



Platernian Newsletter



Winter 2011
(Issue 1)

Welcome and Thank You

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Platernian Association published by St Antony's Centre for Church & Industry.

A huge thank you to the Platernians for donating the remaining funds from the Platernian Association to St Antony's Centre to be used to support future editions of this newsletter.

Our aim is to produce at least an annual Platernian Newsletter and to carry regular news items and articles in our publication "Centreview" about Catholic Social Thinking and associated projects.

Meeting in Manchester at St Antony's Centre in March 2011, the Director, Kevin Flanagan, explained to Dermott Carroll and Denis O'Driscoll, representatives of the Platernians, in the presence of Tony Burns, the importance of ensuring the vision of Fr Charles Plater and the rich tradition of developing the laity through formation in the Church's Social Thinking should not be lost.

It was also hoped that an annual gathering could be organised to provide an opportunity for former Platernians and those who supported its work to meet and share together on key social issues and themes. It was anticipated that a first opportunity may arise early in 2012.

The Director was delighted that the Centre had been chosen to help continue this important work. As a former Plater Student, he knew only too well how important its work had been in supporting working men and women in their education and Christian formation. It had influenced him in the development of the Centre for Church and Industry and ensuring strong education links to Communities and Parishes across the North West. He hoped similar "Centres" could be developed in other areas of the country forming a network of support to those engaged in the World of Work and Lay Apostolate. He had always carried a vision for "Regional Plater" Colleges promoting similar aims to the original Oxford venue.

Dermot and Denis responded by presenting a cheque to the Director and by expressing the wishes of the Platernians that the Spirit of Plater should live on in practical projects and a desire to see a newsletter and network meeting for those who were interested in the work of Fr Charles Plater.



Dermot presents a cheque to the Director on behalf of the Association.

*Wishing you and your families a Happy Christmas
with Joy and Blessings for the New Year.*



Kevin Flanagan & St Antony's Centre Team





A Venture which failed and a fresh interest

Margaret Fletcher 1862-1943

In 1922 when the Catholic Workers' College was founded in memory of Fr Plater SJ, according to the plans which he had formed in his own mind, I saw a chance of being some use in making it possible to include a few women students among the number.

Fr Plater had seen that it must be made possible for Catholic young men and women of the working classes to be as well educated in Economics and Political Science as the students coming from Ruskin College; and over and above this, they should be given a serious course in Moral Philosophy, in ethics and in Apologetics. This would entail two years of study, the first making good the inevitable gaps in previous education. It was a bold scheme, since premises would have to be found and scholarships collected. These later came from diverse sources – from working men themselves in areas with considerable Catholic populations, from organised Catholic Societies and from private benefactors, supplemented by grants from Local Education Authorities. This, as may be imagined, was hard work at first, for at that date hardly 2% of the Catholic population had read the recent Papal Encyclicals, or were awake to the need.



The Pullens, (Fairfield)
bought by Plater College in 1975

After the War "Ruskin" had enlarged its borders to include some women. With us no provision for women seemed possible for a long while to come. The Principal of our Catholic College must first consolidate its position, and develop favourable relations with the University and with the Board of Education. His hands were full. I had been hoping for such an opportunity, and I offered to take two or three women students into my own home, and to collect the necessary scholarships from Catholic Women's Societies and wherever I could, without cutting across the interests of men. This scheme was greatly furthered at the outset by the Catholic Women's League, which gave £600 collected from its Headquarters and Branch Membership. Later, generous individual donors were not wanting. Eventually, the Women's fund was taken over by the Treasurer of the College. It was a work of intense interest to me. I had seen the need for a more thorough preparation of those who were bearing the brunt of hostile propaganda.

The influence of even a small group could be spread far and wide. The education planned was not intended to further a change in the student's secular occupation, but to make a sound thinker of him. Loyalty too, and pride in one's own class was to take the place of class bitterness and hatred, while working for Social Justice on the lines of Papal Encyclicals. The CWL had been founded (by Margaret Fletcher herself) on an all-class basis, and allowing for a little preliminary shyness, it had worked excellently on the practical plane and in parochial life. Working women showed themselves very courageous in upholding their Faith when publicly attacked and some were very effective speakers; but it was becoming more and more clear that a few of them, when educated as this College could educate them, would have an immense influence for good in the factory and the shop or wherever their work took them. There would be spectacular results. It would be a slow permeation by Truth.

Margaret Fletcher lies buried in the former Oblate Priory (now Anglican) Cemetery in Begbrooke, near Oxford.

Michael Doyle (1966-1968)



Do you want to be a Silver Surfer?

As part of the Bishop's Conference Year of Education, St Antony's Centre has launched a new Online training course. The Centre will be arranging a number of activities to support and encourage members of the community to take part in the **new initiative**. The Project aims to support people in using computers and the internet to ensure that everyone can access new technology in our increasingly digital society.

The Centre will be running events at St Antony's Centre, Manchester and the Accrington Community and Training Centre in Lancashire, and at other venues in the North West. For further information visit the Centre website or log onto www.stantonyscentre.org.uk

The courses are free.

Spread the word

If you were a Plater "Graduate" or know of others who may be interested in this publication, please send their details to us.

To reduce cost, we are encouraging people to receive the Newsletter by e-mail in PDF format.

We will also place it on our Centre website for wider readership.

A limited number of printed copies will be produced and posted upon request to former members of the Association.

Given the significant increase in postage, you can help our resources go further by receiving your copy by e-mail.

If you would like to donate towards the work of the Centre, Cheques should be made payable to **"St Antony's Centre"**.

All receipts will be acknowledged.

Gathering in Portugal

Three representatives from the Centre for Church & Industry attended the European Pastoral for Work (GEPO) at Barcelos, Portugal from 6-10 April 2011, on the issues of "**Migration in the European Union in Times of Crisis**". The Chair of the Bishop's Conference in Portugal welcomed delegates who shared their experiences in countries across Europe, as well as looking at the contribution of Christian Social Thinking to the issues that are arising.

The Conference took place against a background of significant changes in UK Migration Policy which will see the number of overseas students entering the UK restricted. Many colleges and employers have questioned the impact of the policy changes on the economy and skills needs.

Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the report from the meeting or who is interested in supporting the work of the Centre in Europe should contact the Director. Plans are being drawn up to welcome the European delegates to the UK in 2013 as guests of St Antony's Centre. Over the next twelve months the Centre and GEPO will continue to work on "Migration issues" due to the ongoing situation faced by European Countries and to the migration of peoples from Africa and the Middle East to Europe.

Can you help us record the stories from Plater College or the Catholic Workers College?

If you would like to write a short piece for inclusion in the next edition, we would be pleased to receive it. Do you have a photo from the College you can send for us to use? Do you have any artefacts or memorabilia that we could record? The importance of telling the story and preserving the rich heritage of Plater is a task we would like to promote. We would like to launch a Plater on-line Forum next year to share news and information - would you like to be part of it?

Send your contributions to kflanagan@stantonyscentre.org.uk and we will put some resources together for the next edition.



The Welsh Priest who defied the Gestapo

The pages of the history of the Second World War are punctuated with stories of the heroic exploits of many brave men and women.

Counted amongst them is a Welsh priest who defied the German Gestapo and saved the lives of many Allied servicemen.

Thomas Philip Lenane was born in Newport in Wales in 1903. He was of Irish stock, his father hailing from Aglish, County Waterford. Mr Lenane senior moved to the Welsh city early in the 20th century seeking work as a coal trimmer. There he met and married local girl Mary Bennett. Thomas was educated at the local Holy Cross Catholic School, where he was regarded as a bright child who excelled at all sports. In his youth, his sporting prowess was recognised when he was selected to play for the Wales national water polo team. In his early twenties, Thomas completed an engineering apprenticeship and in 1926 went on to spend a year in the Catholic Workers' College in Oxford. After recognising his calling, he studied for the Priesthood and was ordained in 1934 at Collegio Missionaria Antonia Rosmini, the Rosminian headquarters in Rome. When Italy joined the war, Fr Lenane, who had remained in Rome as administrator of the Rosminian college, became fearful that his Welsh nationality might result in his arrest, so he hatched a plan to assume the identity of a deceased Irish priest.

With meticulous attention to detail, he produced fake identity papers and even resorted to forging an Irish passport. So good were Fr Lenane's forgeries, and so good was his fake Irish accent, that under his assumed identity he went relatively unmolested by Italian fascists and the German Gestapo. As the war progressed, his talent for forgery and deception came to the attention of the underground movement and, as part of the famous Vatican Escape Line, Fr Lenane under the code name 'Uncle Tom' began assisting the safe passage of Allied servicemen.

The first of many he helped was escaped prisoner of war, Lieutenant Charles Wyatt of Surrey, who arrived at the college and was placed in the care of the Welsh priest. My Wyatt



remembered: "I stayed in a little room and I believe that only Fr Tom Lenane, the Father Superior of the College and two Irish Priests knew I was there. Fr Lenane even fooled me that he was an Irishman and he gave me a brilliantly forged passport in the name of Fr Patrick Fox who died in Rome in 1943."

Fr Lenane also recalled his efforts in carving a rubber stamp out of the heel of a boot to use on the forged passport. "We had to change the photograph of course, so I took Charlie to a photographer. His picture replaced that of the priest and I sat up all night forging a piece of stamp to cover the corner of the new picture."

On several occasions the Gestapo had suspicions that Fr Lenane might be helping the enemy, but he managed to keep one step ahead of them and so avoided arrest and certain death. Once, following an unexpected raid by the Gestapo, he was forced at gunpoint to escort Nazi soldiers in their search of the Rosminian house whilst up in the loft he had Allied airmen hidden. On many other occasions, he dressed servicemen in cassocks, instructed them in the ways of the Catholic Church and made them attend Mass in the guise of priests before providing them with forged documents to aid their escape.

Lieutenant Wyatt, who was an Anglican, was to remember: "Fr Lenane had me fitted out as a priest and gave me instructions as to how I should behave, so as not to make the enemy suspicious. At the time I did not see the amusing side of being dressed as a priest. It was a terrible strain all the time because we just did not know how things were going to pan out."

Fr Lenane's instructions though were very thorough. Lieutenant Wyatt said: "I went to Mass and took part as far as I could in other ceremonies, one of which gave me the fright of my life. It was All Souls Day and I went with Fr Lenane and other priests to the cemetery to pray for the dead. Scores of German soldiers were there praying for their dead comrades and I feared I would give the game away at any moment."



The fact that he was constantly risking his own life did not bother Fr Lenane in the least and his defiance of the enemy did not just extend to sheltering Allied servicemen – but also pigs! He was in charge of food supplies for the Rosminian house and on one occasions, hearing of an impending Gestapo raid, he instructed fellow priests to hide live piglets under their cassocks. The porkers were never discovered by the Germans but it was a certainly close thing. At one point, one of the little pigs began to squeal and was only silenced by the persuasion of a priestly size nine boot!

After the war, Fr Tom received a richly deserved commendation from King George VI for his brave deeds. Eventually he made his way back to his native Wales where he became a much loved public figure. Working tirelessly for his local Catholic community, he was instrumental in the building of both a new parish school and a fine new church. The 1960s saw him as Chaplain at convents in England including a spell at Princess Risborough in the Midlands. In 1978, he returned to his hometown following a spell of ill health. The following year, Fr Tom, the remarkable priest who fooled the Gestapo and who was widely regarded as “a very human individual with a big heart” died at the age of 76.

By David Jones

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With thanks to John Prendegast for sending this article and to Gabriel Publishing for permission to reproduce this extract from the “Catholic Companion”. If you would like a copy of the publication, contact Gabriel Communications www.totalcatholic.com

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Two Bishops have called for British companies to pay a living wage for workers, with one saying that paying less than this amount was a “scandal and deeply unjust”.

At a Mass for Migrants in Southwark Cathedral, Brentwood’s Bishop Thomas McMahon said in a homily: “It still remains a scandal and deeply unjust when ordinary workers, and especially migrant workers, are exploited . . . and paid less than a living wage. It affronts their dignity, their self-worth and that of their families.”

The Archbishop of Southwark, Peter Smith, who was chief celebrant at the Mass, which was attended by 1,500 people, said that the minimum wage, £5:93 an hour, was not sufficient for families and that a living wage of £8:30 an hour in London and £7:20 in the rest of the country was required. He said this was particularly necessary in the light of housing costs. “The cost of housing is ridiculous,” the archbishop said. “This is a very serious issue, particularly in London . . . And it is not just finding anywhere to live but somewhere decent.”

Bishop McMahon said in his homily that Catholics should be prepared to protest against injustices and “take to the street”. After the Mass, he led around 400 Catholics across Westminster Bridge to join a rally organised by Citizens UK to celebrate 10 years of campaigning for a living wage. He explained that the Church has sometimes been in danger of losing its prophetic voice. “If we lose our prophetic voice we lose our cutting edge,” he explained. “Often as individuals and as a Church generally we can be very cautious.”

*(For Bishop McMahon’s homily,
from The Tablet, May 2011
see www.thetablet.co.uk)*



Pro-Life Work in Manchester

By Margaret Bradshaw

I attended Plater College in 1964-66. My maiden name was Margaret Thomas. On gaining my diploma, I worked as a Child Care Officer in Manchester but my long career has involved many years working in education and administration. I returned to my social work roots some ten years ago when I joined the national charity LIFE in Stockport. By then, I had qualified as a diploma counsellor and I began working with women who were faced with anxiety and concerns relating to pregnancy. In 2007, the Manchester LIFE group became established and, with the help of many dedicated volunteers, we set forth to find suitable premises for a charity shop and care centre.

The following is the press release issued on our Open Day:

'At the end of September this year the Manchester branch of LIFE celebrated a year of success for its Charity Shop and Pregnancy Care Centre in Palatine Road, Northenden.

Volunteers, supporters and invited guests joined the manager, Sheila McKie, Manchester LIFE Group Chairman, Pauline Lloyd and Caring Officer, Margaret Bradshaw, at the Open Day.

Since it opened last year, the LIFE Shop has become a popular stopping point for locals, many of whom comment on the happy atmosphere generated by the manager and volunteers.

The Shop makes a feature of baby and children's wear – reflecting the work of the adjoining Care Centre which provides free non-directive counselling and support for women facing unplanned pregnancies. It offers practical support, such as free clothing and baby equipment, to pregnant women or unsupported mothers. Services also include post-abortion counselling and information on pregnancy, pregnancy loss and adoption.'

BACKGROUND

LIFE exists to save lives and transform the futures of some of the most disadvantaged children and young people in the UK by supporting vulnerable pregnant mothers and young families through difficult times, offering them the help they need to turn their lives around.

The activities we undertake to realise this vision fall under four broad programmes:

Care - A network of Care Centres offering non-directive counselling for anyone facing a crisis pregnancy, suffering the loss of a baby or coping with the after-effects of abortion. Also provision of free baby clothes, equipment or other practical support to families in difficulty

Housing - Residential centres providing supported accommodation and access to skills training for pregnant homeless young women aged 16-25 yrs

Education - Education Officers working in partnership with schools to provide young people with up-to-date, evidence-based information on abortion, stem cell research, sexual health and other related topics

Fertility Care - The UK's leading centre giving women a more natural alternative to traditional fertility treatment, which has just seen the successful birth of its 119th baby!

As well as the shop and care centre, LIFE also runs a Mother and Toddler playgroup in Northern Moor, Wythenshawe called The Caterpillar Club. We are very pleased to be engaging with local mums and families and networking with caring professionals. This has given us the opportunity to talk about the services that LIFE can offer and has increased the awareness of our work in the community.

LIFE Manchester has gone from strength to strength and there are many more ways in which we can extend our work. We are always welcoming new volunteers; for the shop, for the Caterpillar Club and for the caring support work at the care centre.

I am sure that my Plater experience and education has helped me considerably over the years and I can't help feeling that Joe Kirwan would have smiled approvingly at what has been achieved.

Anyone interested in our work can find out more by contacting:

LIFE Charity Shop and Pregnancy Care Centre
432-434 Palatine Road
Northenden
Manchester M22 4JT
Tel: 0161 902 9022

A Tribute to Jim Atherton **By John Prendergast**



Jim Atherton a student at the Catholic Workers' University Diploma in Economics and Political Science. College in Oxford from 1962 to 1964, died at his home in Bedford on 28 July 2011, aged 84 years.

Jim was born in Blackhall Colliery in County Durham and, after attending St Joseph's School, he left school at 14 years of age and started work at the local colliery. During the next 20 years, Jim became an active member of the Trade Union, the National Union of Mineworkers, attending union meetings and speaking out on issues of concern to himself and his colleagues. He realised that he had certain skills and intelligence, being tall in stature and, although quietly spoken, he had a presence and tended to exude authority also being a good public speaker.

He was encouraged to apply for a National Coal Board scholarship for the two-year resident course at Ruskin College and his application was successful. But Jim asked if, rather than going to Ruskin College, he might be allowed to attend the Catholic Workers' College instead and his request was granted. So, Jim Atherton began his studies at Oxford in 1962 but he soon found that returning to studying in his mid-30's, over 20 years since leaving school, was extremely difficult - he also experienced problems through being separated from his wife Mary and their young family. Jim persevered with his studies however, and he proved to be a hard working and conscientious student; on completing the two-year course, he was awarded the Oxford

University Diploma in Economics and Political Science. Jim returned home to the North East of England, rejoining his wife and family, hoping to obtain a place on the NCB Industrial Relations Training scheme but, at that particular time, there were no vacancies in the North East area of the NCB, so he decided to accept a post in the West Yorkshire area based in Wakefield. Jim and his family moved to Wakefield then, after some years in that area, Jim obtained a post as a Personnel Manager in private industry in the South of England, living in Bedford and enjoying a successful career with a number of private companies in the following years until his eventual retirement.

Jim Atherton was a man who was proud of his humble background, having worked in the Coal Mining Community of County Durham and he was also proud of his achievements in the professional field of personnel management in which he was highly respected.

His greatest pride and joy however was derived from the love of his life, his wife Mary and their family of five children, who will all miss him dearly, as will their loving grandchildren.

Jim was held in high regard by all who knew him.

May he rest in peace.

Mary Selwood, RIP

I have also learned that Mrs Mary Selwood died in July and, whilst she was not a former student, Mary was certainly a friend of the College, always ready to welcome anyone connected to the CWC to her home, whilst providing generous hospitality.

She was in her 90's, was daughter of Maurice Leahy who was Secretary of the Catholic Social Guild and she helped her father for many years.

There will be lots of people much more qualified than I am to write about Mary Selwood; her own family for example. Her Son, Peter Selwood and her son-in-law Denis O'Driscoll, both former students.

All I know is that Mary was a lovely lady, a good friend to so many former Principals and former students in many parts of the World.

May God grant her eternal rest.



The Charles Plater Trust

Although nothing can replace Plater College, the successor Charles Plater Trust has sought to follow the vision of Fr. Plater in supporting education and social justice through Catholic social teaching. Following the recommendations of a steering committee, the Trust has made grants exceeding half a million pounds since 2008 to a wide range of effective charitable programmes:

2008-09: Leadership development for the laity, particularly in the area of justice and social action, to equip individual Catholics to apply Catholic social teaching and play an active part in the Church's mission.

Young Christian Workers: £86,319 for their *School for Life*, training community organisers;

A Higher Education Consortium (Newman University College; Liverpool Hope University & Archdiocese of Liverpool; Leeds Trinity University College; St Mary's University College; and Heythrop College, London): £60,000 for a collaborative Catholic social teaching course (*Virtual Plater*);

Blackfriars Hall, Oxford: £40,000 for the *International Young Leaders Network / Leaders to Come* programme to identify, train and sustain young and emerging Catholic leaders aged 16 to 33;

Centre for Bioethics & Emerging Technologies, St Mary's University College: £17,090 for *Healthcare Allocation & Justice*, developing a medical model based on Catholic social teaching.

2009-10: Imaginative projects providing education for people from the most marginalised sectors of society.

Ten Ten Theatre: £89,820 to fund *Sam's Story*, a theatre-in-education project presented in young offender institutions across the country to develop new skills and reduce the risk of reoffending;

St Antony's Centre: £70,240 for the *Accrington Community and Training (ACT) Centre*, working in one of the most deprived areas in the UK to deliver language, education, training and other community services;

Westminster Diocese Deaf Service: £30,000 for *Signs of Hope*, providing life skills education and support to Deaf adults in an accessible format using British Sign Language.

2010-11: The intellectual endeavour of refreshing Catholic social thought in dialogue with the British context and through scholarship and writing linked with policy formation.

Professor John Loughlin, St. Edmund's College, University of Cambridge: £65,150 to fund *The Big Society: Catholic Social Teaching in Subsidiarity and Decentralization*, reinvigorating Catholic social teaching to provide a guide to a changing social and political environment;

The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in partnership with Citizens UK: £52,000 to support *Asylum, Catholic Social Teaching & the Big Society*, which draws on the values of the Church and the call to human dignity to develop policies for children and families seeking sanctuary;

Caritas Social Action Network: £31,160 for their *Criminal Justice Project* to stimulate debate and dialogue with the Government, develop policy, and propose practical initiatives regarding the prison population and an improved response to crime.

In addition, the Trust is committed to ensure that all remaining College materials are properly placed; for example, student records have been transferred to Newman University College and certain books have been distributed to missionary groups.

Any queries about the Trust can be directed to Michael Chalk (plater@plater.org.uk, 0207 901 1907).



Fr Plater and Jim



Plater Project in Lancashire

In 2010 St Antony's Centre launched the Plater Project, a learning-led, community building project, based on the principles of Catholic Social Thinking. The Project is targeting isolated & marginalised people and is open to the whole community. The 6 parishes in Hyndburn gave their active support and exciting new projects and ideas have grown from it - thanks to YOU!



The Dementia Awareness Workshop June 2011

50 parishioners attended the workshop hosted by St Mary's Parish, Oswaldtwistle, which identified the need for support for carers of those suffering from dementia. A better understanding of the condition and how it impacts on peoples' lives was shared by Ben Bano who emphasized the importance of including and supporting personally and spiritually those with the condition.

Some ideas have been taken up by the Friendship Group (see below)



The Shared Reading Group leader training

We are training a group of parishioners to lead weekly reading groups of 8-10 people. The group has mental health benefits and forms an extra opportunity to interact with the isolated and marginalised in our parishes. We hope to develop new groups in parishes and in the community starting November 2011.



Inspirational Spirit Inter-parish Pilgrimage to Holywell

Participants on the first Inter-parish Pilgrimage to Holywell in North Wales, born out of the Clergy Retreat and Planning meeting held at Llandudno in March.

The Spanish Conversation class – a quiet Plater success

A group of 20 learners showed their appreciation to our volunteer Tutor, Vickie Bradshaw and her assistant Gary Taylor, at the "Tapas Evening" which celebrated 18 weeks of Spanish Conversation classes. Classes are FREE and held every Wednesday evening at St Joseph's.



Friendship Group Meeting held at St Anne's

The group is new and encourages shared activity and a place for people to meet from across the area - a great success!



Obituary for Bishop John Jukes OFM Conv

Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus John Jukes of Southwark will be particularly remembered as someone who sought to bring the insights of Catholic Social Teaching to business and industry. He was also a devoted pastor, moving to Scotland after his retirement to become a parish priest once again.



The eldest of three children, he was born in Eltham, south-east London, on August 7th 1923 and was educated at St Joseph's Academy, Blackheath. His father worked for a paint company owned by his family. His mother was a convert from the Church of England.

In 1940 he joined the civil service, during which time he was a representative to the Inland Revenue Staff Federation National Conference. He left the civil service, intending to study agriculture at university.

But while working as a student on Romney Marsh for a year, he decided to become a Franciscan. It was the preaching and hospitality of the friars he met in Rye, East Sussex, that seems to have inspired him.

He entered the Order of Friars Minor Conventual in 1946. After completing postulancy and novitiate in Liverpool, he was sent to Rome. He studied philosophy at the Gregorian University and obtained his licentiate in Theology at the Pontifical Faculty of St Bonaventure.

Following ordination in 1952, at St Anthony of Padua, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, he was appointed rector of St Bonaventure's seminary and novitiate in Beaumaris, Anglesey.

In 1959 he was made parish priest of St Clare's, Manchester and the following year became secretary and vice-provincial of the province. He was sent to London in 1964 to take charge of St Patrick's, Waterloo.

He moved to Canterbury in 1969, initially staying with the ordinands at St Augustine's Anglican College. He was one of the founders of the Franciscan International Study Centre, which opened in the city in 1973 and was appointed its vice-principal. He also taught

Canon Law, using his parish experiences to bring life to what can be a dry subject, and fundamental theology.

Along with other Franciscans, university staff and local Catholics he was involved in a forum for Catholic thought. He also helped lead parish missions in Kent. He once quipped that the first task was to convert the

parish priest.

An important part of these missions involved visiting Catholics at home. When Bishop John knocked on the door of one house, the woman immediately let him down to the cellar - she thought he was calling to read the electricity meter.

In the 1970s, at St John's Seminary, Wonersh, he ran courses for priests and laity in evidence taking at matrimonial tribunals. To speed up matrimonial cases, he went to Rome to negotiate the setting up of an appeal court for the province.

In 1973 he was made vicar Episcopal for religious in Southwark Diocese. Six years later he was elected minister provincial of the English province of the Friars Minor.

But within months Pope John Paul II appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark and Titular Bishop of Strathearn. He was ordained in St George's Cathedral, Southwark by Archbishop Michael Bowen on 30 January 1980, and given pastoral responsibility for Kent.

His specific responsibilities included chairing the Kent Southwark Diocese Schools Commission and co-ordinating the work of the vicars for religious. He was appointed Episcopal chairman of the Southwark Metropolitan Appeals Tribunal.

He served for 20 years as chairman of the Bishops' Committee for the World of Work. He was passionate in his belief that Catholic Social Teaching had a valuable contribution to make to the understanding of work in society. This was the idea behind the booklet "A Spirituality of Work" which the committee published in 2001 and he wrote the foreward to.



7 August 1923 - 22 November 2011

He was one of the main organisers of a conference, held in Liverpool in 1991, to mark the centenary of *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIII's encyclical on the Industrial Revolution and the dignity of work.

Each year at the TUC Congress, Bishop John celebrated Mass for delegates. In his sermon at St Mary Magdalene's Priory, Brighton, in 1999 he urged Catholics to put gospel values into practice by becoming active members of trade unions. And he urged the TUC to promote ethical values to counter some of the negative effects of globalisation.

Such efforts, he said, will result in setting up barriers to the many ills which are already to be seen as flowing from globalisation; unfair competition; loss of job security; degradation of human individuals or groups forced to work in inhuman conditions.

At a TUC rally in Hyde Park, he once shared a platform with National Union of Mineworkers' president Arthur Scargill. He also attended the clergy section of the Amicus annual conference. At a local level, he represented Southwark Diocese on the South London Industrial Mission.

He represented the Bishops' Conference on the Council on Christian Approaches to Defence and Disarmament and was also a member of the joint bio-ethics committee which served the Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

From 1993 to 1999 he served as the chairman of governors of St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill and he later received an honorary doctorate from the University of Surrey.

When his mother became ill, she went to live with him at his house - The Hermitage, in West Malling, Kent. The house was piled high with books. Bishop John wore his trademark woolly hat both indoors and outdoors. Although a follower of St Francis, he had little time for the rabbits that invaded his garden.

When Bishop John retired in 1998, he had no intention of returning to parish life. He wrote in Briefing *"My original idea on retirement was to settle into a nice little house in the country.*

From there I planned a peaceful life with time for prayer, ready to help out with Sunday Mass if anyone was stuck."

However in 2002 when Bishop Mario Conti of Aberdeen asked him to become parish priest of Huntley, Banff and Portsoy, he accepted. He took on responsibility for around 300 Catholics, scattered across 200 square miles, who had been without a resident priest for six years.

That same year, fellow bishops and over 70 priests joined him at Aylesford Priory in Kent to celebrate his golden jubilee of the priesthood. Three years later, to celebrate his 25 years as a Bishop, he went to Rome with Bishop Howard Tripp, with whom he had been ordained Bishop. They were present at Pope John Paul II's last audience.

Bishop John was one of the contributors to the 1993 book "God and the Market Place: Essays on the Morality of Wealth Creation". He also wrote a number of articles for the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

Long distance walking and mountain climbing were two of his passions. He was particularly fond of Skye, where he would camp out in the church's sacristy and cook lobster.

In 2005 he made the headlines in Scotland when he ordained to the diaconate a former priest of the Scottish Episcopal Church, who went on to become the country's first married Catholic Priest.

In recent years, as his physical health declined, he retired again, this time from parish ministry; although he kept very much up to date with the life of Catholic Church in Great Britain, particularly continuing to have a keen interest in the Church's role in promoting social justice. In August 2010 he wrote an article looking back gratefully on 87 years of celibacy, which was published online by a national newspaper.

He died on the morning of 22 November 2011, aged 88 years, in the 65th year of religious life, the 59th year of his priesthood, having been a Bishop for 31 years.

May he rest in peace



Papal Knighthood for Tony Murray

The Knighthood of St Gregory the Great has been bestowed upon Mr Anthony Murray by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, in recognition of his loyal services to the Church in the field of Catholic Social Welfare. The Papal Award was presented to Tony, by Bishop Terence Brain, Bishop of Salford.

A celebratory Mass was held at St John's Cathedral, Salford, on the Feast of St Ambrose Barlow, Friday 10 September 2010. The mass was concelebrated by Fr David Glover, the Episcopal Vicar for Social Responsibility, Canon Anthony McBride, Canon Alan Denny, Mgr Thomas Mulheran, Fr Anthony Kay, VG, Fr Francis Parkinson, Fr Simon Stamp, Fr John Flynn and Fr Anthony Sudlow. The congregation included Tony's family and friends, as well as many colleagues, past and present from the Catholic Welfare Services.

Tony was born in Salford and in his youth played an active part in the life of St Sebastian's parish, Pendleton. He studied and qualified as an accountant, but in his early twenties attended Plater College and qualified in social work. He worked as a senior social worker for Manchester City Council and attained the position of Assistant Director of Manchester Social Services Department in the early 1970's. It was at this time that he served as professional adviser to the Salford Diocesan Rescue on Family Welfare. Tony was outstanding in his gentle but firm promotion of Catholic Social Teaching.

Tony joined the Diocesan Catholic Welfare Services in the mid-1980's at a time when new regulations and funding formulae were being introduced for residential provision in Nazareth House, Little Sisters of the Poor, Hostels and the Home for the Deaf. He drew together all the residential providers in the Diocese and guided them safely through the changes. His achievements in the Social Welfare Service of the Diocese are too numerous to list.

Tony was instrumental in the negotiations preventing the Welsh Office from closing Catholic Children's Care in Cardiff and has served on the Social Welfare commission of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for many years. The honour bestowed on Tony by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for his loyal service to the Church through his care and devotion to those in need, will no doubt be warmly received, not only by Tony and his family, but by all who know him and have worked with him over the last forty years in Salford Diocese and in civic and professional circles.

Former Platernians join in congratulating Tony on this important award.

