
the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association

the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Annual Festival
Saturday 10th September 2011
at the Parish Church of S. Mary the Virgin, Kenton
(London HA3 8EJ)



12noon:
Concelebrated Mass
followed by Lunch

In the Afternoon:
The Annual General Meeting Part 2

Rosary
Procession of Our Lady
Benediction

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis

da Associação Ecuménica Amigos de Fátima

the Ecumenical Friends
da Associação Ecuménica

Newsletter No. 19



of Fatima Association
Amigos de Fátima

Eastertide 2011



*The 2011 May Pilgrimage to the Shrine
of Our Lady of Fatima*

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis

the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association

The 2012 May Pilgrimage to Fatima
celebrating the 95th anniversary of the First apparitions of

Our lady in 1917

will be

Wednesday 9th May to Wednesday 16th May

led by the Bishop of Ebbsfleet,

The Right Reverend Jonathan Baker

further details from

Fr Gray 020 9850 7860 and Fr Stevens 020 8854 0461



The 2013 May Pilgrimage to Fatima
celebrating the 96th anniversary of the First apparitions of

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The Right Reverend Norman Banks

further details from

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da Associação Ecuménica Amigos de Fátima

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To the greater glory of God an association of laity, deacons, priests, bishops and religious was inaugurated and consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima on Tuesday, 15th May 2001.

The aim of the Association is to promote the worship of almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through encouraging devotion to the Most Holy Virgin especially under her title of Our Lady of Fatima and to work for the re-union of all Christians under the patronage of Mary, mother of the Church.

Members keep a rule of life which includes the daily recitation of at least one decade of the Rosary and the regular use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Priest members of the Association should, wherever possible, offer Mass for the Association on or about the 13th of the month.

By prayer and its best endeavours the Association supports the cause for the canonisation of the Seers of Fatima.



In response to Our Lady of Fatima's call for sacrifices to be made for the sake of others and after consultation with the then Bishop of Leiria-Fatima it was agreed to support prayerfully and financially the Vida e Paz community in Fatima in their work of rehabilitating those caught up in drug abuse.

Regina Sacratissimi Rossarii Fatimea, Ora pro Nobis



The proposal builds on the dates that mark the anniversary of the Centenary of the Apparitions of Fatima and an element easily recognizable and identifiable with the Shrine: the bell tower of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima.

With the Apparitions, and the spirituality that emerged and took root in Fatima, the Shrine welcomes thousands of pilgrims. For these, and in purely pictorial language, the basilica and its bell tower is a goal to achieve, the signal that reached the destination lying at the site of the Apparitions.

Thus, it was considered that the image of the tower is an unmistakable symbol of Fatima, the apparitions of Our Lady of the Shepherds and Faith. Associated with this picture, we created a logo with the dates of the centenary, with a digit of the date of the apparitions was replaced by a cross in order to stress the Christian character of the ephemeris.

The choice fell on the colours will accentuate the lightness and spirit of the event. Greyscale with a warm contrast to the elusive gold crown of Our Lady and golden elements often present in sacred art.

For practical reasons, it was created, in addition to the core brand, a variant less descriptive and more condensed, which may act as a “seal.”



THE PRIEST DIRECTOR'S LETTER.

Father Gray writes:

We live in a time of change. When didn't we, you may well ask. There is a hymn based on Psalm 34 which begins “Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ” and another hymn “Through the night of doubt and sorrow” translated by Baring -Gould which has a verse “One the object of our journey, One the faith which never tires, One the earnest looking forward, One the hope our God inspires”. Both these hymns reflect the emotions and concerns and worries about change yet one ends up giving glory to the Holy Trinity and the other reminds us that the One Almighty Father reigns in love for evermore. So, come what may in the changes that surround us, we all still remain on that journey which leads us to life with that One true God who never ceases to love and care for us.

Over recent month's I have been asked about those who become Roman Catholics, about those who have/are becoming Roman Catholics via the Ordinariate, about those who are staying where they are against what appears to be a losing battle, about the Society of S. Wilfred and S. Hilda, about the future of Forward in Faith and about the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association (EFFA).

With such a lot of questions and my attempts to answer them buzzing around my mind, and time to reflect on such things whilst in Fatima, I felt it right and appropriate to initiate some changes within our Association (EFFA), and put such matters to the Annual General Meeting. The changes were received and unanimously accepted and are as follows.

1. When the Association came into being the “First 15” was made up of “Church of England/Anglican priests” who had been members since its inception. That format was changed recently when two members asked to be released from the “First 15”. Two priests were invited to join the “First 15” and their places were taken by the two leaving the “First 15”. So, the present “First 15” were a departure from the original format.

Because the “First 15” were all Church of England/Anglican priests with an ecumenical relationship with the Roman Catholic Authority at the Shrine, I felt that this position should be restored to avoid confusion in the

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future. Furthermore, following the tradition of the Guardians of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, I felt it right that we should include the laity in what is to be a new "First 20". 10 priests and 10 laity of which 5 will be lay men and 5 lay women.

2 The "First 15" conveniently represented the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary - the Joyful, the Sorrowful and the Glorious Mysteries. However, in recent years the Church introduced, through John Paul II, the Luminous Mysteries. In a way, the Luminous Mysteries have been a sort of appendix to the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries. In the Fatima Prayer Book, the Rosary is shown as including the Luminous Mysteries after the Joyful mysteries and before the Sorrowful Mysteries.

In that new order we have

The Joyful Mysteries :
The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Presentation, The Finding in the Temple.

The Luminous Mysteries
The Baptism of Jesus, The Marriage Feast at Cana, Jesus Proclaims the coming of the Kingdom, The Transfiguration, The Institution of the Eucharist.

Then the Sorrowful Mysteries
The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning with Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, The Crucifixion.

The Glorious Mysteries
The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Descent of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption, The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin

Twenty Mysteries in right and proper sequence of the life of Our Lord and so the need for a change from the "First 15" to a "First - and subsequent 20's". In future instead of our Living Rosary being on a twice a month sequence, it will be over a three month period 1st to 20th : 21st for the next 20 days : then another 20 days : a cover of 3 months - and so on.

The "First 20" now being Church of England/Anglican priests and laity, the "Second 20" and "Third 20" will be those in Full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church, the following "20s" will be other members of the Church of England/Anglican priests and laity.

So, whilst in restoring the Church of England/Anglican "First 20" to its original ecumenical relationship with the Roman Catholic Authority at the Shrine, as an Association, we remain ecumenical one with another.

3 Our membership is, or will have been reviewed and revised by the time this newsletter reaches you. Over the past year or more we have sought to regularise our membership subscription. Whilst this has been achieved in the main, there are some who have ignored our communications with them. So, if you are reading this newsletter, you know that your annual subscription is up to date and need

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In this climate of change we need to remember that the First 15 were all Church of England/Anglican priests and as such we had an ecumenical relationship with the Roman Catholic Shrine of Our Lady in Fatima. This Church of England/Anglican relationship must continue and so the new First Twenty will be made up of 10 Church of England / Anglican priests and 10 lay people (5 men and 5 women). To emphasise our ecumenical dimension other "Twenties" on our Living Rosary will show our differing ecclesiastic status column by column.

7 The Priest Director's Appointments

Treasurer
Mrs Joan Hooton

Membership Secretary
Mr Reg Martin

Editor of the Newsletter
Father Andrew Stevens

Paul Andrew was thanked for all his hard work on the production of the previous Newsletters.

Secretary
No Secretary was appointed.

Minute Secretary
Will be appointed for each meeting from those present.

Constitution Secretary
This is a new position. Father John Cornish was appointed.

8 Any other business

(i) A third signatory is needed for the Association's back account. Father Andrew Stevens has undertaken to be such a signatory.

(ii) Mr Reg Martin thanked the Priest Director for leading another joyful pilgrimage to which the Director said it was thanks to the warmth and welcome of the Shrine Authorities and the staff at the Sao Paulo that made the pilgrimage what it was.

The meeting and the Mass concluded with the Blessing and singing the closing hymn, "Thy hand O God has guided".

Part Two of the AGM will be held at S. Mary's Kenton on Saturday 10th September 2011.

The Pilgrimage in 2012 will from Wednesday 9th till Wednesday 16th May. Booking forms will be available in the early Autumn of this year.

Father John Cornish
Minute Secretary



the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association

MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting (Part One) of the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association was held on Sunday the 15th May, 2011 just before the close of the Mass in the Chapel of the Sao Paulo Seminary.

1. There were apologies from Father Alan and Rosina Cochrane, Anne Barry-Farrington and Dr. Gill James. 12 members of the Association were present and 12 observers.

2. The minutes of the previous AGM were signed as a true record.

3. There were no matters arising.

4. The Treasurer's Report : The Treasurer distributed a Statement of Financial Activities July 2010 to March 2011. These were unanimously adopted by the meeting. The Priest Director amongst his comments on financial affairs thought the finances were doing well. There was an increase in subscriptions. The donations to the Vida e Paz had risen too. There were, however, some members in arrears with their donations and this situation will be investigated on return home.

5. Elections The following were elected:
President

Father Edwin Barnes

Vice Presidents

Mgr. Keith Newton

Bishop Serafim

Father Francis Yowowski

Mr Walter Peireira

The above officers were proposed from the Chair and accepted by all present.

Priest Director

Father Malcolm Gray

proposed by Father Bernard Holdridge seconded by Father John Cornish and elected unanimously with no other nominations.

6. Priest Director's Remarks.

"We live in times of change" he commented. Some of our members have joined the Ordinariate whilst others are staying put to "fight our corner". The latter will remain members of Forward in Faith, some of whom will join the Society of Saint Wilfred and Saint Hilda as times go by. We have reached a point where we in EFFA need to assess our numerical strength. With change has come the need to make alterations to our Constitution.

The Priest Director suggested that the First Fifteen members who constitute the EFFA Council (and are all priests) should be replaced by a FIRST TWENTY - 10 priests and 10 laity. This means that the council will be formed by those who head the list of the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries of the Rosary and in addition the Luminous mysteries will be introduced thus making the FIRST TWENTY. The consequence of this alteration to the Constitution mean that everyone will be allocated a new mystery. This change in the Constitution requires eight members of the Association to be present to make changes to the Constitution. There were twelve members present. The changes to the Constitution (as stated above) were proposed by Father Andrew Stevens and seconded by Mr Reg Martin. All present voted in favour.

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4. There having been a quorum at the AGM, we were able to alter the Constitution to read "First 20", rather than "First 15".

The annual elections took place. (the minutes appear elsewhere in this Newsletter) I was re-elected Priest Director. The President and Vice Presidents were unchanged.

I appointed

Treasurer :

Mrs Joan Hooton

Membership Secretary

Mr Reg Martin

Editor of the Newsletter

Father Andrew Stevens ssc

A Minute Secretary

to be appointed at the time of each meeting held

Constitution Secretary

Father John Cornish ssc

We had a very good pilgrimage in May. 5 priests and 21 lay people. Accommodation was in the Seminary as the work of the Sao Paulo had not even begun let alone finished. The hospitality once again was second to none. The heat was more like mid August, very, very hot. On the 13th, in addition to the usual celebrations, commemorations were made in connection with the recent beatification of John Paul II. The sanctuary was full to capacity on the eve of the 12th and morning of the 13th. Needless to say Poland was well represented. Among the many flags carried in the procession, the only "Union Flag" carried was in the hands of a member of EFFA.

We visited the Vida e Paz community and said Mass in the chapel there. We had our usual warm welcome and presented a cheque for 2500 euros. Another cheque (for £1032) from the parish of S. Mary Littlehampton was presented. We sent our good wishes to Dr Renata Alves, the Director of the Vida e Paz Community who was at home on maternity leave having given birth to a daughter just a few weeks earlier.



13.05.2011 - International Anniversary Pilgrimage of May

At the end of the International Anniversary Pilgrimage of May, which this year gathered hundreds of thousands of pilgrims around the figure of Blessed John Paul II, His Eminence Sean Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston (U.S.A.), who presided over this meeting of faith and prayer, wrote the following message on the Shrine's Guest Book: "I leave a portion of my heart here at the feet of Our Mother; totus tuus!".

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In the homily of the Mass of the 13th, he stated: "God doesn't improvise. Like John Paul II, I too am convinced that Our Lady of Fatima intervened, on that 13th day of May 1981, to save the life of our Pope when he was shot in St. Peter's Square. His life was spared so that he could be God's instrument to bring down the Iron Curtain and end Communism's political oppression in the world".

156 groups of pilgrims reported to the Department of Pilgrim Services (SEPE) of the Shrine of Fatima their presence as participants in the celebrations held on the morning of the 13th.

These groups came from the following countries (between parentheses I show the largest numbers from a single country): Portugal (52 groups), Germany (12), Australia, Austria, Benin, Brazil (5), Cape Verde, South Korea, Croatia, Slovakia, Spain (10), United States (4), France (6), Gibraltar, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy (22), Malaysia, Mexico, Poland (8), United Kingdom (4), Isle of Reunion, Switzerland (4), Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine and Venezuela.

The Mass of the 13th, which was presided over by Cardinal O'Malley of Boston, was concelebrated by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, the Apostolic Nuncio in Lisbon, 21 bishops and 425 priests.

Up until 13h00 of the 13th, 605 people were attended at the First-Aid Station of the Shrine and 1022 at the Foot Washing Station. 2930 faithful received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and 487 people the Blessing of the Sick.

There are changes at the Shrine.
Father Virgílio Antunes named Bishop

of Coimbra

Communication to the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima regarding the nomination of Fr. Virgílio Antunes as Bishop of Coimbra

In this climate of festivity and hope which characterizes Easter time is for me a reason of renewed joy to be able to announce to the Diocese that the Holy Father Benedict XVI has just named our dear Fr. Virgílio Antunes, member of our presbytery and Rector of the Shrine of Fatima, Bishop of the Diocese of Coimbra.

His rich and multifaceted pastoral experience, which has matured during the different jobs he took on, as well as his human, intellectual and priestly gifts, are the best assurance that he is well prepared to take on the pastoral responsibility of such a significant Diocese as Coimbra, rich in history and in ecclesial vitality.

I'd like to assure the newly-elected Bishop of our esteem, friendship, gratitude and prayer, mine and of the entire Diocese, which he has served with love and intelligence throughout these long years. To Bishop Virgílio we express our heartfelt congratulations for his new mission and wish for him to continue being a witness of hope for all, under the Maternal protection of Our Lady of Fatima and through the intercession of the Blessed Little Shepherds of Fatima.

The Episcopal ordination, to which I invite all members of the Diocese of Fatima, shall take place at the Shrine of Fatima, on July 3. Leiria, April 28, 2011 + António Marto, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima

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full of love, enthusiasm and fun and from which all of us received blessings upon blessings. And now he is no more to this life except for us and many others who have memories of great worth. As the gospel reading told us the women went to the tomb and encountered a young man in a white robe who said Jesus has been raised, that he was not there, he had gone ahead leaving an empty tomb.

Here we have in our midst another empty tomb a big one - did I hear him say? But just as Jesus had risen so has Douglas - just as Jesus had gone before the women -so has Douglas gone before us and I am confident that he will be no stranger in those heavenly courts.

I'm no liberal but I suspect I have a more colourful and picturesque rather than theological view of the heavenly courts.

Whilst I recognise we shall all have, in due course, resurrection bodies whatever form that will be, I see those who have gone before as I knew them. And so I see the rotund Father Douglas greeting his friend, the Risen Lord with the same respect and devotion he had when in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. I see him meeting Our Lady saying something like - well, hello, we have met many times in Fatima. and in your little place at Walsingham.

My mind boggles when I try to picture his welcome to us when we pass through that gateway of death to enter those heavenly courts.

Father Douglas is now where there is no pain or suffering, nothing to cause worry or anxiety, no income tax or politicians, no media of any kind, no General Synod, no unsound bishops, no fork lifts to move him around the heavenly courts, just that peace and joy which comes to all faithful souls.

Pray for Douglas, this faithful, remarkable and larger than life priest of the Church of God as he will surely be praying for each of us "till" in the words of S. Thomas More, "we meet merrily in heaven". Can you imagine that scene!

My picturesque mind "boggles with delight!

Father C Malcolm Gray





share around - sweets - biscuits -
- cheese - and packets of those sort
of goodies more appropriate to little
children”. Because of the informality of
the Sao Paulo served by the Polish Mar-
ian Fathers of the Immaculate Concep-
tion meals could be extended while ever
the conversation and banter prevailed.
Breakfast, lunch and dinner could eas-
ily take up to 2 hours each and every
day!!

At the entrance to the Sao Paulo there is
a foyer in which he had a chair close
to the door and everyone knew that
that chair was his. He would sit there to
hold court and chat to all and sundry as
they came and went regardless of who
understood him - or not!! In these rec-
ent times when he has not been able to
be with us we have always revered
that chair as we made our entrances and
exits,
and raised a glass or two in the dining
room or bar for our absent friend.

Father Douglas moved into the College
of S. Barnabas and referred to it as his
new and final home, and final resting
place. His other home, of course, was
Fatima and he loved both. He was disap-
pointed when he learned that he could no
longer make the journey to Fatima, even
though he could have been fork-lifted on
and off the aeroplane, as indeed he had
been on a couple of occasions. But he did
say that whilst he would never again
make pilgrimage to Fatima, he was rec-
onciled and content that he had the im-
age of Our Lady of Fatima close by. For
him that meant the shrine of Fatima was
close by and that the Mother of his
Lord was close to him day and night.

Father Douglas was initially anxious
about being transferred to the medical
wing but he soon came to realise it was
for his good. To know that there would
be someone at hand should the need
arise was a great comfort and joy to him
and gave him peace of mind. That the
door of his new room upstairs was op-
posite the big lift which would take him
down to the ground floor by the door
of the Chapel where the Blessed Sacra-
ment was reserved was all that could he
ask for. Surely, during those last hours
in his new room, he would have been at
peace with such knowledge.

Father Douglas was a big man with a wide
girth and a wonderful sense of humour. He
loved his food and a gin and tonic or two
or more. Of course, he just had to be a
big man with large proportions to house
that enormous heart of his which was so

Father Carlos Cabecinhas named Rec-
tor of the Shrine



Fr. Carlos Cabecinhas is to be the new
Rector of the Shrine of Fatima. He will
take possession of his new job on July
11th, at 11:00, in the Most Holy Trinity
Church, at the Shrine of Fatima.

Fr. Cabecinhas is a priest of the Dio-
cese of Leiria-Fatima and has worked-
full-time for the Shrine of Fatima since
August 2010 as Chaplain and as Head
of the Department of Liturgical Pasto-
ral Ministry.

Here is his reaction after having been
named: “The challenge is great, but I
believe that he who counts on the ma-
ternal protection of Our Lady of the
Rosary of Fatima and on the interces-
sion of Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta
Marto doesn’t have reason to be afraid”.
During the announcement on May 5,
the Bishop of Leiria-Fatima stressed
the human qualities and the “rare intel-
lectual gifts” of the next Rector of the
Shrine of Fatima.

Next years pilgrimage will be
Wednesday 9th - Wednesday 16th
May 2012
25 twin rooms are on hold.
Provisional bookings can be made with
me at any time.

Now as I began, so I end
“Through all the changing scenes of
life, in trouble and in joy, the praises
of my God shall still my heart and
tongue employ” and another hymn
“Through the night of doubt and sor-
row” translated by Baring -Gould
which has a verse “One the object of
our journey, One the faith which never
tires, One the earnest looking forward,
One the hope our God inspires”.

After all the pilgrims whet home, hav-
ing had a very holy time, and follow-
ing a promise from Jim from Lavender
Hill (one of the mob!) it rained:



Cats, in the S. Paulo car park and



Dogs, in the Sanctuary!

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**THE MOST HOLY ROSARY OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.**

In his Apostolic letter on the Rosary, 16th October 2002, Pope John Paul II proposed a further five significant moments in the life of Christ. These he called the Luminous Mysteries, and they follow on from the Joyful Mysteries, then the Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries to complete the cycle.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

THE ANNUNCIATION

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel

THE VISITATION

Thou art the glory of Jerusalem, thou art the joy of Israel, thou art the honour of our people.

THE NATIVITY

While all things were in silence, and the night was in the midst of her course. The Almighty Word leapt down from heaven.

THE PRESENTATION

This is the Lord, we have patiently waited for Him, we shall rejoice and be joyful in His salvation.

THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

In the streets and in the broadways. I shall seek him whom my soul loveth.

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

A river flowed from Eden to water the garden.

THE MARRIAGE FEAST AT CANA

As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

JESUS PROCLAIMS THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

The saints of the Most High shall receive the Kingdom, and possess the Kingdom for ever and ever.

THE TRANSFIGURATION

My God how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in a robe of light.

The Institution of the Eucharist

Melchizedek, King of Salem, brought out bread and wine. He was a priest of the God Most High.

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

My heart is troubled within me, and the fear of death is fallen upon me.

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Surely He hath borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows. But He was wounded for our iniquities, he was bruised for our sins.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

Despised and the most abject of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with infirmity

The Carrying of the Cross

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for the sake and benefit of others. And so he joined the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association along with those other priests and lay people who had also embraced that spiritual discipline. He had discovered a new spiritual dimension for his life in retirement.

Douglas loved Fatima and for him it was his “other home”

He loved joining with half a million or more people for the Mass on 13th May -- he loved the occasions when there was a stillness and a calm around the shrine that overpowered the awfulness of the world in which we live. When he found the walking to the sanctuary was a bit too much for him, not to be ruled by frailty he watched and joined in the celebrations on the TV.

He loved visiting the Vida e Paz Community on the outskirts of Fatima and in their Chapel, concelebrating at our Mass with his fellow priests and meeting with some of the staff of the community and some of the residents, young and middle aged men who the staff seek to rehabilitate from their drug addiction.

With the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association he generously gave financial support to that work which has a very high success rate in its endeavours.

It was a special joy to Douglas to know that the chapel, in which we had prayed and offered Mass for the community, was situated at the very heart and centre of the community buildings.

That it was open day and night so that those who found difficulty in being rehabilitated, always had access to the chapel where the Blessed Sacrament was reserved.

But, as you all know, Father Douglas was not a holier than thou sort of person. Oh yes, he said his prayers, and he was never happier than when he was able to pray before his Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

In the Sao Paulo hotel he was known to want the room on the first floor - the room with a balcony -- and a big bed - the room that was next door to a little chapel where the Blessed Sacrament was reserved and where, between things, and in those night hours of pain when he couldn't sleep, he could find comfort in the presence of his Lord.

He knew the staff of the Sao Paulo by their Christian names. He knew lots about them because he constantly and continually exercised his ministry as a priest -- not being nosey but wanting to know about them and their families. He loved each of them as though they were his own. just as he has always loved those he was privileged to serve. And you know he was as generous as he was fun. It was not unusual for him to appear at lunch and dinner with lots of little goodies to

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Father Douglas Gregory Bond



I've saved many of the funnies and interesting facts that Fr. Douglas has e mailed to me since 2004 the year I first encountered this remarkable priest - and soon realised we had an accomplished comedian in our midst.

From my e mails I have been able to find the names of close on 50 people who also received his emails and so able to advise them of his sudden death.

In receiving replies from many of them I have become aware of what I shall call his past.

Oh yes, he often talked about the past -Ordination, Edinburgh, Abthorpe, Slapton, Silverston, Harpole, Kingsbury, Kislingbury, Pattishal, Cold Higham, Gayton Tiffield and the priests and people those places represent.

The 50 e mail addresses only scratch the surface of the ministry of this remarkable priest of the Church of God - -and there are people here today who have known and loved and respected him for his ministry and his endless wit far longer than I - - - I'm a new boy in the life and times of Father Douglas and those of you from the Peterborough Diocese and beyond who have known him many years will have memories and stories you can relate bringing tears of emotion and hilarity - - as you recall all that this remarkable priest of the Church of God said and did.

Father Douglas was an accomplished musician and loved to sing - loved to play the organ. He had an irresistible and infectious sense of humour and fun and so very often made jokes about himself, his size and his wobble.

It was in 2004, the year of his retirement, that I first came into contact with him. He had moved into his retirement cottage in Meeting Lane in Towcester conveniently situated close to a tea room. He contacted me in the hope he could be included in a pilgrimage to Fatima.

And so to Fatima he came, we didn't know what we had taken on, but he came, he saw, and he responded with that unique enthusiasm he displayed so often for those things that were lawful and honest, true and right.- He embraced the Message of Fatima that calls for the daily saying of the rosary, praying for the conversion of sinners and making sacrifices

Why, then, is Thy apparel red, and Thy garments like theirs that tread the wine-press.

THE CRUCIFIXION
He hath delivered His soul unto death, and was reputed with the wicked.

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

THE RESURRECTION
And His sepulchre shall be glorious.

THE ASCENSION
Lift up your gates, O ye princes, and be ye lifted up, O eternal gates, and the king of glory shall enter in.

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
And I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you.

THE ASSUMPTION
Arise, make haste, my love, my dove, my beautiful one, and come.

THE CORONATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
I was exalted like a cedar in Lebanon, and as a cypress tree on Mount Sion.

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

SALVE, SALVE, PASTORINHOS

This hymn is sung in honour of the Seers of Fatima - it now takes on a greater significance since their Beatification as the Church awaits a second miracle in order to proceed to their Canonisation.

*Let us joyfully sing with one voice:
Francisco and Jacinta, pray for us!*



Bl. Jacinta Marto

Hail, hail, little shepherds
Our pride and joy.
Hail, hail, little shepherds
Chosen ones of Mary.



Bl. Francisco Marto

Your innocent eyes
Have seen the Lady.
The loving protectress
Of her pilgrim sons.

THOUGHTS ON MARY

The Silence of the Holy Family (I)

Tradition tells us that the three inhabitants of the Holy House of Nazareth almost never spoke.

The sweet heavenly conversations, that we could believed to be a part of the life of the Holy Family, took place merely in our imagination, they did not exist.

Silence reigned there deeper than in a loneliness of tears or a Cistercian monk's monastery where the winds of the Alps howl through the corridors and shake the windows, while the rest of the house is quiet as a tomb.

The words of Jesus were very rare, which is the reason why Mary kept them in her heart, like treasures, because they were as rare as they were precious. If we think about this, we will understand that it could hardly have been otherwise. God is very quiet.

The Silence of the Holy Family (II)

How could Mary not have been quiet? A creature who lived for such a long time with the Creator could not speak much; her heart was full, her soul was reduced to silence.

She lived with Jesus for twelve long years, long years relatively speaking, bringing up her Child, yet these years went by like holy ecstasy for Mary, full of painful love. She carried Jesus in her arms.

She watched over Jesus while He slept. She fed Him; she looked Him in the eyes. He continuously revealed His heart to her.

She learned how to understand Him. All God's similarities passed through Mary's heart. We know to what extent God is quiet.

The Silence of the Holy Family (III)

Between the Creator and the creature, in a relationship such as the one that existed between Jesus and Mary, silence, better than the words, was a language.

What more could words have done? What could they have said? They could not have carried the weight of the mother's thoughts, let alone those of the Son.

Speaking would have been an effort - a condescension - like descending a mountain, on behalf of Mary as well as Jesus.

And why go down? Saint Joseph did not need to. He also remained quite high among the mountains of silence, so high that no voice, I might say that not even the softest echo from earth, could resound up to him.

Excerpt from Frederic William Faber (1814-1863), The Foot of the Cross, 3rd Sorrow, (Le Pied de la Croix, 3° douleur) Paris, Ambroise Bray, 1858

Mary Lets Jesus Shine

In Mary God shows us what grace can do in a soul, in the life of a human being. When we look at Mary, it's as if God were challenging each one of us: "See what I am capable of doing when a person is generous and trustful? Just imagine what I could do in you and through you if you would give yourself to me the way Mary did!"

Think for a moment of who in your life has led you closest to God. Whose example of virtue has had the greatest impact on your life? In the same vein, which of Mary's virtues inspires you the most?

I have always been taken with her humility, her ability to get out of the way and let Christ shine.

All she wanted was for God to be glorified, "magnified" in her. What a beautiful model for today's Christian!

Excerpt from Fr. Thomas D. Williams, Spiritual Progress, Becoming the Christian You Want to Be, FaithWords, 2007 (www.faithwords.com.)

Mary's Modesty Exerts a Gentle Sway

When first He went out to preach, she kept apart from Him; she interfered not with His work; and, even when He was gone up on high, yet she, a woman, went not out to preach or teach,

she seated not herself in the Apostolic chair, she took no part in the priest's office; she did but humbly seek her Son in the Holy Mass of those, who, though her ministers in heaven, were her superiors in the Church on earth.

Nor, when she and they had left this lower scene, and she was a Queen upon her Son's right hand, not even then did she ask of Him to publish her name to the ends of the world, or to hold her up to the world's gaze, but she remained waiting for the time, when her own glory should be necessary for His. . . .

When dispute arose about her among her children, she hushed it; when objections were urged against her, she waived her claims and waited; till now, in this very day, should God so will, she will win at length her most radiant crown, and, without opposing voice, and amid the jubilation of the whole Church, she will be hailed as immaculate in her conception.

John Henry Newman Discourses Addressed to Mixed Congregations Discourse 17. The Glories of Mary for the Sake of Her Son (1849)