

Ealing Abbey Parish Magazine November 2011



Thanks and Congratulations to Elizabeth Howard, who has been the editor of the parish magazine for some years. She has recently had a new baby and is passing the editorship on now. Thank you Elizabeth for all the work that you have done on the magazine. Much of the material in future editions has been gathered by Elizabeth. Please everybody keep the articles coming.

Dear Parishioner,

The cover photograph you will recognize from the art work that has been in the crib alcove since Easter. It is by Kryisia Carr our pastoral co-coordinator. It seems a perfect complement to the title of this issue of the parish magazine. It speaks to me of hope in time of darkness. The phrase 'The Door of Faith' is taken from a recent Apostolic Letter of Pope Benedict XVI 'Porta Fidei'. The phrase is a metaphor that St Paul uses in several places such as Acts 14:27 where he tells how God has opened the door of faith to those to whom he has preached. In this issue we take a first look at the challenges and opportunities of the 'The Year of Faith' which Pope Benedict asks be marked from October. Faith, flourishes where there is trust. For frail human beings trust has to be earned and where it is betrayed faith can fail.

It has been very hard to know how to react to the scandals that have enveloped Ealing Abbey. I know that it is very distressing to read and hear about so much wrongdoing by trusted and respected priests: personal friends to many of you. At times it has seemed as if we priests have been trying to carry on as normal, as if nothing has happened. Many must feel as if all that they have contributed to the parish, all the support that they have given to the monastic community has been severely betrayed. It is a fact that strongly committed Catholics find their faith shaken. We must trust that the Holy Spirit will be at work bringing good out of the evil. We must pray for that first of all for the victims of abuse. We must also pray for ourselves as a parish community. We are also called to pray for the perpetrators. I hope that the year of Faith will be an opportunity for renewal and healing for us all.

With love, best wishes and prayers from **D PETER**

Cover image; 'Resurrection'. From a tiny chapel on a banana plantation in Tenerife.

Preparing for the Year of Faith The New Evangelisation Conference Rome

As part of preparations for The Year of Faith a Conference on the New Evangelisation was held in Rome on 15th 16th October.

Marianne Cuthbertson our Catechetical Coordinator and Wisam Khadhouri one of our parish catechists were invited by The Maryvale Institute to be representatives at it, thus representing us as well.

Here Wisam gives an account of the Conference:

We arrived in Rome very late on Friday 14th October. On Saturday morning we collected our red badges as leaders of "New Evangelisers". Because of these badges, the Swiss guards and security let us inside the Vatican! We were excited to be inside the Vatican city! We walked and got to an entrance which led to the New Synod Hall, a lecture room upstairs. As the room was getting filled with leaders representing 115 ecclesial groups (including Maryvale) and Bishops, representing episcopal conferences, we were getting very excited! It was wonderful to see Bishops, priests and lay people all gathered in one room united in their zeal for the New Evangelisation. We would have liked to wear or carry something representing Maryvale! Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, the president of the New Evangelisation council, headed the meeting with the help of Monsignor Graham Bell. Archbishop Fisichella started by quoting the Holy Father's words in Motu Proprio **Ubicumque et Semper**. He called on us, the ecclesial groups, to promote the New Evangelisation. He reminded the Bishops that they are the first evangelisers and should lead it. He reminded all Christians of their responsibilities to evangelise and not to remain closed in their lives and churches. He then proceeded to speak about New Evangelisation in each of the seven

sectors of liturgy, culture, migration, communication, politics, pastoral care.

Then representatives of about 20 ecclesial groups including the Archbishop of Boston gave an intervention less than 3 minutes each. This was an ad hoc event and Archbishop Fisichella seemed to select those 20 out of a large number of the requests among the 115. Unfortunately, we could not even make a request because we were not given the pack when we collected the badges in the morning. However, I guess that the Holy Spirit did not want us to intervene at this occasion!

At around 1pm we had a buffet lunch at the Vatican. I enjoyed the yellow rice and delicious fresh Lasagne. The Tiramisu that followed with deserts was the tastiest I have ever had!

Then we went to the huge Paul VI hall and sat in the second row from the stage! We listened to praise and worship songs played by different music ministries. At 4pm, Archbishop Fisichella started with prayer, followed by a wonderful proclamation of the Word of God. The Gospel was wonderfully processed all the way through the centre of the hall. Then we had witnesses for the new evangelisation concerning: spirituality (by Mother Berzosa), the West (Messori, a writer), Science (Dr Bersanelli, physicist) and experiences in Latin America (Archbishop Suescun from Colombia). Unfortunately the translation to English that we listened to on the radios that they gave us was not always clear and audible! For example, Mother Berzosa seemed to be on fire for the love of Jesus Christ but we could not hear the translation. We then had the famous blind Italian tenor, Andrea Bocelli. He sang "Ave Maria" and a number of classical songs. What a gifted solo singer!

After that, the Swiss guards came on stage, bringing the chair of the Holy Father! You could witness an atmosphere of enthusiasm among the 6,500 in the hall awaiting him! Pope Benedict then walked among joyful cheers, as you can see in the Vatican video,
<http://www.youtube.com/user/vatican#p/u/5/C24s3bW4ykg>

The Holy Father urged us to proclaim the Word of God in hope, joy and trust in the power of the Word of God despite the "soil" of contemporary man. He filled us with hope and empowered us by saying: "the strength of the Word does not depend, in the first place, on our action, on our means, on our 'doing,' but on God, who hides his power under the signs of weakness".

Sunday's Mass celebrated by the Holy Father was "heaven on earth"! Because of our badges we sat near the front not far from the altar. The whole atmosphere of the clergy, religious and laity celebrating Mass with the Holy Father at St Peter's Basilica was indescribable! Here is a glimpse of it:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/vatican#p/u/4/doyjeM3Y64o>

During the homily, the Holy Father broke the Word of God for us. In commenting on St Paul's second letter to Thessalonians he said that St Paul, the greatest evangeliser of all times taught us that one does not evangelise in an isolated way. The Holy Father continued to say that St Paul added another very important thing about evangelisation: that the proclamation must always be preceded, accompanied and followed by prayer.

Wow, this touched me very deeply because I can very much relate and confirm this in evangelisation! Indeed, without the grace of the Holy Spirit that comes to us in prayer (liturgical and personal) we can do nothing!

The Holy Father then convoked a "Year of Faith," which will begin Oct. 11, 2012 (the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council) and will conclude Nov. 24, 2013, Solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe.

It was wonderful for the Holy Father to end his words on both Saturday and Sunday invoking Our



Blessed Mother, Star of the New Evangelisation. I quote the beautiful ending of his Sunday homily: "May the Virgin Mary, who was not afraid to answer "yes" to the Word of the Lord, and, after having conceived Him in her womb, went out full of joy and hope, always be your model and your guide. Learn from the Mother of the Lord and our Mother to be humble and at the same time brave, simple and prudent; balanced and strong, not with the force of the world, but with that of truth. Amen."

After Mass, we went out in St Peter's square where we listened to the Sunday audience of the Holy Father. It was nice to tell the crowds about us and the conference in his first words after the Angelus: "Dear brothers and sisters, Yesterday and today there was an important event here at the Vatican regarding the new evangelization, an event that concluded this morning with a Eucharistic celebration over which I presided in St. Peter's Basilica."

He also mentioned the year of faith and commented on the Gospel's reading. Here is the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/vatican#p/u/3/HLqzq9FrKzo>

Now I want to briefly tell you about two personal testimonies during the weekend. The first is about a request I made to the Lord Jesus in prayer on Saturday, the feast of St Teresa of Avila. For me this was a big feast day because I am becoming a discalced lay Carmelite. The way Divine Providence arranged the feast day on the same day of the conference was a sign that my Carmelite spirituality will greatly support my evangelisation ministry. However, there was no way I could go to Mass on that day because we had to collect the badges at 8:30am, the time of the first Mass at St Peter's. This saddened me much but I offered it up and I asked a difficult request from the Lord Jesus: to give me an opportunity to venerate a first class relic of St Teresa of Avila! But where and when to find such a relic? I left this to the Almighty God!

On Sunday, the next day, after the Angelus, Marianne told me that her friend, Fr Anthony, who works in the American college

in Rome, invited her to visit him. He also welcomed me to come with her to show us around and pray. We arrived there and prayed Vespers with some 200 American seminarians in their chapel. The site of these vibrant young seminarians filled us with hope and joy. Anyway, Fr Anthony then took us up to his room. And what did he first show us there? Many first class relics of dear saints including St Teresa of Avila. Wow, the Lord answered my prayer so fast in an unexpected way! His generosity actually surpassed my petition by allowing me to venerate many other relics e.g. St Therese of Lisieux, St Padre Pio, Mother Teresa of Calcutta etc. Praise be His holy, sweet and loving name for ever and ever! It seems that prayers are answered quickly and amazingly in the Eternal city!!!

The second testimony is in the airport on the way back to London. Our flight was delayed by three hours because Ryanair needed to get us another plane. I offered up this inconvenience and the Lord Jesus brought good out of it! Marianne and I found a place to sit and it happened next to an Italian young man, Marco, on our flight. It came to me that the Lord may want to start the new evangelisation work here with him! So I started talking to him about various topics but could not bring it to Christianity! So I said to the Lord in my heart, if You want me to echo Your word to Marco, You need to provide an opportunity! Amazingly, minutes later Marco heard a conversation between Marianne and Fiona (Youth 2000 representative) about the conference and started talking about the Catholic Church. Not only that but he showed me a rosary that he bought which he did not know how to use! This provided an opportunity to proclaim the kerygma by starting with the joyful mysteries! How true the words of the Holy Father that prayers should go before, during and after Proclamation! Marco was a baptised Christian and had drifted away from the Church, and he believed that he could pick and choose what to believe from the doctrine of the Church! The good news is that he started slowly opening up to the Word of God. Later on Fiona had a chance to speak to him on the plane and invited him to her youth group. So I left him in hands of the Lord, trusting the power of the

proclaimed Christ which will have its effects the more he opens his heart.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Wisam Khadouri



The Door of Faith

With the gradual introduction of the new translation of the missal our focus is finally turned towards the new translation of the creed. This happens to coincide with a special impetus at this time throughout the worldwide Church to reflect on the content of our faith. October 11th 2012 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In his recent Apostolic Letter 'Porta Fidei' Pope Benedict has announced that it will be the opening day of a 'Year of Faith' for the Catholic Church throughout the world. This article gives a taste of the Letter Porta Fidei. The letter is a very short document and well worth consulting.

To inaugurate the year the pope has convoked a General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for October 2012. The theme will be "The New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Christian Faith".

The idea of 'The Year of Faith' is not entirely new. Pope Paul VI announced one in 1967 to commemorate the 19th centenary of the martyrdom of St Peter and St Paul. He saw that as a solemn moment in history for the whole church to make "an authentic and sincere profession of the same faith".

Pope Benedict is sometimes accused of trying to roll back the renewal of the Church instituted by the Second Vatican Council. He writes in this letter that one of his hopes for the year of faith is that we return to the council documents. He quotes Pope John Paul II who pointed to the council documents as 'the great

grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century: there we find a sure compass by which to take our bearings in the century now beginning’.

Pope Benedict teaches us that faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy. It makes us fruitful, because it expands our hearts in hope and enables us to bear life-giving witness. The Pope quotes St Augustine’s maxim that believers ‘strengthen themselves by believing’¹ Only through believing does faith grow stronger; there is no possibility, writes Pope Benedict, for possessing certitude with regard to one’s life apart from self-abandonment, in a continuous crescendo, into the hands of a love that seems to grow constantly because it has its origin in God.

In the letter Pope Benedict calls for intensified reflection on the faith and the profession of our faith in the Risen Lord in our cathedrals and in churches; in our homes and among our families, so that everyone will feel the need to know better and to transmit to future generations the faith of all times.

All religious communities, as well as parish communities and all ecclesial bodies old and new, are to find a way, during this Year, to make a public profession of the Credo. He hopes for an increase in the desire to profess the faith in fullness, with renewed conviction, confidence and hope, and also an ‘intensification’ of the celebration of the liturgy especially the Eucharist. He quotes the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II in describing the Eucharist as; the summit towards which our activity is directed and the source from which all its power flows.² He prays that believer’s witness of life may grow in credibility. The Holy Father writes that to ‘To rediscover the content of the faith that is professed, celebrated, lived and prayed, and to reflect on the act of faith, is a task that every believer must make his own, especially in the course of the coming Year.

¹ De Utilitate Credendi, 1:2

² Sacrosanctum Concilium 10

Porta Fidei sketches a path by which we may understand more profoundly the content of faith and also the act by which we choose in complete freedom to entrust ourselves fully to God. The opening of the heart to Almighty God is itself a gift. This is what St Paul describes in his metaphor of the opening of the door of faith. The heart, that sacred space within each person is opened by grace. This it is which then allows us to see below the surface and to understand that what has been proclaimed is the word of God. Faith because it is a free act demands social responsibility for what one believes and a willingness to stand with God. It is a gift of the Spirit that enables us to then profess our faith. The pope points to the Catechism of the Catholic Church as the indispensable tool for rediscovery of the fundamental content of the faith. He has instructed the Congregation of the faith to draw up a Note providing the Church and individual believers with some guidelines on how to live the coming Year of Faith in the most appropriate way; at the service of belief and evangelisation. The pope writes that this must include a ‘retracing the history of our faith, marked by the unfathomable mystery of the interweaving of holiness and sin. While the former highlights the great contribution that men and women have made to the growth and development of the community through the witness of their lives, the latter must provoke in each person a sincere and continuing work of conversion in order to experience the mercy of the Father which is held out to everyone.’ During this time we will need to fix our gaze upon Jesus Christ. He points to examples from the Blessed Virgin Mary onwards, of those who by faith and the holiness of their lives have confessed to the beauty of following Our Lord. The Pope emphasises that Faith and Charity require each other. He quotes Saint James “...faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But some one will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith” (Jas 2: 14 -18). Through faith we can recognise the face of the risen Lord in those who ask for our love.

The Parish Pastoral Council has already looked at the possibility of a parish mission to coincide with the opening of the year of faith and I know that there will be many other initiatives. If you have ideas or suggestions please do write to me personally or for publication to The Editor of the Parish Magazine, both c/o the Parish Office.

D Peter.

Our Parish

At the recent Parish in Council Meeting on 23rd October the main items on the agenda were reports from a few of our many parish groups and organizations. Here is an account of their reports taken from the draft minutes.

Ecumenical Group

Elizabeth Daley-Jones reported on the work of the Ecumenical Group. Under the guidance of Fr Timothy, the Group had taken part in a number of activities over the past year or so: ecumenical services at the Abbey in January; a Taizé prayer service; the Walk of Witness on Good Friday; a visit to Coventry Cathedral in July; and joint prayer groups. Last year 50 people from six local churches had attended the Oberammergau Passion Play. Among future planned events were a visit to the Neasden Temple and visits to London churches, including St Ethelburgas and St Martin-in-the-Fields. There was also the possibility of setting up faith-sharing groups.

Justice and Peace Group

Helen Spurling reported on the work of the Justice and Peace Group which, building on a strong heritage, had been re-established at Fr Peter's request. The Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission wanted justice and peace to be perceived as core work of the Church. This required prayer, the acquisition of knowledge and action.

The Group's mandate was very wide, touching the work of all other Parish groups; so it was important to understand other work being undertaken. The Group's ambit was both local and international. However, there had been a tendency for international issues to dominate, and perhaps some need to redress the balance.

The Group saw itself as the “spider at the centre of the web”. Their close links with the Newman Circle enabled them to suggest items for the Circle's Agenda. Similarly, they had good links with other Parish groups, such as the Youth Group. Externally, they were involved with Churches Together in Ealing, which brought them into contact with the Quaker Group and their campaign against the arms trade. They contributed to the work of a small group looking at the impact of the Legal Aid Reform Bill. A huge amount of information was available on the national Justice and Peace website, and it was hoped to produce a link from the Ealing Abbey website.

The Group had hosted some interesting and useful talks, for example, from the Chain of Hope, and the Water Aid Project, from which they had learnt of the prospect of providing Kenyan villages with long-term relief from drought by digging artesian wells. They worked closely with Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) and CAFOD. ACN determined their priorities from information from local Bishops. Among other things, they were currently financing five clergy in the Ordinariate.

The Group actively promoted Diocesan environmental policy, for example in securing new bike racks outside the Abbey. They had promoted the recycling of clothes for Emmaus House, but the clothes donated needed to be of better quality to be useful. They planned to relaunch Abbeycycle, the Abbey's equivalent of Freecycle.

An issue to be considered was whether to apply for the CAFOD Live Simply award, launched by Bishop Declan Lang. Helen's view was that the Parish should be capable of winning the

award, but this would require the active contribution of every group in the Parish. But did the Parish consider this a priority?

Young Adults and Youth Groups

Rachel Kidd reported on her first year's work as part-time Parish youth co-ordinator. She had worked closely with catechists in the evangelisation and formation of young people, who had been well-prepared for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. A group of young adults was meeting once a week; originally comprising six members, it had doubled in size. They had been involved in faith formation, pro-life and vocations conferences. They had spent four days with the Emmanuel Community in preparation for World Youth Day. Attendance at World Youth Day had been a wonderful experience, being with the Holy Father and meeting other young Catholics.

Future events would include the launch of the 15-18 year old group in November, meeting on Sunday evenings. There would be retreats for young adults in November, and at Easter, one in Rome. There would be a weekend next year for those who had received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

It was suggested that there should be events linked to next year's Olympic Games, under the theme of "a hundred days of peace".

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Jennifer Smith reported on the recent activity of the Ealing SVP Conference, on behalf of the President, Vlod Barchuk, who was unable to attend. The Conference had about 20-25 members, including active and auxiliary members and friends. They met once a week. They visited homes for the elderly, hospitals and prisons, and also vulnerable elderly people and families with young children in their own homes. They provided holiday money for families in need with young children. They contributed to the soup kitchen at St John's Mattock Lane, where Abbey participation was led by the Headmaster of St Benedict's. They were twinned with two SVP Conferences in India. The Conference ran an annual appeal at the Abbey at the beginning of Advent, providing very generous

financial support for its activities during the following year. They were hoping to recruit more volunteers.

A parishioner asked whether the SVP were able to take in furniture that was no longer needed and make it available for those in need. Jennifer said that they had no means of storage. The Acton Recycling Centre took in furniture, and was able to ensure that it was put to good use. Alternatively, there was Freecycle or Abbeycycle. The Parish always responded well to ad hoc requests for furniture.

Support group for Divorced and Separated Parishioners

Marilu Mankarious proposed the establishment of a parish support group for parishioners who were divorced and separated, similar to groups in other parishes in the Diocese. This would be in accordance with Blessed Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation, *Familiaris Consortio*, which urged the Church to show her motherly concern to those abandoned in marriage. The focus would be on prayer and faith-sharing rather than counselling. Activities would include regular prayer and mutual spiritual support; special Masses for the intention of members; and visits to shrines. The intercession of Saints Jude, Joseph and Benedict and Blessed Pope John Paul II would be sought. Marilu had already had promises of support. Initially, there would be two-hour prayer sessions with refreshments. Meetings would be open to all. There was a favourable response to Marilu's proposal, and she would proceed to establish the group.

Co-ordination between different Parish groups

In their presentations, Jennifer Smith and Helen Spurling had drawn attention to the need to co-ordinate activities between different Parish groups. There was a need to know what other groups were doing and who else was visiting whom, for example Holy Communion visits. The SVP had attempted to obtain a list

from the Parish, but without success. In discussion, it was suggested that more use could be made of IT, although there were potential problems of confidentiality, while it would be very difficult to maintain comprehensive records of those who had been visited. Fr Peter said that next year Deacon Gordon would prepare an annual report summarising the work of different Parish groups, which would show the overall scope of pastoral activity in the Parish.

Parish Finances

Alexis Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Parish Finance and Property Committee, presented a report on Parish finances at the Parish in Council. Because of the detailed nature of the finance report and need for accuracy he has prepared the following report for this magazine. His presentation and report will be attached to the full minutes.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/2011

The preliminary results for the year which ended on 31st August, 2011 show that the cost of running the parish was some £382,800. At the start of the financial year it appeared that the parish was facing a substantial deficit. By continuing to monitor income and expenditure very carefully and also the deferral of some expenditure, we have managed to keep this deficit to £22,700.

Summary of Income and Expenditure (subject to audit)

Income	
Offertory donations /Gift aid Tax repayment/ Votives /Other	£360,100
Expenditure	
Clergy Support/Diocesan Levy/ Parish Staff and Trust costs.....	£255,500
Heating/Repairs & Maintenance/ Insurance/Communication/ Pastoral support	£97,700
Other	£29,600
	----- 382,800
Estimated Deficit for year.....	- £22,700

OFFERTORY DONATIONS

The last pulpit appeal for parishioners to review their donations was in June 2005. The offertory donations in the following financial year ending on 31st August, 2006 were £305,200 with Sunday Mass attendance 2,300.

The offertory donations have reduced each year since then and in 2010/11 the donations were £259,700 with a Sunday Mass attendance of 2,000.

This shows that over the 5 year period the offertory donations have declined so that in the year 2010/2011 they were £45,500 lower than in the year 2005/06.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2011/2012

The budget for this year was being drawn up in a very difficult economic climate therefore it would be prudent to plan accordingly. Income would continue to be monitored on a monthly basis - this in addition to the quarterly reports to the Finance Committee. The building and maintenance schedules would continue to prioritise the work in two categories

a) essential and b) optional.

Other expenditure would be closely monitored. These actions are intended to enable the parish to reduce the deficit of £57,350 set out in the budget.

Summary of Income and Expenditure

Income

Offertory donations /Gift aid Tax
repayments/Votives/other.....£349,100

Expenditure

Clergy Support/Diocesan Levy/
Staff and Trust costs..... £261,400
Heating/Repairs &
Maintenance/ Insurance/
Communication/
Pastoral support..... £129,650
Other.....£15,400
-----.....£406,450

Estimated Deficit for year.....£57,350

The current General Reserves stand at £255,200 - which is about 8 months expenditure. These reserves would be used prudently to assist with parish finances. However these reserves also need to be managed responsibly. In addition it was considered that parishioners should be informed.

Some £97,000 of last year's offertory donations were given in cash without being made under the Gift Aid scheme. Parishioners who make offertory donations, pay income tax in the UK and who do not use the Gift Aid scheme, are urged to make such donations using the Gift Aid Scheme. This will increase the value of each £1.00 donated to £1.25 without any additional cost to the donor.

Parishioners who are able to do so are invited to consider increasing their offertory donations.

A Pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral and Minster Abbey

Like the old pilgrims of Chaucer's tales, a busload of Ealing Abbey parishioners, Fr. Peter and Br. Matthew set off for Canterbury Cathedral on the morning of 16th June 2011. The rain lashed against the coach windows as we began the journey in prayer and reflection, a suitable precedent for the peaceful day ahead of us. On arrival in Canterbury, it seemed the sun had come out especially for us as we made our way to Christ Church Cathedral where, after a long journey, a much-needed hot beverage and biscuit awaited our arrival. With a rich history harking back to 597 AD when St Augustine, sent by Pope Gregory the Great to evangelise England, became the first Archbishop of Canterbury, we were spoilt by a fascinating journey through the 1,400 year history of the cathedral by our very own tour guide. Particular highlights included seeing the chapter house of the former Benedictine monastery and the garments worn by Edward the Black Prince in his militant victories



over the French. However, by far the most special part of the visit was the Mass celebrated by Fr. Peter in the (formerly Benedictine) cathedral crypt where Thomas Beckett had been buried before Henry VIII destroyed his shrine in 1538.

After a filling lunch in the cathedral hall it was time to set off for the next part of our pilgrimage: Minster Abbey, the home of the Benedictine nuns of St. Mildred's Priory. Situated a few miles from Ebbsfleet, the place where St. Augustine first arrived in England, the convent is set in beautiful grounds where one cannot help but feel moved by the peaceful and serene atmosphere of monastic life. With its ancient buildings, dating back to the 7th century, and picturesque gardens, Minster Abbey provided for another captivating history lesson and an enjoyable cup of tea in a delightful setting. As the rains began to fall again, it was an apt time to end our visit with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Abbey chapel. All had a wonderful time as we followed in the footsteps of many pilgrims before us and our thanks go to Fr. Peter and Br. Matthew for organising a fantastic trip. Looking forward to the next Ealing Abbey Pilgrimage! Frances Cuthbertson

The Catenians

The Catenian Association is an international organisation for Catholic men and is just over 100 years old. In celebration of its centenary it raised funds for CAFOD and Caritas International and the money raised was specifically for the provision of water wells in Zimbabwe. To date the wells have given a great deal of hope to the people by saving them a large amount of time walking back and forth between their villages and distant wells. The water also enables them to produce crops and so start them on the way to being self sufficient.

The Association is now expanding in the India with three new Circles formed in Goa. Because of the difficulties Catholics have in the country, the opportunity to meet together and develop Catholic Friends and encourage stronger family ties, the Catenian Associations objectives are met.

There is a Circle based in the parish and the members meet once a month for prayers, business matters, common to any organisation, and then sit down for a meal together. In recent months social events have included visits to a show in the Globe theatre, the O2 arena and the Mill at Sonning, in addition to various light lunches and evening meals with our ladies and families. Last year Pilgrimages to The Holy Land and Walsingham took place and in March there is a visit to Rome. In 2009 a number of Catenians set up a group called, Friends of The Holy Land, to help raise awareness of the plight of Christians in The Latin Patriarchate, which has 68 Parishes in the Holy Land (which includes Jordan, Palestine, Israel and Cyprus) and also to raise funds for them. To find out more please visit www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk If you would like to extend your number of Catholic friends or to find out more about The Catenian Association please visit www.thecatenians.com or call 020 8997 1886.

Anthony Phillips

Why did two Scottish women, an English Woman, a South African woman, an Indian woman, a French Man and a Monk go to Leicester Square?

To see the Jeweller! Before anyone gets too excited, this is not the punch line to an unwitty joke, this is after all the recount of an evening out with a number of people from the Young Adults of Ealing Abbey, we are Catholic which means no laughing allowed, or jokes, not even bad ones. The purpose of such a serious gathering was indeed to see 'The Jeweller' although not because there are any wedding bells on the horizon; on the 22nd June 2011 at Leicester Square Theatre was the premiere of a play by Martin O' Brien, Left to right: Br Matthew, Rachel, Janine, Charlotte, Rachel, Jean- Luc and Marushka. An enlightened Br. Matthew prays for the group over dinner based on the 'The Jeweller's Shop' by Karol Wojtyla, known perhaps more familiarly by his later name; Pope John Paul II. Staged by the award winning company 'Ten Ten Theatre' and directed by Paul Jepson it was certainly a powerful production. The central theme of the play was love, dealing with the responsibility a

relationship entails, marriage and the effects of its breakdown, the frailty of human emotions and the presence of God amongst it all. With simple staging, the actors were the sole focus of the audience's attention, meaning the audience were engaged throughout, granting plenty of opportunity to consider the messages of the play and reflect upon individual life experiences. As we watched the stories of three couples lives unfold, the audience shared moments of laughter (nothing a stern look from Br. Matthew couldn't stifle) and tears- particularly towards the ending. The play was followed by a brief break to get drinks from the bar- it was only to be expected at a predominantly Catholic gathering, before the audience was given the opportunity to converse with the expert panel including the playwright himself, the director, a couple of the actors and a theological advisor. After leaving the Theatre to the brightly lit streets of London, it became apparent to the group that they had a hungry Frenchman on their hands and so a sensible, democratic decision was made to head to an Italian pizza restaurant as it was one of the few options available that would provide every member with a taste of culture different to their own. A delicious meal was had by all before it was time to head off and catch the tube.

And so yet another lovely evening was shared by Ealing Abbey Young adults- just one example of the activities partaken through which the group can grow in faith and of course friendship, two of



the essential ingredients for a growing community. A big thanks to those who organised it! Charlotte Rutherford

A View from the Library

Elizabeth Longford' by Francis Makower

I loved this book from start to finish, readable and enjoyable. Well written and researched. Her virtues come over without meaning to! It is good too to sense Elizabeth and Frank's concern about others, and to see names of those who meant a lot to them. It is always interesting to learn that a marriage can work with two opposing camps of thought, gradually becoming more united with time and patience. I liked the fact that Elizabeth used her intelligence and social background for the good of her family and others. Sr. M Felix O.P.

Silver River by Daisy Goodwin Fourth Estate 2007

A family story which I enjoyed. Obviously daisy has done a lot of homework in the fields of travel and studying family records. Daisy has a knack for telling a story well. She has a clever way of obtaining from her material information which she can fit together to produce an interesting and gripping read. It is my belief that this book will never be seen as a classic or best seller, but it certainly has a place

Thursdays Child by Sonia Hartnett Walker Books 2000

An interesting read, putting one in touch with the social conditions in Australia following the years of the Great Depression. Seen in this context, the story is a sad one, although beautifully and delicately told. Sonya has written previous books in her own country which have received book awards. It is thought that the readers she has in mind are the 'young set.' I believe that this is the first of her works to be published in the U.k.

Born to Run by Michael Morpurgo HarperCollins Children's Books

Absolutely beautiful and readable, a 'can't put it down'. Well written and cleverly set out, a tear jerker! Sensitively told with great feeling. A love of Greyhounds shining though. I guess that Mr Morpurgo had 10 year olds in mind. Sr M Felix OP