



This is the seventh edition of our Parish newsletter, designed to keep you in touch with activities in our parish. We welcome your input, so please let us have your comments and contributions. Contact details: Phone: 867347 e-mail: [chrisclissitt@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:chrisclissitt@ukonline.co.uk) Alternatively, leave a note on the letter board. This newsletter is also available on the parish website [www.knaresborough.co.uk/stmaryrcchurch](http://www.knaresborough.co.uk/stmaryrcchurch)

# Parish Newsletter

## Don Ivan, Jablanica

The last issue featured the Parish of St Mary's in Jablanica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, with whom we have had links since the early 1990s.

Marc Edwards, a BBC Wales producer, came across the newsletter on the internet while researching material for a documentary about a charity volunteer from Wales called Gwilym Roberts who took humanitarian aid to Bosnia during the war in 1994 / 1995. The guide for his aid convoy was a Roman Catholic priest known as Father John / Don Ivan. Gwilym was keen to contact him and perhaps revisit Bosnia to see what had changed there. Marc got in touch with the Parish after reading our article and wondered if

the Don Ivan at St Mary's Jablanica was same person as the priest who met Gwilym 15 years ago.



Don Ivan, mid 1990s

Angela Smith provided contact details and Marc was delighted to receive an e-mail direct from Don Ivan a few

days later confirming that the priest in the photograph was indeed him. The programme was commissioned, and Marc filmed in the Mostar area over autumn and winter. It is now edited and ready for transmission. It will go out on S4C, the Welsh fourth channel on 11th May, but should be available on Sky in the rest of the UK.

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## SPOTLIGHT on The Healing Ministry at St Mary's

The Healing Prayer Team meet each Wednesday at 7.25pm in the Chapel and everyone is welcome. We write all petitions and thanksgivings in our book which is then placed on the altar during Adoration. Then we say a decade of the Rosary and one of the group will lead either a Meditation or Scripture reading or Lectio Divina. Afterwards anyone who wishes can have individual and confidential healing prayer for themselves or others and a blessing with the Oil of Gladness from the healing team. We have worked in the Parish for 14 years now and have seen some remarkable answers to prayer. We are not healers ourselves, we are merely intercessors - only God heals. He always listens to requests and sends the Holy Spirit to fulfil each person's deepest needs. What is so astonishing is that the Holy Spirit always comes when asked!

What is most beneficial is Inner Healing, that is emotional and psychological healing, memories, depression,

panic attacks, trauma and bereavement. This gives peace and joy in our hearts and freedom to pray.

Physical Healing is more obvious: we have seen cancers healed and new bone grow in place of bone degraded by cancer; displaced cataract lens move back into the right position; rapid recovery from a bypass and some genetic conditions greatly alleviated. Nothing is impossible for God. Healing can be "blocked" by lack of forgiveness - we must really mean each phrase of the Our Father!

Healing comes from other sources too such as: good doctors, surgeons, sympathetic nurses and loving care from friends and family.

Healing teams must be Christian and have a good reputation. There are many people offering New Age methods such as Reiki, channelling, pendulums, crystals, Ouija board, séances etc. which can be deeply harmful. However, there are several good **Healing Groups** available (see box.)

## Contacts

1. Cor et lumen Christi.org who organize the Catholic Miracle Masses at Euston

2. Christian Healing Mission, Hammersmith.  
[www.healingmission.org](http://www.healingmission.org)

3. Ampleforth Abbey, 1<sup>st</sup> Sun/month, tel 01287 651009

4. Dr Francis MacNutt's School of Healing Prayer, Jacksonville, Florida, USA  
[www.christianhealingmin.org](http://www.christianhealingmin.org)

For more information phone Maureen tel:01423-869264

## Testimonies of Inner and Physical Healings

1. My husband had heart and lung disease and finally bone and prostate cancer. I nursed him at home until his death, but in the last 6 months he became totally dependent on me. The only break I had was when a carer came once a week for 4 hours and Marie Curie nurses 2 nights a week. After he died I became ill from stress, tired and depressed, breathless, had chest pain, panic attacks, insomnia and collapsed 4 times. Both family and friends thought I was going to have a breakdown. After 3 sessions of healing prayer and being blessed

with the Oil of Gladness I became calm and relaxed and all my symptoms eased. Friends and family quickly said how much healthier I looked.  
(Sandra , St. Mary's)

**2. After a car accident,** a stiffness in my left shoulder worsened until the shoulder and left arm would lock. I could only use my left arm very little and suffered considerable pain and stress. The first time I was prayed over in the chapel left me feeling relaxed.

The second prayer session was at my home, I was asked to hold a small crucifix in my hands. During the prayers, the crucifix started to feel heavy and there was some involuntary muscle in the left upper arm. At the end of the meeting I mentioned this but felt nothing further. The following morning, I showered and dried myself and it was only when dressing that I realised I had been able to move my left arm above my head instinctively for the first time in weeks. I reported this to the prayer group and continued to receive prayer for several weeks until I had almost 100% movement.



I was very grateful to the prayer group for the help they gave me to accept that prayer can give God the opportunity to heal.

(Martin, St Mary's)

### 3 At the Cor et Lumen Christi Healing Mass, Euston 2006

Mary, a beautiful black girl with a very severe speech impediment, had a Masters Degree in Biological Sciences and was going for a job interview in 5 days time but thought she had no chance because of her appalling speech so she asked for prayer. The next day she was up on the platform giving her testimony to a crowded conference .She was absolutely thrilled, her speech was perfect and she couldn't stop talking as she had been suffering from the impediment since birth.

(All healings at these Masses are filmed and followed up.)

### Bird Song at St Beuno's (Maryjo Mainwaring-Taylor)

Tell me -  
You, that calls from the blackthorn,  
out of what mind  
does your melody spring?  
Is it the world's soul  
that soars like a fountain,  
up through the throat  
of a spirit with wings?  
Bright eyes that watch  
from deep shadowed leaf ways  
roofed with tendrils, lined with moss.  
A jewel of creation  
that dwells in the hedgerows  
and glides through the tree tops  
with effortless grace -  
who sings for the voiceless  
pangs of new birthing, and bursts through  
with life lust embracing the day spring -  
to twilight and moonrise,  
the soul's quiet sleeping -  
awaiting redemption to love that is keeping.

Yours from the wild bough -  
Ours from the cross.



## The Guild of St Stephen

Have you noticed that some of our altar servers have been wearing a medal over their albs? Did you read in the bulletin for the Feast of the Epiphany that they had been enrolled in the Archconfraternity of St Stephen on the Feast of St Stephen? We thought that you might like to know what the Archconfraternity is and its significance for altar servers.

A confraternity is a sort of club or society for people who are interested in the same things and want to do these things together. The Church used the word "confraternity" as the official name for societies set up in a parish. Another, easier, word is "Guild."

An archconfraternity is a guild which has been given special power by the Church authorities in Rome. It has special privileges and facilities. Because it is an archconfraternity it can allow other guilds to share in those privileges and facilities. That is what the Archconfraternity of St Stephen is. The main Archconfraternity is based in Westminster Cathedral in London. It has many Guilds in parishes in Great Britain. Its objects are:

- To encourage the highest standards of serving at the Church's liturgy and so contribute to the whole

community's participation in a more fruitful worship of God.

- To provide altar servers with a greater understanding of what they are doing so that they may serve with increasing reverence and prayerfulness and so be led to a deepening response to their vocation in life.

- To unite servers of different parishes and



diocese for their mutual support and encouragement.

The Archconfraternity was set up in St Mary's by Fr Theodore Young in 1986. Certificates setting it up, signed by the then Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, O.S.B, and the then Bishop of Leeds, Bishop David Konstant, have been found. The Guild has fallen into abeyance over the years, but the medals have remained hanging among the servers' albs. Some of the current team of servers asked what they were, and they and their parents asked for the

re-establishment of the Guild of St Stephen.

So, on the Feast of St Stephen, five of the servers, Damian Broadhurst, Luke Broadhurst, Alice Bryant, Vincent Nesti and Marie Tolan were enrolled in the Archconfraternity. They were presented with the Guild Medal, which contains the letters XP, the first two letters of the name "Christ"

in Greek. At the top of the medal is the crown of victory, and at the bottom are the palm branches, the traditional sign of the martyrs. The Latin words around the medal are the motto of the Guild: *Cui servire regnare est* (To serve Christ is to reign). We hope that their commitment to serving at Mass has been strengthened by being

enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen.

This gives us an opportunity to thank them for their faithful commitment to serving at Mass. This is particularly noticeable during Holy Week, for the Sacred Triduum, when they practise so that the ceremonies are carried out in a respectful and dignified way. Their commitment has already inspired some of the younger servers to look forward to the Feast of St Stephen this year, when it will be their turn to be enrolled.