

Venerabile Voices

ISSUE 18
December
2019

An e-zine for and about former students of the Venerable English College, Rome

Editor: Fergus Mulligan, www.publishing.ie | Design: Karl O'Sullivan (Pixelpress)

A gita to Monte Porzio Catone

On 10 October a small group of old Romans set off on a *gita* from Palazzola to find the old College Villa in Monte Porzio. Talking to people in the streets, in bars and shops it was clear the College's 299 year presence is still fondly remembered.

The Carabinieri station is open only occasionally but seeing a *brigadiere* approach, two of us managed to talk our way in for a look through the building. Much has been altered since the College left but it was deeply moving to see the original stairs on the 1st and 2nd floors worn down by the footfall of almost 300 years of students passing up and down.

The pictures below tell the story of a wonderful day, walking in the footsteps of our predecessors. Hopefully in this Palazzola anniversary year the celebrations will include a scheduled visit to this lovely little town with an exploration of part of the building itself. And perhaps we can re-establish the 300 year long connections between the College and DOMP.

All photos supplied by Peter Fleetwood



The plaque set into the wall of the shrine beside the College Villa. It states that on 20 December in the holy year of 1900 this image of Santa Maria della Speranza was brought to St Peter's where Pope Leo XIII reverently kissed it. And in 1902 the nearby chapel was restored by Rector W. Giles and Bursar Enrico Muzzi,



The main entrance to the former College Villa at Monte Porzio, part of which is now an *Alimentari* and a Carabinieri station. To the right is the shrine *in ristauo*, described in more detail above.



Another interesting Monte Porzio building. *Ephebeum* means a gym used by young people, a school or a college. The connection with the VEC, if any, is at present unknown.



Intrepid explorers behind the College Villa, l. to r. Cathy Fegan, John Fegan, Michael Cooley, Fergus Mulligan, Anthony Wilcox



Arcangelo (Nicola) Marino, a *simpatico* Monte Porzio resident we met who is well informed about the VEC connections. Through him we were able to go behind the sheeting visible in the main photo on page 1 to see the shrine and plaque with the mention of Mgr Hinsley.



A trattoria at the rear part of the former College Villa

How to find the former College Villa: From the Belvedere piazza of Monte Porzio it's a 5 minute walk through the gated archway into the old town. At the via Cavour turn left and the Carabinieri Comando Stazione is straight in front of you on via Giuseppe Verdi.



Enjoy an early spring break in Palazzola

This issue of *Venerabile Voices* has a fifth page with details of a fantastic offer for all old Romans and friends. Book 3 nights and pay just €100 per person, full board. It's available up to 19 Dec 2019 and from January to March 2020. See page 5 for full details.

A number of old Romans are taking advantage of this offer in the week of 3 - 9 February 2020 and all are welcome to join us. Book directly with Palazzola: www.palazzola.it.

Salvete flores Martyrum: Martyrs' Day 2019

This year we have a choice of 6 venues to celebrate our great College *fest*a, all take place on Monday 2 December apart from East Midlands which is on Tuesday 3 December.

In the north-west Anthony Dearman is the host at Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich for the Martyrs' Mass with *pranzo tipico* in the parish hall. In London Alexander Sherbrooke invites old Romans to Tyburn Convent for Mass followed by lunch at St Patrick's, Soho.

The West Midlands group meets in Oxford for Mass in Ralph Sherwin's other *alma mater*, Pembroke College, followed by lunch in a local hostelry. Mervyn Tower is your host in Oxford.

In the north-east, old Romans will gather at Hinsley Hall for Mass with lunch afterwards in a private dining room, Matthew Habron hosts this event. In the west of England Jeremy Rigden and Thomas Atthill invite all old Romans to St Mary's, Bath for Mass followed by lunch in the parish hall.

Mark Brentnall is hosting a gathering in the East Midlands on Tuesday 3 December with Mass in English Martyrs' church, Derby followed by lunch. All old Romans are welcome to attend any of these events but should contact their host in good time beforehand.

Buona festa!

HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE



As well as our College martyrs, another victim hanged at Tyburn was Oliver Cromwell, although he was dead at the time.

In 1658, three years after his death and with Charles II on the throne, Cromwell's corpse was exhumed and he was strung up as a regicide.

Stained glass window in Corpus Christi church, Headington



Requiescant in pace

Of your charity pray for the repose of the souls of the following old Romans who have died recently.



Fr Terry Rogers was ordained in the College on 12 Dec 1971 for Lancaster diocese and served for a time on the staff of the Beda. He retired in 2000. He died on 28 June 2019 at Nazareth House Lancaster. His Requiem Mass was at Lancaster Cathedral on 18 July. Two of his contemporary old Romans were present, Fr Michael Griffin and Mr Tom Finnigan.

Fr Francis (Frank) Rice entered the College in 1948 and was a priest of Shrewsbury diocese. He was for many years Secretary of the Roman Association and died on 18 August 2019 and his Funeral Mass was in Our Lady's, Cavendish St, Birkenhead on 6 September. Photo: St John's parish, New Ferry



Fr Charles Lloyd of Menevia Diocese died on 23 August 2019. His Requiem Mass was at St David's church, Tywyn, Gwynedd on 6 September 2019.



Mgr Alessandro (Sandro) Manenti, Diocese of Reggio Emilia, who died on 27 August 2019, was a student at the College in the 1970s and the author of a number of books on psychology and vocation. His funeral was private, followed by a Memorial Mass on 26 September 2019 at the Basilica di San Prospero, Reggio Emilia.



Mgr Bryan Chestle arrived in Rome in 1956 and lived at the College for 49 years while working at the Secretariat of State until retirement in 2003. He died at St Clare's Home, Ditchling Common on 4 September 2019 and his Requiem Mass was celebrated in Arundel Cathedral on 26 September 2019. His obituary is in *The Venerabile* 2019.



Archbishop Michael Bowen, entered the College in 1952 and died on 17 October 2019. His Funeral Mass was celebrated in St George's Cathedral on 4 November 2019.

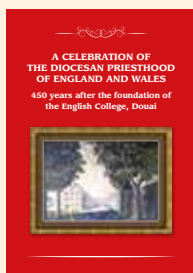


Fr Jerome Bertram entered the College in 1975 and was ordained for Arundel and Brighton diocese. He then joined the Oratory in 1991. He died on 19 October 2019 and his Funeral Mass took place at the Oxford Oratory on 5 November 2019.

Fr Tomás (Tom) Creagh-Fuller was a student at the College in the late 1990s for Southwark diocese and died on 5 November 2019.



Finally, Roman Association solicitor, **Mark Lewis' daughter**, has died tragically, her funeral was on 18 October. May she rest in peace. Sympathy and prayers of all Roman Association members go to him and his family.



Celebrating priesthood 450 years after Douai

A section of the concelebrating priests at Westminster Cathedral on 28 June 2019. Zoom in to all the pics to spot former RA Secretary, Paul Keane, current Secretary, Aaron Spinelli, Kevin Firth, Tony Churchill Seán Healy, Francis Wahle among others.

www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism/48145476216/in/photostream



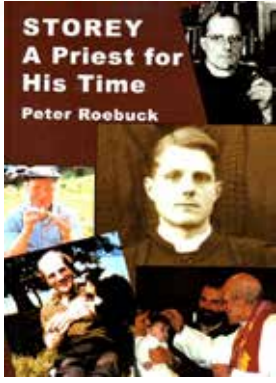
Summer ordinations 2019

Left: Fr John Waters, Fr Ryan Service and Fr Marco Egawhary, all from Birmingham diocese, were ordained on 20 July 2019.

Right: Fr Benjamin Woodley with his family at his ordination by Cardinal Nichols, Westminster Cathedral, 27 July 2019.

Photos: Mazur/Catholic News





Biography of Middlesbrough priest - Fr Tony Storey

Storey: A Priest for his Time by Peter Roebuck is a new biography of this remarkable old Roman. Tony Storey arrived at the College in 1936 and then took part in the 1940 evacuation, ending up back where he had completed his secondary education, Stonyhurst. Ordained in 1943 he served in various Middlesbrough parishes where he was known for his lifelong commitment to the underprivileged.



Fiercely but not uncritically loyal to the Church he had a questing mind, was a committed environmentalist and a skilled communicator and counsellor. The two imperatives he declared were: love one another and plant trees.

While a young man the author met Fr Tony, describing him as "the finest priest and one of the most remarkable human beings I have ever encountered".

This book is available from the publishers, Books Cumbria in Carlisle at £15 plus p&p: bookcasecarlisle@aol.com, tel. 01228 544560.

College photos from the late 1960s

Tony Laird who was at the College from 1964-69 has sent some interesting photos taken during his time, below are three that will be of interest.



Party time: Martin Devoy, Peter Conlon and Bill Kilgallon



Making the ascent of Monte Cavo, l. to r.: Clyde Johnson, Steven Dean, Adrian Toffolo, Tony Laird, Frank Pullen (RIP).



The College Rugby Club dinner around 1968 in a trattoria outside Rome, possibly Frascati. On the left hand table are Nick Coote, Thomas Atthill and Tony Convery. Identification of others present would be welcome to fmcomms@icloud.com.



Our next issue is out in June 2020, stories, pics and news items please to fmcomms@icloud.com, www.publishing.ie.

Special offers at Villa Palazzola - Rome's best kept secret



2020 - The Centenary Year of Villa Palazzola

To celebrate our 100th year we have some really special deals in low season for our guests next year.

Stay 3 nights and pay just €100 per person, full board, with wine at meals.

Valid dates are:

1 January - 31 March 2020 and
1 November - 19 December 2020.

Sole travellers are welcome and there is no surcharge whatsoever for a single room.

These deals won't be around for long, book your stay now!



Celebrating 100 years of Palazzola

As part of our centenary celebrations we will present 20 lucky guests each with a €100 accommodation voucher for Palazzola.

Anyone staying between April and October will be in with a chance of winning this great prize.

The small print

All offers supercede any other promotions, cannot be accumulated with any other special offers and are subject to availability.

All prices in euros and are per person per day. Book now to avoid disappointment.



Villa Palazzola, via dei Laghi km 10.800,
00040 Rocca di Papa (RM), Italy

www.palazzola.it palazzola@palazzola.it
Tel. 0039 06 9474 9178