

Ordination of Fr Michael Bates

Following the blessing of the ordination of Fr. Brendan Seery last year, Fr. Michael Bates was ordained by Bishop Peter into the priesthood of the Northampton Diocese on 15 July 2017 at the Church of Our Lady of Charity and Saint Augustine in Daventry, surrounded by many priests and deacons of the Diocese and a full congregation.



Fr Michael Bates with Bishop Peter Doyle and his fellow clergy at his ordination

Fr Michael's training at Oscott College, Birmingham, was fully funded by the generosity of **Together In Faith** donors.

Fr. Michael celebrated his first Mass at Saint Augustine's on Sunday 16 July 2017. Below are some wonderful pictures from that occasion. His first appointment is as an Assistant Priest at Holy Family Parish, Langley, Slough.



At his ordination, Fr. Michael lies prostrate during the Litany of Saints

Ordination of Michael Rakowski to the Diaconate

Michael Rakowski, one of our students at the English College in Rome, was ordained deacon by Bishop Terence Drainey on 12 July 2017 at Palazzola, Rome, together with five of his classmates. He is continuing his studies at the English College and we pray that Michael will be ordained a priest in 2018.

A further seven students are continuing their formation and training - please keep them in your prayers.



Deacon Michael Rakowski (front right) with his fellow students and priests from several dioceses

Our Lady of Charity and Saint Augustine, Daventry – new organ and sanctuary furniture



Mgr Sean Healy shares below how the parish of Our Lady of Charity and Saint Augustine in Daventry has been putting to good use their parish share accrued from the **Together In Faith** campaign.

"This has been a very busy year in the parish of Daventry as we have been preparing for the ordination of Michael Bates to the priesthood. This took place on 15 July.

*One of the major projects that we set ourselves was the re-ordering and refurbishment of the church. Whilst the majority of this funding came from the sale of land belonging to the parish, the purchase of the new altar and organ came through the excellent response of the parish to the **Together In Faith** campaign.*

The altar is made of white oak wood with a surround of Salome polished marble. The three reliefs which are at the centre of the altar depict the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. They have been part of the parish's patrimony for over a hundred years and it is great to see them restored to a position of prominence. The ambo, tabernacle stand and priest's chair are in white oak with golden upholstery.

The new organ is by Makin Rydall and it has enhanced the music ministry in the church. Both the organ and the altar were blessed by Bishop Peter when he came to celebrate Confirmation in the parish on 16 June."



Lay Formation—A focus on Pastoral Ministry

Together In Faith lay formation funds have been used to support the Diocese in employing a full time Pastoral Ministry Advisor. This is a new role which has been developed in response to the education and formation needs of lay people, as identified by the Walking Humbly process.

The role will help the Diocese to progress in facilitating a variety of forms of adult formation for the development of our communities and for the new forms of pastoral ministry.

Initially, this will pay particular attention to the provision of chaplaincy in institutions such as hospitals, prisons and universities across the Diocese but it will subsequently develop in a variety of appropriate ways.

Following a recruitment process earlier this year, Avril Baigent has been appointed and will be in post from September 2017.

Avril brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and is looking forward to taking on this new role - *"I'm really excited to get started in my new role for the diocese developing lay ministry. I look forward to working with the clergy in developing forms of ministry in chaplaincy and in parish life. Having worked in a parish myself, I know how much there is to be done and also how much talent and commitment we have in our congregations."*



Avril Baigent—Pastoral Ministry Advisor

Financial Summary

Facts and Figures

Over £8.9 million has been received, bringing us close to the anticipated £9 million final total.

Expenditure for the three causes is as follows:

- Sick and Retired Clergy £1,798,100
- Priestly Formation £ 981,199
- Lay Formation £ 34,826

In addition to the above, £448,475 has been transferred to the religious orders which run parishes in our Diocese to help to support their sick and retired clergy and seminarians.

Supporting Parishes

Over £2.75 million of **Together In Faith** Parish Share funds has been utilised, providing much needed support with a variety of building works, new furniture or equipment, personnel and debt reduction.

Over £900,000 remains earmarked for parishes which are yet to identify or complete their project.

What you have contributed so far:

Gifts	Gift Aid	Total
£7,384,521	£1,551,793	£8,936,314



Campaign Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God. Through your goodness, the Church in the Diocese of Northampton has flourished for 160 years. We have endeavoured by your grace to contribute our time, talents and treasure in building a community of believers in our parishes, with the Lord Jesus Christ as our foundation.

As we work **Together In Faith**, we ask for the grace of your Holy Spirit.

So that we might know your will and be strengthened in our work, we ask for your blessings and for the patronage of Blessed Mary Immaculate and of St Thomas of Canterbury.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever,

Amen

Happy to Help...

We hope that this newsletter is useful to you. If you have any questions or need to speak to somebody about your individual pledge, our **Together In Faith** Administrator is always happy to help and can be reached using the contact details below:

Campaign Administrator: Paula Wynn

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