



Year of St Paul - June 2008 - June 2009

POPE Benedict XVI has declared June 2008–June 2009 a Year of St Paul in celebration of the 2000th anniversary of the apostle's birth. It is reckoned that St Paul was born between 6 - 10 A.D.

The Holy Father explained in his homily: "this 'Pauline Year' will take place in a special way in Rome, where for 2,000 years under the papal altar of this basilica, lies the tomb that according to experts and undisputed tradition has conserved the remains of the apostle Paul."

The Pontiff said: "In the papal basilica and Benedictine abbey attached to it, there can take place a series of liturgical, cultural and ecumenical events, as well as various pastoral and social initiatives, all of them inspired by Pauline spirituality. Special attention can also be given to pilgrims who from various places will want to go to the tomb of the Apostle in a penitential way in order to find spiritual benefit. Meetings for study will be promoted and there will be special publications on Pauline texts, to promote the immense richness of the teaching contained in them, true patrimony of humanity redeemed by Christ."

"Also, in every part of the world, similar initiatives will be organised in diocese, sanctuaries and places of prayer by religious institutions, institutions of study and assistance, which carry the name of St. Paul or which have been inspired by him and his teaching."

Benedict XVI explained that this year must have an important "ecumenical dimension." "The Apostle of the Gentiles, who dedicated himself to the spreading of the good news to all peoples, spent himself for the unity and harmony of all Christians," the Pope said. "May he guide us and protect us in this bimillenary celebration," he added, "helping us to advance in the humble and sincere search for the unity of all the members of the mystical body of Christ."

Details

The Pauline Year. Beginning on June 28 2008 and ending on June 29 2009, will include a myriad of events in areas of ecumenism, liturgy, prayer, art, history, archaeology, pastoral initiatives and pilgrimages.

The Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls, which welcomes between 2,500 and 4,000 pilgrims a day, will open its jubilee door and will host a special liturgy each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Pilgrims will be able to pass through the Pauline Door, pray at St Paul's tomb and at the chains of St. Paul, go to confession, participate in Mass and vespers in order to receive a plenary indulgence.

Websites

<http://www.abbaziasanpaolo.net/>
<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/>
<http://annopaolino.org/> Official website – English version promised

The image is based on a ninth century manuscript from the Monastery of St Gall believed to be one of the earliest European depictions of St Paul.

Triduum of Prayer.

FEBRUARY 11 2008 was the 150th Anniversary of Our Lady's appearance to St Bernadette at Lourdes. As this is our parish's patronal feast, Fr Patrick Auger our Parish priest proposed that we should celebrate with a Triduum of Masses, Exposition and prayer from February 10 to February 12. It was also the parishes 70th birthday so was a double reason for celebration.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament started at noon on Feb 10, closing with Sunday evening Mass assisted by Fr Gregory Grant from St Patrick's Parish. He is the Dean of the area and his support was invaluable. During Mass there was the opportunity for anyone who wished to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

On February 11, the actual day of the feast, again exposition started at noon, closing with Fr Patrick and Fr Gregory concelebrating Mass. It was a wonderful experience and many remarked that "It was just like the old days", – no need to guess the age range! The church was overflowing with people, with visitors from the deanery parishes and further away and the music was played and sung by the orchestra and choir from St Patrick's.

During Mass, all who wished were able to receive the sacrament of the sick – it

was a truly memorable Mass and afterwards, thanks to the generosity of Fr Gregory, refreshments were available in the school hall. There were lots of greetings from old familiar faces and of course the supportive members of the diocesan UCM.

The final day had exposition closing with the traditional Rosary and Benediction. Fr Patrick thanked everyone for the support that the Triduum had received making it such a huge success. The worries that not enough people would attend the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament were unfounded. The bonus for everyone who attended on the three days was a Plenary Indulgence.

During the Triduum, Fr Patrick opened and blessed the new school library making it a double celebration for school and parish.

The parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes thank Fr Patrick for all his work and Fr Gregory for his great support and generosity. Lastly, thanks to everyone who came because without you there would have been no celebration.

Faith was certainly lifted during the celebration; let us pray it continues to remain steadfast.

*Pauline Morris,
Our Lady of Lourdes Foundation
Diocese of Clifton*

HOT OFF THE PRESS

At the 2008 National Council of The Union of Catholic Mothers held at Hoddeston, Sheila Goodchild was elected as our next National President.

Veronica Lynch from Leeds and Maureen Meacher from Portsmouth were elected as National Vice Presidents. They all will take office after the 2009 Council. More news and photographs in the Autumn issue of The Catholic Mother.

Friends Circle

THE Friends Circle prayer card was introduced at the beginning of 1990, following two years of discussions. Joan Gettins was National Vice President at the time and it was reported in the *Catholic Mother Magazine* (First Edition 1990) as "Looking at ways we could share our UCM communities with those not fully able to participate in our activities."

People who have special needs, the housebound, the handicapped, those profoundly deaf and the blind. We offer them the friendship and love of the UCM- they can offer us much in the way of Christian living and their prayerful support is a source of strength to the work of our parishes. "Mrs Gettins went on to say," Parishes where there is no UCM, and Diocese where parishes are scattered and find it difficult to meet regularly can find the friends circle a way of enriching their commitment as lay apostles. It is a way of keeping the door open, where some inner city foundations are struggling with older members who are no longer able to take office or attend meetings, but still want to be part of the UCM they could belong to the Friends Circle through their Diocese and as a parish is rebuilt, as so often happens a UCM foundation is there ready to blossom".

Eighteen years on and the meaning of

Joan's words are as significant today as they were then. We are still facing the same problems. Even more so now than at any time, the Friends Circle Prayer Card can play a very important part in the life of our organisation. It is a bond that cannot be ignored and must be encouraged to develop wherever, when ever and with whoever would benefit, not just the people mentioned above but also our organisation.

It was hoped that it could be used as a recruiting tool during the UCM Roadshow – if people moved house and did not have a foundation in their new parish. At that time the National Secretary used to produce a newsletter – Friends Circle Members (where known) received a copy of this. The idea was that the foundations should look after such members particularly under the fourth object.

After much debate and discussion, the prayer changed a few years ago in the hope of promoting it a little more. I am pleased to say there has been a significant increase – if your reports are anything to go by – please keep it up. My thanks to Joan Gettins for all her help.

Iris Riley, National Vice President.

Friends Circle prayer cards are available from your Foundation or Diocesan treasurer.

Our President says.....

NATIONAL Council is fast approaching, as is the completion of two years of my term as National President and I feel as though I have said everything to you. Please forgive me if I repeat myself. Congratulations on the marvellous work you have done in your Foundations, Dioceses and as National Officers during this past year. Many wonderful and daunting tasks have been undertaken and achieved, many helped and comforted and we have contributed greatly to the Governmental headaches with our protests, cards, letters and attendance at the various meetings and rallies concerning issues affecting marriage and family life. Families here and in the third world have been greatly helped and comforted by your generosity, not only money, but by the time, effort and love you put into carrying out our fourth objective. Welfare Officers, I thank and commend you for the leadership you have shown and the effort and time you have all given in living the roles you have so willingly undertaken. Because of you and your members much love, sympathy and practical help is given to those unloved, lonely and in difficulty.

Many thanks too to our Study Day Officers who attend meetings and Study Days and then make sure we too have access to this knowledge, to learn, discuss and put into practice. This involves much time and effort and is often not appreciated and used when not enough people turn up at the meetings or sessions. These are great opportunities to meet people from other areas, listen to and compare their problems and successes and just give the old grey cells a chance to spin!

Then there are the Sub-Committees and the unbelievable behind-the-scenes work that they do. The National Holiday and Rest Homes Service organises holidays for those who need them, individuals and families. This involves checking out and listing hotels, guesthouses and nursing homes, speaking with the Diocesan Welfare Officer, through whom all requests must go, and organising these breaks.

All of this is carried in total confidence. This, of course, has to be funded and is done by each Foundation, through their Diocesan Treasurer, sending an annual subscription. Please remember to do it each year because this is the part of The UCM that gives us charity status and helps many people.

There is the Walsingham Committee who meet throughout the year to organise the annual Walsingham Pilgrimage. This involves much discussion, organisation and liaison with the Walsingham Shrine Committee and communication with each Diocese. There is much involved and it is always a well-remembered day, one on which to meet friends from all parts of the country, to pray together and show solidarity. This year we will walk the Holy Mile in complete silence in an effort to bring peace to the world. Please come in your hundreds to pray for Peace and help me enjoy my final Walsingham, as National President.

We also have to thank the Media Team who edit and put together, with help from Gabriel Communications, the Catholic Mother newspaper. This, as well as keeping the website up to date and keeping abreast of all changes in the media, the issues and action involved, takes a lot of time which this dedicated team willingly give.

I wonder if you are aware of the work done quietly, alone, conscientiously and so willingly by two special ladies. Pat Gibson is Assistant to the National Treasurer and she orders, stores in her home and distributes all UCM stock. This is a vast task which Pat so willingly carries out and she is always helpful and cheerful. Kathleen Jenkins is the National Minutes Secretary and the work she does for us is mammoth and unseen. She attends Council and Executive meetings, works hard while she is there but it is when we have finished and leave with a sigh of relief that her work begins, putting together all the minutes and sending them to the National Secretary for distribution. We sincerely thank both of these ladies for their dedication and conscientious work.

You know all the folk who do this work in the Foundations and Dioceses and these are the people who keep The UCM functioning and make it the wonderful organisation that it is. Now, if this is to continue, more people must come and offer their services because Foundations are closing - one I heard of last night had 40 members. Do we want this to happen--- NO-so please come forward because, whilst some of us are working full-out to recruit new members, which involves much travelling, lengthy discussions and so on, our life blood is ebbing away for want of a small effort on your part, which will give you much satisfaction and fun. Now, on my knees, I beg you able, talented and caring women to come forward and keep us afloat. Please!!

We thank most sincerely and say goodbye to Anne Gallagher who has completed five years as a dedicated, conscientious, and so helpful, caring National Secretary. We thank too her husband Pat, who has had to be as hardworking as Anne. It has been a joy and a privilege to work with you, Anne, go raibh maigh agat! Enjoy the rest and continue to pray for all of us you leave behind.

We welcome Angela Batey as National Secretary and wish her every success and happiness in her role.

I thought I had nothing to say but must finish now. God bless and thank you all.

Please pray for all who have recently died, who are ill and those who need help and prayers.



Maureen

† Eternal rest grant to them O Lord †

ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

Audrey KENNEDY, St Paul's Foundation, Haywards Heath

CLIFTON

David COOK, husband of recently deceased Joan Cook, Clifton Cathedral Foundation, Bristol

EAST ANGLIA

Bridget (Bridie) HART, Our Lady & St Walstan Foundation, Costessey.

LANCASTER

Terri DACRE, aged 89 oldest member of St Patrick's Foundation, Heysham

LIVERPOOL

Ted KEEGAN, husband of National Deputy President Anne, St Paul's Foundation, West Derby.
Margaret MURPHY, English Martyrs Foundation, Litherland.

MIDDLESBROUGH

Una LIGHTON, English Martyrs Foundation, York. Member for 51 years.

PORTSMOUTH

Ellis, husband of 'Tressie' HEATHER, St Colomba's Foundation, Bridgemary.

SALFORD

Thomas JOHNSON, husband of Brenda, St Mary and St Philip Neri, Radcliffe
Eileen HILLS, aged 92, St Mary's Foundation,

Denton.

Mary DALY, St Ann's Foundation, Stretford.
Ellen GIBLIN, St Ann's Foundation, Stretford
Angela SMITH, St Ann's Foundation, Stretford

SHREWSBURY

Teresa McINTYRE, St Luke's Foundation, Frodsham.
Julie O'SULLIVAN, St Wilfrid's Foundation, Northwich

SOUTHWARK

Peggy SCANLON, Norbury Foundation.
Margaret WILLMOT, 93-year-old founder member of Wallington Foundation.,
Suzanne Marie JONES, Tolworth Foundation
Eleanor PROSSER, 100 years old, St Thomas of Canterbury, Canterbury.
Paul QUICKFALL, husband of Sylvia, secretary Westgate Foundation