

## Province 4 Centenary Mass

*Sunday 29th June 2008, the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul, patron Saints of the Catenian Association, was the day chosen by Province 4 to celebrate the Centenary of the Catenian Association with Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool.*

The principal guests were Grand President David Taylor and his wife Kathleen,

who, having a previous engagement the night before, drove up from London to arrive in time for the 11am Mass. His Worship the Lord Mayor of Liverpool Steve Rotherham and the Lady Mayoress were also in attendance. Approximately 750 Catenians, family and friends attended the Mass which was well



supported by brothers from Provinces 1 and 17.

Past Grand Presidents Harry Yates, Phil Barnes, Dick Jones and Mike O'Malley and their wives were in attendance together with Pat and Eric Smith Director Province 4, Pat and Paul Mainon Director Province 1 and Frank Hinds Director Province 17.

The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Patrick Kelly who, in his homily, spoke of his support of the Catenian Association and included in the bidding prayers the Catenian prayer for vocations. The Cathedral Choir led the singing at the Mass. A very pleasant surprise was the attendance of a youth choir from Cologne, Germany, who were touring the UK. The 80 choristers sang at the end of the Mass giving a fitting ending to a wonderful celebration. After the Mass over 200 attended a hot buffet lunch at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel and were joined by the Lord and Lady Mayoress together with Archbishop Patrick Kelly.

It was a great day and all those attending expressed their pleasure at being there.

## Province 12 Centenary Mass

*On Sunday 4th July 2008 Province 12 celebrated their Centenary Mass at Clifton Cathedral.*

Grand President David and Kathleen Taylor were present along with Provincial President Tony Kay and his wife Pat, Director John Hall and over 200 brothers and family members from all areas of the Province, from Swansea to Swindon from Hereford to Weston-Super-Mare and, from beyond, Director of Province 11, Tony and Madelaine Sadler.

The Right Reverend Bishop Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton, celebrated the Mass and his homily touched on the duty society had to look after all members of the community. He then paid tribute to the work of individual Catenians both in their parishes and in helping to look after fellow brothers and their families. The Catenians provided a model for others to follow. Mass was followed by lunch at Redwood Lodge which was enjoyed by many of the Mass attendees. Guests included Bishop Declan, Mr Peter Sims-Coomber and Mr Desmond Partridge representing the Knights of St Columba and Mr Michael Worthington the National President of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Grand President David Taylor spoke of the aims he had for the future development of the Catenians and Bishop Declan responded on behalf of all the guests.

One useful benefit during lunch was that David Taylor was able to explain in depth to Bishop Declan the ways in which the Catenians are



Pictured are: Province 12 President Tony Kay, Bishop Declan Lang, Grand President David Taylor, with Kathleen Taylor and Director John Hall

promoting good family life and values, and of the many ways in which Catenians help the Church and of the many charities which are supported.

# Thanksgiving Mass at Westminster Cathedral

April 2009 By Anthony Phillips, Ealing and Chiswick Circles

During the Association's Centenary year there have been a large number of celebratory Masses organised by provinces around the United Kingdom and abroad. Many of these were unique or unusual as they were held in places where Mass had not been celebrated for many decades. Celebrants ranged from Cardinals to Diocesan priests.

To finish this year of celebration a final Mass was held in Westminster



Cathedral in late April. This was specifically one of thanksgiving for all that had been achieved throughout the century and especially in this special year. It was led by Bishop John Arnold, Grand Council's link with the hierarchy. Bishop Arnold concelebrated with Bishop Patrick Lynch and the Vicars General of Brentwood and Arundel & Brighton Dioceses. The deacons assisting at Mass were also Catenians, as were the altar servers. The soloist during the service was Alison deWinter and choirmaster/cantor Ray deWinter, Woking Circle, and of course the famous massed Catenian choir, which was in full song. As expected, Grand President David Taylor was on hand to greet many of the congregation, as they gathered on a warm, sunny London afternoon. They came from all around the six Provinces in the south east of England and many from further afield. For many this was their first visit to the Cathedral and it looked magnificent. Over the years the area outside the front of the church had been opened up when buildings were demolished to give a better view of the church from the main road and to form a piazza. I remember as a young boy going to the Cathedral before all the marble was placed in the side aisles and chapels. I wonder will it ever be covered in marble and mosaics? Stewards were on hand to guide everyone to their seats and by 2.50pm all were seated and very few arrived late. With David and Kathleen were Grand Vice President Joe and Philomena McNally,

Grand Secretary Jim and Anne Quinn, Grand Treasurer Phil and Angela Roberts, many past Grand Presidents, Directors and their ladies.

The procession entered the church as we all sang 'Praise to the Holiest in the Height' and then Bishop John welcomed all to the Mass with some well chosen words. The first reading was given by Grand President, the second reading by Immediate Past Grand President Phil Gidman and after the Gospel, Bishop

John gave the homily, extracts from which are reproduced here:

*The founders of the Catenian Association in 1908 knew what they were about but they were also open-minded. They wanted to found some sort of association for Catholic men which would base itself on a sense of community well-being. Their ideas were still developing and we see a change in membership even in the early years – first the association was open only to businessmen but even within a couple of years professionals were also included.*

*The purpose of the Association was to allow Catholic men to come together with a sense of mutual care and endeavour in what was a fairly hostile environment. While the United Kingdom had a long history of Christianity, there was suspicion and often hostility towards Catholics. What would those founders think of the Catenian Association today? I think that they would be proud. That small Manchester group has mushroomed to include circles in many parts of the English-speaking world. I think that they would be delighted by what they see. But the circumstances are now different. While the Catenians were first established in a Christian country where the Catholics were, to a large extent, marginalised, in 2009 we find ourselves in a much broader ecumenical relationship with our sister churches and denominations, but in a secular environment. Much to the credit of, dare I say, Cardinal Basil Hume and the current Cardinal Cormac, Catholics are no longer marginalised in any religious sense.*

*Instead, we find ourselves in an aggressive secularised society. We can no longer rely on the Government of the day to enshrine Gospel principles and values in its legislation. So you and I need to know what we*

*believe and why we believe it. We have to put into practice the truths of our faith and be seen to be Christians by the way we live.*

*In this lies a new stage in the purpose of the Catenian Association. We need one another to find encouragement to live our faith.*

*It seems to me to be no coincidence that we mark the Centenary of the Catenian Association in the Year dedicated to St Paul. He knew all about marginalisation and hostility as he laboured to found and nurture small Christian communities in very difficult circumstances.*

*There is much for which we must give thanks in the celebrations of this Centenary Year and for all that makes up the history of the Catenian Association. Many of you will have been members of the Association for some years and you will have known the goodness of so many deceased members of the Association. We need to be grateful for all the ways in which these individuals blessed our lives and encouraged one another in their lives of faith. But when we celebrate a Centenary we need also to look to the future with confidence. The Catenians have much to do in witnessing to our Faith and our Church in an age where many have forgotten about Christ, and others have never heard of him.*

*The questions we must ask are important. In what ways can we strengthen that Body of Christ which is made up of so many individual parts, of which I am one? How can the Catenian Association better witness to the values of the Gospel in the secular society in which we live? How can you and I be more effectively Ambassadors for Christ in the way we live our lives?*

The bidding prayers were read by Sean O'Connell, Director Province 2, and Chairman of the Six Provinces committee and the offertory procession was the young members of Director of Province 14, Anthony Bottone's family. During the communion Alison sang 'Panis Angelicus' accompanied by Ray. The congregation then sang 'Sweet Sacrament Divine'. The second collection was for the centenary Appeal. Then with a final hymn, 'Now Thank We all our God' all left the Cathedral to be greeted at the door by Bishop John. Our thanks to Sean and the Six Provinces committee for the organization of the Mass, and to Peter Martin, West Norfolk Circle, for the design and print of the Mass Book.

This Thanksgiving Mass provided a fitting finale to the Association's Centenary year.