

T H E B U L L E T I N .

The Annunciation Marble Arch

MAY 2016

EDITORIAL BY FR GERALD BEAUCHAMP

On Thursday 23 June we will be returning to polls to vote on the EU Referendum. It's the biggest political decision that most of us will make in our lifetimes.

In his book *Europe: The Faltering Project* (Polity Press, Cambridge UK, 2010. pp 57-8), Jurgen Habermas says that the problem of inadequate decision-making power in the EU involves three big issues.

Firstly, global economics undermines the ability of nation states to get the taxes to meet the welfare bill. Demographic changes and immigration make this worse.

Secondly, there are the relationships with the other global power blocs (USA, Russia and China) along with the conflicts in the Middle East which have spread into Europe.

Third is the status of the EU within NATO. Can the EU act as a counterweight to the US?

We don't hear much about the global issues in the current debate and the part that the UK plays in them. The question 'What can we do for the world?' instead of 'What can the world do for us?' is not one that we hear the politicians asking as much as we should.

So it's up to people of faith to make the point that at a time when there are so many urgent global issues – climate change, peace and migration – isolationism is not the answer.

We learn this not only by studying politics and saying our prayers but by being actively engaged with the world around us. Civil society doesn't just happen of its own accord.

We learn to cooperate by discovering ourselves in the people we mix with. Being involved in local groups such as Parent Teachers Associations is an important part of becoming who we are. Our children learn to cooperate if they see adults doing it.

Christians believe in a God that is cooperative through and through. Father, Son and Holy Spirit model how we are to live with ourselves and with each other. As we now enter the long season of Trinity this will be a constant refrain.

Yours in Christ

Fr Gerald

BISHOP MICHAEL'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

Bishop Marshall celebrated his 80th birthday last month. He now lives in Chelsea and is on the staff of Holy Trinity Sloane Street, the parish where he was Rector before 'retirement'.

After he retired Bishop Michael and members of his previous congregation became part of the Annunciation. The SPA Project (Spirituality, Prayer, Action) became an important part of the life of the Annunciation during the week and led to the church being open again on weekdays.

Bishop Michael's friendship with the then General Manager of the Churchill Hotel also opened doors into the local hospitality industry.

Bishop Michael continues an active ministry of preaching and teaching both in the UK and North America.

Photo 1: From left to right Fr Soon Han Choi, Fr Nick Wheeler (present Rector of Holy Trinity Sloane St), Bishop Michael, Fr Gerald. Photo courtesy of Roy Hyslop.

Photo 2: Photo courtesy of Roy Hyslop



ABI GOLDSBROUGH'S CONFIRMATION

Abi Goldsbrough, a member of the Annunciation was confirmed at the Francis Holland School Confirmation held in St Cyprian's Clarence Gate on 4 May. It was a great occasion with Bishop Robert Ladds, an Honorary Bishop in the Diocese of London confirming and celebrating the mass.

In his sermon Bishop Robert made the point that no one knows that we are Christians just by looking at us. Unlike many Jews and Muslims that we walk past in the street we don't wear distinctive dress. So people will only know if they see us behave in a way that raises us above worldly standards. This is the Great Commission.

Bishop Robert with Abi (centre) accompanied by members of her family and Fr Gerald

Photos courtesy of Lucy Smith



HAMPDEN GURNEY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION

Ella Tetley, Persia Modder and Marie Moszynska were confirmed during the school mass on 19 May by Bishop Stephen Platten, another of the Honorary Bishops in this diocese.

Ella goes to school in St John's Wood and is a member of St Cyprian's Clarence Gate. Persia was baptized as well as confirmed. It takes a lot to stand up in front of a whole school and make a Christian commitment.

As always, adults can learn so much from children.



Ella, Bishop Stephen, Marie, Persia.

Photo courtesy of Alan Moses

FR ALAN MOSES' PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Fr Alan is making his second pilgrimage to Compostela starting on 31 May. He will be walking from Seville and taking around six weeks to make the 500 mile trip. He is raising funds for projects supported by the London Diocesan Lent Appeal to assist refugees and persecuted Christians in Syria and Iraq.



Traversing this part of Spain for such a cause taps into deep memories. Southern Spain was once the home of flourishing Jewish and Muslim cultures. In places like Seville the cathedral was originally the principle mosque.

Europe has known too many wars of religion. Christians need to take the lead in not only binding up the wounds but also in preventing bloodshed in the first place. If you would like to sponsor Fr Alan then please do so via <https://my.give.net/alanspilgrimage>. Thank you.

When Fr Alan walked to Compostela in 2009 he raised £20,000 for missionary projects. Let's help him do even better this time.

Photo: Fr Alan

SERVICES & EVENTS

**2, 9, 16, 23
& 30 MAY**

Children's Choir Practice: Tuesdays 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 June 3.45pm in church

Local business

**The Mae Deli
21 Seymour Place, W1H 5BH**

How would you describe your business? It's all about really delicious food.

How long have you been in the neighbourhood? Just under a year.

Who is your clientele? People who want to eat healthily.

Do you have an online presence? If so what is your website address? www.themaedeli.com

What would you like people to know about your business? If you want natural, unrefined ingredients creating nourishing meals full of interesting flavours and textures then we're here for you.

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www.annunciationmarblearch.org.uk