

THE JOSEPHITE PRESENCE IN BOURNEMOUTH



Le père Bill Muir nous donne un aperçu de 17 ans de présence joséphite à Bournemouth, ville importante à la côte sud de l'Angleterre. Cet article vient d'être publié dans Mirabile Dictu, la revue des confrères anglais.

The Josephites moved into Bournemouth on January 6th 1993, when Fr Paul took over a vacant parish as a base for chaplaincy work at Bournemouth University. In April 2009 the Parishes of Christ the King and St Bernadette became one parish dedicated to the Holy Family because in the opinion of the parishioners that dedication reflected the Josephite presence as well as something of the Spirit of Christ the King and St Bernadette. The occasion was formally marked by a Mass and barbecue that celebrated the new and gave thanks for the past achievements.



Inaugural liturgy for the Holy Family Parish



Barbecue after the inaugural liturgy

As religious Fr Bill and Fr Jude start the day with Office of Readings and celebrate Morning prayer with the people. They recite Evening prayer together as availability permits.

In addition to the duties of parish Priest Fr Bill is also chair of governors of the parish Catholic Primary School. Because the school and parish serve one of the most deprived communities in the country a Sure Start nursery has been built on the site in support of the government initiative to provide high quality child care for children from deprived neighbourhoods. The nursery is a fee paying business enterprise though many of the children attract government funding and it is a tribute to the governors that they have managed to keep it open while the Local Authority nurseries have required changes of management to enable them to pay. Fr Bill is also on the Committee for North Bournemouth Children's Centre which co-ordinates the support services for children and young families. The apostolate emphasises involvement with children and young people. Fr Bill is involved in the sacramental preparation programme and with Spiritus which is a group for youngsters of post Confirmation age who are encour-

aged to animate activities in the parish for both the young and not so young. They organise an annual quiz for the parish, which brings the different generations together.

Fr Jude, who has been in Bournemouth for about ten years, is chaplain to Christ the King School, conducts assemblies and prayer sessions with the children. Fr Bill regularly celebrates mass with the staff of the local Catholic Comprehensive School and as well as with students of the school. Last year he celebrated his golden jubilee of religious Life in the Parish with a number of priests of the Deanery. He also is secretary to and organises the local Jesus Caritas group and chaplain to the Bournemouth SVP area.



Fr Bill dishing out his home made soup for the CAFOD Friday Lent Lunch



Fr Jude with a group of children from the school in the church for a prayer session

Fr Jude's main responsibility is the visiting of the sick which he does on a regular basis. His energy for a man of his age is astonishing. Without his presence our apostolic outreach would have to be significantly curtailed. Both Fr Bill and Fr Jude are involved actively in the ecumenical fraternal. Usually there is a walk of witness on Good Friday and open air carol singing at Christmas.

Both Fr Jude and Fr bill are actively involved in the life of the diocese with Fr Bill being co-opted onto the Council of Priests by the Bishop.



A Parish Quiz organised by Spiritus

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