

Father Ken celebrates his Golden Jubilee



On 10th July, over 250 people gathered at St Aidan's Church in Little Chalfont to join Father Ken Payne as he celebrated Mass in the presence of Bishop Peter Doyle. On a very hot sunny day, the church was packed, even in the gallery, with parishioners, relatives, former parishioners, fellow priests and Teams couples.

Father Ken trained in Paris, and was ordained at the Notre Dame Cathedral on 29th June 1960. He celebrated his first Mass at St Edward's church, Guildford, before serving as an RAF chaplain, and at several parishes in the Northampton diocese, including Aylesbury, and a time as Dean at Northampton Cathedral. It was whilst at Northampton that Father Ken joined Teams of Our Lady, serving as Sector Chaplain, Regional Chaplain and latterly Super-Regional Chaplain. Teams couples who served with Father Ken throughout this time were all present – including Paul and Clare Callaghan, Mick and Nora Courtney, Paddy and Jacinta Quigley, and Paul and Helena McCloskey – and Peter and Jan Ralton, the Eurasia Zone Liaison Couple on the International Leading Team, were also present.



Peter and Jan with Father Ken

In his sermon, Father Ken spoke of three major influences on his ministry – one was his period as RAF chaplain, and the second was being in Teams of Our lady, and finally his involvement with Missionaries of the Poor, and in particular, the time he spent working with the Missionaries in Jamaica supporting their work with the poor and marginalised.



Father involved everyone in the service, finding time for a children's address – some 20 children seated around Father Ken on the altar, as he spoke directly to them.

During the Mass, Bishop Peter, the 6th Bishop Father Ken had served under, invited Father Ken to renew his priestly vows, and we all prayed that he would continue to serve as priest for many more years.

The Prayer on the Mass Card :-

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve and with boundless confidence, for you are my father. Amen.

After the Mass, the parishioners organised an impressive sit-down lunch for everyone, which gave us a chance to speak to others – Father Ken challenged us to speak to two people we had never met before. In doing so we made new acquaintances and discovered that we all held Father Ken in high regard. Those who know Father Ken are well aware that he lives simply. So, what gift to mark this wonderful occasion and say thank you for his years of ministry ? The imaginative parishioners decided to present Father Ken with a travel voucher to enable him to visit relatives in Australia – and they made sure it was a return ticket!



Caroline Chisholm – emigrant’s friend

Caroline Chisholm is almost unknown in her native Northampton, in the centre of England. But when Peter and Jan Ralton, the Eurasia Zone Liaison Couple on the International Leading Team, stayed for a few days, they were very keen to visit her grave, in the Billing Road cemetery. **Why ?**



Well, in Australia, Caroline is well known for her support of poor immigrants, and there is even a movement for her canonisation.

(see <http://www.mrschisholm.com>)

Born in 1808, and converting to Catholicism when she married, Caroline and her husband, Captain Archibald Chisholm, lived first in Madras, and then Sydney. In Madras and Sydney, she found that many young girls slept in doorways, and were forced into crime and prostitution. She decided to open a school in Madras for these girls. In Sydney, the situation was similar. Most had come over from England and found that life was hard. Caroline took it upon herself to help these women, and to lead a campaign handing out pamphlets and writing to government officials. Caroline continued her campaign to improve the lot of immigrants when she returned to England, recruiting such famous people as Charles Dickens to the cause.

2nd TransAtlantic Super-Regional Conference

8 to 10 October 2010

At the Hayes Conference Centre
Swanwick, Derbyshire, UK
‘Let Us Journey Together’



75 couples and 25 children are booked to come the Gathering. Over 25 Teams couples and chaplains are coming from Trinidad, Malawi, South Africa and Ireland, so if GB couples can offer hospitality to a couple or chaplain either before or after the Gathering, please contact us.

Our allocation of rooms is fully booked, but for last minute availability or further information, contact Antony and Janet Denman, email ARDenman@aol.com or Phone 01604 881152.