

# Great Tsunami of Prayer for Vocations

*In response to Grand President's appeal for Masses for Vocations in the Centenary Year a great many Masses were said throughout the world. Featured here are just some of the places in which the Masses were celebrated.*

MOST MASSES

**Shrewsbury** not only had Masses said in every one of the 23 (!) Mass centres in their local patch but went on to arrange 35 in total. However Swansea managed to ensure a Mass for Vocations was said in EVERY church in the Diocese of Menevia – 43 in total! Their Bishop was so supportive he even announced the Initiative in his Ad Clerum.

UNUSUAL LOCATION

**Cambridge:** Mass for Vocations was celebrated in the 14th Century Bridge Chapel in St Ives (photo). The Chapel is in the centre of the bridge and holds about 20 people. The room below was originally the lock-up for local felons. During the summer, Mass is offered there every Monday morning, often to the astonishment of the tourists.



FIRST MASS

**Southend:** A Vocations Mass was also offered in the Real Tennis Court in Ickworth Hall, the great Georgian mansion built by the eccentric 4th Earl of Bristol. This was the first time any religious service has been held in the Hall, much less a Catholic one, and the celebrant was the Rt Rev Tom Williams, Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool.

There were over 70 brothers and wives in the congregation, many from Southend Circle who had hired a coach for the occasion. Lunch in the Hall afterwards was a great success.

SUPPORTIVE PRIEST

**Kidderminster:** At the Mass at St Ambrose's in Kidderminster, Fr Lamb not only included the Catenian suggested text in the Newsletter but he also printed our Prayer for Vocations and invited the whole congregation to say it

THATCHED

One of **Sutton Coldfield's** Masses was in the church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Wroxtton (photo below) one of only eight in the country with a thatched roof.



SMALL WORLD

At the **Droitwich** President's Mass a Catenian wife found herself sitting next to a visitor to the Parish who told her that her late husband had been a member of Loughborough Circle. She now lives near York, and has been "adopted" by that Circle. She had refused two or three invitations to other President's Masses that day because she'd arranged to visit friends in Droitwich for the weekend. She was delighted to find herself at a President's/ Vocations Mass after all!

PROVINCE 7

(i) Catenian families from around Province 7 gathered (photo above) in the sunshine for Provincial President, John Ellery's, Sunday on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008. A picnic, fun and games in the grounds of Aylesford Priory followed. Mass for Vocations celebrated by Fr Michael Adams who used the Centenary Ciborium in the Mass.



(ii) As part of the development of a new circle just south of the Thames, the seven priests in the relevant Deanery were contacted and they each agreed to have a



Mass offered for Vocations on 29<sup>th</sup> June. This has set the scene nicely for pulpit presentations at each of the Churches in the autumn.

LIVERPOOL MASS

The 29<sup>th</sup> June Mass at **Liverpool** was a resounding success with between 750 and 800 estimated attendees. The worshipful Lord Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Steven Rotherham and Lady Mayoress Sandra Rotherham were in attendance together with GP David and Kathleen. At the end of the Mass the youth choir from Cologne Cathedral of about 130 members sang three hymns and received

a rousing ovation. A fitting end to an excellent Mass said by Archbishop Patrick Kelly. Over 200 attended the lunch afterwards held at the Adelphi Hotel including the Lord Mayor and the Archbishop. Four past Grand Presidents, Harry Yates, Phil Barnes, Dick Jones and Mike O'Malley were in attendance together with three Directors Eric Smith (Prov 4), Paul Mainon (Prov 1) and Frank Hinds (Prov 17).

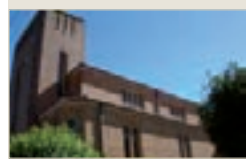
AUSTRALIA

**Mosman:** Four churches of Sydney Harbour North - Sacred Heart, Mosman; St Therese of the Little Flower, Beauty Point; Blessed Sacrament, Clifton Gardens and St Josephs, Neutral Bay. The Parish Priest, Fr Philip Linder, used the Catenian notes supplied by the Circle as the basis of his



homily at the 6 pm Sunday Mass. Fr Phil used

the analogy of Saints Peter and Paul and asked how many of the young people there could one day receive the calling to a religious vocation to replace himself and Fr



Danai, the Assistant Priest who is deeply

involved in the Catechises programme, being the most recently ordained priest in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

**City of Sydney:** celebrated one of its Vocation Masses in the Chapel of St Patrick's College in Strathfield, Sydney. The celebrant was Dr David Coffey who was ordained in the same chapel 50 years previously in 1958.

Of course most of the Masses for Vocations outside of the UK were in Catenian populated countries ...Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Malta, Ireland and all across Australia. A selection of others in "exotic" locations included:

**St Peter's Rome:** We can't pretend it was at the high altar, then again neither was the one at the *Church of the Nativity* in Bethlehem



(photo) but, hey, a side chapel still counts!

**New Zealand:** Farthest east? *Church of St Mary and St Francis De Sales* in Rangiora (photo) on the South Island



(Not actually Auckland but Rangiora doesn't sound as good in a headline!).

**USA:** Farthest west? *St Francis's Church, Sherwood, Oregon* following the visit of a Catenian to his niece there. Another niece arranged a Mass at *Our Lady of the Valley, Caldwell, Boise, Idaho*.

**Cyprus:** *Church of St Paul's Pillar, Paphos*, (photo) Father John Sansour has welcomed dozens (hundreds?) of



holidaying Catenians and families to this beautiful

16th Century Greek Orthodox owned church. On the site are the ruins of a 4th Century Basilica and it is where St Paul was scourged by the Roman Governor whom he later converted to Christianity.

**Kenya (i):** *Monastery of Our Lady of Light, Myanga*,

run by Poor Clare sisters whose "head office" is



in Arundel – site of the TV series called "The Monastery". Supported by the parish of St Patrick's, Wellington, the nuns were delighted to be asked to be part of the Great Tsunami by Catenians from the parish. Father David Idodo, (photo) their Chaplain, celebrated the Mass.

**Kenya (ii):** Visitors to the *Myangan Mission*, some Charles Lwanga Brothers from an outstation at Kimwanga, heard about the Vocations Initiative from Sister Marion and asked if they could join in as well! Their priest, Brother Benedict, celebrated their Mass for Vocations back at their novitiate house.

**Equatorial Guinea:**

A brother working in the oil industry there arranged Masses at the two Cathedrals, *Santa Isabel in Malabo* (photo) and one in *Bata*.



**South Africa (i):** The same brother spends his leisure time near Durban where he also "booked" the *Shakka Kraal Zulu church*.

**Malawi:** Mission priest from *Zomba*, Fr Callistus Nakhwala, a close friend of a brother, not only added a Vocations Mass to the list but came to England soon after to attend a Circle Dinner to tell them about it! (Actually the real reason for coming was to officiate at a Catenian family wedding and to create the headline "Father marries Brother's niece"!)

**India (i)** A Midlands Parish Priest, Father Dominic Chukka, comes from an impoverished area in *Andhra Pradesh*, and as the local Circle President's charity is to raise funds to help the people there, he ensured a Vocations Mass was said in one of the villages.

**India (ii):** Father Sunny Mavelii had a similar tale to tell – although originally from Kerala, his work is in *Tura, Meghalaya State, Northern India* (photo)



**France:** Two Masses in *Angouleme Cathedral* (photo) were reported by actual brothers from different Circles, each not knowing



the other had "booked" a Mass where they make regular visits.

A brother's cousin said Mass at the *Abbaye de Mondaye* where he and the other monks are said to be happy and content with their lives - which just might have something to do with the abbey being in the Calvados Region!

At least two Masses were said at Lourdes including one as part of a youth pilgrimage for the Paisley Diocese.

**Goa:** three Masses were organised by Caetano Felipe Colaco who has been one of the main players in the proposed Circle there; one Mass was offered in *Chennai*.

**Bermuda:** Mass was said at *Stella Maris, St George's, Bermuda*. St George's is a World Heritage site and Stella Maris is one of six parishes which make up the Diocese of Hamilton, Bermuda. The island has a population of only 60,000.



*And many more including...* South Africa (ii) (Rivonia, Johannesburg); Canada (Toronto); Dubai; Belgian Congo (Basankusu); "Russia or China" (*An Aid to Churches in Need* sponsored Mass couldn't be narrowed down any more than that).

**Ireland:** UK Brothers with Irish ancestry got in touch with their roots, helping the Irish brothers with their Mass numbers – *Castle Connell, Balbriggan, Beauparc, Blanchestown, Derry Cathedral, Schull, Macroom* and ... many, many more.