

Cathie Rubin was presented with the Bene Merenti at the end of the 10.30am Mass in St Dominic's, Dursley, on Sunday 2 March.

Many of her family were present and representatives of the Polish community came from as far away as Cheltenham.

In addition to the medal and scroll from the Vatican, Cathie was given flowers and a beautifully decorated cake was cut and enjoyed in the hall afterwards, when everyone congregated for a celebratory drink.

Before the final blessing Dursley's Parish Priest Fr Vincent Curtis announced Cathie's award and highlighted some of her valuable contribution to parish and community life.

Cathie was overwhelmed and said she did not deserve the honour, to which Fr Vincent replied, "There are a thousand words in the citation, which prove that you do!" There was rapturous applause by the congregation, for this very special lady.



Gillian Badcock was awarded the Bene Merenti for her services to the church, UCM and the wider community. In 2005 Gillian Badcock was one of the four Catholic Women of the Year an award bestowed by the catholic women of this country. The Bene Merenti is an award bestowed by the church, and was made on Saturday 12 April by Bishop Hendricks during a Celebration Mass to mark the 70th Anniversary of Southwark UCM. The Bishop read the citation in full, which wove a rich tapestry of the role Gillian, has played in the life of the church locally, through UCM and on the International scene.

Gillian joined The UCM when she became a Mum. When the children reached adolescence she took over the role of Area Chairman of UCM Reading and then progressed to Diocesan President in 1981. In 1986, she became the International Officer for UCM, serving on National Committee. After moving to Hythe in Kent, she joined the UCM and began her association with Southwark Diocese. This was followed by a stint as the WUCWO Rep for England and Wales. When this term of office came to an end she then undertook the role of Secretary General to the World Union of Catholic Womens Organisations, a post she has now held for 12 years and which has taken her to all corners of the world.

You will all agree this was a well-deserved honour and long overdue.



Esther Brabrook received the Bene Merenti medal at the British Home, Streatham, from Bishop Pat Lynch at the monthly Mass on 27 February. Esther and a group of like-minded volunteers ensure that every Catholic resident has Holy Communion each week. The residents are collected from their rooms by wheelchair and assembled in the chapel where a Eucharistic Service is held – those unable to come to the chapel are visited and given Holy Communion. Esther has overseen this wonderful work for many years. She also takes part in the Liturgy in St Matthews and is a very valuable member of the Parish.



Congratulations



Diamond Wedding

Erna and Pat DEAN, St. Mary's Foundation, Woolton, Archdiocese of Liverpool.
Anne and Lionel BRYNE, Diocese of East Anglia.

Emerald Wedding

Marjorie and Maurice PITT, Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Golden Wedding



Moira and Peter HELIER, English Martyrs Foundation, Horley, Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Elizabeth and Colin ARCHER, St Dominic Foundation, Dursley, Diocese of Clifton.
Alma and Terry WAINWRIGHT, Holy Rosary Foundation, Archdiocese of Liverpool.
Win and Marty COLLINS, Our Lady of Compassion Foundation, Archdiocese of Liverpool.
Margaret and Jimmy FORSYTH, St. Teresa Foundation, Archdiocese of Liverpool.
Noreen and Sean O'CONNOR, St Matthew Foundation, West Norwood, Archdiocese of Southwark.
Ina and Charles BURFORD, St Matthew Foundation, West Norwood, Archdiocese of Southwark.
Rita and Jack WILLIS, St Clare's Foundaion, Bradford, Diocese of Leeds.
Pat and Vince WARREN, from Plymouthstock Foundation, Diocese of Plymouth.

Ruby Wedding

Mary and Roger MASON, Sacred Heart Foundation, Westbury-on-Trym, Diocese of Clifton

90th Birthday



Mary VAIGHT, Our Lady and St Joseph Foundation Seacombe, Diocese of Shrewsbury.
L to R UCM Spiritual Advisor Fr Michael Murray, Fr Jerome Fagan PP, Mary, Deacon Rev Norman Carew and Diocesan President Pat O'Connor.

80th Birthday

Judith POPE, St James Foundation, Ipswich, Diocese of East Anglia.
Kathleen KEELEY, Clifton Cathedral Foundation, Diocese of Clifton.
Doris CHADWICK, St Mary Foundation, Denton, Diocese of Salford.

70th Birthday

Pat McGOLDRICK, St Paul Foundation, Archdiocese of Liverpool.



Liz O'CONNOR, St James Foundation, Ipswich, Diocese of East Anglia



Pat BYRNE, and friends St Francis of Assisi Foundation, Shefford, Diocese of Northampton.



Cate TODD, Dereham Foundation, Diocese of East Anglia receives 80th birthday gifts and long service to the UCM certificate from President Hilary Bushell

40 years Ordination

Father F Ferns Chaplain at All Saints UCM Liverpool celebrates 40 years since he was ordained Priest. Father Ferns was also 65 in March 2008.

55 year membership

Mary BRESLIN, St Joseph's Foundation, Huddersfield, Diocese of Leeds.

50 year membership

Molly Clarke, founder member of St Vincent's Foundation, Sheffield, Diocese of Hallam.



Hilda STRATTON, St Mary and St Philip Neri, Radcliffe Diocese of Salford receives her certificate from President Mildred D'Amore.



Anne BYRNE, (associate Member Walsingham) Diocese of East Anglia receives her certificate from Marguerite Waying

40 years membership

Eileen GREASBY, Stevenage Old Town Foundation, Archdiocese of Westminster.

45 years membership

Elsie Gill, St Joseph's Foundation, Huddersfield, Diocese of Leeds.

30 years membership

Father F Ferns Chaplain at All Saints UCM Liverpool celebrates 40 years since he was ordained Priest. Father Ferns was also 65 in March 2008.

55 year membership

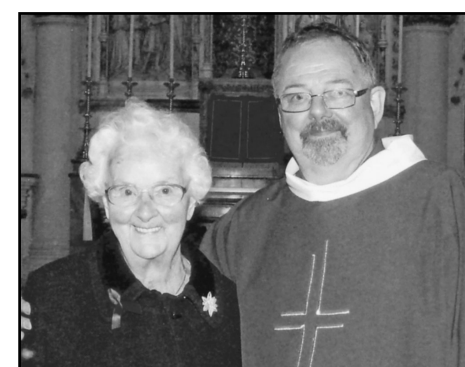
Mary BRESLIN, St Joseph's Foundation, Huddersfield, Diocese of Leeds.

Welcome

Holy Trinity / Sacred Heart Newcastle- U-Lyme, Archdiocese of Birmingham. Enrollment Mass, celebrated by Father Philip Griffin. 100 members attended the enrollment of 21 new members.



Ordination



Agnes Booker's son Richard is ordained to the Diaconate. Agnes is a member of Holy Rood Foundation, Barnsley, Diocese of Hallam.

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Please note: Items for inclusion in next edition of *The Catholic Mother* i.e. Sept 2008 can be sent in at any time, from the present date to 11th August 2008. Last Date for names for "Eternal Rest" 18th August 2008.