

FIRST LAY DIRECTOR FOR LOYOLA HALL

Ruth Holgate has been appointed Director of Loyola Hall in Merseyside, the first non-Jesuit in the post since the Society of Jesus acquired the property in 1923.

The British Province's first Jesuit Associate, Ruth initially trained in electronics and telecommunications at GCHQ Cheltenham, before studying theology at Heythrop College, University of London. Her work in retreats has seen her working with the De La Salle Brothers at the Kintbury Retreat Centre, and with the Benedictines in Cheltenham where she was engaged in catechesis, adult education, parish visiting, liturgy preparation and the parish magazine.

After undergoing the three-month (3M) Spirituality Course at St Beuno's in North Wales, Ruth joined the team at Loyola Hall at Rainhill, while also studying for her MA in Psychology and Religion at Heythrop. She spent eight years on Merseyside before transferring to the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow where she worked as Director from 2002 and became a Jesuit Associate.

EXCITING

"I find working with the Spiritual Exercises as exciting as when I first encountered them at St Beuno's 15 years ago," says Ruth. "I'm looking forward to working with the team on the retreats and training programmes. The diverse programme and size of the building will keep me well occupied."

The Loyola Hall programme offers a wide range of Ignatian retreats and courses, from weekends on a particular theme to courses in Spiritual Accompaniment, as well as preached retreats and days of reflection.



"Well occupied": Ruth Holgate (inset) is looking forward to the challenges at Loyola Hall.

Individually Guided Retreats (IGRs) run throughout the year, often back to back, and this year there will be more than 50 of them, lasting eight, four or two days. Last year a total of 474 people made a short silent IGR and 37 people made the month-long Spiritual Exercises.

"The range of people who attend retreats at Loyola Hall is wider than ever: lay people, religious, clergy; women and men; and many denominations too," says Ruth. "The team (made up of Jesuits, lay people and religious sisters) is constantly impressed by the numbers of people

who take time out from their busy lives to stop and consider their faith, their life choices, their past and their future."

Loyola Hall has also been running retreats in universities for a number of years. In 2008 about 200 students and 100 staff were directed on 13 separate retreats. This year is likely to see even larger numbers. "As an outreach project of Loyola Hall, this work brings the possibility of an in-depth experience of Ignatian spirituality to people who would otherwise not have the resources to make a retreat," explains Ruth.

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CENTRE PAGES: Mission with the YouTube Generation

Passing on the
riches of
Ignatian Spirituality

EPIPHANY GROUP
rooted in the Ignatian tradition

10

Sarah
heads for
Guyana

5





OPENING A WINDOW ON CATHOLIC FAITH

A leading Jesuit theologian and the Vice-Principal of Heythrop College will be among the four speakers at a series of public lectures in London this Lent. They will be focusing on the doctrinal and moral teaching of the Catholic Church, particularly as they relate to contemporary living.

Entitled 'Faith Matters', the lectures will be taking place at Westminster Cathedral Hall, starting on 10 March. The programme is an initiative of the Agency for Evangelisation in conjunction with the Mount St Jesuit Centre.

One of the organisers is Fr Dominic Robinson SJ. "The aim of these lectures is to open a window on various aspects of the Catholic Faith and how we live it out in our world of today," he says. "They focus on doctrinal and moral teaching relating to big questions of contemporary living: the existence of God; how as Catholics we look at the credit crunch and economic issues; our

belief in Jesus Christ; and finally the topical issue of how Faith relates to public life in Britain."

The speaker each evening will be followed by a guest facilitator who will make a response to the lecture and raise points leading into questions from the audience. Following the lecture, an online discussion forum on the Westminster diocesan website will provide an opportunity for questions, a selection of which will be answered with references to the sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to which they apply.

These lectures are open to all but entry will be by ticket only through the Agency for Evangelisation. Parties of students from sixth forms and colleges of further education will be especially welcome.

For more information please contact Ausra Karaliute on 020-7931-6078; or email faithmatters@rcdow.org.uk

The full programme is:

10 March 2009: *Is God? Who God? The Existence and Nature of God.* Dr Peter Vardy (author and Vice-Principal at Heythrop College)

18 March 2009: *Catholicism and Capitalism.* Prof Philip Booth (Editorial and Programme Director, Institute of Economic Affairs)

25 March 2009: *Who is Jesus? Does it matter?* Fr Gerald O'Collins SJ, (formerly Professor of Theology, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome)

1 April 2009: *Faith—Public and Private: Catholicism and Public Life.* Guest Speaker to be confirmed.



Westminster lecturer,
Father Gerald
O'Collins SJ



Sibyl Kirkwood, a youthful 85, was presented with the Campion Medal during Father Provincial's Visitation to Boscombe recently. Sibyl was cook, laundress, nurse and friend to countless Jesuits for over 30 years, only retiring when the Boscombe Community moved into the new presbytery last May. She is pictured here with the Provincial, her granddaughter, Sarah and her daughter Michelle who had flown in from Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides.

BUSY PROGRAMME AT LOYOLA HALL

Continued from page 1

Last year, the Loyola Hall team gave their first Week of Guided Prayer at Liverpool Walton Prison, with five prayer guides each accompanying three prisoners. It was so successful, they have been invited to give a further two this year.

The week was organised ecumenically, with the Catholic, Anglican and Methodist chaplains involved. Retreat co-ordinator, Sr Pauline Myers, described the experience at Walton Prison as 'graced'. "The prison staff and chaplaincy team noticed the change of attitude in the prisoners taking part," she said. "The chaplaincy team themselves benefited from the week and noticed an improvement in their working relationships."

For more about the current Loyola Hall programme, go to www.loyolahall.f2s.com or call 0151 426 4137.



RELIEF FOR ZIMBABWE IS PRIORITY FOR 2009

Donors thanked for generosity but crisis remains

The on-going crisis affecting the people of Zimbabwe means that the Emergency Relief Fund launched last October is going to remain open and a priority for the British Province throughout 2009.

Jesuit Missions Director, Fr Tim Curtis SJ, who has just returned from the country, says the key to the future success of the operation will lie in collaboration with other agencies.

The Jesuit Missions (JM) office in Wimbledon received an unprecedented response when it appealed for £180,000 to enable two shipments of urgent supplies to be sent to Zimbabwe before Christmas. Through the kindness and ingenuity of Jesuit schools, communities, parishes and individuals, the target was reached in less than two months; to date, well in excess of £200,000 has been donated to the appeal.

Given the urgent nature of the Zimbabwe appeal, the majority of the funds raised have already contributed to two shipments of aid that arrived prior to Christmas. The second of these shipments, consisting predominantly of maize, beans and corn soya blend, is at present being distributed according to need. However the persistence of extreme poverty, disease and malnutrition coupled with no sign of a political resolution means the Zimbabwe Relief Fund will be a continuing

priority for the British Province in the year ahead.

'HEROIC'

From Zimbabwe itself, there have been expressions of gratitude (Provincial Fr Stephen Buckland SJ spoke of the 'heroic generosity' of all those who contributed) and concern for the people. Writing from Harare, Fr Oskar Wermter SJ summed up the task ahead: "Now we have to keep those suffering alive for a better day, for the post-Mugabe period when these shackled people, oppressed and downtrodden, will be free to rebuild their country."

Father Curtis visited Zimbabwe in January with JM Board member and former Director of CAFOD, Julian Filochowski. "We did a lot of work with the Jesuit Relief Committee to enable it to work more closely with other agencies working in this area," said Fr Tim on his return. "We are hoping that in the near future we will be able to access some of the resources of these larger agencies and direct them to where we perceive the need to be greatest."

FURTHER SHIPMENTS

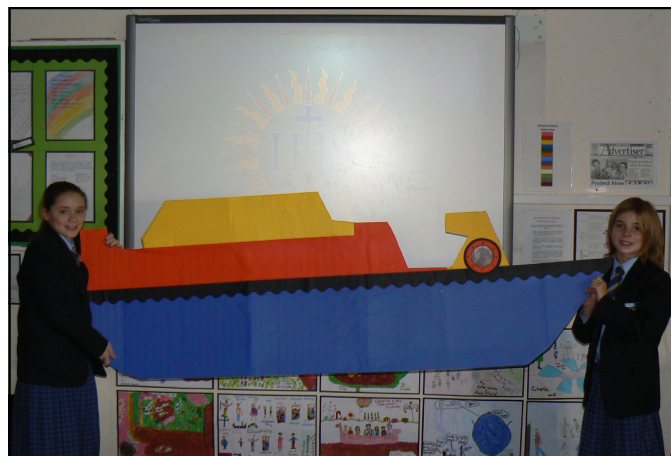
Fr Tim also emphasised the need to build upon the achievement of the appeal's first fundraising target. "So



long as the need remains great, the Zimbabwe Emergency Relief Fund will remain active and preparations are already being made towards a push for further shipments."

If you would like to join the many who have contributed, please send a cheque made payable to Jesuit Missions to 11 Edge Hill, London SW19 4LR. Alternatively you can go to www.jesuitmissions.org.uk where you can donate online and add 28% to your donation through Gift Aid.

The March edition of this newsletter will include a more detailed report of Father Tim Curtis' recent visit to Zimbabwe.



Among the novel ways of raising money for the Zimbabwe Appeal was the SS Ignatius at Barlborough Hall School in North Derbyshire. Instead of receiving Christmas presents from pupils and their parents, teachers were given tokens worth up to £20 each. Children then placed a special sticker on the ship (symbolising the shipments needed for Zimbabwe) to show their contribution. The scheme proved so popular that over £700 was raised in the first three days.

Mrs Maria Beard, the school's chaplaincy coordinator, said: "All the staff are strongly in support of this charity initiative, and we're delighted that the children and parents are showing their support too."

STONYHURST SEEKS NEW PLACEMENTS AS VOLUNTEERS QUEUE TO SERVE OTHERS

Stonyhurst College's Arrupe programme has been so popular this year that new placements have had to be found. There is also a waiting list of eager volunteers.

Over 70 pupils at the Lancashire school volunteered to help local children and charities, as part of the programme named after Father Pedro Arrupe SJ. Now in its third year at Stonyhurst, the programme is rooted in what Fr Arrupe described as the Society of Jesus' "prime educational objective": to form men and women for others.

This year's programme was launched during the Poetry Induction Retreat. Rhetoric (Year 13) pupils including the Heads of Line, Nick Isola and Samantha Leach, told the story of Fr Arrupe, a former missionary who tended the wounded and dying in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped and went on to become Superior General of the Jesuits.

The Stonyhurst pupils are working in their own time at various projects in north west England. Each volunteer is expected to keep a journal, so that they can reflect on their experience week by week. They give an initial commitment of 10 weeks, and have ongoing training and support from staff and the College chaplains, who take an active interest in their experience, the highs and lows, and



Collecting for children in need: the Stonyhurst Starterpacks Group, James Morris, Kavir Athimoolam and James Fitton, along with Michael Mousdale and Basil Hawks

encourage them to persevere where necessary.

Organisations taking part this year are: Pendle Riding for Disabled, Newfields School, Oxfam, Help the Aged, Hillside School for Autistic Children, Broadfields Special School, Acorns School, St John's Primary School, Cancer Research, Shelter, Bridge Project, Emmaus Community, CAFOD, St Catherine's Hospice and the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Elderly.

Not all volunteers leave the college to take part in the programme. Some Arrupe volunteers are working on Starterpacks, collecting children's clothing and toys to be distributed through Maundy Relief in Accrington. Others have set up a Fairtrade Stall for the College to support the school's commitment to producers in the developing world. There are also volunteers in St Mary's Hall, the Stonyhurst Preparatory School, while others are helping younger pupils through Learning Support.



The 2009 Archbishop Romero Lecture is to be given by Father Dean Brackley SJ, Professor of Theology and Ethics at the Catholic University in San

Salvador. His lecture—in four venues—will be entitled *Crosses and*

Resurrections in El Salvador: The Wider North-South Divide and Our Vocation to Solidarity.

Fr Brackley (left) worked in social ministry and popular education in New York in the 1970s and '80s. He taught briefly at Fordham University (1989-90) before joining the staff of the Universidad Centroamericana in 1990, succeeding one of the six Jesuits martyred in the UCA massacre the previous year.

Dates: Thursday, February 12, Lauriston Jesuit Centre, Edinburgh. Friday, February 13, Fountains Lecture Theatre, York St John University, York. (ticket only - phone 01904 876517 for details). Saturday, February 14, the Cathedral Hall in Nottingham. Tuesday, February 17 at Westminster Cathedral Hall, London. All lectures start at 7.30pm except in Nottingham when it is scheduled for 1.45pm.

For more details, see the Romero Trust web site: www.romerotrust.org.uk

THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVICE

Ged Clapson talks with Sarah Broscombe, as she prepares to start work in Guyana.

On 14 January, Sarah Broscombe (nee Rogers) marked seven years of working with the British Jesuits. She had started at JVC (Jesuit Volunteer Community) in Manchester back in 2002, and when she stepped down as Manager in 2005, she spent some months researching the scope and potential of Jesuit volunteering at home and abroad. This was followed by a two-year contract to help develop the Province's ministry among volunteers, whether in Jesuit schools, in urban centres or overseas.

But this month, she is embarking upon a totally new experience with the British Jesuits: as Development Worker in southern Guyana.

"Conditions in Aishalton are basic," Sarah told me before leaving. "There's no power whatsoever, so people get up when dawn breaks and start to wind down when darkness falls. The town does have a generator, but it hasn't worked for six months!"

The climate too provides its own challenges. The dry season lasts for eight months of the year; there is no winter (Aishalton lies 2.5 degrees north of the Equator); and when the rains come in June, the population is rained in for four months. But Sarah does not seem in any way fazed by the



James and Sarah Broscombe

prospect of exchanging the climate and comfort of West Yorkshire where she and her husband, James, have lived for the past 16 months, for the tropics of South America.

"I've been involved in programmes concerned with justice for most of my working life," she says. "The time seems right now for me not just to *talk about* people living in poverty or being the object of injustices but to *share in it myself*, to share with them the daily experience of being voiceless, of being unattended to and of being powerless in a world that globalises to the detriment of the poorest."

Aishalton is a village in the Rupununi savannah of southern Guyana, around 300 metres above sea level. The population of 1,200 is mostly Wapishana Amerindian, and much of

Sarah's time will be spent listening to them.

"There's the tendency among some NGOs (non-governmental organisations) to remain in the big cities, the capitals, where they're alongside other NGOs and have access to the big funders. What's exciting about this – and so typical of the Jesuits – is the primacy of the local people, those on the ground and in the heart of their communities. It'll be important for me as a Development Worker there to hear what *they* consider to be their most urgent needs and priorities, in order to assess how we can best collaborate with them to achieve those aims."

Sarah's husband, James, will be accompanying her to Guyana, and is aiming to develop his skills as a freelance photographer. En route for the country, they attended the World Social Forum in Brazil.

On arrival in Aishalton, Sarah's time will be divided between the parish and the school where she will be teaching English Literature to the pupils. She will also be working closely with the women's groups in the village.

"To be honest," she laughs, "one of the most important elements of undertaking something like this is flexibility – the ability to be able to change and reassess what I do in the light of what emerges about people's needs as relationships are built. To that extent, it's rather hard to define precisely what this new role of Development Worker is going to entail. But I strongly believe that service is a privilege that we participate in, not a grace we endow upon the people we serve. And I certainly feel that it is going to be a tremendous privilege to serve the people of Guyana in this way."



Home sweet home: the presbytery and church at Aishalton, southern Guyana

A year on from the 35th General Congregation, Jesuits the world over continue to reflect on the occasion and seek ways of interpreting the Decrees of GC 35 in the context of their own provinces and ministries. Here, school chaplain, Fr Tim Byron SJ, considers ...

THE MEANING OF MISSION WITH THE YouTube GENERATION

Last autumn's inter-school retreat at Barmouth, attended by four students from each of our secondary schools, concluded on the last night with a 'social' in which all the students and staff contributed something. Two Polish students, one from Stonyhurst and the other from Enfield, treated us to an impromptu display of Polish folk-dancing. As they burst into the room they announced in the style of a TV presenter, 'Welcome to Polish immigrants *can* dance!' I witnessed some of their fellow students, amidst the cheers and laughter, filming the sketch on their mobile phones and they looked at each other with a big grin and said 'You Tube!'. The website was obviously the intended destination of their recordings, and within 24 hours the images of that room in Barmouth, a house that many of us know well, would be available to the world through the internet.

Working amongst the 'you-tube' generation brings into sharp focus the new context of our mission which is spelt out in the Third Decree of the 35th General Congregation. The paradoxes of Globalisation and Post Modernism – a world of hyper communication, unlimited social networking but also a creeping feeling of isolation or exclusion is the backdrop to the decree [11]. Pope Benedict XVI identifies this context of rapid change in his allocution, setting the tone for the decree. Underlining the bewildering speed and scope of change is that even some of the analysis of the decree i.e. the impotency of nation states in the face



Seeking God: some of the pupils of St Ignatius College, Enfield

of global capitalism [26], already seems dated with the governmental interventions in the banking crisis. In the last few months, the world has changed, and how we understand the world has changed dramatically, yet this is where we are called to reflect on our call to mission.

RECONCILERS

After the focus on the promotion of justice and faith in previous Congregations, it was a surprise for me to see the decree identify the *key* theme of our mission to be one of 'reconciliation' [12-36]. Of course the promotion of reconciliation is at the heart of the Christian faith, but to choose that to identify our mission seems to set a different tone.

At first glance being a 'reconciler' can seem to be reactive rather than active.

This raised a series of questions which may provoke debate. Is this a significant shift in tone? Is the speed of change forcing us on to the back foot? By emphasising our role as bridge-builders, are we limiting our initiative to lead? Is there a difference between being a promoter of faith and justice and being an agent of reconciliation? Provocatively, we may even ask has the Society reached a more humble and mature self-understanding of its mission? Perhaps a deeper reading of our role as agents of reconciliation, particularly by identifying with Christ's cosmic mission of reconciliation will resolve these tensions, or expose these questions to be off-the-mark.

Continued on next page



A strong resonance for me came when the Congregation identified the generosity and compassion of young-people as they help each other grow through fragility and fragmentation to joyful integration of their lives with God and others [23]. How do I keep that generosity and compassion alive in my life? This integration of young people is the hope and dream of many, but sadly it is not always achieved, as we can see by a growing culture of fear on our streets amongst young men. How do we help those whose lives are hovering between integration and disintegration? A key tool in our mission is clearly the Spiritual Exercises [21].

VOCATION

In my own life, in my early twenties, the discovery of the world of Ignatian Spirituality quenched a thirst for me. And as a novice, an experience of the love of God in the first week of the Exercises became the foundation stone for my vocation. How do I pass on what I received? There is a lot of good work being done in our province in adapting the Exercises to people's lives; do we do enough to publicise and share that good practice?

At the moment I understand the core of my mission in St Ignatius College is to encourage the boys to question

themselves about God, and seek His face. This is the path to integration..... not merely to let themselves be taken here and there in life and be satisfied with what everyone else does and thinks and says, but to probe God and to seek God.... not letting the question of God just dissolve in their souls but to desire what is great, to know God. Being a Christian is not a lofty idea but an encounter which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. Facilitating these encounters with God, whether it be through experiences of service, of prayer, the hospitality and joy of the poor, and then witnessing the generosity of their response when they discover how they are loved by God, that gives the mission its purpose. Some parts of the Decree console me in these efforts, other parts challenge me to deepen my efforts.

Finally I find that whatever our mission is, our integrity is constantly scrutinised and tested. Does he really practice what he preaches? Perhaps more than ever before, we are being called to embody our mission in our lifestyles. The challenge at the end of the decree to ecological solidarity leaves me feeling distinctly uncomfortable and with no room for complacency.

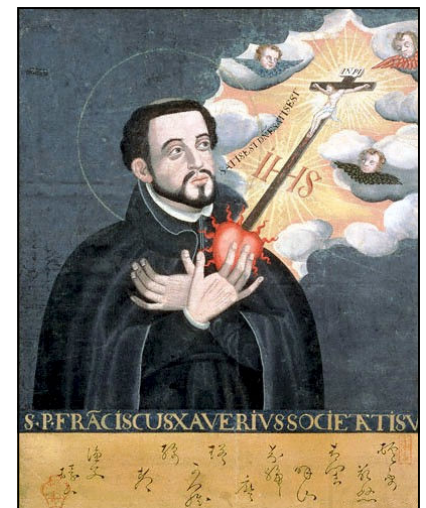


GC 35 delegates including Father General with Pope Benedict XVI

PRAYER IN LIVERPOOL

LOYOLA-metro will be holding its annual Week of Guided Prayer from Monday 23 – Saturday 28 February. Described as “a gentle, non-threatening way of helping people deepen their prayer life”, the week is organised jointly by St Francis Xavier Church (SFX) in Liverpool and Loyola Hall, Rainhill. People who ‘sign-up’ to the Week of Guided Prayer meet daily with a prayer guide to discuss how they pray and to experiment with alternative methods of prayer.

The introductory session will be at 3pm on Saturday 21 February at Pauline Books (St Paul's) in Bold Street, Liverpool.



Meanwhile, SFX's annual **Novena of Grace** will take place from 4-12 March during the noon Mass at SFX Church - which is opposite the old Collegiate School at the top of Islington, Liverpool.

This year there will be nine women speakers, who will each give a short address on how the life of St Francis Xavier influences their work. For further details about both events, contact 0151-298 1911.



After his First Mass: Fr Rudy Noronha SJ with Sharon Wheatley (Head of Chaplaincy at Wimbledon College), her husband, Nigel, and Fr Brendan Callaghan SJ (far right)

There was a celebration, followed by an occasion of sadness over the New Year for the Jesuits in Karnataka, southern India.

The celebration was the ordination and First Mass of Rudy Noronha, a Jesuit of the Karnataka Province who did his regency (full-time apostolic ministry) in Wimbledon.

"I was very pleased to be able to meet his siblings and particularly his mother Cecilia, a most impressive woman who was visibly very proud of and pleased for her priest-son," said Fr Brendan Callaghan SJ, who had been Rudy's Superior in Wimbledon and travelled to India for his ordination.

However, Mrs Noronha fell ill shortly after her son's ordination and died of septicaemia a few days later. Rudy presided at her funeral just a week after his ordination. You are requested to keep her, Rudy and all the family in your prayers.



Stonyhurst pupils heard a leading political commentator's views on President Barack Obama—as his inauguration was taking place in Washington. The BBC's political editor and editor of *Newsnight*, Michael Crick, was addressing members of the Stonyhurst Politics Society about 'The Role of the media in a democratic society' and his career as a political journalist.

"Michael's visit was timely as the inauguration of President Obama was underway, so he watched it live on the television with the pupils", explained Jonathan Hewat, Stonyhurst College Admissions and Marketing Manager.

Michael then went on to share his thoughts and comments about the new US president with the Politics Society members. He is pictured above with Stonyhurst Headmaster, Andrew Johnson (right) and Charlotte Leach, Joint Head of the Politics Society.

HEAD GIRL'S SECOND PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD

Maybe assisted by late maths teacher, suggests chaplain

Francesca Ruddy, head girl at St Aloysius' College in Glasgow, has won the Glasgow Speakers Club award. Her chosen subject in the public speaking competition final was *Does history repeat itself?*

This was Francesca's second prize for public speaking in 2008. Earlier in the year, she was the school team's principal speaker in the Senior Final of Rotary Youth Speaks 2008, held at the City of London School for boys. In addition to the St Aloysius team winning the trophy at this event, Francesca also won the Euan Speirits award for best vote of thanks.

The Glasgow Speakers Club public speaking contest was held at Glasgow



City Chambers, with Glasgow Academy, Hutchesons' Grammar School, the High School of Glasgow and Notre Dame High School also competing. It is open to all secondary schools in the Glasgow area.

After receiving her award, Francesca paid tribute to her former maths teacher, Seamus O'Sullivan, who had died in Spain the weekend before the competition.

"I think it was best summed up by our school chaplain, Fr Gerry Gallen," she said. "He'd heard my speech four times and when I won, he just whispered, 'That's Seamus' first miracle'. That was both funny and poignant because he meant that Mr O'Sullivan ... was already looking out for us."



MORE PEOPLE VOLUNTEER AS FINANCIAL CRISIS HITS CITY

The current financial crisis has thrown up many new challenges for young professional people in London. Faced with the threat – and sometimes the reality – of redundancy or other forms of cutbacks, many of them are re-evaluating their priorities. One of the results of this has been an increase in applicants to join the London Jesuit Volunteers (LJV), based at the Mount Street Jesuit Centre.

Since last September, six volunteers from the City have come forward, offering their time and skills and saying how the spectre of redundancy has led them to re-focus on the important things in life: their home/work balance, relationships and people who are less fortunate than themselves. The prospective volunteers learn about the LJV from leaflets which are circulated among parishes in Westminster and Southwark dioceses, or by word of mouth. Last autumn, some two dozen attended a Recruitment Meeting following by induction, and it fell to LJV's Co-ordinator, Andrea Kelly, to find suitable placements for them.

"We always try to match volunteers' aspirations with their skills," says Andrea. "But ultimately, we have to be open to the range of needs that London presents. Our focus is on helping those who are materially poor, vulnerable or marginalized in our society, so placements need to be able to make use of the skills that the volunteers bring to them and be able to accommodate them."

Andrea's own relationship with LJV took her to the L'Arche Community in Lambeth – her own preference at the time. This is just one placement in which volunteers work with the elderly or with vulnerable young



Matching volunteers with placements: Andrea Kelly in the LJV office

people. Other opportunities involve services for people who are homeless or in prison or seeking asylum.

A parishioner of Farm Street Church since 2005, she says the nature of the social outreach work at the Mount Street Centre appealed to her "because it combined practical action with the less fortunate with reflection and contemplation".

The reflective side of volunteering is an important element of LJV, which Andrea hopes will be developed further over the coming year. "We are planning a journaling workshop and intend to organise a retreat for volunteers too," she says. "The challenge is to keep the marginalised at the centre of our activity. But because working in an Ignatian way bridges the gap between the sacred and the secular – we do literally find God in everyday life – we can offer volunteers a quite unique experience."

Andrea believes that the Ignatian dimension to the volunteering initiative in London is what makes LJV distinctive and attractive to so many people. "Because we fully integrate the volunteer work with reflection, we are able to place it all in the context of the bigger picture. By reflecting prayerfully with other LJV volunteers, our members are able to see their service as an integral part of the kingdom of God, the quest for justice and faithfulness to God."

To find out more about London Jesuit Volunteers, call 020 7499 7002 or contact andrea@mountstreet.info

MORE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES with the BRITISH JESUITS

Jesuit Volunteer Community
(www.jvcbritain.org)
JM Volunteering overseas
(www.jesuitmissions.org.uk/volunteering)

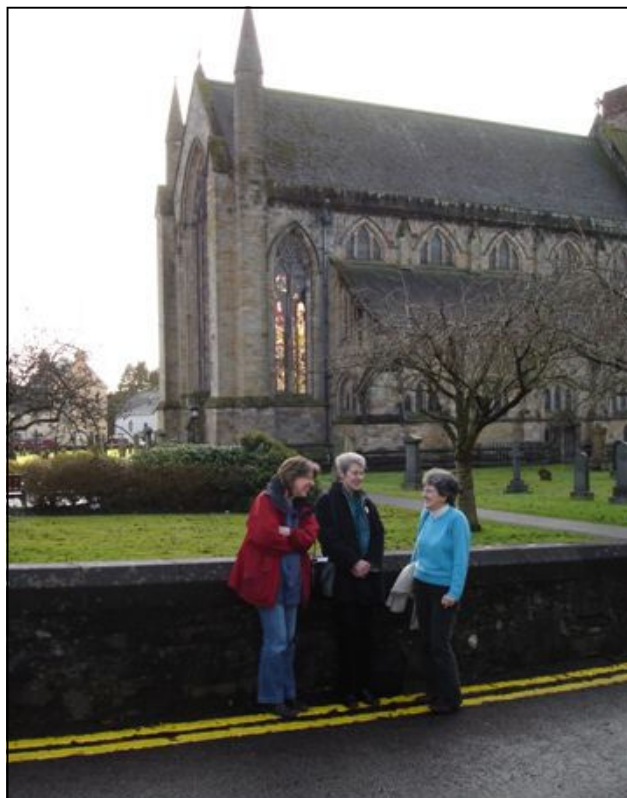
CONTINUING GROWTH IN AN IGNATIAN MINISTRY

“There isn’t a church in Scotland that hasn’t been touched by the work of the Epiphany Group” – so reads the statement in a report from the body responsible for the mission dimension of one of Scotland’s major Christian communities. Below, Fr Gero McLoughlin SJ, the Promoter of Ignatian Spirituality for the British Province of the Society of Jesus, reflects on the foundation, mission and relevance of the Epiphany Group. And opposite, the former Warden of Scottish Churches House, Dunblane, places the group in the context of the ecumenical movement in Scotland.

The Epiphany Group originated in the commitment of people who participated in a seminar on giving the Spiritual Exercises held in Edinburgh in 1998-9. The experience of sharing in the seminar focussed their sense of being called as a group to pass on to others the riches of Ignatian spirituality that had so powerfully changed their own lives. After the last session of the seminar, the 16 people there decided to work for the formation of a group that, among other goals, would aim to offer the ministry of Ignatian spirituality to people who – for a variety of reasons—were not able to draw from the valuable work of the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow and the House of Prayer in Edinburgh.

Nearly 10 years later, the Epiphany Group numbers more than 50 people living throughout Scotland, who have met the requirements for membership, principal among them being that they should have made the Spiritual Exercises and undertaken an extended training in spiritual direction. The vision of the group is clearly set out, on their website and in their literature as desiring to be:

“a discerning group of women and men working ecumenically across



Epiphany Group members, Elizabeth South, Alison Moody and Claire Starr, in front of Edinburgh Cathedral

Scotland; committed in our work in Ignatian spirituality to being a force for transformation, and to being a prayerful and supportive community.”

RELOCATION

Throughout its development the Epiphany Group has been generously supported by the British Jesuits. Such solid support has enabled the members of the group to be resourceful in responding to the circumstances shaping its efforts. For example, the group has no physical plant or centre and twice in recent years, affected by the closure of religious houses, it has had to relocate its courses at relatively short notice. Such inventiveness partly explains how the group now comes to be

running training courses in Ignatian spiritual direction in Perth and in Aberdeen and gives support to courses run even further north.

This Ignatian spirituality ministry, proclaiming the power of the word of God, is shared in Scotland with the Lauriston Jesuit Centre in Edinburgh and the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow. Together these ministries are a witness to the insight articulated in Decree 6 of the Jesuits 35th General Congregation held last year that “the good accomplished is multiplied by the participation of the Society in collaboration

with diverse parties united in a common mission.” (#22) So, too, the ecumenical character of the Epiphany Group and its ministries themselves witness to “the complementarity of our diverse calls to holiness, our mutual responsibility for the mission of Christ” which the conclusion of the same Decree includes among qualities required for an adequate response to the pressing needs of our complex and fragile world. (#30)

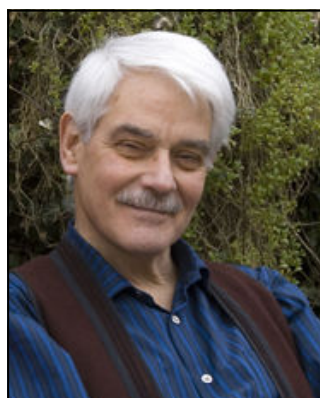


Leighton House, one of the houses in which the Epiphany Group gives retreats

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.iscglasgow.co.uk
www.epiphanygroup.org.uk
www.jesuit.org.uk/spirituality/promoter

'A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE OF CHRISTIAN COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP'



Author,
theologian
and
ecumenist,
Alastair
Hulbert

A recently published book by the former Warden of Scottish Churches House, Dunblane, laments what he sees as the abandonment by the Scottish Churches of "their ecumenical, missionary vocation in the modern world". However, he describes the Epiphany Group—which is encouraged and supported by the British Province of the Society of Jesus—as "a shining example of a partnership with the House Programme that is fully inter-denominational and ecumenical".

Spirituality explored and shared in an ecumenical context is a major focus of the Jesuits—particularly at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow. But Alastair Hulbert, having claimed that "the age of the ecumenical movement is over in Scotland," goes on to heap praise on the "fruitful partnership" that has developed with the Epiphany Group over the past three years.

"Their faith and practice is rooted in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, which serve as a powerful, and flexible tool in helping people find the freedom to seek and follow God," writes Mr Hulbert. Because the Group runs different kinds of retreats in partnership with the House, busy people who have "the desire for a retreat, in silence, with the Bible, with a leader", are still able to find what they want.

"The Epiphany Group ... is a school of ecumenism where members of its

Group and those who attend the retreats are drawn into a different experience of Christian co-operation and friendship from what exists in church denominations on their own. The Jesuits recognise the importance of this."

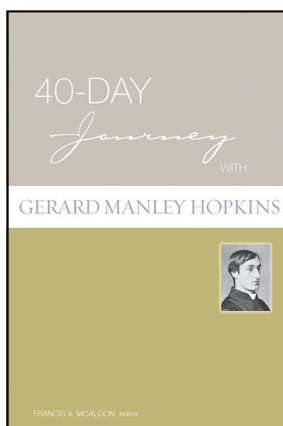
The Hint Half Guessed—mission, ecumenism and other holy things by Alastair Hulbert is published by Hints and Guesses, Edinburgh, and is available by writing to the author at 27 Reid Terrace, Edinburgh EH3 5JH; mail@alastairhulbert.com

HOPKINS FOR LENT

In *40-Day Journey with Gerard Manley Hopkins*, Francis X. McAloon SJ draws on the poetry and journal of the 19th century Jesuit poet to introduce his intense joy in nature. He also explores his sacramental view of the natural world being a manifestation of the beauty of the divine.

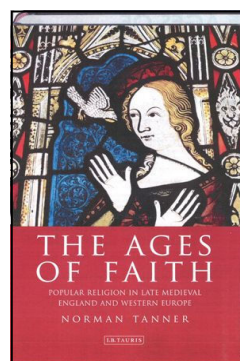
The book includes a short introduction to Hopkins' life and work, questions which draw the reader into

Hopkins' spiritual world, journaling suggestions and daily prayers. This 40-day journey is described as an inspiring journey to take at any time (especially at Lent) and an invitation to personal meditation and/or group discussion. Published by Augsburg Books at £7.99 (Amazon price).



THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH: VIBRANT OR IN DECLINE?

The Ages of Faith: Popular Religion in Late Medieval England and Western Europe is a collection of 20 articles published since 1990 by British Jesuit, Father Norman Tanner SJ. Surrey-born who is Professor of Church History at the Gregorian University in Rome.



The essays are divided into four sections: Church councils, Norwich (city), England and Europe. The novelty of the work, according to the publisher

(I.B. Tauris), is in the way the author shows that "Christianity in the later Middle Ages was flourish-ing, popular and vibrant and the institutional church was generally popular – in stark contrast to the picture of corruption and decline painted by the later Reformers and which persists even today. (The book) brings together a lifetime's research into this period of history.

"But to many readers the central fascination of the book will be its insights into popular and individual spiritual experience: sin, piety, penance, heresy, the role of the mystics, and even 'making merry'."

Also included are articles on Ignatius of Loyola and the council of Trent. The work contains an Introduction by the author, three maps and extensive indices.

The Ages of Faith: Popular Religion in Late Medieval England and Western Europe by Norman Tanner is published by I.B. Tauris, price £52.50, ISBN 978-1-84511-760-3.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

13—15: Recently ordained priests meeting, Alnmouth Friary

23—28: **LOYOLA-metro** Week of Guided Prayer, Liverpool

MARCH

4—12: Novena of Grace, St Francis Xavier's, Liverpool

27—29: Jesuits of the North-Western European Assistancy (excluding Canada) who have been or are engaged in social ministries will spend the weekend looking at outreach at Stamford Hill parish. Staying at Southwell House

APRIL

15—17: Province Meeting, Swanwick, Derbyshire

MAY

14—17: Meeting for those who have done Tertianship over the last few years, at Charney Manor, Wantage. Contact Peter Randall for more details.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE SICK OR UNDERGOING MEDICAL TREATMENT, including

Fr Bill Crooks in Bournemouth

Ian Tomlinson's sister, Sheila, who is recovering from a major operation

Gero McLoughlin's sister-in-law, Maria, who is seriously ill in Johannesburg

Tony Briffa, Josef's father, who was involved in a car accident in Malta at the beginning of January

AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY, including

Fr George van Ruymbeke of the Belgian Province who studied at Heythrop College in Oxfordshire between 1949 and 1953

Paulo Da Silva, husband of Louise Zanré

BESIDE THE SEASIDE



The Corpus Christi Jesuit Community in Boscombe, Dorset, is developing a house for visitors and retreats. Owen House (*above*) has half a dozen rooms and is less than ten minutes walk from the sea.

"Retreats can be booked at any time that is mutually convenient, but in particular we have arranged individually-guided retreats in Holy Week and the last week in May," says Superior, Fr Michael Barrow SJ. There will also be a group retreat using art as a form of prayer between July 24 and August 2.

Contact him at Owen House, 9 Harvey Road, Bournemouth BH5 2AD; michaelajbarrow@yahoo.co.uk.

MOVES and APPOINTMENTS

Mount Street: James Hanvey appointed Superior; James Campbell re-joins the community.

Wimbledon: Keith McMillan is acting parish priest; Gerard Mitchell to move to Southall as parish priest; Hugh Duffy to assist in Sacred Heart parish from March.

Edinburgh: James Crampsey to move to Sacred Heart as parish priest.

Glasgow: Peter Griffiths is acting parish priest at St Aloysius Church; Varghese Puthussery, former Provincial of the Dumka Province, is supplying in the parish.

Enfield: Scholastic José de Paiva of the Portuguese Province has begun his regency at St Ignatius College, Enfield.

Barmouth: Ken Vance to take over the management of the Villa.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Terrance Walsh:
t.walsh@heythrop.ac.uk

Michael Austin (Johannesburg):
michaelaustin3@gmail.com



The newsletter of the British Province of the Society of Jesus is also available online as a downloadable PDF. Visit www.jesuit.org.uk

Photos and items of news and information for inclusion in **SJ** should be sent to the Communications Officer at 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH; commsofficer@gbsj.org