The Beda Review

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Welcome to this edition of the *The Beda Review*, covering the academic year of 2016-17. As is the case each year, the House is reconfigured as one top year leaves and a new first year takes their place. While the characters who populate the House may change, there is a reassuring stability to the daily round of classes and activities punctuated by the Office, Mass and meals – as one student was overheard to say to another “whatever happens, lunch is always at 1.00 p.m.!!”

The major building works of last summer are mentioned elsewhere – here it seems appropriate to pay tribute to the unstinting devotion of the *Personale* who keep everything in meticulous order. Windows gleam and polishers hum “Bisselle’d within and Atcoë’d without” (with apologies to Sir John Betjeman). The House has a homely, lived-in feel, which has as much to do with the good nature and communal regard of those in it, as much to the physical surroundings. It is all good training for parish and presbytery life to come.

An interesting find in the archives has been the *Motu Proprio* of Pope Leo XIII, establishing the Collegio Beda (Pontifical College of St Bede) in December 1898. Prior to this point, the College had been called the Collegio Pio. Next year will be the 120th anniversary of this and the 100th anniversary of the College having its own premises as distinct from those of our sister house, the Venerable English College. Within the *Motu Proprio* is contained the House Rule. These rules are both gracious and balanced in application – it is, though, a relief that present day students no longer have to pay for the coal to put in the fires in their rooms, as was the requirement in 1898. The House Customs
in regard to discipline especially, would later be described as being neither too little, nor too much. This sense of balance and sensitivity to the needs of the individual and wider community, remain with us today. Perhaps it owes more than a little to the influence of various Benedictines connected with the House over the years and our proximity to a working Benedictine Monastery, the Abbey of St Paul Outside the Walls.

Identity as well as balance are important. Fr John Carlyle, one of the formation staff and himself an old boy of the College, has been researching the Beda Coat of Arms, which provides a fascinating insight into a hitherto little known aspect of our history.

Along with the website, for which Fr Brillis Matthew and his team at the Community of Grace must be especially thanked, for their hard work and ingenuity, there is an increased awareness of identity and purpose - bounded around by service and charity. These are important aspects in our formation and it is good that they are so visible at the Beda. The Review can necessarily only offer a snapshot of the daily round, but it is a daily round that is purpose-filled as well as enjoyable.

Finally I would like to thank those who have so kindly and generously submitted articles this year. Very often these have been undertaken amidst a host of other, often more pressing engagements and so I am especially grateful to these contributors. I would also like to thank the Rector, as well as my co-editor, Mike Brookes. Their insights and suggestions have been timely, helpful and always positive.

Rev. John Tabor
July 2017
I am very happy to report that the College is in good spirits and in good material and structural shape, thanks in no small measure to the hard work and enthusiasm of our current student body to whom I express my gratitude and appreciation for the engaged and positive way in which they embrace the process of formation in the seminary. This formation which the newly published *Ratio Fundamentalis* from the Congregation for Clergy describes as an “initial formation” is both the daily discernment of God’s will for us and also the formation of “conscientious fellow works with the Order of Bishops” so that the work of proclamation of the Gospel, the *Joy of the Gospel* to use Pope Francis’ phrase, may grow and prosper in our dioceses and religious congregations.

In order to do this we seek to create and maintain an atmosphere of prayer, of study and of mutual respect and care. This initial phase of formation then opens out into the life-long formation which takes place in our parishes, our communities and dioceses. Our thanks therefore go not only to the Vocations Directors in the respective dioceses but also to the Directors of Ongoing Formation, particularly in their work with and on behalf of the newly ordained.

As to the life of the Beda I am pleased to report that we continue a fruitful collaboration with St Mary’s University, Twickenham who have re-validated the Beda’s academic programme, consisting of a Bachelor of Theology degree (BTh) and a Graduate Diploma in Theology. At the recent Examination Board in June our external examiner commented on the fact that we have many high marks given – but they were justified because of a high standard of work!

We continue to rely upon a wide-ranging group of external professors as well as the resident staff, for the provision of the teaching. While the recall of Sr Mary Ann Clarahan to America was a great sadness for us, we decided not to replace her as a permanent
resident member of staff but have reallocated her academic courses either to the current staff or have engaged the services of external teachers. Fr Samuel from the Benedictine Community at San Paolo fuori le Mura has been transferred to the Benedictine Community at Sant’ Anselmo on the Aventine and his new timetable sadly will not allow him to continue as our external confessor and therefore we are actively seeking someone to take his place.

We have continued the employment, on a temporary renewed contract, of an assistant Librarian to work alongside Srs Carmel and Dorothy in cataloguing the books.

House

The College community continues to be extremely well supported by the services of a faithful group of kitchen staff, domestics, Bursar and Secretary.

Great works took place in summer of last year to completely renew the toilet and shower facilities on each of the three floors of student accommodation. This was a vast endeavour, entailing a significant amount of additional work caused by the fact that the building “as built” is not necessarily the building “as planned”! I must pay tribute first of all to Annalisa Bonanni who held everything in balance and also to our personale who cleaned and tidied the College – working for the full 60 seconds of the last minute! Snagging and adaptations took many further weeks but it is widely accepted that the results are a vast improvement to our provision for the care of the students. Further work was needed following the recent seismic activity in Abruzzo – which affected the College only slightly but which did highlight the need to have fresh and complete drawings of the College building and grounds. Having been visited and inspected by the Vatican Department of Fire Safety we are continuing to work through their list of requirements.

During the past year, alongside the regular daily maintenance so efficiently taken care of by Larry and Ivano, we have done some work in the grounds, re-lamping garden lights with energy saving and LED bulbs and adding to the lighting of the pathways – both for security and safety reasons. The main work of these past months (July to September) has been a deep cleaning of the College Chapel and its redecoration, also the relighting and installation of new suspended ceilings in the Refectory and Student Common Room. While none of these works created quite as much dust as last year (!) we have still relied heavily on the good will and flexibility of the kitchen and domestic staff and we thank them most sincerely. You will see their smiling faces on one of the College photographs elsewhere in The Review – this was taken before the works began........
Student body

In this past year (2016-17) we had 36 resident seminarians along with 10 external students who joined us for lectures and also for house functions as the requirements of their respective religious communities allow.

Our September intake of 2016 was small: only 4 resident seminarians (1 England, 2 Ireland, 1 Thailand) with three external students joining them for lectures, one Benedictine from San Paolo and 2 first year students from the Irish College who are following just the first year courses of the Twickenham BTh. As well as the obvious pressure which this put on finances, such a small year group could have had a negative effect on house morale but thankfully this has not been the case and we have been able successfully make the adaptations to house responsibilities which have ensured that the past months have been smooth and happy.

You will read in the College Diary the unfolding of the year, which has a rhythm and structure very familiar to many of you. In November we held the customary lunch with Jubilarian priests who were celebrating with a visit to Rome and were staying at the English College Villa at Palazzola. In early December Archbishop Arthur Roche admitted 13 of our students as Candidates for Holy Orders, and these were ordained Deacons at the Basilica on Wednesday 14th June, the apex of the College year.

In January of this year we hosted the traditional Beda Unity Service and on 25th, at the visit of Pope Francis to the Basilica of San Paolo fuori le Mura, we were delighted that four of our Deacons were asked to assist at the Papal Vespers.

Having taken examinations during the first week of February and then a short break, the whole of the student body benefitted from preached and guided retreats, both in house and at Bagnoregio (pre-diaconate) and Nemi (pre-priestly). A study weekend on human sexuality, facilitated by Marist Brother Brendan Geary, was held for students of 2nd and 3rd years at the end of February. This alternates in the years with a facilitated weekend on safeguarding which will from now take into consideration the resources of CSAS (Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service).

Anglican exchange

In September 2016 we welcomed an ecumenical exchange student, Ross Meikle, who is studying for the Anglican ministry through Cranmer Hall, Durham. His time with us – albeit brief – was a very happy experience and we have been approached by the Ministerial Selection Board of the Church of England to ask whether we will be willing to accept another placement student for this September (2017). This year’s candidate, Joe Moore, is also studying at Durham and it is particularly wholesome in this way to maintain our links with a city and cathedral so closely associated with St Bede.
Ministries and Orders

Since the last edition of *The Beda Review* students received the following ministries and orders.

**2016**

On 7th December 13 students of third year were admitted as Candidates for Holy Orders by Archbishop Arthur Roche.

**2017**

During the Episcopal Visitation in March, 10 students of second year were instituted as Acolytes by Archbishop Longley and later, in May, the 4 first year students were instituted as Lectors.

This year’s diaconate ordinations at the Basilica of San Paolo fuori le Mura were on Wednesday 14th June. Bishop Seamus Cunningham of Hexham and Newcastle joined us as our ordaining Bishop and conferred the Sacrament on 13 of our men: Philip Carr, Archdiocese of Liverpool; Gerard D’Silva, Diocese of Belgaum; Brendan Gormley, Archdiocese of Brisbane; Anthony Kelly, Archdiocese of Liverpool; John Lovell, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle; Alex Mariasosai, Diocese of Melaka-Johor; Brian Muling, Archdiocese of Melbourne; Ron Seery, Archdiocese of Westminster; Paul Sia, Diocese of Melaka-Johor; Simon Sibisi, Archdiocese of Durban; Paul Smith, Diocese of Nottingham; John Tabor, Archdiocese of Westminster.

While in the past months there were 6 priestly ordinations, with one (Patrick Aboagye) taking place in January of next year. His diocese has the custom that a returning deacon always has a parish-based diaconate for 6 months before priestly ordination.

- **Patrick Aboagye** (Konongo/Mampong Diocese)
- **Michael Barrett** (Archdiocese of Liverpool)
- **Edward Gibney** (Diocese of Saskatoon)
- **Brillis Mathew** (Vicariate of Southern Arabia)
- **Andrew Senay OSB** (St Louis Abbey)
- **Wilhad Shayo** (Institute of Charity – Rosminians)
- **John Warnaby** (Archdiocese of Westminster)
**Formation**

In the light of the Charter for Priestly Formation issued by the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales we embarked on a consultation between staff and students to highlight areas where greater transparency and appreciation of specific roles within the House can be helpful to the process of formation. We have established a Beda Forum which includes representatives from each year, the formation staff, FMDM sisters and when appropriate, the Bursar. Now entering into its second year of meetings, the Forum is a valuable addition to our life together. My thanks to all who have worked hard to give it structure and maintain its clarity and direction of purpose.

In December of last year, the Congregation for Clergy published a fresh *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis*, a document establishing the norms for priestly formation which need to be respected and implemented in all seminaries and colleges. In the coming months and years each Episcopal Conference is asked to use this as a basis for their own renewed Charter of Priestly Formation. The Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales is in the fortunate position of already having responded to one suggestion in this document, that is the provision of a place of formation for “those who discover the call to ministerial priesthood at a more advanced age, [who] come with a more developed personality and a life journey characterised by a range of experiences”. This is a provision which they have had since 1852!

The Beda can, with all the more justification, be seen as fulfilling a particular and unique service and the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales can be rightly proud of the provision which they have made and which they generously offer to the wider Church.

**Pastoral work**

As well as the pastoral care of self and of others which is an everyday reality and challenge within the resident community, a good number of the students and staff engage in work to support the Sant’Egidio Community working on behalf of the homeless. One new venture is in union with All Saints (Anglican) parish and based at Stazione Ostiense. The priest members of staff continue to celebrate Mass with the Missionaries of Charity (San Gregorio) every Tuesday.

The main period of pastoral placement is during the summer months (or winter months for the Australasian brethren!) and the way in which the degree is structured through St Mary’s University allows this also to form part of the students’ formal assessment, with journals and reflections being requested not only from the students themselves but also from their supervisors. At the recent visit by our External Examiner these reports (the pastoral placement portfolios) were particularly commended as an excellent bringing together of the human/reflective, pastoral and academic aspects of learning.
FMDM community

Sr Maura has now returned to Ireland and has been replaced in the Community by Sr Dorothy. Srs Carmel and Dorothy (Dot) continue to serve the College by their prayerful presence as well as work within the Library and also assistance given to the students in proofreading essays and guidance in written and spoken English. Sadly Dot has been back in England since Easter for some medical treatment but we look forward to welcoming her back in September. The Congregation have expressed their hope to be able to return the FMDM community to 3 if and when possible.

Future

2018 will mark the 120th anniversary of the College being given the title of The Pontifical College of Saint Bede, bestowed by Pope Leo XIII on 29th December 1898. One way in which we will mark this is to invite the present incumbent of the Bede Chair of Catholic Theology at Durham University to come and give a public lecture on 20th October 2018. The 20th October is the anniversary of the visit of Pope John XXIII in 1960 to open our present College building. We look forward to welcoming the Beda Association for their AGM to be held in College next May … but any other suggestions for marking this anniversary will be gratefully considered!

I am happy to affirm the serious and committed way in which the students engage with their formation and express our gratitude to all the dioceses – both in the British Isles and further afield – who continue to support the work of the Beda and make our name better known. My renewed and continued thanks to Orietta Mariotti and Analisa Bonanni – and through them to all the personale of the College – for the myriad ways in which they ensure and facilitate the smooth running of the College through the year.

Canon Philip Gillespie
Rector
July 2017
Professor James Downey OSA – an appreciation

SR PATRICIA McDONALD SHCJ

Biblically speaking, there is about to be a change of era at the Pontifical Beda College, because, after an association with us over more than thirty years, Scripture Professor James Downey, OSA will not be teaching here next semester.

Jim first taught at the Beda in 1985, arriving in Rome after fifteen years at St Augustine’s Seminary in Jos, Nigeria, where he had been professor of Scripture, Dean of Studies, and for the last six years, Seminary Rector. For the next five years or so he taught at the Beda and also in a number of other Roman institutions and programmes: the Augustinianum, Regina Mundi, the Vincent Pallotti Institute for Lay Leadership, Sant’ Anselmo, and the North American College. In the summers he was a visiting lecturer in the United States, and the first semester of 1992 saw him back in Jos. Jim returned to Rome for the second semester that year before taking up a range of positions in Australia (Yarra Theological Union, Melbourne), Papua New Guinea (Good Shepherd Seminary in Banz and the Catholic Theological Institute in Bomana, where he was Rector for several years) and the United States (Holy Apostles College, Cromwell, CT, and the St John Vianney Center, Moodus, CT). Since 2002, apart from semesters in the Tangaza Institute, Nairobi (2005) and the National Catholic Institute of Theology in Karachi (2007), Jim has once more lived and worked in Rome, again teaching Scripture in a variety of places, including the Angelicum (2007-15) and the Beda (2003-17).

The first phase of Jim’s association with the Beda is chronicled in the 1989 issue of The Beda Review, where an appreciation of him written by Bernard Winn (Southwark Diocese) is illustrated by a photograph that conveys well the essential Jim, even to those of us who have known him only more recently.

One difficulty with trying to write about Jim is that his quiet, modest routine does not lend itself to anecdote: flashy is not his way. Yet his high degree of professionalism is clearly evident to his students and colleagues, despite his unassuming manner and
his tendency to move on to the next task once he has efficiently completed the first one. Across the board, he is absolutely reliable. Typically, he arrives at the Beda well before his 9.00 class so he can catch up on periodicals in the library reading room. His students know exactly what is required of them as regards essays and, in short order, what he thinks about their offerings. The traditional Downey approach to oral exams is to use the equivalent of the biblical urim and thummim (in reality: playing cards) to determine the section of the course on which each student is examined; a year or so ago Jim agreed to shorten the odds in the students’ favour by reducing the possible sections to two, specified for each student just twenty-four hours before the exam. We began to suspect, then, that the world was about to change.

As a colleague, Jim can be relied on to attend staff meetings, to answer e-mails, and to be an unobtrusive but always wise and supportive presence. My own administrative work has been easier because of being able to access Jim’s skills as a superb checker of details in drafts of timetables, minutes, and similar dull but necessary documents. Like the students over the years, I have profoundly appreciated his rich knowledge of Scripture: it is a great gift to have a colleague in one’s own subject area to whom one would willingly defer, and I shall not be the only one to miss the wisdom and knowledge of a very fine biblical scholar and teacher whose understated humour helps to keep matters in perspective.

So it would be hard to over-state our appreciation for all that Jim Downey has brought to the Beda’s academic programme and life over the years. It is probably too much to hope that, once again, his leaving the Beda is only temporary, but there is nothing wrong with hoping. Meanwhile, we wish Jim every grace and blessing in whatever form his ongoing ministry will take.

Sr Patricia McDonald is Director of Studies at the Beda.
The Beda Service for the week of prayer for Christian Unity, took place on Saturday, January 21st 2017. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dana English, Assistant Chaplain at All Saints Anglican Church in Rome. The readings for the Service were 2 Corinthians 5, 14-20, and Luke 15, 11-24

Greetings to you this evening from one group of Christians in Rome to another; from the Anglican congregation of All Saints to all of you here, the Beda College and its guests. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. An ancient greeting!

I have sometimes regretted having gone straight to divinity school from my undergraduate college as a 21-year-old; I wasn't brave enough to try out any kind of real work in the real world; and moreover I had no idea what work I might be suited to do or in what direction I might be going.
So I have a particular affinity for you here at the Beda College, with its special nurture of a priestly vocation that is discerned later in life. How wonderful to have a community that is especially attuned to this more mature embrace of ministry! Thank you for the kind invitation to give this homily in your company.

The single most important word of this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is reconciliation: God entrusts this critical, this essential, this urgent message to us. There is so much to say about reconciliation!

Tonight, I decided to share thoughts of two theologians: a Croatian Pentecostal and a Belgian Roman Catholic. Filtered through my own lens as an Anglican, ordained thirty-three years ago as a Presbyterian. So I hope these reflections will seem properly ecumenical to you!

I believe that God is everywhere, but the secular culture in which the Christian Church is embedded does not seem to have much to do with God. If the culture refers to God at all it is in a casually insensitive curse word, “Oh, God!” It assumes God’s silence, God’s absence, God’s irrelevance to anything happening now. The voices of the culture outside the church’s walls seem most often, and most loudly, to express the common view that the Church, and Christian faith, have been forces for strife and division throughout the history of the world (not to mention the divisions within the body!) The power of certain lingering stereotypes of the Church shape most persons’ sense of the Church. Shrill voices set themselves against any form of religious belief, throwing out the time-worn clichés of the Crusades, the Inquisition, the silencing of Galileo, the so-called “wars of religion” - it is easier to repeat clichés than to examine them closely.

For a brilliant book on this read the American Orthodox theologian David Bentley Hart. He has a great title: *Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and Its Fashionable Enemies* (Yale University Press, 2009). So the common view in the secular culture is that “religion” is responsible for most of the hatred and violence in the world; therefore, if we just get rid of “religion” what will result is a saner, more peaceful world.

I have been deeply influenced by a book that has this to say, in response: our world today needs not less “religion” but more. The book, *Flourishing: Why We Need Religion in a Globalized World*, was written by Miroslav Volf, now a professor at my Divinity School, Yale, but who as a boy grew up in Croatia, the son of a Pentecostal minister who had found God in the hell of a communist labour camp, and a mother who cultivated a deep and authentic spirituality. Volf came of age in the 1960s, on the margins of a culture that was predominantly Orthodox. In school, the faith of his parents and their Christian community was a heavy burden; Volf’s sense of being different from his peers and from the larger culture around him caused him “almost unbearable shame”, as he later said, and he struggled against his inherited faith.
But as an adolescent he experienced a profound conversion. The process of having to define himself as a Christian, to explain what that faith represented, what that faith stood for, in a culture, the communist culture of former Yugoslavia, that was quite openly hostile to that faith, forced him to think through the larger and deeper questions of his life.

Volf says of himself in the introduction to the book that “important impulses in my parents’ faith…have remained with me. I consider God’s relation to human beings and human beings’ relation to God to be the condition of possibility for human life and flourishing in all dimensions. I believe that faith and politics are two distinct cultural systems but that an authentic faith is always engaged, at work to relieve personal suffering as well as to push against social injustice, political violence, and environmental degradation”.

One of Volf’s most persistent and powerful themes is that as human beings our human desires are insatiable: for more things, for better things, for this, for that, whatever is advertised by the culture around us as what we should want. But we cannot live by bread alone: “the proper object of human satiability is God”. Volf says: “the course of world history - including the shape, direction, and significance of globalization - is ultimately decided in the contest of desires in people's hearts: for the God ‘above’ this world or for the idols of this world”.

The Christian view of life and the world centres upon our ability to hear the voice of God that calls us to love as Christ loved. As Volf puts it, “we hear a voice from heaven in the depths of our being, calling us to love God above all things and to love our neighbours as ourselves, and our lives are turned around”. Globalization in itself is neither wholly good nor wholly bad: “When the role of law is established and goods and services are exchanged fairly, people's incentives for violence lessen and their interest in peace intensifies. On the other hand, driven as they are by the ‘commercial spirit,’ in their present form globalization processes are undermining the health of the global ecosystem, widening the gap between the rich and the poor, and eroding global solidarity. Even as it is generating conditions for peace, market-driven globalization is simultaneously generating new conditions for violence.”

Volf says that religious faiths exist to express their central visions of the means of the flourishing of human beings connected to the Divine. They contain indispensable resources for reconciliation among people. We need their alternative vision of human flourishing! More religion, not less! So: reconciliation. Reconciliation has five basic elements, for Volf: remember, forgive, apologise, repair, and embrace.

- **Remember.** Remember rightly! Right remembering is obviously critical to this element. Remember wrongdoing suffered and committed, truthfully.

- **Forgive.** Offer forgiveness as an unconditional gift.
- **Apologise.** Express sorrow not only for our own guilt and shame but for the suffering we have wrongfully caused.

- **Repair.** Repair as much of the damage that has been caused as is possible. Our willingness to repair the damage we have caused affirms the genuineness of our apology.

- **Embrace.** Liberated from the wrongs of the past, we are freed to turn toward one another in an active embrace, beginning a new and just relationship.

The model for our reconciliation is given us in our Gospel reading, Luke's telling of Jesus' parable of a broken family: a son's departure, and that same son's joyful homecoming. Henri Nouwen, a Belgian Roman Catholic and one of my professors at Yale Divinity school in the late 70s, wrote a beautiful book-length meditation on Rembrandt's painting of this story of the Prodigal Son. It is a profound meditation on a "love that existed before any rejection was possible and that will still be there after all rejections have taken place. It is the first and everlasting love of a God who is Father as well as Mother….Jesus's whole life and preaching had only one aim: to reveal this inexhaustible, unlimited motherly and fatherly love of his God and to show the way to let that love guide every part of our daily lives….a love that always welcomes home and always wants to celebrate!"

We all participate to a greater or lesser degree in all the forms of human brokenness. We may identify with the younger son, in our short-sighted desires, or the older son, in our envy, but we must turn our attention to the Father if we are to fathom the profundity of this story.
Nouwen says that becoming the compassionate Father is the ultimate goal of the spiritual life. In grieving that is prayer, forgiveness that is unconditional, and generosity that is an outpouring of our very lives, these three qualities of the Father, we allow the image of God the Father to grow in us. And that is the message; that is the goal: to be reconciled.

We in this room have more in common with one another than with most of those outside these walls. We have come tonight to worship together and to share food with one another; our Christian faith is what unites us. It is our shared discipleship of Christ the Son that enables us to embrace the image of the loving, reconciling Father. These bonds of Christian fellowship are clear and strong and indivisible; they will hold us together no matter what globalization, earthquakes, failures of governments, personal tragedies, or any other calamities bring us and befall us.

Let us embrace together, then, the ministry of reconciliation that God has entrusted to us. Each of us has a special task that only you and I can undertake; each is indispensible to the functioning and flourishing of the larger body of Christ. Only together can we accomplish what it is that God has intended for God’s good world. In a time when the voices of the secular culture threaten to drown out any other voices, in a time when larger forces in our world undermine the flourishing of individual human beings, each precious to God, in a time when the Church may indeed be entering a period on the absolute margins, in the wilderness, it is critical that we embrace one another and put aside all that seemingly divides us.

This is the message of reconciliation that has been entrusted to us, this is the mission of reconciliation that God has empowered us to undertake. Joining hands, with gladness and joy, let us go outside these walls to proclaim, to all, the love that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen!

The Rev. Dana English is assistant chaplain of All Saints Anglican parish in Rome.
Anglican Evensong at St Peter’s - 12th March 2017 Feast of St Gregory the Great (Usus Antiquor)

REV. JOHN TABOR

Living in Rome, it can be easy to let big set piece events of sometimes historical significance, pass by. The House timetable is necessarily there to set the shape of each day and so ensure that everything is done in a due and timely manner. Time, as the adage goes, is never quite on one’s side…

However, on the occasion of the first ever Anglican Evensong to be celebrated in St Peter’s, time was definitely available. By the kindness and good offices of Archbishop David Moxon, Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, and a good friend to the House over several years, we not only received tickets, but the six members of the House who went were given front row seats. It was quite a vantage point from which to see a piece of ecumenical history in the making. The Rector, along with several others, including the Rector of the Irish College, sat in choir. Cardinal Pell was also present – he has made many trips to the United Kingdom and knows both the monastic and Anglican traditions well.

It was particularly appropriate that Choral Evensong, was sung by the Merton College Choir with great beauty and sensitivity allowing for a fusion of music and language which quite literally lifted the present writer upwards, as it displayed the monastic roots of the Anglican Order of Evening Prayer. The Benedictine monks, originally sent to England by Pope St Gregory, under the leadership of St Augustine of Canterbury, brought with them the tradition of chanted or sung offices. Before the Reformation, many of England’s cathedrals were also Benedictine priories – such as Canterbury, Durham, Winchester, and of course Westminster Abbey, from which the present day English Benedictine Congregation claims a direct succession.

The music for the St Peter’s Service, under St Peter’s Chair included motets written by William Byrd (c.1539/40-1623), himself a Catholic in those challenging times immediately
following the Reformation, including the introit and the motet *Justorum animae*. There were also three hymns in the best English tradition – reminiscent of school Masses and sung *con brillo*!

Archbishop Moxon led the service which contained a prayer not only with a prayer for “Our Rulers” taken from the Irish Book of Common Prayer as well as a prayer for the Holy Father, whose fourth anniversary of election to the See of Peter also fell on this day. It was indeed a day of great moment and a special one for the two Churches, Catholic and Anglican.

The sermon was preached by Archbishop Arthur Roche, Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Archbishop Arthur drew upon the example of St Gregory in his evangelising endeavours and painted a picture of a society not dissimilar to our own.

In 1980, the Dean of Westminster Abbey invited all the Benedictine monks in the England and Wales to a joint Evensong/Vespers, to celebrate the 1500 years since St Benedict’s birth. The procession of monks came in with Cardinal Hume, of Westminster and monk of Ampleforth, at the rear. It was only the second time Catholic Vespers had been sung in the Abbey, since the second dissolution of Westminster Abbey under Queen Elizabeth. The first had been on 25th March 1976, the evening of Archbishop Basil Hume’s episcopal ordination. Few then, at those two historic moments, could have foreseen that within a generation, the setting for an Anglican Evensong would be in the heart of St Peter’s. It was a privilege to be there and a moment that will be remembered for a very long time to come. At the beginning of the 2nd Vatican Council, the Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation, Dom Christopher Butler of Downside, came to Rome as one of the Council Fathers. A convert from Anglicanism, he was one of the leading English-speaking Council Fathers, who did a great deal to ensure the place of Biblical scholarship in Catholic thinking, as well as developing ecumenical endeavours in the United Kingdom. He described the Council as a “second conversion”. The Evensong in St Peter’s can justly be regarded as one of the fruits of the Council, for which Abbot Butler and his colleagues worked and prayed for.

Rev. John Tabor is a third year student for the Archdiocese of Westminster
Diaconate Ordinations Homily,
14 June 2017

RT REV. SEAMUS CUNNINGHAM, BISHOP OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE

When a bishop or a priest celebrates Mass he says on three or four occasions “The Lord be with you.” It is one of several little conversations he has with the congregation. And the people reply “And with your spirit”. It is an ancient greeting and reply coming from the Hebrew tradition and it is both a prayer and a statement. Strictly speaking he is both asking that the Lord may be with the people and pointing out that the Lord is with the people. The Angel says it to the Virgin Mary at the Annunciation and we repeat those words when we pray – Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

As a greeting in the Liturgy only an ordained minister is called upon to say it. From now on it will be on your lips every time you proclaim the Gospel. It is to become part of your conversation with the people whom you shall serve. In this tiny dialogue there is contained in a nutshell your ministry of diaconate.

Please God, you will be ordained priests one day. But at this moment you are being called to be deacons. Do not think of this as merely a phase or stepping stone on the path to priesthood. Every priest, every bishop shares this calling.

Just think about why these words “The Lord be with you” are used in proclaiming the Gospel. It is the same as that moment when Gabriel announced the Good News to Mary. The Good News is about the coming of Jesus Christ. You are called to tell the world that he is here and you are to pray that he may draw ever closer to us all.

In a world of so much bad news you are to bring Good News. We call this, of course, evangelisation. Many teaching documents emphasise that deacons engage in evangelisation in their place of work. We might be tempted to think this only applies to those called to the permanent diaconate. It applies to every deacon. From now on, you are to bring the Good News of Christ to those you encounter every day. It is to be done by word and especially by example.
We know that through our baptism every member of the Church is called to evangelise. So what is the difference for a deacon? Well you are called to stand as an official witness, a town crier for the City of God, to give a lead and an example so that others take their cue from you.

As deacons you are to stand with the laity on the margins between the Church and the world. You are not to bury yourself in the bosom of the Catholic community and speak only to the converted. As herald you are to stand out, to be heard above the hubbub of confusion and uncertainty. You are to proclaim Good News both in the Church and in the world.

But to bring Good News to others you first have to hear it yourself. Become ever more aware that the Lord is with you. He calls you to change and be conformed to the Gospel. To evangelise we must first of all be evangelised ourselves. Only if the Gospel speaks to my heart can I hope to announce it joyfully to a waiting world, to speak it with conviction to those who wonder, to speak it gently to the grieving and sorrowful and whisper it in the ears of the sick and the dying.

It is important that you pray the word of God and to be receptive. Hear what the word is saying to you. Discern so that you may teach the truth of his love and not the alternative truths that clutter our minds with easy assumptions. Only then are you in a position to move out from there and serve. We must ponder the word of God. When we ponder it
and listen to it, it should move from the Bible to the head but it mustn't stay in the head, it must move into the heart and when it moves into the heart it comes to life in us and has a transforming effect on us. Then we are in a position to go out and evangelise. Then we can speak with conviction and authority because now we are no longer speaking with that little part of our body called the head, we are speaking with the whole of our being and with power. Now we can touch the world with our lives and transform it.

As deacons you must be profoundly spiritual because of your calling to serve the needs of others in faith. You are called to a ministry of service. To announce that the Lord is with us is to do more than simply speak. It is to serve and in serving others you bring Christ into their lives.

Only if you live in close union with Christ through prayer and the Eucharist can you be sustained in your vocation when you go through lean periods and times when you feel your efforts are bearing little fruit. Let the Lord be with you in the hard times so that in your service he may be with others in their difficulties.

The charism of self-giving and eager availability lies at the heart of the spirituality of deacons. Listening to the Word of God and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit prepares you to respond to the people you meet and so your response will be one of compassion. You will be present to the poor, to those who suffer and you will delight in assisting them by your listening presence and words of guidance. So you must be
prepared then to listen, discern and respond. In this way you can reach out and serve those experiencing poverty of any kind – whether it be of body, mind or spirit.

Later on in the Rite you will hear me say: “Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are, believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you preach.” Through ordination you are empowered to go out and do just that. God’s whole being is ordered to self-emptying, self-giving. If we share in the mystery of Christ we come to see that we are only fully ourselves when we follow his example and give without counting the cost.

I would like to take this opportunity to speak to the families and friends of these brave heralds of the Gospel. Thank you for your support and help in these years of preparation, thank you for helping them grow in love, faith and discernment.

You who are concerned with formation: I thank you for your time and energy, your skill and expertise helping these candidates develop and mature.

But I ask you all for more, to be there for them in the time ahead, to support them in their ministry and to pray with me and with all the Church for vocations to the diaconate, to the priesthood and to all the various ministries carried out by God’s holy people.

The task is great, the harvest is rich but the labourers are so few. It seems so very daunting. You who are to be ordained may, indeed should, wonder if it is possible to bring in the harvest. The truth is: it is impossible without the help of Jesus Christ. But do not be afraid, the Lord is with you, the Lord be with you.
Memories of Uncle Christopher

Mgr Joseph Cuthbert Lamb, Vice-Rector of the Pontifical Beda College -
born 16th July 1909; died 17th September 1964

CHRISTOPHER LAMB

I never met my great-uncle but whenever I heard him mentioned my ears pricked up as we shared the same name. My parents told me I had been called Christopher after him, so I was eager to learn more about the man who had, in his own way, played a part in who I was.

Funnily enough, he wasn't really a Christopher. Joseph Cuthbert Lamb didn’t like his baptismal names so chose to be called Christopher, or Chris, and when he was younger went by the nickname “Cuppers”.

To us he was “Uncle Christopher”, the priest of our family, always talked of fondly but often in wistful undertones. At just 55 he had died far too young, cut off in his prime after 17 years of priestly ministry when he had been destined for great things. So although he had died 18 years before I was born, his memory was still alive.

My first encounters with Uncle Christopher were during visits to the church he is buried in, a Pugin-designed gem called Our Lady and St Wilfrid in Warwick Bridge, near Carlisle on the border between England and Scotland. It is a stone’s throw from the banks of the River Eden loved by Cardinal Basil Hume for its salmon-fishing and situated just below the fells where my great-uncle went hiking. It’s a small, close knit parish with recusant links, where parish priests joke that having a copy of Debrett’s Peerage is a useful induction tool.

As a young boy, my family would traipse off to Warwick Bridge church for Mass where my brothers and I would sit in its wooden pews fidget, giggle and fail to concentrate. Nevertheless, and largely through a process of osmosis, something of the generations of praying forebears and the spirituality of the Benedictine monks who used to run the parish rubbed off on me.
It also became our ritual that straight after the final blessing we charged around the church’s garden outside, playing games that involved jumping on our great-uncle’s large, flat gravestone which lay in the priest’s corner.

Some of the fellow parishioners looked on disapprovingly but my mother was quick to explain to the tut-tutters that it was, actually, a family member we were running over and he probably wouldn’t mind too much. My father found our antics quite funny, as though we were continuing something of a family tradition.

He remembered his younger brother and sister clambering over their priest-uncle in the garden of my grandparents’ house while he was sitting on a bench praying his morning office. “I think he’d be amused at you boys jumping on him now,” my father told us.

Everyone I’ve spoken to describes Uncle Christopher as a kind, self-effacing and talented individual, albeit a little shy or reserved. He was often described as a holy priest who had a great rapport with children and at ease with his family and close friends.

“He gave the impression that if you had a problem you could go to him, and he would listen,” said Mary McDermott. Her husband Brian worked at the British Embassy to the Holy See and they both knew my uncle when they lived in Rome.

For a large chunk of his priestly ministry Mgr Lamb was based in the Eternal City and at the Beda College, first as a student and then from 1954 to 1964 serving as Professor of Moral Theology, Spiritual Director and Vice-Rector.

“He was without any doubt the most popular student of his time,” according to an obituary in the Glasgow Observer (now the Scottish Catholic Observer). “His quiet charm, deep spirituality and exquisite charity were qualities which endeared him to his fellow students.”

But Uncle Christopher’s path to the priesthood was not completely straightforward. He was sent to St Edmund’s College, Ware in Cambridge - which also operated a junior seminary - and then studied Railway Economics at Christ’s College, Cambridge University before becoming a barrister. He started as a seminarian in Fribourg, Switzerland in 1932 but decided to press the pause button on his formation. The story was that he had a “crisis of confidence” while there was also someone he could have got married to. Whatever Uncle Christopher was struggling with, it always sounded to me like the normal soul-searching of anyone who was considering ordination.
The Second World War ended up being the turning point for him. After rising to the rank of Major in the Border Regiment he was on Field Marshal Montgomery’s staff in Normandy, prior to that he fought at Dunkirk and was later mentioned in dispatches.

It is likely to have been my great-uncle’s experience of war, which forces people to face their mortality, that propelled him back into training for the priesthood.

As a mature student he was sent to the Beda after the war and was ordained in 1947. Given his background, Uncle Christopher might have opted to join one of the Church’s more prestigious religious orders such as the Benedictines, Oratorians or Jesuits but it was a mark of his close affiliation to his local church that he chose to become a priest of the Diocese of Lancaster.

My family has for generations been linked to the England-Scotland border region as farmers, landowners and later riding the wave of the industrial boom and becoming coal producers. This meant that along with being a priest Mgr Lamb owned a large agricultural estate in Cumbria, which was managed by my grandfather.

Uncle Christopher always remained connected to those farmers and the fells on which they nurtured their stock, often spending his summers in the north. It was in Cumbria where he could relax, and unwind and he became an active member of the Achille Ratti climbing club in the Lake District where he would say Mass for groups who had scaled the peaks of Helvellyn. The club was named after Mgr Achille Ratti - later Pius XI - who had been an accomplished climber in northern Italy.

Uncle Christopher’s roles at the Beda meant he was closely involved in priestly formation, always seeking to to encourage the ideas of younger priests and to spend his spare time with them. His charitable approach along with a reserved and gentle manner won him the respect of many and he was tipped as a possible Bishop of Lancaster after the death of Bishop Thomas Flynn in 1961.

“He gave so much and asked so little in return,” his obituary explained.

Uncle Christopher was also involved in Rome at a time of upheaval and change in the Church, and was at the Beda for the early sessions of the Second Vatican Council. Although he died before its final conclusions he had already embraced the Council’s direction of travel, particularly on the Church’s new relationship with fellow Christians.

“Long before the word ecumenical came to have its present meaning he had a positive and friendly attitude towards non-Catholics many of whom he numbered among his friends,” the obituary noted.
One of his first acts as a priest was to preside at the marriage of his brother, Richard Lamb - my grandfather - and my grandmother, Daphne, a lifelong Anglican who always spoke in the warmest terms about her brother-in-law.

“It will be the first time I officiate at a wedding, and what could be a more appropriate occasion!” he wrote in a letter to her in December 1947. “Thank you so much for wanting me to do so, it would be a great joy for me.”

A decade and a half later he fell ill, and after a brief recovery Uncle Christopher died in September 1964, to the shock and sadness of many. Writing in The Tablet the former Rector of the Beda, Mgr J. Curtin, said Mgr Lamb’s death left a “grievous gap in the ecclesiastical side of life in Rome” while his obituary lamented that he died before being able to “achieve his maximum influence.” In a sign of the affection for him, the Bishop of Lancaster, Brian Foley, broke off from the Council’s work in Rome in order to be present at the requiem Mass in St Mary and St Joseph’s church, in Carlisle.

Years later, and his presence is still felt. We are still regular visitors to Cumbria; we go to Mass at Warwick Bridge church and visit the gravestone - although I’ve stopped jumping on it! - and it was my father that inherited his uncle’s farming assets.

I’ve also thought he was connected with my move to Rome as a journalist covering the Vatican and Pope Francis, spurring me on in that elusive way that our ancestors inspire us beyond the grave.

Today in the Beda’s chapel, Mgr Lamb’s silver chalice and paten are still used during feast days, and sit in a box with a note from my grandfather saying they should remain at the College unless a member of the Lamb family becomes a priest.

As things stand the Beda will be holding onto them, but for my great-uncle the continued use of his sacred items at Mass fulfils that scriptural phrase: “You are a priest forever.”

Christopher Lamb is Rome Correspondent for The Tablet, the international Catholic weekly, and a contributor to the BBC, La Stampa and The Sunday Times.
From Picasso to Praenotanda

FR ENDA MURPHY

I have to confess that the Editor of *The Beda Review* is not the first person to ask me to explain what my work in the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments involves! It reminded me of the time I asked a classmate in the seminary to explain the meaning of a Bob Dylan lyric. “Heck,” he said “you might as well ask me to explain a Picasso!” Because of the multifaceted work carried out at the Congregation, with its intercontinental reach, it can be hard to give a quick explanation about what we do, but here goes.

When I arrived to start work as an Official at the Congregation almost two years ago a superior told me that one of the most important words I would learn is “competency”. In other words when a file comes to your desk you have to know if it is the competency of the Congregation to deal with it or should it be forwarded to another Dicastery of the Holy See. The competencies of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments are laid out in St John Paul II’s Apostolic Constitution *Pastor bonus*, which governs the operation of the Roman Curia at numbers 62 to 70. Chief amongst these competencies is “the regulation and promotion of the sacred liturgy, primarily of the sacraments”.

In order to fulfil this mission of regulation and promotion the Congregation is divided into four offices. Offices one and two are the liturgical offices and are basically structured along language lines with the first office mainly dealing with the Romance languages and the second office dealing with English, German, and other languages of greater or lesser diffusion throughout the world. The third office deals with the discipline of the sacraments and it plays an extremely important role in applying canon law regarding the liturgy as well as making judgements regarding dispensations of various types. The disciplinary section of the Congregation, like the liturgical offices, seeks to be of service to bishops and faithful alike through the particular expertise and knowledge which it brings to the cases referred to its competency. Finally, the fourth office deals with art, architecture and sacred music.
I am located in the second office, mostly dealing with texts and correspondence from the English speaking world. In the Catholic Church the most used language is Spanish but because of its position as a global *lingua franca* in so many spheres English also has its own importance and stature.

I feel our most important work is aiding Bishops’ Conferences in the publication of the vernacular editions of the liturgical books. It’s our responsibility to publish the original Latin editions of the books and then to ensure that the various vernacular versions faithfully reproduce their contents and to approve any variations that an Episcopal Conference may request. Work of this nature is both solitary and collaborative in nature and as you might imagine it takes time and attention to detail. It might not always be realized that the Congregation doesn’t just provide a rubber stamping service, rather we assist the Holy Father in his mission as chief shepherd of the Church so that the unity and integrity of the Roman Rite can be protected and promoted.

One of the things I have found most fascinating and interesting is the ongoing work of translation. I have been impressed by the seriousness with which bishops take the task of translating liturgical texts, their desire to be faithful to the genius of the original, yet their sensitivity to the pastoral needs of their people. It is also an example of collegiality amongst bishops.

Another important area is receiving bishops when they come to Rome on their *Ad limina* visits. The opportunity to listen to these pastors from radically different geographic, social, economic and religious parts of the world can be humbling when one hears of their struggles to preach the Gospel of Christ in often very hostile environments. The words of the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World of the Second Vatican Council tend to resonate: “The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ” (*Gaudium et Spes* n. 1). The Congregation for Divine Worship strives to be a listening ear for the varying liturgical issues which bishops raise. Because of our global view we are often able to advise or encourage bishops from one part of the world with the experience and wisdom that comes from another part. At the very least we can let them know that they are not the only Bishops’ Conference to be facing difficulties or problems in the promotion of the liturgy!

Liturgists often like to talk about *lex orandi* and *lex credendi*, the Latin adage of Prosper of Aquitaine which holds that the law of prayer establishes the law of belief. Working in the Congregation for Divine Worship certainly gives me ever greater
respect for the *lex orandi*. It is a great gift that has been handed on to us and should be approached with great humility so that when the Church raises up its voice in liturgical prayer and praise to God she expresses that which she truly is – Christ’s body united head and members in the Paschal Mystery of the Lord.

*Fr Enda Murphy is a priest of the Diocese of Kilmore, Ireland. He works in the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments and gained a Doctorate in Liturgy from Sant’Anselmo in Rome. He has taught Sacramental Theology at the Beda since October 2016.*
The monks of The Abbey of Saint Paul outside the Walls have opened a monastic workshop of sacred vestments and liturgical art, Agorà Atelier San Paolo.

The opening hours are: Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm and by appointment.

The entrance is at Via Ostiense 186 (the Monastery entrance) and then via the monastic pharmacy shop.

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The Beda College Coat of Arms

FR JOHN CARLYLE

Visitors to the Beda may sometimes catch sight of a coat of arms etched into the glass on the front door of the building. Those College arms cause passing comment occasionally, but they are worth looking at in detail, since they tell the story of our past in coded, heraldic form.

The Pontifical insignia

We begin with what is sometimes called “the papal flag” which is hoisted near the front gate on high days and holy days. In fact, it is the flag of the Vatican City State, rather than of the pope himself or the Catholic Church, and was first adopted following the establishment of the Vatican as a separate state by the Lateran Treaty in 1929. It consists of a banner divided into two areas, one yellow and the other white. In the white field is a representation of two keys, one gold, one silver, loosely tied together by a red cord and surmounted by a papal tiara.

This heraldic design was first used two hundred years ago, during the reign of Pope Pius VII (1800-1823). It is a symbol which appears very frequently across Rome, and any Roman citizen will recognise it instantly. It is displayed as an ornament atop the walls surrounding the Vatican; it appears on souvenirs on sale in the Vatican Museums and on numerous trinkets bought by pilgrims and tourists in local shops. As a Pontifical college, the Beda has the right to make use of this papal badge as an ornament to the shield on its coat of arms, and it is worthwhile examining its meaning.

Any Catholic will recognise the keys as a reminder of the proclamation by Christ that he would give the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven to Peter as a sign of his authority to loose and bind in heaven and on earth. Indeed, in Christian art, Peter has been represented by keys as the insignia of his authority since the fifth century. The gold key represents
Peter's authority in heaven, the silver key his authority on earth. In keeping with normal heraldic tradition, the gold key is always laid over the silver key. The handles are turned downwards as representing the fact that they are in the Pope's hands on earth. The wards point upwards to show that his power of binding and loosing concerns even heaven itself, and they are cut in the shape of a cross to remind us that it is through Christ's death that papal authority exists at all.

The tiara above the two keys takes us back a generation or two from our own time. No-one under the age of about sixty will have seen a pope actually wearing the triple tiara, except as recorded on film. It was only worn on the most solemn non-liturgical occasions and was last used in 1963 when Pope Paul VI was crowned. All later popes have declined the use of what amounts to a symbol of monarchical rule. St John Paul II retained the papal tiara on his coat of arms, but Pope Benedict and now Pope Francis have replaced it with a mitre.

The tiara itself has a long history which has been traced back to Pope St Sylvester I (314-335), but that may be more legend than fact. At first it was a tall, unadorned, conical cap, but gradual additions culminated, by the fourteenth century, in three coronets placed around the cap. There is evidence that there was an allusion to the Blessed Trinity in this. Others saw it as referring to the three parts of the known world in earlier centuries: Africa, Asia and Europe. A symbolism was also seen in the tiara representing the three churches; militant, penitent and triumphant. Whatever the meaning, it is noticeable that the coat of arms of our present Holy Father retains the three coronets today, but hardly recognisable as such, being now three simple gold bands across the mitre.

That aside, today the triple tiara is used as a sign of dignity on the coats of arms of pontifical academies, universities and colleges, the Beda College being one of them.

**The shield**

It would be wrong to show the keys and tiara on the armorial shield itself; they are purely for external ornament. However, the connection which the College has with the papacy is shown on the shield, and seen very clearly by those who recognise what they are looking at. The broad band down the middle of the shield, technically known as a pale, is divided into three parts, each representing a pope who has played a particular role in the College's history. At the top is a representation of the arms of Pope Pius IX who founded the Collegio Pio, the predecessor to the Beda, in 1852. In the centre of the shield are the arms of Pope Leo XIII who re-founded the College in 1879. At the bottom are Pope Pius XII's arms. To the sides of the pale are six red roundels; three on the left and three on the right.
Pope Pius IX was born of Italian nobility; the son of Count Girolamo Mastai-Ferretti. On his election as Pope in 1846, he naturally adopted his family's arms as his personal standard and it can still be seen around the city of Rome. It appears most notably only a few hundred yards from the Beda in the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, since it was he who consecrated the “new” basilica after the disastrous fire there in 1823.

When Leo XIII re-founded the College, he suggested the name of St Bede as its patron. It was natural, therefore, that we should add his arms to those of Pius IX. His family, the Peccis, were also of an ancient lineage. However, different branches of the family adopted various symbols on their arms from a confusing array of pine trees, fleurs-de-lys, rose bushes, stars and comets. Pope Leo’s arms are, therefore, drawn from a combination of some of these.

The College’s premises, during the earlier years of the twentieth century, in the Via San Nicolò da Tolentino, were never entirely satisfactory. Noise from the apartments of nearby neighbours was a constant problem. As far back as the 1930s Mgr Duchemin, the Rector, was on the lookout for better premises. It was Pope Pius XII who finally solved the problem by granting a large plot of land to us in the 1950s on what is now the Viale di San Paolo. In acknowledgment of their gratitude the College added the Pius XII arms to its own shield.

The symbolism in the arms Pope Pius XII is clear. A dove, with an olive branch in its beak stands on a hill rising on a green plain above flood waters. One might presume that this symbol of peace was first adopted by Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli on being elected pope in 1939, as war clouds gathered over Europe, but this would be a mistake. In fact, they were the arms taken by his father, the lawyer Filippo Pacelli, when he was created a Papal Marquis and Italian Prince in 1929, in recognition of his part in negotiating the Lateran Treaty by which the Vatican State was formally established. Prince Pacelli was also granted the extraordinary right to include the papal tiara and cross-keys on his shield, in view the importance of his work.

Finally, we are left with the six red roundels, or torteaux in heraldic language. Before the addition of the arms of Pius XII, these were placed together on the lower half of the shield. Now they are separated. They would seem to be an allusion to the arms of Achille...
Ratti, who was born near Milan in 1857, and who became Pope Pius XI in 1922. However, he displayed only three torteaux on his shield beneath a black eagle. His arms, like those of his predecessors, are also very ancient and can be traced back as far as the thirteenth century to a family, from Tortona not far south of Milan, by the name of De Ratis.

Students and staff of the Beda in the 1930s were regular visitors to the Vatican at the invitation of Pius XI who took a particular interest in the College's welfare. A number of photographs of the whole College body, which were taken at the time of such visits, hang on the walls of our corridors. Of special importance, however, is the large painting which nowadays hangs near the entrance to the chapel. This depicts some of the formally recognised English martyrs, and was presented to the College by Pius XI in 1931 to mark their recent beatification. His arms can be seen painted onto the elaborate frame.

It is right that the College should publicly display its connections with these four popes on its coat of arms, not out of a sense of boastfulness, but rather out of gratitude for their active support and encouragement.

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Fr John Carlyle is a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and an alumnus of the College. He has been on the formation staff of the Beda as one of the Spiritual Directors since February 2015.
The Beda Year

HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHS

First Year Students
(left to right) Mark O'Farrell, Norm Allred, Canon Philip Gillespie, Adrian Lowe, Oak Rosapartik

Second Year Students
(left to right) Paul Spellman, William McQuillan, William Pillai, Ben Brooks, Patrick Harrigan, Ronald Campbell, Canon Philip Gillespie, Alan Hodgson, Mike Brookes, Thomas Varavunkal, Graham Fullick, Anicet Muyungu, Damian Louden
Third Year Students

(left to right) Simon Sibisi, Brendan Gormley, Paul Smith, John Tabor, John Lovell, Anthony Kelly, Canon Philip Gillespie, Philip Carr, Carl Mugan, Alex Mariasousai, Gerard de Silva, Paul Sia, Brian Muling

Absent: Tom Sneyd

Fourth Year Students

(left to right) Brillis Matthew, Ronald Seery, Michael Barrett, John Warnaby, Canon Philip Gillespie, Andrew Senay, Patrick Aboagye, Ed Gibney
Resident Beda Staff
(left to right) Canon John Carlyle, Sr Patricia McDonald, Canon Philip Gillespie, Mgr Peter Verity, Sr Carmel Spratt, Fr John Breen

External Students
(left to right) Aji Alphonse, Modestus Aloys, Ignatius Tully, Canon Philip Gillespie, Richard Masanja, Wilhad Shayo, Arthur Bolivar, Lodovico Torrisi

Sister Carmel FMDM

Personale
Back Row (left to right): Anna, Orietta, Annalisa, Gabriella, Edna
Front Row (left to right): Ida, Pina, Angelo, Lucia, Canon Philip Gillespie, Ivano, Gaetano, Maria Grazia, Theresa
Arriving in Rome to begin a course of formation and study at the Beda College may seem a little daunting for anyone beginning their first year at seminary. However, the Beda has an excellent induction programme for new seminarians which supports and helps their transition into this new way of life, which for many students for the priesthood, will be some considerable distance from home, often arriving with a sense of leaving family and friends behind, at least for the first few months of the term.

The first year were treated to an interesting and educational timetable which was supported by the Rector and staff of the seminary and a group of seminarians from upper years. We were immediately welcomed and made to feel very much at home. As well as learning to find our way around the seminary grounds, we were taken to see something of Rome and helped to orient ourselves in the city and surrounding area. The new intake have fond memories of Mass at St Peter’s and a visit to the Castelli towns of Frascati, Castel Gandolfo and Nemi, we also had a moving visit to the Catacombs of Rome and the Ardeatine Caves where 335 men were executed in WWII.

The induction period, which has only the first years, staff and supporting students in the College, helps to establish something of the rhythm of seminary life before the upper years return, including times of community prayer and meals. Senior students also provide invaluable information regarding important things such as where to shop for stationery and the best place locally to get a haircut! In all seriousness, the help and patience of everyone involved during this period was very much appreciated and contributed to feeling relaxed and already a part of life at the Beda when the academic timetable began.

Adrian Lowe is a first year student for the Diocese of Brentwood
Visiting Rome?

Come and stay in your own private apartment at the Beda College

At the Beda we have a completely self-contained apartment (with parking) available to rent from October to June for any period from 2 days to a fortnight.

The bright, airy, quiet apartment consists of a double bedroom, bathroom, kitchenette and lounge/dining area with fold down futon settee to sleep two more people.

You can choose self-catering or join the College Community for meals, or a mix of both.

The Beda is perfectly located next to the Basilica of St Paul’s Outside the Walls with lots of shops, excellent bars and great value restaurants within walking distance. A regular bus service brings you right into the city centre and San Paolo metro station is 5 mins walk away.

Rates are extremely competitive and start at €100/£90 for two people per night.

For more information and to book, please email: pa@bedacollege.com
Friday 23rd September

The Induction Period began with four new men in the First Year, drawn from as far afield as Thailand, Utah, Ireland and Brentwood. We were also joined by three external students and a visiting Anglican exchange student, Ross Meikle, who would remain with us for the early part of the semester.

Wednesday 5th October

The main body of the House reassembled. That evening there was Papal Vespers at San Gregorio, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury was present. The Rector and a sizeable party of staff and students went from the Beda.

Friday 7th October – Sunday 9th October

Members of the IARCUM Group, having attended Mass at St Paul’s came for breakfast and spoke highly of the warm welcome and hospitality they received here. That evening, the Period of Recollection began led by Mgr Peter Verity. After the frenetic activity of the first days back, it is a chance to step back and put God fully in the centre of things. In four very well-crafted reflections, Fr Peter took us through our summer placements and other activities, before moving forward to look at how each of us might use the coming academic year to deepen our relationship with Our Lord and also how we might continue building up a real sense of charity and unity in the House.

Monday 10th October

Lectures began and with them a plethora of essay and other assignment deadlines. An atmosphere of semi-ordered calm descended upon the House as the daily round began in earnest.
Friday 14th October

The first meeting of the Beda Forum took place. Ben Brooks (Second Year) was elected Chairman for this academic year with Ronald Seery (Fourth Year) elected Secretary. There was a wide-ranging discussion of various topics skilfully managed in under an hour by Fr John Breen, acting Chairman for the meeting.

Monday 17th October

Visit of the English Rectors for their twice-yearly meeting. The Rectors stayed for two days and appreciated the warm spirit and hospitality of the House. It is good to know that while each of the other English seminaries retain their own identities, the challenges and opportunities presented by the formation of students for the priesthood appear similar to all the seminaries.

Sunday 30th October

At 7.40 am at the beginning of Lauds, the chapel shook and the lamps above swayed. This was tremors from the earthquake then taking place at Norcia. Lauds continued apace - *Benedicite Omnia Opera Domini Domo*. There were some cracks discovered at St Paul’s but luckily no major structural damage at the Beda...

Tuesday 1st November: All Saints

This year’s Solemnity fell on a Tuesday. As such there was a holiday from lectures after Community Mass at 7.30 am. A chance to relax and enjoy some additional recreation beyond that afforded in the usual daily round.

Thursday 3rd November

The First Year, together with some of the formation staff and those students from other years involved in the Induction Period went to Greccio for their *gita*. As well as taking the opportunity to look at the cribs made famous by St Francis, the Umbrian countryside afforded some magnificent scenery. This was particularly appreciated on the way to and from a sumptuous lunch which was greatly enjoyed by all concerned.

Sunday 6th November

Plenary staff meeting and Academic Mass: this was the first “set piece” occasion of the year. Following the staff meeting Mass was held at 11.30 am, presided over by the Rector. Francis Campbell, Vice- Chancellor of St Mary’s came to present the awards to the Graduating Class of 2016. In an encouraging and warm speech, he praised the work undertaken at the Beda
and singled out for special mention Sr Patricia McDonald, for her continued hard work as Academic Coordinator. A Vin D’Honneur followed downstairs before a familial festive lunch which allowed the celebrations to continue. The Rector led the House in singing *Ad Multos Annos*, for those now equipped with their “professional qualification”.

**Sunday 13th November**

Remembrance Sunday Mass at San Silvestro: This year the Beda was responsible for the liturgy at this Mass at the Pallottine church, where we were also joined by members of the English and Scots Colleges. The Rector preached powerfully on the theme of Remembrance. Present in the church was a Bersaglierie trumpeter from the Italian Army who played the Last Post at the end of Mass. The mid-semester break began after lunch – a chance to recharge batteries and prepare for the busy run-up to Christmas and beyond…. 

**Wednesday 23rd November**

45 Jubilarians joined the house for a festive lunch. This is now an annual event and is a fixed item in the Jubilarians’ week-long stay in Rome. It is a privilege to be able to spend time with these worthy workers in the Lord’s Vineyard and to share in this very familial aspect of the presbyteral brotherhood. Among the Jubilarians was HE Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor, sometime Rector of the English College, who in a witty and engaging speech shared something of his own Jubilee and priestly life.

That evening the Rector celebrated the Beda Mass of Remembrance for those alumni of the House who had died over the past year, as well as friends and family of the present Beda community. It was a simple, yet moving liturgy, with prayer at its centre.

**Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th November**

The Advent Recollection this year was given by Fr Anthony Doe, Spiritual Director at the English College. His theme was being chosen and responding to the call of vocation – in all its human and spiritual aspects. His two talks were full of insight and practical encouragement, drawing on scripture and his own work over many years as a psychotherapist in the Diocese of Westminster and elsewhere.
**Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} - Sunday 4\textsuperscript{th} December**

The First Year, accompanied by the Rector and Fr John Breen went for their first visit to Palazzola and an opportunity to spend some consolidated time together as a year group. By all accounts the weather was kind and they enjoyed the bracing air and tranquil aspect afforded by the Villa and its environs.

**Wednesday 7\textsuperscript{th} December**

Thirteen men in the Third Year were admitted as Candidates for Holy Orders by Archbishop Arthur Roche, Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments during the Wednesday Community Mass. In his homily, the Archbishop drew on the life and the example of St Ambrose of Milan, whose feast day it was, as a model for the priestly life of service through prayer and work. A festive dinner followed at which congratulations and a toast *ad Multos Annos*, were offered to the new Candidates.

**Thursday 8\textsuperscript{th} December**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: As it fell on a Thursday, morning Mass at 7.30 am was followed by the customary free day.

**Friday 9\textsuperscript{th} December**

The resident community came together for the second House Meeting of the term, with a review of the many activities undertaken in the weeks since the end of September when the year began.

**Wednesday 14\textsuperscript{th} December**

The First Year treated the rest of the House to the annual Concert, which is an occasion where enthusiasm, talent and organisation are harnessed to produce an evening of convivial entertainment and bonhomie.

**Sunday 18\textsuperscript{th} December**

The traditional Advent Liturgy took place in the evening, led as in previous years by Fr John Breen. The Liturgy makes use of all the gathering spaces around the House, beginning in the Student Common Room, before moving into the Chapel and from there in carolling procession to the Refectory for a festive supper, kindly provided by the Personale as their Christmas gift to the House.
Monday 19th December
The Christmas break began with some of the community dispersing as far afield as the Outer Hebrides, Utah, the Isle of Man, Paris and elsewhere. A small group remained in the House to ensure that Christmas would be celebrated in an appropriately joyful manner con brillo….

Sunday 8th January
The House reassembled refreshed after the Christmas break. As per last year, we were joined by Mgr Rod Strange who was enjoying his post-Christmas holiday with us for a week. He brought with him news of his daily round at St Mary’s and elsewhere – for instance Australia and Wonnersh, where he had been teaching during the latter part of the last academic year.

Monday 9th January
Lectures began and exams began to appear on the horizon….

Sunday 15th - Sunday 22nd January
Tish Nicholl paid her usual post-Christmas visit to develop and enhance public speaking and singing skills with each student.

Monday 16th January
The House attended a lecture from the London team of Marriage Care UK, who gave a presentation on their work in preparing and assisting married couples. In particular, the presentation highlighted research carried out in 2016 among 17 couples, specifically in relation to Catholic identity and experience, particularly in the parish context. The team were in Rome for a meeting with Cardinal Farrell, the Prefect of the new dicastery on Marriage and Family Life. The presentation led to a stimulating and useful discussion on the development of a more integrated practice between clergy and laity in marriage preparation and accompaniment.

Wednesday 18th January
Three sets of aftershocks from the earthquakes in Abruzzi were felt around the House just after 12.30 pm. In a show of continuity and consistency, classes continued as normal. The people of Abruzzi together with all those affected are in our prayers at this difficult time.

Saturday 21st January
The annual Beda Unity Service took place in the Chapel in the early evening as part of the Week of Christian Unity. The Homily was given by the Rev. Dana English, from All Saints Anglican church in Rome. We were joined by Archbishop David Moxon, as well as a number of ecumenical guests. A festive dinner followed carrying on the Beda tradition of liturgy moving seamlessly into hospitality and good cheer.
Wednesday 25th January

A number of Beda Deacons had the joy and privilege of serving at Papal Vespers at St Paul's. It is always a popular occasion in the Beda year and made all the more special this year by the presence of some of the House on the sanctuary.

Monday 30th January - Saturday 4th February

With the end of the semester on 28th January, the examination period began and stretched over the following week. It is an intense time, but the community remained in good heart and faced each day with courage and a positive outlook. The inter-semester break began on 5th February – a well-earned break from the rigours of the previous days.

Sunday 12th - Tuesday 21st February

The house reassembled, with changes for the major roles of refectori ans, masters of ceremonies and sacristan: the retiring individuals were replaced by bright-eyed enthusiasts keen to take on the challenges of fulfilling these duties just in time to see half of the student body leaving for extended retreats. The First and Second years experienced their retreat in-house from 13th – 18th February whilst the Third Year retired to Bagnoregio and the Fourth Year to Nemi for extended visits lasting until 21st February.

Monday 20th - Wednesday 22nd February

The silence of the retreats was a prelude to a return to recognised routines as lectures recommenced on 20th February for the First and Second Years and 22nd for the Third and Fourth Years. Although the weather was still cool at times, the sun began to make daily visits to remind us that the Roman heat was not far away. The goldfish were occasionally in evidence as they abandoned their winter-long skulking at the bottom of the ponds, although the terrapins were conspicuous by their non-appearance. Unfortunately, the mosquitoes were far less reserved and began to be evident to both the eyes and the skin.
Friday 24th - Sunday 26th February
The Second and Third Years travelled to Nemi for the biannual study weekend on human sexuality, on this occasion led by Brendan Geary of the Marist Brothers. The occasion proved to be an excellent forum for consideration of both pastoral ministry and human development.

Wednesday 1st March
The College celebrated Ash Wednesday prayerfully and energetically, with some particularly fervent students receiving the mark of the day early in the morning during their attendance at the first of the Station Masses here in Rome. The decision by the personale to induce Lenten fervour by foregoing the usual provision of boiled eggs at breakfast was an occasion of supreme penance for several members of the house.

Wednesday 15th March
Eleven Second Year students received the ministry of acolyte from Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham archdiocese, who with Bishop Michael Campbell of Lancaster and Bishop Terence Drainey of Middlesbrough had arrived at the Beda earlier in the day after spending time at “the other place” in Rome. Additionally, our three students from the diocese of East Anglia were fortunate enough to have their vicar general Fr David Bagstaff in attendance. The occasion was typically memorable both as a realisation of progress made in formation, and because of the generosity of spirit evident in the hard work of the rest of the house. Second Years responsible for sacristy, refectory and master of ceremony duties were given the day off by the special guest appearances of last year’s emeriti in those roles.

Wednesday 15th - Friday 17th March
Archbishop Bernard Longley and Bishops Michael Campbell and Terence Drainey carried out their annual visitation of the College, spending time with staff and students in groups and in individual sessions. The new acolytes began their liturgical duties, with the Third Year surrendering their roles on the sanctuary and returning to other duties.

Sunday 19th - Thursday 23rd March
The Third Sunday of Lent marked the beginning of the mid-semester break, with the House reassembling on the following Thursday. The weather was warm and sunny much of the time, providing a pleasant opportunity to be a Roman tourist for those who
remained at the College. Two of the terrapins – one large and also the smaller addition to the pond who had arrived in the autumn – made their appearance, although the second adult was nowhere to be seen.

**Sunday 26th March**

A busy week for the kitchen *personale* and refectory team began with this year’s Lenten Oasis. The occasion was celebrated with the Venerable English College attending for Mass and a festive meal that made the most of the permitted Sunday relaxation of the Lenten fast.

**Wednesday 29th March**

Today’s Station Mass, which programme is organised every year by the North American College, was celebrated at the San Paolo Basilica by Cardinal Harvey. The Beda assisted with the liturgy and invited the congregation back for breakfast before embarking on their daily programme of work.

**Friday 31st March**

A party of 9 archbishops and 15 bishops from the Episcopal Conference of Western Canada, accompanied by the diocesan administrator of Saskatoon diocese and the Rector of the Canadian Seminary here in Rome, attended the Beda for a festive meal. The conference had completed their *ad limina* visit earlier in the week, and celebrated Mass at San Paolo in the late afternoon before their arrival at the College. The occasion was particularly notable for the Conference president Archbishop Gagnon, an alumnus of the Beda who was resident here in the 1980s.

**Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th April**

Lent continued with a quiet weekend of recollection at the College, offering a time for prayer and contemplation in the midst of a very busy semester. Finding a proper balance in seminary continues to be as complex a challenge as it is in all walks of life.

**Tuesday 11th April**

The academic programme began a temporary hiatus in advance of the Easter Triduum.
**Wednesday 12\(^{th}\) April**

A group of students and staff – with numbers diminishing as the day went on – departed the College on the Seven Churches walk. The devotion was originated by St Philip Neri, and includes all four major basilicas. A packed lunch provided by the *personale* ensured that energy levels remained high.

**Thursday 13\(^{th}\) - Saturday 15\(^{th}\) April**

The liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the vigil of Easter Sunday were, as always, a great testament to the dedication and hard work of the liturgical teams responsible for music, ceremonies and the sacristy. Dean of Students John Warnaby led the vigil procession and sang the *Lumen Christi* as we processed into the chapel to celebrate the high point of the Church's year.

**Sunday 16\(^{th}\) April**

The Easter break began with many students leaving for well-deserved rests with family and friends. Several students joined the choir of the Venerable English College in their annual participation in the morning's Papal mass at St Peter's.

**Friday 21\(^{st}\) April**

Seminary alumnus Declan Brett of Hallam diocese was ordained priest at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield. The College was represented by Spiritual Director Mgr Peter Verity and Second Year student Patrick Harrigan.

**Sunday 23\(^{rd}\) April**

The Thai community in Rome – including First Year student Oak Rosarpitak – celebrated their new year with morning Mass at the College, followed by the traditional ceremony of the washing of hands and excellent Thai food in the common room.

**Monday 24\(^{th}\) April**

The academic programme resumed following the return of students from the Easter break.

**Saturday 29\(^{th}\) April**

The priestly ordination of Fourth Year student Brillis Matthew of the Vicariate of the Emirates took place in Dubai. Mgr Peter Verity was present to represent the College.
Monday 1st May

The College celebrated the feast of Joseph the Worker in the context of a typically busy week as the semester draws towards its final stages. In Kuching former Beda student Oliver Tham OFM celebrated his priestly ordination, meaning that unusually there have already been three such events for the College before the summer has arrived.

Wednesday 3rd May

The annual Beda Association meeting took place at Wistaston Hall, Crewe. The occasion is always a convivial and prayerful gathering, and this year the decision to offer membership of the Association to current students at the College was made. This will ensure an early beginning to what will hopefully become a longer involvement with the Association after individual formation is completed.

Sunday 7th May

At the suggestion of the Beda Forum, Good Shepherd Sunday was marked by an afternoon of exposition and prayer for vocations in the College chapel, with students engaging in continuous adoration over a period of several hours and concluding with vespers.

Monday 8th May

Tish Nicoll arrived for her regular round of gentle but rigorous encouragement to students to practice and extend their vocal skills in proclaiming the Word.

Wednesday 10th May

The Ministry of Lector was conferred upon First Year students Norm Allred, Adrian Lowe, Mark O’Farrell and Oak Risarpitak. This important occasion always comes as a timely reminder to the new men that they are now fully engaged in the process of formation and that they have placed themselves at the service of the Universal Church.

Sunday 21st May

The annual assembly in the gardens for College photographs took place after Sunday Mass. The grounds are looking especially fine this year following the ministrations of the personale, ably assisted by Fr John Carlyle and student Norm Allred.
Wednesday 24th May

Lectures ended for the semester and the year. Of particular note, Fr Jim Downey gave his final lectures in scripture here after thirty years of teaching at the College.

Thursday 25th May

A morning Mass marked our celebration of Ascension Day. In the early evening, artist-in-residence Ed Gibney of Saskatoon diocese unveiled his bronze of former Rector Mgr Roderick Strange, which will be placed in the first-floor corridor in the company of saints and popes. Mgr Strange was present for the ceremony, which was the culmination of a long and successful project for Rev. Gibney that is a memorial to his considerable talent.

Friday 26th May

Bede’s Day was celebrated one day in arrears because of the coincident observation of Ascension Day. The community Mass featured a homily by Mgr Roderick Strange, and guests included Cardinal Harvey from the Basilica of San Paolo and Her Excellency Sally Axworthy, British Ambassador to the Holy See. As always, the highest culinary standards from the personale were a significant feature of this opportunity for the Beda to offer thanksgiving to the many people who contribute so much and so consistently to the life of the College.

Monday 29th May - Monday 5th June

Quiet descended on the College as the examination week progressed.

Thursday 1st June

The three-day Plenary meeting for the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy began, with Canon Philip and Mgr Peter invited to represent the College at a meeting to discuss the new Ratio Fundamentalis regarding seminary formation. At the closing Papal audience Pope Francis spoke of the need for seminarians to be open to the ongoing journey – surely an appropriate characterisation of the path undertaken by older men who respond to God’s call after living full lives in other ways before coming to the Beda.
Monday 5th June

Examinations finished, presaging the final endeavours of the academic year before departure. The Leavers’ Lunch was marked by a presentation to Fr Downey, whose immense contribution to the Beda in his decades of involvement with the College are well attested to in this issue’s article detailing his apostolic efforts.

In the evening the College was privileged to host a Diplomatic Farewell to Archbishop Sir David Moxon, outgoing Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Holy See. The occasion was supported by the Canadian Embassy and marked by Evensong followed by a reception in the garden; guests included the Ambassadors to the Holy See from Canada, Ireland, Britain and Australia, and Archbishop David generously donated three titles on the subject of ecumenism to the Beda library as a memento of the occasion.

Tuesday 6th June

The personale organised the annual College barbecue with their usual dedication and skill, providing a wonderful al fresco dining experience for staff, students and guests. This was a particularly generous gesture given that their workload in these closing stages of the academic year was even more considerable than usual with the many special events taking place at the College this June.

Friday 9th June

The Rector’s gita saw the College travelling to the coastal towns of Anzio and Nettuno. As well as sightseeing and enjoying an excellent lunch in a beachside restaurant, the occasion was distinguished by the celebration of Mass in the crypt of the shrine of St Maria Goretti in the presence of the saint’s mortal remains. This was a truly memorable day.
Saturday 10th June

The staff and students received a gracious invitation to the birthday celebrations of College Bursar Annalisa Bonanni, a wonderful occasion taking place in the grounds of the Beda in the presence of her family and friends. In her address to her guests, Annalisa spoke with great warmth of her desire to make the College into a welcoming space for its residents, and surpassed herself with the great kindness of including us in this lovely event.

Wednesday 14th June

The Diaconal Ordination of twelve students was celebrated at the Basilica of San Paolo by Bishop Seamus Cunningham of Hexham and Newcastle diocese, followed by the traditional buffet reception at the College at which around 250 staff, students and guests were ably catered for by the personale in typically expansive fashion. As always, the occasion was testament to the commitment of so many people who made the day memorable not only for the men receiving the sacrament, but for everyone who was privileged to attend. This fittingly magnificent event marked the end of the College year, with students departing to five continents over the next few days.
The New Men

Norm Allred

I was born 21 January 1958 in Utah, USA, and lived there all my life, except for a year of M Litt studies at Trinity College in Dublin in 1984. I attended the Catholic schools of Salt Lake, where I met my wife Joanne Mooney when we were both in third grade. We began dating in high school, and Fr Sullivan and Fr Carley married us in April of 1989. The previous autumn, I started a career as a teacher and administrator in the Catholic schools in Utah and continued doing the work of the institutional Church in its schools for the next 26 years.

Joanne was thoroughly Irish-American (and proud of it- she kept her family name). We always talked about how we wanted to immigrate to Ireland, all the years we were married. For a number of family and practical reasons we never found a good time to take such a step. So, we'd settled on retiring in Ireland, in 2023 when we were about 65.

Joanne died suddenly in March of 2014. She had been the centre of my life, emotionally and sacramentally.

While it would have been natural to prepare for a retirement in Ireland as a single man, the idea of priesthood came, and it has never left; I am joyful at the thought.

I couldn’t see binding myself to a diocese in the USA, because for 32 years I’ve thought of Ireland as the place I would live as soon as I was able, where I’ve felt at home ever since 1984, when I came to school at Trinity- the air, the light, the people, the landscape. Throughout my discernment, I’d asked God constantly: “Where do you want me to serve?” and I felt the answer was: “Priests are needed everywhere. Ask Ireland.”

So, I asked: end of January 2016, I emailed every diocese in Ireland. In April 2016, I went to Ireland to meet with the vocations directors and bishops of Elphin and Meath. When I met with the Bishop of Meath, he accepted me as a candidate for seminary at the Beda! I know I have been richly blessed in my life, most recently with this chance to learn and discern here at the Beda.
Tim Collins

My name is Tim Collins, a seminarian at the Irish College in Rome taking classes here at the Beda this year. A native of County Limerick, in the south-west of Ireland, I come from a family of seven. Thankfully I was raised a Catholic, and our family always played an active role in our parish community, hence some of my fondest memories include serving at Sunday Mass, and for weddings and funerals. Thoughts of priesthood entered my mind as an altar boy but were safely tucked away as a teenager. Growing up, a key interest of mine was sport, and I played for my local hurling, football, and soccer team. Having received a BA in English and History from the University of Limerick, I then continued my studies in the University of Cork, completing an MA in English literature in 2015. It was during this time that the idea of priesthood began to rear its head once again. I had different plans, and was hoping to complete a teaching course. Working part-time with a clothing company, I decided to take some time off, and went to a Vocations Day. This helped to answer some questions about the priesthood, and was of great benefit to me. Also during this period, I travelled to various Marian Shrines, in the hope that Our Lady would help me discern. As time went by, I drew closer to God, and eventually plucked up the courage to tell my parents, and afterwards informed my parish priest. The rest is history. Studying at the Beda College is a tremendous honour, and the sense of community, along with the international vibe here, is a reminder that Christ’s Church is present no matter where in the world you are.

Adrian Lowe

I was born in Bletchley in 1971 and grew up in Milton Keynes. I lived in that very modern town until I moved to Colchester, Britain’s oldest recorded town, when I was 18 to study for a degree in music, specialising in conducting. After graduating I worked in music librarianship for three years, before following a career path in library management - working for Essex County Council for 23 years, the last seven years of my working life were spent serving as an Area Manager for libraries across Essex.

I had received a very traditional Catholic upbringing with the usual milestones of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at ages 7 and 11, both of which I can still remember clearly today. Library work, with its emphasis on education, outreach to the marginalised and providing an equal access to books and information for all, seemed to be an excellent way of following the vocation to love your neighbour and fulfil the Christian life. I enjoyed my work very much, but also felt a strong attraction to prayer and life in my parish church.
After carefully discerning what my strongest gifts might be and which way of life could best make use of them, I met with the Vocations Director for my diocese who asked me to make a silent Ignatian retreat for a week. The time spent in prayer and walking in the beautiful countryside of North Wales helped me to discern further and I made an application for priestly formation to Brentwood Diocese at Easter 2016. My bishop asked me to go to the Beda College in Rome, which is where I find myself happily immersed in the community here and enjoying this important time of formation and growth in the love of Christ.

**Mark O’Brien**

I come from the Limerick Diocese in the south-west of Ireland. I am studying a propaedeutic year in the Beda College. I am a resident of the Pontifical Irish College but study in the Beda. This initiative was arranged by my Bishop Brendan Leahy.

Before entering seminary, I studied for a BSc in Industrial Biochemistry at the University of Limerick and an MSc in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in the Institute of Technology, Tallaght. I worked in the pharmaceutical industry with Johnson & Johnson, Stryker Biotech and UCB Pharma. My other work experience was in hospitality. I worked as a chef, barman and waiter for seven years.

I love to travel, read books and learn languages. My special interests are the Dutch language, Vietnamese food and lavender.

I would like to thank everyone at the Beda College for making my first year of seminary so pleasant.

**Mark O’Farrell**

I was born in Galway, Éire. At the age of four I moved to Cluain Meala (the Valley of Honey), Co. Tipperary, (Waterford Diocese). As a boy I was a sports enthusiast playing hurling, tennis, and football. At the age of thirteen our family moved to Acton, Massachussets, USA. I went to high school there for two years. I then returned to boarding school in Rockwell College, Co. Tipperary. This school was run by the Holy Ghost Fathers. The late Rev. Fr Buckley encouraged my vocation, and taught me how to pray.

I then went to University in Galway, and graduated with a science degree. I continued my education by completing postgraduate diplomas in Quality Assurance, and Business Studies. I then worked in a variety of telesales positions in a number of multinationals. I studied Chinese medicine for three years, and visited China in 2001 for postgraduate studies.
I studied Pharmacy in Brighton, and graduated in 2006 having lived in a Catholic Community Chaplaincy for two years, which I enjoyed immensely. I worked for 10 years as a Pharmacist in a variety of community, and hospital pharmacy roles. The highlight of my career as a pharmacist was giving bioethical presentations to a variety of pro-life doctor groups in Ireland, as well as having an article published in FIAMC. I have been discerning my vocation for a number of years, and am enjoying the discernment process at the Beda College.

Andrew (Oak) Rosarpitak

My name is (Andrew) Ekkarat from Thailand and I’m a student for Chiangmai Diocese in northern Thailand. I graduated with a Master’s in International Business from the University of Wollongong, Australia.

For the last ten years I’ve been helping Catholic Social Communication of Thailand under the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Thailand (CBCT), serving on a committee that raises funds for various Catholic media, e.g. magazines, newspapers, TV programmes etc.

I then started to discern seriously about my life and the possibility of serving God and his Church in priestly ministry. At first the thought of being a priest in God’s Church was frightening but I prayed to the Lord and asked if this was his calling for me. When I consulted my parents they said: “If this really is God’s will, let it be so.” In fact a late vocation is a new phenomenon for the Thai Catholic Church.

Most Rev. Francis Xavier Vura Arporndratana, Bishop of Chiangmai consulted with Mgr Andrew Thanya-anan, both of whom have long experience of living in Rome. They advised that the most suitable place of formation for an older student like me to discern his vocation was the Beda College.

Studying philosophy and theology in Rome, the centre of the Catholic Church with its culture and unique environment, will strengthen my life in the Lord and help in my discernment about the priesthood. It will also help develop my spiritual life to serve the Kingdom of God, to proclaim his Good News and will open similar possibilities to other late vocations from the Church in Thailand.
Sr Dorothy Johnson FMDM, a profile

I was born in Solihull, Birmingham, where we lived until my parents moved up to Southport, Lancashire, which had been their original home town. By that time I was 5 years old. My schooling began at St Marie’s Primary School in Southport, and probably the seeds of my vocation were sown there, because every year the White Fathers would come to the school and show us films of the work they were doing in Africa. It captivated me, and the desire to go to Africa grew, and followed me well into my teens. Secondary education was at Notre Dame Grammar School in Southport.

I have one sister, 8 years younger than me, who now has 5 grandchildren.

When I was 14 we moved to the village of Ainsdale, Southport, and I joined the Girl Guides where I met the person who helped the well-planted seeds to grow – a very special lady who was imbued with Franciscanism, and who happened to be the Captain of our Guides Troupe. Margaret introduced me to the Third Order Secular of St Francis, and taught me how to live as a Franciscan. By following her example of daily holy communion before going to school/work, (Mass was at a later time) I gradually began to feel the pull of something that told me I should be thinking of entering religious life. Eventually, when I was 18 I knew that God was calling me, but by this time I was convinced that I should enter an enclosed order of Franciscans and the difficult task of telling my parents faced me. Eventually I told them, but my mother, who was not a cradle Catholic, couldn’t take it, and being already in fragile health she began to deteriorate. When I realised that my intentions were the cause of her worsening health, I concluded that God did not want this, and I decided instead to get a different job and forget about religious life.
All went fine – I joined the Liverpool Fire Service (in the Control Room…….), loved my job, and Mum got better.

Three years later a friend invited me to the ordination of her brother at – guess where? - the Beda College! Austin was ordained in the Basilica of St Paul outside the Walls in March 1964, and I remember coming into the Beda and meeting one of the nuns on the stairs - little knowing that 5 months later I would be dressed in the same habit! Whatever God did in my soul during that short time in Rome, I have never been able to identify, but something must have happened, because when I returned home I knew that, once more, God was calling me – only this time it was to a Missionary Franciscan Order. And so, I entered the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDM).

I worked as a nurse doing primary health care in Jordan for 23 years. Later I was missioned to Nigeria, spending 15 years there, working in the health sector as health co-ordinator in Yola and Jos dioceses. My last 5 years in Nigeria found me in a Peace Movement, Damietta Peace Initiative (DPI), where I gained invaluable experience working hands-on to introduce small inner city and rural groups to peaceful means of preventing and dealing with the scourge of conflicts, and to build up their resilience for the times when conflicts re-occur. Nigeria is 50% Muslim, 50% Christian, and I had previously studied Islam, Arabic and Interreligious Dialogue in Egypt, which was indeed useful for this work. It also provided an opportunity to take DPI into the Jos Prison, and form small groups there, for interreligious dialogue. Praise and thanks to God for allowing me to serve him, in the Middle East, in Nigeria, and now in the Beda College.
Ordinations 2017

Ordinations to the Priesthood 2017

Patrick Aboagye (Konongo/Mampong Diocese)
- Ordination: 6 January 2018 - Ghana – West Africa
- Mass of Thanksgiving: 7 January 2018 - St Peter's Catholic Church, Atimatim-Kumasi, Ghana

Michael Barrett (Archdiocese of Liverpool)
- Ordination: 15 July 2017 - St Mary's Catholic Church, Broadfield Drive, Leyland, Lancashire, England
- Mass of Thanksgiving: 16 July, 2017 – St Anne's Catholic Church, Prescott Road, Ormskirk, England

Edward Gibney (Diocese of Saskatoon)
- Ordination: 29 June 2017 – Cathedral of the Holy Family, Saskatoon, Canada
- Mass of Thanksgiving: 2 July 2017 – St Philip Neri Parish, Saskatoon, Canada

Andrew Senay OSB (St Louis Abbey MO)
- Ordination: 9 September 2017 - St Louis Abbey, St Louis, MO, USA
- Mass of Thanksgiving: 10 September 2017 - St Louis Abbey, St Louis, MO, USA

Wilhad Shayo (Institute of Charity – Rosminians)
- Ordination: 6 July 2017 - Christ the King Cathedral-Moshi, Tanzania
- Mass of Thanksgiving: 8 July 2017 - Sacred Heart Parish-Uru Moshi, Tanzania

John Warnaby (Archdiocese of Westminster)
- Mass of Thanksgiving: 25 June - St James Church, Spanish Place, London, England
Ordinations to the Diaconate, Basilica of San Paolo fuori le Mura, 14 June 2017

Philip Carr  Archdiocese of Liverpool
Gerard D'Silva  Diocese of Belgaum
Brendan Gormley  Archdiocese of Brisbane
Anthony Kelly  Archdiocese of Liverpool
John Lovell  Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
Alex Mariasoosai  Diocese of Melaka-Johor
Brian Muling  Archdiocese of Melbourne
Ron Seery  Archdiocese of Westminster
Paul Sia  Diocese of Melaka-Johor
Simon Sibisi  Archdiocese of Durban
Paul Smith  Diocese of Nottingham
John Tabor  Archdiocese of Westminster
The Beda Association

President
Rev. Mgr Roderick Strange

Hon. Secretary
Rev. Fr Michael McLaughlin
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Carmel House
7 Wesley Place
Silsden
West Yorkshire
BD20 0PH
MIKEML2K@YAHOO.COM

Hon. Treasurer
Very Rev. Canon John Weatherill

Diocesan Representatives

Diocese of Brentwood
Rev. Fr Joseph Tan
Most Holy Redeemer Presbytery
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Essex RM3 9PB
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St Mary’s Presbytery
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Diocese of Clifton
Rev. Fr Michael Thomas
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8 Townsend Road
Minehead TA24 5RG
minehead@clifftondiocese.com

Diocese of East Anglia
To be appointed

Diocese of Hallam
To be appointed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diocese of Hexham &amp; Newcastle</th>
<th>Diocese of Middlesbrough</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Mgr Andrew Faley</td>
<td>Very Rev. Canon Gerard Robinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Edward's Presbytery</td>
<td>St Mary's Cathedral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coquet Ave</td>
<td>Dalby Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitley Bay</td>
<td>Coulby Newham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyne &amp; Wear NE26 1EE</td>
<td>Middlesbrough TS8 0TW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ajfaley@yahoo.co.uk">ajfaley@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:gerard.paul@btopenworld.com">gerard.paul@btopenworld.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Diocese of Lancaster</th>
<th>Diocese of Northampton</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Fr Andrew Broster</td>
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<tr>
<td>St John the Evangelist Presbytery</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Willows</td>
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<td>Ribby Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirkham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lancs PR4 2BE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:andrewtbroster@gmail.com">andrewtbroster@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Rev. Fr Michael McLaughlin</td>
<td>Rev. Fr John Kyne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Mount Carmel Presbytery</td>
<td>St Hugh of Lincoln Presbytery,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmel House</td>
<td>34 Broadgate,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Wesley Place</td>
<td>Lincoln LN2 5AQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silsden,</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnkyne@sthughslincoln.org.uk">johnkyne@sthughslincoln.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Yorkshire BD20 0PH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:mikeml2k@yahoo.com">mikeml2k@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Archdiocese of Liverpool</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Fr Andrew Jolly</td>
<td>Rev. Fr Brian Kenwrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Mort Street</td>
<td>Most Holy Trinity Presbytery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wigan WN6 7AH</td>
<td>Tower Road</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Newquay TR7 1LS</td>
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<td>Rev. Fr Mansel Usher</td>
<td>Rev. Fr David Sillince</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Benedict's Presbytery</td>
<td>St Boniface House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Llythrid Avenue</td>
<td>413 Shirley Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shirley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southampton SO15 3JD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:davidsillince@yahoo.co.uk">davidsillince@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Diocese of Salford**
To be appointed

**Diocese of Shrewsbury**
Rev. Fr Robin Sutton
9 Sherborne Road
Wallasey
Wirral, Cheshire  CH44 2EY

Rev. Fr David Craig
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Beam Street
Nantwich  CW5 5NZ

**Archdiocese of Southwark**
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frswymer@hotmail.co.uk

Rev. Fr Philip Seed
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philipseed@yahoo.co.uk

**Diocese of Wrexham**
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**Archdiocese of Westminster**
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Hawick
Scottish Borders  TD9 0HH
jeremymmilne@gmail.com

Rev. Fr Roderick Johnston
[Argyle & Isles]
Holy Redeemer Presbytery
71 Kenneth Street
Stornoway  HS1 2DS
FrRoddyjohnstone@aol.com

**Australia**
Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy
Parish of Melton
10 Unitt Street
Melton 3337
Victoria
Australia
geoffmcilroy@gmail.com
**2017 Annual General Meeting Report**

This year celebrates the 92nd Annual General Meeting which was held on Wednesday, 3rd May at the Oblate Retreat Centre at Wistaston Hall in Crewe. Sr Catherine the deputy director of the Centre welcomed those attending the AGM.

Twenty-three members of the Association attended the AGM with apologies from a goodly number of twenty-five.

Mgr Strange opened the meeting with a prayer and then we remembered those whose deaths over the last year had been brought to our attention.

**Remembrances**

The names of the students who died while studying and were buried at the College grave are now named in the Necrology Book:

- Student: Deryk White  4th June 1948
- Student: Leslie Lean   3rd January 1953
- Student: Thomas Savage  3rd December 1956
- Student: John F. Veal  15th May 1958
- Student: Thomas Carlin  15th June 1964

**Information on Beda priests deceased since 1916**

- Fr Francis Connolly, Shrewsbury  3rd November 1979
- Fr Martin Brogan, Salford  22nd October 2014
- Fr Martin Breen, Arundel & Brighton  4th November 2015
- Mgr Edward Walker, Nottingham  24th February 2016
- Fr Charles Richardson, Plymouth  10th May 2016
- Canon Anthony Whale, Arundel & Brighton  26th May 2016
- Mgr Anthony Philpot, East Anglia, Spiritual Director & Lecturer  16th July 2016
- Fr William Janes, Arundel & Brighton  3rd August 2016
Canon Julian Refelo Rapa, Gozo  26th August 2016
Fr Patrick David O’Driscoll, Westminster   16th September 2016
Fr Terence Schofield, Salford     20th September 2016
Mgr Michael Buckley, Leeds, Lecturer 1st October 2016
Fr John Thompson, Liverpool     30th October 2016
Fr Seán Kilcoyne, Galway     27th January 2017
Fr Fred Bliss, Marist Father, Lecturer 15th February 2017
Fr Geoffrey Hilton, Salford     9th March 2017

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Previous Minutes
The minutes of the 2016 AGM were accepted and signed by Mgr Strange.

Rector’s Report
The Rector's statement was given, much of which is covered in his report in this Review.
# Financial Report

## The Beda Association

Income and Expenditure  
1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGM receipts</td>
<td>£1,176</td>
<td>£984.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>£20</td>
<td>£-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacies</td>
<td>£-</td>
<td>£12,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subscriptions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>£100</td>
<td>£278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>£210</td>
<td>£600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>£3.49</td>
<td>£0.34</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total INCOME</strong></td>
<td>£1,509.49</td>
<td>£14,362.34</td>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
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<tr>
<td>AGM expenses</td>
<td>£1,100</td>
<td>£800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>£1,535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>£20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>£11,120</td>
<td>£2,335</td>
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## Funds at Bank

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<th>2016/17</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening balance</td>
<td>£16,740.83 (1.04.16)</td>
<td>£4,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net income/ outgoings in year</td>
<td>£9,610.51</td>
<td>£12,027.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing bank balance</td>
<td>£7,130.32 (31.3.17)</td>
<td>£16,740.83 (31.3.16)</td>
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*Rev. Canon John Weatherill, Treasurer*

*20th April 2017*
It was suggested that a donation be made to the College of £2,500 which was accepted by the meeting.

Canon Weatherill noted that there is a drop over the last few years in the subscriptions to the Beda Association. It was suggested that subscriptions be linked in with the feast of St Bede (25th May) which was accepted. The Secretary to the Association will mail/email members to remind them that their subscriptions are due.

**Secretary’s Report**

**Future Anniversaries**

*Motu Proprio:* Pope Leo XIII established the title of the College of St Bede while it was still sharing the buildings of the Venerable English College. This was dated 29th December 1898. (2018 is therefore the 120th anniversary of the Beda College.)

- Beda Association founded 8th July 1918

Extract from a letter of Cardinal Gasquet, Protector of the College to Monsignor Munn, April 1918 – “Every contribution to the Beda is a direct help for the Conversion of the Country.”

I will include in the next report for *The Beda Review* the details of the beginnings of the Association along with a list of the Council and Patrons for the founding of the Association. The first Annual General Meeting of the Beda Association was held on the 20th October 1919.

October 2020 sees the 60th anniversary of the formal opening of the present building by Pope John XXIII on 20th October 1960.

**New Members:**
- Rev. Peter Crowther – Annual Membership
- Rev. John Leybourne – Life Membership
**Membership**

Members in the UK 65
Members abroad 86
Lay members 25
College staff members 6
Associate members (students) 2
**TOTAL** 384

Email addresses 242
Land Mail addresses 384

**Anniversaries of Priesthood 2017**

1992 – 25th Anniversary
- Rev. Emmanuel Chama, Lusaka
- Rev. David Clemens, Brentwood
- Rev. John Cunningham, Clifton
- Rev. John Dean, Springfield, MA
- Rev. Robert Greenup, OSA
- Rev. Victor Mwansa, OMI, Lusaka
- Rev. Philip Newbold, Southwark
- Rev. Patrick Tinney, OSA

1977 – 40th Anniversary
- Rev. Gerard Wilberforce, Plymouth

1967 – 50th Anniversary
- Rev. Mgr Peter Grant, Leeds
- Rev. David Whitehead, Portsmouth
- Rev. Peter Ryan

1957 – 60th Anniversary
- Rev. Mgr Bickford

Ad multos annos to all.

**Beda College Cufflinks**

On sale at this year’s AGM were the College Cufflinks. This idea came from the requests of students to have some sort of College identity that could be taken away as a remembrance. The ideas of a scarf with a College crest or a jumper/sweatshirt with the College crest or cufflinks were mulled over.

It has proved difficult to arrive at the correct colouring of the different sections of the College crest so it was decided to go ahead with the cufflinks at this time. The design is taken from the Cross on the door of the Chapel in the centre and “Pontificio Collegio Beda” engraved around the edge.

The cost is £75, US$100, C$130 Canadian or €90 including insurance and postage.

If anyone would care to purchase a set, please send a cheque in sterling made payable to “Pontificio Beda College” to Fr Michael McLoughlin at the address on p.73.
The Beda Association

The College on the Web

Beda Association members are encouraged to look at the website which is regularly updated, www.bedacollege.org. Any suggestions as to ways this could be developed further would be most welcome. Please send any ideas to Mgr Peter Verity at: p.verity@bedacollege.com.

Members are also invited to follow the Facebook page where there is sometimes additional information. The name on Facebook is “The Pontifical Beda College”.

There are over 2,000 photos of College people and events since 2011 on the Flickr account. This can be accessed by clicking the yellow circle with the two black dots in it on the Home page of the website. Many members of the Association were students or staff during that time and might like to look back at the photos from their time here.

Beda College Prayer Card

It was suggested last year that a Beda College Prayer Card be issued through The Beda Review and the College. Some members of the Association are willing to contribute to the cost. If anyone else is willing to help, please send your contribution to the Secretary. The prayer card will be ready for the centenary of the Beda Association in 2018.

Election of Officers

President: Rev. Mgr Roderick Strange;
Secretary: Rev. Fr Michael McLaughlin
Treasurer: Very Rev. Canon John Weatherill
Vice-president: Rev. Fr Michael Thomas
All elected unopposed.

Venue for the 2018 AGM

Next year being the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Beda Association it has been decided that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Pontifico Collegio Beda in Rome on Wednesday 9th May 2018. Please place this date in your diaries for 2018. Details will be sent out early next year.

Hon. Secretary
Revd Michael McLaughlin
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Carmel House
7 Wesley Place
Silsden
West Yorkshire BD20 0PH
Obituaries

**Fr Martin Brogan**  Diocese of Salford

**Born:** 29th March 1937  **Ordained:** 12th April 1980  **RIP:** 22nd October 2014

Fr John Martin Brogan (known as Martin) died on 22nd October 2014 in Nazareth House, Prestwich. He was in his 78th year, the 35th year of his Sacred Priesthood. May he rest in peace.

Martin Brogan was born on 29th March 1937 and baptised on 18th April 1937 in St Cuthbert’s Bradford, West Yorkshire, where he received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 25th January 1953. He was educated at St Cuthbert’s Primary School, St Bede’s Grammar School, Bradford, and graduated from the University of Sheffield. Martin was accepted as a student for the Diocese of Salford in 1976 and studied at the Beda College, Rome. He was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood at St Cuthbert’s, Bradford, on 12th April 1980 by Bishop Holland.

Fr Martin served the Diocese in the following appointments:

**Assistant Priest:** May 1980 Holy Saviour, Nelson; July 1985 St. Cuthbert, Withington; 1988 St. James the Less, Rawtenstall

**Parish Priest:** 1993 St John, Rochdale; 1996 Sacred Heart, Derker.

In May 2007 Fr Brogan retired to Nazareth House, Prestwich.

**Fr Francis Connolly**  Diocese of Shrewsbury

**Born:** 20th June 1931  **Ordained:** 21st April 1979  **RIP:** 3rd November 2015

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Francis Connolly who died on 3rd November 2015 at the Royal Stoke University Hospital.

Fr Francis was born on 20th June 1931 in Stalybridge. He was educated at St Peter’s, Stalybridge, St Joseph’s College, London (with a view to becoming a De La Salle brother) and the De La Salle Junior Seminary in Southbourne.
Following his novitiate in Suffolk and further studies (1948-52) he taught as a brother in London, Southsea, Ipswich and Jersey (1952-66). After leaving the Brothers in 1966 he taught in an RC comprehensive school as head of RE. In 1975 he was accepted for the Diocese of Shrewsbury studying at the Beda College in Rome.

He was ordained priest on 21st April 1979 in St Peter's, Stalybridge. Fr Francis’ first appointment was as Assistant Priest in Sacred Heart, Moreton (1979-81) and then in St Anthony’s, Wythenshawe (1981-85).

In 1985 he was appointed Parish Priest of St Milburga’s, Church Stretton (1985-91), and finally of St Gabriel’s, Alsager (1991-2008), after which he retired to Derwent Close in Alsager.

May he rest in peace.

Mgr Edward Walker
Diocese of Nottingham

Ordained: 3rd April 1965  RIP: 24th February 2016

Homily by Mgr Canon Brian Dazeley at the Requiem Mass of Mgr Walker

We hear in one of the psalms these words:

“Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful”, words of hope, encouragement and consolation...

Our prayer today includes three particular intentions: to thank God for the person Fr Edward was and is.

To give thanks for the blessings God gave to so many through the ministry of Edward his priest.

To pray for Fr Edward that he who dispensed God’s mercy so faithfully, compassionately and generously will himself receive the loving mercy of God.

In thanking God for the person Edward was and is I am thinking of those who formed him, those who shaped his character and personality, especially his family who nurtured his faith, his personal relationship with Jesus, the faith which was to lead him to the priesthood. I think too of his school, his work, the Pontifical Beda College in Rome which helped him prepare for ordination and all those since then whose lives he touched with the balm of God’s mercy, the people who helped him become a priest. Formation for priesthood begins at home, continues through school, work and seminary and throughout our lives until that moment when we shall meet the Lord face to face, when "we shall be
like him because we shall see him as he really is”. The Lord shapes us as his priests through the ministry of those we serve and we receive from our people a gentle, compassionate and merciful formation which is itself the Lord's gift to us.

Secondly we thank God for the many gifts he has given to his Church, his people, through dear Edward. We think of his years on the staff at St Hugh's College, the College founded in 1948 as a school for boys interested in the possibility of the priesthood, a school from which 40 boys were eventually ordained. We think of his work attached to the marriage tribunal in the Westminster Archdiocese leading to his work as Vicar Judicial in the marriage tribunal in our own Diocese, a post he held for 35 years. I wonder how many people came to experience the mercy of God through Edward's love and compassion, through his fidelity to God's justice and mercy. We think of his 35 years as PP in St Hugh's parish, Bilborough where he was a good shepherd to his people and they were good shepherds to him, each bringing to the other the care, the love and the mercy of God. We think too of Nottingham Priests Together which meant so much to Fr Edward, priests meeting together to support one another in their ministry, perhaps to become more fully human by being in communion with Christ, with one another and with the people we try to serve. Edward was a faithful member for many years.

Marriage Encounter played a particularly important part in Fr Edward's life and ministry. On the wall in the presbytery at Bilborough is a scroll on which is written the following words: “We thank God for giving Marriage Encounter the special gift of you Edward and we thank him for bringing you into our lives. You showed us the real meaning of sacrament and allowed us to experience your sacrament. We look back with joy on all the people you've met and loved - all the tears you turned to laughter - all the sadness to joy. We remember all the people including us whose lives you helped to change, whose marriage has taken on a new life, a new vision, the priests whom you've helped take a new and exciting step within their vocation, giving them a new vision and a new understanding of their sacrament and a new calling within the Church.”

And finally we have come to pray for Edward: that he who dispensed God's mercy so faithfully will himself receive God's mercy remembering the words: “Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy”. We believe that when we die we shall meet the Lord face to face - the ultimate desire of every human heart - and in that meeting we shall understand perhaps for the first time how much Jesus loves us, how much the Father loves us and perhaps Jesus will ask us the only question that really matters, the question he put to Peter: “Do you love me?” At the end of this day before we retire for the night we might kneel down and thank God for the way Edward has touched each one of our lives or rather how God has touched each of our lives through the ministry of his faithful priest.
I would like to end with a few words from that beautiful prayer we offer as a member of the Church prepares to meet the Lord. “In the name of God the almighty Father who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ Son of the living God who suffered for you; in the name of the Holy Spirit who was poured out upon you, go forth faithful Christian.”

My dear brother in faith, dear Edward, I entrust you to God who created you. May Christ the Son of God who died for you take into his kingdom. May he forgive your sins and keep you among his people. May you see your Redeemer face to face and enjoy the sight of God for ever.

**Canon Peter Jones** Archdiocese of Birmingham

**Born:** 1951  **Ordained:** 29th June 1991  **RIP:** 10th April 2016

Peter Jones died peacefully on 10 April 2016 after a second unsuccessful battle with non-Hodgkins lymphoma. His first course of treatment two years ago appeared to have worked, but unfortunately the cancer reappeared several months later.

Peter was born in 1951. He taught music at Cotton College, a former minor seminary in the Midlands, now closed, before deciding to try his vocation to the priesthood. He was sent for studies to the Beda College in Rome, where many English late vocations were sent at that time, and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Birmingham on his 40th birthday, 29 June 1991. He would have celebrated his 65th birthday and silver jubilee as a priest this summer. After several inner-city parish assignments in the Birmingham area, Peter was delighted to be sent in 2013 as pastor to Holy Redeemer, Pershore, where the distinguished liturgist J.D. Crichton had ministered for many years.

At 6 foot 5 inches with big bones to match, a full beard and moustache, and a way of expressing himself in a forthright manner with a delightful Black Country accent, he could appear somewhat forbidding to those who did not know him. But underneath the exterior was a kind and compassionate man who was a good friend to many and who enjoyed his red wine and his cigarettes. A major heart attack which almost killed him some 20 years ago made him change his lifestyle for a while, but he soon returned to normal.

Peter first came to real prominence with the “Coventry Gloria”, often known as the “Jones Gloria”, which Paul Inwood commissioned him to write for the Papal Mass with John Paul II at Coventry Airport, Pentecost 1982. The bouncy refrain and accessible verses endeared it to many on both sides of the Atlantic. A revision to fit the 2010 text
was almost as successful as the original. Other notable pieces included his beautiful, reflective Magnificat setting with an ostinato refrain. “The Almighty works marvels for me; holy his name, holy his name” and superimposed verses, and “We praise you, O God”, an energetic, rhythmical, metrical version of the Te Deum which goes “as fast as seems reasonable”!

Peter was a member of the St Thomas More Group of composers, founder and chair of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Music Committee, and undertook much formation work with parish musicians all over the diocese during a period of over 20 years. Editor of the Society of St Gregory journal *Music and Liturgy* from 1981 to 1987, he taught music at Oscott College, Birmingham for a number of years and was Director of Music for the Papal Mass with Benedict XVI at Cofton Park, Birmingham, in September 2010.

*May he rest in peace.*

**Fr Charles Richardson** Diocese of Plymouth

**Born:** 9th December 1929  **Ordained:** 1972  **RIP:** 10th May 2016

Fr Charles Richardson was born on the 9th December 1929 and died at St John's House on 10th May, 2016. The main cause of death was a stroke, but he was not a well man, having some other serious medical issues.

After he ceased to be chaplain at St John's House, he went to live in Hartlepool, but when he became seriously ill, returned to Plymouth in order to recover. Once he was reasonably well, he moved into nearby sheltered accommodation, but after having his stroke he came back to us to die at St John's Home, St Helens – De la Salle Brothers.

**Homily at Fr Charles Richardson's Memorial Mass by Fr Fred Sheldon - 21st June 2016, St John's House, St Helens**

To me Fr Charles was Charlie or simply Chas. We met as students at the Beda College Rome, named after one of the great saints of Charlie's part of England, the Venerable Bede of Jarrow. Students in their first days at a seminary are expected to put on a show of some kind, a play or a series of sketches. In our case it was songs from the musicals. One song that has been haunting me since Charlie's death was Lee Marvin's gravel voiced: “I was born under a wandering star”. That captures Charlie for me - his restlessness. He would often boast to me (a comparative stick-in-the-mud) about the number of addresses he had had over the years.
St Paul's words in our first reading about our outward nature wasting away remind me that in all the years that I’ve known Charlie he always had problems with his health. But he overcame them or lived with them, especially diabetes and the vertigo that was with him for years.

Charlie certainly lived up to the words of the Gospel. He lived with few possessions. Compared with him I am a bit of a hoarder.

As a priest he had served in a number of parishes in the Plymouth Diocese, and for a time he was the Executive Secretary for the Diocesan Schools Commission. Later on he snapped up the opportunity to go out to Kenya on a Diocesan scheme with the Mill Hill Missionaries, serving in two different parishes. Next he had the idea of joining the Servants of the Paraclete, an American order that works with priests suffering from addictions of various kinds.

I went out with him to Albuquerque, New Mexico for a month and left him there in the novitiate. He didn’t stay long. Soon he was over the border down Mexico way with the priests associated with Mother Teresa’s sisters. Next he went to the Cayman Islands to work for the Archdiocese of Kingston, Jamaica. On again to Cape Town South Africa; I think he was probably happiest there in some of the dangerous township parishes. I know he was thrilled to be in Cape Town when Nelson Mandela was released from prison. After his time in South Africa he returned home and renewed his contact with the De La Salle Brothers whom he had trained with at Hopwood Hall College and taught with at Beulah Hill School in London. He moved to St Helens and for the next twelve years he was the Chaplain to the De La Salle community there; a community with care that looks after its ill and dying brothers.

But looking back beyond all those years was Charlie's time as a novice with the Cistercians at Mount St Bernard Abbey in Leicestershire. He never forgot that and through all his years as a secular priest there was a constant attraction to the contemplative life. Two of his spiritual heroes were Charles de Foucauld, the French priest who spent years in the Sahara desert trying without success to convert the Touareg, and the American Cistercian Thomas Merton, who had an interest in Zen Buddhism.

Following this urge towards contemplation Charlie for years has shunned the media and wouldn’t watch the TV news. Nor would he read the daily papers although he made an exception for the sports pages where he followed the fortunes of his beloved Hartlepool United and his adopted team, Wigan Athletic.

And so now Charlie’s wanderings have come to an end; a long life, a full life, a life that ended with the final generous act of giving his body for the benefit of others. [He donated his body to Newcastle Medical School].

Obituary
Charlie spent his years of retirement celebrating his daily Mass for all sorts of people and causes. He will be grateful for this Mass we offer for him today.

You have made us for yourself Lord, says St Augustine, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

Farewell Chas and until we all meet again, rest in peace. Amen.

**Canon Anthony Whale** Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

RIP: 26th May 2016

A late vocation to priesthood, Tony Whale, after a career in the world of finance, trained in Rome at the Beda College before being ordained in the parish church of St John the Baptist, Purley, by Bishop Cormac Murphy-O’Connor - this was his first priestly ordination.

Tony grew up in Guildford and Purley and was educated at the John Fisher School run by diocesan priests and a seed bed of a number of vocations. He graduated from London University with a BA in Law and went on to become a chartered accountant.

Always wiry and sporty he excelled in football, squash and was a valued member of the clergy golf team. Most of his parish appointments were in Surrey, Weybridge, Guildford, Farnham and Ashtead with the major exception as Cathedral Administrator for 18 years from 1983-2001.

This role he fulfilled efficiently and will be remembered for undertaking the cleaning of the interior stonework of the Cathedral and introducing the Friends of Arundel Cathedral to continue its enhancement, but above all for the ecumenical spirit that was growing in the town. He became a member of the Cathedral Chapter in 1988 and its Provost in 2009.

Many tributes have been paid to his sense of humour, friendliness and his pastoral dedication wherever he served. He bore his last illness quietly and died in Epsom Hospital on 26 May 2016. There was a Vigil Mass in St Michael's, Ashtead and the Funeral Mass in Arundel Cathedral followed by burial in the Cathedral Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

**Mgr John Hull, Diocese of Arundel & Brighton**

**Appreciation of Fr Tony Whale**

I met Fr Anthony Whale one afternoon in May in the early 1980s. He was saying Mass in what appeared to be a school room, which, I learnt later, was just that.
While the present St Joseph’s church was being built, the Governors of Guildford Grammar School offered Canon Cox and Fr Whale a place to say Mass on Sunday. I and my family had just arrived from Africa where we had been living for 20 years. A family emergency had forced us to return to Surrey where our children had never been. That Sunday afternoon was a happy chance. We liked Fr Tony, as he insisted on being called. He was friendly, funny, and his sermons were special. They were never boring. I remember he was the only priest who was able to explain the justice of the parable of the workers in the vineyard.

My husband, who was not a Catholic, enjoyed his home visits. They both had worked in the City of London and played chess together. Fr Tony had taken the priesthood late.

We were sad when he moved to Arundel but Sussex is not far and we soon found ourselves becoming Friends of Arundel Cathedral. Now we had several reasons to visit which always ended in the Presbytery kitchen drinking tea and eating homemade fruit bread. I seem to remember Tony liked a drop of Johnny Walker too!

Now he’s gone and we were not aware. He will be missed. There are fewer laughs about!

Shirley Andrews, St Joseph’s church, Guildford

**Fr Martin Breen** Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

**Born:** 7th July 1933  **Ordained:** 14th July 1981  **RIP:** 4th November 2015

Fr Martin was born on 7th July 1933 and educated at a CBS School in Co. Limerick and the Thames Poly in Woolwich. He joined the De La Salle training college in Manchester and became a brother, FSC. Among his teaching posts was one in Burma which ended at independence.

Between January and June 1978 he studied for the priesthood at St John’s Seminary, Wonersh before joining the Beda College in Rome, October 1978 – June 1981. On the 14th July 1981 he was ordained a priest along with Canon Bill Davern by Bishop Cormac Murphy-O’Connor in the parish church of Hospital, Co. Limerick.

Following ordination he was appointed as Assistant Priest to St Paul’s, Haywards Heath 1981-1984, Sacred Heart, Caterham 1984-1985 and St Joachim’s, Hampden Park 1985. His first post as Parish Priest was to St Charles Borromeo, East Worthing 1985-1991 (on whose feast he died) and then Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Frimley, 1991-2000.
Marking the Millennium he took a sabbatical at Marianella for the Pastoral Ministry Programme. On return he ministered as Parish Priest of St John the Evangelist, Tadworth from 2002 to his death on 4th November 2015.

The Diocese has lost a faithful, prayerful and gentle priest – and a gifted golfer.

His Funeral Mass was on 25th November 2015 at St John the Evangelist, Tadworth.

**Fr William Alfred Janes** Diocese of Arundel & Brighton

**Born:** 1924  **Ordained** 21st June 1981  **RIP:** 3rd August 2016

William Janes was born in 1924 in Thornton Heath. In 1947 he went to Kelham Theological College and in 1952 was ordained priest in the Church of England.

After curacies in Bradford and Manchester, he moved to the West Indies, to pastoral appointments in Trinidad and Saint Kitts. Returning to England, he became a curate in North Yorkshire and then a Vicar in Manchester. He then took an appointment in the Bahamas. Returning to England, he became Vicar of St John the Divine, Gainsborough, where he remained for eight years.

He then moved south of the Thames, where he was to spend the rest of his life, and became Team Vicar of Catford and Downham in the Anglican Diocese of Southwark. He left Catford in order to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Offering himself for the priesthood, he went to the Beda College in Rome and on the 21st June 1981 was ordained priest by (the then) Bishop Cormac Murphy-O’Connor.

Appointed to Sacred Heart, Caterham, he served as Assistant Priest with Fr Dennis Barry and then with Fr Frank Harrington. He then served at St Agnes, Eastbourne 1983-1985 and was parish priest at St Joachim, Hampden Park, 1985-1990. Fr Bill retired in 1990 and was resident in Hereford, then in the parish of the Sacred Heart, Hove, and latterly at St Mary’s House, Preston Park, where he was cared for with great kindness by the sisters and staff.

He died peacefully on 3rd August 2016. He leaves a brother, Eric and a sister, Joan. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Mgr Bruce Harbert**

**Canon Julian Refelo Rapa** Diocese of Gozo

**Born:** 29th July 1924  **Ordained** 22nd June 1991  **RIP:** 26th August 2016

Canon Julian Refalo Rapa is no more. The pealing of the Xagħra church bells on Gozo announced the demise of the 93 year old priest on the morning of 26th August 2016.
He was an exceptional figure among the strong Xaghra village community as well as throughout the educational and pastoral history of the island of Gozo.

His life was a flurry of activity towards the betterment of his native village of Xaghra and its villagers and he was involved in many of the Xaghra and Gozo diocesan groups.

Hailing from a family closely knit in the workings of the parish church, he was drawn towards pastoral care from an early age.

He was named Julian after his uncle, Canon Fr Julian Rapa, who died in 1918, following in his uncle's footsteps by serving as an altar boy and then becoming a seminarian in 1944. He dropped out in 1946 and became a teacher in 1947. Four years later, he married his beloved Carmela and they had three children. He was widowed at the age of 63.

In the early stages of his teaching career he received a scholarship to Loughborough Training College of Education in the UK. On his return in 1953 he was placed in charge of physical education classes in all government schools on Gozo. Eventually, he was promoted to headship positions in a number of schools following a course at St Mary's Training College of Education, Twickenham.

He was a prolific writer and published a large number of books and poems. However, a milestone in his literature career was his opus *The Xaghra Monumental Church*, published in 1969, still considered an important source for the history of his native village church. This was followed by other publications recounting his personal anecdotes and experiences including also collections of some of his poems.

Music was also close to his heart. The verses for the Maria Bambina great hymn, composed by Vincenzo Ciappara, are his. He contributed a lot to vocal music, also encouraged by his late older brother, Nazzareno Refalo.

The turning point came in 1987 when he entered the Beda College, Rome and was ordained priest on 22 June 1991. This year marks the silver jubilee of his ordination and he was made a member of the Xaghra Collegiate Chapter in 2002.

His services were much sought after. He laid down the necessary administrative infrastructure and acted as head of the newly-founded girls' secondary school at Victoria. He acted as a parish administrator during the transitionary period prior to the present parish priesthood of his nephew, Mgr Carmelo Refalo.

His pastoral activity covered all spheres of the Xaghra parish. He was the spiritual director of the Victory Philharmonic Society of Xaghra of which he was a bandsman and eventually the president during his secular life. He was ever ready to serve whenever he was asked for by laymen and religious members alike. He always had a word of consolation on his visits to sick people while administering Holy Communion to them.
His exemplary life, as the father of a family and, later, as a pastor, singles him out. He remains on record as having lived all the Holy Sacraments and administered them to his faithful parishioners, including officiating at marriages.

Fr Patrick David O’Driscoll Archdiocese of Westminster


Fr David O’Driscoll was born on 1 April 1925 and baptised soon afterwards in Westminster Cathedral ‘in periculo mortis’, in danger of death; few people would have expected Patrick David O’Driscoll to reach 91 years of age. He served with distinction in the army, in some dangerous situations. As a priest, he gave his time and energy generously in the service of God and God’s people.

Born in London, the young David had memories of living in Ireland before moving to Kent. He attended Worth Preparatory School in Sussex and St Benedict’s, Ealing and the Salesian College, Farnborough before joining the army at 16 years of age. David served in the Parachute Regiment during and after the Second World War including postings in North Africa and Italy. In 1945 he was commissioned into the Royal Sussex Regiment in India. He qualified as an air pilot in 1948. Friends recount an accident while David was serving in Malaya in 1951, in the jungle with the Special Air Service. He plunged a knife into unexpectedly soft ground and injured his right hand, cutting all the tendons. He walked seven miles to hospital, his hand covered in leeches and was transferred to the Millbank Military Hospital for treatment. He ended his military career as a Major. He had been in public relations for the army, dealing with press enquiries and issuing statements. He organised various exhibitions and displays. He served as a public relations officer for the Monckton Advisory Commission for the Review of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, set up in 1960. He was also a Member of the Institute of Public Relations.

David studied for the priesthood at the Beda College in Rome, starting there in 1963. He was recommended by Bishop David Cashman, parish priest of St Mary’s, Cadogan St where he was living, as “a very personable fellow”. He was ordained in the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican on 25 January 1967 by Pope Paul VI. Fr David’s first appointment was to the Cathedral, for one year, before moving to Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street. From 1970-75 he was an Army Chaplain and was then appointed to St James’, Spanish Place where he served as Assistant Priest until 1979. Fr David and a priest-friend, resident at Spanish Place, went on holiday to the south of France where Fr David owned a holiday apartment. On the return journey by car, they were involved in an accident and both were very badly shaken but not seriously injured. The car was written-
Fr David seems to have had a strong instinct for survival! His next appointment was parish priest of Our Lady and St Christopher, Cranford, where he served from 1979-83 and then appointed parish priest at St Dunstan's, Gunnersbury. The presbytery there was to be a house of hospitality for clergy, with Fr David extending a warm welcome. This was followed by his appointment as chaplain to St Clotilde's Convent, Lechlade, Gloucester, where he remained until his retirement in 1998 when the Convent closed. Fr David then went to live in Sherborne, Dorset.

In retirement, he continued to celebrate Mass privately and publicly, supplying in local parishes. He needed surgery in April 2006 at Yeovil District Hospital and this gave him a new lease of life. In 2007 Fr David travelled to Rome to mark the fortieth anniversary of his ordination, staying at the Beda and attending a Papal Audience. In 2011 several periods of hospital treatment due to declining health meant that he was unable to continue living independently and he moved to a care home, Eastbury House, where he was very happy. Fr David formed some close friendships while living in Sherborne. He will be remembered as a man of deep faith with a strong sense of duty and propriety, coupled with a good sense of humour and the ability to relate easily and warmly with people. He was charitable and self-disciplined, without being puritanical, “an officer and a gentleman”.

Fr David wrote an annual letter, summing up the past year. In December 2007 he wrote: “I find references to dead people having ‘passed away’ mystifying. It indicates a wish not to face up to the fact of death…Society would be happier and possibly better balanced if more people were to acknowledge the inevitability of death and live accordingly. Time passes for all of us.”

Fr David’s time to depart this life came on 16 September 2016 when he died peacefully at Eastbury House. He served as a priest of Westminster Diocese for 49 years, may he now rest in peace.

Fr David also served as Secretary to the Beda Association, resigning in 1997.

**Mgr Michael Buckley** Diocese of Leeds

*Born: 1924  Ordained: 1950  RIP: 1st October 2016*

Mgr Michael Buckley died on 1st October 2016, aged 92 years of age, at St Raphael’s Nursing Home in Sussex. A priest of the Diocese of Leeds, ordained from the Venerable English College in 1950, appointed tutor in Philosophy at the College in 1954 having received a Doctorate in Pastoral Theology. He was a professor of Philosophy at the Beda from 1957.
He was director of the first Christian Unity and Pastoral Centre established in England in 1966 and appointed as the English representative of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity when it was established after the Second Vatican Council in 1968. He was an advisor to Pope John XXIII during the Second Vatican Council and editor of the Pope John Sunday Missal.

In 1970 he convened the first National Conference of Catholic Priests in England and Wales which for many years was a central part of the Catholic dialogue between priests and bishops. He was a leading member of the Peace Movement for Northern Ireland in 1977 and a co-founder of the Maranatha Christian Movement which has Christian Unity and Peace in Northern Ireland among its principal aims.

He left the Diocese of Leeds in 1983 to found the El Shaddai Community for inner healing, reflecting his dedication to peace and unity through a movement which reached across religious barriers to bring about closer understanding between people and the Church.

He was the author of many books on human spirituality and everyday problems, a regular on the “Dear Father Michael” letters page in the Catholic Universe and religious advisor to Yorkshire Television from 1968 to 1977.

His development of the meaning of healing the person grew from his close involvement with thousands of people who came to his ministry for healing in which he encouraged them to become more human and fulfilled. His healing events within the Church in England were widely attended with churches filled to overflowing.

Mgr Buckley’s funeral was on 28th October 2016 at St Paul’s Church, Hazelgrove Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Fr John Thompson Archdiocese of Liverpool

Born: 10th June 1935   Ordained: 12th June 1960   RIP: 30th October 2016

Fr John Thompson died on 30th October 2016, aged 81 and in the 57th year of his priesthood.

John Benedict Thompson was born on 10th June 1935, the son of William and Alice Thompson. He was educated at St Mary’s College, Crosby, and then at St Joseph’s College, Upholland. He was ordained priest by Archbishop John Carmel Heenan at SS Peter and Paul, Crosby, on 12th June 1960.
He served at St Joseph’s, Leigh, for four years as assistant priest, before being sent for further studies in the autumn of 1964. He resided for two years at the Beda College in Rome whilst completing a licentiate in canon law at the Gregorian University. Upon his return to the archdiocese he was appointed assistant priest at Sacred Heart, Liverpool, in September 1966 and also as a notary in the Metropolitan Tribunal. The following September he was appointed secretary to Bishop Augustine Harris, the then auxiliary bishop, and also chaplain to La Sagesse School, Grassendale.

In February 1972, following an invitation from Fr Agnellus Andrew, then Director of the Catholic Radio and Television Centre at Hatch End, he went to work at the BBC in Manchester in the Religious Broadcasting Department for four years. After a brief secondment at Hatch End, he returned to the archdiocese in June 1976 as chaplain to Liverpool Polytechnic and also to work at BBC Radio Merseyside. He was very much part of BBC Radio Merseyside during the early years of local radio, building up a following through his Sunday morning programme “All in Good Faith”, which ran through the 1970s until 1987. Even when his regular programme finished he continued to contribute to “Thought for the Day”. During his time as Religious Producer he broadcast many live discussion programmes during Lent and played a major part in the coverage of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Liverpool in 1982. He will be remembered for his warmth and humour, which made him a friend to all through his many years of broadcasting.

He will be remembered too with great affection by his parishioners at St Leo’s, Whiston (1982-1984) and especially at St Francis de Sales, Walton, where he was parish priest for the last 32 years. He also undertook missionary work with the charity SURVIVE MIVA, playing an active part in delivering their vehicles overseas.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon received his body into St Francis de Sales’ church, Walton for Mass on 8th November and his Requiem Mass was celebrated there on 9th November followed by burial at SS Peter and Paul, Crosby.

Fr Seán Kilcoyne Diocese of Galway


Fr Seán Kilcoyne who was born in Islandeady, Co. Mayo has died at the age of 94. He began his studies for the priesthood at the Beda College in October 1984, for the diocese of Galway and prior to that had a varied career. After leaving school he spent three years in the Army in Dublin in the 1940s before starting work for what became Eircom engineering in Galway where he met his wife, Rita Monaghan. The couple did not have any children and she died in 1981 after a 5 year battle with cancer. With retirement
two years away Seán wondered what to do with the rest of his life and considered the priesthood. He contacted a Redemptorist priest in Limerick, Fr Vincent Kavanagh and a Franciscan, Fr John Bosco who became his spiritual adviser. These two and other friends assured him that becoming a priest was perfectly possible.

The month after he retired, Seán Kilcoyne left for Rome and the Beda and loved both: “It was a new adventure, it was great”, he said in an interview with the Galway Advertiser in October 2012, when he was 90 and still in active ministry. Ordained by Bishop Eamon Casey in Galway Cathedral in June 1988 he served in parishes in Mervue, Claregalway, Kilchreest and Bushypark, becoming a chaplain at the Bons Secours Hospital in Galway in 2005. Having spent most of his working life in engineering helped him to relate to parishioners and their difficulties, as well as grasping what people wanted and expected from their priest.

A recipient of the Rehab Galway People of the Year Award, Fr Seán was certain he had chosen the right path in coming to the Beda: “I was never in any doubt about it. Any decision of importance I want to make, I think about, pray about it and then make it.”

His advice to older people thinking about priesthood was to follow their hearts: “If the thought enters your mind don’t dismiss it. Pray about it and if it persists find out about it. There is nothing worse than looking back and regretting something.” For relaxation he watched westerns and documentaries on TV and followed basketball and Gaelic football.

He died in Galway University Hospital on 27 January 2017, his Funeral Mass was in St Oliver Plunkett church, Renmore, Galway on 30 January and he was buried in Donapatrick Cemetery, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway. Requiescat in pace.

The above is based on an interview in the Galway Advertiser of 18 October 2012, with the kind permission of the Editor, Declan Varley.

Fr Frederick Bliss Marist Father

Born: 20th February 1936   Ordained: 10th July 1961   RIP: 15th February 2017

News came through on 15 February that Fr Fred Bliss, aged 80, had died that day at the Home of Compassion in Silverstream, New Zealand. Fred began to teach ecumenism at the Angelicum in 1991 and first came to teach at the Beda as an external lecturer shortly afterwards. He joined the resident formation staff from 1995 to 2001. Throughout that time he continued his teaching at the Angelicum and, after leaving the Beda, went on teaching there and continued his ecumenical work until he returned to New Zealand in 2014. He was admired in the College as a gifted and imaginative teacher.
Mgr Andrew Faley recalls Fred’s presence among us with this tribute.

Seeking meaning among the olive groves - a memory of Fr Fred Bliss, SM

I joined the College residential staff in February 1999. By then Fred Bliss had been resident for four years and also worked as a faculty member of the Angelicum University in Rome. My apartment was next to his and I quickly discovered that his determined intelligence and self-contained routine provided the conduit through which his teaching and formation abilities were meticulously channeled. He delivered what was expected of him in such an understated way that sometimes it was necessary to check he was in the same room. And yet it was risky to take him for granted. He could pounce on an unguarded word or half-baked idea with the stamina and accuracy of a raptor. As a newly-appointed Vice-Rector, I quickly learned not to be intimidated by Fred and also to appreciate his seasoned grasp of what made him who he was to himself, to his colleagues and to his students.

I was surprised when, just before the autumn half-term break of that same year, Fred invited me to join him on a trip to Sulmona in the Abruzzo region of Italy. The aim of the trip was to try and find the grave of his brother who had been killed in action during the Second World War, and whom he understood to be buried in a war cemetery in that region. We borrowed the College car and drove out of Rome on the Saturday afternoon, heading east. We eventually arrived in Sulmona and booked into a small hotel for the night, before venturing out to explore the beauty of the city. It was raining and cold, and I remember we sat outside a small trattoria in the main square near the statue of Ovid, chatting and enjoying an aperitif of red wine with roasted chestnuts, followed by a simple pasta supper. Sunday morning Mass was followed by a coffee and cornetti breakfast before driving out of the city in search of Fred’s brother.

Fred had his map marked with likely places and we drove first to the Sangro River War Cemetery near the Adriatic coast. The sun was warm as we walked into the cemetery. As a War Graves Commission cemetery, it was as always kept immaculately with the headstones of the fallen set in their customarily dignified rows. Fred made for the grave register and found the entry: “Bernard Alfred Bliss, died January 1st 1944, aged 24 years, Driver, New Zealand Army Service Corps”. He noted the reference and slowly drew near to the grave of the brother whom he had hardly known, who had died in action so far from home. In the warm afternoon silence, time slowed down and the layers of memory momentarily unfolded.

Leaving Fred to his thoughts and prayers, I walked along the paths and noticed that groves of old olive trees surrounded the cemetery. Close by, an old man and woman were gathering their fruit – he up a ladder, and she holding on and watching the crop drop into the nets. He stopped to look at us. I raised a hand in greeting; he nodded back, acknowledging our presence among the dead. Here they were, perhaps three times older than these young dead, gathering the harvest of life older still than theirs, while the curds of time stirred over the surrounding landscape.
Fred thanked me for accompanying him. We returned the same day to the demands of Rome. It was a privilege to be with him on that pilgrimage. I had seen an aspect of him, a kind of stillness that he never otherwise displayed. In the secrecy of his soul, perhaps Fred re-forged the link with those to whom he belonged. He never referred to the visit again. May the Lord grant him the fruit of his labours, and may he rest in peace. Amen.

Mgr Andrew J. Faley

Mgr Faley was Vice-Rector and Pastoral Director at the Beda, 1999-2003. He is a priest of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

For an appreciation of Fr Bliss written by his fellow Marists in New Zealand, see this page: https://www.maristmessenger.co.nz/2017/03/30/fr-fred-bliss-sm/

**Fr Geoffrey Hilton Diocese of Salford**

*Born:* 30th September 1956 *Ordained:* 28th May 1989 *RIP:* 9th March 2017

Geoffrey Hilton was born on 30th September 1956 in Worsley. He was baptised on 27th November 1956 at St Paul’s, Walkden and received into full communion with the Church at St Edmund’s, Little Hulton on 28th May 1981. He was educated at Walkden High School and Hutton Hall Police College, Preston.

Geoffrey was accepted as an ecclesiastical student for the Diocese of Salford in September 1982, studying at the English College, Valladolid. He transferred to Campion House, Osterley in 1984 and to the Beda College, Rome in 1985. Fr Geoffrey Hilton was ordained to the sacred priesthood at St Peter’s Basilica, Rome on 28th May 1989 by Pope St John Paul II.

Fr Hilton served the Diocese of Salford in the following appointments:

1989-1993: St Bernard’s, Burnage - Assistant Priest
1993-1996: St Ann’s, Stretford - Assistant Priest & Chaplain to Trafford General Hospital
1996-2000: St Teresa’s, Blackburn - Parish Priest
2000-2005: St Augustine’s, Burnley - Parish Priest
2005-2017: St Osmund’s, Breightmet - Parish Priest

Fr Hilton was in his 61st year, the 28th year of his sacred priesthood.

Fr Hilton’s body was received into St Osmund’s, Breightmet for concelebrated Mass on 23rd March and Bishop John Hine celebrated his Requiem Mass at St Osmund’s on 24th March followed by burial at St Mary’s Cemetery, Wardley. May he rest in peace.
Mr Josephus Maria Antonius (Joop) Woerdeman

Born: 26th July 1916  RIP: 21st June 2017

On 24 July this year it was my good fortune to assist at the funeral of Joop Woerdeman in Amsterdam. He had died on 21 June, exactly five weeks shy of his 101st birthday. I heard about him first from Sr Catherine Purvis when I became Rector in 1998. At that time he had already been sending a monthly donation to the Beda for many years, certainly since the early 1980s. Shortly before I left the Beda it came to my attention that in 1995 he had arranged for donations to continue for a further one hundred years. His generosity to the College over these years and into the future has been exceptional. Who was he and why has he been so generous to the College?

Born in Amsterdam in the Netherlands on 26 July 1916 he showed early on a real talent for business. As a young man he was employed in a company that traded in iron goods, more than 10,000 articles. Within a few years he was running the company. And so, when war broke out and Nazi Germany occupied Holland, because of his experience in the iron, steel, and tools industry, he was required by the Germans to work for Fokker, helping to equip aircraft. He was fluent in German. While working for the Germans, however, through his friendship at that time with a young German woman, he was able to discover when there were plans for people to be deported from Amsterdam and he was able to warn and save many of them. It was a dangerous time and his German friend never betrayed him.

Shortly after the war, in 1950, Joop worked for Dunlop Rubber London and made a great success of that. He also saw a big future for Dunlopillo and the success of that scheme for which he was paid handsomely, created a spectacular income for him. However, tiring of the Dutch climate, he decided to emigrate to South Africa in 1955 with his friend, Nellie. They married the following year, the start of a long and extremely happy married life. Nellie died in July 2008.

Joop continued to work for Dunlopillo in South Africa, but also became involved in real estate and with Nellie established several other companies. His success blossomed. He has commented, ‘After all these years, I see that Nell and I have done well and have had a nice life.’

If this summary of Joop Woerdeman’s long life seems rather brief and stark, that is appropriate. He could be fiery and angry, when roused, but he was a kind man who was also immensely reserved and private. He kept himself very much to himself.
The question why he was so generous to the Beda and similar institutions in The Netherlands and South Africa will remain for ever a mystery. I wrote to him before I left the College in 2015 to inform him that my tenure as rector was ending and to thank him again. To my surprise he phoned me. We had corresponded previously, but never spoken. I took the opportunity to ask him why he had been so generous, and he answered, ‘Well, I wanted to phone you because of the kind letter you sent me’ – he had deflected my question. Now the answer will never be known.

There is, however, a further point to be made. Often, when people make a generous bequest, they want a monument named after them to commemorate their generosity. Not Joop Woerdeman. When he heard my idea that the money could be used to support students from poorer dioceses in poorer parts of the world who are sent to the Beda, he was delighted. He was not searching for personal acclaim.

May his generosity be rewarded and may he rest in peace.

*Roderick Strange*
What no eye has seen… Visual Theology of the Basilica of St Paul’s outside the Walls

Edmund Power OSB, Rome: Lateran University Press, 2015, 216 pp, EAN 9788 8465 10464

“For more than ten years I have lived and prayed in the Basilica of Saint Paul outside the walls; I know its silences of the night and of the early morning, the curvature of every arch, the face, serene or anguished, of every saint and sinner represented in this place animated by the presence of God.”

For those of us fortunate to live “across the way” from such a splendid building, Edmund Power’s words will readily find echoes in our own experience of the Basilica as we have made visits in thanksgiving for graces received, in intercession for exams to be taken and decisions to be made, or simply as an act of regular sharing in the liturgical and Monastic horarium of the Benedictine Community.

Whatever our association with the Basilica this fascinating book will enhance our visits to the tomb of the Apostle and will give us a way into the “vocabulary” of the building, helping us to read and contemplate the Basilica that is at the same time word and icon, a theology written in stone and marble and glass.

Originally written in Italian, this is a translation by the author himself. It is available through the Abbey bookshop www.basilicasanpaolo.org at a cost of €12 plus p&p.

Canon Philip Gillespie
Pontifical Beda College Students
2016 – 2017

First Year
1. Allred, Norman (Meath)
2. Lowe, Adrian (Brentwood)
3. O’Farrell, Mark (Waterford & Lismore)
4. Rosarpitak, Andrew (Chiangmai)

First Year External
1. Collins, Timothy (Limerick)
2. O’Brien, Mark (Limerick)
3. Torrisi, Lodovico (OSB-San Paolo)

Second Year
1. Brookes, Michael (East Anglia)
2. Brooks, Benjamin (Hobart)
3. Campbell, Ronald (Argyll & the Isles)
4. Fullick, Graham (Maitland & Newcastle)
5. Harrigan, Patrick (Edinburgh)
6. Hodgson, Alan (East Anglia)
7. Louden, Damien (Salford)
8. McQuillan, William (Edinburgh)
9. Munyugu, Anicet (Kigoma)
10. Pillai, William (Melaka-Johor)
11. Spellman, Paul (East Anglia)
12. Varavunkal, Thomas (ORC)
Second Year External

1. Aloys, Modestus (IC)
2. Massen, Nikolai (Marist)
3. Tully, Ignatius (OSB Cam.)

Third Year

1. Carr, Philip (Liverpool)
2. D’Silva, Gerard (Belgaum)
3. Gormley, Brendan (Brisbane)
4. Kelly, Anthony (Liverpool)
5. Lovell, John (Maitland-Newcastle)
6. Mariasoosai, Alex (Melaka-Johor)
7. Mugan, Carl (Liverpool)
8. Muling, Brian (Melbourne)
9. Sia, Paul (Melaka-Johor)
10. Smith, Paul (Durban)
11. Sibisi, Simon (Westminster)
12. Sneyd, Tom (Westminster)
13. Tabor, John (Westminster)

Third Year External

1. Alphonse, Aji (IC)
2. Bolivar, Arthur (OSA)
3. Masanja, Richard (IC)

Fourth Year

1. Aboagye, Patrick (Konongo-Mampong)
2. Barrett, Michael (Liverpool)
3. Gibney, Edward (Saskatoon)
4. Mathew, Brillis (Vic. Southern Arabia)
5. Seery, Ron (Westminster)
6. Senay, Andrew (St Louis Abbey)
7. Warnaby, John (Westminster)

Fourth Year External

1. Shayo, Wilhad (IC)
The Beda Review

2016 to 2017