

# Friars Preachers



JUBILEE 800 1216-2016  
ORDER OF PREACHERS



## Dominicans 800



### Lent 2016

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# Celebrating 800 Years of Grace



**800** YEARS AGO, St Dominic received official recognition from Pope Honorius III for a new religious order whose purpose was preaching for the salvation of souls.

St Dominic's experience as an itinerant preacher in the south of France showed him the need for an educated clergy whose lives of voluntary poverty, chastity and obedience could underwrite their message.

The emerging universities in Europe also posed challenging questions that required a deeper understanding of the union between faith and reason. They nurtured gifted individuals who would offer their lives for this new mission.

This Jubilee celebrates all that the Order has achieved

through God's grace. It inspires us to reflect on our calling and plan for our future mission. Providentially, the Dominican Jubilee overlaps with the Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis, providing an additional theme for reflection and renewal.

We rely as always on the prayers of St Dominic and the great company of 102 other canonised Dominican saints and 374 blessed.

**All who participate in this Dominican Jubilee Year by taking part in a pilgrimage to a Dominican Church or Shrine or by devoutly participating in a Jubilee Year activity can receive a plenary indulgence under the normal conditions. See centre pages for details of pilgrimages and other events.**

## Year of Mercy: Holy Doors in London & Leicester



TWO DOMINICAN-RUN CHURCHES in England have been appointed Jubilee churches for the duration of the current Year of Mercy, each having a Holy Door for the duration of the year. The doors were opened with special ceremonies in December, and stay open as a symbol of God's merciful love for sinners.



The Year of Mercy is also a time for Christians to renew their dedication to acts of mercy, both corporal and spiritual.

**Pilgrims are welcome to visit St Dominic's, Southampton Road, London NW5 4LB (see [www.haverstockhill.org.uk](http://www.haverstockhill.org.uk)), and Holy Cross, Wellington St, Leicester LE1 6HW (see [www.holycrossleicester.org](http://www.holycrossleicester.org)).**



# Special Report from Syria

**F**R TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE joined an international delegation in November 2015 on a visit to Syria. His report reveals the humanity behind the headlines:

“I was invited by Mairead McGuire, who jointly (with Betty Williams) won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976 for her work in Northern Ireland, to join a small Peace delegation to Syria. We were Christians, a Hindu, and a few agnostics. I leapt at the opportunity to go. For me this was, above all, a chance to show some solidarity with Christian communities, among the oldest in the world, who felt deserted and forgotten.

“Our base was a Carmelite monastery in the mountains, halfway between Damascus and Homs. It was about three miles from the frontline with ISIS. Sleep at night was difficult because of the artillery fire. We met government officials, imams, bishops, opposition leaders, religious communities, and ordinary people in the street.

“I was deeply struck by the profound friendship between Christians and so many Muslims. In the village just below the monastery, Muslims came to the Catholic Church to celebrate the birth of the prophet and Christians went to the mosque to celebrate Christmas. Yes, that way around! As I had seen in Baghdad, Muslims were

putting up Christmas trees as a sign of their closeness to Christians. In Tartus we visited the first mosque ever to be dedicated to Our Lady, and the imam there sung the sutra from the Qur’an that is in her honour. We had a day with the Melkite Patriarch who was overjoyed at our visit, and who is a close friend of the Grand Mufti of Syria, with whom we had a couple of hours.

“It is hard to discern the true situation of Syria. The West has its own narrative, in which the President,

Bashar al-Assad, is seen as a cruel tyrant who must be removed from power as soon as possible. Nearly all the people with whom we talked had other narratives. People feared an imposed regime change even more than Daesh. They had seen how in Iraq and Libya this had led to chaos and the flourishing of terrorism. As

Dominicans, we know

that the truth is to be arrived at patiently and humbly, listening attentively all voices. I was saddened, returning to the UK, by the simplistic certainty with which so many politicians write of this complex country.

“The atmosphere is saturated with violence. In Damascus people carried

around AK47s as if they were umbrellas. Homs was virtually destroyed. We visited Maaloula, a Christian village in which Aramaic is still spoken. Before we could have breakfast we were hustled into cars and driven away at speed. We had been spotted by al-Nusra Front, an affiliate of al-Qaeda; an attack was imminent.

“Everywhere, Christians and Muslims are labouring to produce reconciliation, at the risk of their lives. I slowly became aware of how much this violence magnifies upon a terrible screen the violence that is so pervasive of Western gun culture. I went to see *Spectre*, the latest James Bond movie, shortly after my return. This is the sort of film that the jihadists love. But Bond’s final act was to throw away his gun. **We shall only defeat Daesh if we heal our souls of violence.**”



Fr Timothy Radcliffe with fellow delegates in Syria



**A beautiful and eloquent set of photos taken during the visit portrays the humanity of the Syrian people and their culture.**

**View online at [english.op.org/syria-2016](http://english.op.org/syria-2016)**

## Rest in Peace

We remember with gratitude the recently departed who generously made bequests. *May they rest in peace.*

- Charles Carver (Leicester priory)
- Warrick Cleaver (Cambridge priory)
- Prof Anthony Kelly (O.P. Province of England)

A **free leaflet on legacies** is available from our priories, or from the development office (see *form on back page*).





## SOLEMN VESPERS: London, 29 April

This celebration of Vespers is the main public event for the Dominicans and all associated with them to commemorate the 800th anniversary. It will take place at **Westminster Cathedral** in central London on Friday 29 April 2016, at 2.30pm.

His Eminence **Cardinal Nichols** will preside and our brother **Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP** will preach. A *Magnificat* antiphon by the composer **Sir James Macmillan** has been commissioned for the occasion, to be sung by members of the **Westminster Cathedral Choir**. The event will be filmed.

Parties of guests have been invited to accompany the various communities of friars, sisters and lay Dominicans, including groups from schools with Dominican connections. General invitations have also been issued via our houses.

If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend, please contact the Jubilee Committee c/o the Development Office as soon as possible: [development@english.op.org](mailto:development@english.op.org)

## ONLINE EXHIBITION: 'A Pipeline from Heaven. 800 years of Dominican books.' All year.

This brand-new virtual exhibition hosted by the Cambridge University Library on their website features a dazzling array of images from the rich heritage of books created by the Order of Preachers to support their life and mission: illustrated biblical texts and commentaries; liturgical books; theological treatises; manuals for confessors; sermon collections; and histories of the New World which champion the rights of indigenous peoples. Works featured include wood engravings made by the Lay Dominicans who worked with Eric Gill at Ditchling.

Visit the exhibition here: [english.op.org/pipeline](http://english.op.org/pipeline)



## Dominican-themed Greetings Cards



Now available in packs of 10, with a mixture of four designs (blank inside), these can be purchased from all of our UK houses or from the Development Office (suggested donation £5 per pack), with any profits going towards the Friars' Training Fund.

# Jubilee Events – join us!



## **PILGRIMAGE: Walsingham, 8 May**

Join the whole Dominican family on its annual pilgrimage to England's national Marian shrine. In this Jubilee Year, our preacher will be **Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP**. Transport will be available from some of our houses.

**For further details contact Fr David Rocks**  
[david.rocks@english.op.org](mailto:david.rocks@english.op.org)



## **PILGRIMAGE: Beverley to York, 30 June – 3 July**

This walking pilgrimage in the company of our novices includes a stay in the medieval Dominican priory (see picture – now a hostel) in Beverley and liturgy in the Minster, en route to the beautiful city of York. Opening evening lecture by **Timothy Radcliffe OP**. (For those who do not wish to walk the full distance of 40 miles, a half-length trail and car option will be provided.)

Prices: £95 standard; £50 concession for students/unemployed. Includes food & accommodation: 2 nights at Beverley YHA (exclusive hire), 1 night at York YHA. Linen provided.

**For information, contact Fr Richard Finn:**  
[richard.finn@english.op.org](mailto:richard.finn@english.op.org)



## **DANCE PERFORMANCE: Newcastle, 1 July**

The Eliot Smith Company will perform an interpretation of the **Life of St. Dominic** at St. Dominic's Priory, Newcastle. Tracing his life from childhood to the Order's foundation, and inspired by St. Dominic's 'Nine Ways of Prayer', the performance will highlight the saint's care for the poor and his affirming of the goodness of the body and of creation.

ESC is a young, internationally touring contemporary dance company based in Newcastle. Much of the director's work is inspired by his Catholic faith; ESC has performed in churches across the country.

**Performance: Friday 1 July at 7.30 pm. Tickets available on the door or (from mid-May) from**  
[www.eliotsmithcompany.com](http://www.eliotsmithcompany.com). Price £10.

For a full listing of Jubilee Year events: [english.op.org/jubilee-events](http://english.op.org/jubilee-events)



# Herbert McCabe on Politics and Religion

**T**HE DOMINICAN ORDER has Veritas (Truth) as one of its mottos, and to mark the Jubilee the Las Casas Institute at Blackfriars, Oxford, has inaugurated a series of lectures and one-day conferences on the theme of Truth in contemporary society. Professor Denys Turner of Yale University began this series by delivering the annual Las Casas Lecture in October 2015, on the theme of Truth-telling and politics, as understood by a familiar figure for the English brethren – their late brother **Fr Herbert McCabe**. **Fr Peter Hunter** summarises:



“The key idea explored by Prof Turner in the lecture is the relationship of Christianity to politics. He first set out the false view that they are related in the way oil and water are: water and oil displace each other and they are alternatives to one another. Similarly, modern secularism tries to push religion out of the political sphere, or the religious right seeks to sacralise the political.

“Turner presents McCabe as saying that both are, roughly

speaking, making the same mistake, and not because they present religion and politics as different, but because they do not see them as different enough. The day-to-day business of politics, Turner compares to the true Christian politics using the image of blind people bumping into objects in a dark room, as compared with seeing the room with the light on, and recognising it as a sitting room, thus grasping its meaning.

“The principal relationship of the Church to politics is prophetic, Turner asserts. He pointed to the true meaning of human existence as a life of love: a love destined to be rejected by the sinful world and killed. In Herbert’s words: ‘If you do not love, you will not be alive, but if you do love, you will be killed.’ ”



*Fr Peter Hunter OP teaches philosophy in the Dominican Studium*

## Dominican Youth Movement

**T**HE DOMINICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT enjoyed several study days across the country in recent months. DYM coordinator

**Fr Nicholas Crowe** reports:

### **‘There is no fear in love’: Durham**

On 7<sup>th</sup> November DYM marked the beginnings of the Order’s celebration of its 800<sup>th</sup> Jubilee with a retreat day at the Dominican-run Catholic

chaplaincy at the University of Durham. The retreat gathered students from our chaplaincies in Durham and Edinburgh to reflect on the role of emotion and desire in our Christian journey of discipleship. The day concluded with a prayer vigil and dinner, courtesy of a local pub.

### **‘Illumination’: Leicester**

November also saw the launch of ‘Illumination’, a twenty-four-hour immersion in the Dominican Tradition aimed at students and young adults, and hosted by the Dominican-run Catholic chaplaincy at the University of Leicester. The title ‘Illumination’ is inspired by the ‘O Lumen’, the great antiphon that the Dominican Order sings in honour of our Holy Father St Dominic every evening at Compline. This antiphon addresses St Dominic as ‘a light of the Church’, and in this



*Fr Ben Earl, Fr Nicholas Crowe and Fr David Goodill with attendees of the DYM workshop in Durham.*

inaugural meeting a team of Dominican friars and sisters offered participants the opportunity to experience for themselves the prayer, study, common life, and mission that St. Dominic bequeathed to his Order, and the way that these pillars of our tradition can lead us into a deeper encounter with Christ. Look out for further Illumination events in 2016.

### **‘Journey into the Light’: Boars Hill, Oxford**

This year’s DYM Advent study weekend was hosted by the Carmelite community at Boars Hill. Participants were offered the opportunity to explore the infancy narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke as part of a broader reflection on the significance of the coming of God as Man that we celebrate at Christmas. As usual, this weekend proved very popular and booked out in record time. Our thanks goes to the Carmelite community at Boars Hill for their generous hospitality, and to Fr Richard Ounsworth OP and Fr Paul Rowse OP for guiding us so ably in our reflections throughout the weekend.

**Interested in getting involved? Drop an email to Fr Nicholas: [nicholas.crowe@english.op.org](mailto:nicholas.crowe@english.op.org)**



# Conference: Truth Telling & the Media

A RECENT CONFERENCE in Oxford, organised by the Las Casas Institute at Blackfriars Hall, sought to examine the challenges of truth-telling in a world of rapidly breaking news stories and mass participation via social media.

**Fr Simon Gaine** started the conference by asking: Do the modern media conceal or reveal truth? Do they tell our story in a helpful or unhelpful way? What can the media teach the Church?

Addressing the conference from Syria, **Fr Timothy Radcliffe** explained how the conference furthered the mission of the Las Casas Institute to be a place of encounter and collaboration between those who experience and observe injustice and others who reflect on solutions to that injustice.

**Professor Nicholas Boyle** looked at how the mass media is abused by the internet troll and the terrorist. By hiding behind the keyboard, the internet troll fears only words being returned in retaliation whereas the terrorist exploits the illusion of global knowledge by offering real violence whose threat resounds through



the structures of the mass media. Both trolls and terrorists, Boyle explained, exist free of the economy, state, and society as triply detached individuals, as Hobbesian pre-social humans.

**Tim Livesey** (standing in for Edward Hadas) argued that news content is often rushed to provide speedy delivery to viewers or readers, resulting in the truth being sacrificed to meet deadlines, making it unattainable. The Gospel, conversely, calls us to a higher standard of truth than we would naturally choose for ourselves. The truth is painful, it is never thin or glib, and cannot be rushed.

**Video footage from the event can be viewed on the LCI YouTube channel:** [bit.ly/1Np8xkT](http://bit.ly/1Np8xkT)

## Future Las Casas Institute Events

The next event in this series on truth telling and contemporary society will be **'Truth Telling and Finance'** on 9 July 2016. Another forthcoming event is a conference at Leeds Trinity University on 5 March 2016: **'A Poor Church for the Poor, How can we respond to Pope Francis' challenge?'** in partnership with Catholic Social Action Network, Depaul UK, and Leeds Trinity University.

**For full details of events or to join the mailing list, visit** [www.lascasasinstitute.org](http://www.lascasasinstitute.org) **or email:** [lascasas@bfriars.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lascasas@bfriars.ox.ac.uk)

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The delightful and affectionate portrait of **Fr Kenelm Foster OP** by Sarah Norman and Christabel Ames-Lewis in the autumn *Friars Preachers* struck a chord with me, especially their feeling protective towards him. It was his practice, going down into Cambridge, to read a book as he walked, and we sometimes feared for his safety as he reached the traffic lights at the bottom of Castle Hill.

On one occasion I dashed across to ensure he had noticed where he was before crossing, but he looked up with mild surprise and kindly smiled at my anxiety. His eyes never appeared to leave his book as he crossed, and I think he must simply have come to some arrangement with St. Christopher.

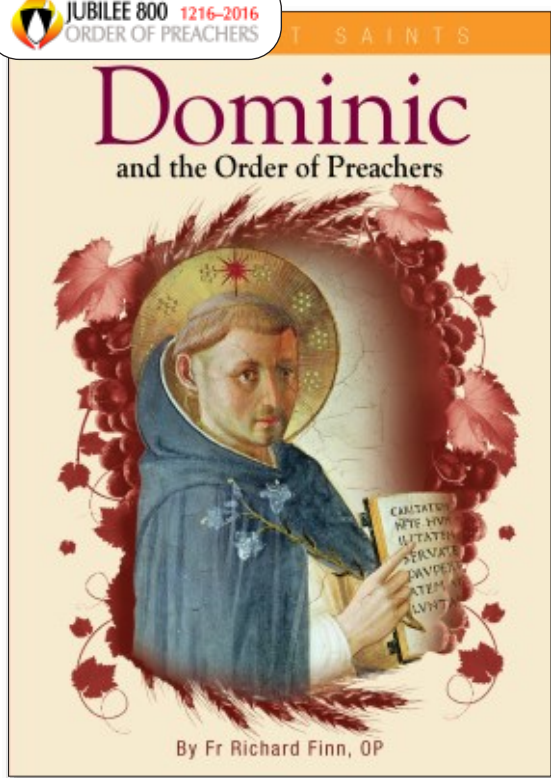
– **Geoff Morris, Cambridge.**

**If you have similar stories that you wish to share, please send them to the editor:**  
[newsletter@english.op.org](mailto:newsletter@english.op.org).

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# New pocket history of the Dominicans

**D**OMINIC AND THE ORDER OF PREACHERS is a new booklet by **Fr Richard Finn** published to mark the Order's Jubilee, providing an accessible overview of the history of the Dominicans. Fr Richard sets St Dominic and his Order's developing mission in the context of major social changes through the centuries and across the globe. The story highlights the contributions made by its major saints and leading figures such as St Thomas Aquinas, St Catherine of Siena, Savonarola, Bartolomé de Las Casas, St Martin de Porres, Lacordaire, and Yves Congar, among others. Particular attention is given to some of the English-speaking provinces.



The booklet is published by CTS and priced at £2.50. Copies are available from your local Dominican house, or you can buy direct from [www.ctsbooks.org](http://www.ctsbooks.org)



## 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 or online via our website. *May God bless you for your generosity.*

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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](mailto:development@english.op.org)**

