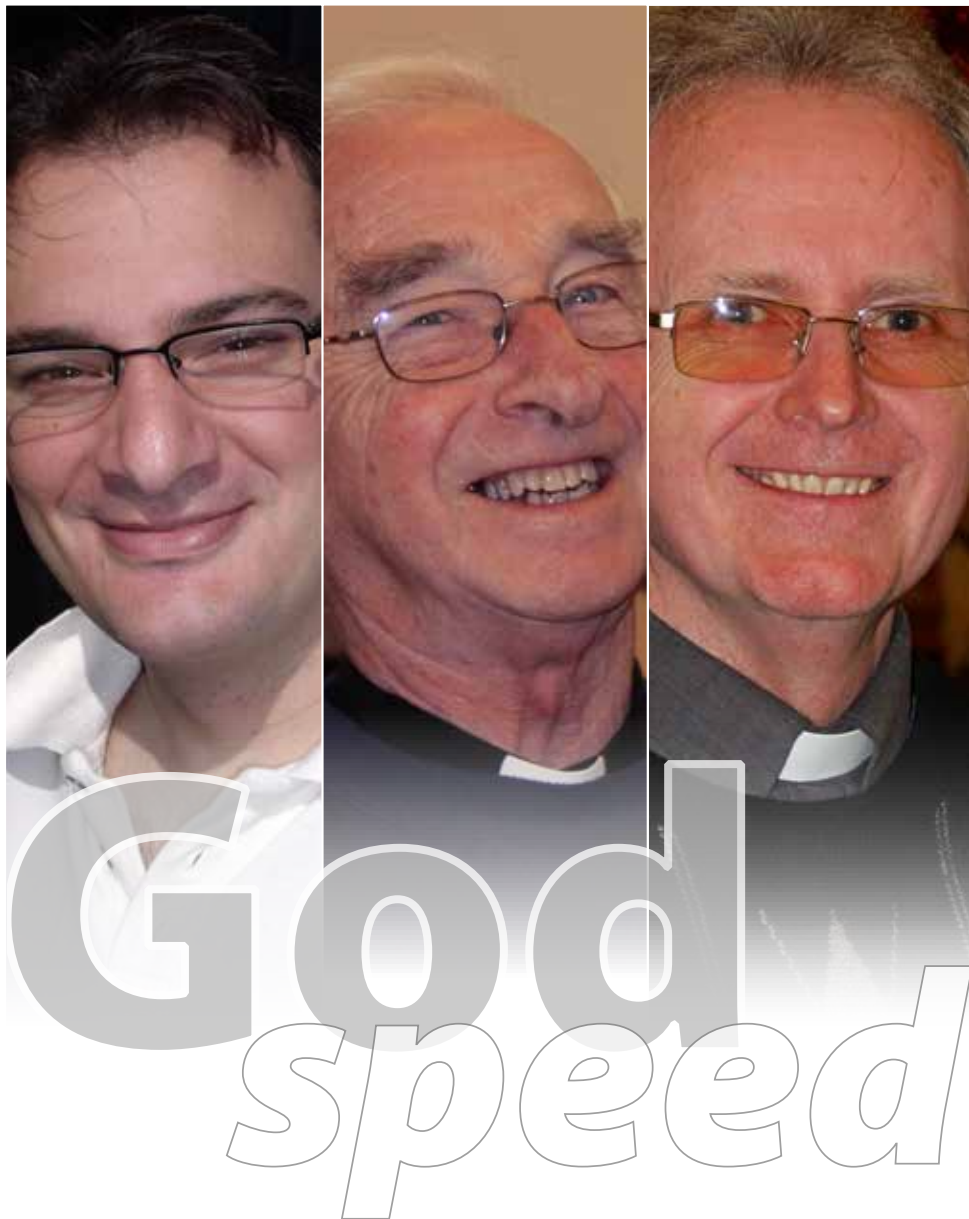


st joseph's journal

Winter 2011

a magazine by our parish, for our parish

cover price: £1



Father Bernard writes ...

MY FINAL YEAR at Our Lady & St. Joseph's has been a very busy one, and a memorable one, too. Perhaps not as memorable as last year – with the renovation of the church and my own golden jubilee of ordination – but there have been some real highlights to treasure.

One in which many of you shared was the ordination to the priesthood of Paulo Bagini. It was a wonderful day at a packed Westminster Cathedral, as Paulo the Deacon became Father Paulo – together with three other deacons from Allen Hall. Then there was his first Mass there the next day, with a lovely barbecue party in the convent garden afterwards.

The pity of it was that he then had to leave us in September to take up his first priestly appointment at the Cathedral. But our loss was the Cathedral's gain. Do read Fr Paulo's reflections on this elsewhere in this magazine.

We may have lost Fr Paulo this year, but we were blessed by the arrival in January of Father Jarlath, who has spent a year with us – a break from his missionary life in Paraguay. His return to South America after Christmas will be a sad day for the parish. Read his thoughts,



too, in this magazine.

Thinking of Fr. Jarlath puts me in mind of another highlight this year – the incredible Hanwell's Got Talent night in June. This was not just an X-Factor event, more an XYZ-Factor! Who can forget the special appearance of Sean the Leprechaun, or the sight of Sister Denis Barry in the chorus line? And so much more besides.

One very personal highlight for me this year (and for two

million others) was the World Youth Day in Madrid. I may be past the first flush of youth – indeed, I was glad the Holy Father turned up, so I wasn't the oldest pilgrim there – but to take part as one of the chaplains was a privilege and an amazing experience.

The evident growth in faith of so many young people was an inspiration during those 11 days, and something that filled one with hope, both for our young people and the future

A sad, fond farewell to you all

of the Church. Here's looking forward to World Youth Day in Rio, 2013!

A key feature of Catholic life not just in Hanwell but throughout the English-speaking world this year has been (and still is) the introduction of changes to the English texts of the Mass. They have been introduced piecemeal, but are now standard everywhere from the beginning of Advent. Change is part of life, but is not always easy to accept or appreciate or adapt to.

Some of the Mass changes have been, to my mind, clearly an improvement and a richer translation than the one we have been used to for some 40 years.

Others are not so warmly welcomed, but have a purpose – even if that purpose takes a bit of understanding. Whatever our personal views, the new text is what we have and what we must get used to.

Children adapt to change more easily than older folk, and will grow up as familiar with the new as we have been with then old. It does provide an opportunity really worth taking, of deepening our understanding and love of the Mass, which is after all the very

heartbeat of Catholic life.

But these words in our Parish Magazine would not be complete without some reflection on the event I am trying not to think about – retiring in January.

Of course, there is much to look forward to but there is much to dread, too. Not only do I have to say goodbye after more than 14 years as your parish priest, but I will be retiring from a lifetime of full-time ministry.

The burdensome aspects of

Not only am I saying goodbye to you, but also to a lifetime of full-time ministry

parish ministry – administration, looking after the property, the level of responsibility and sometimes the worry that is involved in running a parish – I will be glad to shed.

But life as a parish priest is life at the heart of a community, and this I shall miss terribly. I am

always interacting with people, sharing so much of importance and value with others.

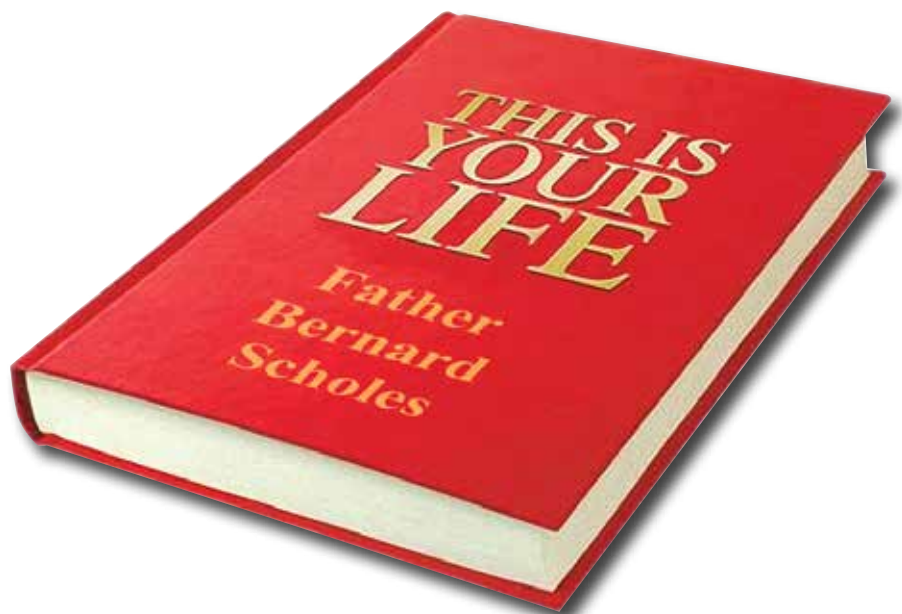
There is the involvement in our schools, the sharing of people's fun and laughter, but also being alongside people in times of need and sorrow. All the families and individuals I have got to know and love will be very hard to leave behind.

Of course, there have been many failures along the way, mistakes made, people neglected, perhaps hurt by those mistakes, fences not mended – these are always a source of regret, and for them I can only apologise. These, too, are regretfully part of fallible human life.

Ultimately, I have to leave everything in the hands of God, thanking Him for the good I may have done, leaving my shortcomings to his tender mercy, and overall rejoicing in the privilege of having been called to serve His people as a priest.

I will continue, please God, to be of service, helping in different parishes from time to time, celebrating Mass and preaching the Word of God.

And of course I will be coming back, I am sure, on many an occasion, to Our Lady & St. Joseph's.



FATHER BERNARD SCHOLES, this is your life.

You were born in West Hounslow, the youngest of seven children, to Winfred, a housewife, and Valentine, an accountant with Shell. Your mother used to pray to St Joseph for twins, and her prayers were finally answered when you and your identical twin brother, Andrew, were born in 1936.

You grew up in a very conventional Catholic family. You were baptised at Saints Michael and Martin Church in Hounslow, received First Holy Communion there, and during war time attended St Michael

and St Martin RC Primary School, also in Hounslow, where many of your lessons were conducted in an underground air-raid shelter.

In 1944, you and your twin were evacuated for five months to a convent near a mining village in County Durham, to escape the Germans' V1 doodlebug rockets.

And while your brothers attended Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School (and your sisters went to Gumley) in 1948 you and Andrew were among the first people to win scholarships to St Benedict's.

You never really considered anything other than a life

spent in the service of God, and after six happy years at St Benedict's studying classics you go straight into Allen Hall Seminary in Hertfordshire, where you contentedly lived a near-monastic lifestyle for six years, from the ages of 18-24.

After you were ordained in 1960 at Westminster Cathedral you are asked to become a teacher in one of the diocese's four Catholic schools, and you attend Cambridge University, where you study history.

You are horrified at the idea of being a teacher, wanting instead to take up a position in a parish – but are assured that it would 'only be for a few years.'

But 17 years later, you find yourself still teaching, and not at a Catholic school, but at a state-run comprehensive in London. After graduating from Cambridge a new archbishop is in place, and he is keen to see teacher-priests take up apostolates, to reach the many Catholic children at non-Catholic schools.

Your teaching career begins with one year as a history master at Chelsea Secondary, followed by 16 years at Archway Comprehensive School in Islington, also teaching history.

After a difficult first year, in which the pupils 'chewed you up and spat you out,' you go on to enjoy your teaching experience, developing a good rapport with the children, and ending your time as senior master.

But your desire to become a parish priest never completely leaves you, and when you grow disillusioned with declining standards at Archway, you decide it's time for a change, and tender your resignation.

It's 1980, and with no experience of working in a parish, you are thrown in at the deep end, being appointed parish priest at Holy Rood Church in Watford.

You find being a parish priest a big challenge. Not only do you have no training in management or finance – core skills for running a parish – but

you are by nature completely disorganized!

When the diocese sends you on a clerical management course you give a presentation to your course instructor explaining how you run your parish. When you finish, the instructor stands, and tells the room: "There are 101 ways to run a parish, but that wasn't one of them!"

Yet your role as head of year while a teacher does furnish you with valuable pastoral experience, and you are able to draw upon time spent helping pupils and their families tackle some of the problems in their lives.

Plus, you are encouraged by the fact that, unlike working in a school, everyone in a parish is on your side, and is happy to work together with you towards common goals.

Just as it would later on in Hanwell, this togetherness helps bring about a major refurbishment programme. Holy Rood is an old church, built in 1890 by John Francis Bentley, the architect responsible for Westminster Cathedral.

To mark the centenary of the church you and your parishioners set about restoring it to its former glory – the completion of which marks one of the highlights of your pastoral career.

Your time at Holy Rood coincided with the Thatcher

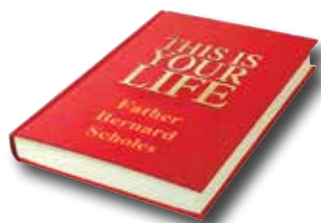


Years, and you establish a reputation for being left-wing, taking parishioners to London for CND rallies and to Greenham Common. You cross paths again with CND activist Bruce Kent, with whom you were in seminary.

In 1985, you are asked to move to a new parish, but decline because too many important things are happening, including the appointment of a new headteacher at the primary school.

But in time you feel you cannot keep turning down a move, and that if you have to depart then it is better to do so on your terms.

So in 1996 you ask to leave, with the request that you are granted a sabbatical year before taking up a new appointment.



You spend three wonderful months in San Francisco doing a theology refresher course and enjoying a break from pastoral duties. You unwind by taking flying lessons, and also head off to the beaches of Hawaii.

But pastoral work calls again – albeit in Granada, in the Caribbean. You return to America on behalf of the Granadian Church, to help raise funds, with the trip taking in Chicago, a return to San Francisco and Oklahoma.

Your sabbatical ends with a skiing trip and a visit to Rome,

and you are then asked to take up an appointment at a place called Hanwell.

It's 1997. While Hanwell is already known to you – you passed through it every day on your way to St Benedicts – you have never before visited.

Moving parishes proves to be difficult in the early days. Over time, the parishioners of Holy Rood became like an extended family, yet you remain convinced that you have done the right thing, believing the time is right for a fresh challenge.

Although you feel like a complete stranger to begin with, the friendly, welcoming parishioners help you settle in quickly, but you soon realise just how much needed doing.

Your first task is to refurbish the priests' house but the state of the church becomes



With Father Richard during refurbishments.

a priority. After the majesty of Holy Rood, the brutalist 1960s concrete of St Joseph's was a shock, and the interior of the church is poorly lit and dirty.

While attempts are made to begin a programme of refurbishment, a crammed itinerary means nothing gets past the paperwork stage – and almost a decade passes before the refurbishment of the church begins to take shape.

As well as bricks and mortar, you set about building a good liturgy, believing this to be the heart of any parish.

Yet the administrative side of your role continues to test your

disorganized nature – especially as you become deeply involved in bodies overseeing all aspects of parish life. You are drafted onto the Cathedral Chapter – a Consultative body for the Bishop – as well as being co-opted onto the Diocesan education Board – all of which means meetings (which you hate) and paperwork, also no friend of yours.

You re-establish the Parish Council, which had become defunct some years earlier, and this helps steer the day-to day running of parish life.

When able to clamber out from under an Everest of paperwork, you seek also to make justice and peace a core part of your pastoral programme, seeing this as central to the teaching of the Church.

This leads to a close involvement with West London Citizens (see page 16 for more information about this), and its work to combat social injustice



At Father Paulo's ordination, pictured with Archbishop Vincent.



With boys and girls taking their first communion in 2011.

and safety issues, such as the fight for a green man crossing outside the Church.

Your passion for these causes sees Our Lady of Grace & St Joseph's voted as being the most involved WLC member-institution, and you personally receive an award to mark your outstanding contribution to civic society.

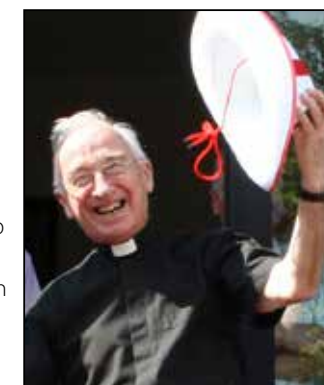
2010 proves to be a momentous year for both yourself and the parish. Not only is the refurbishment work completed, but you also celebrate the golden jubilee of your ordination, on a sun-kissed day (spoiled only by England's inept showing at the World Cup in South Africa).

While retirement fills you with a certain amount of dread – at leaving behind yet another extended family of parishioners – you look forward to shedding

the admin side of your duties, and being more free to follow Brentford FC, as well as catching up on another love – reading.

You are excited, too, by the prospect of becoming a cruise ship chaplain, tending to the pastoral needs of crew and holidaymakers alike.

Father Bernard Scholes, this is Your Life.



Celebrating your ordination golden jubilee.



Announcing winners at the 2011 Church bazaar.

Father Jarlath – on a mission

I AM A member of the Society of the Divine Word, (SVD) a religious missionary order, which was founded by St. Arnold Janssen, a German diocesan priest, in 1875 in Holland, to send missionaries abroad, wherever a need might arise.

We are an international religious missionary order with 6,000 members worldwide, and we work in 65 countries. As Divine Word missionaries, we work with people of different cultures, religions and ideologies. The purpose of our mission has remained unchanged through time: 'To proclaim the Kingdom of God's love.' We are called by the

I have been lucky and privileged to spend time in this parish

Father, sent by the Word and led by the Spirit.

I was ordained a priest in Ireland on the 5 March 1989. In February 1990 I began my missionary work in Paraguay, a

country 1.5 times bigger than the UK with a population of 6.4 million, of which 90% is Catholic.

There is much poverty, and the country is still trying to overcome the consequences of the 35-year military dictatorship of President Alfredo Stroessner, which came to an end in 1989. People are still learning about democracy – how to have full respect for the constitution and laws that must be obeyed for the effective running of the country's institutions.

On a political level, corruption is rampant. The justice system, influenced by the constant meddling in judicial power, usually leaves unpunished the crimes of the powerful. While some effort is made to correct the national debt, it is to the detriment of health, education, the basic necessities of the people and the protection of the environment.

Also, the industrialisation of agriculture conflicts with the traditional family farming approach, and with the culture of the people who make their living from it. The population is suffering from a situation of economic and social injustice.

Faced with the difficulties and challenges, people are finding ways to resist and to fight the negative factors, both within the country as well as those

coming from outside. They try to safeguard their identity, preserving cultural values of great significance, such as solidarity, hospitality, trust in others, optimism, happiness and the spirit of celebration.

The Paraguayan people are fighting for a better world with great hope, rooted in a life-giving, constructive Christian spirituality. Paraguay is a nation that, in spite of its insecure situation, knows how to celebrate with a festive spirit all the signs of the presence of the Risen Lord in its life and history.

The country is multicultural, and includes recent immigrants and descendants of those that arrived here years ago, and the indigenous tribes – all of whom create a genuine multicultural mosaic.

We live in a society which is, and which will continue to be more and more so, a pluralistic society in which we will have to live with citizens of different origins, ideologies and creeds.

The Church has always accompanied the Paraguayan people in its anxieties, proclaiming, denouncing and celebrating the key moments of life. The bishops – the Paraguayan Conference of Religious – are insistent in calling for respect for human rights and the promotion of human dignity.

to help rural Paraguayans

The bishops passionately call on the authorities to govern, legislate and impart justice with a sense of responsibility and honesty.

This challenges missionaries and pastoral agents to develop a greater knowledge and adaptation to the everyday culture of the people.

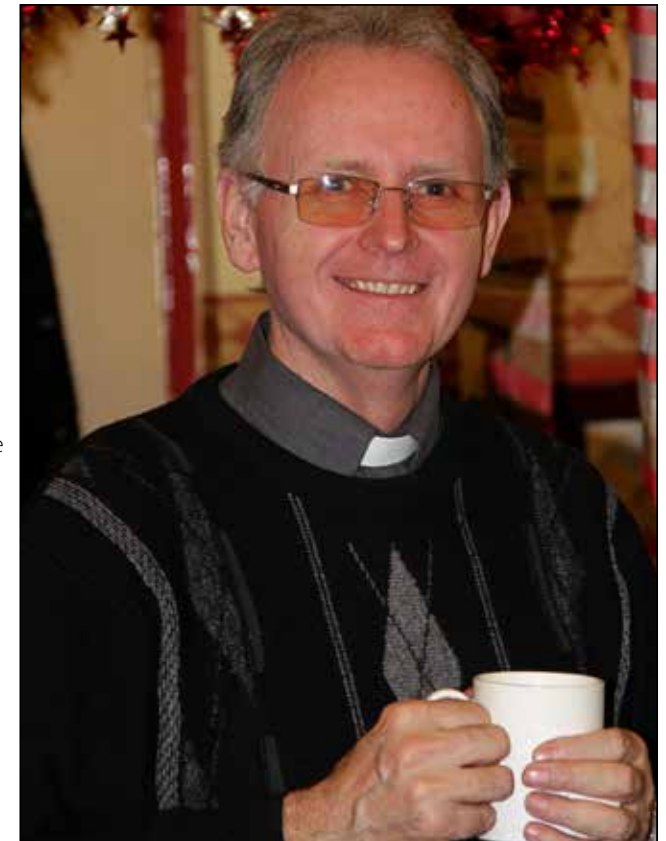
In Paraguay there are 65 Divine Word Missionaries of 15 nationalities. We choose to reach out to rural workers, especially those who live in camps and have no land of their own to cultivate.

As for indigenous peoples, we want to accompany them in the process of integral human development, respecting their ideas and beliefs and in the necessities they feel are deeply their own.

Most of us are engaged in missionary service in the context of ordinary parishes: with ten to 50 communities in each parish.

These communities have their own churches that we visit on a monthly basis. We dedicate much time also to education, with many primary, secondary schools and agricultural colleges. We try to work with the children and the youth to form citizens who are honest, responsible and interested in the present and the future of the country.

During the past six years prior to coming to Hanwell, I was the



provincial superior of the Order. Having finished that job, I wanted some time to work in a parish pastoral setting in this Diocese. I was very lucky and privileged to have this pastoral year at Our Lady's and St Joseph's, where from the very beginning I was made very welcome, and felt at home almost immediately.

I would like to thank Fr. Canon

Bernard for having me here, and the parish team for their support. I would also like to thank all of you, the parishioners of this wonderful and vibrant parish, for your kindness.

I will leave Hanwell with very fond memories of all of you. I assure you of my prayers. Many thanks and may God bless you all.

Fr. Jarlath Melvin, SVD

Everything, and yet nothing, has changed for Father Paulo

WHEN I WAS first told that I was coming to Westminster Cathedral my first reaction was one of shock; in comparison with those with whom I was being ordained I saw myself as the least qualified to such a place.

Due to my good experience in Hanwell, I thought I was going to be sent to a parish similar to it. From my reaction, the Archbishop could not tell if I was happy or sad for my appointment, so I duly wrote him a letter thanking him for the appointment and expressing my happiness, especially in working alongside

a Saint that I have a great devotion to: Saint John Southworth, whose relics are on display here in Westminster.

I soon realised that, at heart, Westminster is as much of a Parish as Hanwell; it has a vibrant parish community formed of simple people of all backgrounds, (although every now and then you may meet Tony Blair in the Communion queue). Yet, it is particularly busy; being so central, it receives visitors from all over the world who come not only to visit the Cathedral, but they come also looking for the sacraments; so it is common for me to be in

the confessional for at least one hour a day, though many times it is two to two hours and a half.

I thank God for being able to speak Portuguese, Spanish and Italian as well as English; it has been of great benefit to the parishioners to help them in their own language.

Also there are six masses per day, and I say Mass everyday, quite often twice a day. Here I have been put in charge of the First Holy Communion Programme and the Confirmation Programme; this is a great opportunity to meet the parents and the young people, but I realised how hard it is to make the parents read what I send them regarding the programmes (now I know how Elizabeth Anderson feels!).

Also I am Chaplain for St. Vincent de Paul Primary School; the children are fantastic and very capable of showing faith in a way that many of us adults can only dream of.

We are seven priests living in Clergy House, plus a religious Sister, the intern (a lay person who works as secretary to the Sub administrator) and an organ scholar; together we form a nice community in which we pray and eat together, as well



Paulo prepares to lead Year 3 St Joseph's children into the church to celebrate their First Holy Communion.



Paulo become Father Paulo at his ordination at Westminster Cathedral earlier in the year.

as trying to help each other to cope with the huge demands on the Cathedral.

I am happy here as I was happy in Hanwell. I think I am just happy in trying to serve God in the brothers and sisters that approach me. Here in the Cathedral there is a whole structure of people, lay and clergy alike, who work very hard in doing all kinds of house jobs and administrative work so that the Chaplains have to worry with nothing else than Evangelization, Pastoral, Sacramental and Catechetical work; here I do what I was prepared to do; to be a priest for the people and for that I am grateful to all the brothers and sisters who work so hard in

Just like Hanwell, Westminster is a parish with a vibrant sense of community

the background for this to be possible.

Yet I do miss you all and, especially now as Christmas arrives. At this time the choir may be coming to the presbytery to practice the carols and it was always nice to meet them. Soon the Christmas tree

will be going up in the front of the Church and to think that I will not be there with Joe McNamara and John Collin to put it up – it is hard, and nostalgia does kick in; yet, it is always good to meet you when you come here.

I hope you can come to visit me sometimes (some of you do, and I am very grateful). It is always good to be reminded from where I came and the many people that supported me through the journey. I would not be here if it were not for you all. Please, keep praying for me, as I will you.

A happy Christmas and a peaceful new year to you all. God Bless.

Fr. Paulo Bagini.

World Youth Day 2011: 'We'll

World Youth Day 2011 was a Catholic event held from August 16-21 in Madrid. Among the 2 million who attended was **Jo Warren**, who here recounts an experience that she says was very special.

OUR JOURNEY BEGAN in Salamanca, an incredibly beautiful city a few hours' drive from Madrid, where we had a chance to begin to get to know each other, soak up some of the amazing history the place had to offer – and acclimatise to the Spanish heat!

Both Emma and myself made the decision quite early on in the preparation sessions that we would like to become group leaders, which involved everything from leading small group discussions to 'encouraging' sleepy group members out of bed in the morning so that they wouldn't be late for meetings.

I felt proud that Emma and I – along with Fr. Bernard as a group chaplain (and not forgetting Fr. Richard Nesbitt, who was present in his capacity as Vocations Director) could so actively represent St. Joseph's within the wider Westminster group!

Leaving Salamanca, we travelled to Madrid via Avila,



Jo Warren and Emma Culleton were among Hanwell's representatives at the World Youth Day in Madrid.

It rooted more firmly in the faith all the young people who attended

another beautiful place, where we visited the home convent of St. Teresa of Avila and had the opportunity to learn a little bit about her life, and how she had reformed the Carmelite order.

From here we reached Madrid, where we stayed in some (very modern) student accommodation. After some free time in Madrid and a chance to get to grips with Metro system, we fell into the full swing of the World Youth Day experience.

Mornings were taken up with Catechetical sessions which were shared with other English speaking groups and free time left us a chance to explore, and take part in the 'Festival of Youth', which offered a variety of events around the city.

There were also, of course, events surrounding the Papal

remember it all our lives'

arrival and addresses. The excitement was tangible, and we'd never before seen so many people in one place before.

Of course, there was the inevitable waiting around in the heat to catch a glimpse of the Pope in his 'popemobile', but the excitement and enthusiasm permeating the crowd made any discomfort more than worth it.

And to be among a crowd of other young Catholics who share the same beliefs as you was a hugely uplifting experience. Many groups from all over the world converged on Madrid in an atmosphere of overwhelming joy and, importantly, friendship. I think for many people this was in stark contrast to the secular lives so many live back in their home countries.

Roughly 2 million pilgrims were registered as part of World Youth Day, and towards the end of the week this vast crowd descended on Cuatro Vientos, a vast airfield near Madrid, where an overnight vigil with the Pope would take place.

The journey there was not easy, and perhaps gave us a little taste of a more traditional pilgrimage experience. We walked for a number of hours under the hot Spanish sun to

reach our destination, only to find the reserved area we were meant to be in was full, and we were to be placed in an overflow area.

After a stormy night under the stars we watched the sun rise over the crowd, and joined together for the closing mass given by Pope Benedict. We then began to make the long, hot journey back to our accommodation and headed straight for a much-needed shower.

The final evening was a mixture of joy and sadness as we said goodbye to new friends and reflected on our

experiences. I know for sure it is something that will remain with me for a very long time; it rooted all the young people who attended more firmly in the faith.

Both Emma and I would like to express heartfelt thanks to all those who made it possible for us to make the journey to Madrid – especially Fr. Bernard and the Knights of St. Columba.

I hope also that this article has given a taste of what the experience was like, and that it might inspire other young adults in the parish to attend the next World Youth Day, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2013.



Fr. Richard struggles manfully to order lunch in Spanish, as an amused Fr. Bernard looks on.



Help your Church build an Olympic legacy of peace

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT London is hosting the Olympic Games next summer, but what you may be less familiar with is how the Catholic Church is responding to the Games.

The Church is using the Games as an opportunity to develop a peace legacy under the banner 'London 2012 Games Uniting in Peace'. It is promoting 100 days of peace – 50 before the start of the games, and 50 following its conclusion. You can learn more about this by visiting peacelegacy.org.uk.

The Games has as one of its goals the creation and development of a sporting legacy for the children not only of Britain, but throughout

the world. Our government is promoting this goal through the International Inspirations Programme, which is designed to inspire young people to become active citizens through the example and careers of sports stars. There is also the Get Set Scheme for schools

There are other Catholic programmes, too, such as the John Paul II Foundation for Sport, and More than Gold (morethangold.org.uk), which is helping churches nationwide make the most of societal opportunities presented by the Games.

On a local level, parishes and schools are being encouraged to become involved in a variety of initiatives. Some of the suggestions include:

- Celebrating peace heroes;
- Planting a peace garden;
- Making a peace trail;
- Holding a peace service; and
- Staging a peace games day.

So how can Our Lady and St. Joseph's become involved? Well, there are a number of ways. Our involvement can be centred around prayer, peace and justice, hospitality, ecumenicism,

education and sport. All of us can contribute and make a difference.

An evening to launch our response has been arranged for Friday 27 January, 2012 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. It will involve an explanation of the various programmes, a sports quiz and an opportunity to plan a range of prayer, social justice and peace initiatives, and sporting activities.

We need a big turn out so that together we can celebrate London 2012, and provide a genuine Catholic sporting legacy.

For further information, contact Colm Hickey on colmhickey77@gmail.com or 07795 835 927.



Our own Cathedral songsters

Class 4M from St Joseph's, led by Mr McArdle, recently enjoyed a trip to Westminster Cathedral, where they sung wonderfully well, alongside amazing choristers from the Westminster Cathedral School, as well as pupils from other London Catholic schools.



Model citizens trying to make

West London a better place



Parishioners involved in the Green Man Campaign prepare to make their point during the Hanwell Carnival procession.

WEST LONDON CITIZENS (WLC) is a chapter of London Citizens, the capital's largest civic alliance, representing a broad base of over 160 institutions, including schools, churches, mosques, synagogues, university departments and trade unions. Members share a commitment to taking action for the common good, and helping people of all backgrounds and ages to become active leaders who can help shape the public life of the city.

The parish pays £2,000

per year to belong to WLC, thereby gaining the support of WLC's organisers to help us take forward issues of concern to the parish and the wider community. There are two key issues for our parish and borough of which you are probably aware.

Road safety

Our ultimate goal remains having a pedestrian crossing in front of the church. This has involved discussions with both Ealing Council and London

Mayor, Boris Johnson, in his role as Chair of Transport for London (TfL), who have the ultimate veto on any changes to traffic flow on the Uxbridge Road.

The Phase 2 Feasibility Study undertaken by the Council has been completed and we are meeting to discuss the findings this week. The feasibility study involved linking up Ealing Council traffic planners with TfL, which is why we have been pursuing this with Boris Johnson.

While we have raised this on

a number of occasions this year with the Mayor and we were encouraged when Leon Daniels, the Surface Transport Director at TfL, did contact us in July, saying he was prepared to meet with us, we have heard nothing since. This is disappointing to say the least and may reflect the relative importance pedestrians have at City Hall.

We remain determined to hold both Ealing Council and TfL to account for this unsafe junction. Our minimum demand is that senior representatives come to this community to explain why, in their opinion, we do not merit a safe crossing.

Ealing Hospital

In last year's WLC listening campaign, before the elections, anxiety over the future of Ealing Hospital was a major concern raised. This issue has become of even greater concern over the year, given the impact of the planned Coalition Government's health reforms.

WLC has met with a number of important decision-makers over the last year but they have not been able to reassure us of the future of current services - at the hospital or elsewhere.

Given the number of people in the parish who depend on the services provided, both

for their care and for their livelihood, this is very worrying.

Our main cause for complaint is there is no opportunity for the community's voice to be heard, while all these important decisions about our health services are being made elsewhere.

Over the summer, in a number of listening exercises, the parish has strongly indicated your concerns about local health services and jobs. Clearly, given the imminent changes at Ealing Hospital with the plans to merge with Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow and Central Middlesex Hospital in Park Royal, there are some very real risks to our community.

We are meeting with local leaders in the health service and at the Council, who will have an increasing responsibility for healthcare, to try to ensure real public consultation and involvement. We're planning a public meeting about healthcare services and our worries for the future in mid-February. If you'd like to be involved, please get in touch, via the parish office.

Other campaigns

CitySafe As a response to the rising number of attacks on

young people by young people, we are setting up CitySafe Havens – places of safety for young people in immediate danger – in Greenford, West Ealing and Southall.

St Joseph's is the most active WLC member institution

Money Mentors As part of WLC's support for financial literacy, especially for young people, we are running training courses. Interested parishioners are welcome to take part.

London Mayor Assembly

In order to prepare the agenda that London Citizens will put before those standing as Mayor of London next May, WLC recently held a powerful assembly at Ealing Town Hall.

If you are interested in any of these issues or campaigns, please get in touch via the parish office.

Maureen McGinn

Open letter of thanks from Sister Ann, in strife-riven Haiti

DEAR FATHER BERNARD, Elizabeth and team, parishioners, volunteers.

How can I ever thank you for the tremendous response to our appeal on behalf of the poor of Haiti. Between your coffee mornings and church collections, the total amount raised was in the region of £1,500, which was truly an outpouring of generosity.

The people of St. Joseph's are extraordinary when it comes to helping the poor. God bless and thank each and every person for their generosity. I shall never forget the turn-out at the coffee morning even though it was raining. Many



Ashley is a victim of the Haiti earthquake. She suffered a broken femur, and both of her parents were killed.

elderly and frail people came out just to support the cause, which was most noble of them.

I am using some of the money to set up a kitchen where we can cook and serve food to very poor families and children who are orphaned. It is a very basic building with a tin roof, some tables and benches. It is not quite finished yet but when it is I shall send you some photos.

Many of these children are going to school for the first time and have been treated for malnutrition the past year so we are trying to help them with food and education. Our local priest, Fr. Tijwa, has set up the food kitchen just outside his own living area and is opening a school for the little ones in October. He has already set up a literacy school to help young people who have never been to school and therefore cannot read or write.

Many of these children live on the streets and are extremely happy for the chance to go to school. When they have grasped the skill of reading and writing they will pass into a regular school run by local Sisters.

At the moment I am working with at the hospital, caring for our patients with cholera, which thankfully is on the decline. This

time last year we had the cholera epidemic that claimed many lives, so we are praying it will disappear.

God knows it's about time we had a breather, as the people of Haiti are exhausted from the terrible effects of the many 2010 disasters: earthquake, hurricanes mud slides and cholera.

I hope to get more actively involved in the Nutrition Centre programme, which shall be my special project over the next few years. My energy shall be geared to helping 'The Little ones of Haiti'. They are sad, underweight and lifeless, their little bodies depleted of the vital nutrients needed for growth and development. Hopefully with the introduction of a good meal every day we shall see a marked improvement in their health and wellbeing.

Thank God for people like yourselves who have been so very generous in helping out since the earthquake. I have managed to feed these little ones a dinner of rice, veg and meat for about 50p, and provide them with the basics like soap, toothpaste and tooth brushes.

I wanted to convey to you my deep appreciation for your great kindness and generosity. You're always remembered in my prayers.

E	R	O	M	S	A	M	O	H	T
P	E	T	E	R	M	A	C	D	E
A	H	K	S	A	N	R	L	D	K
U	S	Y	R	T	G	G	I	R	C
L	I	Y	H	A	N	A	T	A	I
L	F	O	H	H	M	R	H	N	R
B	N	F	O	E	Z	E	E	R	T
Y	H	J	D	O	T	T	R	E	A
H	O	U	E	K	U	L	O	B	P
J	J	O	S	E	P	H	W	N	A

Word search

Ten Saints associated with our Church can be found in this word search grid. They include three Gospel writers and one missionary. Send your list into the presbytery with your name, age and telephone number. Correct entries will be pulled from a hat, and a small prize awarded to the winner.

Critical Mass: textual changes

Several of the changes to the text of the Mass have already been discussed briefly in the church newsletter. Here, let's look at one or two more.

The Scripture Readings

The way we proclaim God's Word in the Bible is a good starting place.

Previously the Reader has simply stated a fact at the end of the Readings:

"This is the Word of the Lord", and the people had mumbled in reply, *"Thanks be to God"*.

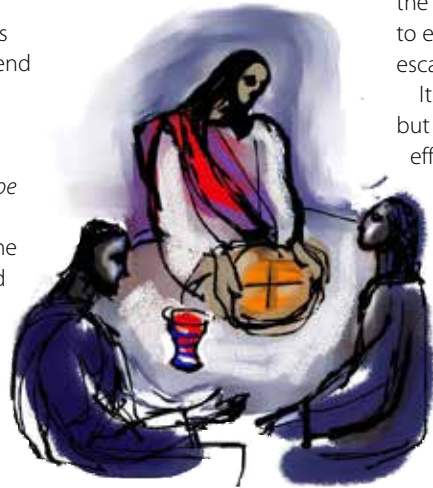
Now, the Reader omits the *"This is.."* and proclaims loud and clear, *"The word of the Lord"* – a much more emphatic reminder that we have listened to God's own Word.

And so the congregation should be much more emphatic in replying loud and clear, *"Thanks be to God"*. No mumbling and muttering, please; let's hear it from you.

And even more emphatic at the end of the Gospel, *"Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."* We don't praise Him with clenched teeth or closed mouths but with open mouths and hearts. (Incidentally, North America has used this newer form for years)

Before Communion

The breaking of bread during the reciting of the Lamb of God (by everyone, remember) is a sign of one loaf being broken and distributed to all, the unity among many, which is the body of Christ broken for us. The priest then says, *"Behold*



the Lamb of God" – a much richer expression than simply, *"This is..."*. *"Behold"* invites us to look, to pay attention, to take good notice. It echoes John the Baptist's words at the baptism of Jesus, and also the words of Pilate as Jesus was brought in front of the crowd (*"Behold the man"*, or in Latin, *"Ecce homo"*). The priest continues, *"Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb."* Again

much better than *"happy..."* In modern English usage, *'happy'* is about feelings. Blessed is about our state of being; we can be blessed while feeling unhappy. *"Called to the supper of the Lamb"* is an image from the Bible.

Christ is the Lamb of God, the sacrificial lamb, the fulfilment of the lamb killed at the Passover to enable the Israelites to escape from slavery in Egypt.

Its a mixture of metaphors but has a strong cumulative effect, lots of imagery and symbolism to reflect upon.

Then we have again a more Biblical text, as we say, *"...enter under my roof"*, the words of the centurion in the Gospel whose servant needed healing.

We, too, need healing, through receiving Christ in the Eucharist.

We might do well at this point to remember Archbishop Vincent's Pastoral Letter on the Eucharist. He said that approaching for Communion is not 'queuing', but a liturgical act, to be done reverently.

He suggested that before receiving the sacred host we bow, as a sign of acknowledgement of the presence of Christ.

Father Bernard



EACH YEAR MEN and women embark on an exploration of the Catholic faith called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Some are deciding if they are called into the Catholic Church. Others have missed out on the opportunity to be confirmed or make their first Holy Communion, and then there are lapsed Catholics who have become interested in rediscovering what being Catholic really means for them.

Together, we are witness to the fact that our search for God is a lifelong journey, a journey on which we make the most progress when we walk it with others and with intention.

RCIA is a chance for people to learn the basics of what it means to be Catholic, to ask burning questions and to seek ways to more fully open their lives to Jesus Christ.

The programme prepares men and women to make a conscious choice whether

or not they want receive the sacraments of initiation offered by the Catholic Church (baptism, confirmation, and the eucharist).

The 'enquirers' are joined by a small team of Catholics and each will have a 'sponsor' or 'godparent'.

If you are interested, we meet every in the Parish Centre every Wednesday from 7.30-9.30pm. Just come along, or speak to Elizabeth if you would like more information. Meanwhile, here are some first-hand accounts of how RCIA can change people's lives for the better.

Sally

"It is now 18 years since I attended my first RCIA meeting. It didn't take long for me to realize I wasn't starting some kind of course where I was to be assessed or judged – that what I was doing was taking the first tentative steps of a journey that was going to last my whole

life, with a group of people who were genuinely pleased to see me each time we met."

Hitoshi and Kumiko

"We arrived in this Country without any English. We faced numerous difficulties in our lives. However, since we became Catholic we found a light of hope through God. He gave us the strength to fight suffering."

Norma

"I was inspired by RCIA meetings. They were informative and friendly. There were many aspects of the Catholic Faith I didn't understand. The meetings have rectified these."

Carol

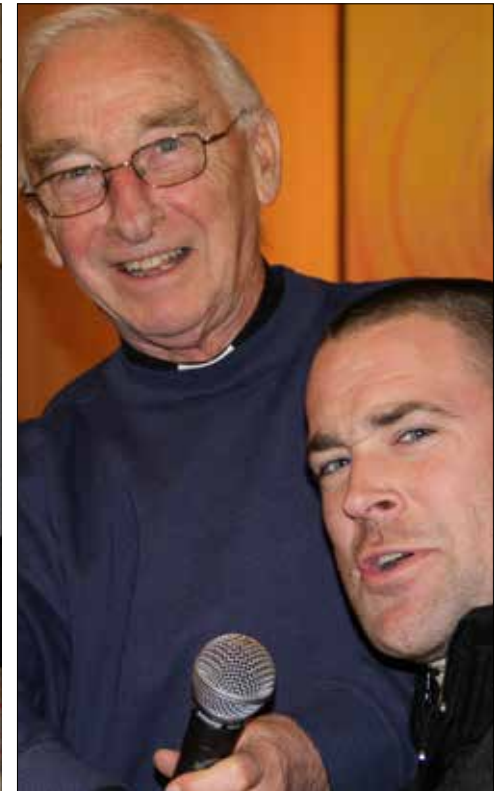
"I was a lapsed Catholic. Even though I prayed every day I felt something was missing; I wanted to get more involved and to be known. The day I received communion again was like being given another life."

Church Bazaar raises £4,000

FATHER BERNARD WRITES of the 2011 Church Bazaar: "The Bazaar was once again a really great parish event, a wonderful atmosphere, an excellent crowd all day and a huge boost to our Building Fund, with a total of over £4,000 being raised. Heartfelt thanks to Joe, who helped so much and in so many ways, and to all who helped support the bazaar in any way at all."



towards Building Fund



Farewell

Farewell! but whenever you welcome the hour
that awakens the night-song of mirth in your bower,
then think of the friend who once welcomed it too,
and forgot his own griefs to be happy with you.
His griefs may return, not a hope may remain
of the few that have brighten'd his pathway of pain,
but he ne'er will forget the short vision, that threw
its enchantment round him, while lingering with you.

And still on that evening, when pleasure fills up
to the highest top sparkle each heart and each cup,
where'er my path lies, be it gloomy or bright,
my soul, happy friends, shall be with you that night;
shall join in your revels, your sports, and your wiles,
and return to me, beaming all o'er with your smiles
– too blest, if it tells me that, 'mid the gay cheer,
some kind voice has murmur'd, "I wish he were here!"

Let Fate do her worst, there are relics of joy,
bright dreams of the past, which she cannot destroy;
which come in the night-time of sorrow and care,
and bring back the features that joy used to wear.
Long, long be my heart with such memories fill'd!
Like the vase, in which roses were once distill'd
– you may break, you may shatter the vase, if you will,
but the scent of the roses will linger still.

Thomas Moore

The Farewell

I have got my leave. Bid me farewell, my brothers!
I bow to you all and take my departure.

Here I give back the keys of my door
– and I give up all claims to my house.
I only ask for last kind words from you.

We were neighbours for long,
but I received more than I could give.
Now the day has dawned
and the lamp that lit my dark corner is out.
A summons has come and I am ready for
my journey.

Rabindranath Tagore



OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH

52, Uxbridge Road, Hanwell,
London W7 3SU
Tel: 020 8567 4056
Fax: 020 8810 0219
email: hanwell@rcdow.org.uk

Parish team

Father Bernard Scholes,
Elizabeth Anderson
(catechetical co-ordinator)

Mass times:

Saturday: 12.15pm, 6.30pm
(1st Mass of Sunday); Sunday: 8am,
10am (family Mass), 12 noon, 6pm
Mon-Fri: Usually 9.15am, also 6pm on
Tuesday and Friday.
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual
Help: Tue, 6.30pm
Eucharistic adoration:
Saturday, 5-6pm

Parish office hours:

Mon to Sat 10am - 2pm
Confessions: Sat, 11.30am - 12noon,
5.30-6pm
Baptisms: 3 months' notice required
Marriages: 6 months notice required
Primary School: St Joseph's,
York Avenue, Hanwell, W7 3HU,
020 8567 6293
Headteacher: Mr Ben Cassidy