

Ordinations to the Sacred Order of Deacon Ten men ordained for the Ordinariate

TEN MEN were ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon on Saturday 17th June, as London basked in temperatures up to 30°C, to serve the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. Amongst them were **Simon Beveridge** and **Cameron Macdonald** who will serve the Ordinariate in Scotland.

The Ordination Mass was a wonderful occasion in the spectacular setting of St James, Spanish Place, a large Gothic church in Marylebone, London, but actually located in George Street. The church maintains its connection with Spanish Place, the road opposite the presbytery, because of its historic connection with the Spanish Embassy.



Bishop Robert Byrne

Unfortunately, due to health problems, Cardinal George Pell was unable to travel to London from Rome to conduct the Ordination. His place



was taken by Bishop Robert Byrne, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Birmingham, who had presided at the Ordinariate Chrism Mass in Holy Week in March.

The Ordination Mass

The Ordination Mass was celebrated according to the Ordinariate's distinctive traditional language liturgy, DIVINE WORSHIP: THE MISSAL.

Many Ordinariate priests were present as concelebrants at the Mass and there was a full congregation in the church. The choir and organist were first class and really helped set a tone of reverence and majesty. The setting for the Ordination Mass was Collegium Regale by Herbert Howels (1892-1983), originally composed for the Chapel and Choir of King's College, Cambridge. It was beautifully sung by the choir and was perfect for the superb acoustics of St James, Spanish Place.

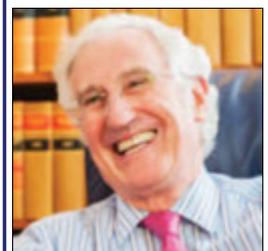
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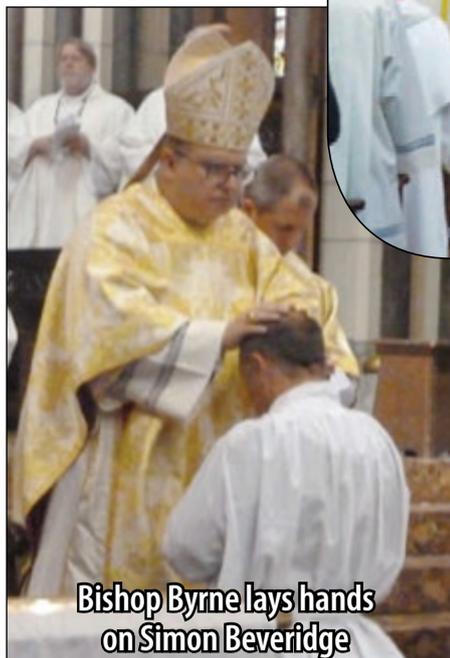
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During the *Litany of the Saints* all ten men lay prostrate, as tradition demands, but in a long line up the aisle of the church.

Simon Beveridge



Bishop Byrne lays hands on Simon Beveridge

Simon Beveridge was ordained in the Church of England in 1987 and served in Devon before becoming a Royal Navy Chaplain in 1993 serving with the Commando Royal Marines and latterly as Regional Navy Chaplain (North), based at Faslane on the Clyde. He now lives in Whithorn in Galloway.

There is one 'secret occupation' that Simon is very proud of ... he was an amateur jockey! As he explained, "I trained as an amateur jockey at the British Racing School at Newmarket attending the Amateur National Hunt Course, together with riding out regularly for the Race Horse Trainer, Jimmy Frost, in Devon, enjoying my first full season racing Point to Point 2006-7 and achieved a winner at Wadebridge in Cornwall.



"That season culminated in me representing the Royal Navy in The Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown Park where I met a spectacular end by being run out into the rails by two loose horses when leading nine lengths clear of the rest of field!

"I continued to ride out with other trainers and race Point to Point until 2010. I have since retired from the racing saddle, my last race being under rules at Stratford. I have firm intentions to provide a home for a couple of retired race horses once our new home, the Mill, is completed and the paddocks are ready."

Cameron Macdonald



Bishop Byrne lays hands on Cameron Macdonald

Cameron Macdonald, who lives in Nairn, was ordained as an Episcopalian priest in 1990 and served as priest-in-charge of St Columba's Episcopal Church in Nairn before becoming an Army chaplain in 1995.

His first posting was in Suffolk with 3 and 4 Regiment Army Air Corp and then in Croatia as part of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force. Later he was posted to Germany with the Royal Green Jackets, going on a Tour of Duty to Bosnia. He later served with the 39 Engineers and in Cairo, Gibraltar, America, Oman and Canada.

Ordinariate Scotland

Deacons Simon and Cameron will serve with Fr Len Black in caring for the growing number of Ordinariate members in all parts of Scotland and will, we

hope and pray, be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood in the not to distant future. Deacon Simon will be based in Whithorn in Galloway while Deacon Cameron, in Nairn, will work more closely with Fr Len in Inverness, Stirling and Edinburgh.

In accordance with our Anglican Patrimony, and as they are transitional Deacons who, God willing, will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood we will extend them the courtesy of addressing them as “Father”.

We wish them both well and assure them of our continuing prayers for a long and fruitful ministry in the Catholic church through the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of



Fr Len Black, Deacon Cameron Macdonald, Mgr Keith Newton and Deacon Simon Beveridge after the Ordination Mass

Walsingham.

Blessing and abundance

As Fr Ed Tomlinson, the Ordinariate priest in Pembury, wrote in his blog, “Ten new deacons is something worth celebrating within a church facing a crisis of vocations. And

another sign of God’s continued blessing and abundance where the faith is not compromised but celebrated with vigour and passion. Long may it continue!”

All in all, it was indeed a wonderful occasion in a spectacular setting.

Mary is the ladder which brings Jesus into our midst says Pope Francis

IN A video-message to the Bishop of Gozo in Malta, on the occasion of the inauguration of three mosaics of the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Ta’ Pinu, Pope Francis declared that “Mary is the ladder which brings Jesus into our midst”

Installed on the central part of the sanctuary and made by the Aletti Centre, the mosaics depict the Virgin and Child, St John the Baptist and St Paul.

Speaking on prayer, and particularly, the Virgin Mary’s

power as we pray to her, Pope Francis reminded us how she is like ‘a ladder,’ who brings her Son in our midst.

“I too often used the Rosary in front of a mosaic: a small mosaic of Our Lady with the Child, where Mary appears in the centre, while in reality, using her hands, she becomes a kind of ladder through which Jesus can descend in the midst of us.”

“The centre,” Pope Francis said, “is always Jesus, who



lowers himself to walk with us men so that we can ascend into Heaven with Him.”

Power of Prayer

In the Rosary prayer, he reminded, we turn to the Virgin Mary to bring us closer to her Son Jesus, to know Him and to love Him more and more.

“And while we repeat ‘Hail Mary,’ we meditate on the mysteries, the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious stages of Christ’s life, but also of our lives: for we walk with the Lord.”

This simple prayer, he stressed, helps us to contemplate all that God has done for us and for our salvation in his love, and makes

us understand that our life is united to that of Christ.

“In prayer, we are giving everything to God: fatigue, hurt, fears, but also joys, gifts, people ... all to God.”

“By praying,” he continued, “we allow God to enter into our time, to accept and

transfigure all that we live. This powerful prayer of the Holy Rosary serves us often because it brings peace to hearts, to families, to the Church, and to the world.”

Pope Francis concluded, offering his blessing and reminding those watching to pray for him.

Father Stanley Bennie

IN JANUARY Fr Stanley Bennie went to visit his doctor in Stornoway for one of his regular check-ups. They had one look at him and an ambulance was called to take him to the Western Isles Hospital for tests.

The outcome was that towards the end of March he was flown from Stornoway to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary to have further tests to diagnose his heart problems. What he did not expect was that an overnight stay in Glasgow would lead to a stay of almost nine weeks!

He was transferred from the Glasgow Royal Infirmary to the Golden Jubilee National Hospital in Clydebank for further tests which showed that they needed to replace the aortic valve, insert a stent in the aorta and a coronary bypass of two arteries.

Throughout all this Fr Stanley remained his usual cheerful self and was very grateful to be upheld by the prayers of so many.

Fr Len contacted the **Knights**

of St Columba, the Catholic fraternal service organisation founded in Glasgow in 1919 and with whom Fr Len and the Ordinariate had received much support in the past.

Almost immediately Fr Stanley had a visit from **Brian Connell** and **James McCloy** from the Knights of St Columba who continued to visit him throughout what was to become a long hospital stay.

Fr Stanley was also sustained with the Sacraments of the Church by the hospital chaplains at both hospitals, who offered much support and companionship.

Despite the diagnosis and the decision about what was to be done having been made, Fr Stanley had a long wait back at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary before being transferred again to the Golden Jubilee National Hospital in Clydebank where the operation was to be performed.

On Monday 15th May Fr Stanley spent nine hours in the



Fr Stanley Bennie

hospital theatre undergoing major surgery at the hands of his skilled surgeon and a dedicated theatre team.

The result was that the surgery was a complete success and in just 10 days he was back home in Stornoway and continues to make good progress, getting stronger day by day.

Fr Stanley is most grateful to everyone for their prayers, support and good wishes and looks forward to being back on the mainland again for the Ordinariate Mass in the not too distant future.

Lord Brian Gill

WHEN FR LEN was in London for the Ordination Mass on the Sunday he was present for the Ordinariate Mass from **DIVINE WORSHIP: THE MISSAL** at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory in Warwick Street, the Ordinariate Church in London.

After Mass he was speaking with Peter Sefton-Williams, Chairman of the *Friends of the Ordinariate*. Although they had spoken many times on the phone and exchanged numerous emails, they had never actually met 'in person.' It was an excellent opportunity to do just that and, at last, to put a face to the name.

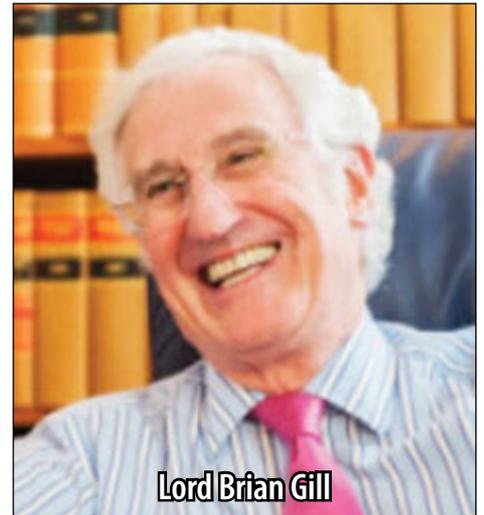
During the conversation Peter mentioned that there was another Scot at Mass who was known to Fr Len. It was Lord Brian Gill who was the organist at St Columba's, Edinburgh, when the Ordinariate started going there for the monthly Ordinariate Mass.

Lord Gill was also, at the time, Lord President of the Judiciary in Scotland until he retired in May 2015. He now lives in London and is often present at the Ordinariate Mass in Warwick Street.

He has also recently become a member of the Council of the *Friends of the Ordinariate*, so it is good to know that we have a Scottish 'voice' among the friends! Fr Len was delighted to meet him again and to assure him that we would keep him in touch with all that was happening in the Ordinariate in Scotland, as he had requested.

Lord Gill also asked Fr Len to pass on his kind regards to the Ordinariate in Scotland and to all his friends at St Columba's, Edinburgh.

When we started having the monthly Ordinariate Mass in St Columba's in Edinburgh, Fr Stanley was speaking with Lord Gill and happened to mention the small numbers at the



Ordinariate Mass.

Lord Gill told Fr Stanley that 25 years previous, at a meeting in a room in an Edinburgh hotel to form the Latin Mass Society in Scotland, there were just around a dozen members, and now there are thousands.

Fr Stanley took great comfort from these words, in that although the Ordinariate in Scotland was small, great things are possible.

Since then we have seen a small but steady increase in the number of Ordinariate members in Scotland and a doubling of the number of Ordinariate clergy!

2017 Schoenstatt Pilgrimage and Retreat

THIS YEAR'S Ordinariate Scotland Pilgrimage and Retreat was once again at the Schoenstatt Scotland Retreat Centre in Campsie Glen in East Dunbartonshire from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th March.

We were delighted to welcome Monsignor Keith Newton, our Ordinary, back

to lead our retreat and we are grateful to him, not just for his inspiring addresses but for being with us and encouraging us in Ordinariate mission in Scotland.

The Shrine at the Schoenstatt Scotland Retreat Centre is a very special place, offering as it does, three special graces to



pilgrims: the grace of feeling at home and being accepted for what we are; the grace of transformation, becoming renewed people according to

God's original plan for us, and Apostolic Fruitfulness.

It was indeed a relaxing weekend with plenty of

opportunities to meet, to pray and to worship together using the Rites of the Ordinariate for Morning and Evening Prayer as well as for Holy Mass.

Michael Thomson

THOSE PRESENT at Schoenstatt would have met **Michael Thomson** a former Anglican priest who has moved back to St Andrews and who had been in conversation with Mgr Keith Newton about offering himself for ordination as a Catholic Priest through the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Fr Len met with Michael in London last year at the request of Mgr Keith and after discussion agreed with our Ordinary that Michael would indeed be an asset to the Ordinariate in Scotland. As a result, the process of preparing and presenting his dossier to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) in Rome began.

Fr Len was delighted to hear in February that the CDF had accept Michael and had issued a *Nulla Osta*, the document from Rome allowing him to begin his programme of formation for priesthood this September.

This is excellent news for the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham in Scotland. The possibility of another priest centrally located in Scotland in the not too distant future, will allow us to plan for the further extension of the Ordinariate in Scotland!

So who is Michael Thomson?
Fr Len invited him to introduce himself and this is what he wrote: "It has been a great joy and blessing to find myself part of the Ordinariate community in Scotland. Father Len Black has asked me to give a small insight into my journey into full communion and of my hopes of possible ordination as a Catholic deacon and priest through the Ordinariate.

"Brought up in the Irish Primatial city of Armagh, I was the a child of a rather tempestuous and unhappy marriage. Neither my mother or father were church-goers but they shared the rather anti-Catholic opinions which were so prevalent among Protestants in Ulster in those days leading up to 'The Troubles'.

"While I was baptized in the Church of Ireland I never attended church or religious worship and my exposure to Christianity was restricted exclusively to Protestant school assemblies. However when I was eight years old I was offered a place in the Anglican Cathedral choir. This had a profound influence upon me and encouraged the journey which brought me to faith.



Michael Thomson

"When life at home became increasingly dysfunctional I went to live with an English friend, the widow of an army officer, who lived in Armagh. As high church Anglican her house was full of Catholic art and religious pictures. Daily prayers and spiritual reading were normal and regular, and also devout preparation and fasting before reception of Holy Communion. During that time I also became accustomed to going to confession.

"I was confirmed by the then Anglican Archbishop, Dr George Otto Simms and I attending the Anglican Cathedral. At the same time I was also attracted to Catholicism and became friends with some of the Sacred Heart Sisters in Armagh.

"The Anglican Archbishop encouraged me to consider future candidacy for Anglican ministry. I left Ireland to study Divinity at the University of

St Andrews. There I found in the worship and practice of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and most particularly at All Saints Episcopal Church, an uplifting experience of high Anglican liturgical, sacramental, and devotional life.

“After taking my degree I entered the Anglican seminary at Llandaff in Wales and was ordained there. Later I served as a curate at St Mary Abbots, Kensington in London - then a thriving parish with three churches and four priests, a school and a large, mixed congregation.

“There was a daily Eucharist every weekday and three on Sundays. There were many home communions, much pastoral visitation of the sick, regular penitents, and much social contact with parishioners of all classes. We had good relations with the local Catholic clergy, with the Carmelite Friars, and the Assumption Sisters.

“After four years there I was made a minor canon of Westminster Abbey. My

duties were to share with the Precentor the singing of all the Abbey services. In addition I was chaplain with pastoral care of one hundred Abbey employees. I was also Sacrist, in charge of Abbey ceremonial. During my three years there we had a royal wedding and many other state occasions.

“After three years at Westminster Abbey I went to serve four small rural Northamptonshire villages in the East Midlands of England. This period was also the beginning of a realization that one could not be fully ‘Catholic’ as an Anglican. The Anglican tradition had awakened in me a hunger for Catholic truth.

“I had extensive contacts with Cardinal Hume, and with the Oratorians. I spent two extended periods of time at the London Oratory and the Manchester Oratory in formation but continued to feel profoundly drawn to the rich Patrimony of the Anglican tradition and returned to Anglican Ministry in rural Northamptonshire, in Stamford

in Lincolnshire, and later still my native Ireland.

“What a joy it was when Pope Benedict XVI identified the riches in Anglican Patrimony which had first awakened in me a love of the faith. His generous initiative has brought home into the heart of the Church all that has sustained my faltering pilgrimage. In 1989/90 I recognised the Catholic Church as the Church which Christ founded and I have never since doubted that truth, but I had hesitated and strayed.

“Having been finally reconciled, as a result of *Anglicanorum coetibus*, I rejoice in the graces conveyed to us through the Ordinariate. I hope to be, in some small part, and in whatever way, useful in this great work which has been given us.”

Fr Len: “We welcome Michael to the Ordinariate in Scotland and assure him of our prayers as he begins his ‘formation for priesthood’ studies in London in September.”

The Ordinariate: ‘a fruit of Vatican II’

MGR KEITH Newton, our Ordinary, has often spoken about his surprise that those involved in the ecumenical movement today do not appreciate that the formation of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham withing the

Catholic Church is exactly what Christian Unity is all about ... bringing Christians of different traditions together without losing their past Christian heritage.



Mgr Keith Newton

This was most certainly the intention of Pope Benedict XVI when he issued the document *The Apostolic Constitution Anglicanorum coetibus* in 2009.

This new structure was created to bring faithful Episcopalians and Anglicans into the full life of the Catholic Church in such a way as *“to maintain the liturgical, spiritual and pastoral traditions of the Anglican Communion within the Catholic Church, as a precious gift nourishing the faith of the members of the Ordinariate and as a treasure to be shared.”*

In a talk given by Mgr Keith Newton in 2014, and sentiments he frequently repeats, he described the Ordinariate as a “great ecumenical gesture which demonstrates to the wider Christian community how wide the Catholic Church is prepared to open its arms to show that there can be unity with diversity.”

It pointed, he said, to the possibilities of the future, when

other Christian traditions might also enter the full communion of the Catholic Church, bringing aspects of their heritage and traditions with them.

Mgr Newton said that some ecumenists did not like to admit it, but the Ordinariate was, in fact, an ecumenical initiative which expressed the vision held out in the Second Vatican Council Decree on Ecumenism. This taught that the one Church subsisted in the Catholic Church and that elements of it were to be found elsewhere, in other churches.

“We experienced those elements in the Anglican Church and have brought them with us into full communion, so that this teaching is now expressed in a very tangible way,” he said. “We are very much, therefore, a fruit of the Council.”

Mgr Newton went on to speak of the concept of “receptive ecumenism which holds that the primary ecumenical responsibility is to ask, not:

“what do other traditions first need to learn from us?” but “what do we need to learn from them?”

This, too, he said, was a very important aspect of the Ordinariate because, for the first time, it was showing how that concept could be put into practice. “Ecumenists should be very excited about the Ordinariate.”

Apologies

to Ordinariate members and supporters in Edinburgh and Stirling

Because **Easter Day** was the third Sunday of the month Fr Len felt that your Easter Celebration should be in the parish where you go to Mass most times each month and, for this reason, cancelled the Ordinariate Mass in April.

In May the **Stirling Marathon** made access to St Mary's impossible in the afternoon ... so the Stirling Ordinariate Mass was cancelled.

In June the **Ordinations of the Deacons** in London were on the third Sunday of June, and it was not possible for Fr Len to travel north in time, so once again, the Ordinariate Mass was cancelled.

Ordinariate Scotland Mass Centres

Inverness



Royal Northern Infirmary Chapel

Ness Walk, Inverness IV3 5SF

2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 11.30am

Edinburgh



St Columba's Church

9 Upper Gray Street
Edinburgh EH9 1SN

THIRD Sunday of each month at 11.30am

Stirling



St Mary's Church

15 Upper Bridge Street
Stirling FK8 1ES

THIRD Sunday of each month at 4pm

Elgin



Greyfriars Convent Chapel

15-19 Abbey Street
Elgin IV30 1DA

Sundays throughout the year (see the website) at 11.30am



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