



Family Links

Glory to God Alone in Jesus Christ, through Mary and Saint Joseph

March 2019

Volume 5 Issue 3



Last Assembly for participants at the Roots Retreat in the Emmaus Centre, Swords

Editorial

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The words "mother" and "mothering" conjure up feelings of all that is loving and lovable, caring and nurturing, fecund and life-giving. Mother's Day, celebrated at different times in different countries, is a day to celebrate and show appreciation for all these qualities. That is, no doubt, why we also apply the words to anything we see as embodying them.

It is considered an apt metaphor for the Church, the Mother who nourishes and strengthens our spiritual life, caring for us in life and death. At the present time, it may be hard for some to think of the Church in such terms.

Mother Nature and Mother Earth are recurring images in literature. The obvious analogy of woman's life-giving and nourishing powers with those of nature and the earth naturally lead to such a comparison. This, in spite of the fact that nature can appear to be cruel and destructive at times.

But mothering is a two-way process. Our mothers (and fathers) care for us and always have our well-being at heart, something that can be both joyful and heart-breaking for them. There comes a time, however, when they are unable to do this, or even care for themselves. Roles are reversed. It is a privilege, a task lovingly undertaken - even if it can be onerous at times - to be the carer to the one who has cared for us, sharing in the mysterious cycle of life and death.

Our mother earth, or common home as is the preferred designation in *Laudato si*, is in desperate need of caring now. She has been despoiled and ravaged, not because of age - she is ageless - but because of her children who have used and abused her without thinking of, or perhaps not even realising, what they were leaving for future generations.

Ban Ki-Moon, former UN Secretary General has said:

"Ours can be the first generation to end poverty and the last generation to end climate chaos before it is too late."

Message from Inter-Vocational Team Member

CELTIC SPIRITUALITY YESTERDAY AND TODAY

In a recent interview the Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, speaking about a crisis of faith in Ireland, said, "For many, faith no longer plays a major role in their lives. Believers often view the reality of faith through a secularized lens of modern media." Traces of God have been blurred by the endless noise and bustle of modern life and excessive rationalism. The tangible presence of God doesn't even seem to be present in our most sacred liturgies. We have moved very far from the disciples' experience of Scripture when they said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us on the road, while he (Jesus) was opening the Scriptures for us?" (Luke 24:32).

A plethora of books on various kinds of spirituality under the heading of Mind Body & Spirit have appeared in our bookshops to fill the void. Alongside books on Buddhism, Angels, and Mindfulness, books on Celtic Spirituality have become very popular. In fact, Celtic Spirituality has become a whole industry. Some of these books can be very tacky and Liam Tracey OSM, says that they appeal to people who want a spirituality without belonging to a church. "Celtic spirituality is presented in a very generic way but differentiated from Christianity especially in its Roman manifestations! So, it is inclusive, earth-centered and therefore good; Christianity is exclusive, dualistic and therefore bad." (*Celtic Spirituality: Just what does it mean?*).

The Celtic Christian spirituality which emerged in the wake of St. Patrick seemed to be a blend of new and old traditions, Druidism enriched and enlightened by Christianity. "From its inception Celtic spirituality was based on the mystical experience of God's love in nature and elsewhere" (Fr. Sean O'Laoire, *The Leaven and the Diaspora*). For the Celts there was no distinction between the material and the spiritual world. Places where people were most connected to God were called 'Thin Places', i.e. holy wells, lakes, woods and many other sites scattered around the country. The monasteries were often built on or near these sites. The Celtic designs of interweaving patterns in the manuscripts and in the early High Crosses were a way of showing that all things are interrelated and that all things are holy.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was accepted for veneration quite easily. In the words of Fr. Sean O'Laoire, "she was

the quintessential goddess, the female face of the Divine, the archetype, par excellence, of Mother Nature."



St. Patrick's prayerful style of life greatly influenced the people. Vocations to the monastic life flourished shortly after his time. The Irish monasteries became centers of learning and spirituality with a great love for the scriptures. The monastic life was ascetic, contemplative, missionary and very much in touch with nature. The monastic rather than the diocesan model of church became the norm until the 12th century. The Abbot and the Abbess often taking the place of the bishop. This seemed to be very much the position of St. Brigid of Kildare.

Prayer was central to the lives of all the people. They had blessings and prayers for all activities. *St. Patrick's Breastplate*, attributed to St. Patrick, written much later but based on his writings, gives us an image of Christianity that was Christ-centered, Trinitarian and in tune with nature. The prayers of the Celtic saints are filled with the experience of God's presence in creation. St. Columba said: "If you want to know God, first get to know his creation."



Today science teaches us that we live in a web of relationships and connectedness. We are interdependent and interconnected to everything. In our *New Story of the Universe* we see God radically interior to everything. Our ancestors knew this by their spiritual intuition. They realized that all creation is permeated by the Divine Presence. Trevor Miller tells us that "The Celts had an awareness of the unity of Creation. They were aware of the Cross over Creation – that God was to redeem the whole created order. This was seen by the quiet care of all living things and a special affinity with animals that preceded Francis of Assisi". (*Celtic Spirituality: A Beginners Guide*). Today we need to recover the sense of the sacred which so much influenced the lives of our ancestors.

Rose Sullivan
(Team Member)

Photography as Contemplation

Seeing the Light in Life" was the theme of a short weekend retreat I attended at Manresa Jesuit Centre in Dublin. It was directed by Steve Radley, a prize-winning photographer and an Anglican priest. For him Photography is a creative gift from a Creative God. We are made in the image and likeness of God so creativity is in our DNA. In a series of inspirational Reflections, Photography Prayer Walks, and group sharing of our pictures we got to know:

- how to *listen to a picture*,
- how to *receive a picture* and
- how to *see the story* behind our images.

Quiet, slow, patient, contemplation before the mystery of what we term *beauty* and what we term *ordinary* is the way to do this.

Photography - a means of telling our stories
 We are visual story tellers, and stories are all around us. A photo story of a celebration, an event, a memorable scene in nature, can be a composition of many elements and a powerful image. Steve invited us to choose a photo from a number he had laid out and *listen* to it. This involved looking at the subject, the texture and colour, the position of a person, a smile denoting some emotion, seeing how it spoke to us on different levels.

Light and Dark – two elements essential in Photography

In Genesis 1, we read: "And God said, Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night.... God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night... And God saw that it was good."

The dark is not bad. To see light, we need the darkness. We can't live without light. But too much is too much, as it was for Moses on the mountain when the glory of God passed by.

In photography there is much interplay between light and darkness. The photographer has to see where the light comes from, and its direction. It's a way of seeing God break through our images.

Seeing Beauty

"Their eyes were opened and they recognised him..." (Lk. 24:31). What does this statement conjure up for us? Why don't we see the beauty all around us? We do need to tell of tragedy but it must not make us miss beauty. Tragedy can even open our eyes to beauty.

Five areas for beauty applied in Scripture:

- Proportion, Order, Symmetry – (See the wonderful symmetry in nature)
- Purposefulness. (Recognise and see the calling in our lives, the purposefulness in everything created)
- Enjoyment experienced – (Pleasure, Delight, Joy)
- Creative fulfilment - (See the essence of God in us when we are creative)
- Resolution of tension – (Central to a Christian understanding of the word)

The purpose of art is to ground us in the present moment of this world. So, as we went out on our next and final Prayer Walk, we were advised to keep our cameras in our bags until our emotions told us we were ready to *see the story* – until our eyes were opened.

What did we take away from the weekend?

- A new attitude to our camera and a change of vocabulary

When we *Take a Photo*, we talk of pointing, shooting, capturing, snapping, possessing.

When we *Receive a Photo*, words like openness, connectedness, wonder, awe, delight, gratitude, contemplation come to mind.

- Job's answer (12: 7-8):

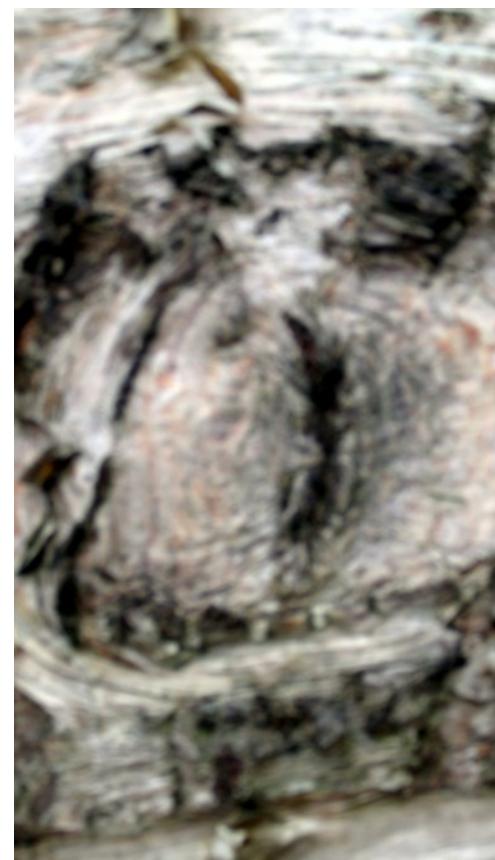
"But ask the animals and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

- Wordsworth's answer in his poem,
Expostulation and Reply
"The eye - it cannot choose but see;
We cannot bid the ear be still;
Our bodies feel, where'er they be,
Against or with our will."

Recommended books:

Eyes of the Heart
Photography as a Christian Contemplative Practice
Christine Valters Paintner
(Sorin Books, Notre Dame, IN)

Photography as a Healing Art,
Jan Philips,
(Guest Books)



DEMONSTRATIONS FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

by BRADFORD GROUP - March 2019

On Friday, 8 March – International Women's Day - some of us from Global Justice Group had one of the many stalls in Bradford City Hall. I was amazed to see how many other voluntary groups were working with women.

We chose to highlight 3 current issues:

- Divestment from fossil fuels,
- Immigration – Bridges not borders and
- Corporate Courts which are held secretly and which sue Governments.

Our thinking was that it's always the poor who suffer, and especially the women and children.

We answered questions, gave out leaflets and got people to sign a petition to West Yorkshire Pension Fund asking them to stop investing in fossil fuels, leading to increased Global Warming and instead to invest in renewable energy like solar panels and wind turbines.

One of the local Pakistani women Councillors asked to have a photo with us at our stall.



Top row, left: Sr. Teresa Edwards. Bottom row, left: Sr. Sheila Griffiths

On Thursday, 14 March, some of our Global Justice Group who could be free held a short demo outside HSBC Bank in the centre of Bradford and handed in a letter to the Manager re investing tax payer's money in renewables rather than in fossil fuels in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Vietnam which cause so much global warming.

On Friday, 15 March, some of us joined the YOUTH DEMO on the City Hall steps in Bradford. It was



moving to see the children with their placards and to hear them singing their rhymes so passionately all about CLIMATE CHANGE.

I'm sure you've all read/heard of the young Swedish girl, Greta Thunberg, who went alone to sit in front



of her Parliament Buildings with one placard which read: "I DON'T WANT YOU TO SMILE AT ME! I WANT YOU TO PANIC" This was in relation to Global warming.

As a result of this one girl's courage the campaign went VIRAL and now children from 72 countries around the world have decided to make their voices heard and to demonstrate every Friday. There are mixed reactions from Teachers and other adults, but these youngsters have a message for Politicians and Energy Companies and want to be heard.

Teresa Edwards
Bradford

For more, visit: <https://www.fridaysforfuture.org/>
Facebook: #FridaysFor Future



Children rally outside Dáil Eireann, Dublin

A Visit to the Holy Land

Departure date draws ever closer, excitement mounts. After more than 30 years I am returning to the Holy Land to visit the pilgrim sites. On my last visit I was a wheelchair pusher with a group of disabled Open University students on a study tour. I was there on Easter Sunday but could not go to Mass. I did get to Mass on Easter Monday, our free day. Our allocated students had the option of joining the Catholic pushers at Mass or enjoying tea and a chat in the adjoining cafe. From the Mount of Olives, I looked longingly at the Garden of Gethsemane knowing I would not be able to visit it. As the Church of the Nativity was not suitable for wheelchairs, we were also excluded from it.

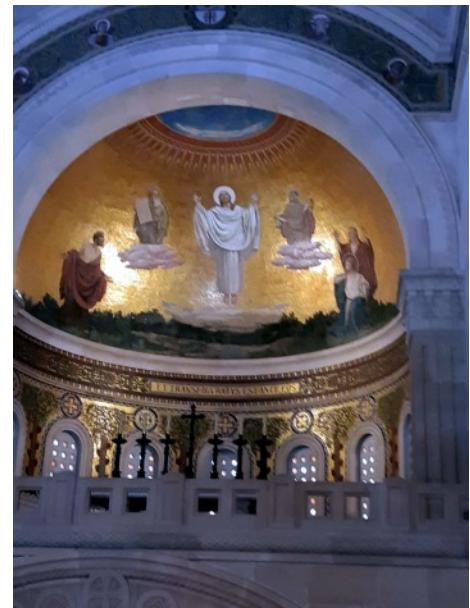
The Lord responded to my longings to be in the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem and in the Garden of Agony in a most unexpected way. On the very first morning I tripped on the step between the shrine church and the Franciscan one and twisted my ankle. I spent the afternoon in a cafe where a very nice young lady put on the overhead heating to keep me warm-I had to stay by the door to make sure I did not miss the coach.

The rest of the group walked to the Church at the birth place of St John the Baptist and from there to the Visitation church while I drank coffee. In the evening I was taken to a private clinic for X-rays. Fortunately, the bones were intact so the ankle was strapped up and I was told to rest.

The following day the group enjoyed the view from the Mount of Olives and walked the Palm Sunday route to the Garden of Gethsemane in pouring rain while I sat warm and dry in the Church of All Nations in Gethsemane. I heard two Masses in different languages and chatted with the Lord. I missed the Mass celebrated by our spiritual director, Fr David Gamble, elsewhere on the site before I was able to link up with them again. I may have been in the little cafe by the exit when they arrived. It's easy to miss people as you are funnelled in and out by separate routes. But all ended well and I spent the rest of the afternoon in the coach marvelling at the skill of the driver who had to double park and move every time one of the coaches in the back row wanted to leave.

The group visited the site of the upper room, the Tomb of King David, the Church of Dormition, the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu and the house of Caiaphas. They saw the place where Jesus was imprisoned overnight after his arrest. (I've just watched all of these places on YouTube)

The following day, Sunday, the group went into Jerusalem to walk the Via Dolorosa, visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which contains the crucifixion site, and the tomb where the Body of Jesus was laid and to visit St Anne's church where Mary's parents lived near the Pool of Bethsaida. Their final stop was at the Western Wall. I, on the other



hand, went by taxi to the church of the Nativity. The driver was very keen for me to visit his family; had I not been alone this might have been very interesting. He was the hotel taxi driver so it should have been safe.

Sunday at the shrine was very different. When I asked for Mass, I was directed into the shrine itself. The Mass was almost over; communion was being distributed. I was able to venerate the shrine again and to kneel by the manger site for a number of minutes before being asked to move as another service was about to begin. A large carpet had been unrolled on the floor.

I waited in the Orthodox Church above the shrine till the mass in Arabic began in the Franciscan church at 11 am. It was a joyful celebration with a very good choir singing from mobile phones, lots of families and pregnant ladies. There was a commercial for a trip to Lourdes in the announcement slot after the Mass.

The churches closed for lunch so I ate, explored the area and visited the Mosque to pray for peace in the region. When I returned to the church the queue to venerate the shrine was 40 or 50 meters in length so instead of joining it, I spent a little more time in the Orthodox Church above the shrine. After lighting some candles, I took a taxi back to the hotel to put my feet up for an hour before the others returned.

On Monday, early in the morning, we called at Bethany where Lazarus was raised to life, then travelled on through the Judean Wilderness to ancient Jericho where we had Mass in the Good Shepherd Church. We saw Elisha's fountain and the mount of the Temptations. (The following Sunday I noticed the gospel of Luke said the third temptation was not there but in Jerusalem). The place where the crowds tried to throw Jesus off the mountain was also in this vicinity. After lunch we headed for Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We watched a short

presentation of the finding of them and explored the ruins of a settlement which had been populated by a religious sect fleeing persecution by whom the scrolls were written and hidden. We spent some time by the Dead Sea. Bathing here was a scary experience which few of us missed. There were lots of boulders under the water and the waves were very strong so I was unable to experience the pleasure of floating on the surface held up by the salt as I had on my previous

visit. This was a well-developed site with changing rooms, lockers, showers, a children's play area, a snack bar with a viewing area and a shop selling a great variety of goods and souvenirs. Not the pebbly beach I remembered.

After breakfast on Tuesday morning our cases were loaded onto the coach and, after breakfast, we left Bethlehem behind. We travelled on towards Emmaus thinking of Jesus teaching the disciples on this journey and how they recognised him in the breaking of bread. We went on to Nazareth to visit the site of the synagogue where Jesus read from the scroll and then to the church of the Annunciation. This was a very beautiful church. Outside there was a covered



walkway with images of Mary presented by pilgrims from many countries. We had our photos taken in front of those we related to. There was a number of steps to the left of this church which led to one dedicated to St Joseph. The sanctuary of this church is called the Church of the Nutrition because this was where Jesus lived and where he learned his father's trade. After lunch we headed for Caesarea, the ancient capital of the Roman province, then on to the Jordan River. Mass

was celebrated in the open air here and we renewed our Baptismal promises. Two of our number went into the water at one of the Baptismal Areas. Next stop, our hotel in Tiberius on the banks of the Sea of Galilee. Some of us availed ourselves of the steam room and the Jacuzzi before dinner.

On Wednesday there was an amazing sunrise captured by one of the group and shared on WhatsApp. This was a very precious day. We visited the site of the post Resurrection experience where Jesus cooked food for his disciples. I found a boulder by the water's edge and simply enjoyed the experience of being there looking out on the Sea of Galilee and remembering and

wondering at the amazing power of God so strongly present in this place. I popped my head into the church of St Peter's Primacy before heading back to the coach for the very short drive to the site of the Miracle of the Loaves and

Fishes at Tabgha. Again, I headed for the beach and absorbed the atmosphere before visiting the Church itself. This site was lost for over 1,300 years. In 1932 it was discovered by two German archaeologists, Mader and Schneider, and a provisional church was built to protect the precious mosaics they discovered. The new basilica was built on the foundations of the Byzantine church. This church was blessed in 1982 by Cardinal Hoffner of Cologne. The church and

surrounding land belong to the Catholic Association for the Holy Land and the Archbishop of Cologne is president. It is in the care of the Benedictine monks of Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem.

We drove to the site of the Beatitudes where Mass was celebrated in the garden and we received our ashes. We had very little time here and it was all very different from how I remembered it. On my previous visit there was no separation between the church and the hilltop overlooking the Lake of Galilee. The church is now surrounded by plants and Mass celebration sites. There was no sign of the green grassy hilltop. I was glad I had bought a postcard on Sunday which showed the area as I remembered it and confirmed my memories were not false. Next, we boarded a small boat which pulled out into the Sea of Galilee. This was very special. After Fr David read about Jesus calming the sea everyone slipped into a profound silence. The crew cut the engine and we simply drifted. This was an amazing morning.

In the afternoon our first stop was Caesarea Philippi where Jesus said to Peter, "You are Peter the rock, and upon this rock I will build my church". This is also the site of the temple to the god Pan where idol niches are still visible. The source of the Jordan begins from an underground stream in this beautiful national park area. We then drove on to Capernaum where Jesus lived during his years of ministry. The ruins of the ancient Synagogue and the home of St Peter are visible. There was the relief of the Ark of the Covenant and an ancient olive press as well as modern statues, one of The Canticle of Creatures and the other St Peter. There is also a modern ship shaped church with cantilevers over the house of Peter. Glass flooring allows it to be viewed from the church.

The last day dawned. Bags were collected from corridors outside rooms and placed on the coach while we breakfasted. Mass was celebrated in Cana. A number of couples renewed their marriage vows and then we set off to the Mountain of the Transfiguration. This was an amazing blessing. We

went up an incredibly bendy road in small mini buses. (I recalled the wonder of it all as I listened to this reading at Mass this morning.) Then, back to the airport and a final coffee before we, the Luton 5, went through security to await our flight. The Manchester people had a further hour to wait before they could go through the security screens. We did meet up with a number of them as we wandered around waiting for our flights.

Resting my damaged tendons has given me plenty of time to remember and enjoy, again and again, the wonderful experiences described above. We travelled with All Saints Travel and us Pilgrims, who came in twos or threes from Cardiff, Milton Keynes, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and Southport, formed an amazing group led by Fr David Gamble from Liverpool. Sr Kate supervised the reordering of the furniture in the hotel bars when we gathered after supper to relax and socialize.

Jo Doherty
Central Milton Keynes,
Lay Associate



*Wedding Church
at Cana*

St. Patrick's Day - 2019 Parade and Festival

When I hear Ireland, the words that come to my mind are, inevitably, *St. Patrick* and *Shamrock*. So, I was delighted to be in Ireland for St. Patrick's Day. At the beginning of March itself, people started to talk about the St. Patrick's day festival. The shops and the streets in Dublin started to go green. The media started to talk about the festival and I realised it was a worldwide day of celebration.

So, on the 17th of March I, together with my companions, wanted to experience St. Patrick's day. We went to Mass at the pro-Cathedral in the morning. After Mass we walked towards O'Connell Street to see the parade. We found people were very joyful and enthusiastic on that morning. We couldn't believe there were hundreds of people gathered there even two hours before the parade.

However, we managed to get into the front row near the barrier. Though we were standing for two hours, we didn't feel tired or frozen because we were excited waiting to see what was going to happen and

we were admiring all the different types of fancy green items people had.

Finally, president Michael De Higgins arrived in the midst of a guard of honour followed by government officials, the Mayor of Dublin, representatives from the forces. The parade started and many different marching bands and floats, representing different institutions, societies and clubs passed by. They had beautiful costumes and fascinating items.

People on either side of the road enjoyed themselves and encouraged the people who were taking part in the parade. People from different countries, religions, young and old, men and women took part in the parade and watched the parade.

I think it was a day of unity under the patronage of St. Patrick who had tried to explain the Trinity, the symbol of unity, through the shamrock.

Charitha Thandalge



Celebration at Merrion Square - 18 March

On the afternoon of the 18th of March we went to a carnival in Merrion Square as part of the St. Patrick's Day festival. It was a family-fun and community celebration. There were many games and food stalls. Lots of children were enjoying Irish rolled ice-cream. In different tents a variety of events were taking place, like Juggling, Circus acts, and a Science exhibition.

Charitha and myself enjoyed the music and dances. Dances were presented by people of different nationalities who are living in Ireland, such as Bolivia, Portugal, India, Brazil, Lithuania, Poland, the Philippines, and Venezuela.

We were looking at these dances for more than two hours. We never felt the time passing, because music is the common language of human beings. Every culture is rich with its own identity. Though we couldn't understand the words of the songs all of us enjoyed the music.

Although St. Patrick Day is their national day, the Irish people warmly welcome other nationalities to participate and enjoy the celebration.

Priyanka

Powerscourt – a most Beautiful Estate.

Alpha college, Dublin, where I learn English, organized different programmes to celebrate Patrick's Day. I would like to share a wonderful experienced which I got from it.

On Monday morning, 18 March, we visited Powerscourt House. We were 74 students and one teacher. Many of them were new to the collage. They are from many countries and cultures. Many of them could not understand English but, using the opportunity and helping each other created a wonderful friendship among us. The direction of the teacher made us as one.

First, we visited Powerscourt waterfall. It is the highest waterfall in Ireland. After visiting that, we entered the Powerscourt Estate. It was so beautiful. Many kinds of birds, trees and the tiny flowers, showed us the beauty of creation and the love of the Creator.

The huge mountains, green grass and the sheep with lambs enlightened my life to realize the real meaning of Shepherd and sheep. It's so special to me, because that is the first time, I saw many sheep, lambs and beautiful grasses. It was a wonderful experience for me.

Mala Fernando



l. to r. Charitha, Mala, Priyanka

OUTREACH TO ITALY

Recently, Sr. Jesmine Fernando, Leader of the Colombo Unit, Sri Lanka, invited Sr. Kumudinie from the General Leadership Team and myself to join her in starting a Past Pupils Union for those who had studied in Holy Family Schools in the Colombo Unit and who now live in Verona and Milan.

The aim of the gathering which took place in Verona on 17 March 2019 was to revive and rekindle the flame, to strengthen and support the families and to witness to the values the *Holy Family Sisters* had planted in their lives in the wider society. At this gathering, ninety men and women and their children celebrated as they met each other, some after several years. They were also very happy to meet me as I had taught so many of them.

During the meeting, those present were reminded of why they were there – to rekindle the flame and to keep the Holy Family spirit alive among themselves. They were also informed that, as a way of celebrating the bicentenary, the Colombo Unit was making some money available for two hundred scholarships so that those needing help could continue their studies.

The gathering was told, too, that four Holy Family Sisters from the Colombo Unit had begun a community in Malawi. The sisters in this community will offer vocational training as well as opportunities for local people to learn how to grow their own food and live sustainably. Jasmine invited those present to support this project as a way of reaching out to those less well off.

At the end of this gathering, two teams were formed, one in Milan and one in Verona, to decide on the next step and to ensure their continued involvement with the Holy Family. Jesmine and Kumudinie asked



Standing: 5th from L, Srs. Celine, Jesmine, Kumudinie...

me to be the link person with these groups. I was happy to accept this ministry.

I have already begun a past pupils group in Britain. To date, we have had two meetings in Woodford of twelve past pupils with their husbands and children. The purpose of these meetings is for the families to support one another and to keep the Holy Family spirit alive among themselves and to spread it wherever they are. They will also link up with the groups in Italy.

Prior to this meeting in Verona, I was delighted to spend two days in the Generalate in Rome. It was good to have this time to meet old friends from Sri Lanka who now belong to the Italian Unit. With Sr. Gerti as a tour guide, I was able to see a little of Rome which I really enjoyed. Many thanks to Sr. Catherine Lavery, Unit Leader in Britain and Ireland, for her support and encouragement and for allowing me have this experience. I am very grateful also to my community in Woodford for their support. I hope to be able to draw on the experience I gained as we continue our ministry to families in other cultures and faiths.

Celine Nanayakkara, Woodford

COLLEGE FUNDRAISING EVENT

This week the ESOL classes organised a fundraising event for Bradford Nightstop, and a Primary School in Mombasa, Kenya.

- “Bradford Nightstop” is a local charitable organisation which offers one or two night’s free emergency accommodation to a homeless young person between 16 and 25. I heard that, about 20 years ago, Bradford Community joined Nightstop and made a commitment to offer emergency accommodation to a different young person every Monday night.
- Last year some children came over to Bradford to sing and raise money for their school. They called themselves The Singing Children of Africa. These were the children we were supporting.

Now back to Bradford College!

In the class where I volunteer 2 days a week with 16-18 year olds the students were asked to come up with ideas. As a result they organised a chocolate raffle and made some cakes to sell. They then had to learn how to approach teachers and students in a polite way asking them if they would like to buy a



When the money was counted it was just under £100 so everyone was delighted. Other classes were selling samosas and spring rolls. I heard that £500 was raised by the ESOL students. They then had to write an account of this Enterprise Event and add some photos/pictures. It was a very happy day and was a new experience for the students.

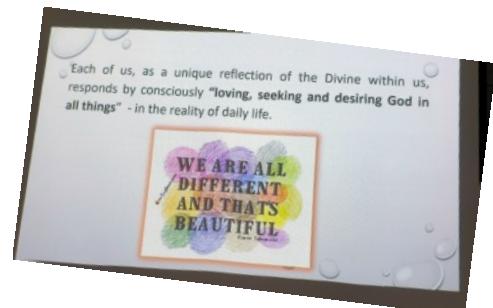
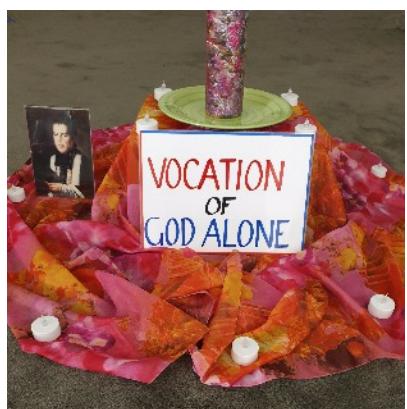
These students have come from many different countries such as Iraq (some are Iraqi, others are Kurdish), Iran, Afghanistan, Slovakia, Eritrea, Czech Republic, Pakistan, Hungary, Sudan, Congo. As you can imagine there is a wide range of languages spoken by these students. Their journeys to this country were very varied, and traumatic in many cases. One 17-year-old has already lived in 17 different countries looking after sheep, while another has lived in 10 different countries. One hid in a lorry of frozen chickens and, on the way here, his friend died in the lorry! Others have been separated from their siblings at Border Posts. As a result, it is very difficult for them to concentrate on their studies and that presents a challenge to the teachers also. But It is a privilege to be able to help.

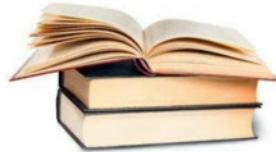


ticket or a cake. It was quite a challenge as some have never been to school in their own countries or had very limited experience of school life! The teacher had bought some hats for us to wear which seemed to give them confidence.

**Teresa Edwards
Bradford Community**

ROOTS RETREAT IN PICTURES Swords and Newbridge





BOOK REVIEWS

The Divine Dance, by Richard Rohr

The subtitle of this Book is, “The Trinity and your transformation”, and Jonathan Martin describes it as the best book on the Trinity – ‘both pastorally and psychologically brilliant’. The question posed: “What if changing our perception of God has the potential to change everything?” This book can contribute to that change.

Rohr divides the book into three parts and in each part deals separately with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He tries to develop a deeper and more modern understanding of each one individually and the relationship between them. Each part has short topics which allow us to dip in and out when we want.

He tries to make the Mystery more accessible and approachable. He highlights the relational aspect of the three persons by using quotes from the Scriptures and a language that resonates with the new scientific discoveries, as well as psychology.

Rohr presents many stimulating thoughts, comments and insights, inviting the reader to explore for themselves and stressing it is not about grasping with the mind only, but experiencing the Mystery in your

body and your everyday life, and expressing it in your relationships. He has an enlightening approach to redemption which he calls the “quid pro quo” system. He writes on how this ‘penal substitution’ is a very risky theory, primarily because of what it implies about the Father’s lack of freedom to love or forgive his own creation.’

This book provides you with an invaluable tool for reflecting on and developing your faith in and relationship to the Triune God. It is presented in easy to read rich morsels which invite and provoke you to reflect and experience their meaning in your deepest self.

As Rohr says towards the end of the book: “Once you are in the ‘general dance’, as Thomas Merton called it, you have no need to make your attention-grabbing movements in the corner...”

“Thank God I got my little chance to dance on this stage of life”.

Pauline Harney
(Integrated Spirituality Team)

The Divine Dance, by Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell (Published by spck 2016) is available from Amazon and good bookshops . (ISBN978-0-281-07815-8)



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 World Autism awareness Day	3	4	5	6
7 World Health Day	8	9 Foundation of the Sisters of Hope (1836)	10	11	12	13 Foundation of the AgricoleSisters (1856)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Palm Sunday						
21 Easter Snday	22 Earth Day	23 Feast of St. George, Patrol of England	24	25	26	27
28 Divine Mercy Sunday	29	30 Canonical Erection of the Association (1831)				

Dates for your Diary

Pilgrimage to Knock : Saturday, 15th June 2019

Annual Assembly: Newbridge: Saturday, 21st September 2019