

ParishQuarterly

Our Lady & All Saints Catholic Church, Otley

www.olasotley.org

September 2017



A devastating conflict
... but what can we do?

Pope Francis has spoken on many occasions about the refugee crisis. At last year's World Youth Day in Krakow he called for "a spirit of readiness to welcome those fleeing from war and hunger". More recently in his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, he reminds us "every stranger we meet is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ".

On a local level we're happy to report one story of putting concern into action. Peter Wilkinson from Otley Churches Together writes ...

A trip was arranged for asylum seekers and refugees with the charity RETAS (Refugee, Education, Training and Advice Service) for a day in Filey.

Aware of English weather some people said 'we'll keep our fingers crossed': others prayed for a good day. Sure enough come Friday August 4th it was the best day of the week with sunshine all day.

In spite of numbers being twice what we originally thought, with 150 people

requiring two buses not one, Scarborough Churches Together ensured all hands were on deck in Scarborough and they produced some amazing refreshments for everyone.

We arrived first in Filey with lots of children and families. There were folk from, Syria, Albania, Egypt, the Ukraine, Cameroon and Eritrea, a wonderful diversity. Soon everyone was on the beach. Children began playing in the sand, there was cricket, football, skipping, paddling in the sea - what a sight to see a group of ladies paddling fully clothed in their long dresses and then splashing one another. There was a tug of war which was fun with about 15 on each side.

At 3.0 pm they were all back on the bus heading for the United Reformed Church in Scarborough for refreshments. There was a great welcome from the people there as Fr Albert, president of Churches Together and others received the visitors. Everyone enjoyed the

refreshments with sandwiches, strawberry cream cakes and plenty of other delicious items. The refugees were very impressed with all this hospitality and gave thanks to all who had made this possible.

Finally the buses ferried everyone back to Leeds and a wonderful happy day was enjoyed by all.

Peter Wilkinson



Prayer for Refugees

Almighty and merciful God,
whose son became a refugee
and had no place to call his own;
look with mercy on those
who today
are fleeing from danger,
homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief;
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations
of the world towards that day
when all will rejoice in your kingdom of justice
and peace.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen



Lucy Irven the Diocesan Refugee Support Facilitator reports:

The first message I would like to pass on to the Parish of Our Lady and All Saints is our deep gratitude for your very generous collection of £1,527 last November for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

Syrian Refugees: There are now 5,700 Syrian Refugees that have come to the UK through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. Of these about 500 individuals are living in Yorkshire. There are also 110 unaccompanied asylum seeking children being supported in Yorkshire, 11 of these in Harrogate, from Sudan, Egypt among other countries.

Asylum Seekers: Within the Leeds Diocese there are many asylum seekers that have been dispersed from the South East. They are initially housed in Wakefield for a few weeks before being found more suitable accommodation while their claims are being processed. Unfortunately, there is also an increasing number of destitute asylum seekers for whom there is no access to either benefits or accommodation.

Organisations such as SVP are very

involved in helping these people. St Monica's Housing is able to accommodate 6 destitute asylum seeker women in their current house. They are supported for 6 months to allow them to rest and enable them to put in a fresh claim for asylum. There are plans to acquire a second house to help more asylum seeker women. **What can you do to help?:** Support the work of Otley Welcomes by fundraising or volunteering to help with the visits or raising awareness in Otley.

Raise money for charities that are helping destitute asylum seekers such as St Monica's Housing or the SVP Centre in Leeds.



Also you can collect food, clothes or baby things for one of the charities in Leeds. PAFRAS gives away food parcels, the SVP Centre has a clothes store and Gianna, part of Catholic Care, provides support for women and their new born children for up to a year after birth.

Contact Lucy Irven for more information:

lirven@catholic-care.org.uk
or 07739 975 020

**Harrogate
District of Sanctuary**

A place where refugees and asylum seekers feel safe, welcome and included

What It Means To Be a Syrian Refugee?!

A presentation by:
SLEMAN SHWAISH



A Syrian Refugee who now works for the
British Red Cross

TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2017

7.45 PM – 9.00 PM

The Friends Meeting House
12a Queen Parade
Harrogate HG1 5PP

Prophets in the Old Testament: Jeremiah

For my pen-picture this time I shall try to give a flavour of the Prophet Jeremiah. It is a long book running to 52 Chapters but thanks to the amount of relevant material we perhaps know more about his life, times and character than we do of the other prophets.

He comes about a century after Isaiah and was called by God in 626 B.C. He was surprisingly young (about 20 years of age). Hymn No. 979 in our hymnal refers to Jeremiah and gives a very strong sense of his calling as a prophet; it is well worth reading (or singing!). As is often the case with prophets when they are called they try to find reasons for refusing the call. The exchange between God and Jeremiah in Chapter 1 is well worth reading. He tells God he is too young (a child) but God tells him not to be afraid, that he will be protected and touches his mouth. God then goes on to say what his life will be like but ending with the assurance that, while kings, princes, priests and people will fight against him they "shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you".

The next 29 Chapters then go on to tell of the trials and tribulations he had to endure because of his prophetic ministry. He has to battle with the establishment and the false prophets who misled them, often at the risk of his own life.

The country was in turmoil, violence was rife and Nebuchadnezzar inflicted deportations and other humiliations on the country. When Jeremiah prophesied these events he was ridiculed as a prophet of doom, a label he is tagged with even to this day, quite unfairly.

Chapter 30 is entitled The Book of Consolation where God tells Jeremiah of His promise to restore the fortunes of his people. He is to tell them "you shall be my people and I will be your God" (ch30 v22) and "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (ch31 v2) and "I will change their mourning into gladness" (ch31 v13).

The remainder of the book contains some detailed descriptions of the sufferings of Jeremiah, his mistreatment, particularly at the hands of King Zedekiah, and his flight into Egypt where it is believed he died.

Poor Jeremiah! During his lifetime he was a failure but after his death he became a growing influence on Jewish thought and by showing how close man's contact with God can be, he can be said to have paved the way for the new covenant of Christian times. In this sense, by his life of selflessness, suffering and failure in human terms, many think he prefigured Christ. They may not be too wide of the mark!

One thought to leave you with. I have just read the obituary of Rutf Pfau who died on 10th August 2017 aged 87. Who may you ask was she? She was born in 1929 in Leipzig, Her family home was destroyed in WW2 and she fled to West Germany where she trained as a doctor. She became a nun and was sent to do missionary work in India. On the way there she was delayed in Karachi and visited a leper colony and was so distressed by what she saw there that she felt called to devote her life to changing the conditions.



Her work for the remaining 48 years of her life transformed the treatment of leprosy in Pakistan and she became a special advisor to the Pakistan Health Minister. How about that for a prophetic call from God? May she rest in peace.

Frank Bowe

Reflections on my visit to Uganda

I have recently returned from a 5-week trip to Uganda which I undertook as part of my university degree in Geography and International Development.

In terms of International Development, the essential principle is “How to make the World fairer”. We are all aware of the unequal distribution of wealth and this inequality extends then to education and health provision. HIV AIDS has to a large extent disappeared from the headlines but across the world an estimated 36 million people are currently affected – 25 million of whom live in Africa. Over 1 million people a year die of AIDS-related illnesses, and of children orphaned by these deaths, 95% live in Africa.

I was particularly interested in seeing how Uganda is coping with this problem since it was one of the first countries in Africa to respond to the AIDS epidemic that swept the continent in the 1990’s.

I travelled with a small group of like-minded students to the Kumi district of Uganda. This is a rural area and in every sense a long way from the comparative wealth of Kampala.

I visited South Africa a few years ago and more recently India, where I spent 3 months with Sylvia Wright. So I had experienced some differences in culture and affluence. But I was shocked by the poverty I witnessed in Uganda. The country is suffering a severe drought and the whole situation has been made worse by the fact that nearly 1 million refugees from war-torn South Sudan are now living in Uganda.

I visited one very poor homestead where the mother



who was aged 29 had 6 children to feed. Food was scarce and education for the children non-existent. I saw leprosy which actually frightened me. A boy we met with this terrible disease was treated as an “outcast” by his family and was receiving no medication or support whatever.

The HIV AIDS clinics had huge queues with many elderly people requiring medication. The HIV orphanage was full of babies being cared for.

It seemed to me that a major problem is the lack of education and family planning. There is little equality and women are still seen as being no more than their husbands’ “belongings”.

It made me feel that more emphasis ought to put on prevention rather than cure . . . on education rather than medication.

So how do I feel now I’m back home? I realise more and more what is really important and what isn’t. I see poverty that challenges my response to it. How little things to me may be very big things to others. I feel constrained by an inability to address the big problems that exist, although I have to be realistic to acknowledge what I can and can’t do.

For other young people in the Parish thinking about making similar educational trips I would always say, do it! Don’t be afraid to take a chance. Grasp the opportunities that come your way. You can’t change the world but you can make a difference. And sometimes it’s right in front of you!

I believe we come back a different person. Sadly, perhaps, in my experience, it is then all too easy to slip back into our old comfortable ways. But volunteering in any capacity helps you find your own worth, and can help put a new meaning in your life.

I came back from Uganda with a mixture of compassion and anger: of sadness and frustration. But it has strengthened my resolve to do what I can to improve the life chances of at least some people there.

Hannah Armitage



THE CATENIANS

“Strengthening family life through friendship and faith”



That is our motto and it sums us up nicely. There still seems to be many misconceptions about who we are and what we do – we are not a secret society, we are not Catholic Freemasons, we do not have any unusual rituals and we are not an elitist or misogynist organisation!

Yes, we are a group of Catholic men who meet socially once a month for friendship and enjoyment. Although formally structured, our meetings always include prayers and the atmosphere is friendly and informal. Our calendar includes Masses for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and also for our deceased brothers and their families. We are often committed Catholics who were already active in supporting our Parish Priest and the diocese.

In our Wharfedale Circle, social activities include a meal for those who can get there before our monthly meetings and

other activities, sometimes interesting talks, possibly even wine tasting, follow. Our wives, partners and families are included in much of what we do as social life and friendship are at the heart of our being. We raise money for a number of charities and this year we are particularly supporting Catholic Care in our diocese. Our very popular Irish Night – next year it will be on the eve of St Patrick’s Day at the Craiglands Hotel in Ilkley - is our main fundraising event but we are also hoping to hold a Curry Night in the Parish Centre, both to raise money and publicise the work of Catholic Care, early in the new year.

Catenians support each other and their families in times of need and we include our widows in our social events. We support young Catholics by assisting them with their activities and, for example, by contributing to their travel costs for pilgrimages and voluntary work abroad. On the 17th September we are holding our “President’s Sunday” in Otley - Father Lawrie will say the 11.15 Mass, especially

for vocations, and after Mass everyone is invited to join us in the Parish Centre (hopefully outside!) for refreshments and to socialise.

Then on Tuesday, 21st November, the 7.30pm Mass in Otley will be for our deceased brothers and their families. Again everyone is welcome. Afterwards we will be going across the road to the “Jewel of India” for a banquet in the upper room! The cost there will be £10 per head, all are welcome to join us although we will need to know a week in advance if you are coming to the meal.

We are always keen to welcome new members to our circle. If you are even slightly tempted, come along to one of our meetings (the third Thursday of each month at the Craiglands Hotel at 8.00pm) and see for yourself. If you want to know more, or want a lift or company there, please contact me, Ian Monger (01943 466661), Steve O’Neill (01943 463685) or any local Catenian.

Ian Monger

Feast of St Vincent de Paul

September 27th



Vincent de Paul was born in 1581 in the village of Pouy, some 60 miles from Lourdes. As a young priest he was particularly interested in helping to relieve the sufferings of the poor. In 1625 he founded the Congregation of the Missions - the Vincentians, and in 1633 helped to found the Daughters of Charity. His Vincentian spirit was always to treat the poor with respect and even with reverence. His life’s work for the poor ended with his death on 27th September 1660. He was canonised in 1737.

“Your principal concern must be to serve the poor with great gentleness. You know that they are our masters and you must love them tenderly and have great respect for them, sympathising with their ailments and listening to their complaints for they look on you as people sent by God to help them. You are intended to represent the goodness of God in the eyes of the poor”

Inspired by the example of St Vincent, a layman Frederick Ozanam, with a group of friends from Paris, founded the Society of St Vincent de Paul in 1883. It exists to help the needy, the sick, the housebound, the homeless and the lonely.

For more information about the Society of St Vincent de Paul in our Parish please contact Steve O’Neill on 01943 963498



Weddings

Rory Anderson & Sarah Tomlinson
David Lester & Rosie Davies
Michael Prior & Isobel Hogston

Baptisms

Millie Olivia Burton
Darcey Lourdes Burton
Iris Lillian O’Donnell
Winter Rose Hatley
Jemimah Elizabeth Darley
Aiden Lucas Wallis
Brodie James Wallis
Theodore John Osmont

Recently Deceased

Stephen Davies
Janice Power
Jean Young
Pat Hunt
Trish Burnett

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen*

Churches Together: The Prayer Breakfast



You may have seen this mentioned in the Parish Bulletin and thought about it but never gone any further. It is an ecumenical event on a monthly basis and attended by most of the Otley Churches, including our own. Each breakfast lasts about an hour starting at 8am on a Saturday and is hosted by a different Church each time.

We start with a light breakfast (rolls and tea/coffee) followed by a short period of prayer. Next meeting 7th October, Salvation Army, New Market, Otley.

All are most welcome.

Have you logged on to the Parish Website yet?

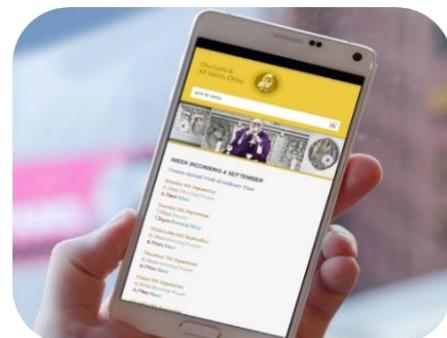
Lots of people have! The number of individuals going on to it now averages over 600 month: and it’s increasing all the time.

The number of overall visits to the website has nearly doubled in the past year to almost 2,000 a month. We are working hard to upload as much parish history as we can together with current features.

There are some wonderful photographs of processions, school class groups, social events of days gone by...it’s great fun trying to put names to faces from the past! We welcome any photos you may have so please do get in touch. And if you are one of those people who haven’t yet found time to visit your Parish website, please do try it.

The Parish Website

for Mass Times, events and Parish History



www.olasotley.org