

Palestine Revisited

In late August /early September I was able to return to Palestine helping to lead a group of international students from London University's Newman House Chaplaincy. Whilst in Bethlehem we went to visit the children we have been supporting through various activities in our parishes.

Presently they have moved out of their house near the Basilica of the Nativity and are living in Beit Sehour, (meaning 'place of the night watch'), one of the three towns that make up Bethlehem City. The temporary rented house is in the area that was once the shepherds' fields of the gospel and is right opposite the YMCA Shepherds' Field which was the first place we visited last year on our parish pilgrimage and where we learnt of the importance of olive trees to the Palestinians of the West Bank.

The sisters and children are living here whilst building work is being done to the house to improve the children's living conditions and to allow the sisters to help more children. This is due to the generous donation we got from the Broughton Charitable Society and other international donations the sisters have received. We have always asked that our money raised at events where we come together to eat and socialise, is used to help feed the children by buying things to supplement the very basic food items that would be all the sisters would be able to provide without additional support.

There were 14 living in the home in Bethlehem when we visited, there are now 21, including a couple of adult ladies with learning difficulties who are able to assist the sisters look after the children's basic needs, such as feeding, washing and dressing.



Little Amani, who I fell in love with last year, has come on a lot, she has been getting physio from Italian volunteers at the Bethlehem Arab rehabilitation Hospital. She now has some sitting balance and can stand with assistance. The day prior to our visit, two New Zealand volunteers staying for two months with the sisters had



taken her to the best physio in Palestine. They were in Hebron to get her fitted with leg braces, with these it is hoped she will be able to stand unaided as the next stage of her development. The little community always seem so happy and welcoming, I feel our money is being well spent as we support our little bit of the Holy Land. **Geoff Thompson**



Email enigmaarticles@hotmail.co.uk or give articles to Lesley, Geoff, Margaret or hand in at either office. You can also leave articles and photos on line at enigmaarticles@hotmail.co.uk

It's very confusing this year as today we are celebrating All Saint's Day on All Halloween and can you believe it we are at the end of October and already planning Advent and Christmas – tempus fugit.

Our big event this month was the Racial Justice Mass. As usual, due to meticulous planning and a lot of hard work from all sections of our communities, it was a great success. Thanks to everyone who took part. It was good to have Margaret Ann Fiskin, who is the chair of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice give the homily. She spoke of her experiences living in the USA as a child of a black diplomat during the 1960s - her father was the Ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago. Next year we are hoping to have the Mass actually on Racial Justice Sunday which is in mid September.

Geoff is back in the Holy Land and will visit Bethlehem again. He has contributed an article from his last visit. He was thrilled to be taking over £550 and some gifts to help the children of Bethlehem. Thanks to all that contributed. He will be going again early in 2011 so if you meant to donate and didn't get round to it there will be another opportunity.

Quote of the month I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold service was joy Tagore

Parish Walk Five of us went on a lovely, flat walk to the wildlife Trust site, at Mere Sands Wood near Rufford. It is an area of lakes, woodland and grasslands with a number of hides to watch the birds. With the aid of powerful binoculars we were able to see cormorants, herons, widgeon, coots, mallards and a brief flash of a kingfisher. Jorgina was fascinated by the mushrooms, puffballs and a very tame robin. However she got very tired towards the end but revived when Fr Tom carried her on his shoulders the last half mile. We retired to the Hesketh Arms for a drink after a fascinating trip.



Watch the newsletter for the next outing.

Hyning Once again a group from St Ignatius and English Martyrs went for a 'Quiet day' at Hyning and once again we were blessed with a beautiful autumn day. We had a fascinating talk from Sr Mary Anthony about St Ælred whose 900th anniversary is held this year. He founded the abbey at Rievaulx in Yorkshire



and composed some wonderful writings. In contrast the afternoon session was about angels and scripture. It was given by Sister Michaela who is a computers whizz and gave a power point presentation.

It was in the week we had the feasts of St Raphael and Michael and the Guardian Angels. Next month I'll tell you about writing icons at Hyning with Sister Mary Stella.

MN

Saints for October Sts. Simon & Jude 28th October

In the month dedicated by the Church to the Holy Rosary, we look at two apostles who will have actually known Our Lady.

Simon, a Galilean, is thought to have been a relation of Jesus and was known as the Zealot, which could mean he was an extreme Jewish nationalist or that he was just very keen to pursue his faith.

Jude, whose name was understandably, shortened from Judas to avoid confusion with Judas Iscariot, was, like Simon listed in the Gospels as an Apostle. He too was thought to have been a relation of Jesus and was also known as Thaddeus.

Both Simon and Jude had connections with John the Baptist but, after Jesus was baptised decided to follow him.

Little is known about their ministries, perhaps because they travelled widely in Lebanon, Persia and Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq). They are said to have been martyred in Persia, in what is now known as that most Christian of countries, Armenia.

St Simon is known as the patron saint of tanners and sawyers (the saw was thought to have been the instrument of his martyrdom.)

St Jude is considered an architect of the Christian Church and is widely known, throughout the Christian world, as the patron saint of desperate situations and lost causes.

Traditionally, on this feast, people would begin to prepare soul cakes for the feast of All Souls. Our part of England was well known for soul cakes and 'souling'. Does anyone have memories of this custom? Do let us know.

Soul! Soul! For an apple or two?
If you have no apples, pears will do.
If you have no pears money will do.
If you have no money, God Bless You.

Lesley Maloney

Traditionally soul cakes were flat round cakes flavoured with saffron, mixed spices and currants. Indeed, during the 19th and early 20th centuries children would go 'souling' on All Souls' Day (November 2nd) where they would request alms or soul cakes.