



2018 CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

St. Pio Friary



Friary News

This summer forged a new fellowship in the Friary. Fr. Conrad was transferred back to New York and Br. Joshua, one of our friars in temporary vows returned to Scotland. Both friars were well-loved by the poor and the people of the diocese. They are missed by their brothers. Later in the summer, Br. Angelo Lefevre who had been based in London since 2012 moved to Bradford as the new vocation director. Although the fellowship was broken a new one was quickly forged. The friars are doing well and are very much looking forward to getting stuck-in with the life and ministry of the Mission that continues to develop.



Mission News

St Patrick's Mission Church will soon be established as an inner-city centre for evangelization and renewal. Our work with the poor continues and our work of evangelization is developing. Our vision is that everyone who experiences the life and ministry of St Pio Friary and St Patrick's Mission will be renewed and restored in the love of Christ present in the heart of his Church. One of our friends when he first came to the Mission was struck by what he found. After leaving his faith 15 years prior, he said **"I never knew the Catholic Church this way before!"** He's been coming back to Mass and the sacraments ever since.

Our vision for our service to the poor is to provide a place of hospitality and spirituality that restores and reflects the dignity of our guests. Recently a group of our friends from the kitchen arrived at the friary quite anxious.

There were rumours that the friars were closing down the kitchen! We were equally disturbed by the thought. We reassured them that we were here to stay.

The conversation quickly changed to inquire about what soup was on and when their church was going to be open. Calm had been restored. We were glad they have found a home at the Friary and Mission not only in our kitchen but also in the Church.

Our service contributes to building a culture of love and truth around them. Despite their lifestyles and circumstances each of our guests are beloved children of God, destined for heaven. Each week we host as many as 200 people but we are only able to seat 24 people at a time and the numbers are rising!

Our ministry of hospitality, therefore, has extended to include friars mingling with our guests in the cue waiting to be seated.

Our work of evangelization continues. In a recent meeting with our bishop, Bishop Marcus Stock, he commissioned us to call, form, and send-out missionary disciples. He wants the Friary and St Patrick's Mission to be a centre for evangelization and renewal. A work we are more than happy to do.

A young man approached us recently after one of our events and said:

"Wow, that was amazing! It answered questions about my faith that I have been asking for a very long time. Thank you."



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Franciscan Friars of the Renewal
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We are currently preparing for a spring opening of St Patrick's Mission Church. A new roof was installed this summer and the interior works will begin after Christmas. We are preparing for a grand opening celebration on Saturday, March 16th 2019. Please check the website for more details:
www.stpatricksmmission.co.uk

Amidst the grossly disturbing storms of the Church, the call to mission and evangelization endures. The call of Pope Francis to see the Church as a field hospital is more poignant than ever. The weak and marginalised need support but so does the Church herself. As we wait in humble expectation for the coming of the Christ child, let us wait in certain hope that he is coming to make all things new.

All of our events and retreats are advertised on our website: www.stpatricksmmission.co.uk/discipleship



Friends of the Mission

Please join us in our essential work of evangelization and of service to the poor in the inner city of Bradford. By the Lord's grace, our goal is to invite many more people to be a part of our life and ministry in the inner city of Bradford so that many more will be able to encounter the Lord and be renewed through the life and ministry of our inner-city Mission.



Volunteer in our soup kitchen -

www.stpatricksmmission.co.uk/contactus

Organize a tin collection at work or in your school for our soup kitchen.

Invite the Friars to speak at a community group, visit your school, lead a Day Retreat or a Mission at your parish. -

www.stpatricksmmission.co.uk/contactus

Organize a fundraiser or sponsored walk in support of the Friars' living expenses or work with the poor.

All the resources you need are available at

www.cfrfranciscans.co.uk/donatejustgiving

Offer a one-off or a monthly donation towards the friars' living expenses. -

www.cfrfranciscans.co.uk/donate

Thank you for your on-going support and generosity.

We pray for our benefactors daily and on the 1st Friday of the month a mass is offered for your intentions.

A Donation can be made on-line at www.cfrfranciscans.co.uk

Specific Items

- Post Office calling cards.



www.cfrfranciscans.co.uk
www.stpatricksmmission.co.uk
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