



# The Holy Family of Bordeaux

## in Britain and Ireland

Glory to God alone in Jesus Christ through Mary and Saint Joseph

June 2016

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Our 'Roman' visitors,  
Srs. Kumudini and  
Micheline, sightseeing  
with Sr. Catherine Lavery  
in London

## EDITORIAL

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, who died in 1955 after a lifetime of study of the past of our planet and of the evolution of the human species, concluded that humanity was entering a new age with a higher, peaceful and more responsible sense of the world community. He wrote in *Activation of Energy*: "The age of nations has passed. Now, unless we wish to perish, we must shake off our old prejudices and build the earth."

For him, the motor of evolution is an energy which he called "love". Again he wrote: "Some day, after mastering winds, waves, tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love and then, for the second time in the history of the world, (humans) will have discovered fire." For Teilhard de Chardin, 'love' was not an emotion or a sentiment but the basic primal and universal psychic energy, a concept drawn from the culture of China where he lived from 1923 to 1946.

Now that BREXIT is a fact and the foundations of the EU seem shaky, we might be tempted to believe Teilhard de Chardin's vision is wildly utopian or even unattainable. But, we are well aware that the whole creation is still groaning in labour pains (Rom. 22 - 8), so we hold fast to our own *Holy Family* dream of a world where communion is possible and to our commitment to put all our energies at the service of this dream.



## Message from Sr. Gemma (Unit Leader)

### UNITY IN DIVERSITY

It's the end of June already - halfway through the year! A lot has been happening in our unit this month. Two events in particular stand out: the referendum here in the UK over whether or not we should opt out of the European Union and the visit of Kumudini and Micheline from the General Leadership Team. In reflecting on these two events the phrase "Unity in Diversity" came to my mind.

"United in diversity" is the motto of the European Union. It signifies how, after the terrible divisions and destruction of two world wars, Europeans have come together, in the form of the EU, to work for peace and prosperity while, at the same time, being enriched by the continent's many different cultures, traditions and languages. The peoples of Europe, while remaining proud of their own national identities and history, are determined to transcend their former divisions and, united ever more closely, to forge a common destiny.

The values espoused by the EU are: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. These values are shared in a European society which, in turn, is based on pluralism, tolerance, justice, solidarity and non-discrimination.

Our motto is also "Unity in Diversity". Within the *Holy Family*, we too espouse these same values of equality, respect for one another and a commitment to follow Jesus who came so that all might have life in abundance. We are one Family made up of different vocations and nationalities working in different countries and cultures. We are united by the same charism, spirituality and vision of drawing all people into the one Family of God. Within our diverse Family, there are no hierarchies; all are equal; we value difference seeing it as an enrichment of the whole.

Unity in diversity is the way nature works. For some time now we have been deepening the new story, realising more

and more that fundamentally we are already one, having come from the same original flaring forth 13.7 billion years ago. Our call and our destiny is to live that ONENESS, radically embracing and rejoicing in our pluralism.

This is an imperative if we are to survive as a species. Diversity is the dance of one life force. Unity celebrates itself in the diversity of life.

Yet, how difficult it is for us to live this unity!

At the present time there are 25 wars being waged in the world, and these wars have already taken the lives of three million people, four-fifths of them civilians. "The United States and the Soviet Union together spend about \$1.5 billion a day on military defence. The developing countries spend almost four times as much on arms as on the health care of their people. 20 percent of the children in the developing world die before their fifth birthday" (The New York Times).

Our charism of communion has greater relevance than ever in a world that is divided, but a world too that thirsts for union. Our chapter call "to take up again the challenge of really living our charism of communion, among ourselves in community, seeing and valuing one another as sisters; accepting and welcoming one another as a gift from God and thus strengthening the bonds among us. This witness of communion is in itself mission" (Provincial Chapter 2014).

May we continue to respond wholeheartedly to that call and may we never allow diversity to be a source of conflict and division among us but rather may it be a means of mutual enrichment and a celebration of unity.



## REFUGEE WEEK IN BRADFORD

### 20 - 26 June

**B**radford, city of sanctuary, has a very special and proud tradition of welcoming refugees and people who have to leave their countries due to political, religious or other reasons. There are almost 340 families currently seeking asylum in Bradford.



The theme of Refugee Week this year is *Welcome*. The aim is “to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration enabling refugees to live in safety and continue making a valuable contribution”.

The plight of the refugees and asylum seekers was highlighted by various events such as arts, cultural and educational activities that were organized to mark refugee week and to celebrate the contribution of refugees in the UK and to

promote better understanding of why people seek asylum. It was also to celebrate the welcome shown to the refugees and asylum seekers and to encourage and inspire communities to continue to welcome new arrivals whose lives are threatened.

On 20 June, at 5 p.m., Refugee Week was launched in Bradford. The opening address was made by Bradford City Council’s chief Executive, Kersten England, who expressed appreciation of the valuable contribution made by the refugees and, on the other hand, of how the lives of the refugees are being enriched. Different schools took part in this event presenting personal testimonies, music and new dramas depicting the lives, struggles and suffering of the refugees and asylum seekers.

On 22 June, Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON) organised a walk for justice to support, to be in solidarity with, and to highlight the difficulties faced by the people who are going through the asylum system. They have to walk 12 miles to go to the Home office centre to sign because they cannot afford transport. So this walk was to raise awareness of the issues. Twenty five people who took part in this walk, completing a journey that the asylum seekers dispersed in Bradford are required to make independently every week. The walk started around 9:50 from the Centenary Square, Bradford with the blessing of the Bishop of Bradford and ended up around 4:30 in Waterside Court on Kirkstall in Leeds.



We were all welcomed by the people of Leeds with cheers and refreshments.

Nasreen Nazir - Bradford



## FAREWELL TO BRITAIN and IRELAND



No word can exactly convey my sincere gratitude to all of you! Thank you so much for the hearty welcome that I felt during my stay in the Unit. I can now believe that everywhere, where there are *Holy Family Sisters*, it is a home for all no matter how vastly the culture differs. I visited most communities in Ireland and one in London; I attended meetings and celebrations with you. I never felt like a stranger. I felt at home and welcomed. Moreover, I am so impressed about your young hearts. From your sharings I learnt that you are doing so much for the people of God wherever you are. I also discovered that you have unconditional love for the rest of the Family abroad.

Apart from the rain, showers, wind and some sunshine for a few hours a week, I really enjoyed my stay in the green land. Thank you so much for your continuous support.

The Loreto Formation Programme 2015 – 2016 had 23 participants, 10 men and 13 women from different parts of the world - one European, many Asians and the majority Africans.

My program was so intensive, challenging and demanding as it focused mostly on personal growth toward self-awareness, self-knowledge, self-love, love of God, love of others and the love and care of the whole creation. The more I cried contributed to my present laughter.

Lectures were given on daily basis covering many topics. I will just mention a few of them:

- *Human development*, which dealt with sexuality, gender issues, Myers Briggs, grief and loss and many more on Holistic growth of a human being.
- *Theology and Spirituality*, where the focus was to deepen each person's faith by giving talks on different topics like New Cosmology, Scriptures, Incarnational Spirituality, prayer forms, interfaith dialogue, retreats and pilgrimages.
- *Present challenges of ministry*: here the focus was global awareness, which was really helpful for one to see the world's thinking, discerning and acting rather than having one's own country as a general picture of the world. There was also a talk on our mission today as religious in the church, looking at the structures of the church, as members of the church who are capable of making the changes that we wish to see and how hierarchical church (misuse of power) can be a challenge for growth of the church.
- *Managing conflicts*: this was a big learning as we focused on the conflicts that our group had. You were given a chance to talk to any member of the group that you felt there was a tension between you, not judging but voicing the concerns and listening attentively to the person speaking from the heart in the presence of one person you both chose to be your observer. We also had experience of solving our conflicts as a big group expressing our feelings the way each person feels so that the solution might be reached. Not all conflicts were solved but with the help of the facilitators were lessened.
- *Formation and leadership skills*: we had talks on religious life today including the vows, present formations issues on different topics like sexuality, as LGBT is a challenge that all congregations face, and canon law. Four people from the LGBT association in Dublin were invited to share their experience with us. They all had touching stories to tell.

- Preparing us for the journey with others in formation we had modules on listening skills and spiritual accompaniment skills. On these too, we had lectures, group practices, individual practices and had to attend the counselling sessions and spiritual accompaniment as part of our own formation and workshops on formation and binding up our summary of how we wish formation houses should be like.

Through your support I made it. Thank you!

Love to all, Angelina



Christmas Crib at Castletown House, Celbridge, 2015

## Farewell to Angelina

It was lovely to have Sr. Angelina from Lesotho here with us for the past 9 months. Angelina followed a course in Religious Formation in Loreto House, Dublin. She will now be accompanying the Postulants in Lesotho as they discern their vocation in the *Holy Family*.

The Parish of Clogh/Moneenroe decided earlier in the year to put the Corporal Works of Mercy into practice. They had two projects:

- Helping homeless people (the response was great)
- Helping the poor in a mission country

Lesotho was the country chosen. On her last week-end in Ireland, we invited Angelina to Moneenroe to talk at the three masses. She was amazed afterwards to meet some people who had been to Lesotho. She was also overwhelmed by the generosity of the people who donated a total of €2,070 for orphans in Lesotho.

Following a short holiday in London in Provincial House, Angelina returns to Lesotho. We send our love with her to all our Sisters there.

Lil Meagher - Moneenroe



## OUTING to KNOWSLEY PARK (Rock Ferry Community)

The preparation for our outing was meticulously arranged beforehand by our staff, who saw to the number of Sisters and staff going, organised wheelchairs and restaurant and booked the coach. The Park was also contacted for feasibility on the day chosen.

On 8 June we were all at the front door punctually at 10 a.m. eager and ready to set out when our coach arrived. Our excellent driver positioned and secured wheelchairs one by one and saw that all were comfortable. We were ready to start our journey at 10.30 a.m. As many of our Sisters are grateful to be wheeled around our beautiful garden and due to various dispositions cannot travel by car, this was indeed a special day for them.



When we arrived at Knowsley Park, and all were safely off the coach, we went on a small shopping spree, not forgetting to get a souvenir for the Sisters and staff unable to come. It was wonderful to see the various groups of well - behaved school children with their teachers and older students with their exercise books obviously on a study day out.



Our next destination was the restaurant nearby and, as we had been there before, the tables, staff, service and meal was first class and all relaxed and enjoyed our meal together. Once again we were on the coach which slowly drove us round the park to see the different animals - lions, elephants and our friends the monkeys who were as usual climbing on cars and doing some gymnastics.

As we left the park many were tired but delighted, and very happy with their outing. We thank all who made this trip possible for us and look forward to our next one. Our prayers for fine weather were indeed answered as it was a glorious sunny day.



Joan Farrell - Rock Ferry



## YARN BOMBING

Yarn bombing, variously called yarn storming, guerrilla knitting, kniffiti, urban knitting or graffiti knitting, is a type of graffiti or street art that employs colourful displays of knitted or crocheted yarn or fibre, rather than paint or chalk. It began in the USA twenty years ago with Texas knitters trying to find a creative way to use their leftover and unfinished knitting projects. It has since spread worldwide. Artists cover everyday objects in the community in wool for a short period of time. It appears magically overnight and appeals to all ages.

### YARN BOMB IN NEWBRIDGE

by Annie Morris

In June, the Kildare ICA (Irish Countrywomen's Association) united over one thousand people in the county in the name of creativity. The Kildare Yarn Bomb took four months to create and the whole community came together for what became the most visited attraction at the Newbridge Arts Festival, June-Fest 2016. The ICA had the challenge of covering an entire park on the banks of the river Liffey in Newbridge.

The Kildare Yarn Bomb asked the *Holy Family* sisters to take part and their trees were magnificent. Sister Columba crocheted hats which were turned into flower bells whilst other sisters worked on knitted



squares which then made a colourful tree wrap.

The most joyful moment was when all those people involved went down to the Linear Park to see the

Yarn bomb for the first time. All that work, all that effort, and over 50 Scotch Pine Trees were covered. It is amazing what can be achieved when a whole community come



Eventually, we hope to publish more photos on our website. We'll let you know when.

# GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION of SR. TERESA EDWARDS

11 June 2016

The opening of Teresa's jubilee celebrations on Thursday 9 June started with an unexpected ring at the doorbell when one of our parishioners appeared on the step laden with a gift of beautiful flowers for the celebration in the church and in our house! This was followed by a lovely reflective prayer of thanksgiving prepared by Nasreen. After this we had a delicious picnic style meal in our community. It was a truly a very happy evening.

Many of Teresa's family members began to arrive on Saturday morning, 11 June. These included two cousins from Ireland, and others from Swindon, Bridgnorth and Rock Ferry. They enjoyed refreshments in our house and also had a good look around as, for many, this was their first visit.



Teresa and Maria

Teresa had prepared a liturgy fitting to celebrate the past 50 years of her life. Mass was celebrated by Canon Michael Gannon VG, an old friend of Teresa from her days of ministry in the Children's Society in Birkenhead. He beautifully reflected on the life of Teresa and her family and her generous response to the call to become a *Holy Family* Sister. This included her 22 years in Lesotho and more recently her ministry in Birkenhead and Bradford.

Those attending the jubilee celebrations truly represented Teresa's life and ministry. These included many family members, representatives from our Lay Associates, Volunteers from BIASAN, and the Women's Refugee Group, members from the Congo Campaign Group, the Global Justice Bradford Group, Bradford College and the Muslim ladies' English Group. Our parish and choir were also very well represented.

We were delighted to welcome our *Holy Family* Sisters from Selby Road and their refugee guest. Teresa was delighted to share this special day with some of her novitiate companions - Margaret, Carmel and Josie. At the bidding prayers we included Mairead, Eileen and Lil who are in Ireland.



Table companionship

No celebration is complete without delicious food. This was a buffet in a local sports and social club in Bingley. The variety of desserts were made by Maria and our parishioners and these included a delicious Jubilee cake. Nasreen artistically arranged all the flowers in the church, in our house, and on the tables for the meal.



Holy Family Sisters among the congregation

The phrase repeated by Teresa throughout the day was, "This is one of the happiest days of my life". A comment made by a friend was, "Teresa's simplicity and appreciation was inspiring". The joy of the celebrations was very obvious and Teresa truly claimed her space and rejoiced in who she is and the wonder of being a star.

We want to wish you well Teresa as you begin this Jubilee year. May the joy and happiness you experienced at this Jubilee event continue to be part of who you are for the rest of your Jubilee year and for the rest of your life. It was a privilege to be part of the preparations and the celebrations.



Teresa, family and friends after Mass

**Your sisters in Community**  
**Nasreen and Maria**



## OBITUARY

### We remember in our prayers Sister Carmel Hayes (1929 – 2016)

Sister Carmel Hayes died peacefully in her sleep on 3 June 2016. She was surrounded by the sisters in the community of Rock Ferry who gathered round her bed to pray with her and bid her goodbye.

Carmel was born on 4 January 1929. She entered the *Holy Family* in 1952 and after her novitiate she began her ministry as a social worker. She spent over 20 years with the Shrewsbury Diocesan Children's Rescue Society and Family Advice Centre working with children in residential care and with families in need. During her life she committed herself to a variety of ministries - part time prison chaplain; parish Eucharistic ministry; RCIA and SVP.

Carmel was a woman of great faith and a true daughter of Pierre Bienvenu Noailles living fully the spirit of God Alone in her life.

Mass was celebrated for her in the Convent chapel on 19 June and next day, a solemn requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Anne's Church. This was attended by members of her family, a large number of parishioners, sisters and lay associates. Father Bernard Forshaw, chief celebrant, paid tribute to her great faith and her spirit of prayer which was a source of deep inner strength, enabling her to live her last days with peace and hope in God's unfailing love.

We thank God for her life and we pray that she may enjoy that eternal rest promised her by the Lord.

Rest in peace, Carmel.

## FAMILY NEWS

### Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland

This annual Family event, in which members of the four vocations in Ireland (Lay and Priest Associates, Members of the Secular Institute and Apostolic Sisters) participate when possible, took place on Saturday, 11 June. Fr. Brian Kavanagh, Priest Associate, presided and gave the homily at the Mass celebrated for the group.

His homily can be read on our website by clicking on this link or copying it and pasting it into your browser:

<http://www.holyfamilybordeaux.org/holy-family-association-pilgrimage-to-knock-12-june-2016/>



Knock apparition wall

### Holy Family Secular Institute 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 15 - 22 June

The theme of the Assembly was:

*Led by the Spirit on new pathways in order to have a new mind-set and a new understanding of the world; to have a different relationship with God and with creation.*

No doubt there will be *ECHOES* of the Assembly from the communication service in Rome so there is no need to go into details here. We might mention that the Apostolic sisters who accompany members of the Secular Institute were invited to be present as observers. Three of them, including Sr. Margaret Bradley, were able to accept the invitation.

Another feature of this Assembly was that three members, from South Africa, Congo and Peru, made their final commitment.

At the end, a plan of action for the next six years was drawn up.



3 Members of the H.F. Secular Institute make their final commitment.  
Maria Dolores, Superior General, 4<sup>th</sup> from left



UPCOMING EVENTS

22 JULY - Death of the Little Father, Amand Noailles (1862)

August 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 International Day of the World's Indigenous People	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 International Youth Day	13
14	15 Feast of the Assumption	16	17	18	19 World Humani- tarian Day	20
21	22	23 International Day for the Abolition of the Slave Trade	24	25	26	27
28	29 International Day against Nuclear Tests	30	31			