

Friars Preachers



Chapel opens in Edinburgh

Launching the *Dominican Youth Movement*

Durham – a new ministry

Labourers for the Harvest

Denis Geraghty OP 1921-2012

**Newsletter of the Dominicans in England and Scotland
Christmas 2012**

Vision for Life

JUNE SAW the English Dominicans' popular theological summer school at Buckfast Abbey, A Vision for Life, develop into a two-stream programme catering for both newcomers and veterans alike. In addition to the comprehensive overview of Catholic theology offered last year, a second stream studied more closely key themes in Christian thought. Using St. Thomas Aquinas as a guide, those whose appetite for theology had been whetted by last year's course focused on Christ and His mission. The students and young adults involved greatly enjoyed the opportunity to wrestle with questions and ideas at the heart of our faith, as well as the opportunity to grapple with Aquinas' text itself. The Friars and Sisters involved were inspired and energized by the enthusiasm of the young people who participated.



Sr Anne Catherine OP with participants on the Theology Summer School

Once again, participants enjoyed the generous hospitality offered by the monks of Buckfast Abbey. This beautiful and prayerful monastery within striking distance of Dartmoor provided the perfect environment to study, pray, reflect, and enjoy the company of other young Catholics. With further generous support from a Catholic trust, the *Caritas Veritatis Foundation*, we will return again in 2013 from June 24th – 28th, offering the introductory course in theology to newcomers, and a new theme for those returning for a second or third year. If you would like information about the 2013 summer school, you are invited to email Br Nicholas Crowe OP at nicholas.crowe@english.op.org



His Eminence Keith Patrick Cardinal O'Brien with Frs Dermot Morrin OP and Timothy Calvert OP as relics are placed in the altar. Photo by Paul McSherry

New Chapel Consecrated

CARDINAL KEITH PATRICK O'BRIEN dedicated the altar of the new chapel of St Albert at Blackfriars, Edinburgh on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15th, 2012. The chapel (cover photo) is at the centre of a wider redevelopment of the ground floor of the Catholic Chaplaincy and Parish at 23 -24 George Square which also includes a refurbished café area and meeting space with easy access for wheelchair users. Built at a cost of around £800,000, the project meets the needs of the Catholic Chaplaincy's growing ministry to Edinburgh University, Queen Margaret University and Napier University. To find out more about what's happening in the Chaplaincy see <http://keepingthedooropen.op.org/> and <http://scotland.op.org/edinburgh/index.php>

Diary Date - 12th May 2013

**Annual Dominican Pilgrimage
to Walsingham**

Durham - A New Beginning



The Prior Provincial, Fr John Farrell OP, presides at the Eucharist with friars and local clergy for the celebrations to mark the opening of the new Dominican house at Durham

THE FIRST DOMINICAN Friars reached the North-East in 1239 when a Priory was founded at Newcastle, but only in the 21st century have the friars finally made it to the great cathedral city of Durham. Fr Benjamin Earl OP, Fr John Patrick Kenrick OP, and Fr Thomas Skeats OP, arrived in September to assume care of the Catholic Chaplaincy to Durham University as well as the Parish of St Cuthbert. The historic occasion of the public opening and blessing of the new religious community was marked by the celebration of Holy Mass on Wednesday 7th November, the Feast of All Saints of the Dominican Order. Large numbers of parishioners and students attended the event together with

friars from other houses and local clergy. The new Parish Priest and University Chaplain, Fr Benjamin Earl OP, spoke of the 'huge privilege of continuing in Durham the outstanding work of priests from the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.' The new community, a filial house of the Newcastle Priory, has been touched by the 'welcome received from parish, chaplaincy, University and diocesan communities, and the friars look forward to working with all those groups to promote prayer, study and preaching of the good news in Durham and the North-East.' To find out more about events at the Durham chaplaincy and parish visit:

<http://www.stcuthberts-durham.org.uk>

Birth of the Dominican Youth Movement

A NEW DOMINICAN Youth Movement has emerged from the pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Madrid in August 2010. Good friendships were made on this trip, and many wanted to stay connected in a wider network of young people from all over Great Britain, aged 18 – 30. Co-ordinated by Fr Lawrence Lew OP, DYM aims to gather in friendship networks and groups of young lay people, drawn from our various Dominican parishes, chaplaincies and apostolates, to participate in the New Evangelization. The friars will put on events throughout the year in various parts of Britain to provide opportunities for prayer in the spirit of St Dominic and his Order, study of the Scriptures, Church teaching and apologetics,

along with recreation together as a group. The point is to enable young adults to become preachers of Jesus Christ, witnessing to Him in their own communities, parishes, and life alongside the wider Dominican family. There are no subscription fees, no formal sign-up, no obligations! All you need is a desire to make the Gospel known in our nation, and to come along to our events if and when you can. Our next event is a Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We will be joining the main Dominican Pilgrimage from 5th-9th August 2013 but will also have special activities for the DYM. If you're interested in coming on this Pilgrimage, or wish to find out more about the Movement, or be added to its Facebook page, please email: lawrence.lew@english.op.org

From Scotland to Buenos Aires

FOR THE SECOND YEAR running Fr Neil Ferguson OP is spending five months teaching Sacred Scripture in the Dominican studium in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Here the friars of the Province of San Agustín do their theology studies, after three years of philosophy in San Miguel de Tucumán. The studium is also open to lay people, seminarians and other religious. It forms a part of the *Universidad del Norte de Santo Tomás de Aquino*, run by the Dominicans, and has close ties with the Pontifical University of Argentina. This year Fr. Neil was teaching a course on the Johannine corpus in the New Testament. As well as teaching, Fr. Neil has been involved in the apostolic and pastoral work of the Argentine friars. He particularly enjoyed preaching to, and visiting, the several communities of contemplative Dominican sisters. Interestingly, he is not the first Scottish Dominican to have worked in Argentina.

He follows in the footsteps of an illustrious predecessor. In the 18th century, the son of an exiled Jacobite ended up in Buenos Aires and joined the Order there. Fr. Benjamín Gordon OP



(or Fray Benjamín de Santo Domingo, as he was known), became a well-known and respected teacher of philosophy and theology – “*un verdadero sabio*”. The photograph shows Fr. Neil with his class on the last day of term. The photographer, Fray Diego Fernando Jacho OP (on the right), is a student from the vicariate of Ecuador. Three Dominican students are deacons; Fray Alberto Wernly OP (left back) made his solemn profession on 18th November 2012.

Defending the sick & elderly



BISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP devoted this year's Anscombe Memorial Lecture in Oxford to a defence of the elderly in need of healthcare. Against those who would discriminate against the elderly when rationing finite resources, the Bishop of Parramatta drew on Pope John Paul II's call for greater solidarity between the generations. The health care given to the elderly and dying is a key part of the respect owed to them, and they should be entitled to receive a larger slice of the healthcare cake than the younger and less needy. The Bishop, an Honorary Fellow of Blackfriars Hall, argued that a culture which hid from ageing and death would lose sight of authentic human values.

The annual lecture, delivered this year on October 21st, is jointly sponsored by Blackfriars Hall and the Anscombe Centre for Bioethics. The event forms part of the growing collaboration between the two academic institutions which included a one-day conference in June on Human Dignity in Healthcare with a keynote address given by the Rev Prof Daniel Sulmasy from the University of Chicago, and a symposium earlier in the year on Natural Law with participation from three Fellows of Blackfriars Hall: Fr John O'Connor OP; the Anscombe Centre Director, Dr David Jones; and Fr Robert Ombres OP. To find out more about the Anscombe Bioethics Centre visit: <http://www.bioethics.org.uk/>

Coming soon....

*Gerald Vann OP and
the New Evangelisation*

January 4th-6th 2013 - Dominican Seminar, Hinsley Hall, Leeds. Open to friars, sisters, and lay Dominicans

Labourers for the Harvest

THIS SUMMER saw the Province celebrate several ordinations, a solemn profession, and the clothing of four new novices.



July 7th 2012 witnessed the ordination to the priesthood at Blackfriars, Oxford, of Fr Robert Verrill OP at the hands of Bishop William Kenney CP. A Cambridge mathematics graduate who worked in industry before entry into the Order, Fr Robert was assigned after ordination to Edinburgh where he was soon busy greeting new students at the University Chaplaincy. In the same liturgy, Br Gregory Pearson OP of the English Province and Br Gustave Noel Ineza of the Province of Canada were ordained to the diaconate. Both are studying this academic year at Blackfriars.

Later in the year, another Dominican student at Blackfriars was ordained priest on October 20th at St. Dominic's in Oslo. Fr Haavar Nilsen OP, of the Province of France, had previously studied for the MTh at Oxford.

Meanwhile, on September 16th Br Nicholas Crowe OP made his life-long vows of solemn profession during Mass at Blackfriars, Oxford. Br Nicholas, another Cambridge graduate - this time in Geography, remains in Oxford where in addition to studying he takes a leading role in working with young adults interested in deepening their faith.

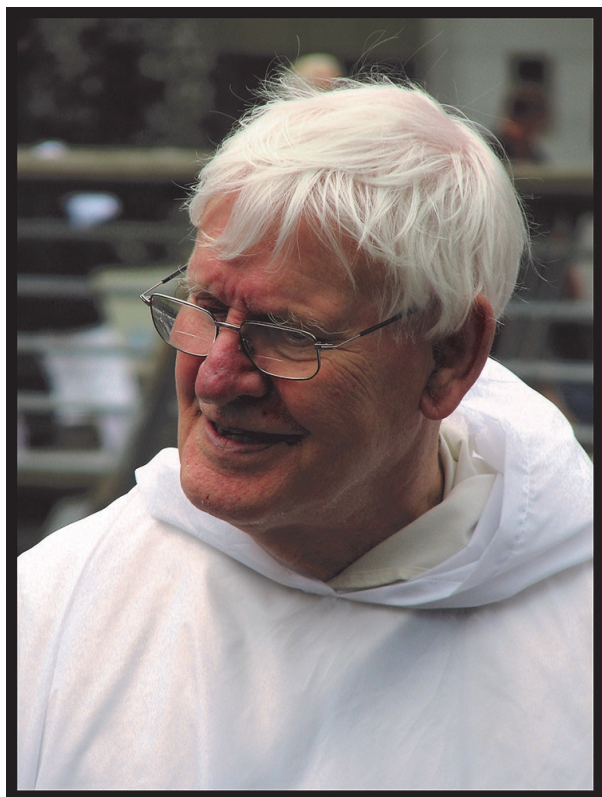


Later that day, four young men, Toby Lees, David Doherty, Samuel Burke, and Gavin (now Jordan) Scott, entered the Noviciate at Blackfriars, Cambridge. After a five-day retreat given by the Downside Benedictine, Fr David Foster, the four, whose ages ranged between 22 and 31, received from the Provincial habits sewn by two lay Dominicans, Anna Baidoun and Alison Fincham. The novices come from varied backgrounds: two from England, two from Scotland, two from the legal profession, one from studying history at Edinburgh University, one from working in the renewable energy sector.



The Novices flanking the Prior Provincial, with the Prior of Cambridge, Fr Martin Ganeri OP, and the Novice Master, Fr Richard Finn OP

If you think that God might be calling you to labour in his vineyard with us as a Friar Preacher, you can find out more about our charism at <http://english.op.org/> and <http://www.facebook.com/vocationsop> The Vocations' Director is Fr Martin Ganeri OP who can be contacted at: director.vocations@english.op.org;



Fr Denis Geraghty OP 1929-2012 - The Preacher's Vocation

FR DENIS GERAGHTY OP died suddenly at St Dominic's Priory in London on October 22nd 2012. A much loved member of the Province, Fr Denis had entered the Order in 1975 as a mature man in his mid-forties. Inspired by a deep love of Sacred Scripture, and gifted with a shrewd compassion, Fr Denis served for many years in Dominican parishes at George Square in Edinburgh, at Holy Cross in Leicester, and at St Dominic's in London. The former Provincial Fr Allan White OP, now Chaplain at the New York University Catholic Centre in Manhattan, flew across the Atlantic to preach at the requiem.

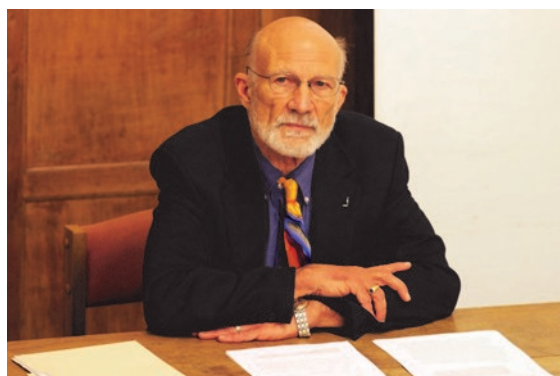
Fr Allan recalled Fr Denis' extensive ministry to those who sought 'counsel, confession, companionship and spiritual friendship'. This ministry was rooted not only in humility, but also a conviction about the vocation of a preacher: 'Father Denis believed that the task of a Dominican friar is to talk about God. The work of a priest is not to draw attention to himself but to point towards Christ. He is sent for the service of Christ's Gospel. The priest points to Christ by coming to resemble him and that resemblance is to be seen not only in what he says but in what he does and in what he is. Word and deed go together. The word

does not only need to be heard it must be seen.

'St Thomas Aquinas considered, perhaps not surprisingly, that being called to the work of preaching was to be called to the highest form of human existence (IIallae 188.6) Those chosen by the risen Christ as his ambassadors are chosen because they have seen him, and eaten and drunk with him, they have enjoyed his society and been accepted as his friends. The way that they live their lives is a demonstration of the friendship they enjoy with him. In the end the most powerful and important sermon we ever preach is the sermon of our lives. In wrestling with the Word our lives become an enacted word, commentaries on the Gospel.

'Blessed Jordan of Saxony said of St Dominic that God gave him a special grace of compassion for sinners, the poor and the afflicted: he carried their distress in the innermost sanctuary of his heart. For Blessed Jordan Dominic had a gift, a charism, which prompted him to see and to share in an intense way in the sufferings of others. The Dominican mission of preaching is an exercise of the mercy of God made real and mediated through the human life and experience of his ministers.'

News in brief



HOW TO WRITE a theological sentence? This was the question addressed by Professor Stanley Hauerwas of Duke University to a packed lecture hall in Oxford at the invitation of the Las Casas Institute, Blackfriars. Named by *Time* magazine as 'America's best theologian', the Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Christian Ethics at Duke has gone on record as being a great admirer of the contribution to ethics of the late Fr Herbert McCabe OP. The lecture examined the difficulty of writing a truly theological sentence 'that has the potential to make a reader stop and rethink what they thought they think'. Drawing on Stanley Fish's book, *How to Write a Sentence and How to Read One*, Prof. Hauerwas challenged his audience of students and academics with both gravity and humour to consider the work that goes into writing well about God. The lecture was part of a wider tour which also took Professor Hauerwas to the Catholic Studies Centre at Durham and the Von Hügel Institute at Cambridge.

THE LEICESTER parish and University Chaplaincies now boast a smart meeting room. St Clement's hall, a one-story building next to the chaplaincy rooms on Wellington Street, had become dilapidated through constant use. Newly redecorated and refurnished, it has been made accessible to wheelchair users, and its flooring and heating have been greatly improved. The room has been fitted with a suspended ceiling and audio-visual facilities – a digital projector, sound and loop system, and screen.

The hall is used every Saturday in term to host a student event after the 6pm vigil Mass as well as for other Catholic Society meetings. It is also widely used by other groups associated with Holy Cross, such as the lay Dominicans and a gospel choir. It is already an important resource in offering RCIA, Baptism and Marriage courses, both to those worshipping at Holy Cross, and others from parishes elsewhere in the city and diocese.

The room is ideal for study days such as that on Vatican II which took place in November and on the Gospel of Luke which will take place in the Spring term. The Leicester friars hope that this attractive facility will become a centre for catechesis and adult faith formation in the Leicester area. To find out more about what the friars are doing, go to <http://www.catholicchaplaincyleicester.org.uk/> and (soon to be re-launched) www.holycrossleicester.org



Supporting the friars

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT is crucial to the success of the friars in their work across the country. If you would like to make a gift to help us, please contact Fr Richard Ounsworth OP at provincial.bursar@english.op.org.

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