

# Isle of Wight Catholic History Society

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

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## July 2017

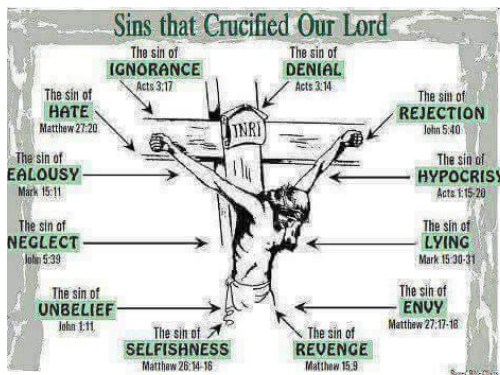
Greetings once again to all CHS members and supporters. This Summer edition of our newsletter is full of interesting articles. See below for details.

Many thanks to those who have paid their annual subscription in for this year;- 86% of our membership. If you have overlooked this, please bear in mind that every small amount helps to produce this (free) newsletter, postage, office expenses and the maintenance of our web site.

We have held subscriptions at the same price for the past eight years; - £8-00 for individuals; £10 for families. These can be sent to me at the address above or, you can hand it to me or leave it for me at the church office. Cheques payable to *“IoW Catholic History Society”*. Thank you.

### July – Month of the Precious Blood

Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus is one of the oldest devotions in the Church. Our Blessed Mother adored the Most Precious Blood of her infant Son on the day of His circumcision as the first drops of His Precious Blood



were shed amongst many tears for the salvation of our sinful humanity. During His public life, hers was the heart He sought for consolation at the end of His long, tiring journeys of preaching to His own people who many times treated Him with anger, ridicule or indifference. After the Passion and death of her beloved Son, Our

Sorrowful Mother walked the Via Dolorosa again and again consoling her Son in his bitter sacrifice and adoring His Precious Blood poured out

willingly with such great love amidst such violence and hatred in order to save us all.

In the old calendar, July 1<sup>st</sup> is the Feast of the Precious Blood. This day marks the dedication of Westminster Cathedral – England’s premier cathedral – which is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Christ. The depiction below (sent in by one of our mainland members) reminds us vividly of the sins we commit for which Jesus shed His blood on the Cross.

## **The Apostleship of the Sea**

We celebrate Sea Sunday on the second Sunday in July. We recall the debt our society owes to these workers, as we depend on them to ensure the transportation of almost everything we use or consume. Despite the efforts of governments and organisations such as the Apostleship of the Sea, there are still many unresolved situations affecting the life and dignity of fishers and seafarers. The church asks us to be mindful of all those whose livelihoods depend on the sea; and of the Church’s commitment and solidarity alongside them. Encouraging all those who minister to seafarers we are reminded of St. Paul’s words: ‘*Don’t let evil defeat you, but defeat evil with good*’ (Rom 12:21). Let us remember that Our Lady is the Star of the Sea; Stella Maris as ‘model and compass’ to intercede for all seafarers and those who minister to them ‘so that we may be protected from every risk and danger’.

The Sea Sunday collection taken in Catholic churches supports the AoS in 39 ports, with chaplains and with over 60 active ship visitors. The AoS as a charity receives a major part of its income from Sea Sunday collections.

You may remember that it was on Sea Sunday 2003 that the Martyrs’ memorial was solemnly blessed by Fr. Purbrick at Cowes. It was appropriate for this ceremony to be held on Sea Sunday as the two martyr-priests were betrayed and subsequently executed as a result of a storm at sea, when they were heard praying for deliverance. Read about their life and martyrdom on [www.iow-chs.org](http://www.iow-chs.org) (Island People)

## Centenary of the Diocese of Brentwood

Brentwood is the only diocese to have been originally part of the Archdiocese of Westminster, from which it was separated in 1917, when Pope Benedict XV appointed Monsignor Bernard Ward as its first bishop. (See picture – right).

He was consecrated by Cardinal Bourne in Westminster Cathedral in April 1917. There is an Island connection here as the new bishop spent much of his teenage years at Weston Manor, Totland Bay. Bernard was the third son of William Ward, the prominent Oxford Movement theology professor and contemporary of Blessed John Henry Newman. In 1871 he moved with his wife and nine children from Cowes to build Weston Manor, incorporating a beautiful, ornate family chapel, which he opened to the Catholics of West Wight. Our society has arranged several visits to Weston Manor. It was here that Bernard, serving daily Mass and learning about church history and theology from his father, grew with a desire to enter the priesthood.

Initially, no name was given to the new diocese, save that of

‘Essex’, because a decision had to be made as to where the new bishop would reside. As well as being a distinguished educationalist and the foremost historian of English Catholicism, Bishop Ward was also something of a railway buff. Hence the choice of Brentwood as his seat - its station was the first on the London side of Shenfield junction, which gave access to the Colchester and Southend lines. Moreover,



Brentwood itself boasted a fine, although modest, church which would become the Cathedral.

Bishop Ward only served three years at Brentwood. He died in January, 1920 and is buried at St Edmund’s College, Ware, where he had been educated and where he spent most of his priestly life. He had a great devotion to St Edmund of Abingdon, and chose that saint as a secondary patron of his new diocese. Moreover, his great personal devotion to Our Lady’s shrine at Lourdes ensured that Brentwood was the first diocese in England to have Our Lady of Lourdes as its principal patron.

## Betty French R.I.P.

Betty French died on Ascension Sunday, having been fortified by the Rites of Holy Mother Church. She was one of the oldest parishioners of St. Mary's, although it was at St. Michael's in Bembridge where she was best known and where she was a stalwart member of the community. She was one of those people who are always present, always reliable and who, quietly and without a fuss, made sure that everything ran smoothly. She was (at different times) the sacristan, flower arranger, reader, chorister, Eucharistic minister ... a real "Jack of all trades". The Church has always been blessed with people, like Betty, who turn



their hands to everything when it is required, but in an inclusive manner; thereby encouraging others to participate.

The picture (left) shows Fr. John Catlin presenting the Diocesan medal to Betty in 1995 in recognition of her work for the Church.

Betty was a founder member of our Island CHS, joining at our inauguration in 2001. She was a hive of knowledge and information when we were researching St. Michael's history for the 40th anniversary in 1994/5. The St. Michael's booklet published for the 50th anniversary two years ago, pays tribute to her service and commitment to the Church.

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

**Masses are usually offered at St. Mary's, Ryde on the  
1st Sunday of the month at 5-00pm  
and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12 noon**

**Latin Mass on the First Friday of the month. 10-00am. At St. Michael's, Bembridge.**

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

**As Fr. Glaysher has not been in good health lately, it is advisable to check before travelling to these Masses. Telephone 01983 566740**

## Archbishop Oscar Romero. Centenary of his birth

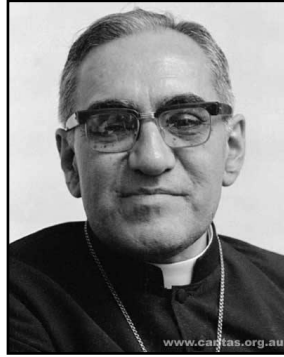
Born in 1917, this year marks the centenary of Oscar Romero's birth. No death (martyrdom) of a churchman has shocked the world in recent times more than that of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated as he celebrated Mass in 1980. Two years ago he was beatified in El Salvador,

thus recognising his martyrdom. The archbishop was killed "in hatred of the faith" and not for purely political reasons.

Archbishop Romero's "sainthood cause" was opened at the Vatican in 1993, but was delayed for years as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith studied his writings, amid wider debate over whether he had been killed for his faith or for taking political positions against the Salvadoran government and against the death squads that were operating in his country. As head of the San Salvadore Archdiocese from 1977 until his death, his preaching grew increasingly

strident in defence of the country's poor and oppressed.

Although not seen as exercising



any pressure to move the cause forward, St John Paul II made a point of praying at Archbishop Romero's tomb in the San Salvador cathedral during his visits in 1983 and in 1996.

Ten years ago in 2007 Pope Benedict said: "*he certainly is a great witness of the faith who merits beatification, I do not doubt.*" But he said some groups had complicated the sainthood cause by trying to co-opt the archbishop as a political figure. Seven years later, Pope Francis told reporters: "*for me, Romero is a man of God.*" He added: "*the process must go ahead*".

Pope Francis highlighted the words that Archbishop Romero had spoken at the funeral Mass of a priest assassinated by Salvadoran death squads:

*"We must all be willing to die for our faith even if the Lord does not grant us this honour."*

## 40th anniversary of St. Mary's School, Ryde

St. Mary's School was founded by the Countess of Clare in the 1850s. It was originally situated in the church crypt until the school (now St. Mary's Centre) was built in the 1860s. It moved to its present site in Ampthill Road (just south of St. Cecilia's Abbey) in 1977. Hence, this year marks the 40th anniversary. The old school next to the church had become rather cramped and in need of renovation. A move to more modern premises was the answer. The new school buildings were blessed by Canon James Murray (parish priest) in September, 1977. He told parents, teachers and children that the new buildings were "*a great sign of faith and hope for the future of the Catholic faith here in Ryde*".

Looking at other parishes on the Island it is interesting to note that at one time, they all had a Catholic primary school (however small) next door. This was the thinking, much encouraged and promoted by Cardinal Manning, that the building of Catholic schools was in many ways more important

than the building of our churches. With the passing of time many of the schools either amalgamated or, like St. Mary's, moved to other, more spacious sites. The only Catholic school on the Island still remaining on its original site adjacent to the church is at St. Saviour's at Totland Bay.

As a school teacher for over 40 years, every Catholic school in which I have taught, has had a history similar to St. Mary's, which was originally situated next to the church and subsequently left for a new site. It means bright, new spacious classrooms and larger playing areas with sports fields, but there is a loss, and this is the close proximity of church and school, which allows teachers to take children to the occasional daily Mass, devotional prayers and to weekly Benediction. Many in Ryde still remember the Friday afternoon Benediction with the church packed with children, parents and teachers as the last act of school worship before the school week ended. It was not uncommon for the priests to call

into the staffroom for coffee with teachers at playtime, lunch with the children and even joining in games on the playground. Priests could often be seen waiting at the school gate chatting to parents as they waited for children to be dismissed. They would use this time for some vital P.R. work, even if it was simply encouraging mothers to assist with church cleaning or flower arranging or to bake a cake for the Christmas Fayre. The separation of school from church

## Queen Adelaide of Portugal

Fifty years ago an unusual and remarkable event occurred at St. Cecilia's Abbey, when the mortal remains of one of the Benedictine nuns was exhumed and transported to Portugal. The nun was the former Queen Adelaide of Portugal, who was born into the Lowenstein family in April 1831. At the age of 21 she married King Miguel I of Portugal in Kleinhenbach.



made this close relationship more difficult, although admittedly, priests do now offer the Mass in the school halls. Sadly, however, we have to admit that many of our children lapse from the faith in their teenage years. The reasons for this are many and complex, but we should be encouraged by recent moves here on the island for a Post-Confirmation group, established to assist teenage children in their continued formation in the faith.

They had eight children. Miguel died in 1866 and

30 years later Adelaide entered the Benedictine Convent at Solesmes and was professed in 1897.

She left France when the Order was expelled in 1903 and went to Northwood with rest of the

community and died on 16th December, 1909. She was buried

initially at St. Cecilia's in Ryde. In 1967 the Portuguese Government requested that her body be returned to Portugal to rest with that of her husband, Miguel. Consequently, in April 1967 her body was exhumed and a Solemn Requiem was sung at the Abbey in the presence of the Spanish Ambassador. It was then taken back to Lisbon. The arrangements were not publicised and Sister Luiz-Marie

(the extern sister) remembers having to keep the local and national press at bay when they arrived at the Abbey.

In July 2002 Fr. Konrad Lowenstein FSSP was on the Island at the invitation of the Latin Mass Society just after his Ordination and he visited the Abbey where three of his relatives, including Queen Adelaide, had been nuns.

### **Father Brian Coogan – 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Ordination.**

Congratulations to Father who celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Ordination to the Holy Priesthood on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Very few priests achieve this milestone; and, on top of this, at the grand age of 93, he is still active as a priest, assisting at Sacred Heart Church in Shanklin.

Fr. Brian was born in St. Helen's, Lancashire. At the age of 10 he won a place at St. Bede's Grammar School where many of the teachers were priests. He enjoyed his schooldays. The school had a Scout troop and the boys were taken camping all over Yorkshire. There were lots of sports including swimming -still enjoyed today - football and cricket and his father taught him how to skate on the frozen ponds and lakes of Yorkshire. He was an altar server both at the parish church and St. Bede's school chapel.

In 1940 during the early days of the Second World War, aged 15, he made the decision to join the Junior Seminary of the Mill Hill Missionaries at Freshfield, in Formby, Lancashire. Here he gained his Higher School Certificate in French, Latin and English. He also enjoyed tennis, cricket and football but was only too aware of the German Luftwaffe's bombing raids on nearby Liverpool.



As part of his clerical formation he learnt Philosophy for two years at Mill Hill House in Durham and then spent a further two years studying Theology in Scotland. In 1945 he became one of the 150 students at St Joseph's College, Mill Hill, in London. Here he led a monastic existence studying further Theology and in July 1947, following the completion of his studies he was ordained a missionary priest at the early age of 23 by special dispensation from his Holiness Pope Pius XII.

In the same year, Father Brian then went up to Christ's College, Cambridge to study Modern and Medieval Languages (French and Latin). He also learnt how to row on the River Cam. He graduated with BA honours, which was then translated to MA (Cantab). In 1951, he took a

postgraduate certificate, at University. He undertake in North Borneo Southampton on a had a wonderful lasting three route Algeria, Suez Bombay, Colombia Penang in West spent a week with Fathers learning Singapore after another boat to arrived at known as Kota Christmas Eve.



Fr. Brian, with his friend of many years - Ann Thorp.

He joined the Mill Hill Mission in Borneo and his first job was to hear Christmas Confessions. Jesselton had been completely destroyed by the Japanese occupation in the Second World War but the Missionaries had founded a school where Father Brian taught.

teaching London was then sent to missionary duties leaving from P & O Liner. He trip to Singapore, weeks, visiting en Canal, Aden, in Ceylon, and Malaya. He then the Redemptorist Chinese in which he took North Borneo and Jesselton, now Kinabalu, on

In 1960, after eight years, Father Brian was given home leave by the MHM Superior General and didn't return to Borneo. He was sent to St. Peter's College, Freshfield to teach French and Latin. The priests there were encouraged to study the findings of the Second Vatican Council and assist with the

English vernacular Mass then moved to

1972 where he initially Group Ministry at St. combining study with

In 1982 he was able to Diamond Jubilee years later he moved to



introduction of the in 1965/6. Father Brian Portsmouth Diocese in spent 14 years in the Joseph's Basingstoke parish work.

celebrate his parents' Wedding Mass. Four St. David's, East Cowes.

In 1997 he celebrated his Golden Jubilee of his Ordination with Masses in both East Cowes and in North Borneo, now known as Sabah, with his many old boys, family, friends and parishioners. He went on to visit, not only Sabah, but also China and the Philippines. In 2011 after completing 25 years as Parish Priest of St. David's, East Cowes, (see picture – right) the parish duly celebrated with a luncheon in his honour after Sunday Mass on 6<sup>th</sup> February, his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. At the time Father was one of the oldest priests in the country still running a parish.

Even now in retirement in South Wight, he is still active in his priestly ministry. A Mass of celebration for Fr. Brian's priestly ministry is to be held at Ventnor on 8<sup>th</sup> July. We give thanks to Almighty God for Father's long ministry and we wish him good health. Please remember him in your prayers.

## **Mother Abbess Ninian of St. Cecilia's Abbey**

It was on the Feast of the Ascension in May, 1987 that Sr. Ninian became Abbess Ninian at St. Cecilia's Abbey, succeeding Mother Bernadette, who had served as abbess for 34 years. St. Cecilia's is (numerically) probably the most successful convent of nuns in England. Its success is due to its stability, structured formation process for its oblates and its obedience to the Benedictine Rule and the traditional monastic way of life. Whilst many religious Orders dispensed with their monastic habit and veil in the wake of

Vatican II, St. Cecilia's has not. The nuns wear their habit and veil with pride. In addition, having just two abbesses in the past 64 years has undoubtedly assisted with stability and continuity. Please remember Mother Abbess and the community in your prayers. Our society arranged Mass for Mother Abbess, offered both at St. David's, E. Cowes and St. Mary's, Ryde. Mother Abbess writes:

*"I was very touched by the Masses offered for my intentions. Such a precious gift – and so good to feel supported by your society's kind prayers and thoughts. May the Holy Spirit bring you many blessings at this time"*

## 75th anniversary of Blitz of Cowes and East Cowes, and defence by ORP Blyskawica and its Polish sailors

Late at night on 4th May 1942, 160 bombers attacked our towns on both sides of the Medina, and a second wave struck in the early hours of 5th May, the raids together leaving over 70 people killed, homes and factories flattened, and the Church of St David's reduced to ashes:

church,  
hall, even  
Sacrament  
Without  
defence by  
Blyskawica  
picture –  
the fierce  
of the  
sailors, the



sacristy,  
the Blessed  
- all lost.  
the  
ORP  
(see  
below) and  
resistance  
Polish  
loss of

lives and damage to our sister towns would have been much greater. Publicity elsewhere lists the various commemorative events arranged to mark this 75th anniversary. Fr. Jonathan Redvers Harris (parish priest of both Cowes and East Cowes) offered Sunday Mass in both parishes for all those who lost their lives in the attack, while a service of Remembrance at Kingston Cemetery (where many of those killed were buried) took place on Saturday 6th May. Fr Jonathan and other ministers were joined by those on the Blitz Walk from E. Cowes Heritage centre. The following

day, the Laying of Wreaths took place at Cowes War Memorial in Northwood Park followed by a short service in the nearby Anglican church of St Mary the Virgin.

This event is particularly significant for us as a Catholic community. Let not forget that we lost our church at St. David's, E. Cowes, and also the crew of the Blyskawica, would have been almost entirely Catholic.

## How to attend Holy Mass!

An opportune reminder by His Holiness Pope St. Pius X (1903-1914) on good practice when attending Mass. This is as relevant today as it was over a hundred years ago.

*"The Holy Mass is a prayer itself, the highest prayer that exists. It is the sacrifice, dedicated by our Redeemer at the Cross and repeated every day on the altar. If you wish to hear Mass, as it should be heard, you must follow with eye, heart and mouth, all that happens at the altar. Further, you must pray with the priest, the holy words said by him in the Name of Christ and which Christ says by him. You have to associate your heart with the holy feelings which are contained in these words and in this manner you ought to follow all that happens at the altar. When acting in this way, you have prayed the Holy Mass" - His Holiness Pope St Pius X.*



## Holidays / Pilgrimages

**Malta** (contributed by Caroline Burt of Ryde)

We are always grateful for reports of any pilgrimages or articles on Catholic history.

Recently I visited the beautiful island of Malta and its neighbouring island, Gozo. It is a devoutly Catholic country and has many beautiful churches, statues and grottoes; many dedicated to Our Blessed Lady. My favourite was in the town of Mellieha, a short distance from where I was staying with my friend Joyce Rogers (also from Ryde).

The Maltese are among the oldest Christian peoples in the world. St. Paul, shipwrecked as a captive en route to Rome in A.D. 60, brought the

Christian faith to Malta. His steps can be retraced in the shrines, grottoes and catacombs of Rabat and in the ancient capital, Mdina.

There are over 360 churches and chapels scattered throughout the islands. You can usually locate the centre of any town or village by driving towards the parish church which dominates the skyline, although many may have more than one large church and several chapels. You can't help but notice the island's Baroque churches with their red or silver painted domes. They form an integral part of the landscape and are at the heart of Maltese social and cultural life.



Many of these buildings are veritable works of art. You will notice how local craftsmen and artisans adorned the inside and exteriors of churches and cathedrals with intricate decorations and stone sculptures depicting saints, angels and sacred symbols.

Every town and village church has a weekday Mass, which tends to be early in the morning or in the evening. The churches range from the ancient to the very modern with Masses in both English and Maltese.

Perhaps most intriguing of all religious sites are the small, wayside chapels. Some are excavated in the rock; others cling to cliffs.

The church in the village of Musta boasts the third largest dome in the world!

## Cadiz

Gill and I spent a week here and in Seville in early May. Fabulous weather (too hot), flamenco dancing, fiestas; it is an area rich in history and culture, with the Moors and the Christians leaving their mark at different periods of history, most notably on the architecture.

The principal patron of Cadiz is Our Lady of the Rosary.



During the Age of Exploration, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, this city in Southern Spain experienced increased prosperity and a renaissance. Traders came and made their fortune from imports and exports to the New World. Christopher Columbus sailed from Cádiz on his second and fourth voyages and the city later became the home port of the Spanish treasure fleet. Consequently, it became a major target of Spain's enemies.



One of Cádiz's most famous landmarks is its cathedral. (see picture – left). It sits on the site of an older cathedral, completed in 1260, which burned down in 1596. The reconstruction, which was not started until 1776, was supervised by the architect Vicente Acero, who had also built Granada Cathedral. Acero left the

project and was succeeded by several other architects. As a result, this largely Baroque-style cathedral was built over a period of 116 years, and, consequently, the cathedral underwent several major changes to its original design. Its chapels have many paintings and relics from the old cathedral and monasteries from throughout Spain. The towers and the sacristy were the last elements to be built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Particular highlights include the vaults of the high altar and the choir stalls. There are some very beautiful Baroque images. The church is crowned with a dome of golden tiles which gives it an imposing appearance. The famous composer Manuel de Falla is buried in the crypt.

## **Diamond Jubilee of Sacred Heart Church, Shanklin**

Our last CHS newsletter in the Spring, reported on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Holy Cross Church in Seaview (sadly, now closed). Four months later, in June 1957, the present Sacred Heart Church was opened in Shanklin. The first church on the site, a 'tin' church was opened on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1888. Solemn High Mass was celebrated on this day by Bishop John Vertue of Portsmouth. This church was replaced by a permanent Flemish Gothic brick church by Benedict Williamson (designer of Farnborough Abbey) in

1906-7. It received a direct hit (from German bombers) on 3rd January 1943 and was almost totally destroyed, killing six members of the parish just as Sunday Benediction concluded. A memorial plaque in memory of all



the people who were killed, -  
Sr. Mary Clare  
McLoughlin, Mrs Reed-  
Fraser, Harry and  
Helena Rogers, Miss  
Mary West and Miss  
Cheetham

**Then and now.**  
Sacred Heart (left); destroyed in  
1942.

**The present Sacred Heart  
Church (right),  
built in 1957.**

A temporary church was used until the present building was erected in 1956-7 to design by R. Lethieullier Gilbert of Gilbert & Hobson of Ventnor. The plan followed that of the previous church and is



unusual in having a four-square porch tower (the lower part survived the bombing) placed in the middle of the north side and set back from the road at a higher level.

The present church celebrated its diamond jubilee on 28th June this year. It was opened and blessed by Archbishop John Henry King of Portsmouth. The interior is a single volume building with a canted gallery to the liturgical west (the church is actually oriented the wrong way round). Light

and airy because of the uninterrupted rectangular volume and the angled windows throwing light towards the altar. The sanctuary is differentiated by sycamore wall panelling and projecting bricks to form a decorative pattern at higher level. A full height curtain hangs behind the altar and there is a fabric-covered tester above. The cross is by Henry Farmer of Stratford on Avon and dates from 1949 when it was commissioned for the temporary church. The sanctuary originally had side altars and the High Altar placed against the wall and, like other churches, was re-ordered in the wake of Vatican II. The pointed arch and brickwork above the entrance internally shows the retention of the surviving part of the tower of the previous church. The stations of the cross are of distinctive primitive design executed in painted wooden relief with integral frames.

### **From our archives 10 years ago - A reminder of CHS activities in 2007.**

In June, 2007, Fr. Richard Whinder (Southwark Archdiocese) gave a very interesting talk in Ryde on the History of the Venerable English College in Rome. This was originally the English Hospice of the Most Holy Trinity and St. Thomas, founded in 1362 when the English community in Rome purchased a house from the rosary sellers John and Alice Shephard.

The arrival of Cardinal William Allen in Rome in 1576 heralded a new and more glorious chapter in the history of the English Hospice. Cardinal Allen, had already founded a seminary at Douai in 1568, and had drawn to it 240 students, many from his former University. In 1576, with the aid and encouragement of the reigning Pontiff, Gregory XIII, he converted the moribund Hospice into a seminary, known as the Collegium Anglorum or English College. Its first students arrived there from Douai in 1577.

In 1979, on the occasion of its Fourth Centenary, the College was honoured by a visit from Pope St. John Paul II, who celebrated Mass in the college chapel.

In 2013 Ryde pilgrims were given a guided tour of the College by student, Philip Andrews (now, Fr. Andrews of the Southwark Archdiocese), during a pilgrimage led by Fr. Glaysher. They are seen here in the gallery above the college chapel.



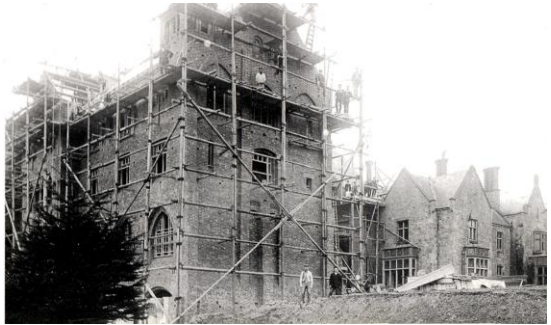
## From our archives - 10 years ago.

### Centenary of Quarr Abbey.

The first of the centenary celebrations at Quarr Abbey took place on the First Friday of March, 2007. This marked the arrival of the first Benedictine monks at Quarr Abbey from Appledurcombe in 1907. Solemn Mass was celebrated by Bishop Hollis of Portsmouth with the monks and Island clergy.

It was Bishop John Baptist Cahill, who, in 1907, encouraged the monks to purchase Quarr Abbey House and thus to restore monastic life at Quarr after a break of 370 years. The Cistercian Order suffered the same fate as other Monastic Orders at the

Dissolution. Rome never recognised this act and therefore the Pre-Reformation dedication to Our Lady of Quarr was restored when the Benedictines established their abbey adjacent to the old monastic ruins.



Building of the present abbey. 1908

the



In his sermon at Mass, Abbot Cuthbert (photo – left) reminded the congregation:

*“In 1901 the community began its life on the Island a few months after the death of a famous Island resident, namely Queen Victoria. There is another parallel as the the Solesmes community began its life in France in 1837, the same year as the young Victoria ascended the throne.*

*The anti-clerical laws promulgated by the French Government in July 1901 were a catastrophe for the Church in France, but it was through this historical event that religious life took root in new soil in England, and particularly here on the Isle of Wight. Today as part of our centenary celebrations marking the return of monastic life to Quarr, we are giving thanks for the welcome given by the diocese of Portsmouth and we remember especially Bishop Cahill”.*

## From our archives - 10 years ago.

### Pilgrimage to Bath

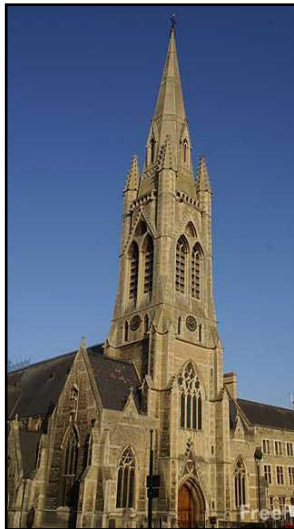
Bath had become the unofficial holiday centre for wealthy Catholics in Georgian times. Our visit (organised by Leo Boucher in conjunction with the Island CHS) started with Mass offered by Fr. John Catlin at St. John the Evangelist Church in the southeast section of Bath City Centre. (See picture – right). The decorative Gothic-styled spire dominates the city's skyline, which has irked some people such

as noted architectural critic Nikolaus Pevsner who stated the church was "*a demonstrative proof of how intensely the Gothicists hated the Georgians of Bath.*" The church was designed and built between 1861-3 by Charles Francis Hansom, who was the brother of Joseph Hansom (creator of the Hansom cab) and architect of our own beloved St. Mary's in Ryde.

The brothers worked on many Catholic churches in England. The church's 222 foot (68 metre) spire was added in 1867 by Hansom. The baptistry was designed in 1871 by Edward J. Hansom, another brother. The brothers considered the church to be one of their best works. Pevsner's description describes the church as: "*Lofty tower with spire and spirelets. Ambitious aisled nave with clerestory, transepts, broad polygonal apse with side apses. The exterior rock-faced, in the interior circular pink granite piers with elaborate foliated capitals. – SCREEN of iron. – STAINED GLASS. In the rose windows, quite good and glowing. Screen and glass are by Hardman. – VESTMENTS. Genuine C15 vestments are in use at St. John's.*"

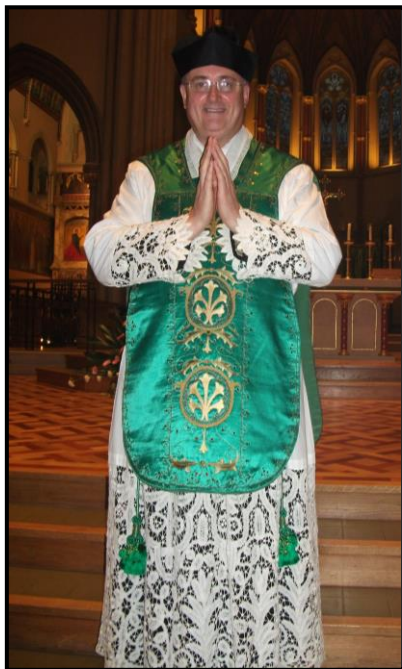
The church had managed to escape the worst effects of Vatican II re-ordering. The marble altar, matching pulpit in the nave, rood screen and Communion rails had all been left untouched.

After lunch some of us went on guided tours of Bath while others took open-air bus journeys around the city.



## Farewell to Fr. Anthony Glaysher

As many of you will know, we say farewell and “thank you” to Father who leaves Ryde in September after nine years here. He has been a good friend and supporter of our society and his knowledge of Catholic history has been an asset to us. I have known Father for a long time and I was pleased to attend his Ordination in Winchester in 2003. Little did I realise then, that he would be my parish priest here in Ryde five years later. I had the privilege of serving his first Mass in St. Mary’s on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, 2008; - most appropriate bearing in mind that St. Mary’s was the first church in England to be dedicated to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary. So delighted was Father to be sent here to Ryde, that he gave the parish a most appropriate gift; that of the pieta (statue of Mary bearing the crucified body of Christ in her arms) at the back of the church. This was blessed by Fr. Martin Edwards (Southwark Archdiocese) on the Feast of the Annunciation, 2009. We wish Father well in his new parish at Aldershot. Please remember him in your prayers.



Father’s last scheduled Sunday Mass on the Island is on Sunday, 3rd September at 5-00pm in St. Mary’s. Please do your best to come and say farewell to Father.

Finally, many thanks once again for your continued support of our society. Don’t forget to keep in touch with us via Facebook and by visiting our web site [www.iow-chs.org](http://www.iow-chs.org)

I look forward to seeing you at many of our events (here advertised) over the Summer and early Autumn.

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

