The Parish Magazine of Caterham, Whyteleafe & Godstone

Inside

A Christmas Message from Fr Sean Finnegan
The first Adoremus UK Congress in 100 years
Plus: The Art of Happiness, Christmas Fair, Scouts 2018 and much more
LALEHAM LEA
A Catholic Independent Primary School and Nursery for boys and girls aged 3 to 11
www.lalehamlea.co.uk

At Laleham Lea we firmly believe in putting the child at the centre of everything we do.

From the warm welcome as you walk through the door in the morning to the playground where all ages play, run and socialise together as one happy family. Bright, light filled classrooms and enthusiastic, experienced teachers engage young minds’ thirst for knowledge, helping each developing individual to reach their full potential and ultimately move on to the school of their choice.

Contact Mrs Edwards in the school office on 0208 8660 3351 now to book a tour and secure your child’s place for 2018 / 19 and beyond.

29 Peaks Hill, Purley, Surrey CR8 3JJ
Dear Sacred Heart Parishioners,

Welcome to the Sacred Heart Christmas Magazine 2018.

As the year closes, it is naturally a time for reflection. 2018 marked an important year. First, it was the Centenary of the end of World War One. The parish history tells us of our direct connection with those who sacrificed their lives – not only members of the parish, but priests.

One church newsletter said:

“The Irish Guards were founded in 1900 by order of Queen Victoria to commemorate the bravery of the Irish people during the Boer War. Their chaplain Fr. John Gwynn had regularly preached at the Sacred Heart Church before World War I. He went to France with them and died of wounds at Bethune in 1915. Fr. Walter Cooksey, our second parish priest, was also an army chaplain in the latter years of World War I.”

2018’s second significance was the Adoremus Congress in Liverpool, the first in 100 years to be held in the UK. Thousands of people came to honour the Eucharist, including our Sacred Heart parish delegation. Read our feature by Mary Hopkins.

The magazine takes a look at the many fun events that made up parish life this year: including the Scouts anniversary jamboree in the woods, the CAFOD summer tea party and the Christmas Fair, which saw one of our young altar servers make off with the top prize of vintage port, whiskey and Baileys!

One adult server Tony D’Souza writes of his 60 years serving at Mass, from his time as schoolboy in Uganda to the Sunday 5.15pm service in Caterham. On a contemplative note, The Cedars’ Headmaster Robert Teague, advises children how to attain that elusive gift of happiness beyond the festive season.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this magazine happen: writers, advertisers and our designer Julian Game. Finally, thanks to our devoted and hard working parish priest, Fr Sean. The magazine begins with Fr Sean’s Christmas message and ends with St. Luke’s Gospel on the Birth of Jesus.

Merry Christmas and a joyful new year to all.

Edna Fernandes, Editor.

---

Contents

Christmas Message from Fr Sean
Liverpool hosts first UK Adoremus in over a century
The Art of Happiness
From Uganda to Caterham: 60 Years of Serving Mass
Faith in the Community: The Legion of Mary
Christmas Fair 2018 – In pictures
Woldingham School: Celebrating its 175th Birthday
30th Anniversary of the 5th Caterham Scout Group
CAFOD: Anyone for Tea?
Treasures of the Church
The Catenians of Caterham
The Last Word: From the Gospel of St Luke

---

Home Foot Care
Professional Foot Services
£30
Available locally for home visits
Treatment of corns, calluses, nails etc.

Appointment:

Fully insured – Cash or cheque

07443 513 330
Tony D’Souza MCFHP, MAFHP, M. Sc. (U. Lon)
Nativity of the Virgin by Felix Zenne © wikimedia
A Christmas Message from Fr Sean Finnegan

As I write this Christmas message, autumn is now far advanced. There are a few leaves left on the trees and the drizzling rain is considering turning into sleet. Evenings are drawing in and warm comforting food is appearing more and more on the menu; salads are now a thing of the past, like shorts and t-shirts. As the natural light fades, my mind turns to the one who described himself as the Light of the World, praying that he might warm and illuminate my little corner of it.

Was Jesus actually born on 25 December? Who knows? There are lots of theories about why this particular day was chosen to celebrate his birth, but as the Lord’s official birthday, as it were, the date has a lot to recommend it. 25 December is just past the winter solstice, and if you are like me, the lengthening daylight, ‘a cock’s step every day’, as my grandmother used to say, is an invitation to eagerly look forward to salad days once more and beyond to when the Light of the World will return in glory. That will be the greatest summer ever, when the wonderful light will never draw in again.

The birth of Christ in the same way is the first dawning of that light for the world. Initially the light in that Bethlehem manger was very small, but it would grow and grow and the Word of God that became flesh for us would gather momentum to change the world, and no less important, change us.

I am most grateful to the Editor Edna Fernandes Atkinson and Designer Julian Game for producing this second, beautiful, Sacred Heart parish magazine, pretty well single-handedly. Also, thank you to all our contributors who wrote the articles within and those who advertised. It brings home to me just how lucky we are to live in this lively and friendly parish.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you and your families a very blessed and joyful Christmas.

Let us pray.

O God, who has made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant, we pray, that we who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.
It has been more than a 100 years since the last Adoremus in Britain, a celebration of the Eucharist and an opportunity for Catholics to gather and converse about the Blessed Sacrament's place in our faith, daily lives and family. Many churches in the UK do not have Benediction and there was a call from the 2018 Adoremus to restore this as part of the everyday life of all parishes. Sacred Heart sent a delegation to Liverpool to take part and what unfolded was a weekend akin to a shot of spiritual adrenalin for all involved – prayer, workshops, talks and most importantly the celebration of the Eucharist and Mass in events that drew 10,000 people.

There was emphasis on reaching out to young people too, at a time when many are disillusioned with the faith and its gravest failings. The Adoremus congress showed that often it is the young and the lay people who can inject renewal and meaning in everyday faith. From the Nightfever club set up by young German Catholics – a club held in the wee hours in churches in Berlin, inviting people off the streets to come in, chill out and experience God in an informal and personal way by candlelight. It has taken many other cities by storm. It also shows the dormant need for spiritual meaning in so many young people.

Or Mary’s Meals, a charity set up by a family of Scottish Catholics to provide free meals to children, wherever there is need. Today they provide millions of free meals to children in some of the world’s most disadvantaged places. Both are examples of lay faith in action. Adoremus 2018 is a reminder of what our faith is and can be. Here, our fellow parishioner and delegate to the conference Mary Hopkins describes her take on the weekend.

The very first Eucharistic Congress of the Catholic Church was held in June 1881 in Lille and the initial inspiration came from a laywoman, Marie-Marthe-Baptisine Tamisier, who had spent a decade lobbying the clergy of the diocese. In 2018 Liverpool hosted the most recent one from 7 to 9 September. This was the 56th Eucharistic Congress and only the second time it had been held in England and Wales. The first was in London in 1908, more than a century ago.

Sacred Heart Parish sent a delegation along: myself, Eliz Wood, Peter and Biddy Lovat and Edna Fernandes. It proved to be an invigorating and beautiful conference for the many thousands of us who attended from all over England and Wales.

Arriving on Thursday evening at Liverpool Hope University, where delegates from Arundel and Brighton diocese were staying, I felt very tired after the coach journey from Crawley. The first sessions began the next morning, in the auditorium of the Liverpool Echo conference centre and the programme for the day comprised of theological keynote addresses followed by an afternoon of workshops.

The first speaker was Canon Mervyn Tower, a parish priest in Oxford. He gave a learned discourse on the Scriptural context to adoration and understanding of the Holy Eucharist. He laid emphasis on the need of human beings to belong: to family and a community, to worship and adore God as well as the need to do good.

The desire and need for belonging is eternal and can be seen in the Old Testament, right through to the time of Jesus and the birth of the Church. Reference was made to the Temple sacrifices made in Jerusalem and also to Jewish daily worship at the time of Jesus. The speaker talked about the accounts of the Institution of the Eucharist in the Synoptic Gospels and St Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians.

by Mary Hopkins
Canon David Oakley is the rector of St Mary’s Seminary, Oscott in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, who gave another address on the Eucharist: The Source and Summit of the Church’s Life and Mission. The theology of Pope Benedict XVI was explored, the Memory of the Church, which is remembering in Faith and best expressed through the ministry of catechesis. Jesus, the Word of God became man, lived and suffered, so according to Canon Oakley “the life (of Jesus) embraced the world and in this sense, words such as traditionalist or progressive really have little meaning.”

How true! Quoting again from Pope Benedict, he stated that we need to read Scripture from the Father’s perspective, that is from the perspective of a concrete relationship with God. He made reference to the encyclical Deus Caritas Est (God is Love) in which we are reminded the “relationship with the Eucharistic mystery can never be about knowing alone, but about a Love which is the fruit of encounter.”

These beautiful words uttered by Pope Benedict in his address to an International Theological Commission in 2010 sum up, for me, ALL the Eucharistic theology that I listened to at Adoremus. In everyday life, it is impossible to form a meaningful relationship with a person until you know him or her and when you do know that person you can come to love them through encounter. In the same way, this must apply to our learning to know, encounter and love Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Children and the sacrament

After lunch it was time to attend the first workshop – Preparing Children for the Sacraments of Initiation, although the talk focused on the Sacraments of first Confession and Holy Communion. The talk was given by Dora Nash, a catechist and primary school teacher of many years’ experience. Mrs Nash proposed that a structured preparation is to be preferred to an abstract one. She advocates using the stories of Salvation History to teach children, as she believes that this allows them to relate to their own life. For example, Adam and Eve and its instruction on disobedience to God.
The Second workshop was given by Julie Ward, a member of the Christian Education Department of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Her subject was: Teaching children to pray before the Eucharist. This was something I learned to do as a child; my mother would take me to Benediction, occasionally the Parish would celebrate the Forty Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and the Corpus Christi procession was an annual event. I remember the quiet and peace of praying and just being in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. It is a devotion that has lasted. I was in later life, grateful to my Mother for taking me with her when I was a child.

Saturday was the feast of Our Lady’s Birthday and started with a beautiful choral Mass in the metropolitan cathedral. That Mass proved to be one of the spiritual centrepieces of the weekend, allowing time for prayer, reflection and then the celebration of the Mass itself in the Cathedral.

**Evangelising outreach globally**

Mass was followed by two keynote addresses delivered by Bishop Robert Barron, the assistant bishop of Los Angeles, one in the morning and the second in the afternoon. Bishop Barron has a global following via his website www.worldonfire.org and
has produced a series of DVDs of the same name, the purpose of which is to explore and explain Catholic doctrine.

There was a complete gear change afterwards with presentations from the Catholic Youth 2000, a liturgical mime and dance performed by young people from the diocese, and a talk by two young people from Germany about Nightfever, a way of evangelisation which began in Germany after World Youth Day 2005 which was held in Cologne. There is a group of the same name in London that meets at St Patrick’s Church Soho Square. Nightfever is one way the Church has found to connect with young people and it has caught their imagination in cities around the world.

Saturday concluded with the most important and solemn moment of the day when we celebrated the Evening Prayer of Corpus Christi, at which Cardinal Vincent Nichols presided. An altar had been erected on the stage along with an organ. A choir assembled on stage and after a sombre procession of priests, The Blessed Sacrament was exposed and there was a period of silence before the service began.

During his homily, the Cardinal gave a moving reflection on the presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Altar and begged him to forgive the sins of his fellow bishops, because he is a bishop and they are bound to one another. He asked all present to join him in this supplication. We were reminded that through the action of the Holy Spirit in each Mass, the Church is made new every day. We are all in need of renewal and for that we come to the source – the Blessed Sacrament.

He asked us to pray that “the Lord would gather us in, heal all of our wounds and bind us to himself. Yes, he says. But he also whispers to us firmly 'Go out to the whole world proclaim the Gospel to all creation.'

Heaven on earth

Sunday was Pilgrimage Day. After breakfast, I attended the choral Mass at 11:30 that was celebrated by Cardinal Nichols. All the bishops and many priests celebrated with him. Sunlight poured in through the stained glass windows and the illumination of the many candles and music brought heaven to earth briefly.

The Cardinal expressed his thanks and appreciation for the beautiful carpet of flowers in the nave (which was laid by the team from Arundel Cathedral). The cathedral holds many people and I could not estimate how many attended the Mass, although the building was full. However one Catholic paper on 14th September stated that 10,000 people joined the procession of the Blessed Sacrament along a short route near the cathedral in the city of Liverpool.

The procession was a Pilgrimage of Reparation to Jesus for the many sins committed by all, and also for the sins of clerical abuse against children that have recently been revealed. In his address the previous day the Cardinal stated:

“Tomorrow we will walk the streets of this city in our Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. We will carry this visible, sacramental reality of the life giving death of Jesus into our world. There is not one iota of triumphalism or pride in our steps. In many ways ours is a penitential procession for we focus on Jesus whom we have crucified. Yet we walk with a humble joy for he takes our failure, cruelty and deceit and overcomes it all with his love and mercy. He is our salvation and it is our humble joy to let His face be seen – his face of tender compassion and hope for the world.”

As the procession began the heavens opened and rain poured down upon us. This lasted until the end of the procession and when we were gathered in front of the cathedral steps awaiting Benediction, the sun came out and shone brightly! After Benediction as the Blessed Sacrament was taken back into the cathedral, a peal of bells rang out joyfully, thus marking the end of Adoremus.
The Art of Happiness

Christmas is synonymous with happiness: a time of togetherness, family, reconciliation and spiritual reflection. And let’s not forget the presents! Yet by January, most of us feel hung-over not just on turkey and too much mulled wine, but also feel that life has become humdrum once more. Happiness is as fleeting as a snowflake, it seems.

Today’s pressures on children make it particularly hard to keep hold of: exams, gaming, social media, money and family worries are just some of the things that plague children. The goal of happiness is held up as the ultimate goal, so how do we best guide our children to keep that feel-good feeling in their lives all year round? Robert Teague, headmaster of The Cedars School for Boys, has some ideas.

Helping children find that most elusive of gifts beyond the festive season
John Buchan once wrote that “The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perennial series of occasions for hope.”

The same might be said of the pursuit of happiness, except that the quarry sought is even more elusive and correspondingly less attainable. It’s all the more interesting, therefore, that more and more schools have joined the hunt over the last fifteen years, and classes on happiness and ‘wellbeing’ are now common across the land. To some extent, this is a reflection of the zeitgeist - anyone remember David Cameron’s ‘Gross National Happiness’? – as well as a response to an apparent rise in teenage mental health problems.

Few would question the worthiness of the goal, but do happiness lessons actually work? Do they make people happier? Research findings don’t paint a particularly positive picture. Happiness is difficult to measure but some specialists believe that programmes designed to make people happy may have the opposite effect. Ashley Frawley, a lecturer at Swansea University and author of Semiotics of Happiness, believes that a generation is being raised to believe that happiness is something that must be taught.

“Happiness becomes not something that sneaks up on you – something you might find when you’re looking at a sunset – but something you have to work at,” she says. “People are going into schools and encouraging young people to think that happiness is quite difficult…It’s a complete misunderstanding of how human emotion works. All that happiness education does is reinforce the idea that our psychology is vulnerable – it teaches children that personhood is very, very weak, and that they’re likely to be damaged by their experience. And that’s a self-fulfilling prophecy.”

And then there’s Daniel Gilbert, a Harvard psychologist. As the title of his book, Stumbling on Happiness, suggests, Gilbert is somewhat sceptical about the pursuit of happiness, and he notes elsewhere that people expect to be really unhappy tend to be happier than we imagine; and people we expect to be happy much less so. According to Gilbert when events happen which we expect to deliver happiness or deprive us of it, the change in our happiness levels is short-lived and they soon return to their steady state.

Must happiness remain elusive to those who seek it, then? Tim Elmore, an American author, included the following advice for parents in his book, 12 Huge Mistakes Parents Can Avoid: “Don’t prioritise being happy”. Yes, you read that right. Every parent wants their children to be happy but, paradoxically, happiness will always elude its pursuers. Elmore continues: If happiness is the goal for our kids, we will create consumers who want and need more and more in order to make them happy. But if giving rather than receiving is the goal, happiness is almost always the result.”

**Happiness is a life well lived**

None of this would have surprised Aristotle. The purpose of his virtue ethics was to achieve Eudaimonia, a state of happiness resulting from a life well lived. And there is a striking similarity between the prescriptions of modern psychology for mental health and the virtues. Small wonder then that character education, focused on acquisition of the virtues, has been making a comeback over the last few years. Indeed, so mainstream has it become that a former Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan, published a book on the subject last year. And it’s not hard to see the appeal of character. Quite apart from the mental health benefits, virtues such as self-control and resilience play a huge part in academic success.

If children can acquire the habit of doing what should be done before doing what they feel like doing, and are not deterred by setbacks, then that in itself is potentially life-changing. And not just in the academic sphere but also in music, sport and almost any worthwhile occupation.

There is a danger, however, in seeing character in terms that are too utilitarian. To understand the virtues simply as ways of making friends and influencing people is to miss the point of them altogether. Above all, the virtues are ways of loving God and other people. The link between self-giving generosity and human flourishing is beautifully captured in a phrase of a document of the Second Vatican Council, Gaudium et Spes: “Man cannot fully find himself, except through a sincere gift of himself”. This was the phrase that St John Paul II quoted more than any other.

**God as a path to lasting fulfilment**

Happiness then is not something to be pursued. It is a more of a gift than an achievement. We can glimpse it, and sometimes taste it, but we cannot hold it in our hands. No sooner do we grasp at it than it disappears. Happiness here and now points to something greater. When St Augustine of Hippo wrote: “Our hearts are restless, Lord, until they rest in You”, he was expressing the profound truth that happiness this side of heaven is fleeting and imperfect.

We are made for more than the world can give, and it is not in seeking happiness that we find it but in seeking the good of others. Tolkien once wrote that a fairy tale’s happy ending offers us “a fleeting glimpse of Joy, joy beyond the walls of the world, poignant as grief.” Love is in every happy ending and that is where we start to discern God, if only “through a glass darkly”.

I’ll leave the last words to St John Paul II: It is Jesus you seek when you dream of happiness; he is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; he is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is he who provokes you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is he who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is he who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal.”

Robert Teague is Headmaster of The Cedars School for boys.

www.thecedarschool.org.uk
From Uganda to Caterham: 60 Years of Serving Mass

Our Catholic Church family is truly a global one and we only need to look around at the people at Mass to see that. Through all the changes of life, whether it is crossing from city to city or continent to continent, the one constancy is our faith. In 2018, the 5.15pm Mass regular, Tony D’Souza, celebrated 60 years of being a server at Mass, for which he received a special medal. Tony is one of a core team of servers who help train and lead the younger members. He began serving at the altar soon after his First Holy Communion.

He trained many children in this parish to be part of the Mass, from his own children to ours. I often watched him patiently and kindly explain, chivvy or restore order when necessary. He is one of the many members of the parish who form the backbone of our services. Here, Tony explains his own faith journey as a server at Mass: a journey that has taken him from the mountains of Uganda to London, then to Canada and ultimately returning back to England to our parish in Caterham. His story is a reminder of how over a lifetime everything changes, but faith and service to God endures.

by Tony D’Souza

Br-r-r-r-r-r-ing, the clock sounded at 5.30 am. I was in Mbale, Uganda in the midst of East Africa, the country I was born in. I had to shake the dreams from my mind and open my heavy eye-lids from the deep sleep of the night before. It was time to get up. Firstly, I had to mix the dough ready for my mum to make the chapatis early in the morning before attending to the daily chores of lighting the stove, etc and then I could leave home to go to Church. Was it hard work? No, I enjoyed doing it because there was something important that I looked forward to doing before going to school. I had just completed my first Holy Communion the year before and I was due to serve Mass at 7.00 am in our local church in Mbale. This ‘habit’ of getting up at 5.30 am is still with me to this present day, much to the ‘annoyance’ of others at home!

I drew back the curtain and without waking anyone else in the house and looked out in the distance to the top of Mount Elgon, which was usually shrouded in clouds. I dreamt that I heard God calling me to go to his Church to see Him like Abraham. So I would quietly slip out of the front door every morning having completed the chores, pull the front door shut and walk towards the Mount. No matter how quickly I walked, Mount Elgon seemed to back away as if to say, “Anthony, it is going to be a long time before you can see God”. As an eight-year-old with aspirations, I thought I could hear God telling me to hurry up whenever I overslept as the Mass was due to start soon and not to be late. I was blessed with wonderful but strict parents, Santan and Aniceto D’Souza, who encouraged me in all of my endeavours.
Our local Catholic Church was about just over a mile away and there was no transport to get to the church so I walked there every morning. Fortunately, it was a long straight road and it didn't seem too long before I got there. The church was served by the Mill Hill fathers, who were predominantly from Holland. My parish priest at the time, Father Van de Van, taught me all about the stages of Mass at the time, which was said in Latin. When I got to the Church, I was at peace, which at the time was difficult to explain. Father Van de Van always greeted me with a smile, perhaps because I was the only one who would be there at that time of morning!

Childhood years

Many a year, I served at our local church. Father Van de Van was replaced by Father Van de Weston and he was later joined by the older of twin brothers who were both priests, James Odongo. I served at Mass for both priests until I was 18 years old. During that time, Father James Odongo was elevated to Bishop James Odongo. There were the usual masses at Christmas time, at Easter and at other church festivals including weddings where I also served at Mass together with classmates, Simon and Ignatius D'Mello. I also served Mass with Agnello Moraes, a fellow classmate who lived more than two miles away and close to the local school we both attended. As such, he could not attend Mass except at the weekends and for other important Church Festivities. We used to argue about who should accompany Father with the salver at Holy Communion. I remember all of us being 'naughty': gently tapping our friends in the throat when they received Holy Communion. We used to have frequent arguments as to who would have the privilege of carrying the Cross and being acolytes but Fr Van de Van and the others with a few stern words soon put us in our places.

Next stop: England

After Mass, there was a hurried breakfast and then the walk of 3 miles to the local schools. As you can guess, we were joined by many other classmates en route. Having left Mbaale in January 1968, we moved to Jinja soon after I had completed my ‘A’ Levels as my father had been transferred there. It was another five months before I was sent to England on my own to study at University. I attended the local Catholic Church in Hounslow, Middlesex and occasionally served Mass there.

In 1970, I moved to Norbury and attended St Bartholomew’s Church where I served Mass under Father Carolyn and Father Michael as well as being a Reader and a minister of Holy Communion. In 1972 I moved to Thornton Heath where I attended St Andrews Roman Catholic Church, where I also served Mass under Father Furey and was occasionally a reader. After a short sojourn in Montréal Canada to study in 1976, in 1978, we returned to Norbury where we lived until 2000 when we moved to Woldingham.

The next generation

Here we joined St Ambrose Roman Catholic Church in Warlingham. Initially, I was unable to continue with my vocation as I had my hands full with my two lovely and lively boys, who I am sure kept the Church entertained, certainly those in the back rows with their boisterous behaviour! I occasionally served Mass there and became a reader too when Austin and Andrew grew up to be more manageable. The parish priest was Father Victor, a jolly father was full of jokes at all times even during Mass. Andrew and Austin first joined me at serving Mass at St Ambrose. After Father Victor retired, the parish was joined with the All Saints Church in Oxted and the parish priest was Father John. I served Mass at both churches, where Astrid, my daughter, also sang occasionally at Mass.

However, things changed in 2009, when the twins, Austin and Andrew, started to play hockey on a Sunday morning which meant that we had to move parishes. We started attending St Thomas’s in Whyteleafe, where we were quickly ‘railroaded’ into helping, I was asked to take part in serving Mass as well as reading by Father Kieran. The twins used to serve regularly at the 5.15 Mass and I would occasionally read before becoming a minister of Communion. I continued to serve Mass at 5.15 at the Sacred Heart Church in Caterham, when St Thomas’s was closed down.

I still continue to this day serving Mass at 5.15 on a Sunday as I enjoy meeting people and serving God at the same time. I have had the pleasure of teaching and helping young boys and girls to serve Mass whenever they could come to church early enough to get dressed. The twins stopped being altar servers when they knew that they were enough people to serve in their place.

I thank God for giving me this opportunity for serving him and the church and I hope to do so for a number of years to come.

The Sacred Heart Church Caterham, Whyteleafe & Godstone | Parish Magazine | Christmas 2018
Gentile da Fabriano, Coronation of the Virgin

© Wikimedia Commons
Faith in the Community:
The Legion of Mary

In August 2018, Fr Sean arranged a visit from the Legion of Mary, a global evangelising mission which began in Dublin on 7 September 1921 and has spread to 170 countries worldwide. Today it has several million members.

The Legion's priority is the spiritual and social welfare of the community and it does this work by visiting families and the sick in their homes and hospitals.

The team that came to Sacred Heart was drawn from across the UK and Ireland and each Legionnaire stayed with a family in the parish. Sacred Heart Parish members cooked delicious meals for our visitors. Our family was lucky enough to have Andrew Johnstone stay with us, a man of the northeast. His faith was humbling to see.

During that August week of heatwaves and rain, the Legion knocked on thousands of doors, brought hope to many and returned others to our Church.

The Editor

The Legion of Mary comes to Sacred Heart and wins over Caterham

by Andrew Johnstone

Greetings Everyone! My name is Andrew and I was privileged this year to be part of the Legion of Mary Evangelisation team based at Sacred Heart Parish, Caterham from 4th to 11th August 2018.

Ten of us were visiting for the first time in this area and we were here for the week in the parish at the invitation of priest Fr Sean Finnegan. The purpose was to encourage lapsed people and other members of the community, to return some of them to the full practise of their faith and to reach out to them as best we could.

The Legion of Mary is an association of Catholics who have formed themselves into a Legion for service in the battle for faith that is waged by the Church in the world. The Legion of Mary is organised on the model of an army. This army is now strong yet it has humble beginnings.

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation. We always place Mary Our Blessed Mother at the heart of the work we do. The legion especially aspires to attain something of her profound humility, her perfect obedience and continual prayer.

The devotional outlook of the Legion is very much reflected in its prayers; it is built on a deep faith in God and in the love he bears his children. It is a privilege for me as a young legionnaire to be part of such a worldwide organisation.

Our approach was quite simple: We were Catholics visiting all the homes in the area on behalf of Fr Sean, the parish priest. We met people of different nationalities and different religions. With the practising Catholics we encouraged them to get more involved in the Church, such as through praying the Rosary, attending Eucharistic Adoration and so forth.

With the lapsed Catholics, we invited them and encouraged them to come back to the Church. We told them how much Jesus missed them at the Sunday Mass and to forget about the past. We told them a warm welcome awaited when they returned.

People whom we met throughout the week were very touched by our visits and our presence, especially when we gave them the miraculous medal of Mary Our Blessed Mother of God. As we were explaining this to them, some people were tearful. It was a powerful experience to see this.

Special cases of the week

On a very wet afternoon we knocked at the door to be warmly welcomed by a young mam who was interested in becoming a Catholic. As she was new to the area and did not know the church was so near, we were pleased to be able to give her the information and she gladly agreed to give us her details for the Journey in Faith programme starting in September. We were delighted. We also spoke with her family member who was a lapsed Catholic who has a young girl who is not baptised. On leaving, she promised to think about baptism, which was a great joy for us.

Then we knocked at the door of a young man who answered. When we told him who we were he was apprehensive. As we introduced ourselves, he began to tell us he had been lapsed in the church for a very long time and he had been searching for some meaning in his life. As we offered him the miraculous medal, he opened up and tears began to flow, his outlook completely changed and the Holy Spirit was truly with us.

We knocked at another door and a lady answered. She told us she had lapsed from her faith for about 50 years or more. She listened to us graciously and accepted the medal.

It was a truly blessed and spiritual week to be in the parish of the Sacred Heart. To anyone thinking about joining the Legion of Mary, I’d say give it a go. Our Lord and Blessed Mother will surely shower you with many abundant and gracious blessings. Believe me, I have no regrets!

The Editor
Christmas Fair 2018
On Friday 8th December 2017 we celebrated our 175th Anniversary with the whole school community coming together for a day of activities that showcased the array of interests, talents and opportunities that make a Woldingham education so distinctive. Woldingham School was founded in 1842 by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, who said: "For the sake of one child I would have founded the society". It is one of the oldest girls’ schools in the UK and the first Sacred Heart School in England.

Our anniversary celebrations began with the celebration of Mass as we took time to remember in prayer the beginning of the school community, as we know it today. Four Sisters of the Sacred Heart and two students arrived at Roehampton on 8th December 1842 and the first thing they did was celebrate Mass to give thanks for a safe journey and ask for the Lord’s blessing as they set about the task of educating young women. The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded just a few years after the French Revolution with the aim of providing a first class education for young women; this was a pioneering initiative as many young women were not included in the education programme. Woldingham is proud of its heritage of forming strong, dedicated, forward thinking young women who are making a difference in the world today.

When the Sacred Heart Sisters arrived in this country the Hierarchy of the church were in exile and not restored until 1850. It was the vision of the Sisters, which encouraged the Bishops of England and Wales to write a pastoral letter which stated, "Do not rest until you see this want supplied; prefer the establishment of good schools to every other work. Indeed, wherever there may seem to be an opening for a new mission we should prefer the erection of a school, so arranged as to serve temporarily as a Chapel, to that of a Church without one (Joint pastoral letter of restored Hierarchy 1850)."

A humble start, helping others

Catholic education grew from humble beginnings and our school offers quality education and formation providing firm foundations in learning and life. In my experience, Catholic schools offer a positive learning experience which benefits young people academically, spiritually and personally as well as encouraging them to serve the needs of others. The challenge for those involved in Catholic education today is to be interpreters of the Gospel in terms of identity, mission and community. As Pope Francis remarked: “Catholic Education is one of the most important challenges of the Church today” (13th February 2014)."
As part of our anniversary celebrations, we were mindful that our school started from humble beginnings and relied on many people to help the Sisters to grow the school identity. As a school, we wanted to reach out and help another Sacred Heart School to grow and develop and we all agreed that we would fundraise for the Laini Saba Sacred Heart School in Kenya, which is led by Sister Lucy. The Laini Saba School is located in the largest slum in Kibera, just outside Nairobi and each year it takes up to 500 students, many of whom are orphans. In addition to academic learning, the school supports the emotional development, through counselling and physical development, through planned feeding programmes and co-curricular activities. With the growing number of students attending the school there is a demand for more facilities and the £38,000 we raised will help with the development of a much needed library and multi-purpose hall.

**Built upon “living stones”**

Woldingham School is situated in a lovely valley with beautiful surroundings and throughout the anniversary year we took time to remind ourselves that it is not buildings that matter; a school is not merely a solid material construction distinct from its members. Bricks and mortar know no anniversary celebrations. A school is built with living stones (1 Peter 2:4-6). The identity of Woldingham has been deeply influenced in its response to educational and academic needs by its Catholic vision and inspiration, the development of knowledge is pursued in a spirit of mutual respect.

Our 175th anniversary year has been a time for looking back and giving thanks. It was an opportunity to celebrate the present; the community we are now, working collaboratively together and witnessing to the Gospel in the society in which we live and work. We took the time to remember the founding Sisters of the Sacred Heart and all the staff and students who have been associated with Woldingham and we look forward with confidence to the opportunities and challenges which lie ahead, imbued with the sure hope that we can all make a difference, if not today then tomorrow. Fr Gerry Devlin is the Chaplin of Woldingham School.
A Splashing Good Time

Celebrating 30th Anniversary of the 5th Caterham Scout Group in style

by Peter Lovat

As always, the 5th Caterham (Sacred Heart) Scout Group had a full year of activities in 2018. All three sections have been camping, hiking, played water sports and taken part in many other activities, including a little bit of gardening.

However, one of the highlights this year was the summer celebration of the 30th anniversary of our re-formation. We decided to mark it in style with an event in true Scouting style: a joint activity at Mercer’s Lake in Merstham.

The Beavers and Cubs met at the lake and after an enjoyable (and hot) time of kayaking and canoeing, the group relaxed with a picnic in the woods.

The Scouts camped overnight in Old Coulsdon and walked onwards to Merstham for a picnic before going on (and in!) the lake, sailing and paddle-boarding.

There was a pause for a rest on the top of the downs before walking down into Merstham.
Later in the year, there was another highlight. The 5th Caterham and 12th Caterham Beavers came together for a joint Autumn Camp in September. Beavers had an enjoyable first day doing archery, catapulting, games, a 4km hike and of course a campfire. Despite the chilly September night, all the Beavers loved sleeping in their tents all night long. We did lots of other things, too. It was a fun filled camp and I was so proud of the Beavers sleeping in tents and giving everything a go!

This camp was part of an initiative called 1st UK Beaver Scout Damboree 2018, with a special badge to commemorate the event. Since 2015, Beavers in the UK are allowed to camp and have had the same rules as the other sections. Damboree is about getting this message spread far and wide and getting Beavers camping out in tents, as well as encouraging leaders to get their campsite permit.

Finally, on the 13th October the Beavers joined a team from the church to plant 1,250 crocus bulbs in the church lawns. We had great weather for bulb planting and managed to get them all planted within 45 minutes, with the help of some mums, dads, grandparents, brothers and sisters.

This is the 3rd year the Beavers have helped plant bulbs, and this is the most we’ve planted to date. They all planted a few bulbs in their own pots too. We are really looking forward to seeing all the crocuses come up in spring.

We are still in desperate need of Adult help – especially people who would be prepared to help as Scouters. We need someone with managerial skills as a Group Scout Leader, and we need people with enthusiasm as Scout Leaders. (No previous experience is needed!) So if you are interested, please get in touch with me via the church newsletter email.

Thank you.
A proper vintage high tea is now one of the most popular and firmly established dates in the Parish summer diary. This year, over sixty parishioners and friends came together in the Centenary Hall one sunny Sunday afternoon in May to enjoy a traditional English tea of sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and assorted cakes, accompanied by a bottomless teapot!

All this was served on vintage china, with tables set with pretty lace tablecloths. With the help of a generously supported raffle, £630 was raised for CAFOD, most of which was submitted to CAFOD before the deadline for government match-funding, resulting in a grand total of £1,130. How wonderful that 60 people attending a delicious afternoon tea in Caterham can make such a difference to the lives of poor communities around the world!

One parishioner remarked, “You’d pay £50 for afternoon tea like this at the Ritz!”

This event was organised by the Parish CAFOD Group, which has been busy for nearly twenty years now, fundraising through Parish social events. In previous years there have been lunches, dinners,
Irish nights, auctions, and numerous musical events in support of the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. The Sacred Heart CAFOD Group does excellent work and we are a small band of six people. We would love to welcome new members. If you would like to join us or would like further information, or have ideas for future fundraisers, please contact the Parish Office.

Cardinal Basil Hume once described the work of CAFOD, the overseas aid and development agency for the Church in England and Wales, as ‘an expression of solidarity, of love, of our yearning for justice for the poor of the developing world.’ It is a way in which the Church is living out its mission to be ‘a poor church for the poor’. In 2017 CAFOD raised £52.6 million globally for its work with communities across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, helping people to tackle the poverty and injustice they face.

CAFOD works wherever the need is greatest with people of all faiths and none. It is a member of Caritas International – a group of over 160 Catholic agencies from around the world – known as ‘the helping hand of the Church’. Because CAFOD works through the local Church it can often reach people and places that others can’t, both in emergencies when immediate relief is desperately needed and also in development work and more long-term projects.

I’d like to end with a CAFOD prayer:

CAFOD Family Fast Day Prayer
Creator God. In love you give life.
In your generosity you create the gifts of the earth.
As daughters and sons of the same Father,
May we learn to share the plentiful gifts of creation,
especially with those most in need.
Give us open hands and loving hearts,
so that we take less and give more.
We ask that all may benefit from your goodness
and share in the fullness of life you have promised.
Amen.

www.caterhamcatholic.co.uk
CAFOD

I’d like to end with a CAFOD prayer:

CAFOD Family Fast Day Prayer
Creator God. In love you give life.
In your generosity you create the gifts of the earth.
As daughters and sons of the same Father,
May we learn to share the plentiful gifts of creation,
especially with those most in need.
Give us open hands and loving hearts,
so that we take less and give more.
We ask that all may benefit from your goodness
and share in the fullness of life you have promised.
Amen.

Wade Turney
WMT Building Services Ltd
0800 1076300
07960 107219
www.wmtbuildingservices.co.uk
wade@wmtbuildingservices.co.uk

Building services supplied for The Sacred Heart Church
The Three Greatest Treasures of the Church

by Jamie Wheadon

I want to tell you about the three great 'treasures' of the church: The Rosary, Adoration, and the Mass. There are many other treasures of the church, confession and the Sacraments being the most important ones that I have missed out. But I believe if we focus on these three treasures then our faith will be greatly enhanced.

The reason I use the word "treasure" is because the most common association is a big chest filled with gold coins. In today's society, if I were to ask people what is worth more in their eyes, a chest of gold or the Eucharist, I fear they would answer the first. Nowadays it's a sad fact that people do not know Jesus, He knows them for sure. But, unfortunately, we live in a society that often acts as a distraction from Jesus and his teachings.

When we separate ourselves from Him, we strip away our firmest foundation. We get caught up in the most materialistic and ugly subjects the world can muster and we don't know how to cope. The statistics bear this out, particularly for young people. The National Union of Students, NUS, found in a study that 78% of students suffered from mental health issues.

From my personal experience amongst university friends and contemporaries, those who kept their faith strong tended to cope better. Over half of the people I lived with in my first year at university had problems and went to therapy -- and I don't think living with me was the reason!

So the world is full of challenges and difficulties and there are times when we face a personal crisis in mind and spirit. This is when we need the Church's greatest treasures.

Adoration

In addition to the Rosary, I urge you to make use of Adoration and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The significance of Adoration is for most of the time Jesus is present in the Eucharist inside the Tabernacle. However, on occasion, He is brought to be adored on the altar in a monstrance (an object made out of gold). Here, you can have intimate time with Jesus and put your intentions and worries to him. One of the most beautiful scenes I have ever seen was in Medjugorje, where I knelt with thousands of people for adoration and there was complete silence.

Mass: the noblest treasure of all

Finally, I end with the greatest treasure of the Church: the Mass. The Mass is so regular in our lives that we sometimes find ourselves missing out on the uniqueness of what is happening. The Mass is the GREATEST thing that happens in the world today. We go along to Sunday Mass because we need to sustain our souls. The Mass is the representation of Calvary, where Jesus died on the cross paying the penalty for our sin. What does it mean to the ordinary person? Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. This is the most powerful moment to intercede to Our Lord for our intentions. The next most important moment of the Mass is Communion. Mass is the highest point of prayer.

I finish with a plea. Take five to ten minutes to properly prepare yourself for the Mass, either at home or at the church. Also, take another five to ten minutes after Mass to truly thank God for this truly mind-boggling event in which we take part. God bless.
The Catenians of Caterham:

Fun, Friendship, Charitable Work and Prayer

by John Baron,

The Catenian Association was founded in Manchester in 1908 for Catholic men, based on an idea of the Bishop of Salford. It is now over 10,000 strong with more than 300 branches, known as Circles, in all the main centres throughout the UK. There are other Circles in Africa, Australia, Hong Kong, India’s Goa, Malta and Ireland.

Catenians typically play an active role in their local parish and are involved in service to the Church. The Association is particularly involved in promoting vocations to the Priesthood and supporting young people. There are three core features of the group. Firstly, the Catenian Association is non-political; second, it is a Catholic social organisation that is open to men only; thirdly, we are open to all practicing Catholics who wish to join.

The main focus of the Association can be summarised as: 
Family + Faith + Friendship = FUN

Tandridge Catenians

Our local Tandridge Circle has a membership of around 30, with the majority drawn from the Sacred Heart Parish. Members are from all occupations and represent a wide range of ages, including retired persons. A number of our members are also part of other Circles. Although most of us are married, there are a number of single men and widowers, all of who take a full and active part in the Circle.

So what do we do? The Tandridge Circle currently meets once a month in the Centenary Hall of Sacred Heart Church for a meeting followed by dinner. A full and varied programme of events is planned each year including: Ladies’ Nights, President’s Sunday which comprises a Mass and family lunch, Clergy Night -- when we thank our clergy with a Dinner, Theatre Nights supporting our local Miller Centre in Caterham, Special Masses, Walks and Pub Lunches and Skittles Nights. At provincial level there are also prayer Retreats, weekends away and golfing days.

Before the walk

Here’s one example of an event we did. Organised and led by Sean Lawless, the Tandridge members, their wives and others took on an unusually challenging spring walk on Easter Saturday. It was 15 very hilly miles, up and down the Tandridge slopes of the North Downs. The walk further challenged us with the mystical Tandridge 8 Ladders. Each is a flight of steps, the smallest being 100 steps and the longest 200.

Ancient lore suggests that those who successfully achieve the feat will be blessed with increased virility and vigour! In truth, the mood in the pub after the walk was quiet satisfaction; no one was dancing. Just standing up was a challenge!

Charitable Work

Most importantly we assist good causes. The Catenians have a Benevolent Fund to support our brothers and their families who may be in need and a Bursary Fund that is available for young people up to the age of 25 who wish to take part in suitable voluntary projects at home or overseas.

In addition, a charity is nominated each year with money being raised at after Dinner Raffles for good causes such as Aid to the Church in Need, Help for Heroes and this year we are supporting the Madaba Parish in Jordan which assists Iraqi Christian refugees who fled to escape ISIS.

We are always looking to welcome new members to the Catenians. For Further information please contact our Membership Officer, Martin Kemp on 01883 342 421.
And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them,

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Pheanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.
Mass at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem
OUR SUNDAY TIMES TOP 100 PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

FOUR SCHOOLS
ONE MISSION

THE LAURELS SCHOOL WILL BE RELOCATING TO CHELSEA IN SEPT 2019

ENTRY POINTS AT 11+, 13+ AND SIXTH FORM

THE CEDARS SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL WITH A CATHOLIC ETHOS FOR BOYS AGED 11 - 18 YEARS
COOMBE ROAD | LLOYD PARK
CROYDON | CR0 5RD
020 8185 7770
ENQUIRIES@THECEDARSSCHOOL.ORG.UK
WWW.THECEDARSSCHOOL.ORG.UK

THE LAURELS SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL WITH A CATHOLIC ETHOS FOR GIRLS AGED 11 - 10 YEARS
126 ATKINS ROAD
LONDON | SW12 0AN
020 8674 7229
ENQUIRIES@THELAURELSSCHOOL.ORG.UK
WWW.THELAURELSSCHOOL.ORG.UK

OAKWOOD SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL WITH A CATHOLIC ETHOS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 3 - 11
59 GODSTONE ROAD
PURLEY | SURREY | CR8 2AN
020 8668 8080
ENQUIRIES@OAKWOODSCHOOL.ORG.UK
WWW.OAKWOODSCHOOL.ORG.UK

OLIVER HOUSE SCHOOL
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL WITH A CATHOLIC ETHOS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 3 - 11
7-11 NIGHTINGALE LANE
LONDON | SW4 9AH
020 8772 1911
ENQUIRIES@OLIVERHOUSE.ORG.UK
WWW.OLIVERHOUSE.ORG.UK