



# St. Pio Friary

## 2017 NEWSLETTER

After seven years of hard work on behalf of so many, the Lord in his mercy has brought to completion the major renovation of the former presbytery here at St. Patrick's. It will now be our new friary. The former friary can now be wholly dedicated to our works with the poor and destitute as well as our works of evangelization. On October 2nd Bishop Marcus Stock of Leeds presided over the blessing of the new friary. Many of our friends the diocese and beyond! It was truly a blessed day filled with a sense of gratitude and new beginnings. Bishop Marcus' words to the Catholics of Bradford encouraged us all,

*"We are here to stay, and we are here to grow."*

On December 22nd, we hosted our annual Christmas dinner for our friends in the neighbourhood. It went off without a hitch! Over 120 people were blessed with a beautiful Christmas dinner. Thank you to all the volunteers and cooks, as well as our Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal who blessed the dining area with music, carols and their joyful witness.

The brothers have enjoyed many visitors in recent months, including several men visiting us from England and the Continent to discern a possible call to our CFR life. May the Lord bless them and give them courage and light to follow Jesus wherever he leads!

The other big news is the establishment of our community as a Pontifical Institute. The Church's approval of our charism for the universal Church is a cause for gratitude and to being again in our life of renewal.

And finally, thank you to all our generous and inspiring benefactors who have supported the Lord's work at St. Patrick's Mission, Bradford. The brothers are continuing to pray for the grace to cooperate with what He desires to do through us.

*May the Lord cause the  
gift of renewal to  
flourish in the hearts of  
all who come to our  
mission at St. Patrick's  
and throughout the city  
and diocese*



Brexit and Donald Trump: Two rather unexpected occurrences that have shaken the public square and have given rise to numerous speculations as we move into 2017. These are, no doubt, significant events that will shape our future. Yet as we begin this New Year do we take time to reflect on that which shapes our eternal destiny? History tells of how Presidents come and go. Empires rise and fall. Money and all its benefits wither and fade. Yet the words of Christ remain; **“I did not come into the world to judge the world, but that through me, the world might be saved.”**

The year of 2016 was one of great sadness and distress, as the world witnessed the destructive power of violence and unforgiveness destroy many lives. But it was also a year of great grace. The year of mercy pronounced by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, offered the world a remedy. Through this year of mercy many people encountered the merciful love of our Heavenly Father. The healing power of the sacrament of reconciliation was re-discovered, allowing many wounds, long held in the dark, to be brought into the healing light of Christ's presence and transformed into doorways, through which God's mercy could reach and transform us.

The unfathomable mercy of God is the hope of our time, as it is of every time. But for this hope to become active in our lives and in our world, we are invited to encounter, experience, this mercy for ourselves. The mercy that God offers is the unbounded love of a father for his child: A love so strong that even death cannot contain it. This love changes us and helps us to realize that if we are loved so much that even our sins can be forgiven; then we too can love and forgive one another.

As we begin this New Year we can take time to reflect on our relationship with Our Lord; remembering that Jesus is not a way, a truth and a life. No. **He is the way, the truth and the life.** Indeed as St Teresa of Calcutta says: “He alone is the way worth following, the light worth lighting and the love worth loving.” Our world will remain shrouded in fear, violence and unforgiveness, so long as we do. Allowing ourselves to be loved is the first step. Opening up to Christ and asking to experience his love and mercy begins a new day in our lives. And the light of that new day will break through the darkness that hovers over our world. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (JN 1:5)



## Event Calendar

**OPEN DAYS - 18th March, 13th May**

**Youth 2000 Leeds - 10-12 February**

**March for life UK - May 20th**

**Join the bro's on the 3 peaks challenge to raise funds for St. Patrick's mission - 5th August.**

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and 7pm - 9pm

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