

Province 7 Celebrates Centenary Mass in Rochester Cathedral

The 25th October 2008 was a very auspicious date for Province 7. After many months of planning and preparation, Catenians and their families from all parts of the Province came together in Rochester Cathedral to attend Holy Mass in one of the oldest Cathedrals in the country, chosen also because of its central position within the Province. Our Mass, offered on our behalf for vocations, was celebrated by the Right Reverend Bishop John Hine of Southwark Diocese. More than 300 Catenians and their wives created a most moving atmosphere within the Cathedral with their deep felt prayers and enthusiastic

The Right Reverend Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, attended the Mass fully robed and sat at the side of the Altar. A number of brothers also assisted at Mass as Deacons, whilst others either served on the Altar or acted as ushers to ensure that all proceedings were carried out effectively. The Cathedral Head Verger and his staff were extremely co-operative and helpful throughout the ceremony. The whole service was supported by The Cathedral Special choir who sang the selected service beautifully. Our sincere thanks go to the Dean and Chapter Office of Rochester Cathedral for all the assistance they gave



Pictured left to right are: Grand President David Taylor, Bishop John Hine, Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, Province 7 President John Ellery

an easy task knowing how Catenians like to socialise!

Grand President David Taylor is an accomplished speaker and spoke eloquently about the Association and praised Province 7 in its efforts on recruitment. He made the point that even he had not considered asking our wives to make pulpit presentations and he marvelled at the wonderful response elicited by Brendan Ducey's wife, Alice, at a recent pulpit presentation for Sevenoaks Circle when some 56 names of prospective Visiting Gentlemen were collected after the Parish Masses. Bishop John again spoke movingly about the Association and ended his short speech with an amusing story about the Church. Bishop Michael proved to be an extremely able speaker and received a number of ovations throughout his speech. Having started his speech by saying that he knew little about our Association, he then went on to hold those present enthralled by his eloquence. He spoke of his sadness at recent events in the Anglican community that were driving a wedge between them and the Roman Catholic Church. He had spent a lot of time on committees devoting their efforts to ecumenism

only to see it undone by others for reasons of their own. Likewise he expressed concerns at the Human Embryology legislation having himself been chairman of the committee for Ethics in that area some years ago. Bishop Michael had spent the week of the Mass and Banquet closeted in the House of Lords battling unsuccessfully against the passage of the Embryology Bill. Bishop Michael was brought up in Pakistan as a Catholic and became an Anglican at the age of 20 which possibly accounts for his warmth towards us. His family also has a Muslim background; he studied in Karachi and went on to obtain a theology doctorate from Cambridge University.

The Province 7 Centenary Committee, which included Clive Mailing, Terry Mahoney and Mike Keen, as well as John Rayer (Director Province 7) and those named above, must be congratulated for all their hard work and their efforts in organising such a successful and enjoyable day for all those who attended.

John Ellery,
Provincial President, Province 7



Bishop John Hine of Southwark Diocese delivering his homily

singing. Bishop John gave a thoughtful homily and was complimentary about the Association as he reflected on how things change so rapidly these days and how the Church, and organisations like ours, must respond. Brothers who had attended other Centenary Masses elsewhere commented on how ours had been particularly spiritually uplifting. The Mass itself had been "prepared" by John McElroy and David Shufflebotham, more than ably assisted by their ladies Jo and Anne.

during the two years planning that went into this day.

The Mass was followed soon afterwards by a banquet held at the Rochester Corn Exchange – located conveniently only 50 metres or so away from the Cathedral. Again, the ushers, under the guidance of Provincial chamberlain Geoff Skelton, worked effectively and efficiently to ensure that all guests attending the banquet had a smooth walk from the Cathedral and arrived in time to enjoy the short Reception before the Banquet proper – not always

Centenary Mass at Portsmouth Cathedral



A large number of Catenians and their wives from Province 11 (including brothers from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Wight) attended a special Mass of Thanksgiving and Hope as part of the Catenian Centenary celebrations on 24th January 2009. The main celebrant was the Rt Rev Crispian Hollis, Bishop of Portsmouth,

Bishop Crispian Hollis wearing the Catenian Chasuble

and most of the permanent deacons, altar servers and ministers of the Eucharist were Catenians. The Epistle was read by Grand President David Taylor and the Bidding Prayers



Preparation for the distribution of Communion

by Director Tony Sadler. The Province 11 Ciborium, received at the Centenary Conference, was used at Communion.

The Bishop thanked the Catenians for all the support they give the church and then spoke of the need to follow in the footsteps of St Paul – the Mass was of the Conversion of St Paul. After Mass tea and biscuits were served.

In the evening a dinner was held in Emsworth, hosted by Portsmouth Circle.

Catenians of Shrewsbury Diocese celebrate the Centenary

On Saturday 7th June, Brothers and wives of the Shrewsbury Diocese had come together at Shrewsbury Cathedral to celebrate the Centenary with THEIR Bishop in THEIR Cathedral with a wonderfully uplifting Thanksgiving Mass. The Circles represented came from across Provinces 4, 6 and 17 led by Director Eric Smith and Provincial Presidents Bryan Holden and Mike Guerin. Chief Celebrant, Bishop Brian Noble, was assisted at Mass by two Catenian Permanent Deacons, Paul Sutton from Ellesmere Port Circle and Steve McKevitt from Macclesfield



GP David Taylor and John Kearns of Shrewsbury Circle

Circle. Priests from local parishes concelebrated and Grand President, David and Kathleen Taylor were the guests of honour.

The Reading, Bidding Prayers and the Offertory were all opportunities for participation in the ceremony by the Catenian congregation. The Offertory Procession, for example, consisted of a Circle President, a Director, a Catenian family and the wife of a Deceased Brother and the gifts included the three Centenary Ciboria of the Provinces involved.

The Cathedral Choir and Organist were on top form with Edmund Coxhead of Shrewsbury Circle as Cantor. They gave the lead to some rousing singing from the assembled multitude including a chorus of God Save the Queen and a resounding final hymn, Faith of Our Fathers.

Bishop Brian's homily was well received, as he drew attention to the themes of the first reading, when St Paul could have

been writing to the Catenians, extolling the importance of Brotherly Love and also, most importantly to Catenians, . . . Hospitality. The Gospel centred on the Magnificat, the story of Our Lady visiting Elizabeth, where elements of Faith, Family and Friendship could be clearly identified. It is also a great prayer of Thanksgiving – particularly appropriate for the world's largest Catholic brotherhood reaching its 100th year.

The Bishop also observed that the Centenary Vocations Initiative with plans for over 1500 Masses for Vocations on 29th June and the Centenary Charity demonstrated the Catenians' focus on real issues facing both the world and the Church. He found it profoundly significant that the life giving and saving effect of water in the Water,

Life, Hope programme mirrored the importance of water in our Faith - baptism, the source of our spiritual life and hope.

A most convivial buffet lunch followed in the nearby Lion Hotel. Eventually, Host Organiser, John Kearns, wound up the occasion by stating "and that, as Catenians have been saying for one hundred years, concludes



Interior of Shrewsbury Cathedral before Mass

the formal proceedings for today". Everyone then headed back home to all parts of the Diocese, thinking it was a shame that such a day only comes round every 100 years!