



THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
December 2020, January , February 2021



Bishop Roger writes ...

This year's Council-General on 5th October was a unique experience in that it happened by Zoom, "virtually" I suppose is the correct computing expression. The extraordinary circumstances of our time with the difficulties and challenges of the coronavirus pandemic necessitated this, and the CBS Trustees felt that this was the only way we could fulfil our legal obligations and ensure both transparency and proper accountability in the exercise of our charitable functions. Although not many of our District Superiors and Lay Representatives were able to join us, it happened satisfactorily and, I hope, profitably. We were sorry not to be able to gather both at St James' Church, Garlickhythe for Mass or at the CCLA offices in Queen Victoria Street in London for the lunch and meeting, but we are grateful to Fr Tim Handley and the CCLA staff for their invitation prior to the beginning of the pandemic.

At our virtual meeting, as Superior-General, I tried to stress that our gathering was important not only because it was the only means available to us to do what is legally required of us because it was our AGM, but because it served as a reminder that CBS is a part of our lives within the wider sacramental life of the Church. Most Wards, of course, will not have been able to join together during the lockdown and, as we all know, we have had to live different sacramental lives during that time – feeding on Christ spiritually, reaching out to his promise to make his home with us and abide with us always. Indeed, by the time you receive this, Advent and its preparation for the celebration of the Lord's Nativity will have just begun. But this Advent - as with so much this past year - our keeping of it will be very different. A new Christian year with all its renewal of hope, yes, but undoubtedly coloured by the challenges of previous months when, as it were, we all went into enforced hibernation as we tried to grapple with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic at every level of our experience – national, community, family, and personal. Yet the message of hope remains with us as we look to the light which is Christ who comes to dwell with us,

promising that we will not live in darkness. And this hope is one that is flooded with joy as a result for the Lord is near. So, may the Lord Jesus Christ through his birth in the humility of the stable at Bethlehem, remind us once more that he comes to make his dwelling with us, that every heart that welcomes him makes of it another manger where can be found that food which satisfies and is never exhausted.

At our Council-General it was particularly good to welcome Fr John Eldridge, the newly appointed Superior of District 7 (Chichester), following the appointment of Fr Luke Irvine-Capel as Archdeacon of Chichester, and Fr David Way, Superior of District 9 (Exeter), who took over from Fr Sam Philpott last year. Last year, too, Fr Sam's term of office as a Trustee came to an end and Brother Joseph Emmanuel SSF had been elected to take his place, and it was so good to have him with us on this occasion as he had been unable to join us then. With regard to our Trustees, Fr Paul Hutchins (a Manchester member within District 5) was elected to a further three-year term of office. Mention was made also of the retirement from his parish at the end of last year of Fr Leslie Drake who had thereby ceased to be Superior of District 6 (Chelmsford). He has our good wishes and thanks.

Fr Darren Smith was elected once again as Treasurer-General. The Accounts for the year ended 31st January 2020, approved by the Trustees and adopted by the Council-General, showed that total funds carried forward were £3,434,675. The Accounts had been distributed to all District Superiors and known Lay Representatives prior to the meeting and, if any members wish to peruse them, they can be accessed via the Charity Commission website as usual.

Of particular interest was a report on the progress of the *Bread of Life* Catechetical Project in which CBS continues to be engaged in partnership with SPCK. Fr Matthew Cashmore, an SPCK Trustee, had given a presentation at last year's Council-General and has been overseeing the work of the Editorial Group. But, of course, this project has necessarily stalled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent discussions between the Trustees and SPCK over a way forward, even though SPCK has been keen to produce an on-line version of the course, the Trustees have felt that they wish to retain the original vision of the project in producing both a hard copy book as well as on-line, even though it is recognised that this project will not be launched any time in the near future, particularly as SPCK is currently experiencing difficulty in the production of printed materials due to COVID-19. We shall need to be patient therefore, looking perhaps to 2022 for this project to come to fruition.

One of the casualties in the list of precious activities cancelled during this last year was our annual National Festival which had been due to take place in London at St Stephen's, Gloucester Road in June. We are grateful to Fr Philip Barnes for his kindness in agreeing to host this event and, I am pleased to say, he has agreed to renew the invitation for next year providing circumstances allow it. Brother Joseph Emmanuel SSF has promised that, if possible, he will still preach the homily. When a date has been agreed we will do our best to advertise it. Likewise, it should be noted that we are planning to hold the 2021 Council-General meeting on **Tuesday 5th October** at the CCLA offices in the hope that, by then, we will be living in happier times. We shall make sure that full details of the proposed arrangements will be made known in due course.

Finally, and with a real sense of thanksgiving, I must record the death of **Fr Alan Cross SSC** who died on 2nd September aged 76. Fr Alan retired from his last parish, St Barnabas', Woodford in the diocese of Chelmsford, in 2009 after a twenty-year ministry there. He had been for a number of years the diocese's



District Superior until a serious decline in health made it impossible to continue. At heart Fr Alan was always a pastor (his priestly vocation he acknowledged from his earliest years), but he properly brought this calling to many other areas of life in the diocese - the Patronage Board, the Education Board, the Board of Stewardship, as well as school governorships. This was rightly recognized in 1997 when he was made an Honorary Canon. More than this, Fr Alan found it appropriate to be a Forward in Faith Dean and Diocesan Chairman of the Church Union. When he retired from parish life

in 2009 he also stepped down as a CBS Trustee and our Treasurer-General. He had taken up this role in 1997 following, I believe, the twenty-six-year incumbency of Fr Eric Wingfield. Latterly, Fr Alan worshipped very happily at St James & St Paul, Colchester. We thank God for giving us this priest and for his unstinting witness to the Catholic Faith and, as a member of the Confraternity, to the truth of Jesus present and honoured in the Blessed Sacrament. As we pray for him, we pray also for his wife Susan and their family. *Requiescat in pace.*

Faternally in Christ,

✠ **Roger**

INTERCESSIONS

DECEMBER

- 1 S Michael & All Angels, Bathwick
- 2 All Saints with S Saviour, Weston Super Mare
- 3 S Francis Xavier – For Diocesan & Parish Missioners
- 4 S Gregory & S Augustine, Bristol
- 5 The Holy Family, Swindon
- 6 **Advent 2 – Prepare a way for the Lord**
- 7 S Ambrose – For the formation of the clergy
- 8 Immaculate Conception – The Society of Mary
- 9 S Thomas, Birmingham
- 10 Our Lady of the Isle, Wilmcote
- 11 The Holy Family Leamington
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe – Mary our mother
- 13 **Advent 3 – The spirit of the Lord has been given to me**
- 14 S Faith, Bradford
- 15 S Hilda & St Benedict Joseph Labre, Leeds
- 16 S Wilfrid, Leeds
- 17 Ark of the Covenant, Sheffield
- 18 The Precious Blood, Durham
- 19 S Benedict, Blyth
- 20 **Advent 4 – I am the handmaid of the Lord**
- 21 Our Lady of Deal, Deal
- 22 The Annunciation, Chislehurst
- 23 Christ the King and Stella Maris, Blackpool
- 24 The Protomartyr, Blackpool
- 25 **Christmas Day – A child is born for us!**
- 26 St Stephen–S Stephen’s House Seminary
- 27 **The Holy Family – May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts**
- 28 Holy Innocents– Safeguarding Officers
- 29 S Thomas Becket – Society Bishops
- 30 Ss Werburg and Winifred, Wirral and North Wales
- 31 The Precious Blood, Southport

JANUARY

- 1 Mary, Mother of God – Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham
- 2 The Precious Blood, Swinton and Pendlebury
- 3 **Christmas 2 – The true light that enlightens all**
- 4 The Holy Angels, Brentwood
- 5 The Saints of Essex, Colchester
- 6 **The Epiphany – We have come to do him homage**
- 7 The Sacred Passion, Romford
- 8 Christ the King, South Benfleet
- 9 S John Vianney, Mid-Essex
- 10 **Baptism of the Lord – He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit**
- 11 S Anthony, Woodford Green
- 12 Our Lady with S Michael, Thorpe le Soken
- 13 The Sacred Heart, Hammerfield
- 14 Our Lady, Letchworth
- 15 Christ in Glory, Aldwick
- 16 The Annunciation, Brighton
- 17 **Epiphany 2 / 2nd Sunday – They saw where he lived and stayed with him**
- 18 S Saviour and S Peter, Eastbourne
- 19 The Transfiguration, Haywards Heath
- 20 The Precious Blood, Horsham
- 21 S Anne, Hove
- 22 Ss Mary and Nicolas, Lancing College
- 23 Our Lady of Littlehampton, Littlehampton
- 24 **Epiphany 3 / 3rd Sunday – The kingdom is close at hand**
- 25 Conversion of S Paul – For Christian Unity
- 26 Anima Christi, St Leonards on Sea
- 27 CBS Trustees Meeting
- 28 S Thomas Aquinas – Ordinands/ Seminarians
- 29 S Cuthman, Storrington Deanery
- 30 Charles 1 – Society of King Charles the Martyr
- 31 **Epiphany 4 / 4th Sunday – He taught with authority**

INTERCESSIONS

FEBRUARY

- 1 S Gabriel, Worthing
- 2 **The Presentation – The light to enlighten the Gentiles**
- 3 Our Lady & Corpus Christi, Cambridge
- 4 S Edmund, King & Martyr, Downham Market
- 5 S Mary, Great Yarmouth
- 6 Our Lady, Walsingham
- 7 **2 before Lent / 5th Sunday – To preach is why I came**
- 8 Ss Peter and Paul, Uppingham
- 9 Our Lady, at Saint Mary Steps, Exeter
- 10 S Peter Plymouth
- 11 S Margaret-Mary Alacoque, Cheltenham
- 12 The Little Flower, Longton
- 13 Our Lady and S Andrew, Newcastle under Lyme
- 14 **Next before Lent / 6th Sunday – People from all around would come to him**
- 15 Ss Mary and Dominic, Friar Park
- 16 The Holy Grail, Wolverhampton
- 17 **Ash Wednesday – Return to the Lord with all your heart**
- 18 The Sacred Heart, Lincoln
- 19 S Magnus, City of London
- 20 The Sacred Heart with S Andrew, East Finchley
- 21 **Lent 1 – Man does not live on bread alone**
- 22 S Peter's Chair – For ecumenical relations
- 23 Adoremus, Hanworth
- 24 Alexander Mackonochie, Holborn
- 25 Corpus Christi, Kenton
- 26 Our Lady and S George, Winchmore Hill
- 27 S Giles, Reading
- 28 **Lent 2 – This is my Son, listen to him**

R.I.P.

We commend to God the souls of all Departed Associates of the Confraternity, especially the following who have died recently:

Priests-Associates

Father Alan Cross
Father Ron Goodwin

Lay Associates

Clare Green
David Dugmore

Please also pray for our new members

New Priest Associates

Father Felix Smith
Father Joe Cooper

New Lay Associates

Angela Baxter
Michael Hollings
Teresa Hollings

Would you like to contribute to the Quarterly, passing on your news to others, & sharing events?

Then please forward any contributions to
edward.martin@lincoln.anglican.org
Material for the next edition must be received by 1st February 2021
Registered Charity No 1082897

A MESSAGE FROM MADAGASCAR

Dear Friends,

I write to thank the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament for the grant of the magnificent chalice and ciborium I was able to bring to Madagascar back in February. My return here was slow as I had the privilege of being one of the consecrating bishops of the new bishop of Mauritius and a meeting of the provincial house of bishops in Mauritius and then sitting on a commission on Mission and Evangelisation in Tulear, south Madagascar. Eventually I got home to Mahajanga in mid-March.



"Unloading the bishop's luggage at Marantsandry – the black case with Communion vessels and robes. One either jumped into the muddy waters or stepped onto the parked ox cart and delicately walked down the shaft to the not so deep mud!"

With great intentions I set off on church visits with unused chalice and ciborium on 20th March. After an exciting trip by taxi-brousse and boat I arrived at Marantsandry for a meeting with representatives of the local churches. On the next morning we woke up to the news that we were officially under lockdown and that all schools, churches and mosques were now closed. Thus my precious luggage remained unopened and we retraced our steps as quickly as possible to Mahajanga city to avoid lockdown in a remote place that had no electricity and running water, not to mention internet!.

However, I am delighted to report that after the lockdown, actually the fine chalice and ciborium were presented before a larger congregation than I had envisaged when I made my request to the Confraternity! To our surprise and delight we were approached by the national television and broadcasting station about the possibility of live broadcasts from the (closed) cathedral. Thus the chalice and ciborium made their first appearance at Solemn High Mass on Easter Day – and again on the second Sunday of Easter. To say that they were much admired is an understatement.

Sadly, I have to report that although we were emerging from lockdown last week these last few days have brought Madagascar's first death from Covid-19 and the first identified infections of coronavirus here in Mahajanga. Thus my immediate plans and the Masses for which the chalice and ciborium were generously granted are temporarily suspended again.

This comes with thanks and prayers, Yours in Christ

✘ Hall

The Rt Revd S. Hall SPEERS, EVECHE ANGLICAN

**2021 COUNCIL-GENERAL
TUESDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2021
At the CCLA Offices
Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street,
London EC4V 4ET**

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HIRE @ £5 EACH
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Contact CBS at 16 Commercial Street, Birmingham B1 1RS
Or email mary@additionalcurates.co.uk
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The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament

And should be sent to Mrs Mary Bashford, (CBS) 16 Commercial Street,
Birmingham B1 1RS

If you would like to pay via BACS our bank details are:

Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament

Barclays Bank : Sort Code 20-94-48 :Account No 60272868

(Please use your name as the reference)

Alternatively you may wish to set up a Standing Order

which can be downloaded off our website at

www.confraternity.org.uk

Under Join Us or request one by emailing

mary@additionalcurates.co.uk

This Quarterly has once again been produced whilst staff are on furlough so please bear with us if there are any errors or omissions.