



Protectress of the Unborn

## The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Newsletter

March 2014  
Volume 1, Issue 2



Protectress of the Unborn

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Richard, the Shrine Coordinator, who is leaving us following the completion of his one year sabbatical.

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He has done sterling work in setting up the programme of visits to Cathedrals, churches and places of pilgrimage and has also been involved in the development of the lively and informative web site.

We are working hard to find a replacement and have placed advertisements in local church newsletters and the Catholic press. If anyone reading this newsletter is interested and would like more information, please contact Dr Sue Sarsfield 01234 409739.

### Team Guadalupe

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Thank you.*

## Our busy past year



This year has been particularly busy for the Shrine Guardians as the Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been invited to various centres of worship on pilgrimage throughout England.

In 2013 there were two visits to Walsingham as well as Liverpool, Northampton, Corby and Rushden. This year (2014) the Relic Image will again be at Walsingham, firstly from 21-25 August for the Youth 2000 Festival and again on 21 September for the Life Pilgrimage led by Bishop Mark Davies from Shrewsbury. It is also planned to visit the Portsmouth cathedral in September. Other possible visits include Parish churches in London, Bristol and Surrey as well as a visit to a well-known Catholic Public School to coincide with their Annual Retreat.

The Guardians have meetings planned to finalise arrangements with various Cathedral authorities prior to the visits. In May, the Relic Image will be in Leeds Cathedral and then in June/July the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich will be welcoming the Image and Guardians. We hope to return to our Mother Church, Northampton Cathedral, in October/November. In all the places we visit, security of the Miraculous Relic Image is entrusted to care of the Knights of St Columba and to them must go our heartfelt thanks.



Norwich Cathedral



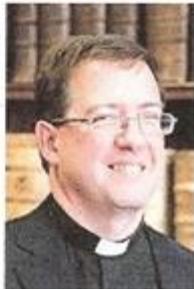
Portsmouth Cathedral

## The National Pro-Life Mass

Another event of importance is that of The National Mass for Pro-Life Organisations, taking place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at the Shrine in the Church of the Holy Child and St Joseph, Brereton Road, Bedford beginning at 7. 30 pm. The occasion is being arranged by SPUC Bedford Branch.

### Bishop John Sherrington

Bishop John Sherrington was ordained a priest for the Nottingham Diocese in 1987 and has been parish priest for the Good Shepherd Parish in Nottingham for the past two years. In addition to various diocesan curial responsibilities, Fr Sherrington has also assisted the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on ethical issues and was a part of the working party for the Bishops' Conference document 'Cherishing Life' (2005).



Bishop John Sherrington

After a degree in Mathematics from Cambridge University and two years working for Arthur Andersen Management Consultants London, Fr Sherrington was accepted by Bishop McGuinness for the Nottingham Diocese and joined seminary at All Hallows in Dublin. He later gained an STL in Moral Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and lectured in moral theology at All Hallows in Dublin and then at St John's Seminary in Womersley, Guildford.

■ Born 1958 Leicester, within the Diocese of Nottingham

It is planned to invite representatives from National Pro-Life organisations along with local groups. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington from Westminster and will be followed, as usual, by refreshments in the Guild room. Please do your best to come along - we are so fortunate that Bishop John can find time in a very busy schedule to visit us in Bedford.

## Luton Good Council

You will have learned with great sadness that, after 15 years of dedicated service, Luton Good Counsel is closing. Their Mission (which was always from a Catholic perspective) in providing support, advice and after-care to women, contemplating or recovering from abortion, has saved an estimated 500 plus children who have been born and may not otherwise have seen the light of day. Many countless women, from all age groups, ethnic backgrounds, both faith or non-faith and very differing social circumstances, have received professional counselling, sympathetic understanding and practical support from a very small group of dedicated volunteers.

The Guardians of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the committee for SPUC Bedford wished to mark the occasion and to give thanks to our Blessed Lord and His Holy Mother for the commitment and service given by the Luton Good Counsel team. A special Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated on Friday 14 March at the church of Christ the King, Bedford. The principal celebrant was Fr Jeremy Davies, Chaplain to the Organisation, who was joined by Fr Patrick Hutton and Fr Michael Patey and a congregation made up from the Guardians, members and supporters of Luton Good Counsel, SPUC Bedford and parishioners from the Bedford Pastoral area and the wider Diocese of Northampton.



An important date for your diaries is Sunday 27 July when the Biennial Procession of Faith will be once again led by Bishop Peter taking place through the streets of Bedford from St Joseph's to Bedford Park where there will be a service with hymns and Prayers concluding with Benediction .

As this day is also the Day for Life, the Miraculous Relic Image will be present at the service in Bedford Park; Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Protectress of Unborn children. Two years ago, in September 2012, about 1400 people took part in the Procession; let's do even better this July.

A view of the procession at the roundabout near the bus station. In the picture shown below, there is a view of part of the large crowd.



### **Relic of Sister Faustina visits the Shrine for a Divine Mercy Service**

The Holy Child & St Joseph is hosting this year's Divine Mercy Mass is on Monday 28th April. We have Fr Christopher Poswiata from the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel, Poland, who will be Principle Celebrant and is bringing the Relic of Saint Sister Faustina for Veneration. Confessions from 1 - 1.45, Mass at 2 pm. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction follow, items on Angels and Divine Mercy for sale before and after the Service. Refreshments will be available to conclude the day.



## A National Partnership with the Knights of Saint Columba

Discussions and negotiations are currently taking place relating to a National Partnership Agreement between the Guardians of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Knights of Saint Columba. The terms of the agreement will provide for the Knights to act as hosts for the National Pilgrimage Programme of the Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the various Churches, Cathedrals and Institutions chosen as devotional venues. This builds on the informal agreement which currently exists. It is hoped that these discussions will be complete by late spring.



## Home Shrine Devotion continues to grow

Following the very successful 2013 National Pilgrimage Tour, we established new Home Shrine groups in Liverpool, Manchester, Shrewsbury, Northampton and Rushden. As part of our programme we are hoping to see the devotion expand within our own Diocese where over 400 families and individuals receive the Shrine into their homes on a regular basis. If your Parish, or your priest would like to learn about the devotion, please contact us via the web site [www.relicourladyofguadalupe.co.uk](http://www.relicourladyofguadalupe.co.uk) and the Guardians would be happy to come with a Parish Presentation.