

Weybridge Deanery

Newsletter

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Clergy in Parish Ministry

Fr. Antonio Benetti (Comboni)
Fr. Richard Blythen
Deacon Joseph Coté
Fr. John Dickson SDB
Fr. Rob Esdaile
Fr. Hugh Flower
Fr. Con Foley
Deacon Paul Gately
Fr. John Horn
Fr. Michael Hynes SDB
Deacon Aidan Lynch
Canon Brendan MacCarthy
Mgr. Benny O'Shea
Fr. John Pearson

Religious Communities

Comboni Missionaries (Verona Fathers)

Company of Mary

Hospitaller Sisters of the Sacred Heart

The Josephites

St. Patrick's Missionary Society

Salesians of Don Bosco

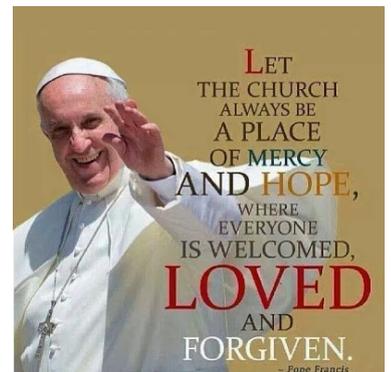
Sisters of the Christian Retreat

Welcome to this first edition of a deanery newsletter (which we hope to publish two or three times a year – the deanery website www.veybridgedeanery.org will be our channel of communication between-times). The aim is to engage our communities in discussing how we can work together and support each other in living and sharing the Gospel, so we can look to the future with hope and enthusiasm.

Pope Francis calls us to rediscover, as 'missionary

disciples', *the Joy of the Gospel* in our time and place. Bishop Richard, too, underlines the three dimensions of *Mission, Formation and Prayer* as the heart of all we do. In our deanery we have begun an important conversation about the future. Let's continue it – at home, in our own parishes and with our neighbours. Let's share our gifts and insights, in service of each other – and, in this Year of Mercy, especially in service of those on the

margins, both of our parishes and of our society.



Pope Francis calls us to "Missionary Discipleship"

200 attend meeting at Salesian School

'Positive, Uplifting and Full of Energy' describes the mood of the Deanery-wide meeting held on 6 February. A remarkable 200 participants from 11 parishes met to discuss the future of Weybridge Deanery and our respective roles in shaping the future. Father Rob Esdaile guided the meeting, which was set in the context of Bishop Richard's three priorities of **Mission, Formation for Mission and Prayer** to address the critical issues of:

Pope Francis' call to become 'a Church of

Missionary Disciples'; Supporting that mission as clergy numbers fall in coming years; Formation and empowering of educated leaders from the laity and highly trained professionals to free the clergy for ministry; Working together and contributing to forming supportive, sustainable and outward-looking communities; Modernising our thinking – working across boundaries and reviewing our structures to enable parishes to work together.

Tackling these issues will require decisions and

initiatives at Diocese, Deanery and Parish levels, to develop a lasting Pastoral Plan. The great, uplifting messages that resonated from those who attended were how much we care about our parishes and our clergy; how vital it is to support each other through prayer, through difficulties and socially and, most exciting of all, the potential of an empowered laity to enable the clergy to fulfil its role and focus on core spiritual and caring ministries.

Story continued on page 3



Called to Missionary Discipleship



'A sense of being called ought to flow naturally from our baptism'.

What does Pope Francis' idea of 'Missionary Discipleship' mean for us, personally and collectively?

A sense of being called ought to flow naturally from our baptism. We are called to serve Christ in all we do, to express a missionary heart to all whom we meet. How much better we could do this if we prioritised collaboration and the sharing of gifts between our parish communities. A most powerful image is offered to us in this

Holy Year: The Door of Mercy. It is both **the way in**, accepting and receiving all who come as pilgrims or penitents, **and the way back out into the world** – for a people now transformed and empowered as Disciples of the Lord. Both the Church-space and the quality of our life together as a worshipping community are essential for our growth as followers of Christ. It is here that we are nourished by the sacraments, by prayer together and by the welcome of a

community. But all of this exists so that Christ can drive us out again into the world of the everyday, to serve others, to witness to the love of God and to give hope to those in need. The context provided by our parish groups is key in taking us forward to respond to the call.



Whom Shall I Send?

'Here I am Lord, is it I Lord? ... Lord? ...



'Here I am, Lord, is it I Lord?...I have heard you calling in the Night...

This is US.

The Disciples of Jesus followed the call – they were drawn to Him – their path was often difficult and they struggled to understand what was there in Christ's presence. They

accepted the call; we have an equal responsibility to rise to the challenges to our faith and to live our Christian values in our daily lives and share what is good with others.



Message from Bishop Richard

Dear brothers and sisters in Weybridge Deanery,

Led by Pope Francis, we are all being called today to become a Church of Missionary Disciples. Our Catholic Faith is the most wonderful gift – not just a label but a relationship with the One who is Life. He sends us into the community to share faith, give grounds for hope and sow seeds of love.

But in changing times we must ask ourselves: How can we become better witnesses to Christ? How can we work with neighbouring parishes to support each other in ministry? How can we all contribute to the life of our communities? And what formation and support do we need, so we can be faithful to our calling?

I want you all to take part in that conversation. As Blessed John Henry Newman once wrote: “To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” Let’s not be afraid of change, then. Let’s recognise the opportunity it holds for us.

+Richard

“To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.”

Blessed John Henry Newman

200 attend meeting at Salesian School

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Cross-parish working is critical to achieve the objective of sustaining both the celebration of the liturgy and the myriad other activities which

make our communities what they are. The influence, formation and involvement of the Deanery laity, working across parish boundaries

and supporting the clergy could provide a framework for going forward and the fulfilment of a Deanery wide plan.

Putting Out Into The Deep

Luke’s version of the calling of the first disciples (5.1-11) has a particular power. Something about Jesus’ manner persuades the fishermen to lend him their boat after a sleepless night at sea; to trust him when he asks them to pay out their nets one more time;

and, finally, to leave everything and follow him. It’s not difficult to find people who speak of ‘tired old ways of doing church’. Yet Christ’s Word retains its power; his vision holds the same appeal; his invitation is as compelling as ever. Perhaps we shall have to leave some old

ways behind. But maybe that could bring us new energy and joy in our faith. “Put out into the deep!” said Jesus to the fishermen 2,000 years ago. He says the same to us today.

Fr. Rob Esdaile (Dean of Weybridge)



Going Forward – Working in Partnership with our Neighbouring Parishes

What needs to be done?

Taking responsibility, working together, delegating, communicating and informing – we all have a part to play in ensuring our parishes are vibrant communities which will thrive and grow as we find ways to support our church and each other. The vital frameworks of the sacraments and prayer, that we need to sustain our spiritual lives, will be ours to enjoy if we participate and work with the clergy in performing the critical functions that we all need, and which will be a source of comfort and inspiration to those on the margins.

This is what you thought: views from the Deanery meeting on 6 February on enabling the clergy to focus on their priorities and involving the laity:

- Providing resources for catechists across the deanery and helping each other develop our skills.
- Developing lay ministries and providing formation for those who may be commissioned in the future to lead worship in the absence of a priest or deacon.
- Forming teams to deliver sacramental preparation locally and across the

deanery. Creating appropriate groups and networks to support parishioners in discipleship and prayer.

- Doing more with social media and technology to evangelise and to broadcast Mass.
- Funding and recruiting more lay workers, working from a 'deanery HQ', with secretarial and administrative support and the skills to support parishioners in their mission.

As we develop the newsletter in coming months, we'll share information on activities within parishes and across the deanery. Here are some forthcoming events that you'll find on the deanery website:

- At the end of May the Deanery will welcome the icon of Our Lady of Consolation from the diocesan shrine at West Grinstead, with a variety of events in schools and parishes across the deanery.
- A visit from The Rice Theatre on 22 and 23 May at Christ the Prince of Peace.
- A pilgrimage to our Lady of Consolation's shrine at West Grinstead on 17 July.
- The Deanery Walk - 27 - 29 August, 2016 - from the Holy Door of Christ the Prince of Peace to the Cathedral at Arundel.

Weybridge Deanery Mission Statement

As members of Christ's Church, reading the signs of the times and listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit, we respond to the call to proclaim the joy of the Gospel to all, most especially the marginalized and the broken hearted. We commit to creating an inclusive community where the gifts of all are used for God's service.



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