

Friars Preachers



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



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How can we plant the seeds of faith?

WHAT MUST HAPPEN to spark off faith in Christ? That key question was addressed by Br Nicholas Crowe OP at the packed Dominican Seminar held at Hinsley Hall in Leeds this January. He offered for discussion an answer with three major elements.

Reflecting on his experience of working with 18-to-35 year-olds, Br Nicholas stressed that conversion only happens when a person or community can *radically identify themselves with Christ*, which means a prior familiarity with the Christian Scriptures.

Second, *contemplation* fans the flame. The success of last year's parish mission in London was due partly 'to a focus on prayer: Catholics and non-Catholics alike were invited to come to the Church and pray for what mattered to them most. The popularity of this programme, as well as the positive response of the general public to an outreach project in the local market, points to a broad segment of society that does not worship on Sunday but nevertheless values prayer.' This ought to 'encourage us to take more seriously the power of the Church's liturgy and its devotions as a focal point of our outreach.' He noted that those groups within the Church at the 'frontline' of current missionary efforts have all made Eucharistic adoration the centrepiece of their apostolate.

Third, we must reckon on the 'missionary power of hands-on work for social justice.' This is evidenced by successful projects in New York and elsewhere in the United States. Not only is it good in itself to serve the poor and marginalized, experience shows that in most cases we are ourselves evangelised when we reach out to others from love of Christ. Further, by expressing our love of neighbour in deeds we gain a stake in our society and the right to be heard when we speak. To paraphrase an American Presbyterian minister: "A Christian community is truly missionary when,

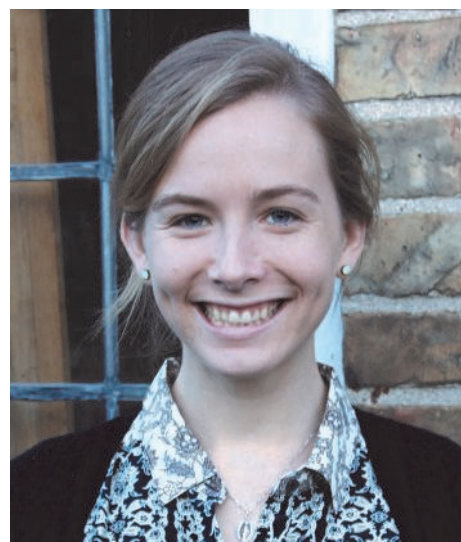
because of its works of charity, its neighbours are glad that these Christians are present even if they do not agree with what these Christians say." Society will listen more sympathetically to our preaching if our words are backed by deeds. **For next year's seminar, see the calendar on the back page.**

Kermaria Scholar

CONGRATULATIONS go to Blackfriars Hall student, Amy Nolan, who has been awarded the first Kermaria Scholarship by the Las Casas Institute in support of her Oxford

M.Phil in Christian Moral Reasoning. The new scholarship, generously donated by the Daughters of Jesus, is named after the Congregation's mother house in Brittany.

You can find out more on the Daughters of Jesus and their work at: www.fillesdejesus.catholique.fr/?lang=en.



At Blackfriars, our Dominican tradition includes a commitment to providing an excellent education for all. If you are interested in funding a scholarship, please call Richard on 01865 610208 or email development@english.op.org and we will be pleased to send you more information.



Inside the Edinburgh Chaplaincy

The Dominican friars serve ten UK universities as chaplains. In this issue we take a closer look at Edinburgh.



Fr Robert Verrill and friends celebrating Burns Night at the George Square chaplaincy

EDINBURGH'S CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY ministers to three universities in the city, and is served by Dominican chaplains Fr Robert Verrill, Fr Lawrence Lew, and Fr Dermot Morrin, who is senior chaplain. The Catholic Students' Union based at the Chaplaincy is arguably the most active society in University of Edinburgh, with often more events than there are days of the week. It has formed many smaller sub-groups including the Pier Giorgio Frassati Scout Clan which is going from strength to strength, with the aim of serving the community, and the growing Praise and Worship Group.

We kick off our week on Sunday with student Mass in our beautiful new chapel. After Mass, our cosy common room hosts a social event such as 'Chocolate Heaven', 'Cheese and Wine' or 'CSU's Got Talent'. These Sunday night events are a great way to relax and have a laugh before the start of a busy week.

On Mondays many come to our reading group, where we explore Catholic theology with Fr Robert using St Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*. A variety of people come around on Tuesdays for 'Faith Matters', a talk and discussion event. Each week a different speaker presents a new and intriguing topic, ranging from morality and ethics, to vocations and family life.

Wednesday sees our communal meal, cooked by students – a time to recharge and refuel. Before the meal, our Praise and Worship group meets in the chapel to pray with beautiful songs accompanied by guitar and keyboard. After the meal, everyone is welcome to enjoy a glass of wine, coffee, or tea and join in on a relaxed chat about faith with Fr Lawrence. These 'Faith Chats' allow anyone to come with any questions they may have about the Faith and living life as a Catholic.

It is so important to have time to share and discuss the topics and issues that we encounter every day, and to learn how we can intertwine our faith with every part of our lives. The CSU week ends with praying the meditative Rosary in our chapel on Friday evenings, followed by a movie screening!

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Maria Hancock – CSU President



When I first arrived in Scotland to begin my studies in veterinary medicine, the first thing I wanted to find was a group of like-minded, faithful, joy-filled young people. My search wasn't long, as I soon discovered the Chaplaincy of St. Albert

the Great and the Catholic Students' Union. As I approach the last year of my studies, the days get longer and more challenging, but with this supportive community of students and chaplains, I gain strength and direction through laughs, discussion, prayer, and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Niall O Coinleáin – CSU President Emeritus:



Now in my fifth and final year of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, I owe the Chaplaincy more than I could ever repay. I came to Edinburgh a sacramentalised cradle Catholic with a very inconsistent and far from adult faith. Through a huge amount of grace and prayer, the

Chaplaincy has brought me to a completely fulfilling relationship with Christ and has given me the tools and knowledge to defend and, most importantly, spread the Faith as I move out into the world of work. The Chaplaincy has not become my 'second home' or a 'home from home', it is now my home.



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At the heart of the Edinburgh Chaplaincy is the Dominican community whose day is marked by the rhythm of communal prayer using the psalms. Everyone is encouraged to join both morning prayer (Lauds) and evening prayer (Vespers). Recently, a good number of students have been regularly starting their days off with Lauds followed by breakfast in the common room. What a peaceful way to start the day! We are also so blessed to have two opportunities every week day to attend Mass!

The CSU is often a resource called upon by other societies, as seen during the recent defeat of the motion "Religion is no longer a force for good in society," which was opposed by a CSU speaker



at an Edinburgh Uni Debates Union event. Such involvement shows how key groups such as the CSU are committed to educating young Catholics in order to help spread Christ's message. Along with all of these terrific and fulfilling events, the common room is open all day for students to relax in between classes. There is always someone at the chaplaincy to talk and enjoy a cup of tea with!

Do you have a story to share about your time at a Dominican chaplaincy? Email newsletter@english.op.org

In 2014 we are launching a special fund to support the work of the Dominican chaplains and the students we serve. If you would like to help, please use the form on the back page. And do pray for this important work!



On the Saturday evening, 'Nightfever' was held in St Albert's architecturally acclaimed new chapel (see above). The DYM participants brought in over 100 passers-by who each lit a candle and spent some quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the Altar. Sunday saw Timothy Radcliffe OP preach at Mass to a packed chapel of over one hundred and fifty people. After lunch, a smaller group of DYM participants ended a highly successful weekend by climbing Arthur's Seat!

One Malaysian student judged it probably their "best weekend in the UK so far".

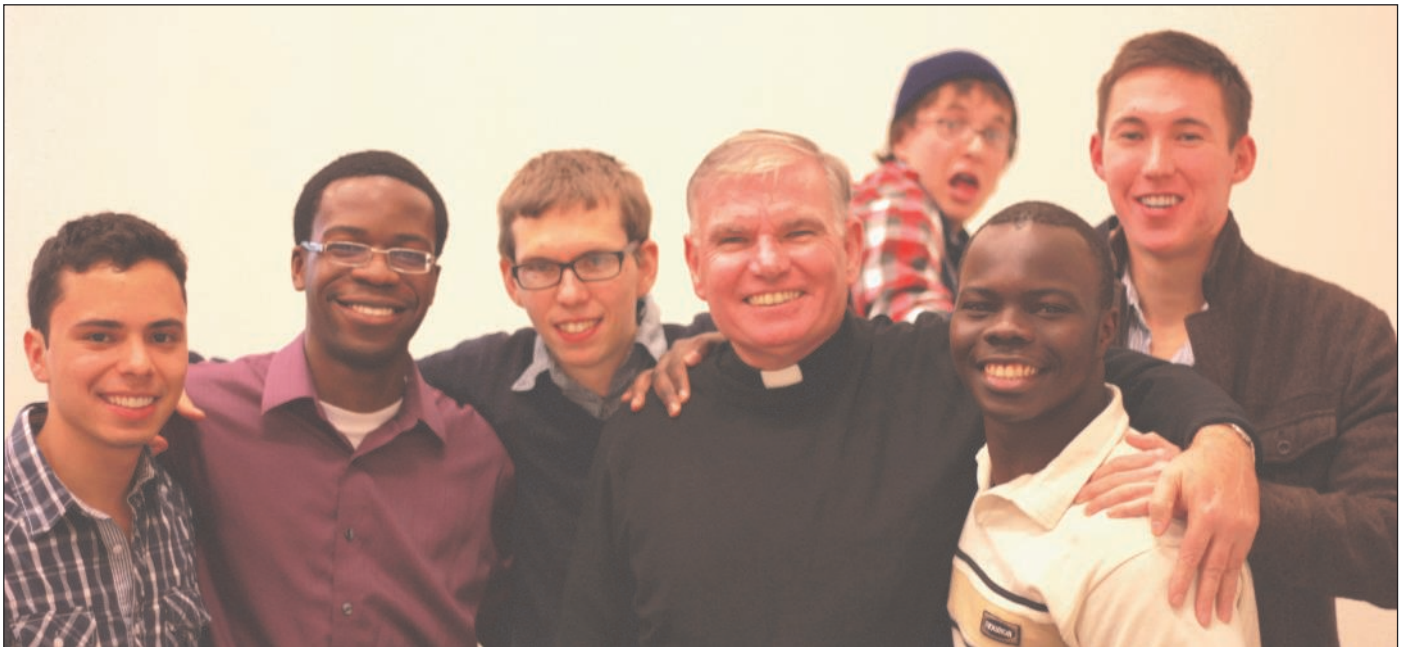
The next few months will see weekend events in March, at Durham and further south at Worth Abbey – see the events listing on page 8.

DYM Update

FRIENDSHIPS were made and renewed; candles flickered; ideas were exchanged, and prayerful silence shared, as more than eighty young people came together in Edinburgh on the weekend of 2/3 November 2013 to launch the Dominican Youth Movement. They came from the Dominican chaplaincies in Leicester, Durham, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh, as well as from London, St Andrews, and Aberdeen.

Frs Timothy Radcliffe and Richard Ounsworth spoke on the Spirituality and Theology of the Psalms in Edinburgh University Chaplaincy's Auditorium to a wider audience of around one hundred and thirty, thus raising the profile of the DYM in the wider university.





Letter from America

Fr Allan White OP, of the English Province, is now Catholic Chaplain at New York University. He writes of life and ministry in the Big Apple.

ON THE SHORT walk to New York University's Catholic Center from St Joseph's parish, where I live, I see the Empire State Building in one direction along Sixth Avenue and the World Trade Center in the other. NYU, founded in 1831, has 40,000 students, and extends to numerous campuses in different countries. Although not 'Ivy League', NYU, known for the excellence of its Law, Business, and Film and Theatre schools, ranks high in academic achievement. At the Catholic Center, we benefit from the skills of the NYU music students, as the high standard of liturgical music draws large numbers of worshippers from the parish, the university and beyond. Over the years we have developed a lively ministry not only to students but also to many young professionals seeking to nourish their faith and to meet Catholic friends. The main student Mass on Sunday evenings regularly draws 700 young people and the number continues to grow.

Two Dominican Chaplains – Fr Austin Litke, a newly-ordained priest, and myself – are responsible for the University ministry based in the newly-opened Catholic Center in the heart of Greenwich Village on Washington Square. The style of ministry differs from my previous experiences in Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge. We do not live in the Chaplaincy but operate there from 8.00 am until the evening activities

have finished. Mercifully, everything starts and finishes earlier in the USA so things are drawing to a close by 10.00 pm.

The heart of our ministry is the daily celebration of the Eucharist in the Center's chapel. Sunday Masses take place at St Joseph's parish, since our chapel is too small to accommodate the numbers. Every day begins with the Divine Office and we also celebrate Vespers with the students. The sacrament of reconciliation is available daily during the semester for an hour, coinciding with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass. Mass attendance is good and the students are regular in prayer and are interested in learning more about their faith. We try to satisfy this need through regular catechetical talks and lectures and by sustaining all of the usual Catholic student groups. We also sponsor, together with the Thomist Institute based in the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, lectures and colloquia on theology, culture and art that expand our profile throughout the city.

New York never sleeps; the pace of life and the impersonality of the city overwhelm many students. For them the Catholic Center is a home away from home. There they meet friends, come to study and to eat lunch or dinner. Life in New York is always brisk and never dull. Being with young people constantly is demanding but has its compensations. On a recent camping trip, I discovered I was not as old as I thought I was, when I beat all of the young men to the top of a mountain they had determined to climb. You are only as old as you feel!

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Celebrating the 'Angelic Doctor'

EACH YEAR AROUND JANUARY 28TH, the friars celebrate the feast of St Thomas Aquinas with lectures to promote his teaching. At Oxford, this was given by Fr Gilles Emery OP, Professor of Dogmatic Theology at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, and member of the International Theological Commission. Fr Emery took the title 'The Presence of the Trinity Within Us: Knowing and Loving God,' The lecture set out how Aquinas accounts for the special indwelling of the three divine persons within us. He concluded, 'Aquinas summarizes his teaching in a very simple formula, quite easy to memorise: "God dwells in human beings by faith, which works through love".'

CAMBRIDGE celebrated with a lecture from Fr Richard Conrad OP: 'Of His Fullness Have We All Received: St John and St Thomas on How Christ Saves Us.' While some theologians discuss only a few ways of understanding how Christ saves us, or prioritise one way, St Thomas synthesises several approaches. He supplies what is lacking in the 'satisfaction' and 'moral example' models by bringing out our need for the grace of the Holy Spirit to heal and divinise us; this grace overflows to us through Christ's humanity. In his mature treatment of Christ as Saviour, perhaps as a result of his work on St John's Gospel and on Romans, St Thomas enlarges on how Christ's Passion and Resurrection 'channel' justifying grace to all people who are saved.

The Aquinas Institute at Blackfriars, Oxford, promotes excellence in theological and philosophical teaching and research, based on the legacy of St Thomas. To find out more, visit www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/hall/aquinas-ins/



Fr Gilles Emery OP speaks in Oxford

MEANWHILE in Edinburgh, Fr Lawrence Lew OP tackled St Thomas' account of conscience and ignorance. At Durham, Fr Nicholas Lombardo OP, Assistant Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Catholic University of America, preached at the Mass for students and parishioners. Fr Nicholas is the current Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham. And in Leicester, on the 29th, Dr Stephen Bullivant lectured on what we and others mean by God, how we understand God, and why early Christians were called atheists. The day before, Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP and Br Andrew Brookes OP had spoken about St Thomas' teachings to 6th-formers at Aquinas College in Stockport.

The next annual **Aquinas Colloquium** at Blackfriars, Oxford, will take place on Saturday, 8th March 2014. Speakers include Fr Vivian Boland OP, Dr William Carroll, and Prof. Fran O'Rourke. For more information, visit www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk/hall/news/?id=74 or contact: secretary@bfriars.ox.ac.uk





*Br Matthijs Meeuwssen OP
of the Dutch Province with
Giles in the garden at
Cambridge*

In memoriam Fr Giles Hibbert OP, 1929–2013

WHAT TRANSFORMED Captain Robert Hibbert of the Royal Engineers into Brother Giles Hibbert of the Order of Preachers? That was the question posed by his friend of many years,

Fr Fabian Radcliffe OP, in his funeral sermon on January 15th, when over seventy brethren, family, and friends crowded into the small chapel at Blackfriars, Cambridge. Giles had never really talked about it, but Fabian knew that, at Cambridge, Giles had undergone a 'Damascus Road' experience: 'Christ came to meet him, and overwhelmed him, and he was convinced that his only possible response was to become a Catholic and a Dominican...' However exasperated with the Church and the Order, 'he always knew that for him any alternative way was simply not possible.'

Fr Fabian outlined a life in the Order that was 'characteristically unconventional': Giles' studies in Louvain, his teaching and period as Regent in the Studium, his long drawn-out doctorate with a typically vast theme: the doctrine of man in St Augustine, St Thomas Aquinas and St John of the Cross. A letter from his supervisor (to be cherished with both pride and shame) began: 'Dear Mr Hibbert, I do not seem to have heard anything from you for over a year!' In the early eighties, Giles served as university chaplain at Sheffield, and later briefly at York, while strongly supporting Student Cross. From Manchester, he began 'Blackfriars Publications', producing theological pamphlets as part of our preaching apostolate. There, too, Giles became national chaplain to the Newman Association, and

chaplain to a local circle. At Chapel-en-le-Frith he had lived on his own, still publishing, until ill-health brought him to the London Priory, and finally back to Cambridge.

Fr Fabian acknowledged Giles' 'temperamental impatience' at 'hypocrisy or pomposity or limp piety or self-deception in others'. But he also recalled Giles' disarming repentance when he got it wrong. Faced with the prospect of dying, Giles clarified his thoughts on purgatory in a personal paper which he called 'Embracing the Future'. At death, 'we are confronted with all those whom we have hurt, ...with all the times and ways that we have put ourselves first, either in aggression or through laziness. And we are healed by the loving presence of the Christ who stands by us as friend, teacher and healer.' Purgatory is a 'process of responding positively to those whom we have hurt, having to meet the challenge of being healed through them in Christ.' 'Dying authentically', Giles wrote, 'is rather like building a bridge – constructive and creative, a leap forward towards something new – the other side'. As Fr Fabian keenly observed, 'the elderly, ailing friar joins hands with the young army engineer'.

You can read the full version of Fr Fabian's funeral sermon on-line at:
godzdogz.op.org/2014/01/GilesHibbertOP.html

To contact us about receiving this newsletter, or to receive an e-copy, please email newsletter@english.op.org



Future Events

‘Aquinas reading...’, The Annual Aquinas Colloquium – Blackfriars, Oxford, 8 March 2014
For further details, email secretary@bfriars.ox.ac.uk

‘War and the Commemoration of War: 1914–2014’ – Holy Cross, Leicester, 8 March 2014
Bruce Kent and Fr Richard Finn OP lead a discussion day (11.30am – 3.30pm) organised by the Leicester Lay Dominicans. For further details, please email janandpatdoyle@yahoo.co.uk

DYM North Study Day – Durham, 15 March 2014
To include talks on the northern saints, a visit to the shrine of Sts Cuthbert and Bede, a walk to Finchale Priory, and a talk on St Thomas and the Passions by Fr Nicholas Lombardo OP. All aged 18–35 are welcome. For more information and bookings, please contact dym@english.op.org

‘Christ and the New Covenant’ – Worth Abbey, 28–30 March 2014. A study weekend led by Dominican Friars and Sisters for university students and young adults offering a theological and scriptural exploration of the mystery at the heart of Christianity. With the Holy Week liturgy as guide, participants will examine the Old Testament backdrop to Easter, how Christ fulfils the

covenants of the Law and promises to Israel, and what this means today. With discussion, walks, prayer, and time for reflection. For more information and to book, contact Br Nicholas Crowe OP at studyweeks@english.op.org

‘Migration, Faith, and Action: Shifting the Discourse’ – Oxford, 8–9 May 2014. The Las Casas Institute, Blackfriars, Oxford, and The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities are co-sponsoring this two-day conference at Oxford University on the discourses about migration provided by faith traditions, and on the role of faith-based communities and organisations in the complex landscape of migration. For further details, contact lascasas@bfriars.ox.ac.uk

The Dominican Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Sunday 18 May 2014. For details of this annual event, please contact david.rocks@english.op.org

‘Theology and Reason in Economic and Social Affairs’ – Blackfriars, Oxford, 30 June – 1 July 2014
The Las Casas Institute is hosting this annual colloquium which brings together invited economists, theologians, sociologists, and philosophers.

Lay Dominican Assembly – Leicester, 12 July 2014

The Dominican Seminar – Leeds, 2–4 January 2015
Details and bookings available from September 2014.



Please support our work

Friars Preachers Lent 2014

THE MISSION OF THE DOMINICAN FRIARS in England and Scotland is vibrant and varied. From parish ministry to university chaplaincies, in schools and in hospitals, the friars preach, teach and bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ.

As mendicant friars, we have always relied on the charity of others to support our ministry. 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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☐ Dominican University Chaplaincies Fund
☐ I do not require an acknowledgement

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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

Friars Preachers is the newsletter of the English Province of the Order of Preachers (also known as the Dominicans), a charity registered in England and Wales (231192) and in Scotland (SC039062).

