

Friars Preachers



JUBILEE 800 1216-2016
ORDER OF PREACHERS



Summer 2016

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Meet the new Provincial

FR MARTIN GANERI OP has been appointed the new Prior Provincial of the Dominican Friars in England & Scotland.

Fr Martin was the Vice-Regent at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, and briefly held the office of Prior there before being appointed Provincial.

Tell us about your background and vocation.

I was born and brought up in Staffordshire. It was when I went to Cambridge to study Classics and Oriental Studies that I first really met the Dominicans, who were very much a presence in the Catholic Chaplaincy. They ran a theology group and a Bible study group; I very much enjoyed taking part in these. In my final years as a student I started going to Blackfriars for morning and evening prayer. At that time the Dominicans had a number of students living with the community each year, and in my final year I was accepted as one of them. This enabled me to get to know the Dominicans there much more fully and to experience what it meant to live the Dominican way of life. I was very much attracted to the way that this combined a commitment to the intellectual life with a regular prayer life (involving the divine office sung together) and the common life of meals and decision making. I thought it was wonderful and, after a few years of working in London, I made the decision to apply at the age of 27.

You have been involved in recent years in teaching and research. What are your particular areas of interest?

Having studied Oriental Studies I had an interest in classical Indian religions; as a Dominican I have been interested in the history and present possibilities of Thomist encounter with non-Christian thought. I think that there is in Aquinas' own use of Greek and Arab thought an excellent model that can help such theological encounter in today's world, anchoring it in a tradition of theology which has proved and continues to prove so central for us in the Order and the Church as a whole.

My other main interest is in Scripture, and in recent years I have had the delight to teach courses in this area in our Dominican Studium at Blackfriars, Oxford. I am particularly interested in the long tradition of exegesis we have in the fathers and scholastic theologians, which lies behind the way we continue to use the Scriptures in the Church. I have been keen to integrate some of this alongside more modern exegesis in the lectures and tutorials I have given.



How did it feel when you were elected Provincial?

I was a little shocked and daunted, to be honest. Being Provincial is a very challenging role and not something you take on lightly. In the Dominican tradition we don't campaign to be elected to offices, rather we rely on the good judgement of those in the Province to decide whom they feel might serve well in a position. Being elected is, then, to be told that others want you to do something and that they feel you can do it. I will do my best!

What was the Chapter's vision for the Province? How would you like it to develop in coming years?

The Chapter wanted to see the Province's commitment to its projects strengthened so that these can be taken further and be carried out more fully. As Dominicans we want to do the things we do well. These projects include Blackfriars Hall and the Dominican Studium in Oxford, which provide for the educational needs of members of religious orders and lay people. They also include the training of Dominican novices and students from our own Province and from others, both in Cambridge and Oxford; and our priories in Edinburgh, London and Leicester where we combine the care of parishes and chaplaincies. I would like to see all the priories develop a clear vision of how to grow in these works over the next ten years. I would also like to develop the way the intellectual and pastoral dimensions of our life [continued on facing page]



Jubilee Pilgrimage: Beverley to York



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**Frs David Goodill OP and Richard Finn OP
with a broken walking boot!**

A HAPPY BAND OF PILGRIMS, including the noviciate friars, the Prior of Oxford, lay Dominicans, and friends associated with our houses in Oxford and Edinburgh, descended on Beverley Youth Hostel (housed in our former medieval priory) on the last day of June as part of the Province's Jubilee celebrations. Fr Aidan Nichols OP opened the pilgrimage with a lecture that evening to a large ecumenical audience in the nearby minster on 'The Preachers' Mission', and next morning saw the hardy walkers in the group set off on the first of two twenty-mile hikes to York. Mass and Vespers were celebrated that evening in the recusant chapel at Everingham Hall, where the sermon recalled the Yorkshire Dominican

friar Fr Bertrand Wilberforce, grandson of the more famous abolitionist. Saturday saw the pilgrims welcomed for lunch and midday prayer at the Thicket Carmel before the final trek into York where Fr Richard Ounsworth OP spoke on the 'Dominican Rosary' and preached at the Sunday morning Mass in St Wilfrid's.

Meet the new Provincial

[continued from p.2] can be combined and enrich each other, with friars from the different priories teaching more and more in Oxford, and with those lecturing in Oxford or involved in its research centres taking their own expertise to the parishes and chaplaincies, giving talks and retreats.

The Chapter also wanted to strengthen the community life of each of our priories, so that in every place we could fully live out our Dominican way of life. For this we need to have a sufficient number of friars in each place, so that over-heavy burdens are not placed on any one individual, and so that the prayer and common life can be sustained, and friars given the time they need for intellectual study and work. I intend to work as Provincial to see that we can achieve this. Young men are attracted to our distinctive way of life today, just as I was over twenty years ago, and we owe it to them to have communities that match their hopes and expectations.

Please keep Fr Martin and the whole Province in your prayers.



Fr Martin carrying the pilgrim statue of Our Lady during this year's Dominican pilgrimage to Walsingham. More photos on [flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/friarlukeop/) (search for friarlukeop).





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Jubilee Vespers



*Most Rev Bruno Cadoré,
Master of the Order of Preachers*

THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS on 29 April at Westminster Cathedral were a splendid occasion. Over 1100 people gathered for Solemn Vespers of the feast of Dominican saint, Catherine of Siena. Those present included the Master of the Dominican Order; Cardinals Nichols and Murphy-O'Connor; 6 bishops and representatives from 13 other religious orders. The Order was represented by 55 friars, 70 sisters, and 90 Lay Dominicans. Pupils and staff came from 16 Schools with Dominican connections.

Sir James MacMillan was present to hear the first performance of his stunning Magnificat antiphon written especially for the occasion and sung by the Cathedral Choir. Another musical highlight was the responsory, skilfully sung by a schola of 8 friars. The homily of Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP and the address by the Master both offered words of encouragement and hope. All of these can be viewed in the **DVD of the Vespers**, available to order now; a **full report** can also be read at our website (see opposite for details).



*Sir James and Lady MacMillan
(photo by Mary O'Duffin)*



- Westminster Cathedral



*Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP,
Archbishop of Liverpool*



*Cardinal Vincent Nichols conversing
with Dominican sisters*

Photographs taken by
Kayte Brimacombe



*Fr Vivian Boland OP, Socius of the Master of the
Order, with a pupil from St Rose's and St Martin's
Catholic School, Stroud, Gloucestershire*

Full photo report:

• english.op.org/vespers2016

Buy the DVD now

for just £10 (inc UK postage):

• english.op.org/vespersDVD

A New Rosary Shrine in London



Achieving our Founders' Vision

The Dominican priory church at Haverstock Hill was originally designed to be the Lourdes of north London, with the 15 Rosary mysteries built into its architecture through 15 themed altars.

The friars are therefore delighted that Cardinal Vincent Nichols has now granted the church the official status of diocesan Rosary shrine, to be inaugurated at Mass on 22 October 2016. Fr Thomas Skeats OP, who is prior and parish priest, described this move as particularly felicitous, coming as it does during the Jubilee celebrating the 800th anniversary of the Dominican Order.

Britain's First Rosary Shrine: an Important Gift to our Nation and our Community

The friars see the Rosary Shrine as giving a focus and a 'home' for the promotion of the Rosary in England. It will also add to a growing and increasingly popular network of Catholic shrines throughout the country.

As well as promoting prayer and personal spiritual renewal, the Shrine will be a missionary centre for the promotion of the Rosary, and for evangelisation, including through cultural events.

This new status will give an important new missionary focus for our church, with possibilities for

involvement by a wide range of members of the local community, including volunteering and some paid employment opportunities.

Plans for Development

Drawing upon the strong preaching traditions of the Dominican Order, and the energy and commitment of our parishioners, we will warmly welcome visitors and seek to build up activities and resources to inspire and educate.

This is also an opportunity to improve our facilities, the better to welcome pilgrims, and to complete the restoration of our historic and beautiful Grade II* listed church, making it a shrine fitting for Our Lady of the Rosary.

To this end, friars and parishioners are joining forces to fundraise £800,000 for the renewal and upgrading of the church and its facilities, with £160,000 already given.

Readers are warmly invited to pay a visit to this beautiful church, located in north London (NW5 4LB); the nearest tube stations are Belsize Park and Chalk Farm.

Visit the church's beautiful new website at www.rosaryshrine.co.uk which includes service times and further information.



St Thomas Aquinas study weekend



Fr Robert Ombres OP



Sr Valery Walker OP

Rest in Peace

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

- Agnes Gallagher (O.P. Grenada Mission)
- Vincent Gallagher (O.P. Training Fund)
- Beatrice Cox (Cambridge priory)
- Brigid Hourihan (Leicester Priory)

A **free leaflet on legacies** is available from our priories, or from the Dominicans' Development Office (see form on back page).

ST THOMAS AQUINAS' WRITINGS have an endless fascination to them, and have proved to be a reliable guide for those trying to understand God, the world and themselves in the light of Faith and with the help of reason.

The study weekend in February this year, organised by Sr Valery Walker OP at the Sisters' convent in Stone, obviously met a need, drawing a varied group to participate in liturgical prayer, talks, discussion and conviviality. Select texts from the *Summa Theologiae* were distributed so as to give a vivid sense of how St Thomas argued towards the truth. Our theme was 'Human Beings: Beast? Angel? Or what?'

Sr Valery gave an introduction on Friday evening by outlining the kind of reactions one might get when aspects of our topic were mentioned to different people. On Saturday, she gave the first talk presenting mainly from St Thomas on how we humans relate to the material world and in particular to living creatures. Key terms were introduced.

The second talk, presented by Fr Robert Ombres OP, was entitled 'Angelic Temptations', in which material creatures were compared and contrasted with angels. Fr Robert also gave another talk entitled 'Being Fully Alive', which is a Thomist anthropology in miniature that built on all we had looked at thus far.

On Saturday evening we watched a documentary on the Turin Shroud. The atmosphere was relaxing as we got to know one another over a glass (or two) of wine. No false dualisms here!

On Sunday morning the speakers led a concluding discussion, when it became clear that St Thomas is valuable on his own terms, but that we could also think 'with him' as well as 'about him'. So we explored the move from a widespread soul/body problematic to a more contemporary mind/body dialectic.

'It is not natural to see man as a natural product. It is not common sense to call man a common object of the country or the sea-shore. It is not seeing straight to see him as an animal. It is not sane. It sins against the light, against that broad daylight of proportion which is the principle of all reality.'

— G.K.Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man*.

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R.I.P. Piers Linley

Our brother, Piers Linley OP, died peacefully on 22 June 2016, accompanied by his brethren. He was 84 years old. Here is an abridged sketch by Fr Brian Davies OP (a fuller version can be read online at english.op.org/piers).

Piers made profession as a Dominican in 1960 and was ordained in 1968. Following studies at the Richmond Fellowship in London, he became a qualified psychotherapist and treated many patients. In his time, he also taught pastoral studies at Blackfriars, Oxford, was parish priest of Woodchester in Gloucestershire, and finally chaplain to the Dominican sisters at Rosary Priory in Bushey, Herts.

Fr Piers was a good and kind man who took his job as a preacher very seriously. He was not the most lively and imaginative of preachers, but he worked hard at the



business of preaching and prepared for it with a copious reading of biblical commentaries, theology, and everything he could find of value while using his computer. He was especially interested in the writings of Aquinas and, in spite of his medical problems, he studied him on a daily basis during his final years. The virtue of not complaining was one of Piers's greatest

ones. Another was his quiet sense of humour tempered by reason. Yet another was his extreme loyalty to the Dominican Order and to those fortunate to count him among their friends.

With the passing of Piers Linley the English Dominicans have lost someone of great value. May he rest in the peace that he deserves.



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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English Province of the Order of Preachers

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