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**Southwark, Stevenage and Snow!**

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**A joyful welcome at St George's, Southwark**
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The beautiful, majestic Cathedral of St George in Southwark welcomed Our Lady of Guadalupe’s Miraculous Relic Image from Friday, July 28 until Monday, 31 July 2017.

The well-attended Service of Reception was led by Archbishop Peter Smith and, over the course of the weekend, many Masses, reflections and times of veneration took place. The unsettled weather did not deter the many pilgrims, some of whom came from as far away as Kent.

The congregation was a true reflection of the great mix of cultural diversity in Southwark and this was reflected in the events, including a very joyful Spanish Mass.

The events of terrorism, which took place so close to the Cathedral in June, and which deeply affected the local community, were remembered in prayer.

The Dean of the Cathedral, Canon Richard Hearn, commented “The enthusiasm of the Guardians and all those who were involved shone through and I am sure that the visit will be the source of many spiritual benefits to the diocese and parish”.

“I felt great, great joy, and privileged being in the presence of Our Lady”

Arlette

(Continued on page 3)
At the Service of Return, we received a message from Archbishop Peter Smith to say how delighted he was that the Cathedral had been able to host the Pilgrimage Visit, and with the response of the faithful.

“We returned to the parish with so much joy and told the story to the people who could not go...”

Fr Neil, St Simon Stock Church, Ashford, Kent
A wonderful response from the faithful at St George’s Cathedral, Southwark

Children listen intently to a talk by Guardian Andrew Hinde

Knights of St Columba, our pilgrimage partners at Southwark
St Hilda’s Church, Stevenage: It was like a cathedral!

Father Michael Doherty, Parish Priest of St Hilda’s Church, Stevenage, was clearly delighted with the Pilgrimage Visit of the Miraculous Relic Image in October 2017. “It was like being a cathedral for the weekend!” he exclaimed. This came at the end of four very busy and well-attended days of Masses, talks, devotions, reflections, veneration and other events. What was evident throughout was the warmth of the welcome and the hospitality shown by Father Michael and his parishioners, and the great efforts made to ensure this was a visit everyone would remember.

The church was lavishly decorated with flowers – mainly roses for Our Lady, but also a number of cheerful sunflowers, and, of course, the Miraculous Relic Image taking pride of place in the cathedral-sized sanctuary.
St Hilda’s Church, Stevenage

(Continued from page 5)

The Pilgrimage Visit began on Friday evening, 6th October 2017, with the Service of Reception, when the Relic Image was officially ‘handed over’ to the church. It was a privilege to have had with us The Right Reverend Paul McAleenan, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, as our Principal Celebrant of the Guadalupe Mass. His homily focused on Our Lady as Protectors of the Unborn and the Mother of us all.

Each day, following morning and evening Mass, the Guardians, supported by Father Michael, gave a series of themed reflections, using the Guadalupe Miracles as the starting point to examine our place within the Church and the call for a New Evangelisation. The Guardians were also supported by the Knights of St Columba, led by Grand Knight Leo Williams, who were in place from church opening until closing.

On Saturday, SPUC Stevenage hosted a Pro-life prayer service, and the congregation and visiting pilgrims listened to a reflection Our Catholic Witness to Life. Later in the afternoon, St Hilda’s was packed with a visit from the Polish community for Mass and veneration. It was a beautiful occasion and one of the many highlights of the pilgrimage visit.

On Sunday, the Filipino community came to celebrate with a unique service focusing on Our Lady of Guadalupe as patroness of their country and they sang the hymn to Our Lady in Filipino. The programme continued with a reflection A Call to Conversion and veneration of the Blessed Sacrament. In the evening, the Kerala Indian Community celebrated with a
very colourful and musical Mass in the Syro-Malankara Rite, their musicians having learnt the hymn to Our Lady of Guadalupe in their native language.

On Monday, the last day of the pilgrimage visit, a number of staff and students from St Margaret Clitherow and St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary Schools came to learn about the Relic Image and were invited to touch a rose petal to the Relic Image and put a prayer petition slip in the box.

All too soon for the people of Stevenage and the surrounding parishes the pilgrimage visit concluded. Evening Mass was followed by the Service of Return and St Hilda’s congregation and pilgrim visitors were there in significant numbers to say goodbye.
There had been a heavy fall of snow all over the country two days before the Feast Day Mass on 12 December 2017 and the Guardians had been worried that, because of the hazardous driving conditions, not many people would make the journey to the Shrine in Bedford, but we were proved wrong. It was amazing, given the weather conditions, that people had come from as far as Crewe, Liverpool, Lincoln, Sussex and Kent. We put that down to the power of their answer to Our Lady's calling.

The Shrine was packed with guests, including Supreme Grand Knight Bertie Grogan, his Deputy Joe Rodriguez, a number of Provincial Grand Knights and supporters from all over...
the country. Mr Vinod Tailor, the current High Sheriff of Bedford, was also an honoured guest.

Roses and the Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe featured on the new chasubles worn by Canon Seamus and Father Jeremy Davies, Spiritual and Faith Director to the Guardians and the Shrine. These chasubles were a recent generous and much appreciated gift from an anonymous donor. We also welcomed Father Michael Doherty from Stevenage to concelebrate and Father Gerard Byrne from Corby who acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Mass began with a grand entrance procession. Although the Principal Celebrant was listed as Father Jeremy Davies, he had asked for Canon Seamus Keenan, Rector of the Shrine, to take over the main parts of the Mass as he had a problem with his voice and wanted to save it for his homily. This was immensely powerful and spoke very directly about the effects of abortion on the parents as well as the child, but the possibility of receiving forgiveness and healing if we repent.

Many of the sung parts of the Mass were from the Latin ‘Missa Angelis’. There was a fine soloist and a small male choir in the organ loft performing this.

The Home Shrine Families’ Promises (which were also led in Italian and Polish by the priests of these communities) and the Guardians’ Promises to serve our Lady of Guadalupe in the coming year were renewed.

After Holy Communion and a reprise of the Guadalupe hymn, Mass was concluded – but not before those present were invited to come together to socialise at nearby St Frances Cabrini church hall; we had been told that there was plenty of food! A happy hour or so was spent meeting old friends and new. Bertie Grogan spoke of the continuing very successful partnership between the Guardians and the Knights in organising the 2017 Pilgrimage Tour and Andrew Hinde gave a brief outline of where the Miraculous Relic Image will be going in 2018.
And so into the 2018 Pilgrimage Tour...

Our Lady visits St Philip and St James’ Church, Bedford

Our Lady did not have to travel far for the first Visit of this year’s National Pilgrimage Tour of the Miraculous Relic Image. The Church of St Philip and St James in Brickhill, Bedford welcomed the Relic Image with great joy on Saturday, 10 March 2018, which was designated as a parish Lent Day of Reflection.

A large gathering of parishioners, Guardians, Knights of St Columba and pilgrims from Milton Keynes and Aylesbury and beyond came to St Philip and St James Church for the occasion. We were also privileged to have with us Fr Christopher Perry of Bletchley, Deacons Tony Quinlan and Crispin Walkling-Lea, and two seminarians Daniel Rooke and Liam Castle.

The recently appointed Parish Priest, Fr Wayne Coughlin, has a great devotion to Our Lady and had commissioned iconographer Constantina Alexander TSSF to create a beautiful icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which will be on permanent display. This icon was presented during the course of the day and was one of the highlights. It was carried in, wrapped in a cloth bearing pictures of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and placed in the sanctuary near the Miraculous Relic Image. The cover was then removed to reveal the familiar figure of Our Lady of Guadalupe gleaming with bright colour and gold. The congregation was visibly moved at the sight.

Father Wayne and iconographer Constantina Alexander TSSF reveal the new icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Constantina was asked by Fr Wayne to speak about the creative process. Her website states that her work “is suffused with prayer, contemplation and reverence for the Divine”. Indeed she spoke warmly about how much closer she had drawn to Our Lady and to Jesus as she had worked on the various features of the icon, and through that, how much closer to humanity in general.

Father Wayne thanked Constantina for the gift of her beautiful work and admitted that he had given her quite a tight schedule of two-and-a-half months to complete it! He invited the congregation to thank her for her endeavours, which we did with a heartfelt round of applause while Constantina was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a rosary depicting Our Lady of Guadalupe.

An afternoon of devotions followed, ending with the Laetare Sunday Mass, complete with rose-coloured vestments and rose-scented incense, with the Principal Celebrant’s chasuble bearing the Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Afterwards, Guardian Vincent Scheuber presented Father Wayne with the Guardian’s Badge of Office in recognition of his service to Our Blessed Mother through the commissioning of the icon and for facilitating such a beautiful and rewarding day. Father Wayne said he hoped this would become an annual Pilgrimage Visit taking place on the Saturday before Mothering/Laetare/Rose Sunday.
Surprised by Joy! Relic Image Visits Yarl’s Wood

No, not the book by C.S. Lewis, but the reaction of Guardians Richard, Dick, Martin, Petrit, Teresa and Barbara when we visited Yarl’s Wood Immigration Detention Centre on the afternoon of 9 April 2018 with the Miraculous Relic Image. We were met at the entrance by Pastor Lonnie Haye, who works full time at Yarl’s Wood, and who made us most welcome. We were taken to the chapel, outside which we were greeted by a large group of women joyfully singing and waving handkerchiefs in praise of Almighty God! This joy spilt over into the whole time we were there and was only matched by their devotion to Our Lady; one of the residents who daily gathers Catholics together for prayer said, “Shush! Our Mother has arrived”, as the Relic Image entered the chapel.

We started with hymns to Mary as the Relic Image entered and this continued with veneration, until the start of Mass. Fr Wayne Coughlin (a fellow Guardian) gave us a beautiful and inspiring homily for the Solemnity of the Annunciation (happily, for this visit, transferred to that very day for the year 2018) about being open to God. By saying “Yes” to the Incarnation, Our Lady enabled Jesus to say his “Yes” to dying on the Cross for our salvation.
Fr Wayne made us smile by relating the true story of his aunt who always cleaned her house on Tuesdays and would not do anything else – even attend a wedding or a funeral – on that day. “Don’t be like her”, said Fr Wayne, “Be open to what God wants to do in your life! Just suppose Our Lady had said “No” to the Archangel Gabriel because that was her cleaning day!”

Towards the end of Mass, a woman came forward, very excited and shouting for joy, to touch the Relic Image (even though the curtains were drawn across it at this point). Perhaps beyond our comprehension she had prayed with fellow Catholic residents that she would not be transferred until she had seen for herself the Relic Image. The reason for the exultant joy was that she had just been told that she had been released from Yarl’s Wood and could go back to her own home in this country. The other women were clearly glad for her and were longing for the time of their own release. Typically they are at Yarl’s Wood for three to six months, but some have been there for as long as two years. Some came to this country as children and, on reaching the age of eighteen, they become liable for the normal adult immigration procedures, hence their presence at Yarl’s Wood.

After Mass, further veneration, the singing of Marian hymns and a Rosary continued until, at last, it was time for residents to say goodbye to the Relic Image. The Visit of Our Lady brought tremendous joy – and a great many tears – to those in Yarl’s Wood. We hope to return again in the future.
March for Life, London

An early morning five o’clock start on Saturday, 5 May 2018 saw Guardians Andrew, Michael and Keith leave the Shrine in Bedford en-route to the March for Life in London. In the light of Ealing Council’s recent decision to implement buffer zones, and the possible decision of other councils to do the same, the March for Life was more relevant than ever in getting across the message that there are alternatives to abortion and the right to witness to the value of Life as God’s creation.

The base for all the pre-March activities and the assembly point for the marchers was the Connaught Rooms in Covent Garden. Away from the hustle and bustle of the Grand Hall with its constant music and speech programme and the various workshops and pro-life stalls, the chapel home of Our Lady for the day was an oasis of calm, peace and silence. Our day in the chapel started with Morning Office and an ecumenical prayer service. Veneration and confessions followed, with a team of priests with us throughout the morning.

A constant stream of pilgrims came to spend time in prayer, writing petitions and meditating in silence. Among the first to venerate was former Glasgow midwife Mary Doogan,

‘Let us say “Yes” to life and not death.’ Pope Francis
an old friend and supporter of the Guardians, who was there to lead a workshop *Is Health Care losing its Conscience?*

In the early afternoon, in the glorious spring sunshine, a record number of approximately 4,000 marchers set off to Parliament Square after welcome speeches and a rallying cry from Bishops John Keenan and John Wilson to stand firm. The response from pro-life supporters was overwhelming and we all were left with a feeling that this year’s Pilgrimage Visit to the March for Life, though different, had been successful and unique.

**Mass for Life at The Shrine, Bedford**

A Mass for Life was celebrated on Saturday, 26 May 2018 at 2.00pm at The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Church of the Holy Child & St Joseph, Bedford to pray for the work of pro-life organisations. Guardian Donna, Shrine Coordinator, welcomed the many pilgrims who came, including a group from Eastbourne. Father Jeremy Davies was principal celebrant and Mass was concelebrated by Fr Wayne from Holy Cross and Ss. Philip & James Church, Bedford and Fr Chris, Chaplain to our pilgrimage partners the Knights of St Columba, who, as usual, provided their support. Wonderful dedication was shown by the young altar servers, and musicians, AMDG Bedford, enhanced the liturgy with their music.

Fr Jeremy gave a very spiritually uplifting homily on the Holy Trinity followed, at the end of Mass, by a powerful but calm pro-life reflection by Guardian Teresa, which touched many hearts.
Five Thousand Visit Our Lady at Slough!

The first major pilgrimage visit of 2018 to the Church of Divine Mercy in Slough was a huge success, with a beautiful church, a dedicated and hard-working team organising the events, a packed programme and some five thousand people – two thousand five hundred on the Sunday alone – flocking in over the five days. It was particularly pleasing to see both Polish and non-Polish communities joining together so closely in our shared Catholic faith and Guardian Ewa, who recently joined the Guardians’ Team, gave a talk in Polish on Pope Saint John Paul II’s devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and his gift of the Miraculous Relic Image to Great Britain.

As always, the weekend began on Friday evening with the Service of Reception and the Guadalupe Mass with the distinguished Principal Celebrant, Monsignor Seán Healy, Vicar General of the Diocese of Northampton. A record number of eleven Guardians were present, as well as a number of priests and religious. Representing the civic community in Slough was the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Paul Sohal. Mr Sohal is a Sikh and was attending a Catholic Mass for the first time, representing a large Sikh community in the town. Mgr Seán Healy took as the theme for his homily ‘To Jesus through Mary’, explaining that Mary is a conduit for her Son and her life always points us towards Jesus.

Saturday saw crowds gather from early in the morning – keen to come for the morning
Mass and to venerate the Miraculous Relic Image. The Guardians and Knights of St Columba led a morning reflection on the Queenship of Our Lady followed by the Angelus and the Rosary Chaplet led by Millie Fernandez, Parish Organiser, and her Parish Team.

After lunch, Guardian Andrew gave a talk on the Miraculous Relic Image and the Guadalupe apparitions. A group of Bridgettine Sisters from Iver Heath joined us to listen and venerate.

In the early afternoon, members of the Filipino community came to lead a well-attended music and prayer service in the charismatic tradition, with the theme of Our Lady as the pathway to Jesus and our salvation at its heart. Father Dariusz was the principal celebrant at the Healing Mass that followed, the highlight of which was the Hymn to Our Lady of Guadalupe sung in both English and Polish.

The first full day ended with the Rosary of Our Lady of Guadalupe hosted by Father Mark Odion MVSP and led by the Rosary Group from the nearby Church of Our Lady of Peace Burnham, who came to visit us especially for the occasion. Veneration continued until 9.30pm. It was a hectic and happy day.
Sunday was a day packed full of surprises and spiritual activities. The church was so crowded at each of the four Masses that many had to stand in the entrance area and outside in the car park. The afternoon Mass under the Malayalam rite led by Fr Shaju was a colourful yet sacred occasion with the Mass liturgy and readings all sung in the native language of the Indian and Goan community, including the Hymn to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

After a short period for veneration, we were joined by many parents and other pilgrims to hear the Polish Children’s Choir sing songs and hymns in their native language to ‘Mother Mary’. Father Miraz led the children in a decade of the Rosary and told the children the story of Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Polish Mass, one of many over the weekend was followed at 7.30pm by Spirit and Light Worship, a charismatic event with the opportunity for the laying on of hands, and the chance to worship Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar. This was hosted by Father Andrew Richardson and the St Andrew’s Worship Group from the nearby town of Cippenham.

On Monday, students from St Bernard’s Catholic Grammar School, St Joseph’s, St Ethelbert’s and St Anthony’s Schools learnt the Guadalupe Hymn and enjoyed a presentation about Our Lady of Guadalupe. They were able to feel ‘cactus cloth’ to give them an idea of Juan Diego’s tilma.

Following the Angelus and noonday Mass, a well-attended church heard the Story of the Guadalupe Apparitions. Veneration continued until 3.00pm when the Pro-Life Prayer Service took place. We were joined by pro-life supporters from a wide area, including mem-
bers of the Ealing Group. The pilgrims listened to a lecture on the urgent need for Catholics to reaffirm their commitment to being pro-life in a throwaway society, using the effective weapons of prayer and silent vigil.

After evening Mass, a well-attended family retreat before the Blessed Sacrament was held in both Polish and English. Veneration continued until 9.30pm.

On Tuesday, a group from Hampshire, who had seen the Pilgrimage advertised in the Catholic press, came to join us for the final day. Before Mass and the Service of Return, we were joined by the Bunnies pre-school group who came to sing and say simple prayers to Our Lady. For the packed pilgrim congregation, to see the little ones was a delightful and deeply moving spiritual experience.

This had been a very successful Pilgrimage Visit; the hospitality of Millie and her team, and the cooperation of Father Dariusz and the parish was truly humbling. The description ‘Catholic Pilgrimage’ was totally appropriate, as the pilgrimage visit had been truly universal with the mixing of so many different nationalities.
May Devotions to Our Lady of Guadalupe

On Saturday, 19th May 2018, guest speaker Brenden Thompson, who is pioneering a new initiative in the Church ‘Signs of Life’, gave a talk at both St Philip & St James’ Church and Holy Cross Church, Bedford as part of the May Devotions to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The day began with Morning Prayer and a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St Philip & St James’ Church. This was followed by a spiritual talk by Brenden who went on to lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Holy Rosary. The morning was well attended and it was lovely to see old friends from St Thomas Aquinas Church in Bletchley who had come especially for the occasion.

While we enjoyed refreshments afterwards, Brenden explained that a few days earlier he had also visited St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School in Bedford and had spoken to over 100 students. Brenden spent the afternoon at Holy Cross Church, where he gave a spiritual address for Confirmandee and spoke again at the 6.00pm Pentecost Vigil Mass.

It was a wonderful, spiritually uplifting day; Brenden’s devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, who always points us to Jesus, shone through. We also learnt even more amazing scientific facts about the Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on St Juan Diego’s tilma.

St John Paul II saw the Message of Guadalupe as pointing the way in the New Evangelisation

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN BEDFORD!
And where is the Relic Image going next?

St Mary’s, Croydon

The Pilgrimage Visit to St Mary’s Church, Croydon is scheduled to take place from Friday, 22 June to Tuesday, 26 June 2018. The Guardians attended a planning meeting back in February 2018 and were given a warm welcome by Father Michael Scanlon (Parish Priest), Ken Martenstyn (Provincial Grand Knight Province 12) and Melvin Carty (Provincial Liaison Officer, Province 12) of the Knights of St Columba.

The Guardians were amazed when Fr Michael took them on a guided tour of the premises. Hall after hall was entered and the Guardians were delighted to see that each room bore one of Our Lady’s titles. They were particularly pleased to spot a ‘Guadalupe Room’! There is a large church, three priests and seven Masses each weekend with a total of some two thousand parishioners attending, and a very tight schedule. This in itself presents logistical problems that will need to be resolved. Again, a full programme is planned. The Guardians are visiting again in May to finalise arrangements.

Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Boniface, Plymouth

The Pilgrimage Visit to Plymouth Cathedral will take place from Friday, 6 July to Tuesday, 10 July 2018. It was postponed from last year as a major renovation of the cathedral was taking place. It will be the Relic Image’s first visit to the West Country. The Guardians who attended the initial planning meeting agreed that the results of the renovation were most pleasing and it will be a lovely setting for Our Lady. Plymouth is a vibrant university city and has a large Catholic student group. With the help of their Chaplain, we hope to encourage the students to participate in the programme. Monsignor Canon Bartholomew Nannery, Dean of the Cathedral, said he is delighted to host the pilgrimage visit and they are looking forward to meeting the challenges.
Three New Guardians ... could this be you?

We are always delighted when new Guardians join our ranks. Each one of them has something unique to offer in the service of Our Lady. Sometimes people offer to become Guardians, and sometimes Guardianship is awarded for outstanding service to Our Lady. Recently, we have had one Guardian in each category.

We met Vince Scheuber for the first time when we were planning the Pilgrimage Visit to St Hilda’s Church, Stevenage last year. Along with his wife, Janina, he was part of the team at St Hilda’s who enabled the pilgrimage visit to take place and to be a great success. Vince traces his connection with Our Lady back to his youth, when he acted as a brancardier at Lourdes, helping to care for the sick pilgrims. He is also a Knight of St Columba and his willingness to be involved and practical skills are already being put into use and are much appreciated.

Father Wayne Coughlin became an Honorary Guardian on 10 March 2018 during the Pilgrimage Visit to St Philip and St James’ Church described earlier. He arrived as the new Parish Priest in September 2017 and planned to refurbish the narthex, or entrance area, of the church. Beautiful pictures and words help worshippers to move from the cares of the outside world to the peace of God’s House. In particular Fr Wayne has a great devotion...
to Our Lady and hence commissioned the new Icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It gave the Guardians, and Fr Wayne himself, great pleasure to invite him to join them. The Guardians hold their monthly meeting at St Philip and James’ Church, Bedford and it is good to have the ‘priest in residence’ at those meetings.

The third Guardian, Ewa Allan, was enrolled at her first Guardians’ meeting on 13 April 2018. This is what she wrote about herself:

“I was born in Krakow, Poland, but have lived in the UK for the last 48 years. I owe my grace of conversion to Our Lady of Medjugorje, immediately followed by the Messages of True Life in God. These brought me to give my will to God and that in turn changed my life completely. Reading how Jesus talks so lovingly about His Mother I wanted to come to know Her and start truly loving Her.

I have been engaged in evangelisation using True Life in God Messages for the last twenty-four years. I am now passionate about unity of Christ’s Body, His Church. I believe that Our Lady and in particular God’s gift to us of Our Lady of Guadalupe’s Image will have a key role in bringing people to the fullness of the Truth. For with the acceptance of the Truth about the Mother of God, how She constantly accepted God’s Will, we also receive the graces to travel on Her path of love and humility, which, as the Lord says, will bring us to Unity.

I am deeply moved and honoured to become a part of a team seeking God's Will in connection with the miraculous Image of His Most Holy Mother”.

We have a growing connection with the Polish community, as is evidenced by our Pilgrimage Visit to Slough, and Ewa will be using her translation skills to make our materials more accessible to the Polish Community.

Could you be the next new Guardian? You would need to be willing to be involved with the Pilgrimage Visits and to attend our monthly Guardians’ meetings in Bedford. It is very worthwhile!
...and a new Spiritual and Faith Advisor

As our Mission has developed and the demands of the Annual National Pilgrimage Tour of the Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe have increased, the Guardians of Our Lady of Guadalupe have felt for some time that it would be helpful to have an appointed Spiritual and Faith Advisor. Rev Jeremy Davies, of the Westminster Diocese, was invited to take on this role. With the approval and confirmation of Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Bishop Peter Doyle, Father Jeremy was appointed and took up his new position as of 2 November 2017.

Father Jeremy studied English Literature at St Edmund Hall, Oxford and subsequently Medicine at St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London. He graduated with a medical degree in 1967 and then worked in mission hospitals in Guyana, Nigeria, and Ghana.

He was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1974 and appointed to the Deliverance Ministry in 1986. In 1993 he co-founded the International Association of Exorcists. He has written many books and articles, and he lectures on the subject internationally. This work was carried out in conjunction with his role as a parish priest within the Westminster Diocese.

He has been a friend and supporter to the Guardians since our conception and has been Co-Celebrant at the Feast Day Masses and many other celebrations. Last year he was our Principal Celebrant at the Feast Day Mass on 12 December 2017. His continuing works and ministry on behalf of the Pro-Life movement are well known, publicly defending the sanctity of human life through his preaching and active participation in Pro-Life vigils. Father Jeremy was a founding member of the outreach counselling service provided, until recently, by Luton Good Council to women seeking or recovering from abortion by providing emotional support and aid in finding life-giving alternatives.

His extensive knowledge of Catholic interpretation and the workings of our Church will allow the Guardians to discern and evaluate decisions, moving forward with wisdom and certainty. We welcomed Father Jeremy to his first Guardians’ meeting on 16 February 2018.
A Visit from the Miraculous Relic Image?

Perhaps you have had the opportunity to see the Miraculous Relic Image when it has been on Pilgrimage Tour, or read about it on the website or in a publication, and would now like to arrange a visit to your church, cathedral, school or major event? In September each year, we plan the schedule for the Pilgrimage Tour for the following year, so now is the time to start thinking about whether this is something that you would like to see in your particular location in 2019. We have many requests and look at each one carefully to see if we can combine pilgrimage visits in a particular area so that the maximum number of people have the chance to visit the Relic Image.

Full details of the considerations that need to be made prior to a pilgrimage visit can be found on our website under Organising a Visit FAQ, but here are the key points:

1. Assemble the team
   
The key to the success is a number of people working together to make sure that everything happens as it should. Of course, in a cathedral or church setting, the Dean or Parish Priest needs to be involved from the outset, as do the local Knights of St Columba who provide essential manpower in the handling and guarding of the Relic Image. Parishioners will have an array of roles to play, with catering, singing, flower arranging, staffing the repository, etc., and different ethnic communities should be represented, as should related organisations such as pro-life groups, etc. In a school, the Headteacher will be the first point of contact, and in other organisations the Spiritual Director or similar.
2. **Decide on a date**

The Relic Image goes on Pilgrimage Tour from April to November each year to avoid problems with inclement weather. Within this timescale, the Relic Image needs to be available and not booked elsewhere, and the organisation’s diary needs to be checked to avoid clashes with other events.

3. **Contact the Shrine**

We need to know your preferred date for the pilgrimage visit as far as possible in advance, and certainly by the September in the preceding year.

4. **Arrange a Planning Meeting**

The National Co-ordinator and at least one other Guardian will come and discuss the arrangements with you at the venue initially, well in advance, and then again nearer the time. At least two Guardians will be with you for the whole duration of the Visit.

5. **Decide on a location for the Relic Image**

The Relic Image will be the centrepiece of the Pilgrimage Visit, so it should be as visible and accessible as possible. There are practical matters such as the parking of the van in which the Relic Image travels, storage of the travelling case, provision of a repository, etc. to consider.

6. **Think about publicity**

Who might be interested in coming to the Pilgrimage Visit? We can help with posters and press releases as well as banners, devotional leaflets, etc.

We look forward to hearing from you!

**A Visit to the Miraculous Relic Image?**

Perhaps you would prefer to come to us? It is possible to arrange a visit to the Shrine in Bedford for individuals or groups at most times. We need to know when you would like to come, so that we can make sure the Relic Image is ‘at home’ and not away on tour. A Guardian can welcome you, if you would like this, and give a talk to make your visit more meaningful. Please contact the Shrine Coordinator, Donna Gardner at guadalupebedford@gmail.com.
And finally... Can you help us?

Hopefully there has been much in this newsletter to interest and inspire you. If you have some spare time and a desire to work for Our Lady of Guadalupe, there are two ways in which you can help us.

1. **Support Pilgrimage Visits**

   Fit and committed volunteers are needed to help the Guardians of Our Lady of Guadalupe in a variety of ways - accompanying the Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on pilgrimage visits, selling repository items, setting up the displays, van driving, etc. If you are interested and think you could help, please contact us using the contact form on our website. The more volunteers we have, the more evenly the tasks are shared out, so that everyone has time to gain the graces and blessings that Our Lady brings with her on Pilgrimage.

2. **Management Team**

   We are a small, friendly group which meets over coffee and cakes once a month, usually late Friday morning, to reflect on past pilgrimage visits, plan future ones and discuss many other matters relating to the Miraculous Relic Image. You need not live in the Bedford area, but we would ask that you come to the monthly meetings held on the premises of St Philip and St James’ Catholic Church, Severn Way, Bedford, MK41 7BX. The A6 is nearby, and Bedford train station is a short taxi ride from the church. Again, please use the contact form to get in touch.

**Cathedral and Church Shops Association**

The Guardians’ repository stall is manned by volunteers and sells items specific to the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and is a welcome feature of many pilgrimage visits. We are members of the Cathedral and Church Shops Association (CCSA), a non-profit making organisation, which provides a forum for exchange of information and arranges a programme of events and meetings each year. All members benefit from advice that is freely available to help with setting up and running a stall or shop in a church or cathedral.

The sales income from the Guardians’ repository stall provides a valuable financial contribution, which helps the Guardians to continue our Mission of taking the Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on its Annual National Pilgrimage Tour and spreading the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, ‘Protectress of the Unborn’, throughout the United Kingdom.
A Pilgrimage to Mexico... and the Shrine in Bedford

Arlette contacted us to share her story and that of her 29 companions who enjoyed an eight-day pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City organised by All Saints Travel in Swindon, which also included sightseeing and the opportunity to enjoy the history and culture of Mexico.

Arlette was inspired to make the journey after seeing the Miraculous Relic Image when it visited Brentwood Cathedral in 2015 and St George’s Cathedral, Southwark in July 2018. “The programme of prayer, talks and being with Our Lady ‘set me up’ for the Pilgrimage to Mexico” she said.

So, on Tuesday, 17 October 2017, she was one of thirty pilgrims who left Heathrow Airport bound for Mexico with Spiritual Directors Fr John Moloney and Fr Eamonn Power who led the group on an “amazing, spectacular, spiritually-filled epic pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe and holy shrines around Mexico”. The pilgrims “learnt so much from their homilies, talks, meditations and experiences”.

“There were many highlights along the way but the visits to Our Lady of Guadalupe’s Basilica, seeing the original tilma high above the altar... what a blessing! Celebrating Mass in the chapel facing the Sacred Image on our last day...”. “It was a pilgrimage full of laughter, teaching and friendship” said fellow pilgrim Vianna.

A few weeks after their return, Arlette and Patricia visited the Shrine in Bedford. They were met by Guardian Andrew and spent an inspiring afternoon of devotion in front of the Relic Image, a digital copy, which has been touched to the original tilma and formally consecrated, affording it authorised relic status. “Your Church is so rich and full with praise, prayer and worship” said Arlette.

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