



Christus Imperat

Provincial Quarterly newsletter
of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest



*Detail from a vestment of Lanherne
carmelite convent*

Dear friends of the Institute,

“Peace of heart does not mean that nothing is happening, but that nothing is lacking; it does not lie in suspension of movement, but in having no need to move”.
(Treatise on the Love of God, book 5, ch. 3).

These few words of our dear Patron Saint of the Institute of Christ the King, St. Francis de Sales, although written 400 years ago, seem to be still applicable to our own epoch. Many people of every times have been seeking wisdom and peace, using all kind of means, spiritualities (even technologies), and many failed.

The reason is twofold: firstly, human nature is limited and we have to accept that God is the Cause, we are merely the effects of His glorious goodness. This first acceptance requires an act of “natural” humility which the devil and our first parents failed to achieve. They did not appreciate enough the generosity of their Creator who granted them human life under His will. This natural gift was precious enough to cause an act of gratitude, and, since they would wisely unite themselves to their own cause, find true peace. Secondly, God is infinitely perfect in His divinity: He wants to share this divine and mysterious life with His intellectual creatures to whom He granted enough potential of comprehension and love in that aim.

At the very heart of these two spiritual faculties, their freedom was vital to make this supernatural union possible. The grace of God is therefore sent to help human nature react the divine intimacy through simple act of humility. This divine help – intervention – in our life is more present and active than we can ever imagine, but it is down to us to welcome it and follow its supernatural direction.

Every time we are docile to the “voice” of the grace in our conscience and heart, we are able to confide our weakness to the Good Lord and therefore to find in Him a shelter of peace and serenity. In the midst of many challenges and dangers for our faith and personal holiness, our daily prayer and meditation helps us to seek for the sole source of peace and highest vocation to Heaven. If God is with us every day, who will stand against us?

Please be assured of the faithful and priestly presence of your Canons with you through their prayers, Mass and daily Office that they sing in their churches across our country,

In Christo Rege,

Canon Amaury Montjean
Provincial in Great-Britain



Canon Gwénael Cristofoli
Vice-Provincial

A JOYFULL DAY FOR THE CHURCH AND OUR PROVINCE!

ORDINATION TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD OF CANONS M. McCOWEN AND L. DODD



On the 1st April, alongside Canon Wells and Canon Bell, from America, Canon Dodd and Canon McCowen received the ordination to the sacred Priesthood by the imposition of the hands of S.E.R. Cardinal Burke. They are our two first priests from Great Britain since 2015



On the 13th and 14th May, Canon Dodd and Canon McCowen celebrated a first solemn high mass of thanksgiving in our apostolates of New Brighton and Preston. The parishioners were delighted to see these young men they saw serving at the altar, reaching for the first time the steps as « alter Christus ». « Ad multos annos! »



PROVINCIAL DAYS AT LANHERNE

4 DAYS OF FRATERNAL GATHERING FOR YOUR CANONS IN SUNNY CORWALL

This year Lanherne hosted the First Provincial Days of the Province of Great Britain which was an immense blessing. Nine Canons of the Institute enjoyed the four days of priestly fraternity with prayer, conferences and outings to explore surrounding Cornwall.



Solemn High Mass and Office of Vespers



Spiritual conference by Canon Cristofoli and evening community time



Visit of Lanhyrock Castle and outing on the seaside



NEW BRIGHTON



catechism to both the young and old alike. Having celebrated many baptisms and several marriages this year, we also have had the great joy of receiving a number of converts into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Coupled with daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and making ourselves available for the sacrament of penance, we continue to care for the souls God sends to us, leading them to Christ.

In addition to the pastoral work of our growing apostolate, we have kept ourselves busy with several projects both in the church and in the presbytery, making the Dome a bit more like home. The most notable of these was perhaps the replacement of the old boilers for both the church and house heating systems. With the generous help of so many of the faithful and our benefactors, we were able to complete this project this past spring in time for Holy Week.

Speaking of Holy Week, we were also blessed to have Canon Stephen Sharpe with us for the Sacred Triduum this year, allowing us to celebrate these most holy days with their full solemn rites for the first time in the newly restored church. It was additionally our true privilege this summer to welcome four of our newly ordained priests to offer a first solemn high Mass of thanksgiving, allowing us all to see the tangible fruits of our many prayers for vocations and to receive our divine Saviour's own blessing from their anointed hands.



Giving supreme glory to God, these liturgies continue to edify not only the New Brighton faithful but help evangelize all who are touched by their noble simplicity and encounter the beautiful truth of the religion of Incarnation.



PRESTON

On Wednesday, 23rd August, Saint Walburge's Church was visited by the architect, Mr. Andrew Wood, to determine whether our restoration work merits placement on the shortlist for the King of Prussia Gold Medal Award by the EASA and National Church's Trust. Our own architect, Mr. Duncan Sanderson, and an enthusiastic group of faithful, came out to meet him and speak about both the spiritual and aesthetic value of this holy temple. As we await the results, we are immensely grateful to Divine Providence for the work already accomplished, and filled with hope for our future projects.



The community in Preston is not only busy with material work. The apostolate grows ever larger, nourished by a rich liturgical life. On the 15th of August, feast of the Assumption, a large and zealous number of parishioners turned out for the Solemn Mass and Procession, celebrated by our newly ordained English priest, Canon Michael McCowen.

We continue the important devotion of all day adoration on Thursdays, in honour of the institution of the most august Sacrament of the Altar. Initially established by our Sister Adorers, a large number of worshippers now stop in throughout the day every week. Truly, the salvation of ourselves, our families and our country can only come about through the power of Our Lady and of the Blessed Sacrament.

From the altar, source of all grace, we seek to bring Jesus Christ into our local community. The Canons are active visiting the sick of the apostolate and going to two local care homes. As new families join our community, we always seek to bless their homes, so that the Sacred Heart may reign there. Our young Canon Ducret even recently blessed a local Italian restaurant and put up a crucifix with the owner! In a world ever more forgetful of God, many graces will come from placing the saving Passion of Our Lord before the eyes of the people.





SHREWSBURY



St. Winefride's church, north east of Shrewsbury's centre, continues to attract many faithful from Shrewsbury and beyond. Daily and Sunday Masses, silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament twice a week as well as Benediction after Mass on the last Sunday of each month, are appreciated by families and individuals from all walks of life and all age groups. Many faithful come a long way by car, bus or train to attend the liturgical celebrations, especially the Sung Mass on Sundays. Canon Wiener regularly offers spiritual talks in the parish hall and prepares individuals for their conversion to the Catholic faith. Recently, the choir master and other members of the schola were able to welcome new members to their ranks: several very young voices help to underscore the spiritual beauty of the Gregorian chant and other treasures of the Church's musical tradition. The Institute and all members of the community of faithful continue to be exceedingly grateful to His Lordship, Bishop Mark Davies, for his generous support and hospitality at St. Winefride's church. We were also blessed this year to receive the visits of our two superiors within the Institute, Msgr. Wach and Msgr. Schmitz, who were glad to meet with our congregation.

TORQUAY



With the holiday season in full swing, it is nice to see holidaymakers seeking out the Latin Mass here in Torquay at the Shrine Church of Holy Angels in Chelston. We are fortunate to be able to offer, both to residents and visitors alike, daily Mass, regular opportunities for Confession with Adoration/Benediction plus other services such as Lauds and Vespers.

Street processions in honour of Our Lady and at *Corpus Christi* have become normal features for regular churchgoers, with visits by Mgr. Wach, Canon Montjean and the newly ordained Canon Dodd much appreciated - visits that emphasise being a part of the Institute's wider spiritual family.

Other recent events include a 'Rosary on the Coast' that was organised with the S.P.U.C. and the Knights of St. Columba. The Pentecost walking pilgrimage from Lanivet to Lanherne in Cornwall proved popular, especially among the young and agile!





LANHERNE

The past year at Lanherne has been a year of great blessings and graces. We have been blessed to have a seminarian, Abbé Liam Cain of Australia, with us since October.

For the Feasts of Christ the King, All Saints and All Holy Souls, we welcomed Alastair Tocher from Malvern as cantor. Later in November, we had the grace to celebrate the Feast of St John of the Cross for the Nuns of Lanherne and many faithful. Mr. Tocher joined us once again for that occasion alongside a visiting octet called Ottavo, organized by our organist, Paul Mileham. They accompanied the liturgy with William Byrd's Mass for Four Voices, a gem of English sacred polyphony.

In March we were blessed to receive Msgr. Gilles Wach, the Prior General, for the first time. Msgr. received the affiliation of a local priest, Rev. Martin Budge. I wish to extend my thanks here to Fr Budge for his tireless and generous help to our apostolate.

At Easter, a local from the village was received into the Church and we began a monthly meeting for those wanting to explore the Catholic Faith. This informal "Q&A" meeting provides an opportunity to come together to ask varied questions in a relaxed environment.

With an improvement in the weather, the month of May gave us the unique grace to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Val and Bernie Williams, longtime supporters of the Institute, together with their friends and clergy of the Diocese. Several couples also took this opportunity to renew their own marriage vows.



Several weeks later, in June, we received Mgr. R. Michael Schmitz, the Vicar General of the Institute, who kindly celebrated the 10am Sung Mass on the Sunday of his visit to Lanherne.

After only two years of production, our Apple cider received the silver at the Royal Cornwall Show; our first vintage having won the bronze last year. Our delicious apple juice also won an award this year. We will soon be bottling the cider from our last harvest as we look forward with excitement to the next harvest in October. The apples are already dropping!



SUPPORT YOUR CANONS!

Dear friends and benefactors,

Thanks to your support, and a particular attention of the divine Providence, we went through a year which didn't seem an easy one at the beginning. The present situation of the world, with the constant increasing costs of life affected us as it did you.

Your canons are truly aware of the sacrifices you made last year to continue to help us, and to give us the means to assist you in all your spiritual needs.

The Province of the Institute in Great Britain try to support all your canons in their local apostolates, providing to each of them a small wage, and assisting them in the administration. Our annual budget for the province is about **£70,000**, covering the above wages, some administration work as well as the necessary travels when the Superiors of the Institute meet our Canons as well as yourselves in the apostolates across our country. Since Brexit, we also meet the expenses for the Visas and Insurance of our non-British Canons, Seminarians and Sisters, needed to reside in their missions and provide you spiritual assistance according to their life-style.

Last year, thanks to your generosity, and a generous legacy, we managed to completely cover our budget, with a little extra for the coming year.

To start with peace of mind this new academic year, I am begging again for your generosity. In order to secure our budget for the forthcoming year, we are in need of **£25,000**. I am already assured of your prayers, which have no price for us, as they are the divine lightning protection for all our ministry. Would you also consider setting up a regular donation, or a just a one-off to our dear British Province? Any donation, even the smallest, is extremely helpful for us.

Thank you very much in advance!

In Christo Rege,

Canon Vianney Poucin de Wouilt
Provincial Bursar



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