

Friars Preachers



**Newsletter of the
Dominicans in England
and Scotland
Summer 2014**



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Carrying and carried by the Lord

A **RCHBISHOP Malcolm McMahon OP**, installed on 1st May as the 9th Archbishop of Liverpool, began his homily with words of Pope St John XXIII: 'The secret of everything is to let yourself be carried by the Lord and to carry the Lord.' Recalling people to their 'principal task as Christians' of 'making Jesus present in the world of today' he took inspiration from the feast of St Joseph the Worker. St Joseph was an inspired dreamer, a hard worker, and a family man. Open to God's call in a dream, Joseph had boldly married the Blessed Virgin against the conventions of the day. The present-day missionary disciple must likewise 'break with conventions' that 'feed our complacency', learning to 'do things differently.' This hard task is for the whole People of God working together. Joseph's care for the



Dominicans assembled at Liverpool Cathedral [photos by Marcin Mazur]

family entrusted to him by God was an example for us in the many different families to which we belong – including the Dominican family, and the even bigger family of the Church.

Friars from London, Oxford, Cambridge, Leicester, Durham, Newcastle and Edinburgh (see picture), together with sisters from the Stone and Bushey congregations, and parishioners from St Dominic's in London where Archbishop Malcolm grew up, all descended on Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral to support their brother on the momentous occasion, and to celebrate with him afterwards. They joined hundreds of others in a packed church, including many priests from the new Archbishop's former diocese of Nottingham, where he had served for the past thirteen years.

View more photos online at
bit.ly/1pL7Iua

Strathclyde student addresses MSPs

A **STUDENT** from our Strathclyde Catholic Chaplaincy, Laura Seggie, addressed the Scottish Parliament on 13th May this year. Giving the 'time for reflection', she reminded MSPs that students 'increasingly look for spiritual support'. Laura testified to the courageous way in which many young people embrace their faith despite 'social pressure', as she had witnessed through 'involvement at the chaplaincy and other youth groups'.



You can watch Laura giving her reflection online at bit.ly/1bIdwz

Walsingham 2014



The procession with the pilgrim statue during the annual Dominican pilgrimage to Walsingham on 18th May.

To contact us about receiving this newsletter, or to receive it by email, please write to newsletter@english.op.org





Walking Coast to Coast for tomorrow's Preachers

WHY WALK 190 MILES IN 12 DAYS? To show how urgently we need to find the funds for training the next generation of Dominican friars in England and Scotland! We have been blessed with a surge of vocations in recent years, which is placing a considerable strain on our funds for training new friars!

Between 25th July and 5th August, four friars from the two formation houses in the Province are doing a sponsored walk from St Bees Head in Cumbria, along the trail devised by Alfred Wainwright through the Lake District and across the North Yorkshire moors to Robin Hood's Bay near Whitby.

Two of the friars, Fr Richard Finn and Fr Benedict Jonak, come from the Noviciate house in Cambridge; the other two, Br Samuel Burke and Br Toby Lees, are student friars at Blackfriars, Oxford. With the blessing of the Catholic bishops of Lancaster and Middlesbrough, they will be fed and lodged each evening by local parishes and clergy, staying in parishioners' homes, presbyteries, parish halls, and under canvas.

The friars will celebrate Mass and pray the Rosary with local communities, collecting prayer petitions along the way. Meanwhile, two members of the congregation from Cambridge, John and Sue Collins, have volunteered to meet them each day at key points on the route with a support vehicle, packed lunches, and hot drinks. Other friars and friends will also be joining the walk for short stretches of a day or so, to boost morale and enjoy some of England's most beautiful scenery. Wherever possible, they will upload posts and photographs to their website (see below) so that you can follow their progress.

The walkers hope to raise in excess of £10,000 to kickstart what will be a longer campaign to raise one million pounds over the next few years.

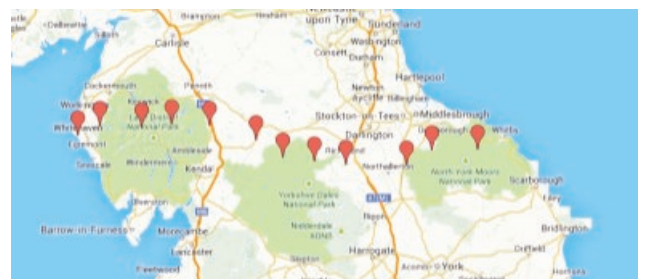
For full details, visit the walkers' website at
<http://friarswalk.wordpress.com/>

Sponsor the Friars!

Use the form on the back page, or sponsor online at:
<http://www.justgiving.com/teams/TheFriars>



Br Samuel Burke OP



A challenging itinerary!

Wrestling with Sacred Scripture



Sr Nazik Matty OP, an Iraqi Dominican, who this year successfully completed her Oxford doctorate on the Old Testament, reflects on her time as a graduate student at Blackfriars Hall.

Iwonder if I could have written about my experience of the doctoral journey a few months ago before I had my viva? As I reflect back, writing a thesis is like wrestling throughout the night, in the darkness. Only at daybreak do you realise that God was there and you did not know it. Now, when I am beyond it, I can share my experience, taking this as the best opportunity to extend my gratitude to those who helped me throughout the journey.

The title of my thesis was 'The Historical Reconstruction of Sennacherib's Campaign against Judah and Jerusalem in 701'. The reason why I chose this topic is the fact that the story is related in both the Bible and in the Assyrian inscriptions. This gave me the opportunity to study the biblical text within the wider context of ancient Near-Eastern literature. It was great to learn how Assyriology and ancient Mesopotamian studies could deepen our understanding of the Bible.

My discussion fell into two parts: the first was an analysis of the Akkadian account in the light of Sennacherib's annals as a whole. Since the campaigns tend to use a lot of stereotypical and formulaic

modes of expression, it is possible to track particular elements that stand out as distinctive. This formed the background to the second part, in which I looked at what the Bible had to say about Sennacherib's return.

Studying at Oxford may at times seem too much to attempt, but there are many people in the background whose support and encouragement make a real difference. I am very grateful to those who helped me to achieve what I did. The Dominican brethren at Oxford provide a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment for their students. Their library (with the help of the librarian) is a good working place; their daily Mass and prayers are spiritually nourishing; and the JCR provides such an encouraging atmosphere – to be with such nice people makes life easier, especially for people like me who come from another culture and have to adjust and build a new life.

Having finished my studies, I am now ready to move on. My aim is to teach the Bible. Conditions in Iraq are far from settled yet. However, the Christians here have such a hunger and interest to know about the Bible. There is the Babel College for Philosophy and Theology, and also Catholic Centres where one can find the opportunity to teach.

Finally, I must say that the completion of this work would not have been possible without the financial support of some kind and generous people. I am really grateful to them and to all those who have encouraged me on this doctoral journey!

Please keep Sr Nazik and all the Dominicans in Iraq in your prayers. For more information about Blackfriars Hall, visit www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk.

Remembered with gratitude

Simone Wyn Griffith-Mester, for many years a member of the Oxford Lay Fraternity, has generously bequeathed £31,600 to establish a fund for Dominican student friars to travel to the European Provinces of the Order, and study their languages and cultures.

Miss Marjorie Mary Elizabeth Anne Hooper has generously bequeathed £152,000 for the training of the friars.

Requiescant in pace.



Teaching the next generations

FR DAVID ROCKS, who is now the newly elected Prior of Leicester, took the Cambridge novices into Holy Cross Catholic Primary School on two days in May this year. After enjoying a school dinner, and being shown around the school by Headteacher Miss Christy, the novices joined Fr David, who led a year-six class on vocation in the Christian life. The novices then returned the next morning to join the assembly which the class had prepared for the whole school.

Holy Cross, Leicester's website is
www.holycrossleicester.org

Our Cambridge Priory now has a beautiful new website:
www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk



“We need each other”

THIS WAS THE MESSAGE which Lord Clarke of Hampstead impressed on pupils and staff at St. Dominic's School in our London parish. After 60+ years, the Catholic Peer, Lord (Tony) Clarke returned on March 14th to his former school for a wide-ranging talk that covered many aspects of his life.

He recalled how the “school gave me a formal education during the war, for which I am forever grateful. But more importantly, it was here – at the hands of the Dominican Fathers – that I entered the Catholic faith, and I count that as the greatest blessing”. He fondly remembered eating egg and chips after First Holy Communion at St Dominic's Church, woodwork classes at the technical college, and bumping into the unmistakable figure of Fr Vincent McNabb OP on his way to Speaker's Corner at Hyde Park. Reflecting on his time in politics, as a Trade Unionist, Labour Councillor, Chairman of the Labour Party, and latterly a Labour Peer, he encouraged pupils to fulfil the Christian calling to serve their neighbour; “we need each other”, he said. “If you help other people, you will be happy, they will be happy, and



Fr Timothy Calvert; Fr Gregory Pearson; Lord Clarke; Miss O'Prey, Headteacher

God will be happy.” Senior pupils then treated Lord Clarke to a thorough tour around the school, a favour Lord Clarke promised to repay at the Houses of Parliament.

St Dominic's Priory, Haverstock Hill, has been serving the people of north London since 1867.
For more information, visit
www.haverstockhill.org.uk



Migration - ‘a special call from God’

THE LAS CASAS Institute, at Blackfriars, Oxford, teamed up recently with The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) to co-sponsor a major two-day conference at Oxford University on religion and migration. The event, held on the 8th and 9th of May, gathered scholars from the UK, Europe, and the U.S., to exchange ideas and experiences from different disciplines. Participants sought in particular to identify dominant discourses regarding migration, as well as to explore ways in which faith can help to shift negative perceptions. They also highlighted the contributions and challenges of faith-based organizations in supporting migrants across the globe.



Norma Romero

Speakers included Prof. Michael Nausner (Reutlingen), Revd Dr James Hanvey SJ (Master of Campion Hall), Prof. Jonathan Burnside (Bristol University), Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (Oxford University), and Dr Musharraf Hussain OBE (Karimia Institute, Nottingham).

One highlight was the speech made by Norma Romero, a member of "Las Patronas", a humanitarian group that aids Central American migrants passing through Mexico on their way to

the United States. "Las Patronas" were the winner of the Human Rights National Award in Mexico in 2013. In her intervention, Norma stated, "At some point we understood that Jesus is not dead, He is alive in the most vulnerable, like the migrants... In ministering to migrants we have found a vocation, a special call from God".

The conference was hosted by Fr Alejandro Olayo-Mendez, SJ (Campion Hall), Robert W. Heimbürger (Sir Halley Stewart Scholar at the Las Casas Institute), Paul J. Kellner, and Lena Wettach. This interdisciplinary team were the winners of a competition organized by TORCH who then provided part-funding of the event, which was matched by the Las Casas Institute at Blackfriars.

More information on the Las Casas Institute at www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/hall/las-casas/



Catholic Voices – key skills for friars

HOW DO WE communicate effectively through mass media? How can we better explain the Church's stance and beliefs when interviewed? Austen Ivereigh, Jack Valero, and Isabel Errington from Catholic Voices gave a training day this May for the Oxford Priory including student friars and the novices.

Through presentations, discussions, and role-plays, they tackled hot-button issues by using a technique of identifying the "frame" (or angle of the story), recognising and affirming the positive value behind the frame, and then reframing the debate in a positive and persuasive manner to shed light on the Church's perspective.



Austen Ivereigh of Catholic Voices

Catholic Voices: www.catholicvoices.org.uk



Putting people first

YOU SOMETIMES wonder if much that passes for modern philosophy has lost touch with the human person and the search for wisdom. So, Blackfriars Hall and the Ian Ramsey Centre at Oxford University are teaming up with the University of Warsaw to collaborate on the new 'Humane Philosophy Project'. This aims to revitalise over three years connections between contemporary philosophy, the arts and humanities, and our broader intellectual and cultural heritage.



Ralph Weir and Mikolaj Slawkowski-Rode

end, in close contact with Przemek Bursztyka from Warsaw University. The project kicks off in Oxford with a conference at Blackfriars on 19th July, 'Humane Philosophy and the Arts' with speakers including Professors John Cottingham and Roger Scruton. This will be followed by a series of events at the Ramsey centre in 2015 including a fortnightly filmed seminar, with the recordings of the talks going up on the websites of all collaborating institutions.

Two Blackfriars students, Mikolaj Slawkowski-Rode and Ralph Weir are key co-ordinators at the Oxford

For information about the July conference go to:
<http://philevents.org/event/show/14077>

Snapshots from around the Province

With so much happening in our priories, parishes, and wider ministry we offer you a glimpse of just some of what the friars have been doing lately.



Br Toby Lees serving at the Oxford Priory Dinner



Fr David Sanders teaching in Grenada



Fr Dermot Morrin baptizes Valène Mary Juvet at the Easter Vigil in Edinburgh



Future Events

'A Vision for Life – The Spirit of Catholic Theology' – Buckfast Abbey, 7–11 July 2014.

A study week led by a team of Dominican Friars and Sisters in collaboration with the Benedictine monks of Buckfast Abbey, offering a systematic overview of Catholic Theology and aimed at university students and young adults. For details email: studyweeks@english.op.org

Lay Dominican Assembly – Leicester, 12 July 2014

'Humane Philosophy and the Arts' – Blackfriars, Oxford, 19 July 2014. Speakers include Prof. Roger Scruton, Prof. John Cottingham, and Dr Louise Hanson. For details: <http://philevents.org/event/show/14077>

Coast to Coast for the Dominican Training Fund – 25 July to 5 August 2014. Walk with the friars for a day on their sponsored trek from St Bees Head to Robin Hood's Bay. See p.3 for details.

'The Dominican Way' – DYM Pilgrimage, 8–15 August 2014. A walking pilgrimage from Arundel to Canterbury for Catholics aged 18–35. To find out more, email Br Matthew: thedominicanway@english.op.org; Or visit: www.facebook.com/thedominicanway

'We believe, but what and who are we?', Las Casas Annual Lecture, Blackfriars, Oxford, 12 November 2014. Professor Margaret Archer. Details from lascasas@bfriars.ox.ac.uk

'Faith and Cosmology' – Albertus Institute, Edinburgh, Saturday 15 November 2014. What are the implications for faith of the existence of extra-terrestrial beings? How is the thesis of a multiverse compatible with belief in a creator-God? For details and bookings: <http://albertusinstitute.org/events/faith-and-cosmology/>



Please support our work

In committing their lives to serve God, Dominican friars give up all personal property.

The generous support we receive from others is therefore essential and sustains the fruitful variety of ways that we serve. In making a gift you become a participant in this work. We truly value this assistance, and remember all our benefactors daily in our prayers.

If you feel able to support us in any way, please send us your donation using this form. *May God bless you for your generosity.*

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- My gift is for: ☐ General work of the Dominican Friars
☐ Sponsorship of Friars walking coast to coast (see p.3)
☐ I do not require an acknowledgement

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English Province of the Order of Preachers

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Friars Preachers Summer 2014

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