

## A trio of Ordinations

Over the last year we have celebrated the ordination of three Priests for the Northampton Diocese: Fr Pius Amoako on 4th July 2015; Fr Benedetto d’Autilia on 1st August 2015 and Fr Brendan Seery on 6th February 2016. All three occasions were attended by members of the congregations, family and clergy with joy and overwhelming support.



Fr Brendan celebrating his first Mass at his home parish of St Martin de Porres, Luton

Fr Brendan had the following message to share with *Together in Faith* supporters who have funded his training for the priesthood:

*‘The 6th February 2016 was an extremely special and momentous day for me as I was ordained to the Priesthood at Northampton Cathedral surrounded by my family, friends and parishioners. Having settled in to ministry now, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who have contributed so generously to the TIF campaign. Your generosity has allowed me to follow my vocation to the priesthood and has allowed me to begin to serve the people of the Diocese.’*

The Diocese continues to support a further ten students through their period of discernment and training. Jithu James is in his preparatory year at Valladolid. Tanner Carlile, Liam Castle, Andrew Compton and Andrew Coy are in their first year of formation. Daniel Rooke is in his second year, with David Donaghue and Kevin Ryan in their third year. Michael Rakowski, a student from the Polish church in Slough, begins his fifth year in Rome.



Deacon Michael Bates with Archbishop Longley at his ordination to the transitional diaconate

Michael Bates was ordained to the transitional diaconate on Saturday 25th June 2016 at Oscott, thus beginning his final year before being ordained to the priesthood.

The Diocesan Vocations Director, Canon Mark Floody, offers time and support to those considering a vocation as a Catholic Priest and can be contacted on 01604 714556 should you wish to learn more, or express an interest in future Vocation events.

## Together In Faith Funds Contribute to Major Refurbishment of St Joseph’s Church, Gerrards Cross



St Joseph’s Church in Gerrards Cross has undergone a major refurbishment using a combination of parish funds and the accrued parish share from the *Together In Faith* fund. John Forte, Finance Committee Chair, shared the following with us:



The refurbishment included the replacement of the roof, now insulated to building regulation standards, rewiring and installation of energy efficient and effective lighting, a new state-of-the-art sound system, a new organ to replace the original instrument for which replacement parts were no longer available and a complete redecoration of the interior. The church has been given a new lease of life.



It was also a great privilege for the parish to be asked to have a “Holy Door of Mercy” to serve the south of the Diocese. It was blessed and opened by Bishop Peter on 13th December last year and will remain open until 12th November 2016. The brightly coloured surround is attracting much attention from local passers-by and, as a result, St Joseph’s is receiving many visitors and pilgrims from other parts of the Diocese.



## Lay Formation

This year Together in Faith established a fund to make grants available to lay people who wish to participate in adult religious formation. We have been able to make a number of grants which enabled individuals to participate in a wide variety of courses.

The grants are designed to help provide formation for people who are involved in various forms of pastoral ministry, particularly in parishes. Generally, grants have been offered on a matched funding basis, whereby the student



Participants in the MA in Theology course being taught in the Diocese in conjunction with St Mary's University Twickenham

provides half of the total course cost and the grant covers the rest.

For a number of years, the Diocese has offered a Master's Degree in Theology in conjunction with St Mary's University in Twickenham with Together in Faith supporting a number of students for the last few years.

A group of fifteen educators from Northampton and Nottingham Dioceses recently travelled to the Annual Religious Education Congress in Los Angeles. The Congress attracted over 40,000 participants from throughout the world for the three day congress. It offered over 300 workshops led by many well-known speakers from throughout the world. Together in Faith helped to support some of the participants from our Diocese.



Laura Cullen meets Bishop Robert Barron, an internationally known speaker, at the 2016 Los Angeles Religious Education Congress

## Financial Summary

### Facts and Figures

We are delighted that receipts have now passed the £8.7 million milestone. Please do keep the Campaign in your prayers. The total active **Together In Faith** pledges are currently worth £9 million.

Expenditure to date for the three main causes is as follows:

- Sick and Retired Clergy £1,437,659
- Priestly Formation £911,556
- Lay Formation £28,683

In addition to the above, £442,042 has been transferred to religious orders who run parishes in our Diocese, to help support their sick and retired clergy and seminarians.

### Supporting Parishes

26 parishes, so far, have benefited from **Together In Faith** parish funds. A total of £1,923,941 has been spent on projects ranging from disabled toilet facilities and church refurbishments to the support of a school Lay Chaplain and Parish Missions.

A parish is able to carry out its project once it has exceeded its **TIF** goal, obtained Diocesan approval and accrued sufficient funds to cover the cost of the project. More details about your own parish can be found in the personalised e-mail or letter accompanying this newsletter or through your parish.

A total of £517,411 has been transferred for debt reduction in 16 parishes. These parishes chose to use their **Together In Faith** funds to repay debt, which generally arose from historic essential projects, helping them become more financially stable and saving money on interest. As a result of this, four parishes have cleared their debt so far.

### What you have contributed so far:

Gifts	Gift Aid	Total
£7,227,795	£1,507,794	£8,735,589



### 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 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:** Claire Davy

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