

◆ CA Hospitalité Newsletter ◆

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THE CATHOLIC
ASSOCIATION
HOSPITALITE OF
OUR LADY OF
LOURDES.

REGISTERED CHARITY
NO. 267918

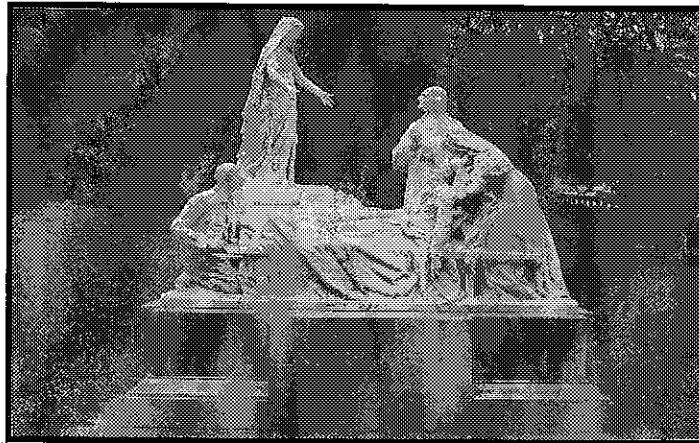
Patron: **Right Reverend
Crispian Hollis**, Bishop
of Portsmouth

President: **Michael
Cleary**, Western Cottage,
Welburn, York, YO60
7DX
Tel: 01653 618338

Treasurer: **Chris Buller**,
Creganne, 2 Victoria
Drive, Kings Hill, West
Malling, Kent, ME19
4DT. Tel: 01732 846423

Secretary and Newsletter
Editor: **Mark Smith**,
3a Moors Close,
Hurn, Christchurch,
Dorset, BH23 6AL.
Tel: 01202 473845
B-mail: Mark@your-turn.
com

Other members of the
Council:
Margaret Fielding,
Senior Nurse.
Tony & Liz O'Rourke,
Young Helpers' Group.
Dr Chris Parry,
Medical Officer.
Rupert Bell
Elected Member.
Colette Sharrock,
Elected Member..
Sadie Vile,
Chief Handmaid.
Fr Michael Scanlon
Chaplain to the Sick.



The Importance of Prayer -Fr Michael Scanlon.

I am sitting in the presence of Jesus. I have been praying for you before the Blessed Sacrament. I gave thanks to Marys beloved son for the great blessings given to the Catholic Association Hospitalite of Our Lady of Lourdes. It has been a privilege these past two years to get to know so many wonderful and committed servants of the Church and Our Blessed Lady. The outstanding and sterling effort to help the sick and the pilgrim enjoy their visit to Lourdes is truly amazing.

I witnessed LOVE at work, CHARITY at work and unity of

p u r p o s e .

A pilgrimage is an expression of our journey of faith ... It evokes our earthly journey to the next life and is a very special occasion for renewal in prayer, with the desire to renew and enrich our life in Christ. We follow in the footsteps of our ancestors who began their journeys of faith with a willing "yes" to the call of God.

Faith, Prayer and conversion make our physical pilgrimage a journey to the heart of God, sharing in the pilgrimage of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Father.

THE FIRST BATH A PYTHONESQUE EXPERIENCE!

by
Chris Buller

I had been coming to Lourdes for many years and whilst working as a branc in the Accueil had managed to avoid with great success having to take the plunge in the Piscine in Lourdes. However one year my friend Gene managed to extract a promise from me (whilst probably under the influence of some other form of liquid) to have a bath that year.

The following day off I set for the Piscine with an air of trepidation. The event appeared to be going okay and nothing unexpected happened initially as I changed and waited to be called forward. The wet towel was as cold as I had been told it would be and in I plunged and came out a few minutes later ,

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relieved and somewhat enlightened by the whole experience.

As I left the bath I was told to change. I looked for my boxer shorts where I had left them only to find a pair of underpants that were not mine. I pointed at them, looked at the chef in charge and gesticulated that they were not mine. He in rather excitedly told me to get on with it. However he did not speak English and my French.

was very poor. In my best schoolboy

In my best school-boy French I made it clear that the underpants were not mine and I was not going to wear

French I made it clear that the underpants were not mine and I was not going to wear them no matter how angry he got. Eventually the message got through and he ordered everyone in the cubicle to check their underwear. Everyone removed the trousers and a French scout was somewhat surprised and very embarrassed to find he was the culprit. I pointed at them and laid claim to my boxer shorts! The chef was to say the least unimpressed and made his feelings clear to the scout and probably to me (although if he did I was blissfully unaware). By now the other bathers in the cubicle were falling about with laughter at this mixup and it took some time for normal order to be

resumed.

I am happy to report that further baths have had a more successful outcome.

*Chief Medical Officer
Chris Parry*

All flights were reasonably on time outward and return. There were a total of one hundred and thirty registered "VIPs", forty-four in the Accueil and eighty-six in the

Although numbers in the Accueil were down this year, hotel numbers were up. We admitted person to the Accueil, George Hills, not a member of the CA Pilgrimage on this occasion, but a past stalwart; He

has since died peacefully, and his son

The completion by about seventy percent of our pilgrims of the medical forms (worst responders were the clergy)

passes on his gratitude for making the last pilgrimage for him as comfortable as possible.

The completion by about seventy percent of our pilgrims of the medical forms (worst responders were the clergy) certainly reduced the unexpected workload in Lourdes. I sent blue forms to fifteen applicants who originally did not intend to register as sick pilgrims.

Despite this my colleagues report that independant travellers in outlying hotels still placed demands on the medical and nursing staff. It is very important that ALL pilgrims who will be registering as "sick" should fill in the form sent to them by Tangneys. All medical information is held in the strictest confidence. Failure to provide appropriate medical information might place strains on limited medical resources as well as having implications for the validity of their insurance. We were fortunate to have some new doctors with us this year, which to an extent diluted the workload. I hope those who came for the first time felt that they made a valuable contribution to the care of the our sick pilgrims and will continue to assist in the future, in whatever capacity they wish. My thanks

to Dr Trevor Fernandes for his hard work after

my early return. Please note my new address : Badcocks Farmhouse, Easthorpe Road, Colchester, Essex, CO5 9EZ. Tel & Fax 01206 211245.

*TOBY Group
Nicole Gallop Mildon*

Over the years, it has sometimes been difficult for CA helpers in the 25 - 40+ age-bracket to find a "home" within the CA. The Young

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Helpers Group is designed for helpers aged 17 – 25. The diocesan groups in the various hotels can be an expensive option when struggling with student loans, a new mortgage or a young family.

So out of many discussions, TOBY was born.

Aimed at helpers over 25 on a tight budget (average cost for travel + hotel this year was £305), this year's group was small (12 helpers) but varied, ages ranged from 2 ½ (we cater for families) to 30 plus.

Most of the group travelled by Eurostar with night train or TGV, whilst a couple of people flew. We stayed at Hôtel des Rosiers, a reasonable three star hotel, not too far from the Domaine. The group was accommodated two to a room (although single rooms were available at an extra cost). We all chose to eat all our meals at the HNDL helpers' self-service restaurants (Ave Maria/Abri St Michel).

TOBY catered for many different requirements; three of the group were following on from a week of Stage. The hotel was good and we intend to return there, the only complaint seemed to revolve around room-mates who snored!!!

This year the TOBY group was

advertised in the Accueil. Due to this, there have already been provisional bookings for next year from new members and TOBY will be a larger group. We will definitely be catering for a far wider range of ages. The same travel/accommodation options will be offered, together with additional travel dates for Stage group members.

We welcome enquiries from all helpers over 25 (there is no upper age limit!). If any

helpers between 18 and 25' not travelling with the Young Helpers Group are interested we need a recommendation from their Head of Service (or similar). Families are very welcome (triple rooms, etc are available).

The current group organisers are Simon Gallop, Nicole Gallop Mildon, Mark Smith and Danielle Toyer. For all further information either email: ca_toby@hotmail.com or contact Danielle Toyer: 42 Lewisham Park, London SE13 6QZ, tel 020 8690 4977 or 07973 281 583.●

*Chief Handmaid
Sadie Vile*

Two things made this year different compared to previous pilgrimages, the tremendous support of my two young

deputies, and the absence of the annual "outing" to the Lake.

For many years we have been lucky with the weather during our pilgrimage – sometimes a bit too hot, usually some wet days, but it has been a long time since rain has caused a change to our Tuesday plans. Some of us had been quietly wondering what we would do with a wet Tuesday. We had some warning this year, with pessimistic forecasts on arrival. On Sunday we seriously began to consider the options, as we heard that it was unlikely that the Lac Vert Resort would be open for business.

Then we were approached by a Polish pianist, and her husband-translator, who had

temporarily installed a piano in the Transit Lounge, for

the entertainment of Accueil residents. Fortunately for us they were free on the Tuesday. It was a whole afternoon of music - before the Polish concert many of us were able to see and hear the gypsy musicians as they processed around the Domain before their participation in the Blessed Sacrament Procession. Then the very talented Danuta Dworakowska-Jedrzejczak played to us for about 40 minutes, with her husband who introduced the music. As they finished, the

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Glanfield Group arrived and helped to serve tea and biscuits. After this break we had a little more piano music, and then some further (and very different) music and singing from the Glanfield Group. Obviously many people enjoy the chance to have some time outside Lourdes, and our last few visits to the Lac Vert have been very successful, but most people considered that this year's alternative was an excellent way to spend the afternoon.

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I cannot say a big enough "thank you" to Mansae LeVaillant and Mary Hamilton, who worked as my deputies during the pilgrimage. Neither of them really knew what they were letting themselves in for, but still agreed when I suggested the idea. Their energy and enthusiasm, combined with the incredible knowledge and patience of Helen Carroll enabled me to have a much more relaxed time myself. We had fewer handmaids than usual this year, but fewer Accueil residents too, and were greatly helped by the increased number of nurses. But I think all the Handmaids had to work just that bit harder, especially those who did night-duty in the

middle of their time off.

As usual there are many more people who I would like to thank. Firstly the other "Heads of Service", Margaret and Michael, the doctors, and especially the O'Rourkes as they finish their stint as Young Helpers' Leaders. For advance preparation, Colette Sharrock, Julie Ball, Angela Dore, Sheila Salt and Jane Cadogan; the van drivers for bringing and returning the stores, uniforms etc; and all those who arrived in Lourdes

early and stayed late on the last Friday to ensure that our guests

were greeted and sent off by friendly faces.

The donations received for coffee/tea raised over £100 this year. My contact details are unchanged: 45 Diamond Road, Watford, Herts, WD24 5EN, 01923 447054, Sadie.L.Vile@gsk.com

Stage Report
Johan Bergstrom-Allen

The week before the Catholic Association pilgrimage arrived, about 30 people from the CA took part in a very successful 'Stage', working for the Hospitalite Notre-Dame de Lourdes. We did our service in the Accueil St-Frai, in the Baths,

and in the 'St. Joseph' and 'Formation' services. New members included Paul Presgraves, Nicola Gotel, and two nephews of John (Blackburn) Holden. At the Wednesday evening international Hospitalite mass we were proud to see five members of our pilgrimage become 'Hospitaliers de Notre-Dame de Lourdes': Mark Heslop, Simon Gallop, Alf Thurlow, and Frank and Bernadette McCorkell. Fr. John Warrington celebrated mass for the group

on several occasions, and on the night before the CA arrived we enjoyed a meal at the Hotel Mercure (I have incriminating photographs!

Next year, the August Stage will take place the week before the pilgrimage and we'd happily welcome new members from the CA Hospitalite.

please e-mail me (johan@britishlibrary.net) or give me a call (07939 037601).

Chief Nurse
Margaret Fielding

Our spiritual directors did a fantastic job for our Pilgrimage this year. They managed to recruit 15 new nurses. It made such a difference to our workload and to the care of our sick pilgrims. It was wonderful to welcome so many new faces

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and I hope we shall see them again soon.

This year while in Lourdes I discussed the idea of changes in uniform for next year. I wish to stress at this point that those nurses who wish to continue wearing white dresses would be free to do so. We talked about wearing white polo tops and blue trousers and this idea was very well received. However, I said that I would still be keen for us to wear dresses for ceremonies. I presented the idea of change of uniform at the management meeting in London in October and we have been given the go ahead.

As the C A volunteers nurses we have helped to form the **Lourdes Nurses Association** whose members come from the big pilgrimages from England and Scotland, e.g. Arundel and Brighton, Liverpool and Birmingham.

We formed as a group in October 2001 and had our inaugural meeting at All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney. This year Brother Francis OSB, who is the senior nurse with the Arundel and Brighton pilgrimage, invited us to

Worth Abbey, where he lives. Frances Presgraves and I had a wonderful weekend and as a

I presented the idea of change of uniform at the management meeting in London in October and we have been given the go ahead.

group we were invited to join the monks praying their Divine Office.

We had a tour of the Abbey and grounds. Topics that were discussed this year were;

- Indemnity update/ insurance for personal injury
- Documentation assessments
- Health and safety/risk assessments/accident forms

We shared information discussing best practice how our pilgrimages are run, our difficulties and our successes. We realised there are areas we need to work on. It was a very supportive, useful and enjoyable two days.

If any member would like a copy of the constitution please contact me. Once again it has been a great privilege to serve as senior nurse to the CA.

***Youth Group**
Liz and Tony O'Rourke*

The fifth and final year of organising the Young Helpers Group. Phew. Never thought we'd get there. So it's over. In 5 years we both feel that we

have achieved a great deal. Polo Shirts, decent hotel, a van, excellent community feeling within the group and finally smooth progression to the new leadership.

5 years ago so many people said, "if you need help just ask" so we did. Thank you one and all. Tina, Phil, Ian, Meda, Simon, Ed, Frs. John, Tony, Tony for your work with the group. Thanks also to Chris and Brutus who helped quell rebellion amongst the ranks in the first few days by quietly talking to the more recalcitrant branches!

We have met some truly wonderful people; without this post we would probably still be trying to find Gerard some Godparents. If we had to list all those new friends the list would have to be severely edited.

Memories and highlights of 5 years: After Lourdes one cold Early January evening, a knock on the door. We looked out to see a darkly clad figure, clearly having travelled east to visit, could it possible be.... Yes.... John Cribbin. Roger & Josie's wedding. The man in the PURPLE suit. Shamus had just been to the audition for the stage version of Reservoir dogs. In Lourdes Lorna Hornby exclaiming at the top of the PIC DU JER " Oh look the mountains are all pointy." Naked Paul wearing a uniform polo shirt. Stoneyhurst School requesting the polo shirts. Wayne's world re-enactment in

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the basement of the Alliance. The wonderful plumbing in the Alliance. Josie's dulcet tones wafting all over the Alliance. Emily's exclamation of regret that she and Sarah had overslept slightly. Shamus and the Hat. Such a regret that the Alba's rooms are sound proof. The formation of the TOBY group was pleasing to see also. Every annual meeting Fr. Bill saying " A&E O'Rourke, hee hee". But probably most memorable is the annual visitation by "the sisters".

So good luck to Tina as new leader. I'm sure everybody will be there for you as they were for us. Thanks to Simon & Ed for the Van years. Thanks to all the young helpers who came with us and made it so much fun.

See you all about, keep in touch, and remember how special you all are. Good luck and God Bless

Tony and Liz (A&E O'Rourke)

Chief Brancardier
Micheal Cleary

The 2002 pilgrimage went well, despite the number of brancardiers being down from previous years.

This year we introduced a new system of deputies for

each head of service. The system worked well and made all of our lives much easier. My thanks to all those brancardiers who helped out, and for all the team leaders who did an excellent job in making sure that everything ran smoothly.

Some things however still remain and will continue to remain out of even my control. By this I mean the weather. On the day of the lake trip it decided to rain.

Fortunately there were plenty of brancardiers on duty to take the Accueil guests out and about on shopping trips. There were even reports of brancardiers sitting in bars with their charges, but I am

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sure that the number of reports given to me were grossly

exaggerated.

I should mention at this point that not all of the work done by the brancs is from the Accueil.

A large team of brancs work out of the hotels, and this work is not always appreciated by everybody as much of it goes unseen by most people.

The hotel rollers have a hard time, as they have to roll further, and often have to deal with other members of the

family who may also be on pilgrimage. Over the last few years, a team has been built whose skills at organising rolling from the hotels has been created and they do a superb job. You know who you all are and I owe you a great deal of thanks for taking so much of the work away from me and allowing me to deal with the daily problems with rolling to and from the various masses and events that happen each day.

*A Collection of
Medals
Sadie Vile*

Recently I have been contacted by John Collins, son of Patricia and Michael (known as Jack) who were Chief Handmaid and Chief Brancardier of the Catholic Association Pilgrimage during the 1960's and 1970's. They were also Stagers, and when Pat was working in the Accueil St Frai, she used to swop her pilgrimage badges (metal then, not plastic) with members of other pilgrimages. Over the years she built up a collection of about 200, which was eventually gathered together, with her own CA medals, to fill a picture frame approximately 2ftx2ft (60x60cm).

John and his sisters would like this collection to have a good home, since their mother died

OBITUARIES

(Continued from page 6)

in July 2001. If there is any member of the Catholic Association Hospitalité who would like to look after this collection, please contact Sadie Vile as soon as possible (01923 447054). I can send a photograph (by post or email). If no one from the CA is interested, we know of a British Stagier who is happy to add this collection to one she has already made, or we may offer it to be displayed in the St Frai.

Marie Ireson
Deacon Peter

Within the Clifton Diocese and, within the Catholic Association the name of Ireson has long been associated with the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. Indeed, my own first meeting with any of the family was on my first pilgrimage with the Diocese in 1989.

I later learned that she had suffered ill health since childhood and that everyone expected she would predecease her own brothers, Bernard and Dennis, but it wasn't going to be. Hardly one was one pilgrimage over than she would be reminding me that she would need forms for the following year, as soon as they were out. I soon

became aware of the how strong willed and determined she could be, at times quite demanding, but, for her, to be in Lourdes was all that mattered.

Lourdes is what kept Marie going She had been looking forward to the 2002 pilgrimage but sadly, was advised by her doctor that it would not be wise to go. But determined as ever she was on the phone to organise her Lourdes tasks. There were masses to be booked, the Lourdes magazine to be renewed, candles to be lit, and friends to be greeted. A card was sent to her from Lourdes, signed by many of her friends. This pleased her greatly.

It was a joyful requiem mass attended by some of the C.A. who were able to make the early time. There we were able to express our condolences to her sister.

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Sister Catherine of La Retraite who survives her.

George Hills
Sadie Vile

George Hills (1918-2002)

George Hills, admitted as an "extra guest" to the Accueil during this year's pilgrimage, died on September 13th, after his return to England.

Many CA people only met him for the first time this year, but some of us who have worked on Stage with the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes have known him for much longer. He had been a member of HNDL for 50 years, playing a key role in the inclusion of the English-speaking viewpoint and in the development of the training programme (the Ecole, now "Formation"). He was educated at Wimbledon College, and maintained his link to the school through organisation of their August Stage group, known affectionately to the C.A. as "the Wombles", and so important for their help in loading and unloading our pilgrimage on arrival and departure.

In his "other life" he was well-known for his writing and broadcasting work, especially in a Spanish and Latin-American context, and he had been awarded the MBE in 1992. He was married to Marie for 60 years, until she died in September 2001. His son, Edmund, who was with him in Lourdes, thanks all those who helped care for him this year.

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OBITUARIES

*Nora Edwards
Helen Carroll*

It was with mixed feelings I received the news that Nora had died. She passed away peacefully as she wished in the early hours of September 5th 2002, after a long and courageously fought battle against the cancer diagnosed on March 22nd 1999. During that time Nora had faced her inevitable death with fortitude, resignation and joy. It was yet another of the many challenges she had met and conquered throughout her long life. She always knew that her strong religious beliefs gave her the necessary strength to get through. One of her last joys was to remain alive during our 2002 pilgrimage, and to receive the cards and prayers from us all - her CA family.

Nora was indeed a character who was well known as a handmaid, even when she had to become an Accueil guest in 1999, 2000 and again in 2001.

She was absolutely devoted to Lourdes and all the messages that Our Lady had imparted to Bernadette. Throughout her illness which took her into hospital, nursing homes, and hospices she lost no opportunity to promote the pilgrimage amongst staff, patients and anyone else who crossed her path.

She was delighted when approached by Channel Four to partake in a program called "Death", as she saw it as an opportunity, not to promote herself, but to offer others the chance to recognise the importance of faith, hope and ultimately resignation to the will of God.

I first met Nora on a Lourdes pilgrimage in October 1966. One of my lasting moments is of this eccentric lady getting out of the overnight train from Lourdes with an enormous candle and marching it up Paris Station to the awaiting coach.

Nora was highly intellectual and over the years pursued numerous study courses. She had a particular interest in theology and was sad that her illness prevented her from finishing her final course. She also had many other interests and loved discussions with all kinds of people.

There is so much more one wants to say about this very unique and special person who, as well as being a member of the CA Hospitalité, was also a full member of the Lourdes Hospitalité to which she made her final commitment in 1991.

Being a handmaid meant so

much to her that she specifically wished to be buried in her handmaids

we surely rejoice, at the contact with her and the influence she has exerted in so many different ways over us all.

uniform. Indeed many of us will remember her in the blue uniform, her straw hat with her twinkling eyes and special smile. She is surely now reaping her final reward in heaven. Despite the sadness which must be felt by those closest and dearest to her, we surely rejoice at the contact we had with her and the influence she has exerted in so many different ways over us all.

She was a stalwart member of the Brompton Oratory church, the location of her requiem mass. Nora had given specific instructions about the mass and it was gratifying that so many friends and members of the CA were able to be present during this final mass.

I thank God for the occasions she has shared with us and now wish Nora eternal peace and joy in the final goal that she has achieved.

Her love for Our Lady knew no bounds and I feel privileged to have known her, and been a part of her life.

●

OBITUARIES

Bishop Alan Clark
Curtesy of
Fr John Warrington

Alan Charles Clark was born on 9th August 1919 at Bickley Kent.

He began his studies for the priesthood in 1935, and in 1938 went to the English College, Rome, to complete his higher studies. In 1940 the English College was evacuated to St. Mary's College, Lancashire, where he completed his studies. He was ordained priest on 11th February 1945 in his home parish at Bromley.

After completing his Licentiate of Theology at Heythrop he was appointed curate to St. Philip's, Arundel, in July 1945. He returned to Rome in October 1946 to study theology at the Gregorian University, attaining his doctorate in June 1948. He then became Tutor in Philosophy to the English College, and eventually became its Vice-Rector in 1954. A position he held for the next ten years. In January 1965, on his return to England, he became parish priest of St. Mary's Blackheath, and four years later he was appointed as Auxiliary Bishop of Northampton. In 1974 he was invited to address the General Synod of the Church of England, being the first Catholic Bishop to do so.

On 2nd June 1976 he was appointed Bishop of the new diocese of East Anglia. Being the first bishop of the new diocese.

Bishop Clark responded to the need for priests to go and work in South America. Priests from the diocese served, and continue to serve the missionary society of St James in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador. Bishop Clark made, on a number of occasions, visitations to these missions.

He almost never missed the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Catholic Association and especially enjoyed celebrating the East Anglian Diocesan Mass in the Chapel of St Joseph where there is a Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham. Following his

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75th birthday in August 1994 Bishop Clark retired as Bishop of East Anglia. He remained resident at Bishop's House until his successor Bishop Peter Smith was ordained 2nd Bishop of the Diocese. In March 1999 Bishop Clark underwent surgery and unfortunately suffered a stroke. Later Bishop Clark moved to a new Sue Ryder Home at Walsingham. During the Jubilee Year of 2000 Bishop Clark moved to a nursing home in Norwich. He

also joined the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham and Lourdes in that year.

On 2nd June 2001 Bishop Alan celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his installation as the First Bishop of the Diocese and was to visit Lourdes for the final time

in August of that year. During this year Bishop Alan was able to visit Walsingham which would be for the last time. Sadly on the 16th July 2002, Bishop Alan died peacefully in his sleep, aged 82. His requiem Mass at the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist took place on Thursday 25th July, Archbishop Peter Smith presided and Archbishop Patrick Kelly preached the homily. Alongside the two Archbishops there were other bishops from England and Wales; priests, deacons, religious and people from the Diocese and beyond. All gathered to pray for Bishop Alan, to give thanks for his life of dedication and service to the Lord. Following the funeral Bishop Alan was buried next to the Slipper Chapel at Walsingham. May he rest in peace. ●

SECRETARY'S NOTES

May Stage Group

Did you know that there is also a stage group in the half term week of May? This will take place in 2003 from the 23rd to 30th May 2003.

If you would like more information on this stage group please call David and Margaret on 01223 276305 or Colette on 01223 833305

Lost & Found

Found

A Camera was left behind on the return Gatwick flight.

A white and blue embroidered Ladies top was handed in during the pilgrimage.

If either of these items belong to you then you can contact the secretary, Mark Smith, on (01202) 473845

Young Helpers

We are pleased to announce that Tina Foreman will be taking over as leader of the Young Helpers Group.

She will be taking over from Tony & Liz O'Rourke who over the last four years have done a great job of running the group. We hope that all of the those who supported Tony & Liz will continue to

help out with the running of the Young Helpers Group

New Hospitalitie

The following people are due for admission to the Hospitalité this year:

As Ordinary Members:

Maureen Cahill, Elaine Sherwood, Margeret Randhawk, Tessie North, Kelly Joyce, Karen Lumagisas, Roselle Mandin, Clare Johnson, Paul Presgraves, Kathleen Clowlow, Isabel Tully, Mary Hamilton, Patricia Mills, Celine Chia, Elizabeth Bulter and Rebecca Heys

As Full Members:

Simon Gallop, Nicole Gallop-Milden, Martin Toyer, Danielle Toyer, John Cribben, Mary Cribben, Rosaline Folsade, Anne Stairs and Sue Woodford

Walsingham Retreat *Jim Walton*

A retreat will be held in Walsingham over the weekend of Friday 25th to Sunday 27th April 2003. Fr. Simon Blakesley from East Anglia has kindly offered to give the retreat.

I have booked thirty beds at Elmham House for the weekend. The tariff for next season will be published in December but as a guide I suggest the cost of full board will be approximately £58.00, inclusive of a retreat fee to cover Father's expenses.

Walsingham is an ancient place of pilgrimage set in the depths of the beautiful north Norfolk countryside. Please consider taking this opportunity to spend a spiritually refreshing and relaxing weekend with all your Lourdes friends. Any one who attended the Retreat in 2001 will be sent a booking form in December as a matter of course.

If you would like further information and a booking form please contact Jim Walton, Oddfellows Cottage, 112 Burnham Road, South Creake, Fakenham Norfolk NR21 9JG tel.(home) 01328 823409 (work) 01328 820372 E-mail jecwalton@ukonline.co.uk

*Ave Maria Beds
Sadie Vile*

If anyone wants Ave Maria Hostel accommodation next year please let me know around Christmas time – I had spare beds this year. One new handmaid has already put her name down for next year.

My contact details are unchanged: 45 Diamond Road, Watford, Herts, WD24 5EN, 01923 447054, Sadie.L.Vile@gsk.com

*The Importance of
Prayer.
Fr Michael Scanlon*

Through the eyes of faith, a

pilgrimage is foremost a response to God's grace. We are no mere tourists seeking to see new sights; we are disciples, following Marys Son seeking to know, love and serve him with all our hearts. The secret of the pilgrimage is to discover the one we love, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the events, persons and places we encounter.

Lourdes is a city of love, a wonderful place made by the appearances of Our Lady to Bernadette Soubirous. We thank God for the miracles that have taken place. We pray in unity with all pilgrims. We attend hold Mass and pray, pray, pray.

The Rosary is so important in our daily life. When Our Lady appeared to Bernadette in 1858 she had rosary beads with her, and Bernadette noticed that she was running the beads through her fingers.

As faithful children of Our Lady of Lourdes let us pick up our holy beads in this the "year of the holy rosary" and pray for one another. We can close our eyes and be at the Grotto in unity with each other, with the sick and the pilgrims

Annual General Meeting

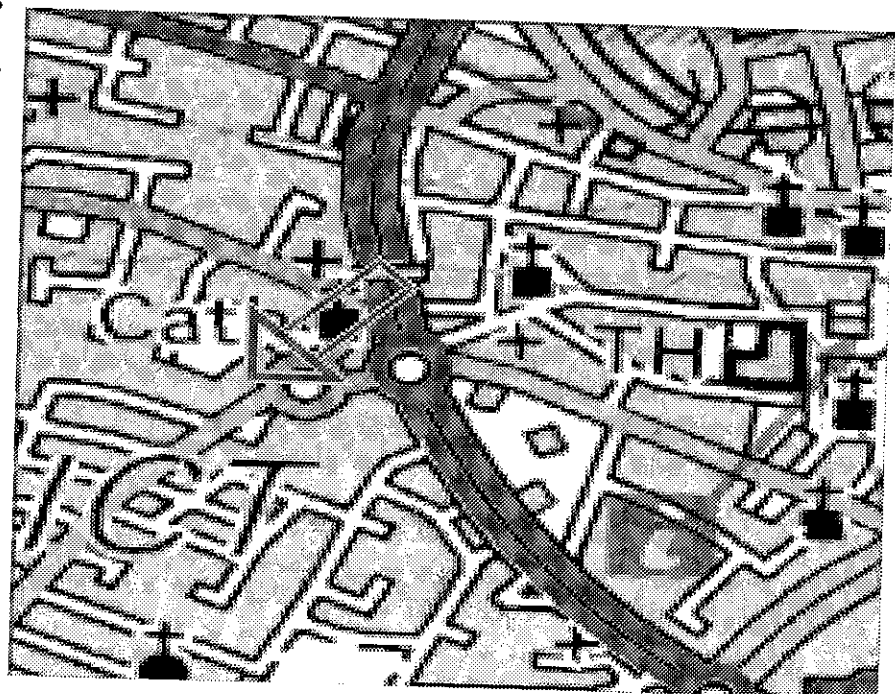
The Annual General Meeting of the Hospitalite is to be held at Norwich Cathedral on Saturday 15th February 2003. The AGM will start at 11am, and will be followed by Mass in the Cathedral at Midday. Lunch will be provided after mass at Trads restaurant.

The Cathedral is located off the Norwich central ring road. Parking is located within the grounds of the cathedral. There is also a regular train service from London into Norwich central station.

Trads is a family run restuarant and is only a short distance from the cathedral. A menu has been sent with the newsletter. Would anyone

wishing to attend lunch please send a five pound deposit along with an indication of their choice of food. to Mark Smith, 3a Moors Close, Hurn,

Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 6AL.



Council Elections

Jane Cadogan

Frances Presgraves

An elected position will become available on the Hospitalite Council during the early part of 2003. The following nominations have already been received.

- **Jane Cadogan**
- **Frances Presgraves**

Voting slips are attached to the back of this newsletter. All Hospitalite members are eligible to vote.

Please send the voting slips back to Mark Smith, 3a Moors Close, Hurn, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 6AL.

The votes will be counted and the results announced during the AGM in February of 2003.

Jane has been on pilgrimage many times in the past. She has been very influential amongst the running of the youth group, helping Tony and Liz for a number of years.

Jane has worked hard within the Portsmouth Diocese helping in her local parish and also in the Diocese as a whole to help with the organisation of the pilgrimage

Jane has also helped the pilgrimage outside of Lourdes by working with Sadie (Chief Handmaid) with some of the tasks that need doing prior to pilgrimage, such as sorting out all of the handmaids uniforms as well as all of the equipment that travels to and from Lourdes with the pilgrimage.

Frances has been on pilgrimage for many years. She has devoted herself to the pilgrimage working as a nurse within the Accueil.

Her daughter Lisa and son Paul are both members of the youth group.

Frances has served previously on the Hospitalite Council as an elected member, but stepped down as her four year appointment as an elected member was completed.

Frances has also at times stepped in on behalf of the Chief nurse to help out with the organisation of the pilgrimage, and also helping to organise the nursing staff, and duties.

Please select the person that you wish to vote for by ticking the box next to that persons name. You may only vote for one person.

Please send this slip to the CA Secretary

Mark Smith
3a Moors Close
Hurn
Christchurch
Dorst
BH23 6AL

Alternatively you can E-mail your Selection to Mark@Your-Turn.com. Please note that my E-mail address has changed. Please state clearly in the E-mail who you wish to vote for.

Jane Cadogan

Frances Presgraves