



Dowry

(N°29, Spring 2016)

*"O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gracious Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy Dowry."
(Cardinal Wiseman)*

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Editorial: “*Jewel in the Dowry Appeal*”

Lent is upon us! To think that it is already one year since we received the sacred ashes: “Remember, man, that you are dust and that to dust you shall return”. In Lent we give alms. You will have already received flyers from various charities. Some will ask your help on behalf of the homeless; some for unborn children; others for persecuted Christians. This year, we ask for your help for the Church in need in... England.

Not that we have found the perfect solution to solve all her problems at once. But as we well know, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is Salvation re-enacted; it is the saving merits of Christ applied anew upon the altar of a church. This year then, we ask your help for a church, in England. Yes, there still are many churches in England, thank God, including some near you, where dedicated clergy serve your needs. A few of them do so according to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, occasionally or mostly.

In God’s mercy, the church we are referring to sets an important precedent in Our Lady’s Dowry as 1) legally owned and 2) exclusively served by Extraordinary Form clergy, 3) with a permanent mandate from an Archbishop to answer the needs of all those who ask, without restriction. Such stability is an answer to your prayers and sacrifices, and an encouragement for many clergy and laity.

Endowed with a renowned choir, St Mary’s Warrington is a Pugin jewel (front cover picture and next page). It is canonically established as a shrine and chaplaincy, conveniently located in the town centre and easily reached by rail and road (under half an hour from both Liverpool and Manchester). The local Parish Priest is supportive and the diocesan clergy friendly.

With ten men from England and Wales preparing for the priesthood with our Fraternity, we should have no problem staffing St Mary’s. But we have real problems heating, insuring, and maintaining the church. Furthermore, we won’t be able to feed, clothe and care for our clergy unless assistance comes to us from further afield. Why is that?

Formerly, a capital attached to St Mary’s provided a regular income to maintain the church, the priory and support its clergy. This capital was not part of the transaction that made us owners of St Mary’s. Consequently, we have no stable income; but we have regular costs to meet. Our daily collection covers less than a third of the actual costs. In brief, we need £1,000 more per week, or £52,000 more per year. The Bursar of our Fraternity in England, Fr Matthew Goddard, will give you figures in a separate article.

We pray that some benefactors will rebuild the much needed one-million-pound capital, granting this important venture financial stability. One million pounds is the

price for a middle-size house in Greater London. It is a lot of money for most of our readers. But some of you may be able to contribute significantly through direct donations or bequests; or you may know people who would like to invest in this exceptional undertaking. We need you. We need them.



There was no Extraordinary Form group at St Mary’s. But nearly all the congregation have taken to the EF Mass, shifting overnight from English to Latin (although we provide English translations) and their celebrant from *versus populum* to *versus Deum*. Their genuine piety led them to trust in what the Archbishop and the Church were offering them through our EF ministry. We are deeply honoured by their confidence and encouraged by their support. When they see the relatively young age of the three of us FSSP clergy at Warrington; when we request their prayers for eleven young men coming to attend a weekend of vocational discernment at St Mary’s – our congregation sees clearly that our traditional charism bears good fruit for the future, thank God.

Holy Mass is offered at St Mary’s every day without exception (twice a day on Sundays and main feasts), with Confessions heard thirty minutes before every Mass, in response to Pope Francis’ call to confessors in this *Year of Mercy*. Eucharistic adoration takes place every Saturday from 10am to 12noon and Holy Rosary is prayed every day.

A first bulk order of thirty traditional hand missals was sent, not to mention the many *CTS* and *LMS* booklets available in the pews. Every day, an average of forty people attends our Mass, and 140 on Sundays. With 380 worshippers at Holy Mass every week after only two months, St Mary’s is already home to one of the largest regular Extraordinary Form congregations in Britain. Please make it last and succeed. Make it grow and spread. Make this jewel shine bright in Our Lady’s Dowry. Make history: support the “*Jewel in the Dowry Appeal*”. This is happening now.

In these first days of Lent, we recall that the ashes on our heads are made out of the burned branches of Palm Sunday last year. In a way, this mirrors the loss of faith in our formerly Catholic country. But in reaction, more than once in England’s rich history, spring succeeded winter. With God’s grace and with our shared impetus, may those ashes come back to life and produce foliage for us and our children to wave at the Saviour as He walks upon this pleasant land, once His Mother’s Dowry: Hosanna to the Son of Mary!

Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP
Superior of the English FSSP Apostolate,
St Mary’s Priory, Warrington, Lent 2016 □

JE W E in
the DO W RY
Appeal





He gave England *hope and glory*

Sir Edward Elgar, organist and liturgical composer, by Fr Ian Verrier, FSSP.

This is not the description one readily calls to mind when the name “Elgar” is uttered. Regarded as the essential Edwardian English composer whose salon pieces and orchestral largos could be described as the English countryside in sound. Most famous these days for composing such English patriotic classics as the five *Pomp and Circumstance Marches* (Op. 39 1901-1930, the 1st of which includes the renowned “Land of Hope and Glory” section), it is less known that Elgar wrote works for use in the Catholic liturgy.

Edward Elgar was born in the small village of Lower Broadheath, outside Worcester, England. His father, William Henry Elgar (1821–1906), was raised in Dover and had been apprenticed to a London music publisher. In 1841 William moved to Worcester, where he worked as a piano tuner and set up a shop selling sheet music and musical instruments. So music was in the Elgar blood. William Elgar was a violinist of good repute as well as a church organist as we shall see below. In 1848 William married Ann Greening, daughter of a farm worker. Edward was the fourth of their seven children.

Importantly Ann Elgar had converted to Roman Catholicism shortly before Edward’s birth, and he was baptised and brought up as a Roman Catholic, apparently to the disapproval of his father. This having been said, a Wikipedia citation of the *Musical Times* 1900 reports that it was at William’s instigation that Mass settings composed by Cherubini and Hummel were first heard at the *Three Choirs Festival* by the orchestra in which he played the violin.

All of Edward’s siblings received a musical upbringing and Edward was no exception. At the age of eight he began piano and violin lessons. Edward’s father tuned the pianos at many reputable houses in Worcestershire and often took him along in order to showcase his skill to important local figures.

Edward’s determining exposure to the organ was in the Catholic liturgy which ironically was thanks to his Anglican father who held the post of organist of St. George’s Roman Catholic Church, Worcester, from 1846 to 1885. For some years Edward was assistant organist to his father and succeeded him for four years from 1885. During this period Elgar wrote his first Catholic liturgical

works, beginning with his three motets Op. 2 (1887) for four-part choir (*Ave verum corpus*, *Ave Maria* and *Ave Maris Stella*), followed by a setting of *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus* for the entry of the Bishop on an official visit to St. George’s in 1888, all four of which may still be heard sung by choirs today. In fact, *Colonie Fra Angelico*, a musical summer camp for children between the ages of 10 and 17 held in La Brède, near Bordeaux, France and run by the FSSP have sung the first two of these motets in recent years. This shows that even in France, Elgar’s Catholic liturgical music can be heard alongside the great French repertoire.

One often hears of the venerable “Low Mass” tradition of English Catholicism during the dangerous and heroic Penal Times but we should not neglect England’s Catholic choral and organ tradition that includes more than the great composers of the 16th century.



Edward Elgar wrote an Organ Sonata in D in 1895. He decided on a four movement sonata. The four movements are: I. Allegro maestoso; II. Allegretto; III. Andanto espressivo; IV. Presto (comodo).

The 1st and 4th movements follow the classic sonata form, whilst movements 2 and 3 are in a three-part A-B-A form.

Michael Kennedy in his 1987 *Portrait of Elgar*, observes that to play the finale successfully, the organist needs to be a mental and physical athlete. It was first performed by the Worcester Cathedral organist, Hugh Blair, on 8th July 1895. The work was dedicated to Elgar’s friend and fellow-musician Charles Swinnerton Heap (1847-1900).

Knighthood in 1904, Sir Edward Elgar was possibly influenced by the Parisian Catholic organist, Camille Saint-Saëns whom Elgar heard play at the Madeleine Church in Paris. The organ here is much bigger than the one at St Georges Worcester. One can imagine the delight and inspiration that Elgar would have drawn from hearing this master improviser and composer play the beautiful 4-manual Cavallé-Coll organ in this church. The world famous warm symphonic sound of these superlative organs built by Aristide Cavallé-Coll lends itself very well to Elgar’s full palette, just as it does to composers such as Alexandre Guilmant, César Franck and Charles-Marie Widor, to name but three.



Settings of *O Salutaris Hostia*, *Tantum Ergo*, *Ave Maris Stella* and the *Angelus* are just some of the many Latin motets for the liturgy that Elgar wrote. Perhaps Elgar's most famous Catholic work is not so much a liturgical work but an oratorio called *The Dream of Gerontius*. Roman Catholic Elgar set to music the poem by Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman about the death and redemption of a sinner. Though it was and still is highly regarded as a musical composition, prominent Anglican musicians were sadly rude about its Catholic text and meaning.

Let us give thanks and make good use of our English Catholic musical and liturgical heritage, and for the fine organs still extant, and pray for and support our

contemporary Catholic composers, singers and organists. Let us pray for the repose of the soul of Edward Elgar: a Roman Catholic, an Englishman and musician. May he rest in peace.

A professional organist, Fr Verrier holds a Bachelor of Music Honours degree from The University of Birmingham and a Post Graduate Certificate in Performance (cello) from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. He also did a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (with specialist string instrument teaching) from both the Royal Northern College of Music and Manchester Metropolitan University (Didsbury Campus). □

Forthcoming Events

Year of Mercy retreat for the laity 4-6 March 2016

by Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP

Location: Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TQ, Berkshire.

EVERY enquiry and booking: Fr Finbar, O.S.B., Guestmaster, Lenten Mercy Retreat, Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading, Berkshire RG7 5TQ, England". email: guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk • website: www.douaiabbey.org.uk • Tel: 0118 9715 399

Year of Mercy retreat for clergy 2-6 May 2016

by Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP

For diocesan and religious priests, deacons and seminarians, led on the theme: "*Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy*".

Cost: £249 (all inclusive for 5 days and 4 nights: Monday afternoon to Friday afternoon; full board in modern single rooms with en-suite bathroom + conference room + organisation fees + preaching).

Not included: transportation.

Travel with us as a group: Luton to Zurich. Same flight as last year, same airline, same airports. As usual, a coach will drive us from the Airport terminal to the Retreat Centre and return.

Mon, 2 May • 13:20 – 16:00 • London (LTN) – Zürich (ZRH) • Easyjet 2045 • Economy Class • Airbus A319 Below average legroom (74 cm) • 1h 40m.

Fri, 6 May • 16:35 – 17:20 • Zürich (ZRH) – London (LTN) • Easyjet 2046 • Economy Class • Airbus A319 Below average legroom (74 cm) • 1h 45m.

Please book your flight separately.

Address: Pilgerheim Sankt Josef, Kirchstraße 18, D-88145, Wigratzbad, Germany • www.gebetsstaette.de/.

Booking: Please send your Name-Surname-Address-Telephone-Email with your **£100.00 deposit** cheque made payable to FSSP ENGLAND to: Clergy Retreat, St Mary's Priory, Smith Street, Warrington WA1 2NS, Cheshire, England.

Email Fr de Malleray now at malleray@fssp.org for any enquiry. □

World Youth Day 2016 (20/25-31 July 2016) in Kraków, Poland, with *Juventutem*, the international network for the sanctification of youth through the Roman traditions of the Church (cf juventutem.org). *Juventutem* has been allocated the Minor Basilica of Sts Peter and Paul, a beautiful baroque church in the historic centre of Krakow. Bishop Athanasius Schneider has agreed to accompany us, and more prelates will attend, as well as many clergy. Contact: secretary@juventutem.org

First Mass of Fr James Mawdsley, FSSP: St Mary's Warrington, Sunday 10th July 2016, 11AM. All are welcome to attend and support the newly ordained priest.

Summer Camps: We plan *two* Summer Camps, including our first Camp for girls in the United Kingdom. The latter option requires **adult women volunteering as team leaders**. Any young woman of approximately 18 to 35 years of age, interested in helping us next Summer, is cordially invited to contact us.

St Peter's Summer Camp for Boys: 29 July – 3 August
St Petronilla's Summer Camp for Girls: 9 - 13 August



In order to keep the cost as low as possible for the families concerned, our Fraternity has heavily subsidised the last two camps. Owing, however, to a large increase in numbers, we need dedicated sponsors for next Summer. Please contact Fr Goddard, our Bursar, if you can donate funds for our Summer Camps in 2016. Please also pray for the preparatory work. Thank you for your support to Catholic families. □



Light the Beacons!

Homily pronounced by Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP at the First Solemn High Mass in England of Fr Ian Verrier, FSSP at St James' Church in London on 20th June 2015.

Dear newly ordained Fr Verrier, Just give up! It is all lost. Go and hide. We are vanquished. Christianity is over. Our time is gone. Anyone with eyes to see will agree. Greater than waves, *tsunamis* rather surge against life, against common sense, against freedom and against innocence! See the crimson tide of abortion; the green tide of Islam; the pink tide of inversion; the black tide of pornography; and as a deadly mix of all others, the fluorescent tide of political correctness.

Coming fast upon us, down those evil waves, like mighty hordes of surfers, the enemy conquers our parliaments; our tribunals; our universities; our media; our hospitals; our barracks; our schools; our workplaces; our bakeries; even our homes – and what of our churches? No one is there to protect us. Our martyrs are long gone. Our confessors and doctors are dumb. Our virgins are mocked. Our leaders are shy or unsure. And *we...* We are weak. We are selfish. We are lazy. We are afraid.

Dear Fr Verrier, more than once you crossed the Channel with many English pilgrims, to take part in the annual Pilgrimage of Christendom. You admired the glorious procession assorted in hundreds of chapters, each carrying its embroidered banner with its local saint and its shining cross, singing canticles along the 70-mile hallowed path to the medieval shrine of Chartres!

What you may have missed, however, is the 'Cleaning



Section'. That little group of volunteers walks at the very end of the one-mile-long column. After the ten thousand pilgrims have walked through fields and woods, that lowly party follows. After the ten thousand pilgrims have gone. We remember what an amazing sight those thousands were – now vanished as a dream! And the small Cleaning Section closes the column, dutifully picking up any paper, any empty cans or wrappers (or occasionally rosary beads) fallen from the pilgrims' hands. What is the ambition of the Cleaning Section? It is to leave the place neat and tidy, when the tiny silhouette of the last Catholic will have shrunk down to the size of a dot on the grey horizon. The Cleaning Section prides itself on leaving no trace behind: no one would ever guess that a Catholic army once boldly trod across that road.

Catholics worldwide in 2015, those with eyes to see, feel very much like the Cleaning Section. We see our parishes merged, our churches shut down, our seminaries, convents and noviciates sold to developers, our schools decatholicised. We quietly withdraw. Even as we die, we must be careful not to rock the boat. Let us vanish in a gentlemanly way, as the world smiles at us: "Farewell, miserable rearguard, and good riddance!" So, should we not give up? Should we not give in?

No. *That* was the horizontal vision, not the transcendent one. It was what the flesh tells us – not the faith. Fr Verrier, you would not be sitting in our midst as Celebrant; you





would not soon stand at the altar to offer the Holy Sacrifice, if you shared that deceptive vision. Dear friends, if we adhered to it ourselves, we must have misplaced our supernatural glasses. When we find them again – our proper *faith* glasses; when we focus on what escapes our eyes of flesh but not our souls – *this* is what we will see. What indeed, do you ask?



Setim two men, to spy secretly: and said to them: Go, and view the land and the city of Jericho. They went and entered into the house of a woman that was a harlot named Rahab, and lodged with her” (cf *Joshua 2*).

As the spies found refuge in the house of the prostitute Rahab, who was spared for her faith when Jericho fell, in our turn we spread the Good News among alien folk.

We will see that we belong to One Who has already won the battle on our behalf. It was on Good Friday, on Mount Golgotha. He is our Head and we are His mystical Body, the Church. He is our Head, in Latin ‘caput’, whence also ‘captain’. And our Captain will soon return, visibly. The end of time is near, for Him to Whom one thousand years are like a day.

We belong to His Church, spread across time even more powerfully than across space. Here below, we only see the Militant or Pilgrim fringe of His Church: with a mere 1.2 billion known. But much more numerous and helpful are the suffering souls in Purgatory, who are already holy and will intercede for us when their purification is ended. In Heaven now, without interruption, billions of saints and trillions of holy angels petition on our behalf the adorable Trinity, led in intercession by the Most Holy Mother of God.

With them, we are Christ’s holy army. We are still on earth, yes. But we are not forgotten: we are sent. We are not lagging behind: we are scouting out. We are not the *rearguard*: we are the *vanguard*! We are the Lord’s gentle spies.

Spies? Indeed! Remember how, in the Old Testament, after forty years of wandering in the desert, Joshua sent spies to reconnoitre the Promised Land, ahead of the Hebrew army, still encamped east of the River Jordan: “Josue the son of Nun sent from

We mark those of good will with the sign of the Lord, so that they may be saved, when the army will take possession of the land. We are the emissaries of the liberation forces. We have but little time to enrol as many as will trust in the Word Who sent us, and Who guides us daily.

What are we? We are not agents of subversion, because evil is chaos and the peace we bring is the tranquillity of order. We are the spies of love, under the nose of hatred. We are busy smuggling mercy. We plot freedom. We inject grace. Weak and few as we may seem, we rely on apocalyptic backup in heaven. Angels and saints listen to us, poor pilgrims across our vale of tears. When our knees touch the ground below, one million hands join in prayer on high. When our hands join in prayer below, one billion wings spread above to shield us. Such is the Communion of saints. All the baptised partake in this wondrous power. All of us are spies of the Great King on-high, preparing His people for the liberation to come. Such is, dear friends, our shared mandate through Holy Baptism. Such is our brotherly pride.

But the King our Captain has willed to imprint special powers in selected agents. He has made them head-spies, associate captains and chief forerunners of His final advent. Who are those, you ask? You should know. They are here. They live amongst us. They are the priests. The priests of God. Our priests.



Leaving seminary like Fr Verrier a fortnight ago, on the day of their ordination they jump in the dark, through the night of



sinful worldliness. They land behind enemy lines: not at random, but to targets assigned by Chief Command (i.e. the Holy See and our shepherds the bishops). They are thoroughly trained in the arts of God's grace. And what do you think is their first action once landed, and their last? They light the beacons! They activate a signal of infinite magnitude: the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Such is the command they received from Christ Himself: "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!" (Luke 12:49-53).

At each Holy Mass, the priest acts *in persona Christi*. He lets the divine Captain communicate His own infinite merits to all of us sinners. Out of the tyranny of the devil, the Prince of this World, wounded souls are drawn into the Eucharistic light. Shivering souls are led to the warmth of the Eucharistic *Fire*. From on-high, the liberation army observes the radiance beaming from every altar on earth. Just as on a clear summer night we look up at the stars and wish we were there – reciprocally, from on-high saints and angels look downwards at the constellation of Masses across our dark world, and soon they will be here, visibly.

When the King's armies enter the land, on the days of wrath, those found within the Eucharistic shelters will be spared. Like the prostitute Rahab, they will have life, on account of their faith and good works. But as we examine our conscience, we admit that even lovers of the Eucharist need guidance and encouragement! And those still alien to the Eucharist need witnesses and teachers. Hence I ask you: where will we find such men?



It is God's will that all should be saved. To that end, our divine Captain demands priests. With trembling then, but with joy, today I call in His name. I call for priests. I call for holy sacrificers to offer *in Persona Christi* not "the blood of goats and calves" (Hebrews 9:12) but that of the Immaculate Lamb. I call for men. I call for associate captains. I call for God's commandos. But note that I am not calling for *supermen*. I am not calling for geniuses and heroes, as if natural skills could suffice for such a sacred enterprise. Before desiring any particular skills, I am calling for those Whom Christ destines to be configured to Him: "meek and humble of heart".

Listen to me then, men; future *men of God*. Your training will be gradual, brotherly, deep, and rewarding. Your weapons will be humility; prayer; joy; knowledge; purity; trust in God; good humour; discipline; endurance and fraternity. Soon enough, you will be airborne. After takeoff and a seven-year flight, you will jump in the





darkness of the world, like Fr Verrier just a fortnight ago. You will fly with the parachute of grace and, landing according to plan, you will light the beacons. You will offer Holy Mass: “Introibo ad altare Dei!”

On the occasion of this First Solemn High Mass of our newly ordained priest back in England, I say to you, dear young men: Come undercover! Come underground, as God’s secret emissaries! Come and exfiltrate souls from the entanglements of sin! Come and increase the number of the elect, through the fecundity of God’s grace. Do you wish you could reply “yes,” but do you still also feel weak? Then listen to the great Apostle St Paul, the Doctor of the Nations, listen to what God told him: “My grace is sufficient for thee; for power is made perfect in infirmity. Gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may dwell in me” (2 Co 12:19). Men, come: join the *vanguard*.

There are many ways to train God’s captains. The Priestly Fraternity of St Peter is a small and imperfect tool. We ordain a mere twelve priests a year worldwide. This year, we have ordained fifteen. In England, up to last week, we were but two priests in one house. Not quite enough to make hell tremble! But through God’s mercy and through your prayers, in the last dozen years we have ordained seven priests from this country: Fr Konrad Loewenstein in 2002; Fr Brendan Gerard in 2006; Frs Matthew Goddard and William Barker in 2009; Fr Simon Harkins in 2010; Fr Matthew McCarthy in 2011 and Fr Ian Verrier this month.

In addition, we have ten seminarians from England and Wales beginning or continuing their studies at our two international seminaries in Bavaria and Nebraska. This gives reasonable hopes for one new deacon and one new priest from England and Wales ordained every year in the forthcoming years. Every year then, one more priest from this country and one more deacon. What a grace! What a sign! What a reward! Already, two of them are now serving in England. We will send more, if they are wanted here.

Please consider making your prayer for vocations even more fruitful through our prayer network, the Confraternity of Saint Peter. You only need to pray daily one decade of the Rosary, recite one prayer for vocations

and have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered once a year for vocations. In return, you can gain special indulgences and also be supported by the prayers of our 160 seminarians and of our 250 priests. Every day, thirteen Holy Masses are offered specifically for the intentions of the 4,900 members of the Confraternity and for our vocations.

In conclusion dear friends, let us renew our commitment as the gentle spies of Christ. Let us put on our supernatural glasses and focus on what escapes the eyes of our body but not those of our soul! Let us walk bravely, even amidst the flames of vice, witnessing God’s sanctity. Let us light up and make known the Eucharistic beacons, casting away the shadows of despair. Let us not rely on our skills, for we are useless servants but, poorly or richly endowed, let us do our utmost and God will grant victory! Though we are but a few scattered emissaries... – across the river Jordan, on the other side of time, the formidable armies of God are on the move!



Look! See the celestial legions of England and of Wales! See how they watch our humble scouting, while with our feeble hands we mark God’s elect. See the mighty officers on-high, about to set foot across the water and lead their battalions down to our earthly shores. See

Alban and Augustine! See Bede and Cuthbert! See Chad, Hugh and Thomas! The end is near. They are coming! See Winifred and Ethelreda! See Simon Stock the gracious Carmelite! Hold the line, they are on their way! See the Pearl of York, Margaret Clitherow; and Margaret Pole, both saintly mothers of priests! Stand your ground, they are here! See John Fisher and Thomas More, the columns of faithful England! See Campion and Mayne, the gallant missionaries! See John Henry Newman and Dominic Barberi!

But most of all, look at the fair one, awaiting the return of Her Dowry to Her, for Her Son’s glory: watch the Mother of God, the Most pure and chaste, our Mother through grace. “Thou art beautiful, O my love, sweet and comely as Jerusalem: terrible as an army set in array” (Cant. 6:3). On our behalf, almightily, She begs. Under Her queenship, let us toil gladly and prepare the coming of Her Son, Jesus, the Prince of peace. He is on the move with His armies. He is coming to rescue us. He is here: Ecce Agnus Dei, ecce qui tollit peccata mundi! □



Matters financial

By Fr Matthew Goddard, FSSP – Bursar of the FSSP England Apostolate

In this edition of *Dowry* I write wearing my ‘Bursar’s hat’, to give you a report on the acquisition of St Mary’s Church, Warrington, and an overview of the financial position of our charity, FSSP England.

Can I start by thanking so many of you for the significant contributions you made to our seminary campaign, ‘Labourers for the Vineyard.’ I am pleased to inform you that since its commencement in July 2013, the campaign generated a total of £33,595.29. This has gone a long way towards funding the studies of our ten English seminarians. As we rejoice that God has continued to bless our Fraternity with English vocations, so we thank Him, also, for our new apostolate in Warrington, located at the fine Pugin church of St Mary’s. *Deo volente*, it will be the first of many! The process of acquisition resembled that of buying a house, though in this case there was no price to be paid. Upon completion, on 11 November, FSSP England formally became the freehold owner.

St Mary’s Church is not only a beautiful and culturally significant building, but just importantly – thanks to Ampleforth Abbey – it is essentially in good repair! Every Catholic church building in this country has to be professionally surveyed once every five years, from which quinquennial reports are written – ‘quinquennial’ from the Latin word for five, *quinque*. The last quinquennial report on St Mary’s Church, written in September 2012, identifies repairs and maintenance work to the Church totalling an estimated £82,730, of which about £17,100 has already undertaken over the past two years. The report on the Priory – a detached residence built next to the Church in 1988 – identifies a further £31,175 of necessary work. In addition, work also needs to be undertaken on the church heating plant, on some lighting circuits and around fire safety. We are fortunate that as part of the settlement with Ampleforth, a payment was received totalling £140,000 as contributions towards these identified works. These funds, known as ‘restricted funds,’ were given on the strict understanding, binding in law, that they can only be spent on those elements.

There are other significant projects which it is going to be desirable, if not necessary, to address in the near future. For instance, you may have noticed from the photographs of the inaugural Mass that, while the splendid reredos at

the east end of the sanctuary is still in position, the high altar of the church has unfortunately been removed. The altar currently being used is a wooden structure sitting on a raised, carpeted platform, not in the sanctuary but rather the church’s chancel! There is no adequate sacristy – the original sacristy is now the choir rehearsal room, which is also needed to house the choir’s extensive musical repertoire. Furthermore, the ‘cloister’ – a long narrow corridor running down the north side of the church building – badly needs to be rebuilt to create a comfortable hall with upgraded toilet & kitchen facilities. Likewise, the church narthex has not been touched for many years and could do with updating to produce a well-lit, welcoming entrance, which could also serve as a ‘cry room’ for parents with unsettled young children.

Then, there is the organ, which desperately needs either an expensive rebuild or replacing! We believe that we stand a good chance of attracting charitable funding from English Heritage, the National Lottery or other funding streams for some of these projects.

Due to an endowment, over the past few years we have managed to save some money. We were advised by a diocesan Director of Finance that we should ring-fence this money for the care of our future sick and frail priests. We have been reliably informed that what we have is a comfortable start to this fund, but

no more than a start! We have these savings, plus a sizeable chunk of the restricted funds mentioned earlier, invested in a low-risk ‘investment organ’ run, according to Catholic ethical principles. They will hopefully continue to generate an increase, for while our English priests and seminarians are all relatively young, there will inevitably come a point when this will not be the case... and of course we are hoping for a good few more than three priests working in England and Wales in years to come!

You may be thinking that this all sounds very positive, and indeed it is! But... Yes, there is a ‘but’ - and a fairly sizeable ‘but’ at that! From the perspective of finances there is another element related to our new apostolate in Warrington with which we need to seek your assistance.

As an important part of the process for the acquisition of St Mary’s, I had to explore its running costs. This was a fairly straightforward process, in as much as I was able to





mix and match elements of the financial statements of the former St Mary's Parish with our own charity's records of the costs associated with running our Reading apostolate with two resident priests. (It is part of the charism of the Fraternity that we live in small communities. St Mary's would seem to be suited to two priests). To these I added a figure for ongoing repairs and maintenance, estimated by our Surveyor. Our estimate for the annual running costs of St Mary's, confirmed by our Accountant, is £77,000, which equates to £1,480 a week. The weekly offertory collections are, on average, a little over £400 a week. This is the 'but': we are short by about £1000 a week - £52,000 a year! Consequently, we Fraternity clergy working in England are on a steep learning curve when it comes to living according to these new financial realities. Up until November, with just our Reading and Chesham Bois apostolates (which are without their own independently owned church buildings), finances were not too much of a concern. All this has now changed!



Clearly, these are early days for our Warrington apostolate. It is very positive that the Mass attendance at St Mary's has remained much as it was before we took over – about 140 on a Sunday and 30 to 40 at weekday Masses. But there is much work to be done in building things up. While we are blessed with a dedicated and talented team of clergy at St Mary's, we estimate that it is likely to take at least three years before things are really settled. This is why we launch in this issue of our magazine the much needed "Jewel in the Dowry Appeal" (where *Jewel* refers to St Mary's and *Dowry* to England).

Parishioners in our apostolates in Reading and Chesham Bois may well be wondering how their apostolates are fairing financially. We used to comfortably manage on the weekly offertory collection money, the rent money from a house bequeathed to us locally by former Community member, Anne Read, RIP (cf picture), and then donations received from generous benefactors based elsewhere in the country. Those donations are now very much needed elsewhere, and we are having to live without them. So, there's good news and bad news! The bad news is that we are short. The good news is that in the South – unexpected major expenditure aside – we are only short by up to £2,000 a year. I have every confidence that we can work together to cover this shortfall.

This investment and reserved funds aside, as of the end of 2015 we have about £38,000 in our bank accounts. If we chart the current financial trajectory, even when topped up with weekly collection money, this is unlikely to last more than a few months. Please keep this matter in your prayers, particularly to St Joseph!

When we decided to go ahead with Warrington we knew that we are likely be in for a lean time for a few years. Our biggest concern is that we will not be able to fund our activities to the same extent that we used to. For instance, the past two Boys' Summer Camps were heavily subsidised – to the tune of several thousand pounds – by our charity. We saw this as important. Many of our married couples make big sacrifices to be open to life; and having large families can often mean not having much in the way of disposable income for such activities. But, for the time being we are going to have to look for benefactors to cover the basic costs of future camps as our charity simply cannot afford it.

In the spiritual life we often speak of 'grace building on nature', by which we mean that the effects of God's grace do not obliterate nature, but rather elevate it. We are created with free will, and it is important to ensure that we engage our intellect and will to ensure that we are receptive to grace. God requires this cooperation on our part when it comes to our sanctification. It is similar when it comes to building up an apostolic endeavour: it is God's work, but He requires our assistance. In this case, He hears our prayers and sees the sacrifices we make,

while using us as secondary instruments when it comes to funding. Finances might seem a very 'worldly' element, but since money is a primary means by which we make material progress, it is no surprise that over the Church's history the success and failure of apostolic ventures have often depended to a large extent on money!



Please give thought and prayer to what I have outlined. Can you help us, please? We need that additional £52,000 a year for the time being, so that there are no hindrances to our growth and new ventures elsewhere. While the Fraternity is an international society, nonetheless we do not have funds to draw from outside of the United Kingdom. If your own circumstances do not permit you to support us financially, then perhaps some of your friends might help. In any case, please remember this in your prayers. May God reward your generosity! □



Support our apostolate

Help us run St Mary's Shrine and fund our ministry in England.
To make it simpler, please use our FSSP England bank account details below, only specifying the purpose if you wish. For example:

To donate to our '*Jewel in the Dowry Appeal*':

- Please make the cheque or bank transfer payable to 'FSSP ENGLAND';
- Write 'Jewel' on the back of your cheque or in the bank transfer reference.

To donate to our forthcoming **Summer Camps**:

- Please make the cheque or bank transfer payable to 'FSSP ENGLAND';
- Write 'Camps' on the back of your cheque or in your bank transfer reference.

Any cheque or bank transfer to FSSP ENGLAND not bearing mention of a specific purpose will be used by us according to our more urgent needs.

May God reward your generosity this Lent and Easter!

Account Name: FSSP England
Account number: 02027225
Sort code 30-93-04
Lloyds Bank, Palmerston Road
Branch

Are you a tax payer? Help us maximise your donation through Gift Aid.

Please ask us for a Gift-Aid form.

Please note that FSSP England's new centre for Dowry, administration and donations is St Mary's Shrine, Warrington. Please send your cheques, Gift Aid forms and any other financial correspondence to St Mary's Shrine Secretary who is also our new Gift Aid Officer: Mrs Jane Wright.

FSSP ENGLAND is a registered charity:
number **1129964**.

New MAIN ADDRESS for FSSP ENGLAND:

**Priestly Fraternity of St Peter,
St Mary's Priory, Smith Street,
Warrington WA1 2NS
Cheshire, England**

Tel.: 01925 635 664

Fr de Malleray: malleray@fssp.org
Deacon Mawdsley: james.mawdsley@fssp.org
Marcus Williams: marcuswilliams.net@gmail.com

Mrs Jane Wright (Shrine Secretary
& FSSP Gift Aid Officer): warrington@fssp.org



*Fr Ian Verrier, FSSP
organising the
Christmas presents
from the 'Christmas
in a Box' appeal our
Reading Community
supported.*

Reading Apostolate Address

(no longer used for Dowry
donations and Gift Aid):

Priestly Fraternity of St Peter, St John Fisher House,
17 Eastern Avenue, Reading, RG1 5RU, Berks.
Tel.: 0118 966 5284

Fr Goddard: goddard@fssp.org
Fr Verrier: iverrier@fssp.org

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