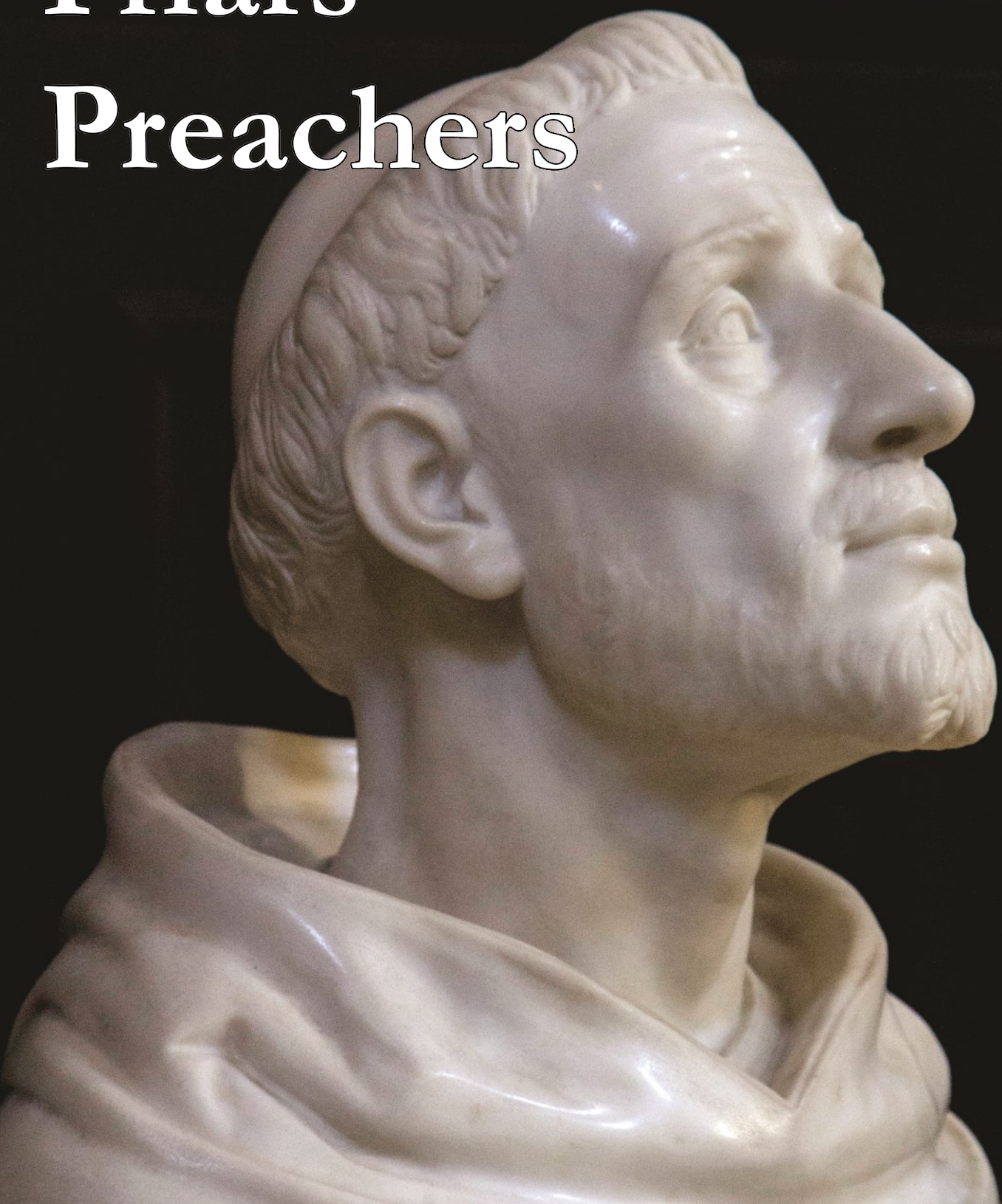


Friars Preachers



SUMMER 2015

- **Pier Giorgio Frassati**
- **Fr Bruno's Challenge**
- **New Greeting Cards**
- **Religion and Science**
- **Renaissance in Newcastle**



Dominican friar, scripture scholar, ultra-marathon runner!



"Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us." Hebrews 12:1

Fr Bruno Clifton OP has set himself quite a challenge. Here he explains why he has chosen to run an 'ultra-marathon' this summer.

AT MIDNIGHT, on 27 June 2015, I will begin the Ultimate Trails Ultra Marathon, a 110-km (68-mile) foot race over the hills and trails of the Lake District. The early start is to allow the greatest possible time for daylight over this gruelling test of stamina. Running into the rising sun, I hope to finish before it sets once more!

My motivation

I decided to take on this challenge in order to raise money for training our younger friars; men who have recently committed their lives to serve others, and are now being thoroughly prepared for ministry. Their formation takes place over the course of 1 year in Cambridge and 6 years in Oxford, to train them for the challenges of preaching the Gospel in today's world.

Forming the new generation

God has blessed us with many new vocations but we need your support to use this great gift. We are trying to raise £1 million pounds, and we are about a third of

the way there. Do please consider sponsoring me – it's a worthy cause that will bear fruit in a new generation of friars. Thank you and God bless you!

You can sponsor Fr Bruno at this website
www.justgiving.com/BrunoCliftonOP or use the form on the back page.

Thank you, Joseph!



YET ANOTHER boost for the **Dominican Friars Training Fund** – Joseph Peck, running the Paris Marathon for us in April, managed to beat his target. Joseph significantly chose to raise £1216, echoing 1216 the founding year Order – next year we celebrate our 800th anniversary.

A big thank you to Joseph and all those who supported his efforts!

Fr Bruno on a training run with Fr Craig OSA, fellow ultra-marathon participant



To the heights! An inspiring lay Dominican

Br Joseph Bailham, a student brother in Oxford, reflects on a modern saint who lived an active life.

THE LIVES OF SAINTS can seem remote from our own. When I was becoming more interested in my faith from the age of 16, I found it difficult to cultivate devotion to a particular saint. That changed in my late teens when, at a Catholic youth gathering, I heard a talk about Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, who died in 1925 at just 24. After hearing only a few remarks about his life, for the first time I found a saint to whom I could relate.

Pier Giorgio was born in Turin, Italy, into the well-known and wealthy Frassati family. His father, Alfredo, was the founder of *La Stampa* newspaper and was briefly Italy's ambassador to Germany, until the rise of Mussolini. His mother, Adelaide, was a painter. His parents' marriage was turbulent and almost ended with the two separating. Pier Giorgio had one sister, Luciana, to whom he was very close, although she was very different in character.

The popular young Pier Giorgio was a keen mountaineer and regularly went climbing; he even had a note on his bedroom door declaring: 'Mountains, mountains, mountains, I love you!' He often drank and smoked with his numerous friends, and was active politically, rallying against the rise of fascism. Among his friends he was known as a prankster. He created a social group called 'Tipi Loschi', 'The Shady Characters' or 'Sinister Ones'. This group of men and women organised hikes and mountain climbs but there was a comical dimension to it. He wrote a statute for the group which was full of inside jokes; he even named a non-existent saint – St Pece of the Fools – as their patron.

However, complementing his mirthful character was a profound spiritual life and love for the poor and needy in society. Pier Giorgio never broadcast the extent of his charitable works but they were extensive. He noted in his little book, which you can see if you visit his family's summer home in Pollone, the names of those persons he was helping, the money he had given them, or what he needed to acquire for them, whether medicine or clothing. He was often late for meals because he would give away his train ticket to someone in greater need, meaning that he would have to run home. His parents believed he was just absent-minded. Little did they know! His friends joked with him once as to why he would travel third class when he could easily afford to travel first; he would retort: 'because there is not a fourth'. Pier Giorgio became a lay Dominican, taking the name Girolamo, after Girolamo Savonarola. He had a great love for the Dominicans and for the Rosary. One can find his fifteen-decade Dominican rosary on his bed today in Pollone.



For Pier Giorgio, climbing was a spiritual experience. He would often begin his trips with Mass and would spend periods of prayer at the summit, and then return perhaps for Adoration. He had a great love for the Eucharist, and received permission at a young age to receive Holy Communion daily, something quite novel at the time. He drew strength from the Eucharist in a way many of us might envy. It was not unusual for him to spend entire nights in adoration, and then, full of energy, go mountain climbing with his friends.

Pier Giorgio died having contracted polio, supposedly from someone he had been visiting. His family organised what was meant to be a small funeral with a few local dignitaries. They were not prepared for the throngs of people who came to pay their tributes, particularly the poor and sick of Turin to whom Pier Giorgio had extended charity.



Young people can draw much inspiration from Frassati's example. He is a reminder that the pursuit of holiness need not come at the expense of having a social life, or being socially 'normal'. He demonstrates the true joy that comes from pursuing holiness, that it is a goal worth working towards. On the back of a photograph taken of him on what would be his last climb, he wrote '*Verso l'alto*', 'To the heights'. I wholeheartedly invite you to take a look at Pier Giorgio and be open to having your gaze turned towards the same heights on which his heart was fixed.

For regular Dominican spiritual reflections, visit www.english.op.org/godzdogz



Renaissance in Newcastle



The International Mass, and a birthday party, at the Chaplaincy; Dance performance MISSA at St Dominic's; and a view of the church's interior.

S AINT DOMINIC'S PRIORY IN NEWCASTLE has been enjoying an extraordinary renaissance as the surrounding district is transformed. The long decline of an inner-city industrial district has been suddenly reversed by the construction of student residences to serve two booming universities, and the arrival of artists from all over the world.

Fr Dominic White is the first Dominican chaplain to Newcastle and Northumbria universities, working with the lay Catholic chaplain, Ms Mia Fox, at Bede House, in the heart of the university quarter (see www.catholicchaplaincy.org). Student numbers at the chaplaincy have risen by 50% this academic year. The rich mix of social events and weekends away, catechetical evenings and the Week of Guided Prayer (Bede House's annual retreat in daily life) have attracted not just Catholics, and this year we have been blessed with two baptisms and two confirmations.

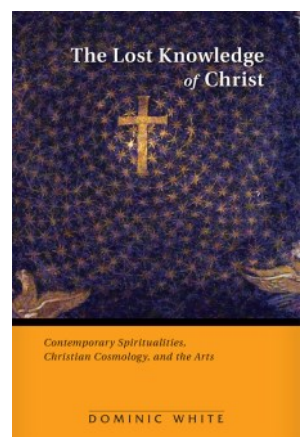
Students also attend St Dominic's and are involved with outreach through the arts. The parish priest, **Fr John Patrick Kenrick** has made this an integral part of St Dominic's pastoral programme, and he and **Fr Colin Carr** and the enthusiastic team of parish volunteers work closely with Fr Dominic on a programme of concerts, film evenings (with 'The Holy

Biscuit', the Methodist arts hub), dance performances and other collaborations with local artists. These have attracted people who seek answers to life's questions and spiritual experience in the arts rather than in churches. The arrival of West African families has added to the vibrancy of the church. St Catherine's, the parish primary school, has done well in Ofsted, and we have restarted the parish choir.

Fr Tony Rattigan continues the Dominican tradition of preaching God's mercy through his prison ministry, though he may be continuing this work soon from our Durham house.

Fr Colin continues in his wide-reaching ecumenical work, and Fr. Dominic, partly in reflection on his work with the local artists, has recently published *The Lost Knowledge of Christ: Contemporary Spiritualities, Christian Cosmology, and the Arts* (Liturgical Press, Collegeville MN).

Visit St Dominic's at www.stdominicspriorynewcastle.wordpress.com



Walsingham Pilgrimage



THE DOMINICAN ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE to Our Lady of Walsingham took place on Sunday 17 May. Groups of friars, sisters, lay Dominicans, and members of our congregations arrived at the ancient Norfolk town to take part. After Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, pilgrims walked the holy mile singing and praying the rosary.



For a full photo-report, visit english.op.org/latest-news/walsingham-2015

Offering young adults 'A Vision for Life'



THERE IS STILL TIME to book a place at the Aquinas Institute's Study Week (6–10 July), hosted once again by the Benedictine monks of Buckfast Abbey. Over the course of this five-day event, a team of Dominican friars and sisters will guide participants in a comprehensive overview of the Catholic faith taking the thought of the great Dominican St. Thomas Aquinas as a guide. The week is aimed at university students and young adults (both men and women), especially those seeking to make sense of theology and integrate it into a sustainable vision of Catholic life. Set in the beautiful grounds of Buckfast Abbey on the edge of Dartmoor, participants will be able to share in the liturgy of the monastic community, to walk in the hills, and enjoy some time of silent reflection as well as lively discussion.

Cost: £150 per person. For booking and information email Fr Nicholas Crowe OP:
studyweeks@english.op.org

Disabled access plans for Cambridge priory



BLACKFRIARS PRIORY, CAMBRIDGE, is popular among local Mass-goers despite the modest size of its chapel. However, its first-floor location means that disabled persons or ageing congregation members are currently unable to access it. Likewise, older friars, living on the ground floor, find it difficult to attend services in the chapel.

To remedy this, the community is planning the construction of an external lift, and the remodelling of the interior to provide disabled lavatory facilities. The image above shows the architect's plans, with the new lift structure highlighted.

The project budget is £150,000, of which £85,000 has been raised so far, with contributions from the Province, the Priory's own funds, and the Mass-going congregation. The friars are working with the Province's development office to apply for funding from grant-making bodies for the remainder.

If you would like to contribute, please use the form on the back page, or contact Fr Benedict Jonak: benedict.jonak@english.op.org

'Dominican Way' youth pilgrimage enters second year



AGED 18 – 35? Looking for something different to do this summer? Why not join us on our walk from Arundel to Canterbury (29 July – 9 August), enjoying fabulous countryside, making new friends, visiting amazing Catholic sites, and experiencing all the graces of a pilgrimage. And you get great Dominican preaching on the way!

All are welcome to join us – you just need to be keen to walk. Registration costs just £199 to cover all meals and accommodation. And if you can't come for the whole pilgrimage, get in touch to see if you can join us part way through.

You will also need to allow for the costs of your travel to Arundel and back again from Canterbury, plus any spending money.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Br Matthew Jarvis OP, at Blackfriars, Oxford: thedominicanway@english.op.org

Edinburgh seminars: 'Ethics & Faith in the real world'

THE ALBERTUS INSTITUTE has just run a series of seminars at the Edinburgh University Chaplaincy, bringing participants' experience to bear on topical ethical issues in professional and business life. The seminars follow on from a successful course on Catholic Social Teaching by Dr Stephen Watt of the University. The seminars have covered topics such as 'Can computers give us moral certainty?' with Prof. Zenon Bankowski; Prof. Bill Whyte led a session on 'Decision-making in Youth Justice and Child Protection'; and Prof. Alasdair MacLullich discussed power-sharing and responsibility in health-care. Philippa Bonella, Head of Communication at SCIAF, gave the group the benefits of her experience in a session entitled 'Poverty and Riches – Human rights and

our responsibilities in International Aid'. Participants of all ages and denominations came from local parishes for lively discussion.

It is the mission of The Albertus Institute to encourage active debate about issues where faith and intellectual disciplines connect, and to show that Catholics can contribute meaningfully and listen productively to topical issues in the public square. The Albertus will shortly incorporate and become a charity.

The Albertus has received valuable and enthusiastic support from Fr Dermot Morrin and the Dominicans at George Square, where meetings are held in the library. (Fr Fergus Kerr is our Honorary President).

More information at www.albertusinstitute.org



Exploring Science & Religion

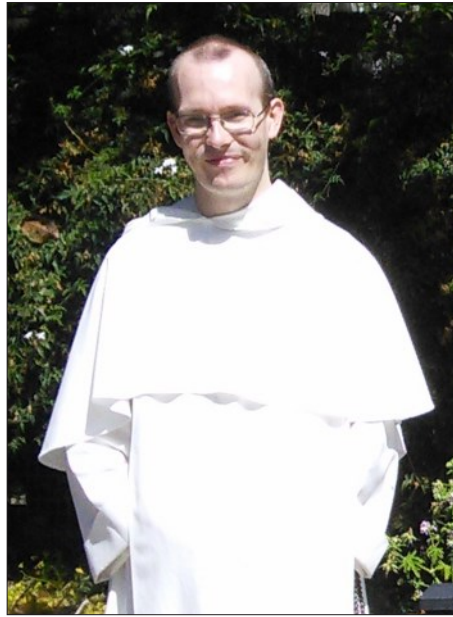
FR ROBERT VERRILL OP of our Province is currently studying for his Master's degree at the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology, based at the beautiful campus of Berkeley, the University of California. We asked him about his life and work in the USA.

Could you tell us something about your daily life in the Dominican community at Berkeley?

I live at St Albert's Priory which is the house of formation for the US Western Dominican Province. In many ways it is similar to our community in Oxford so I feel quite at home. It's a big priory with about thirty friars, around half of whom are students in initial formation. The day starts at 6:30am with the Office of Readings, and finishes in the evening with Compline and adoration. We also have recreation for half an hour every evening. The weather is usually good enough that we can have recreation outside, so it's a nice way to wind down after a busy day. The school itself is a 15-minute drive from the priory, and I have classes most days. The classes are mainly in philosophy, though I've also had the opportunity to study the Dominican Rite Mass – I now regularly celebrate this for a community of Carmelite nuns in Berkeley.

Our readers might wonder how you made the leap from a PhD in Mathematics to Dominican Friar, and then onto your current studies in Thomistic philosophy. What link do you see between the two, and more generally between science and religion?

I've always been passionate about mathematics and I've always taken my Catholic Faith very seriously, but before joining the Dominicans I tended to compartmentalise these two important aspects of my



Fr Robert Verrill OP completed a PhD in Mathematics before joining the Dominicans. He was ordained in 2012.

life. Thus, when I decided to enter the Order, I figured that giving up mathematics was just one of the sacrifices I would have to make. Yet as a Dominican, I've found that my formators have encouraged me to maintain my mathematical interests – doing philosophy and theology has helped me to see mathematics in a new light. As for the relationship between science and religion, I think that the fact that Christ took on our physical human nature means that we have to take the physical world seriously. A great danger for the theist is to imagine that one is a soul trapped inside a body. But if true religion is about the salvation of souls, then it is important that we properly understand how our souls relate to the natural order.

After all, grace perfects nature.

Your current studies are focusing on a specific aspect of Thomas Aquinas' works: What do you think modern science could gain from his philosophy?

Aquinas' philosophy takes very seriously the unity of individual things and the purposes for which they act. Modern science on the other hand often fails to recognise this and tends to take a very reductionistic approach. Reductionism has certainly been very successful, but modern science would be even richer if scientific interpretations could be found which genuinely accounted for the unity and purpose we find in natural things. This is why I'm interested in Aquinas' theory of *virtual presence* as a possible way of incorporating the results of modern science into Aquinas' natural philosophy.

Information on the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology: www.dspt.edu

New Greeting Cards

To mark the 2016 Jubilee celebrating 800 years of the Order of Preachers, the English Province has prepared Dominican-themed greeting cards, available in packs of 10, with a mixture of four designs (blank inside).

These can be purchased from any of our UK houses, with profits from sales going towards the Dominican Friars Training Fund.



Future Events

'A Millennium of Christian Exegesis' – Blackfriars, Oxford. 27 June 2015. One-day conference covering Augustine, Theodoret, Maximus, the Victorines and Aquinas. Cost: £10 to include lunch. For information email: cyril.chilson@keble.ox.ac.uk

Lay Dominican Assembly – Leicester. 4 July 2015.

'A Vision for Life' – Aquinas Institute Summer School, Buckfast Abbey. 6–10 July 2015. See p.5.

Dominican Ordinations – St Aloysius, Oxford. 11 July 2015.

The Dominican Way – from Arundel to Canterbury, 29 July – 9 August 2015. See p.6.

Thinking Faith: 'Faith and the Arts' – Boarbank Hall, Cumbria. 1–8 August 2015. Fr Martin Ganeri OP is chaplain to this annual study week hosted by the Augustinian canonesses. For details see: www.boarbankhall.org.uk

**VISIT WWW.ENGLISH.OP.ORG
FOR THE LATEST NEWS & EVENTS**

Thomas Aquinas on the Torah as a Good Form of Life & Worship – Blackfriars, Oxford. 8 Sept 2015. Co-sponsored by the Oxford Council for Christians and Jews. For details email: aquinas@bfriars.ox.ac.uk

The Influence of the Dominican Order in the Middle Ages – Blackfriars Hall and Lincoln College, Oxford, 10–12 Sept 2015.

The Friars in England and Europe; their influence on theology, philosophy and the wider culture. For more information email: eleanor.giraud@lincoln.ox.ac.uk

Dominican Youth Movement (DYM) meetings:

- North – St Cuthbert's, Durham. 7 Nov 2015.
- South – Boar's Hill, Oxford. 4–6 Dec 2015.

For more information email Fr Nicholas Crowe OP: nicholas.crowe@english.op.org

English Dominicans at World Youth Day – Kraków. 22 July – 1 August 2016.

More information in future editions.



Friars Preachers Summer 2015



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.*

**MY GIFT TO SUPPORT THE WORK
OF THE DOMINICAN FRIARS:**

£

**You can also make one-off or recurring
donations online at www.english.op.org**

My gift is for: ☐ Sponsorship for Fr Bruno (Training Fund, p.2)

☐ Cambridge Building Project (see p.6)

☐ General work of the Dominican Friars

☐ I do not require an acknowledgement

Title: First name:

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Address:

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If you attend a Dominican church or chapel, indicate here which one:

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English Province of the Order of Preachers

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**Please return this form together with your cheque or postal order payable to 'The Dominican Council' to:
Development Office, 17 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2NA. If you wish to give by other means, such as by
standing order or bank transfer, please call Richard on 01865 610208 or email development@english.op.org**

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