purgatory to go to heaven,
6. Express and strengthen our faith in the power of prayer,
7. Those in Purgatory have given their lives to Jesus and will go to heaven,
8. Receive the benefit of the prayers of those in purgatory (Catechism, 958),
9. Share in the pouring out of God's mercy
10. Enter more deeply into the mystery of God's love and His plan of salvation.

Few Catholics will doubt the existence of Purgatory. It was taught from the earliest days of the Church and was accepted with undoubting faith wherever the Gospel was preached. The doctrine is revealed in Holy Scripture, and has been handed down by Tradition, taught by the infallible Church and believed by the millions and millions of faithful of all times.

Only those souls that are completely free of sin can enter heaven. It stands to reason, then, that the soul with unforgiven sins or the souls of those who have

not yet atoned for their sins during their lifetime, yet tried to live as God would have us live, cannot enter Heaven and do not deserve Hell.

Purgatory, then, is a place of temporal punishment for those who die in God's grace, but are not entirely free from venial sins or have not entirely paid the satisfaction due to their sins. The existence of purgatory is universally taught by all the Fathers of Church. The words of Our Lord , "*Thou shalt not come out from it until thou hast paid the last penny*" are very clear (Matt. 5 :25) Later, when speaking of the sins against the Holy Spirit, Jesus says such a sin "will not be forgiven either in this world or in the next," implying that there are some sins that cannot be atoned for in this world (Matt. 12:32).

In the "Decree on Purgatory," we read, "*The Catholic Church, instructed by the Holy Spirit and in accordance with Sacred Scripture and the ancient Tradition of the Fathers, has taught in the holy Councils and most recently in this ecumenical Council that there is a purgatory, and that the souls detained there are helped by the acts of intercession ... of the faithful and especially by the acceptable Sacrifice of the altar*" (Council of Trent,1563).

## Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham

Inaugurated by Pope Benedict.

**Ordinate Mass at St. Mary's, Ryde.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 5-00pm**

**Contact Fr. Jonathan Redvers Harris**

Tel. 07847 521717 E. mail [frjonathanrh@btinternet.com](mailto:frjonathanrh@btinternet.com)



## First Fridays of the Month

**Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary & Devotions at St. Mary's, after 12 noon Mass. Benediction after Vespers (5-00pm) at Quarr Abbey**

## England – the Dowry of Mary. What does this mean?

Ed Matyjaszek examines here the meaning of this phrase familiar to English Catholics

For Catholics, the search for England's heart brings to mind the phrase, "Dowry of Mary". To understand why this phrase is so important, we must go back to the beginnings of our nation. Legally speaking, there was no England until the 10th century, when official documentary recognition appeared.



However, all history proclaims that there was an England before this. It was an ecclesial England, a spiritual entity and reality. Schoolchildren still learn of the Synod of Whitby A.D. 665/6, which ensured that the Roman, rather than the Celtic method of church administration prevailed.

In 673, Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury summoned all the bishops of the seven English kingdoms, - East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Mercia, Northumbria, Sussex and Wessex, - and established common canons and Church disciplines. This means that the Mass, the priesthood, the scriptures and the prayers were the same. Hence, England became an ecclesial realm before it was a physical kingdom. Its spiritual identity pre-dates its political existence. Thus, England existed in the before it took flesh.



This “procession” from spiritual to material is analogous to the Annunciation. As the catechism states: “Our Lady was invited to conceive”.

Vatican II says similarly: “The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined Mother”.

Hence, Mary had the liberty of choose. Her choice is the single most critical act of any human being throughout history. And what has England pre-eminently defended throughout her history, in her laws, her institutions, in those great epochal points where she has put her powers, her

possessions “in the breach” of human liberty in 1588, 1805, 1914 and supremely 1940? It is the “cause of freedom”. This was Churchill’s great cry. For without that how can God be honoured by our choice of life over death? That’s what he sets before us, as scripture says.

If we have no human freedom, how can we assent as his Mother did? And it is his Mother’s land, which above all, has defended this at all cost. Just as justice took form in Magna Carta and the Common Law; so, peace is gained by the resolution of conflicts through debate in the chambers of Parliament. So, change is achieved through votes of a free people who are governed by their consent, not by imposition of diktat. Is this not the story of England at its best, taken to America to root and to flourish there?

If the Mother of God is to have is to have a country of her own, would it not be one that upholds, defends and proclaims the values of her Son? To make incarnate in its very institutions the principles of the Gospel, of the peace and

justice and love between people that are the focus and purpose of Christ's kingdom? England is only England, is only true to herself, if she does this, if she is Christian, if she is faithful.

Our task now is to step out without fear to reclaim our fellow countrymen and women for Christ. Our beloved country can regain its role of past centuries, and take the message of the Gospel to a Europe that has lost its way. That, I believe, is the meaning of the Dowry of Maty in our time.

The greatest years of England lie ahead.

## THE PRIORY SCHOOL OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

The most significant recent news is the dedication of the Priory School at Whippingham to Our Lady of Walsingham; thus, making it the only senior school in England to bear this unique Marian (and English) dedication. The School Principal, Edmund Matyjaszek (one of our society members) explains below the thinking behind this dedication.



*“The Priory School at Whippingham is an independent co-educational day school for boys and girls from 4-18 years, founded in 1993, and, although non- denominational, is run with a distinct Christian ethos. “ Built by the Queen of England: dedicated to the Queen of Heaven” is one of the statements of Priory School, which has its origins in the junior school of Upper Chine, and now occupies the school built by Queen Victoria on the Osborne Estate. The independent school moved to this site at Whippingham in East Cowes parish in 2012, and seeks to maintain this Christian ethos. To help nurture and develop this, the School, from this September, is to have its name extended to “ Priory School of Our Lady of Walsingham ”. We see Mary’s “yes” - her free consent - at the Annunciation, as lying at the heart of the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, founded in 1061 in Norfolk, and known as “ England’s Nazareth”; and sees it directly linked to the nature of England as Our Lady’s Dowry and its defence down the centuries of freedom, this liberty to choose, which Our Lady exercised to supreme effect. This is now the only senior school in England to be*

*“The Priory School at Whippingham is an independent co-educational day school for boys and girls from 4-18 years, founded in 1993, and, although non- denominational, is run with a distinct Christian ethos. “ Built by the Queen of England: dedicated to the Queen of Heaven” is one of the*





*dedicated to Our Lady of Walsingham and it has met with the enthusiastic approval of Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth (who was enthroned of the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, 2012), Mgr. Keith Newton (Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham), Fr. Xavier (Abbot of Quarr) and Mgr. John Armitage (Custodian of the Basilica at Walsingham). The Island now has not only this school dedicated to Our Lady, its second Christian secondary school with Christ the King College dedicated of course to Our Lord, but also the abbey of Quarr (present and Medieval), as well as its largest Catholic church, that of St. Mary's in Ryde High Street. Fr Jonathan Redvers-Harris of the Ordinariate and Parish Priest of St David's East Cowes has joined Rev Alan Swanborough, the school's Anglican Chaplain, as its Catholic Chaplain. By kind permission of its vicar, St Mildred's Whippingham, built by Prince Albert, serves as the school chapel. Visitors are most welcome”.*

## 400th anniversary of the death of St. Rose of Lima.

August 23rd. Feast of St. Rose of Lima, (August 30th in the traditional calendar). A Dominican tertiary, she was the first canonized saint of the Americas. St. Rose became known for both her life of severe [asceticism](#) and her care of the needy of the city through her own private efforts.

She is the primary patroness of Peru and the indigenous natives of [Latin America](#) as well as the Philippines.

She died in 1617. This year marks the 400th anniversary of the death of this young lady who lived a life of holiness, patience and severe mortification. She was canonized in 1671 by Pope Clement X. St. Rose is the Patroness of embroiderers, florists and gardeners. A rare depiction (right) of her in stained glass can be seen in St. Mary's Church, Ryde. See below. It was installed in 1882.

*Sancta Rosa. Ora pro nobis.*



## Guglielmo Marconi

August 14th marked the 120th anniversary of Marconi's first (long distance) radio transmission from the Needles. To celebrate this event, there were theatrical re-enactments of Marconi's work. The Catholic scientist and inventor was born at Bologna, Italy, in 1874, the second son of Giuseppe Marconi, an Italian country gentleman, and Annie Jameson, daughter of Andrew Jameson of Daphne Castle in the County Wexford, Ireland. He was educated privately at Bologna, Florence and



Leghorn. Even as a boy he took a keen interest in physical and electrical science.

In 1896 Marconi took his apparatus to England where he was introduced to Mr. (later Sir) William Preece, Engineer-in-Chief of the Post Office, and later that year was granted the world's first patent for a system of wireless telegraphy. He demonstrated his system successfully in London. In 1899 he established wireless communication between France and England across the English Channel. He erected permanent wireless stations at The Needles, Isle of Wight, at Bournemouth and later at the Haven Hotel, Poole, Dorset. At Knowles Farm, Niton, is a plaque bearing the inscription : "This is to commemorate that Marconi set up a wireless experimental station here in A.D. 1900". A memorial pillar at the Needles Park, Alum Bay was erected with plaques describing Guglielmo Marconi's wireless transmission trials in 1897. The Inscription here states:-

*THE NEEDLES WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY STATION EXCHANGED RADIO MESSAGES FIRST WITH A TUG IN ALUM BAY THEN WITH BOURNEMOUTH 14 MILES DISTANT, NEXT WITH POOLE 18 MILES AWAY, LATER WITH SHIPS 40 MILES SEAWARDS. THESE WONDERS ATTRACTED WORLD WIDE ATTENTION AND FAMOUS SCIENTISTS FROM MANY COUNTRIES CAME (1898 - 1900) TO SEE THE NEW WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN EXPERIMENTAL OPERATION.*

During the three years that he was (partly) resident on the Island, Marconi attended Mass at the Weston Manor chapel at Totland. He often received hospitality from the Ward family who owned the chapel and adjacent Manor house. Squire Granville Ward took a keen interest in Marconi's experiments and gave him financial assistance.

In 1914 Marconi was commissioned in the Italian Army as a Lieutenant being later promoted to Captain, and in 1916 transferred to the Navy in the rank of Commander. He was a member of the Italian Government mission to the United States in 1917 and in 1919 was appointed Italian plenipotentiary delegate to the Paris Peace Conference. He was awarded the Italian Military Medal in 1919 in recognition of his war service.

During his war service in Italy he returned to his investigation of short waves, which he had used in his first experiments. After further tests by his collaborators in England, an intensive series of trials was conducted in 1923, and this led to the establishment of the beam system for long distance communication. Proposals to use this system as a means of Imperial communications were accepted by the British Government and the first beam station, linking England and Canada, was opened in 1926, other stations being added the following year. Marconi died in Rome July 1937.

You can read about Marconi's life and work on our web site. Plus, we have also produced a booklet, written by Yvonne Rowles of Bembridge, which is available at £1-50.

## Latin Masses in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite

Future Masses are offered on the Island

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November - Feast of St. Edmund of Abingdon

St. Mary's, Ryde 12 noon with Exposition from 11-30am

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Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> November – Feast of St. Andrew

St. Mary's, Ryde 12 noon with Exposition from 11-30am

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Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December - Feast of St. Ambrose

St. Mary's Church, Ryde at 12 noon with Exposition from 11-30am

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Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> December Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle

St. David's Church, East Cowes at 12 noon with Exposition from 11-30am

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Latin Mass every Sunday at 8-00am in St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth

## Letters page

Letter received from Christopher Smith of Nottingham [cjp1smith@gmail.com](mailto:cjp1smith@gmail.com)

### My time at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent, Carisbrooke.

*"My family moved to the Island in 1956 and the 3 children of the family were all sent to OLSH. Initially, we lived in Ventnor but moved to Newport in 1959 - the year I finished at the convent, having taken the 11-plus there.*

*The school - part of the convent - was primarily for girls (who were educated up to 'O'Level, I think); however, boys were taken as a favour to Catholic families - and, perhaps, because they were useful for serving at Mass in the Convent (one of my strongest memories is of serving regularly at Convent Masses). Boys had to leave at the age of 11.*

*I would have to say that the school was very female in character - unsurprisingly. I think that boys were regarded as rather strange - often rough and noisy and boisterous in ways that puzzled nice Catholic girls and the nuns who wished that we could be more like them! We certainly spent plenty of time charging round the school field, terrorising girls and yelling "black and white danger!" at the first glimpse of a prowling nun in the distance. More often than not, this nun would be the fearsome Sr Frances, our headmistress - a woman who did not take prisoners and who could subdue even the noisiest boy.*

*There were plenty of processions...Corpus Christi was one of them, though my participation was mostly in serving at the relevant Mass. My principal (and joyful)*

*memory of processions is of the annual procession early each May to the grotto of Our Lady on the school site, near the swings where we would play at lunchtime. Every year, we processed, hand in hand, to Our Lady, singing 'Bring flowers the rarest' - a magical time that I remember with a painful sense of time gone. I remember the daisies on the school field and carrying daisy chains to decorate Our Lady's statue - or maybe it was to lay at her feet: in those days, it was fine for boys to make daisy chains - just as it was fine for us to walk to and from school or to leave doors unlocked; truly, this was a different world.*

*Odd memories crowd in on me: the music teacher who terrified me because she spoke with a strong French accent, dressed in black and was given to sudden rages; being bell monitor so that I would have permission to get up just before midday and take a large handbell outside to ring the Angelus - which we then recited together in our classrooms; less happily, having to ask for toilet paper if we needed to go to the lavatory; more happily, the first half hour each day being given over to mental arithmetic, catechism, spelling standing in the aisles by our desks - this did inculcate a certain mental agility as well as an understanding of church teaching that has survived the decades; even more happily, the treat that Sr Frances would often give us of reading aloud to us for the last half hour or so of the day, especially on Fridays: no computers to distract what was a literate generation of children.*

*The convent was served from St Thomas of Canterbury in Newport. Our parish priest was Fr O'Mahoney and his curate was Fr Murphy O'Connor - brother of the late Cardinal. Later on, there was another priest there - Fr Swinton.*

*The school had an excellent academic reputation - perhaps the reason why so many non-Catholic parents sent their children there. In my year, 4 of us passed the 11-plus - two of us (both boys) moving on to Carisbrooke Grammar School. There were plenty of other children at the grammar school who had also been to OLSH - it was a great asset in those far-off days.*

*Now, approaching old age, I live in Nottingham - and am still a practising Catholic: the convent clearly had a lasting effect on me!*

*I hope these rather patchy memories are of some interest."*

Best wishes.

Christopher Smith

P.S. I forgot to mention that Declan Lang was at OLSH during my time there. I think I am right in saying that he was in my brother's year - a year behind me. He was clearly touched by God from a very early age - he stood out in ways that, as children, one could not readily identify but we knew he was special: on reflection, he had a certain stillness about him that was quite unusual. I was not surprised when he became a priest - nor that he should become a bishop.



## Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. R.I.P.

A Solemn Requiem Mass was offered for His Eminence Cardinal Cormac at St. Mary's, Ryde on 6<sup>th</sup> September. In his homily Fr. Glaysher spoke about the Cardinal as a son of our diocese, being born in Reading and serving the early days of his Priesthood here in several parishes before being appointed as Rector of the English College in Rome.



*"Death comes to all of us. It is the day of reckoning.  
Our life here on earth is a time of preparation for this momentous event"*

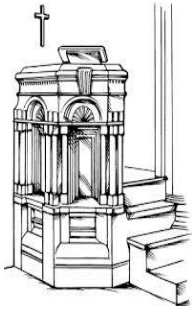
The Cardinal was ordained in Rome for this Diocese in 1956 and served in several parishes in this Diocese before being appointed as Rector of the Venerable English College in Rome in 1971.

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Bishop of Arundel & Brighton 1977 – 2000 Archbishop of Westminster 2000 – 2009

His last visit to the Island was in 2007 when he came to St. Mary's in Ryde for the Funeral Mass of a member of his family.

The Cardinal's Funeral Mass was in Westminster Cathedral on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

## From the Pulpit



Part of the Sermon by Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth at Solemn Mass for the Visitation of Fatima Relics. The whole sermon can be read here on our web site – Talks / Sermons page.

*"They found Him in the Temple,  
sitting among the doctors".*

*It's a huge privilege during this  
Centenary Year to welcome to our  
Diocese, the national Pilgrim Statue of*



*Our Lady of Fatima, and the sacred relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco. Our Diocese of Portsmouth is dedicated to Mary Immaculate, and only last night we returned from our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. Given the call to the new evangelisation, both of ourselves and of others, these days we're spending with the Blessed Mother at the end of August have never been so urgently needed. So in this Mass and in our prayers let's turn to Mary the best loved member of the Church, and to the shepherd-children Jacinta and Francisco, to ask them to help us, as we heard in the Gospel, bring all people to Jesus in the Temple of His Body the Church.*

OUR LADY OF FATIMA, PRAY FOR US

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Finally, many thanks once again for your continued support of our society. Subscriptions become due in January. £10 for families. £8 for individuals. Cheques payable to “IoW Catholic History Society”.

Don't forget to keep in touch with us via Facebook (updated almost every day) and by visiting our web site [www.iow-chs.org](http://www.iow-chs.org) (updated weekly)

I look forward to seeing you at some of our future events.

Peter D. Clarke (Chairman, IoW Catholic History Society)