



*The FRIENDS of the*  
**HOLY FATHER**  
Annual Report – May 2017

**THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FATHER  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the thirty seventh Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Holy Father will be held on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 6.45 pm** in Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, Westminster, London SW1P 1QN. For security reasons tickets will be issued. Please see enclosed note. The Annual General Meeting will be preceded by the annual Mass at the high altar of Westminster Cathedral at 5.30pm, which will be celebrated by Bishop John Sherrington, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster.

23a Vincent House  
Vincent Square  
LONDON SW1P 2NB

Dr Michael Straiton KCSG, MB BS  
Hon. Secretary

**AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016**
- 3 To receive the Report of the Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**
- 4 To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**
- 5 Election of Council:**

Chairman	John Dean
Vice Chairman	David Murphy
Hon. Secretary	Dr Michael Straiton
Hon Treasurer	Alan Warren
Ecclesiastical Adviser	Fr Guy Sawyer
Other Council Members retiring by rotation:	
	Mary Maxwell

**6 Election of Independent Examiner**

To appoint Mr Gerard A Smith FCCA as Independent Examiner for the ensuing year.

**TIMETABLE**

5.30 pm	Mass in the Cathedral
6.45 pm	Annual General Meeting in Vaughan House
7.30 (approx)	Reception with buffet at which Friends have the opportunity to meet Bishop John Sherrington, the Council and each other.
8.30 pm (approx)	End of Meeting.

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

## UNRESTRICTED FUNDS - £

	2016 £ Income	2016 £ Expenditure	2015 £ Income	2015 £ Expenditure
<b>1 Income Donations</b>	6,660	-	150,215	-
Legacy	1,000	-	0	-
<b>2 Income from and expenditure on charitable activities</b>				
Members' subscriptions	7,270	-	7,787	-
Annual General Meeting	800	-	505	-
Meetings/reception	537	814	396	465
	<b>8,607</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>8,668</b>	<b>465</b>
<b>3 Allocation of governance and support costs Support (G&amp;S) support</b>				
Leaflets and stationery		1,668		1,558
Postage, website and publicity		804		801
		<b>2,472</b>		<b>2,359</b>
<b>Governance</b>				
Annual general meeting		660		555
Council meetings		40		65
Council member's travel		0		841
Independent examiner's fee		2,000		1,700
Bank charges		143		232
		<b>2,843</b>		<b>2,655</b>
Total governance and support costs		<b>5,315</b>		<b>5,752</b>
	<b>Total 2016</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>G&amp;S</b>	<b>Total 2015</b>
Analysis of charitable grant expenditure grant to the Holy Father as sponsorship of the conference of world mayors on people trafficking and setting up new website		125,000	4,751	129,751
Grant to the Holy Father to refurbish and re-equip the pontifical Swiss guards' gym		8,343	317	8,660
Grant to the Holy Father relating to meetings and conferences		18,000	684	18,684
G&S 2016 - No charitable grants	5,315	151,343	5,752	157,095

## UNRESTRICTED FUNDS - £

	2016	2015
<b>Income</b>		
Donations & legacy	7,660	150,215
Interest	25	23
Charitable activities	8607	8,688
Total income	16292	158926
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants to support the Holy Father	0	157095
Governance and support costs (G&S)	5315	0
Other charitable activities	814	465
Total expenditure	6129	157560
<b>Net income</b>		
Total funds brought forward	10163	1366
Total funds carried forward	56751	55385
	66914	56751

## TRUSTEES

Brian Callaghan, FCA  
John Scanlan, KCSG, KGCHS

## MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman John Dean BA, DipLaw, DipLP  
Vice Chairmen David Murphy, MA and Martin Dean KCHS MA (died 28.12.15)  
Hon. Secretary Dr Michael Straiton, KCSG, MB, BS  
Hon. Treasurer Alan Warren ACIB, BA, KC\*HS  
Other Council Members Fiona Murphy BA, MCIPR, MCIM  
Mary Goodwin, DCSG, DGCHS  
Margaret Hood  
Mary Maxwell, DSG, DC\*HS  
Ann Ross, DC\*HS LRCM  
Ivor Thomas BA (Hons), PGCert, QTLS

Ecclesiastical Adviser  
Registered charity number 280489

Fr Guy Sawyer



*The FRIENDS of the*  
**HOLY FATHER**

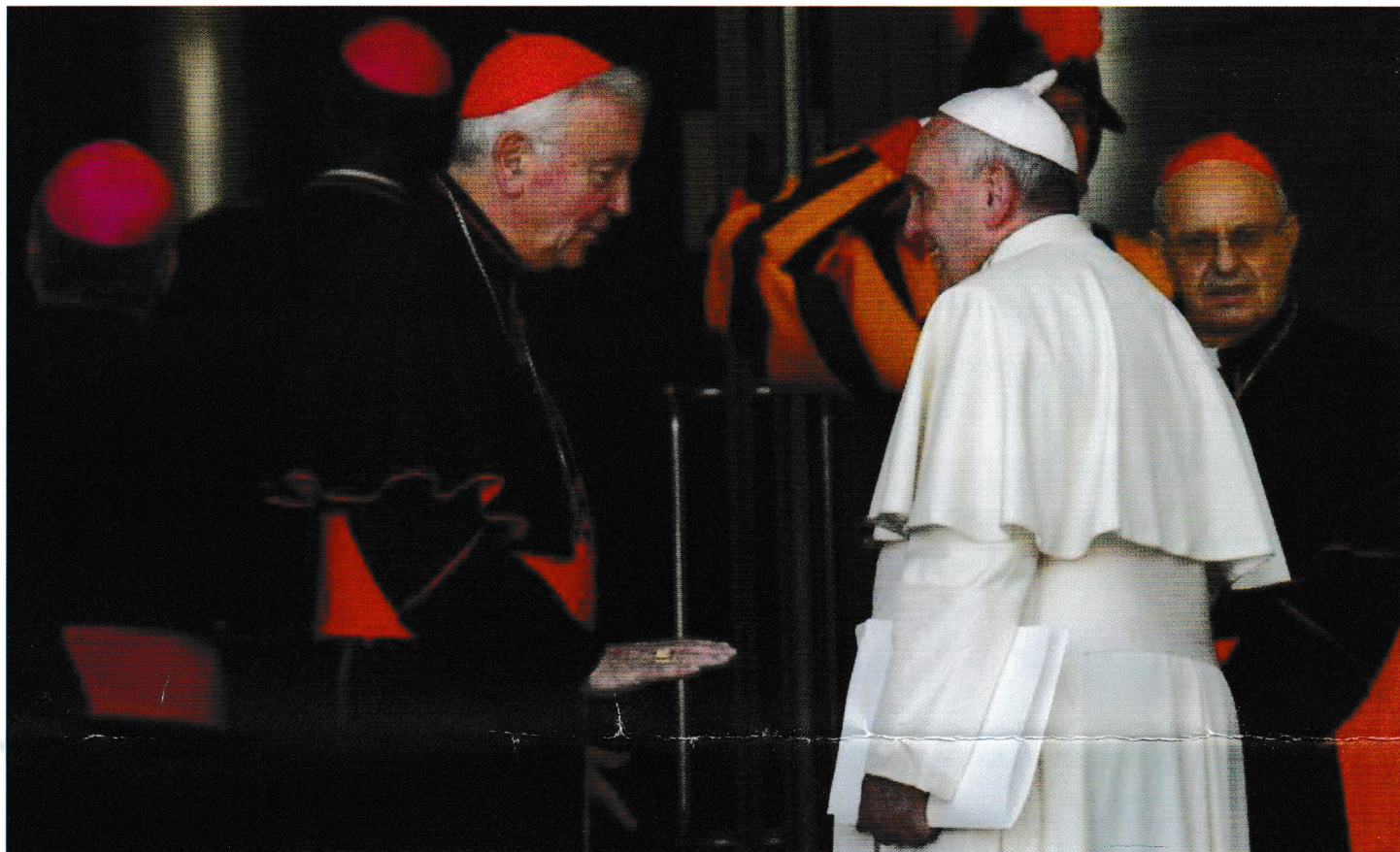
23A Vincent House, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2NB

Website: [www.thefriendsoftheholyfater.org](http://www.thefriendsoftheholyfater.org)



# Annual General Meeting 2016

Cardinal Vincent Nichols celebrated the annual Mass on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in Westminster Cathedral for the Pope's intentions. He had intended joining us at the meeting afterwards but had to leave London to fly to Rome. Our Chairman had the opportunity at the end of the Mass of addressing the congregation about the work of the FHF and membership leaflets were distributed afterwards.



*“He is who God has given us and, therefore, we follow his lead.”*

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, expressed his support for Pope Francis in the wake of questions raised by four Cardinals about parts of *Amoris Laetitia*. He made his remarks in an interview with an Irish Catholic newspaper while on a visit to Belfast.

Asked if he shared any of the concerns that had been expressed by Cardinal Raymond Burke and three other Cardinals, Cardinal Nichols said: “For me it is very simple. Pope Francis is the Pope. He is who God has given us and, therefore, we follow his lead.”

Asked how he would respond if the four Cardinals published a ‘formal correction’, Cardinal Nichols said: “The Pope is the one who has been chosen under the influence

of the Holy Spirit to lead the Church and we will follow his lead. I am not going to say anything more than that because I think the Pope's patience and reserve about this whole matter is exactly what we should observe.”

Questioned on whether he thought that *Amoris Laetitia* had changed any of the Church's teaching, Cardinal Nichols said: “There is no question of that. There is no question. The issues raised by *Amoris Laetitia* are not core doctrinal issues, these are about how we live, in very traditional terms actually. Everything in *Amoris Laetitia* is drawn from the tradition of the Church: how do we live the mercy of God and how do we enable people who feel judged, feel excluded, feel as if they have no place, to begin to explore the mercy of God.”

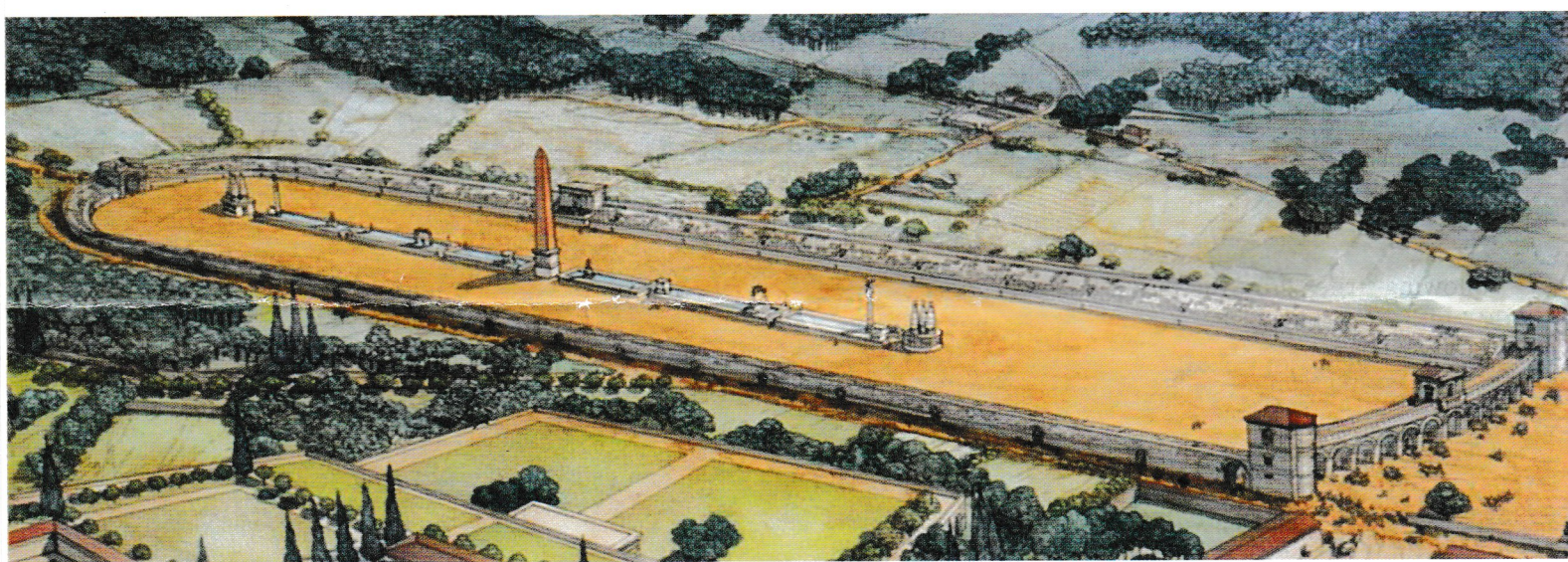


# ANNIVERSARIES

## 1950<sup>th</sup>: The Martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul in AD 67

In a sermon in the year AD 395, St Augustine of Hippo said of Saints Peter and Paul:

*Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labours, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith*



St Peter and St Paul are often referred to as the two men most responsible for spreading the Christian message in the early days of the Church. They were executed in AD 67 under the command of the Emperor in the Circus of Nero in Rome. In those days the Circus lay at the bottom of the Vatican Hill. St Peter was buried nearby, and St Paul just outside the south Wall of the city.

St. Peter was crucified upside down, reportedly because he said he was not worthy to be sacrificed in the same manner as Christ. Because of his Roman citizenship, St. Paul was beheaded.

On 29<sup>th</sup> June, the Church celebrates the feast day of both men, and as early as 258 AD, there is evidence of an already established tradition of this celebration taking place on that day. Above is a drawing by Jean-Claude Golvin of the first century Circus of Nero below the Vatican Hill.

After he became Emperor of the Western half of the Roman Empire, Constantine the Great issued the Edict of Milan in AD 313, which ended the persecution of Christians and, in effect, proclaimed Christianity as the new religion of his realm. He had seen the tiny *aedicula* or monument over the remains of St Peter, which had been erected in a cemetery line of mausolea to the north of the Circus of Nero. He decided to build a great cathedral over this insignificant memorial of the first Pope, but in order to do so a million square yards of earth from the south side of the Vatican Hill had to be excavated in order to create a stable platform below, an undertaking with which he personally engaged.

In 1940 workmen were digging in the Vatican Grottoes below the high altar in St Peter's Basilica and came across the cemetery road mentioned above. This was secretly excavated during the Second World War and the *aedicula* of St Peter was exposed and can now be seen by visitors.



# 900<sup>th</sup>: The Consecration of Merton Priory

Merton Priory, in the manor of Merton in Surrey, was consecrated in 1117. It was situated in the diocese on Southwark where the River Wandle is crossed by Stane Street, the Roman road, about six miles outside the City of London.

The Augustinian priory became an important centre of learning. Nicholas Breakspeare became a student there in 1125, and was later to become Adrian IV, the first English Pope in 1154. Thomas Becket studied there in 1130. Walter of Merton, founder of Merton College Oxford, gave it the name of the priory, as he was educated there in the 1230s.

The Priory was demolished in 1538 following King Henry VIII's policy of Dissolution of the Monasteries. Much of the masonry was reused for the building of Nonesuch Palace. Very little can be seen there today and much of the site is occupied by Sainsbury's supermarket in Merton.

Twenty one years after Magna Carta in 1236, Parliament met in Merton Priory to prepare the written parliamentary law in the form of the eleven chapters of the Statute of Merton, the very first Statute of England.

## 700<sup>th</sup>: The end of the Great Western Schism 1317

Following strife with King Philip IV of France and Pope Boniface VIII and the death of his successor Pope Benedict XI after only eight months in office, a conclave finally elected Clement V, a Frenchman, as Pope in 1305. Clement declined to move to Rome, remaining in France. In 1309 he moved his court to the papal enclave in Avignon, where it remained for the next 67 years.

Gregory XI returned to Rome in 1377, but the city had largely fallen into ruin over those long years of neglect and the Curia had mostly remained in Avignon. When Gregory died in 1378 a new Pope, Urban VI, was elected in Rome. The Cardinals who had remained in the south of France in the Palace of Avignon elected another Pope, Clement VII (1378-94). By the summer of 1379, having failed to capture Rome, Clement took up residence in Avignon and the stage was set for two papal 'obediences', Roman and Avignonese, and the two vied with each other for supremacy.

By 1417 there were three Popes ruling: John XXIII (antipope) at Pisa in the north of Italy; Gregory XII in the Vatican and Benedict XIII at Avignon. Finally a Council was called at Constance to resolve this intolerable dilemma. They deposed or accepted the resignation of the claimants, and elected the new Pope Martin V in their place. This move brought the schism to an end.

## August 12<sup>th</sup> 1417: King Henry V revived English



King Henry V of England began using English in correspondence back to England from France whilst abroad on campaign, two years after his victory over the French army at the Battle of Agincourt. This was the beginning of the restoration of English as the official language since the Norman Conquest in 1066, some 351 years earlier.



# Archbishop Antonio Mennini

Pope Francis has recalled Archbishop Antonio Mennini to the Holy See's Secretariat of State, the Department responsible for the Vatican's relations with states. We are grateful to the Archbishop for the help and assistance he has given us since Pope Emeritus Benedict appointed him as our Nuncio in 2010.

The Archbishop observed that "diplomats must immerse themselves in the culture of the country to which they have been posted. His first move is always to know the local culture, traditions and spiritual mood. He must also ask himself what he can learn from the posting to understand

better the country's feelings towards the Catholic Church. On one hand, a Nuncio must strengthen relations between the local church and the Holy See, and on the other must work to improve relations between the two states". Speaking of his posting to Great Britain, he observed, "As Pope Benedict XVI said in his speech to the Houses of Parliament in 2010, I think we must establish further fields of co-operation between the UK and the Holy See not only on social issues, but also to integrate cultural values which the Catholic Church can offer to British society, and also the values British society can bring to religious culture."

## Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams

The American Archbishop was appointed by Pope Francis as the Holy See's Ambassador to Great Britain on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

He was born in Philadelphia USA in 1944. He was ordained a priest by Cardinal Krol in Philadelphia in 1976 and studied at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy. The Diplomatic service of the Holy See can be traced back to 325 AD when Pope Sylvester sent legates



to represent him at the First Council of Nicea. The Academy was created as the Pontifical Academy of Ecclesiastical Nobles in 1701.

Archbishop Adams has served in Apostolic Nunciatures throughout the world, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, and most recently Greece.

We offer him our congratulations and assurance of prayers for the success of his mission to Great Britain.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Marian Apparitions at Fatima

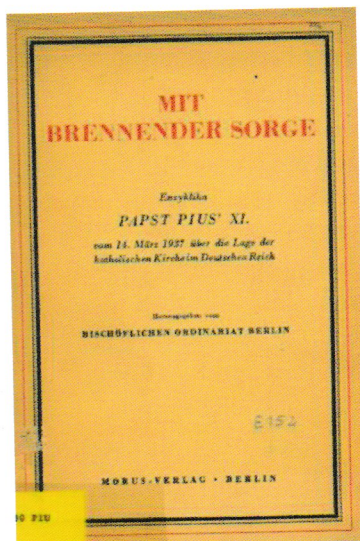
On May 13<sup>th</sup> 1917 the Virgin Mary appeared to three children who were tending sheep in Fatima, Portugal. Francisco and Jacinta Marto, nine and seven-years-old respectively, and their cousin Lucia dos Santos. The three children reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until October 13<sup>th</sup> 1917. Francisco died in the influenza epidemic in 1919 and Jacinta succumbed in 1920. Their cousin Lucia became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 aged 97. Their causes for canonisation continue.

## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1937 Encyclical that Infuriated Hitler

On Palm Sunday 1937, Pope Pius XI issued his encyclical, *Mit Brennender Sorge* (With Deep Anxiety), to the parishes of Germany. It was arguably the Holy See's harshest criticism ever of a political regime.

Breaking with tradition, Pope Pius XI chose to issue his encyclical *Mit brennender Sorge* in German rather than Latin. It was addressed to the German Catholic Bishops but was clearly and obliquely aimed at the German Government. He wrote that he had heard directly from Bishops and their representatives on how the faithful were standing up against repression, but also how so many were being led astray, clearly a reference to the atheistic Hitler Youth programme. Pius explained how the 1933





Concordat, an agreement between the German Government and the Vatican, which was desired by the German Bishops themselves, was meant to allow the peaceful and unfettered work of the Catholic Church in Germany. Now, he said, it has become clear that the German Government was deceitful in its motivation and the Nazis, (a name never used), 'from the

outset aimed only at a war of extermination, a religious war against Catholicism.' Pius stressed that the Church sought only peace, and to that end he had adhered to the letter and spirit of every treaty and agreement. He had decided to keep quiet, however, until the pattern of repression

was manifest to all and, following recent moves against Catholic schools, the latest outrage and a clear concordant violation, he had decided to speak out.

Pope Pius told the German bishops that Nazi attempts to re-establish pagan religion and to lower God to worldly status and raise themselves to the divine, were acts which showed their disdain for God. The Bishops' flocks needed to be reminded that all were subject to God's universal law and to be dissuaded from submitting to godless nationalism. He urged the Bishops to resist openly blasphemers and 'aggressive paganism.' Christ's Gospel must be taught, and the Old Testament must also be defended from anti-Semitic attacks by those blinded by 'ignorance and pride.' He tacitly attacked Adolf Hitler's cult of personality by holding up Christ as the only and ultimate focus of faith. To maintain that faith 'pure and unalloyed,' the Church was necessary. This 'divine structure, which stood on eternal foundations' had a mission with which no human organisation dared interfere (although the Nazis did).

## The earliest years of Christianity



Egypt is identified in the Bible as the place where the Holy Family sought refuge in its flight from Judea. The Egyptian Church is one of the oldest churches in the world, founded, as tradition holds, by St Mark himself around AD 42. Christianity spread rapidly through Egypt after St Mark's arrival in Alexandria as is clear from a New Testament papyrus fragment found in Upper Egypt, which is dated from around AD 120. St Jerome recorded that the Catechetical School in Alexandria was founded by St Mark himself. Students there included the native Egyptian Origen who is recognised as the father of Theology.

In 1920 a bundle of ancient papyrus fragments, that had survived in a dump in the dry Egyptian desert for nearly 2000 years, was purchased by the archaeologist Bernard Grenfell, and were consigned to the John Rylands Library in Manchester UK in 1920. It was not until 1934 that Colin H Roberts translated the text of the fragment and discovered that comparable hands in dated fragments between the late first and early second centuries AD showed connections to

the Emperor Hadrian (78 – 138 AD). It is part of a codex, a book. The left side image is a passage from St John's Gospel Chapter XVIII Verses 31-33, when Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" The other side of the fragment is from four verses where Jesus says that He came into the world to bear witness to the truth, to which Pilate replied, "What is truth?"

The Rylands Papyrus 52 is an important link between the Bible we read today and the Bible that was first recorded nearly 2000 years ago. This little manuscript, the oldest of the thousands in existence, reminds us that the Bible as we know it, printed in hundreds of pages, is not how it has always been. The Bible was first written by hand, and then painstakingly copied, one Greek character at a time, and Christians carried it with them wherever they went. P52 proves the existence and use of the Fourth Gospel during the first half of the Second Century AD in a provincial town on the bank of the Nile in Upper Egypt, far removed from its original place of composition at Ephesus in Asia Minor.



# Pope Saint John Paul II

Whilst In Israel, the Pope visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial to honour the memory of Jewish victims of the Shoah. His visit to the Western Wall including his placing in one of the cracks this prayer:

*God of all the ages  
on my visit to Jerusalem, the "City of Peace",  
spiritual home to Jews, Christians and Muslims alike,  
I bring before you the joys, the hopes and the  
aspirations,  
the trials, the suffering and the pain of all your people  
throughout the world.  
God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,  
hear the cry of the afflicted, the fearful, the bereft;  
send your peace upon this Holy Land, upon the  
Middle East,  
upon the entire human family;  
stir the hearts of all who call your name,  
to walk humbly in the path of justice and compassion.*

*"The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him!" (Lam 3:2)*

# The Vatican Budget

The Holy See is supported financially by a variety of sources, including investments, real estate income, and donations from individuals, Dioceses, and various institutions. These help fund the Roman Curia (Vatican offices), Diplomatic Missions and media outlets. An annual collection taken up in Dioceses and from direct donations to a non-budgetary fund known as Peter's Pence, which is used directly by the Pope for charity disaster relief and aid to Churches in developing nations. Donations increased between 2010 and 2011. The separate Vatican City State budget includes the Vatican Museums and Post Office, which is supported financially by the sale of stamps, coins, medals and tourist items; by fees from admission to museums, and sales of publications.

Its revenues increased between 2010 and 2011 because of longer opening hours and a growing number of visitors. However, the Holy See has not escaped the financial difficulties engulfing other European countries. In 2012 it started a spending review to determine where to cut costs to try to reverse its 2011 budget deficit of £20 million. The Holy See generated a modest surplus in 2012 before recording a \$32 million deficit in 2013. Most public expenditure goes on wages and other personnel costs; the income and living standards of Vatican lay workers is comparable to those of their counterparts who work in the city of Rome.

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## Pilgrimage to Rome - 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

This pilgrimage will visit places in Rome directly connected with St Peter, his life, ministry and death in the city. We will be attending Mass in the grottoes of St Peter's Basilica, very close to where the Prince of the Apostles died and was buried.

We will visit the Vatican Necropolis below the Vatican Grottos. This was discovered in 1940 when workmen were digging there to find a suitable location for the tomb of Pope Pius XI who had recently died.

The Necropolis runs much of the length of the Basilica and a small monument was found directly below the altar erected over the tomb of St Peter by Pope Gregory the Great in the late 6<sup>th</sup> century. The great baldachino over the high altar is the largest bronze object ever made.

Also in the same area is the tomb of Pope Adrian IV, the only English Pope. Nicholas Breakspear was crowned as Pope Adrian IV in Rome in 1154 and was known as the Apostle of Scandinavia. He was born at Abbot's Langley in Hertfordshire in AD 1100. Rejected from the school at St Alban's Abbey due to laziness he went to Paris for an

education, and joined the Abbey of St Rufus at Avignon as a novice, soon rising to the position of Abbot. He then entered the service of Pope Eugenius III who sent him as Papal Legate to Scandinavia. This was so successful that on his return, the Pope having just died, he was acclaimed his successor. Adrian successfully challenged the territorial advances of the German Emperor, Frederick Barbarossa, from the north; from King William of Sicily to the south, and the revolutionary movement in Rome itself. During his pontificate he restored the ancient Basilica of Sts John and Paul in Rome.

There are still a few places available for this pilgrimage – if you would like to join us please contact:

Anthony Coles,  
18 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX

Tel: 020 7431 3414 email: [arctc@btinternet.com](mailto:arctc@btinternet.com)  
for further information.