

# PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE

Special Publication  
May 2010



Living Our Faith  
*The people of the Diocese of Portsmouth*



How does *Living Our Faith* sit alongside the principles of Stewardship as we seek to implement the Pastoral Plan, *Go Out and Bear Fruit*?

Our Pastoral Plan, *Go Out and Bear Fruit*, is intended to enable us to be disciples of Jesus Christ called to communion and mission as the Church in the Diocese of Portsmouth. Underpinning the Plan is the spirituality of Christian Stewardship that everything we are and have comes from God. We respond to God's generosity to us by recognising the many gifts given to us by God (for example those of time, talent and treasure), and seeking to use all of them for God's purposes. The diocesan capital campaign, *Living Our Faith*, is part of our response to God's call that we be responsible stewards of the gifts He has given us. *Go Out and Bear Fruit* holds out an ambitious vision of the Church in our diocese and, if we are to bring it about, we will need to respond generously with our time, our talents and our treasure. *Living Our Faith* is one way in which we can do this.



We feature a selection of *Living Our Faith* volunteers from points across the diocese including Boscombe, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth, Southampton and Thatcham

# PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE



Jay Kettle-Williams

## Contents

Bishop's Bulletin	2 - 3
Vocations by Fr Gerard Flynn	4
The Alton Experience	5
Thanksgiving Masses	6
Living Our Faith - Impact Committee by Terrie McCann	6
Parish Goals and Achievements	7
Prie-Dieu by Fr Denis Blackledge	8
Living Our Faith – The FAQs	9
How Funds Will Be Spent	10
Volunteer Experiences	11
Living Our Faith – Fr John Catlin	12

### Acknowledgements:

Photographs © by Mick Atkin, Chris Bugden, Michael Corbett, Philip Crook, Barry Hudd, Richard Jarczyk, Jay Kettle-Williams, Stuart McAlister Photographers ([www.stuartmccalister.com](http://www.stuartmccalister.com)), Tom Olding, Donna R. Rathert, Karl Shrader, Tony Smith. Grateful thanks are also due Rev Richard Budgen and to all others who have contributed to this publication and to the **Living Our Faith** campaign in general.

'Are you a practising Catholic?' I asked. 'What other type is there!' he snapped.

Hm! Unfortunately I wasn't quick enough off the mark to answer him back, perhaps along the lines of: 'And we know what practice makes!' But I did draw a clear message from that brief, testy encounter.

To practise our faith involves trying to be faithful to Jesus Christ in all we do, and participation in the ritual that identify us as Catholics, for example, the Mass and other sacraments. It also entails us dedicating our talents, our time and our treasure to supporting the activities of our Church because it's part of our Christian responsibility to be charitable, to offer what we have been blessed with for the benefit of the common good, the Body of Christ of which we are part. That responsibility extends to recognising the financial burden incurred in bringing the 'products and services' - if I can be excused for putting matters somewhat harshly, but realistically - which we expect or even demand from our Church e.g. a clean place to sit, a roof over our heads, light, warmth and a priest saying Mass, and doing whatever else, wherever else we expect and want him to be.

The Church is a community, caring of itself yet attentive to others, just like one, large extended family. All members are dependent upon the time, talents and support from across the membership, benefiting from a sort of ongoing pass-the-parcel round of responsibility, a merry-go-round of addressing needs: mine today; yours tomorrow.

But like so many things in this world, this all needs financing.

The **Living Our Faith** campaign across our diocese aims to address the imbalance in financial terms between supply and demand, and help secure the financial future of all we espouse.

In times of yore, the King demanded of each shire that a Reeve be appointed (i.e. a Shire Reeve > sheriff) responsible for ensuring that the machinery of State be financed. It was the Shire Reeve's task to collect at a given time each year one tenth of each citizen's wealth: if you had 10 pigs, he'd take one.

That system of tithing has long since died away in matters of State and has been replaced with all manner of taxes - there's no need to pop a pig in the post to the Exchequer - but this country does not pay churches a faith tax from its revenues, unlike in Germany. And, what's more, the UK authorities do not subsidise our Catholic Church. It's not the State religion. Our Catholic Church - and that means you and me - has to pay its way at market prices.



# CRISPIAN HOLLIS BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

## LIVING OUR FAITH



Dear Sisters and Brothers,



Being a Christian today means listening to God's Word and doing his work as we practice and live our faith. Part and parcel of that, especially during the season of Lent, meant living with the reality of day to day sacrifice. All that we undertook for Lent was aimed at helping us to be better 'ambassadors for Christ' and more effective signs of 'the goodness of God'; I hope that our Lenten observance helped us to focus our priorities on the Lord and towards each other.

In January, when I was in Rome, I was able to share something of all this when I spoke with the Holy Father about the Pastoral Plan and the way in which you were all playing such a major part in its implementation. He raised an eyebrow of delighted surprise when I told him of how generously you had all supported the **Living Our Faith** campaign to the tune of nearly £8 million.

Living and giving for others is a predominant feature of Christian stewardship and it has been particularly prominent up and down the length and breadth of the diocese in the **Living Our Faith** campaign. This initiative has touched all our communities from Maidenhead to the Isle of Wight, from Bournemouth to Liphook and from the outskirts of Oxford and Wantage to the Channel Islands.

We were able to celebrate success so far in a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral in January. Now that a further 37 parishes are taking up the challenge of the campaign, I look forward to similar celebrations around the diocese in the coming months.

There have been amazingly – and humbling – acts of generous and sacrificial giving from over 3000 families, all of whom have been eager and willing to play their part in building and sustaining the life and future of our diocese. They have readily given new money for the new work that faces us.

I will invite you all to join me in those celebrations but for now, please join me in prayer for the continuing success of **Living Our Faith** as we seek to complete the campaign throughout the diocese.

With blessings and prayers,

Bishop of Portsmouth

8th March 2010



# MASS OF THE OILS

## Sermon given by Bishop Crispian St John's Cathedral, Tuesday 30 March

I and my brother bishops from England and Wales spent the last week of January and the first week of February in Rome. We were there for our *Ad Limina* visit, an occasion when every five years we present a report to the Holy See on what has been recently happening in our dioceses. The meetings with the various Congregations and Councils of the Holy See were important, but the highlight has to be the time spent collectively and individually with Pope Benedict.

To meet with him personally is to reinforce that sense of communion between ourselves and the Holy Father which is at the heart of being Catholic. He is gentle, courteous and polite – not a bit as he is sometimes portrayed by a hostile Press. He listened intently to what I had to say about the diocese and about all that we are trying to do and he certainly confirmed me, his brother bishop, in my faith and ministry.

Our Mass today comes in the middle of the Year of the Priest, an important time of work and prayer for vocations. In many ways, the climax of the year will be celebrated here in the Cathedral on July 24th when James McAuley and Phil Harris are to be ordained to the priesthood and anointed with the Oil of Chrism, shortly to be consecrated. I hope that many of you will celebrate with me on that day.

Today's readings are rightly interpreted as referring to the ordained ministry, though, clearly, not exclusively so. When Isaiah writes that 'you will be named priests of the Lord, they will call you ministers of God', he is surely referring to the whole body of the priestly people, who form God's people and the community of the disciples of Christ.

But let the ordained ministry hold pride of place this morning. When he spoke to us, Pope Benedict exhorted us to be 'close to your priests and rekindle their sense of the enormous privilege and joy of standing among God's people as alter Christus'. I hope to be able to do that for you today. Speaking of his forthcoming visit to us, he reminded us that, in beatifying Cardinal John Henry Newman, he would be beatifying not just a saintly and scholarly man, but also a priest who served for many years as a much loved parish priest in one of Birmingham's poorer areas. The Holy Father spoke of him as a wonderful example of the irreplaceable role played by the priest in the life of the Church. I can only echo that.

In speaking with Pope Benedict with pride about the life of the diocese, as evidenced through the growing implementation of the *Pastoral Plan*, I could not resist telling him of the extraordinary generosity and faith in the future of the diocese, shown by priests, deacons and people alike in the pledges that have been made to the *Living Our Faith*

campaign so far, even though we still have some way to go before we reach our ultimate target. It is entirely appropriate that, in this *Year of the Priest*, the first application of some of that new money should go to establish and properly resource a Vocations Promoter. Fr Mark Hogan has agreed to take on this responsibility and hopefully, with your prayers and support, his efforts and those of the team he will be forming, will bear fruit in encouraging vocations to the ordained ministry.

But let me speak again of the *Pastoral Plan*. It has no meaning and purpose if all it does nothing more than simply put our own diocesan house in order. That's part of the purpose of the restructuring that is taking place, but only so that we can more effectively face up to and live with the stark imperative of today's Gospel. Christ is the anointed one and he invites us, who are his disciples, to share in his anointing together with all the consequences that flow from it.

As individuals and as a diocese, we have to bring good news to the poor. This is not just an idea to which we pay lip service. It means an option for the poor, coming to terms with the genuine needs of those numerous pockets of poverty in the diocese. Real poverty – and there's plenty of it around – has to be one of our major concerns. So, too, is the plight of so many of our brothers and sisters, trapped or imprisoned physically or spiritually in a labyrinth of laws and regulations, or by misguided attempts to legislate for equality at the expense of legitimate human rights. We have to live and cope with the consequences of abuse of all kinds. This is the real world in which we proclaim the Gospel. Opponents accuse us of discrimination and of destroying personal freedom, but we must stay true and faithful to the Gospel because, as Pope Benedict tells us, 'fidelity to the Gospel in no way restricts the freedom of others – on the contrary, it serves their freedom by offering them the truth'. That truth is good news for us and for all.

Bringing that good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to captives, new sight to the blind and setting free those who are downtrodden by today's world of legislation and regulation: all these works, undertaken by those anointed by the Spirit – us, Christ's disciples – have to be our agenda if we are to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Everything we do in the diocese has to be grounded in today's Gospel. But this calls for brave and generous leadership. I know that this is being given by your priests and deacons, my brothers in faith and ministry, and my current series of visits to the leadership groups of the Pastoral Areas, clearly confirms this. But those, on whom the burden falls, need your continued support and encouragement. Cherish, therefore, your priests and deacons as beloved brothers, tell them how much you treasure what they do for the Lord and for you and pray for all of us today as we renew our commitments to serve the Lord and you. Pray that we will always be living signs of Christ in your midst.

# Vocations



Fr Gerard Flynn, Vocations Director

## Elegant Restrictions

Fr Gerard is pictured outside the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury in Newport, which he believes is the oldest purpose-built post-Reformation Catholic church in the country.

It was erected immediately after the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1791, which allowed Catholics to practice their religion, but with restrictions. Steeples, bells – in fact anything that made a building look too much like a church – were forbidden. As a result, St Thomas's has a very plain exterior, and looks more like a Quaker Meeting House than a Catholic church.

Inside are none of the side chapels and dark mysterious corners so typical of the 19th century churches that followed. The building is uncluttered, rectangular and full of light. The result is an elegant simplicity which, in the view of the well-known architectural historian, Marcus Binney, makes St Thomas's one of the most beautiful Catholic churches in Britain.



Have you ever heard anyone talking about a shortage of priests? Well, it's true that we could certainly do with more than we have. But how far are you from your nearest priest? There are parts of the world where the faith thrives with far greater distances between priest and people. In our own twinned Diocese of Bamenda in Cameroon the faithful often walk for hours to attend Mass. Our reality just now may not be a true shortage of priests so much as a particularly heavy workload for many of our priests and occasional inconvenience for some worshippers.

It has been good to see, as part of our **Pastoral Plan**, more and more lay people respond to their baptismal vocation. Many are now taking on some of the work that they always used to leave to 'Father', but which he didn't need to do at all! So what does the Church say that we need the priest to do and to be? Those questions will become more and more central to our work of building the Kingdom as time goes on.

What is certain is that we will need priests to celebrate the Mass with the people, to hear confessions and to pastor, to inspire and to be at the heart of their communities. Thank God we

have seven good students in formation for the priesthood for our diocese. There are others in the offing as well. But it's startling to think that when we have our annual Diocesan collection for the training of these men we don't quite manage to raise enough to pay for the training of one of them. Is that a true measure of how much we value our priests-to-be? I hope not; and now the chance has arisen to prove that that is not so. The campaign **Living our Faith** gives us all the opportunity to support the training of future priests generously; just as generously as so many people supported the Clergy Retirement Fund when that arose, as an urgent need, a dozen or so years ago.

Already many very kind donors have pledged millions of pounds to ensure that there will always be a fund available for the formation of future priests. They have been people in the pews, just like you. They have taken

seriously both the need that faces us and the urge of Pope John Paul II that the measure of our giving should be true sacrifice. In uncertain times I have encountered many people who have taken careful decisions about what they can afford and about what the future generations of our Church need. It has been impressive to see great, practical and realistic generosity at work.

It is not for me to say the formal thank-you but as one member of the Body of Christ to his brothers and sisters that is what I want to say, both to those who have already pledged and those who are going to. We will also all be grateful for the other strands of work which the campaign will support. I just wanted to say my bit as Vocations Director. And I am sure you will guess that I ask you to pray for our present and future students for the priesthood. This prayer, by Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, may well help:

Lord, make me generous enough to want to do your will, whatever it might be. Help me to find my true vocation in life, and grant that I may find happiness and bring happiness to others. Grant, Lord, that those whom you call to priesthood, diaconate or religious life may have the generosity to answer your call, so that those who need your help may always find it. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



### St Mary, Alton

59 Normandy Street, Alton,  
Hants GU34 1ND Tel: 01420 82030

St Mary, Alton successfully took part in *Living Our Faith* last year. Here is the case for support they used to highlight their parish needs throughout their efforts.

Since 1964, this present Church of St Mary's Parish has served the needs of our Catholic community in Alton. We give thanks for all that has been achieved in that time and for those who have gone before us, whose gifts and talents with God's grace have accomplished so much. Now we need to look ahead to the challenges that lie before us as a faith community. This is our opportunity to contribute to the future well-being of this parish and the diocese as a whole.

We eagerly accept the challenges that face us as we become involved in this diocesan-wide campaign. We recognise the need for this historic initiative to ensure the future vitality of the Diocese of Portsmouth as well as the need to address local priorities. *Living Our Faith* presents us with an exciting effort to raise funds both for our Church and our parish. Our parish campaign target is £120,000, to be raised from pledges by parishioners, mostly over five years. Of any sum raised up to this target, 25 percent will be returned to the parish. Should we exceed the target, 80 percent of the amount above £120,000 will also be returned.

We have successfully completed the building of our new parish hall. But during its construction several serious problems have emerged that need urgent attention. The condition of the Church roof gives great cause for concern. On inspection it has been found to be in very poor condition for a variety of reasons. The aluminium cladding is corroding and splitting along all the seams. This is laid on a chipboard surface which because of a lack of ventilation and a consequent build-up of condensation is crumbling

away and losing strength. The Church light fittings have also deteriorated quite dramatically and now present a major fire hazard. These problems need to be addressed as a matter of urgency and certainly, we have been advised, within a year. With the funds returned to our parish through the *Living Our Faith* campaign we hope to rectify these faults.

While our needs are significant, we are confident that our parish family is prepared to lend generous support. This is most evident through past accomplishments, blessings, and the extraordinary sacrifices made by our community of faith.

*Living Our Faith* will enable St Mary's Parish to continue to grow and flourish. It will remain a vibrant Catholic presence in our area for generations to come. As we have been blessed, let us act as stewards by supporting *Living Our Faith*. We appeal for your serious prayerful thought, commitment and participation. God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

**Our Target: £120,000**  
**Amount Raised: £337,799**  
**Our Share: £221,000**

## What's in a Word - APOSTLE

The term apostle comes from the Greek word *apostolos*, which roughly means 'someone sent'. There are 80 references to apostles in the New Testament, but some scholars would argue that there appear to be two different types (although the distinctions aren't all that clear). Many of these references are to the 12 men who were sent out by Christ to preach during his lifetime and who were later witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 10.1-4; Acts 1.21-22). As such, they were viewed in some sense as authority figures within the early Christian community.

Later, Matthias and Paul were also understood as apostles in this way (Acts 1.26; 1 Corinthians 9.1). However, there were also a wider group of people called 'apostles' who were sent out as messengers to/from churches or as missionaries (Acts 13. 1-3; 14.4; 1 Corinthians 12.27-29; 2 Corinthians 8.23; Philippians 2.25). It is in this second sense that some later Christian writers described Mary Magdalene as the 'apostle of the apostles'. This was because she was sent by Jesus with a message to the 12 apostles.

Words, and their definition, taken from the Bible Style Guide (Bible Society 2008) and reproduced here with the permission of Bible Society. No part may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise without prior permission from Bible Society. For permission requests, please email [permissions@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:permissions@biblesociety.org.uk) or telephone Bible Society on 017 9341 8100. To access the Bible Style Guide please go to <http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/style-guide>

## Fascinating Facts and Figures

Nearly 3,500 individuals and families have made pledges to *Living Our Faith* totalling over £9.2 million, but there is still some way to go!

7 seminarians are currently training for the priesthood in the Diocese of Portsmouth.

The word salary – from the Latin word *sal* meaning 'salt' – reflects the days when salt was such a valuable commodity that it was used as currency.

In England and Wales there are 136 seminarians in training for the Catholic priesthood, 736 deacons, 1069 religious priests, 4400 active diocesan priests with a ratio (active diocesan priests: lay Catholics) of 1:1147.

42 members of the clergy have given to *Living Our Faith*, with pledges totalling £240,000!

The Catholic Church is the largest Christian denomination in the world. It has more than 1 billion members worldwide – that means one in every six people walking the earth is a baptised Catholic.

The top 10 most charitable countries, calculated by percentage of GDP given to charity, are in descending order: USA, UK, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Ireland, The Netherlands, Singapore, New Zealand and Turkey.

Currently 59 parishes are receiving £4,168,000 to fund their local needs. £4,831,000 has been raised for diocesan purposes – a further £1,900,000 is needed to support fully our clergy and vocations, invest in the laity and renew parish facilities.

## Living Our Faith – Masses of Thanksgiving

Bishop Crispian would like to welcome all donors, volunteers and those interested in learning more about *Living Our Faith* to a special Mass of Thanksgiving. Three Masses will be celebrated across the Diocese. Times and dates are listed below, along with a suggested list of which Mass is most convenient for each parish:

### 1. Saturday 24th April 2010, 11am at Immaculate Conception, Southampton

Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Portsmouth  
Christ The King & St Colman, Southampton  
Corpus Christi, Bournemouth  
Corpus Christi with St Joseph, Portsmouth  
Holy Cross, Eastleigh  
Holy Family, Southampton  
Holy Redeemer, Highcliffe  
Immaculate Conception and St Joseph, Christchurch  
Immaculate Conception, Southampton  
Immaculate Conception, Stubbington  
Our Lady & the Saints of Guernsey  
Our Lady Immaculate, Westbourne  
Our Lady of Lourdes, New Milton  
Our Lady of Lourdes and St Swithun, Portsmouth  
Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedge End  
Our Lady of Mercy and St Joseph, Lymington  
Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Bishops Waltham  
Our Lady Queen Of Peace & Blessed Margaret Pole, Bournemouth  
Our Lady of the Assumption and St Edward the Confessor, Lyndhurst Parish of Jersey  
Sacred Heart, Bournemouth  
Sacred Heart, Fareham  
Sacred Heart, Shanklin  
Sacred Heart, Waterloooville  
Sacred Heart and St Therese of Lisieux, Ringwood

Ss Thomas of Canterbury and Thomas More, Havant  
St Andrew, Romsey  
St Anne and St Mary Magdalen, Alderney  
St Anne, Brockenhurst  
St Bernard & St Michael, Waterside  
St Boniface, Southampton  
St Brigid, Hedge End  
St Colman and St Paul, Portsmouth  
St David, East Cowes  
St Edmund, Horndean  
St Edmund Campion, Bournemouth  
St Edward the Confessor, Chandler's Ford  
St Elizabeth, Maidenhead  
St Francis of Assisi, Milford-On-Sea  
St John the Evangelist, Lee-on-the-Solent  
St Joseph & St Edmund, Southampton  
St Joseph, Gosport  
St Joseph, Havant  
St Joseph, Romsey  
St Mary & St Philip, Fordingbridge  
St Mary, Gosport  
St Mary, Ryde  
St Margaret Mary, Park Gate  
St Michael, Bembridge  
St Michael and All Angels, Leigh Park  
St Patrick, Hayling Island  
St Patrick, Sandown  
St Patrick, Southampton  
St Philip Howard, Fareham  
St Thomas of Canterbury, Cowes  
St Thomas of Canterbury, Newport  
St Theresa of the Child Jesus, Totton  
St Thomas More, Bournemouth  
St Vincent De Paul, Southampton  
The Annunciation, Bournemouth  
The Annunciation, Netley

### 2. Saturday 1st May 2010, 11am at Christ the King, Reading

Blessed Hugh, Faringdon  
Christ the King, Reading  
Corpus Christi, Wokingham  
English Martyrs, Didcot  
English Martyrs, Reading  
Holy Ghost, Crowthorne  
Holy Rood, Oxford  
Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst  
Our Lady and St Bernadette, Pangbourne  
Our Lady and St Edmund of Abingdon  
Our Lady of Peace, Twyford  
Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Dominic Barberi, Earley  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford  
Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham  
Our Lady of the Rosary, North Hinksey  
Sacred Heart, Lambourn  
St Edmund Campion, Maidenhead  
St Edward, Windsor  
St Francis de Sales, Wash Common  
St Francis, Ascot  
St George, Buckland  
St James & St William of York, Reading  
St John Bosco, Woodley  
St John the Evangelist, Wallingford  
St John Vianney, Wantage  
St Joseph, Bracknell  
St Joseph, Maidenhead  
St Joseph, Newbury  
St Joseph, Reading  
St Margaret Clitherow, Bracknell  
St Mark, Dedworth  
St Mary, East Hendred  
St Mary, Woolhampton

St Saviour, Totland Bay  
St Thomas More, Twyford  
The Good Shepherd, Kennington

### 3. Saturday 8th May 2010, 11am at St Mary, Alton

Holy Ghost, Basingstoke  
Immaculate Conception, Liphook  
Our Lady and Holy Trinity, Fleet  
Our Lady Help of Christians, Farnborough  
Our Lady and St Dominic, Farnborough  
Sacred Heart, Bordon  
Sacred Heart, Hook  
St Agnes, Petersfield  
St Bede, Basingstoke  
St Gregory the Great, Alresford  
St John the Baptist, Andover  
St John Fisher, Whitchurch  
St Joseph, Aldershot  
St Joseph, Basingstoke  
St Joseph, Grayshott  
St Laurence, Petersfield  
St Mary, Aldershot  
St Mary, Alton  
St Michael, Tadley  
St Peter, Winchester  
Ss Peter and Paul, Kingsclere  
St Stephen, Winchester  
St Swithun, Yateley  
St Thomas More, Hartley Wintney  
St Thomas More, Stockbridge

## Living Our Faith - Impact Committee

Terrie McCann reports

An important part of the *Living Our Faith* campaign is ensuring that the funds raised are spent as effectively as possible, in accordance with the areas laid out in the Case for Support and communicated so well by our many hard-working volunteers. To ensure this, an Impact Committee made up of clergy and lay people has been convened to make sure that the fruit of Living Our Faith is as abundant as possible and is going towards our ultimate goal – furthering the Diocesan plan to **Go Out and Bear Fruit**.

Between now and the summer, members of the Impact Committee will be working out procedures that will allow applications to come in under the four areas of *Living Our Faith* – vocations, training of the laity,

renewing facilities and local parish needs. As well as this, guidelines will be put in place to work out how these applications will be assessed. There will also be discussion of how the outcomes of each project will be monitored and assessed, in keeping with the aim to make all aspects of *Living Our Faith* as transparent and accountable as possible. Finally, the best way to communicate to the people of the Diocese and donors to *Living Our Faith* the effect of their extraordinary generosity will be decided.

The committee will begin taking applications in September 2010. There is a presumption in favour of parishes spending money in accordance with the projects it was raised for and was discussed in the case for support, but there will be some lee-way for needs that have since arisen. The money for *Living Our Faith* was raised as new money for new expenditure and this should be kept in mind when applications are made.

The Impact Committee exists to ensure that the funds generously given have an impact on the life of the Diocese – they will make sure this happens and report back regularly on the results. Canon David Hopgood, Chair of the Committee, said:

‘It is humbling when you think of the hundreds of people in this Diocese who are “living their faith” by making a pledge, so that we can look to the future with hope – as we train our future priests and lay people for our Diocese of Portsmouth.

‘This *Living Our Faith* money’ has been given in generosity and often with sacrifice. The purpose of the Impact Committee is to ensure that it is used wisely – so that the pastoral plan of the Diocese can be implemented.

‘I hope that the pastoral areas will look to see what their needs are and how monies from this fund might make that dream a reality.’

## PARISH GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Parishes Beginning Living Our Faith	Parish Priest	Families	Goal	Gifts	Raised	Avg Gift	% Goal	Parish Rebate
Catholic Church in Hinksey	Rev Paul King	150	£65,000	9	£21,328	£2,370	33%	£5,332
English Martyrs, Didcot	Rev David O'Sullivan	150	£80,000	13	£33,542	£2,580	42%	£8,386
Immaculate Conception, Southampton	Rev Antony Gatt	181	£75,000	3	£18,000	£6,000	24%	£4,500
Our Lady & Blessed Dominic Barberi, Earley	Rev Anthony Ikhenoba	300	£115,000	9	£40,492	£4,499	35%	£10,123
Our Lady & the Saints of Guernsey	Rev Michael Hore	600	£230,000	26	£216,750	£8,337	94%	£54,188
Our Lady & St Edward the Confessor, Lyndhurst	Rev Stephen Short	30	£30,000	4	£11,627	£2,907	39%	£2,907
Our Lady Immaculate, Southbourne, Bournemouth	Rev James McAuliffe	130	£55,000	4	£11,781	£2,945	21%	£2,945
Our Lady New Milton	Rev Gerrit Verveen	205	£70,000	6	£21,647	£3,608	31%	£5,412
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bournemouth	Rev Gerald Onyejuluwa	200	£85,000	3	£9,269	£3,090	11%	£2,317
Parish of Jersey	Mgr Nicholas France	1500	£485,000	8	£86,750	£10,844	18%	£21,688
Sacred Heart, Hook	Rev Daniel Burns	100	£70,000	7	£15,162	£2,166	22%	£3,791
Sacred Heart, Ringwood	Rev Des Connolly	55	£35,000	5	£25,500	£5,100	73%	£6,375
St Boniface, Southampton	Rev David Sillence	320	£95,000	8	£29,825	£3,728	20%	£7,456
St Francis, Milford-on-Sea	Rev Gerrit Verveen	60	£30,000	12	£20,568	£1,714	68%	£5,142
St James & St William of York, Reading	Canon John O'Shea	400	£155,000	11	£42,074	£3,825	27%	£10,519
St John Bosco, Woodley	Rev Chris Whelan	350	£85,000	11	£34,666	£3,151	41%	£8,667
St John the Evangelist, Wallingford	Rev David O'Sullivan	100	£55,000	8	£13,647	£1,706	25%	£3,412
St Joseph, Basingstoke	Rev Mark Hogan	300	£125,000	13	£40,429	£3,110	32%	£10,107
St Thomas More, Twyford	Rev Vincent Flanagan	180	£110,000	9	£32,016	£3,557	29%	£8,004
St Swithun, Yateley	Rev Dominic Adeiza	150	£105,000	3	£11,384	£3,795	11%	£2,846
Waterside Catholic Parish	Rev David Adams	120	£85,000	7	£13,979	£1,997	16%	£3,495
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5581</b>	<b>£2,240,000</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>£750,436</b>	<b>£4,192</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>£187,609</b>

Parishes Midway Through	Parish Priest	Families	Goal	Gifts	Raised	Avg Gift	% Goal	Parish Rebate
Catholic Parish in Aldershot	Canon David Mahy	192	£100,000	25	£57,457	£2,298	57%	£14,364
Our Lady, Lymington	Rev James McGrath	144	£55,000	11	£61,834	£5,621	112%	£15,459
Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, Bishops Waltham	Rev John Buckley	100	£80,000	38	£55,314	£1,456	69%	£13,829
Sacred Heart ans St Joseph, Bordon	Rev Edward Richer	150	£65,000	21	£57,218	£2,725	88%	£14,305
St Anne's, Brockenhurst	Rev James McGrath	99	£40,000	14	£57,776	£4,127	144%	£24,221
St Laurence, Petersfield	Canon Gerard Hetherington	200	£105,000	26	£97,832	£3,763	93%	£24,458
St Margaret Mary, Park Gate	Rev John Cooke	235	£105,000	21	£74,912	£3,567	71%	£18,728
St Mary, Ryde	Rev Anthony Glaysler	400	£100,000	1	£5,000	£5,000	5%	£1,250
St Thomas and St Saviour	Rev Gerard Flynn	700	£125,000	14	£34,421	£2,459	28%	£8,605
St Thomas More, Bournemouth	Rev Shaun Budden	131	£65,000	58	£60,000	£1,034	92%	£15,000
St Thomas, Cowes	Rev Michael Purbrick	80	£45,000	12	£13,683	£1,140	30%	£3,421
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2431</b>	<b>£885,000</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>£575,447</b>	<b>£2,368</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>£153,639</b>

Completed Parishes	Parish Priest	Families	Goal	Gifts	Raised	Avg Gift	% Goal	Parish Rebate
Sacred Heart, Waterloooville	Rev Kevin Bidgood	500	£110,000	143	£555,360	£3,884	505%	£499,824
Hampshire Downs Parish	Canon Paul Townsend	700	£330,000	315	£1,245,897	£3,955	378%	£932,397
St Mary, Alton	Rev Peter Hart	295	£120,000	130	£337,799	£2,598	281%	£223,799
St Edmund, Horndean	Canon Tim Healy	192	£58,000	89	£148,703	£1,671	256%	£93,603
St Joseph, Havant	Rev Tom Grufferty	235	£133,000	168	£319,416	£1,901	240%	£193,066
Three Rivers Pastoral Area	Frs Dennehy, Lyons	1,272	£310,000	275	£726,206	£2,641	234%	£431,706
St Joseph, Christchurch	Rev John Lee	250	£100,000	107	£227,112	£2,123	227%	£132,112
St Joseph, Maidenhead	Rev Mgr Tom McGrath	300	£175,000	190	£326,554	£1,719	187%	£164,993
Lee-on-the-Solent and Stubbington	Rev John Humphreys	150	£105,000	115	£195,544	£1,700	186%	£98,685
Corpus Christi with St Joseph, Portsmouth	Rev Simon Thomson	200	£70,000	89	£129,122	£1,451	184%	£64,798
St Michael, Leigh Park	Rev Joe Gruskiewicz	80	£47,000	60	£71,505	£1,192	152%	£31,354
Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham	Rev Ignatius Maddineni	300	£45,000	55	£66,760	£1,214	148%	£28,658
Catholic Church in Fareham & Portchester	Rev Joe McNerney	350	£170,000	158	£251,322	£1,591	148%	£107,558
Christ the King, Reading	Rev Bruce Barnes	200	£77,000	50	£113,006	£2,260	147%	£48,055
St Edmund Campion, Maidenhead	Rev Paul Mooney, MHM	295	£110,000	118	£160,399	£1,359	146%	£67,819
St Colman with St Paul, Portsmouth	Rev Sean Tobin	200	£110,000	120	£160,076	£1,334	146%	£67,561
St Joseph and St Edmund, Southampton	Rev Mgr Vincent Harvey	450	£215,000	117	£309,177	£2,643	144%	£129,092
St John the Baptist, Andover	Rev Peter Codd	500	£170,000	168	£242,840	£1,445	143%	£100,772
Corpus Christi, Boscombe	Rev Denis Blackledge, SJ	440	£195,000	175	£275,608	£1,575	141%	£113,236
Catholic Church in Gosport	Rev Peter Glas	150	£95,000	113	£130,442	£1,154	137%	£52,104
St Francis de Sales, Wash Common	Rev Eamon Walsh	100	£80,000	56	£109,345	£1,953	137%	£45,476
Immaculate Conception, Liphook	Canon Cyril Murtagh	70	£40,000	37	£52,748	£1,426	132%	£20,198
St John Vianney, Wantage	Canon Peter Turbitt	126	£70,000	51	£92,006	£1,804	131%	£35,105
Our Lady and St Swithun, Portsmouth	Rev Peter Hollins	215	£105,000	67	£130,373	£1,946	124%	£46,548
Cathedral, Portsmouth	Canon David Hopgood	610	£240,000	164	£288,642	£1,760	120%	£98,914
English Martyrs, Reading	Rev Mgr John Nelson	400	£160,000	112	£199,025	£1,777	124%	£71,220
Our Lady with Holy Trinity, Fleet	Rev Michael Stanier	250	£190,000	87	£197,423	£2,269	104%	£53,438
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8,180</b>	<b>£3,280,000</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>£7,062,410</b>	<b>£2,256</b>	<b>215%</b>	<b>£3,827,432</b>

Bishop's Phase	Bishop Hollis, Rev Mgr Nelson, Deacon Morgan		£500,000	7	£1,065,400	£152,200	213%	
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>		<b>16,192</b>	<b>£9,000,000</b>	<b>3,557</b>	<b>£9,453,693</b>	<b>£2,656</b>	<b>105%</b>	<b>£4,168,680</b>



Fr Denis Blackledge

## PRIE-DIEU: LIVING OUR FAITH

Loving Lord,  
you've shared everything with us.  
You've even given us your own Son,  
Jesus.  
You didn't talk the talk:  
you walked the walk.  
There were no short cuts  
to a resurrection world for Jesus.  
His way led through  
pain, suffering and passion.  
There was no special pleading,  
even for your own Son, Jesus.  
Nor will there be for us  
as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Loving Lord,  
living our faith  
is both an individual  
and a community task,  
a combined labour of love.  
There's no point if faith is just lipped:  
it has to be lived.  
There's a world of difference  
between lip-service and life-service.

Loving Lord,  
each one of us is given  
so many uniquely personal gifts,  
beginning with the gift of our own self.  
Each of us is on the receiving end  
of your prodigal generosity.  
Each one of us  
has the beautiful gift of time  
which can be spent or wasted 24/7.  
Each one of us has awesome talent  
which can be used or wasted 24/7.  
Each one of us has immense treasure  
that can be shared or not 24/7.

Loving Lord,  
each one of us has one life to live,  
and no guarantee of tomorrow,  
for your kingdom knows only 'Today'.  
Each one of us has ears to hear  
and a heart to listen and learn 'Today'.  
Each one of us is challenged to share  
all we are and have 'Today'.

Loving Lord,  
each one of us is a guest  
on your good earth.  
Each one of us is graced  
with the gift of faith in You  
as our Loving Lord.  
Teach us to be good guests,  
and good receivers,  
grateful and open-handed.  
Teach us also to be good stewards  
in handling and sharing our gifts.

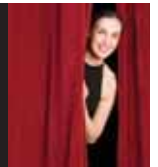
Loving Lord,  
you are Lord of the future.  
And our common future depends  
on our living sense of solidarity  
and our willingness to be generous.  
No-one is exempt from the call  
to be a good steward.  
No true Christian can shut eyes,  
mind, heart, or purse:  
no true follower of Jesus  
can live for self alone.

Loving Lord,  
help us to respond generously  
to your call and challenge  
to become ever better stewards  
of your gracious gifts.  
Never let any one of us grow cold  
in our living faith-response.  
May our faith be warm-hearted,  
generous and life-giving.  
Amen.

Fr Denis Blackledge SJ is Parish Priest, Corpus Christi Boscombe and Pastoral Co-ordinator, Bournemouth

© Denis Blackledge SJ

## BEHIND THE SCENES takes a look at ... *The Living Our Faith Campaign*



The *Living Our Faith* Campaign is overseen by **The Campaign Advisory Committee** supported by the **The Campaign Impact Committee**.

**The Campaign Advisory Committee** is composed of the following members:

Bishop Crispian Hollis  
Fr Bruce Barnes, Christ the King, Reading  
Fr Michael Dennehy, Three Rivers Pastoral Area  
Fr Tom Grufferty, St Joseph, Havant  
Fr Peter Hart, St Mary's, Alton  
Fr Mark Hogan, St Joseph, Basingstoke  
Canon David Hopgood, Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Portsmouth  
Fr John Humphreys, Lee-On-the-Solent with Stubbington  
Mgr Tom McGrath (Chair), St Joseph, Maidenhead  
Rev Deacon Stephen Morgan,  
Financial Secretary to the Trustees  
Mrs Elizabeth Slinn, Trustee  
Nicky Stevens, Head of Department for Pastoral Formation  
Fr Simon Thomson, Corpus Christi, Portsmouth

**Impact Committee members:**

Canon David Hopgood - Chair of the Committee.  
Priest, Cathedral of St John the Evangelist  
Michael Dawson - Parishioner, Andover  
Quintin Elston - Solicitor and member of Anglican parish of Christchurch, Clifton  
Father Tom Grufferty - Priest, Joseph, Havant  
Roisin Gwyer - Parishioner, Cathedral of St John the Evangelist  
Peter Hancock - Parishioner, Bracknell  
Stephen Morgan - Secretary to the Diocesan Trustees  
Liz Slinn - Member of the Board of Trustees and Campaign Advisory Committee. Parishioner at Hampshire Downs

For a confidential discussion as to how you might be able to support the *Living Our Faith* campaign, please contact:  
**Living Our Faith**, St Edmund House, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 3QA  
t: 023 9282 5430 f: 023 9287 2424 e: lof@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

## Quotable Quotes

*'Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, crushed down, full and running over, they will give to you. For in the same measure as you give, it will be given to you again'*

Jesus Christ (Luke 6:38)

*'To live only for some future goal is shallow. It's the sides of the mountain that sustain life, not the top'*

Robert M. Pirsig

*'Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark'*

Rabindranath Tagore

*'Try to think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege'*

Norris Cole (Malcolm Hebden),  
Coronation Street

*'Faith is to believe what we do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what we believe'*

Saint Augustine of Hippo

*'Life is a beautiful and strange winged creature that appears at a window, flies swiftly through the banquet hall, and is gone'*

The Venerable Bede

*'No one has ever become poor by giving'*

Anne Frank

*'Life is a dream'*

Pedro Calderón de la Barca

*'Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting'*

Princess Elizabeth Bibesco

*'Without faith, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible'*

Mary McLeod Bethune

*'You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you'*

John Bunyan

*'My faith is the grand drama of my life. I'm a believer, so I sing words of God to those who have no faith. I give bird songs to those who dwell in cities and have never heard them, make rhythms for those who know only military marches or jazz, and paint colours for those who see none'*

Olivier Messiaen

### 1. WHAT IS THE LIVING OUR FAITH CAMPAIGN?

The **Living Our Faith** campaign is an extraordinary effort to ensure the future viability of the diocese and raise funds for individual parishes. The campaign is a necessary measure to meet the growing demands of the diocese that the offertory cannot meet on an annual basis. The **Living Our Faith** campaign would provide essential annual operating support for social services, pastoral ministries, youth programmes, vocations, lay ministry, strengthening of the Pastoral Areas and Christian formation programmes of the diocese.

### 2. IS THE LIVING OUR FAITH CAMPAIGN A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR EVANGELISATION AND STEWARDSHIP?

A well-balanced and effective campaign can unite clergy and laity to work together as one Church. **Living Our Faith** will be an extraordinary opportunity to reach out to all and encourage the already implemented **Go Out and Bear Fruit** initiative. Parish volunteers will be speaking with fellow parishioners about the needs of the parish and the diocese. Parishioners will develop a better understanding of what our Diocese currently does and its obligations to the community. This often leads to greater involvement and support. Ultimately, the renewal experience it can give to a parish and Pastoral Area may be far greater than merely the pounds raised.

### 3. WHO WILL BE ASKED TO SUPPORT THE LIVING OUR FAITH CAMPAIGN?

Every Catholic household in the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth will be asked for its prayerful consideration of a gift to the **Living Our Faith** campaign.

### 4. WHEN ARE PARISHES BEING ASKED TO PARTICIPATE?

Five parishes participated in what was called a Pilot Phase, which began in February and ended in June of 2009. The remaining parishes are conducting the active phases of the campaign in three separate 'Blocks' which began in June 2009 and will conclude in July 2010.

### 5. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS DO PARISHES RECEIVE?

Parishes will receive twenty-five percent of all funds collected up to the campaign goal. Once the goal is surpassed, parishes will receive eighty percent of the additional funds.

### 6. HOW CAN THE PARISH SHARE BE USED?

Parishes may use their **Living Our Faith** funds to address capital projects, resolve or reduce debt, create a parish/school endowment, or other special projects identified by the parish.

All capital improvement projects or endowments are subject to the normal diocesan approval process.

### 7. HOW WILL CAMPAIGN FUNDS BE DISPERSED?

The funds provided to the **Living Our Faith** campaign will remain separate and distinct from current diocesan funds. Campaign funds will be deposited into a specific fund designated for monies raised through **Living Our Faith** and will be made available to the parish for their identified needs after 6 months of the end of the campaign and distributed on a quarterly basis. Diocesan campaign funds will be placed in restricted accounts and will be used only for the purposes outlined in the **Living Our Faith** campaign promotional materials.

### 8. HOW ARE PARISHES ASKED TO PARTICIPATE?

Parishes are asked to conduct their own **Living Our Faith** campaigns. Parishes will be asked to put forth a best effort to reach their goal based on five principles:

1. Prayer,
2. Personal approach
3. Proportionate giving,
4. Phase-by-Phase approach, and
5. Pledge-type giving.

### 9. HOW WILL THE LIVING OUR FAITH CAMPAIGN AFFECT PARISH OFFERTORY?

In the short term, offertory giving is expected to remain constant. Through the sacrificial **Living Our Faith** campaign, volunteers will ask parishioners to make extraordinary pledges above and beyond regular giving. Parishioners are not asked to diminish giving to their parishes, rather to consider a greater commitment to the Church. Similar campaigns in other dioceses have actually caused increases in parish offertory. This can be attributed to donors strengthening their vision of 'Church' and therefore embracing stewardship as a way of life.

### 10. WHY EMPHASISE PLEDGES?

The **Living Our Faith** campaign emphasises pledging because it allows individuals and families the opportunity to consider larger commitments than they could usually consider in making a one-time gift. Experience in past campaigns shows that donors who pledged were able to consider gifts 4-5 times larger than those who made one-time gifts. This is important in a campaign of the magnitude of **Living Our Faith**.

## Living Our Faith – how funds will be spent

As well as raising funds for vital diocesan priorities, each parish taking part in **Living Our Faith** has been able to set aside significant amounts of money for a number of parish needs. While some parishes will use their funds for new building projects, other parishes are planning on working within their local community to enhance the quality of life for all parishioners. Listed below are a number of the projects planned across the diocese:

### Sacred Heart Parish in Ringwood (Parish funds returned to date: £6,000)

**Living Our Faith** funds will be used for repair and restoration work in the church building. The Ringwood church is porous: the walls are saturated and the roof leaks. The work that is planned involves encasing the building with a layer of insulation and rendering it overall, adding a pitched roof so the building becomes waterproof.



Artist's impression of how the church will look with the new roof



How the church currently looks

### Jersey - (Funds returned to date: £13,000)

The **Living Our Faith** Campaign in Jersey has just begun and parishioners are in the process of raising funds for a number of projects. One of these includes an unusual pastoral project, the Oasis of Peace. This will provide a place for mediation and contemplation, and a welcoming space to be used by all in the local community.

### St Joseph, Havant (Funds returned: £194,000)



While St Joseph had its own need (for a part-time pastoral assistant) parishioners here also decided to use funds generously raised to support the new church build in Waterlooville and help resolve parish debt in Leigh Park.

### St Mary, Alton (Funds returned: £220,000)

Funds will be going towards much needed roof repairs costing £350,000. While the original plan was for minor repairs to be carried out, the overwhelming success of **Living Our Faith** in the parish has ensured that major refurbishment of the roof can take place.

### Immaculate Conception, Liphook. (Funds returned: £20,000)



Funds being returned are going towards resurfacing the car park and purchasing a music machine for the choir.

### Sacred Heart, Waterlooville (Funds returned: £500,000)



One of the most ambitious projects to be funded by **Living Our Faith** is the new church in Waterlooville. After many years of planning and an ongoing 30-year fundraising plan, **Living Our Faith** enabled a significant amount of money to be raised in a short amount of time. The building work has now begun and is hoped to be completed in a few years.

### St John Vianney, Wantage (Funds returned: £27,000)



As well as minor refurbishment to the Presbytery, the parishioners of Wantage have generously decided to give funds to the neighbouring church fund in Hungerford and to their own overseas charity.

### St Colman and St Paul (Funds returned: £65,000)

The plans for these two churches in Cosham aim to make them both a more welcoming environment for the local area. To do this the porch area at St Paul's will be enhanced to make a single entrance while St Colman's will be re-decorated and the sanctuary improved.

## Living Our Faith – Volunteer Experiences

'**Living Our Faith** is community binding. Being active in the campaign brings you around the table with other parishioners and the activity brought us in contact with a number of people. It gave us a better understanding of the parish community and the individuals therein.

To me (Folkert), **Living Our Faith** always made good sense, especially in the way it was organised and set up by the Diocese. We realise that on our own we would never have caused such a response and participation. Looking back I think that the campaign goals are and remain worth acting for and I praise the Bishop for acting on this. This fund will be his legacy. There will be some more perspective for future studies of young priests, for the financing of the ongoing role of lay people in the parishes and for various building needs that will arise in the future. On top of this, some poorer parishes may reserve themselves some rainy-day money out of it when they do well in their efforts.

It is an action on top of other needs and activities, but DO give your parishioners a chance to contemplate the campaign goals. If we ourselves do not hand the campaign and its goals over to them, then how else should we expect the parishioners to respond to the needs of the church? **Living Our Faith** needs to come to them from their peers, from fellows in faith in the same church building, not from a long distance. You need outgoing people who act as representatives of many groups in the church.'

**Folkert and Wilma van Galen,  
Southampton City Centre Parish**

'I entered the Campaign with many misgivings as to how helpful it would be to our urgent need for our Parish Centre and have come out of it truly humbled at the generosity, good will and kindness shown to all our volunteers and myself. I never even dreamed we could have been so successful and raise such a truly magnificent sum in such a few short weeks. The monies to be returned to our Parish will make a tremendous difference and are more than we could have ever hoped to raise in any other way.

Personally, I gained a lot from my efforts, not least of all understanding my computer software so much better than

at the start! However, I will always treasure the close bond that was formed amongst the leadership team and their tremendous support when the going got tough with the admin. I also can now put names to so many more people whom I have known and chatted to for years! I feel that the campaign has really brought our Parish together in a way no other work, already undertaken, has done before.

I attribute the success we achieved to following absolutely the methodology provided. Our Parish Priest was also very supportive of us all and, to a large extent, the success must be attributed to the love and respect his 'little flock' have for him.'



**Beryl Rice, campaign administrator,  
Immaculate Conception and St Joseph's,  
Christchurch**

'As a team, we have enjoyed helping with the **Living Our Faith** programme in many ways. It has broadened our awareness of the needs of and plans for the Diocese. It has been a pleasurable and in some cases spiritually uplifting experience visiting fellow parishioners to share with them the Diocesan vision of the future and to be privileged to share with them in their lives.

We were nervous at first on being asked to participate in the programme. The training on the methodology was invaluable. We were soon on our first visits and with a positive attitude our nervousness was replaced by a growing confidence as the meeting progressed. What we had expected to be a stressful experience turned into an enjoyable evening.

If anyone is volunteering for **Living Our Faith** and wants to get from, and give the most to the programme I would advise:

Always be positive and smile, even on the phone.

Always follow the programme methodology, it works.

Always listen to any concerns the parishioners may have and answer them if you can, if not then seek advice and pass the information back to them.

Always relax and enjoy your visits with your fellow parishioners. You will be surprised how pleasant the meeting is and how much you give and receive.'

**Pete Gray, St John Vianney, Wantage**

'For us, one of the most rewarding parts of being a **Living Our Faith** volunteer has been the generosity of the people we have contacted. Not only their generosity in their pledging which must have been really sacrificial for some, but also for their generosity of spirit which made it easier to continue.

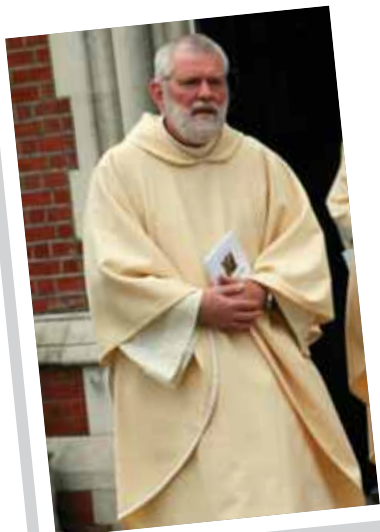
It helped, having already pledged money ourselves, in asking others to contribute, but probably the thing which reduced our nervousness most and gave us the most confidence was the realisation that we were not asking for anything for ourselves but for Father Sean, for Bishop Crispian, for the Diocese and for the future of our Church.

Advice we would give to fellow volunteers is: Listen, read and digest the training and notes, they are there for a reason and are obviously tried and tested. There is no need to try to reinvent the wheel. We found that following the guidelines helped us to focus more on the task in hand rather than getting bogged down with incidentals.'



**Alan and Terry Walker, St Colman's and  
St Paul's, Cosham**

## LIVING OUR FAITH



## Fr John Catlin

I am not a biblical fundamentalist, but I would describe myself as literalist when it comes to the reported words of Jesus.

Jesus said to his disciples 'Freely you have received, freely give':

About eighteen months ago I received an appeal from my university college.

The college was founded by a nineteenth century philanthropist who paid for the foundation, but left no endowment. The appeal was for capital to help the college maintain its freedom and remain independent of government funding as far as possible. An aim I fully support.

The next paragraph spoke of necessary improvements to the buildings. These 'necessary' improvements would include ensuite showers for undergraduates. Here my enthusiasm waned. I do not feel under any obligation to help pay for showers for undergraduates.

Then followed a reminder about my duty to provide future generations with the heritage I had so greatly enjoyed. I agree that I have a duty to ensure that such an admirable

institution is there for future generations. However I never take kindly to being reminded about my duty. By the time I left school I almost believed that the only reason I had ever been born was to do my duty.

Up to this point there was a 50/50 chance of my sending a cheque. But by now I sensed that there was a transatlantic organisation behind the appeal so I put the letter on my desk and left it there to gather dust.

A few months later I received a telephone call about the appeal from a young woman whose voice betrayed her American origin. Before I had chance to suggest that English universities were quite capable of running their own affairs she explained that she had come to England to study at the college. She said she had come to Durham because you couldn't do better. I heartily concurred and agreed to send a cheque.

She then explained that the money could go to a project of my choice. I increased what I planned to give by £100 and sent the cheque with the condition that it went to the college boat club. The thing I would most want future generations to enjoy.

When the *Living Our Faith* appeal was launched I did not make the effort to repeat this process of discernment. I just remembered the words of the Lord and signed up.

You might be like me and have mixed reactions to appeals, including *Living Our Faith*. As far as *Living Our Faith* is concerned, my hope is that with me you will remember the words of the Lord. 'Freely you have received, freely give' and sign up.

Living Our Faith  
The people of the Diocese of Portsmouth



This is a special publication under the auspices of *Portsmouth People*, the diocesan publication for the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. *Portsmouth People* is distributed free of charge to parishes and other groups in the Diocese which covers Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, the Channel Isles and parts of Berkshire, Dorset and Oxfordshire. The Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust is a registered charity (number 246871) with its address at Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 3QA  
[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

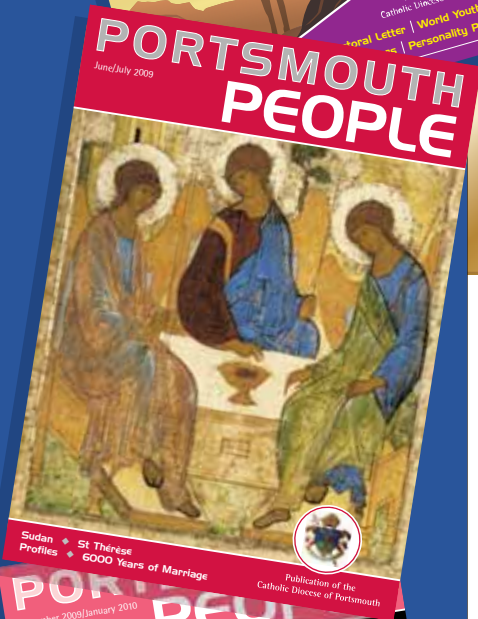
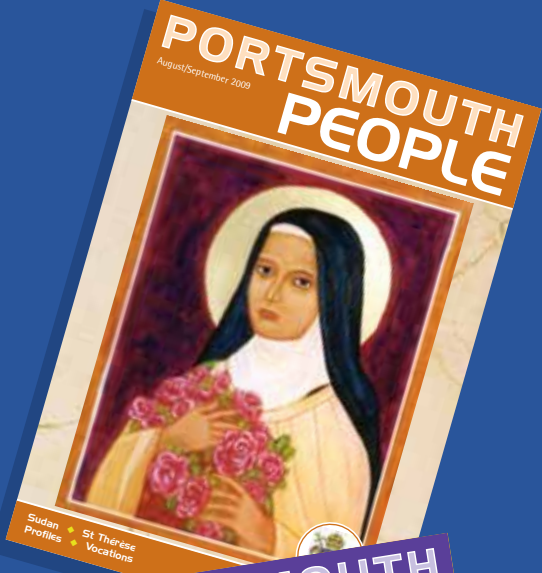
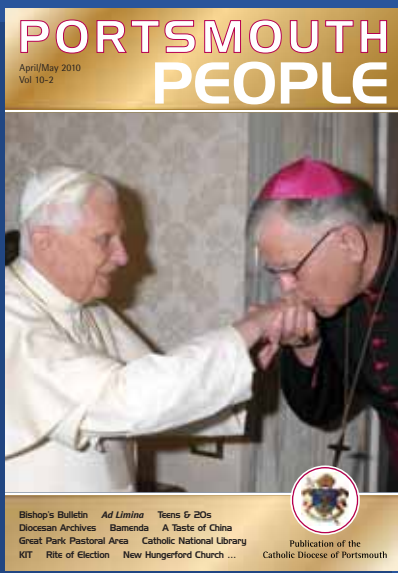
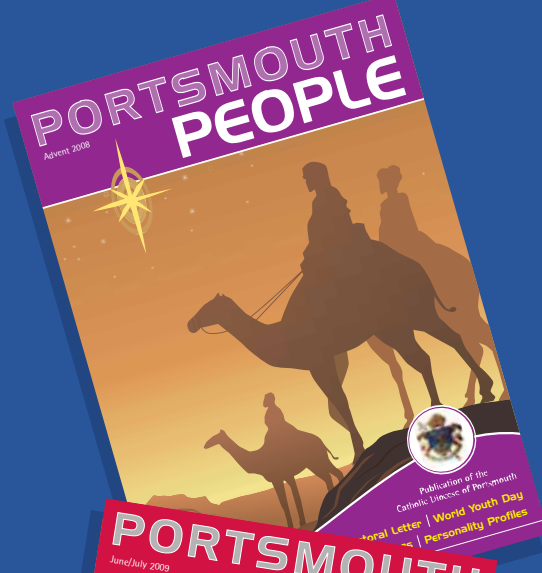
Editor:

Dr Jeremy L Kettle-Williams  
Department for Pastoral Formation  
Park Place Pastoral Centre  
Winchester Road  
WICKHAM Hampshire PO17 5HA  
[editor@portsmouthpeople.org.uk](mailto:editor@portsmouthpeople.org.uk)  
t: +44(0)23 9283 3121  
f: +44(0)23 9287 2172  
[www.portsmouthpeople.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthpeople.org.uk)

Advisory panel: Fr Denis Blackledge, Barry Hudd, Paul Inwood, Nicky Stevens

Distribution Manager: John Ross  
Area Contact (Romsey, N. Badd): Dawn Harrison  
([dawn.harrison13@btinternet.com](mailto:dawn.harrison13@btinternet.com))  
Area Contact (Reading and Newbury): Colin Parkes ([colin.parkes@gmail.com](mailto:colin.parkes@gmail.com))

*Portsmouth People*, printed on forest-sustainable paper in Rotis Semi Sans 10 pt, is a bi-monthly publication distributed no later than the last working day of every odd month. Material for publication should be submitted to The Editor in electronic format (Guidelines available on request) no later than the first working day of every month of publication. All rights of reproduction, translation and adaptation reserved for all countries. The Editor reserves the right to edit material. All material received for publication is understood to be free of copyright and any form of restraint. No undertaking, except by prior arrangement, can be made to return any material submitted by post. There can be no guarantee of publication for material submitted nor can the Editor or any other officer enter into discussions regarding decisions to edit or not to publish. *Portsmouth People* does not commission nor accept material on a fee basis. Views expressed in *Portsmouth People* are not necessarily the views of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, its affiliated companies and charities, employees thereof or persons otherwise associated directly or indirectly. All material is published in good faith, without guarantee.

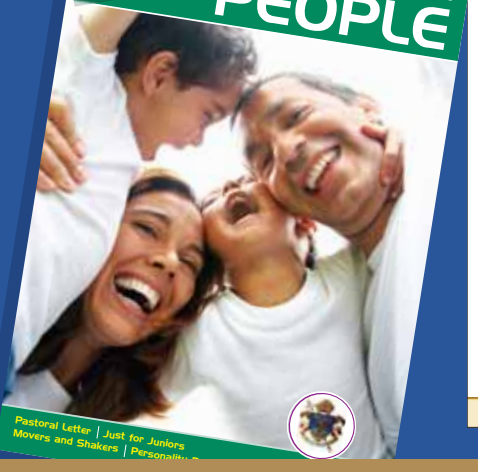
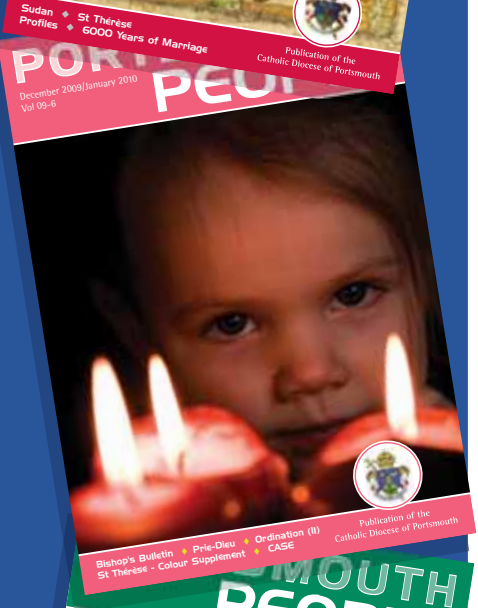
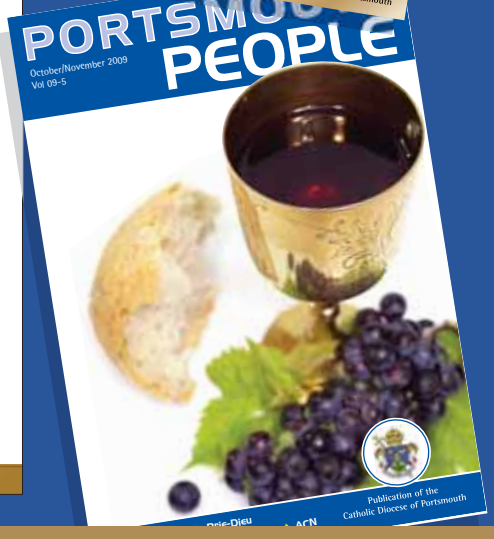
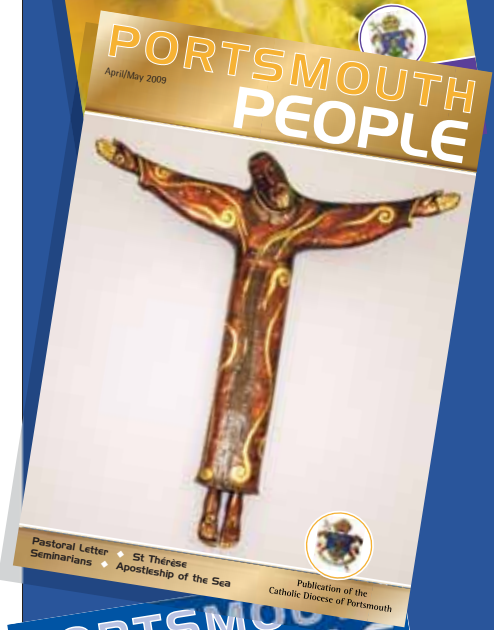
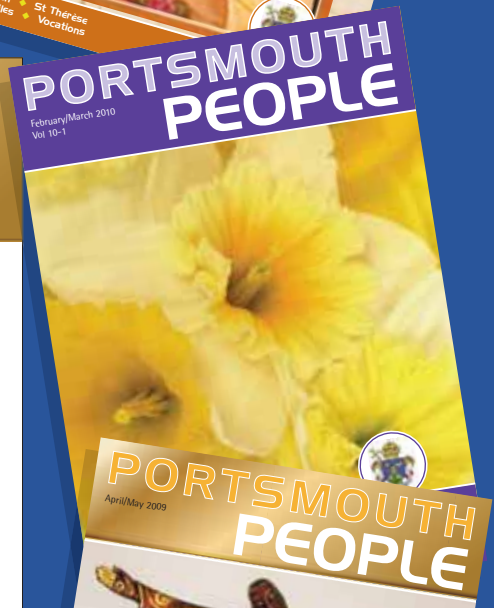


# PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE

[www.PortsmouthPeople.org.uk](http://www.PortsmouthPeople.org.uk)

- A BROADER VIEW
- ARTICLES
- BEHIND THE SCENES
- BISHOP'S BULLETIN
- BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS
- BOOK REVIEWS
- CALENDAR
- CHURCH IN FOCUS
- COMMENTS
- DOCTRINE
- FAITH IN ACTION
- FASCINATING FACTS & FIGURES
- FEATURES
- FOREIGN CONNECTIONS
- HINTS & WRINKLES
- INTERVIEWS
- JUST FOR JUNIORS
- LETTERS
- LITURGY
- LIVE ISSUES
- MOVERS & SHAKERS
- NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PARSON'S POINTERS
- PASTORAL AREA PROFILES
- PERSONALITY PROFILES
- PRIE-DIEU
- PRIESTS' PROFILES
- QUOTABLE QUOTES
- RECIPES
- REPORTS
- SCRIPTURE
- TEENS & 20s
- UPDATES
- WORTHY WEBSITES

MAGAZINE OF THE  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
OF PORTSMOUTH



The next regular issue of **PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE** will be distributed at the end of May 2010



Living Our Faith Campaign  
St Edmund House  
Edinburgh Road  
Portsmouth PO1 3QA

t: 023 9282 5430  
f: 023 9287 2424

e: [lof@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lof@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



When you have finished reading this publication,  
please pass it to a friend or dispose of it responsibly for re-cycling