

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

Welcome to the second occasional letter intended to keep you abreast of what's happening in our branch and to encourage us, as individuals and as parishes, to keep looking outwards and nurture each other's ministries as we strive to show forth the life of Christ in our lives and our liturgy and to encourage the spread of the Catholic faith through the Society. Comments and suggestions and news are welcome should be sent to [Martin Jackson](#).

For it would be great if we could get a members' forum or discussion board going on the web site. In other words, to think of the web site as a way of exchanging ideas and information rather than just as a news feed. Feel free to let Martin know how you as members want to see our web site develop. He'll post up your letter and it would help the Committee plan the way our future plans develop to best serve you, the grass roots members of FIF.

Don't forget – if you haven't done so - please make our website one of your 'Favourites' and encourage others to visit it. <http://www.forwardinfaithpeterborough.org>

COMMITTEE NEWS

We met briefly on 11 March. Fr Farmer announced that he had handed over, with Bishop Norman's approval, to Fr Coss as the Bishop of Richborough's representative in the Peterborough diocese. A new account has been opened for our branch thanks to the enterprise of John Chilver and we are sitting – thanks to careful husbandry over the years - on a £4000 surplus that would be the envy of many other diocesan branches. The web site has shown, Martin Jackson reported, a sharp rise in visits. And perhaps the best news – our membership has increased by 3! Alas, one of our newest recruits, Fr Glen Brooks, will be leaving to take up a parish appointment in the Norwich diocese later in 2017. We hope to see him at one of our events before he heads east.

OTHER NEWS

- As those of you who were there (and we had an excellent turn out) will recall, we had a superb Lent study day on 11 March, at SMs, Wellingborough. The Ven. Luke Miller, SSC, Archdeacon of London, conducting a Lent Study Day. Fr Luke told us much about the varied ministry and writings of Fr George



Congreve SSJE (1835-1918), a largely forgotten Cowley father of immense spiritual gifts whose writings merit the attention Fr Luke has given them during his sabbatical. He hopes to publish further on Congreve with a selection of his letters and writings. The talk, in two parts, around a lunch break, also showed quite illuminatingly why Christian communities fail....

- There were quite a few of us from the Peterborough diocese at Bishop Norman's Chrism Mass on 5 April at St Giles's, Eyres Monsell, on the south-west side of Leicester. It was the usual inspiring evening both as a service and socially. It was excellent to see so many clergy attending including Fr Tim Dawson, who will be inducted and instituted as Priest-in-Charge of All Saints, Kettering, on Saturday, 29 April at 3.30. We hope to see a lot more of Fr Tim over the coming years and wish him the warmest welcome to the diocese on behalf of the Society.



- Nigel Aston went to see Bishop Donald as part of General Synod duties on 17 April. Bishop Donald reiterated that he wants to see Catholic mission flourish in this diocese and hopes to attend future Society events whenever his diary allows. I think we are fortunate in having a diocesan on whose good will we can so much rely.

NEXT SOCIETY EVENT

Saturday, 13 May, 12 Noon. May Devotions at St Mary's church, Kettering. It should be a great day if last year's is anything to go by.

We start with Mass, a sermon by Fr Toby Sherring, SSC, Chaplain of Peterborough School.

Lunch with barbecue (let's start praying for fine weather now!), and Benediction. Come along, invite your friends, get the clergy you know to attend. It'll be a great festival day in honour of our Blessed Mother.



BEYOND THAT

Saturday, 16 September. Put this day in your diaries NOW!!



As we seek to live out the Catholic faith and publicise the Society in our diocese it's important to remember the richness of our patrimony. And so we have a day of events in King's Cliffe to honour the life of William Law (1683-1761), deacon, controversialist, and mystic.

With the kind permission of the priest-in-charge, the Revd Philip Davies, there will be a Solemn Eucharist (final time to be decided but probably 12 noon) possibly using an historic liturgy. The guest preacher will be Fr Robert Blockly, rector of Little St Mary's Church, Cambridge, and we look forward to welcoming him to our celebration. After lunch there will be a guided tour of places in the village associated with William Law, a short lecture by an expert on Law and his times by Mr Richard Sharp,

from Glanton, Northumberland, lately Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford. The afternoon will end with Evening Prayer and a visit to Law's grave. Further details to follow.

We hope to lay on a coach for our parishes and Bp Donald hopes to be with us in the afternoon.

November 2017.

Still at the planning stage, the Society in the diocese hopes to host or co-host an educational event in Peterborough led by Fr Toby Sherring, SSC. Further details when they become available.

NEW MEMBERS

We already have 3 – the challenge is to double that number at least by the end of the year. Think of the fantastic difference it would make if we could each recruit ONE new person, especially of that person was younger than us!

A Blessed Easter tide to all our branch members and the Committee hope to see you soon!

Nigel Aston
Lay Chair