

*British Federation of
Notre Dame de Namur
Associations*



St. Julie News
2019

BFNDA CONFERENCE WEEKEND

August 30th – September 2nd, 2019

On Friday August 30th members of BFNDA from around the country gathered at Hinsley Hall Leeds, for the annual conference and AGM. Fraught by having had a puncture on our journey from Sheffield, my friend Pat Smith and I arrived just in time for conference secretary Lorraine Platt's excellent zumba/pilates session, which included some welcome relaxation. We then settled into our rooms before the first of the weekend's delicious meals.

Plenty of excellent quality goods were available, made by members and friends. Margaret Bradbury ,N.D. Northampton, displayed bags. Hand-crafted fancy goods, including scarves and knitwear came from vice president Bernie Shaw, Manchester. Cards were provided by Lorraine's friends from Prestwich Craft Club. We bought our Christmas presents and supported the Federation charity. The evening found us singing songs from musicals, ably accompanied on guitar by Sheila Liddieth of N.D. Manchester, after which we enjoyed a quiz and a game of pass the parcel, involving more fitness exercises.

Next morning, we visited the lovely town of Wetherby. Margaret Dolan,N.D. Manchester president, had prepared a leaflet about the town's attractions. Fr. Chris Thomas, our chaplain, bought kitchen ware in The Shambles, which has a grade 2 listed colonnade of shops. Some of us walked to the ancient bridge, with its war memorial, or strolled along the River Wharfe's walkway. There was no meeting at the racecourse, so we missed having a flutter on the horses! Before returning to Leeds we had refreshments at 10% discount in Bar 3.

In the afternoon, Lesley Freeman chaired a direct members meeting, then all gathered for an enlightening presentation by honorary Nigerian chief Sr. Annette Sullivan about what the sisters have done in Nigeria since 1962. Most of the sisters there are Nigerians. The country spends less on education than does any other African state. Its greatest threats are Boko Haram, corruption, low life expectancy, poor public health provision, an increasing divide between rich and poor and high illiteracy.

The sisters promote girls' education, believing educated women will achieve more than men are currently doing. They aim to build a secondary school, at a cost of app. £ 20,000.00 in Ogwa, where they already have a primary school.

The AGM followed, chaired by our president Diane Donovan.

Evening prayer in the Chapel, was led by Sr. Jo Threlfall.

Later we enjoyed a pre-prandial glass of Prosecco. Srs. Jo, Annette, and Patricia Sullivan joined us for the annual dinner during which Diane shared toasts with each N.D. group.

Afterwards, Pat White, N.D. Southwark president, spoke of her memories of visiting Rome, aged 14, for the canonisation of St. Julie Billiart.

Margaret Dolan gave us her account of a more recent visit to commemorate the 50th anniversary. Srs. Annette & Jo were each given an N.D. cushion to take back to Nigeria and Sr. Annette has since reported that, during the 10 hour wait in Dubai airport, she found a corner to rest on her cushion and was the most comfortable person there.

Mary Kendal, N.D. Manchester, could not join us, but on Sunday, Bernie entertained us by reading an interesting report from Mary, about time spent in Nigeria, with her aunt Veronica S.N.D. Fr. Chris said a lovely Mass, preaching a thought- provoking sermon about humility. Sheila accompanied the hymns, this time on the organ. After lunch, most left but a few of us stayed on for one more night. We had a walk in Woodhouse Park, in the rain, but nonetheless pleasurable because of the good company. Later we watched the film 'The Way' in which four pilgrims, wounded by their experiences of life, find healing during the journey to Compostella.

We left for home on Monday having enjoyed an inspiring weekend, meeting old friends and making many new ones from the Notre Dame family of past pupils, eager to meet them all again next year and for years to come.

Francesca Flynn, N.D. Sheffield & Mount Pleasant Liverpool, D.M.

Memories of Rome and the 50th anniversary of the Canonisation of St Julie Billiart

Our Roman adventure began when a group of us decided that it would be a great idea to visit Rome to celebrate the 50th anniversary celebration of St Julie's canonisation.

We made inquiries about a Mass at St Peter's through a Vatican connection but was told that it wouldn't be possible to celebrate Mass at St Peter's. We contacted Damien Louden, brother of 2 Notre Dame ex-pupils, who was a late vocation and was continuing his studies in Rome. Damien, or Father Damien as he is now, said he would love to help us but he would be leaving Rome to return to England the week before our visit. He spoke to his tutor in canon law, Monsignor Paul McInerny, from Boston in America who was based at Santa Maria Maggiore, one of the 4 major basilicas in Rome. A strange coincidence was that Monsignor McInerny had been taught by Notre Dame Sisters in Boston and had a great affection for St Julie, so he was delighted to offer to celebrate Mass for us in Santa Maria Maggiore.

We began our journey on Friday June 21st from Manchester. We had arranged to meet other members of our group at the hotel San Valentino where we were to be based. Whilst making ourselves comfortable before the plane took off we noticed a group of school children boarding the plane. When we spoke to them, they told us they were the choir from a school in Leyland in Lancashire and were going to sing in Rome. Their first venue was that evening at Saint Paul Outside the Walls Basilica. We told them we would attend if possible. When we met the other members of our group they were also keen to support the choir so we spent a pleasant first evening listening to the young people who were delighted to see us there.

The following morning we met Monsignor McInerny at San Maria Maggiore Basilica. What a wonderful man he was. He was very welcoming and had a great sense of humour. He had arranged to celebrate Mass in one of the side chapels. The main altar is only used for the Pope who visits the

church regularly and celebrates the Mass of The Assumption on August 15th there every year. Pope Francis visited the church to pray, on the day of his election. The first church on the site was built in the fourth century and dedicated to Our Lady after the Council of Ephesus had decreed Mary to be the mother of God, but the building that is there now was built in 432AD. It is one of the 4 basilicas (most highly ranked) of Rome, the others being St Peter's, St John Lateran and St Paul Outside the Walls. The church is dedicated to Our Lady and contains mosaics with the earliest representations of the Virgin Mary. In the 16th century the ceiling was gilded in gold brought by Christopher Columbus and presented by Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain.

June 22nd, the day we were to celebrate Mass, is the feast day of St John Fisher and St Thomas More so this was even more relevant to our group from England as we were able to celebrate our own saints' feast day in the Basilica. The Mass was wonderful and even the readings and the Gospel seemed to echo a chord. The first reading was from Corinthians on the theme of, 'When I am weak, then I am strong.' The gospel proclaimed, 'Do not worry what to wear and what to eat. Tomorrow will take care of itself. Our Heavenly Father knows our needs.' Both themes seemed very relevant in our lives today.

After Mass Monsignor McInerny took us on a tour of this amazing church. He had a huge bunch of keys and told us he would take us to places where no one else was allowed to visit. As well as the wonderful Borghese chapel, named after Pope Paul V Borghese, where the Icons of Our Lady were on display, he showed us the beautiful Sistine Chapel not to be confused with the one in the Vatican. It is now the Blessed Sacrament chapel and a peaceful place for private prayer. He then took us down to the chapel of the Nativity where fragments of wood from the manger in Bethlehem are kept. It was a beautiful place,

small and dignified, and together we sang 'Away in a Manger' there in honour of our Lady and the infant child Jesus.

After leaving the Basilica we spent the afternoon visiting other sites including the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. We also found the Babington Tea Rooms where we were grateful to sit down and enjoy a much needed, 'Auntie Annie's Afternoon Tea.'

On Sunday we went to the 10.30am Mass at St Peter's. Contrary to what we expected, although there was a large crowd, we managed to find seats and were able to celebrate Mass together. The Mass was a sung Latin Mass, very elaborate but dignified, attended by many cardinals, bishops and priests. The singing was excellent. Afterwards we visited the tomb of Pope John Paul II who was canonised in 2014. We spent some time in the chapel and offered prayers for all members of Notre Dame Associations.

When we left St Peter's we realised we were in a really good place for Pope Francis's Angelus address from his balcony. It was very crowded but there was a large screen near where we were standing. Although it was difficult to understand much of his greeting as our Italian is not up to scratch, we were able to hear him welcome those from Notre Dame, he mentioned Liverpool, and all who had come for their special celebration for St Julie.

An unexpected event happened in the evening. On our way to a restaurant for our evening meal, we noticed a small altar set up at the side of the road and a number of people standing around. When we asked what the altar was for it seemed that it was outside the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family, who helped young mothers through childbirth and their children. Being the feast of Corpus Christi, a procession would be passing by and would be stopping for exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a short prayer service. We stayed and felt very blessed that we had another unique opportunity to give thanks for the great work of St Julie and her followers.

Sadly, on Monday we left Rome but our coincidences were not concluded. As we were seated on the plane we noticed another group of children boarding, this time with the Notre Dame badge on their baseball caps. When we asked where they were from, they told us they were from St Julie's High School in Liverpool. During the flight, Mike Anderson, who is the lay chaplain at St Julie's, came to talk to us. His mother, Joan Anderson, is a member of the Notre Dame Association in Liverpool and had attended many of our events. Bernie already had links with the Liverpool group and was to attend their Strawberry tea in Liverpool. It's a small world! So we came home, very tired, but full of gratitude for the chance to be involved in such a wonderful celebration for St Julie. Truly the memory of a lifetime. If any of you are still around in fifty years' time I would strongly advise you to visit Rome for the 100 years anniversary!

Margaret Dolan

*In Jesus Christ we are all one nation though
we may come from different countries and
different grades of society.*

St. Julie

Conference Secretary's Report.

Good afternoon. I would like to welcome you all to the Conference. It is nice to meet you all and to put faces to the names of the people I haven't met before. I have enjoyed receiving all your letters and cards with your booking forms. So, thank you for all your good wishes. I was very pleased to receive so many lovely cards and letters following the 90th anniversary weekend.

I'd like to welcome, particularly, our chaplain Fr Chris Thomas, Sr Jo Threlfall, Sr. Annette Sullivan and Sr. Patricia Sullivan. It is our good fortune that Sr. Annette is currently on home leave from Nigeria and has agreed to spend a weekend of her holiday with us. We are delighted to see you all here.

We've had a very good response to this conference weekend and it is lovely to see you all. I hope that you are all as comfortable as possible.

It is always difficult to follow a big occasion, such as the 90th anniversary celebrations last year. I've tried to bring my own modern twist to this 91st conference weekend. I hope that you are all enjoying it so far.

My special thanks must go to all the Conference Secretaries here today especially my predecessor Wendy Banyard for her all inclusive notes. You can all sit back and have a relaxing weekend this time, and be very glad that you are not standing here.

Special thanks to my dear friend, Margaret Dolan. Margaret and I started at Notre Dame, Manchester together in 1960 and we've been friends ever since. She came with me on a trial visit to Wetherby where we spoke to the Tourist Board in the Town Hall, the owners of the bars and teashops and we made the arrangements for this morning's drive.

This evening there will be a pre-dinner drinks reception at 6.30pm and dinner at 7pm. There is a table plan for this evening outside the dining room. We are having a served dinner this evening which includes wine or soft drinks. After dinner coffee will be served in the dining room.

Tomorrow morning after breakfast one of the staff will be taking a group photograph on the steps at the front of the Hall. Then before Mass, whilst we have a cup of tea in the lounge, we'll have the raffle and prizes.

The staff of Hinsley Hall are looking after us well as always. We will be presenting the manager and staff with a gratuity, as usual, after lunch tomorrow and I will be writing to them after the conference.

After lunch tomorrow some of you will be leaving for home. For the people who are staying until Monday there will be an optional walk for an hour in the afternoon along the Meanwood Trail which is a wooded area not far from here. Then, following the walk, we will be having afternoon tea. We will be showing a film tomorrow evening followed by supper in the lounge.

A note for your diary. Next year's conference is on 4th-7th September 2020. Following this AGM there will be a short comfort break (10 minutes or so) then we will go straight to the Chapel for evening prayers.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the weekend.

Lorraine Platt

SOUTHWARK NOTRE DAME ASSOCIATION

And so another year has passed by and another report for SJN is due. Since my last report the committee members of SNDA have continued to meet regularly and have enjoyed the hospitality and support of the school for both our regular meetings and, of course, for St Julie's Day held this year in May.

Following St Julie's Day last year a summer theatre trip was organised by Sue Ringwood and this was followed in November by our annual Mass for the Deceased in St George's Cathedral. After our lunchtime Mass a number of members enjoyed a delicious meal at The Riverside Cafe. A lovely atmosphere prevailed and there was lots of laughter and chatter as we relished a welcome lunch. Our thanks to Pat York who is kind enough to undertake the organisation of the November lunch.

The year quickly came to its end and before we had time to think about things we were in preparation mode for another St Julie's Day, held at the School and with the kind support and cooperation of Sister Anne-Marie.

Our guest speaker this year for St Julie's Day was Veronica Whitty, a past pupil of the school and current member of the Association who spoke to us about Estelle White. Veronica gave the members attending St. Julie's Day some background about the life and work of Estelle, who amongst other things, was a hymn writer! We learnt that Estelle is often viewed as a versatile lady, who enjoyed a varied career and lived life to the full.

Veronica has written a book about Estelle in which she chronicles this most unusual life. We were also joined on St Julie's Day by Father Rudolf who celebrated Holy Mass and of course Geraldine Hine was with us once again to encourage us all to sing and accompanied us most beautifully on the piano. Our thanks go to all who work so hard and are so generous with their time making St Julie's Day so special for us all. It is important to remember and thank the school staff who make us welcome throughout the day, and who look after us so well year in and year out.

Sadly, we have learnt of the deaths of some of our members, as well as some of the teaching staff whose names will, I'm sure, be familiar to many of us. They include : Maureen Brass - former President of SNDA. Valerie Thompson - for many years a science teacher at the school.

Anne Byrne nee McCarthy died, aged 93, sister of Mary Lelliott (both Anne and Mary have been long time members of the Association).
Maureen Scamell nee Manley

And more recently we heard that Mary Lelliott very sadly passed away on 12th July of this year. Sadly, Mary had been suffering from cancer for some time.

Brigid Duffy, also a former teacher of IT at the school, died this year and we have also been informed of the deaths of two former pupils who although not members of SNDA are in our prayers. They are Fiona Finn and Caroline Keenaghan. May they rest in the grace and goodness of the love of God.

As we now prepare for our year to come to an end with our November Mass and Christmas celebrations we also start to think about the New Year with the renewed hope for the health and future of all our members. We will continue to give our support to the school and look forward to awarding our annual bursary to one of the students again this year.

Preparations are already underway for St Julie's Day 2020 and we will shortly be announcing dates for our events for the year ahead.

In closing though, I must express grateful thanks to all who help to keep the association going. The committee members, the school staff, our speakers each year and of course our dedicated members who come together to enjoy friendship and communion. Thank you all - we couldn't do it without you.

Pat White

*Let us all pray for one another that we may fulfil perfectly the designs that Jesus has upon us.
St. Julie*

Web Site Report

If you do a general search on Google, the picture of my house has now disappeared, but instead my address appears! I have to start complaining again because this is a different complaint. I need to get this problem sorted out before I pass on the job to anyone else.

For one reason and another I have been slow in updating the website. The section relating to last year's AGM was a disaster because I lost all the pictures that I took.

An edited version of SJN is now on the website as are copies of some previous ones.

I have updated the Associations Diary of events. Thank you, Northampton for the copy of your newsletter which gives all the information. I also provide an edited copy of this for interested viewers.

Sheila Fuller gave me information about Sheffield ND School celebrations this year and these were included under 'Other Events'.

I have added a small history of St Helens and intend to put in a small bit about Norwich. I tried to get permission to insert an old photo and an up to date one but have had no response from the school. I have also been in contact with the Battersea president about the history of Battersea. She has much archive material which she has asked me to take to Liverpool. I have also heard from another Battersea member who has sent me some useful pictures that I can use.

When researching other schools, it looks as if I will need to go to the National Archives to find out more so if anyone from one of the schools not yet included has any pictures or information please let me know.

I continue to get enquires about various schools. Very often they are from members of the families of previous pupils. If the queries relate to schools with existing associations, I will contact them to see if they can help. I did have a query about a former Leeds pupil (well before my time). I contacted Catherine Byrne who, theoretically, might have known her but no. I occasionally direct enquirers to try the Sisters but I know that they do not have the time or personnel to deal with these.

Please let me know of any event that relates to Notre Dame schools and it will be included in the 'Other Events' section.

Mary Lewis Web Manager

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL BATTERSEA 1870 – 1982

The Sisters of Notre Dame came to Battersea in 1870 two years after the building of a new church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Joseph. They came to provide education for the poor children of a greatly increased population in the area. Built opposite the new church, the school was designed by the son of John Chessell Buckler, in the Victorian neo-Gothic / Flemish style of his father, the architect responsible for Cotessy Hall in Norfolk, the family home of Sr Mary of St Francis (the Hon, Laura Petre) to whom the foundation of Catholic education in this country owes so much. The finished convent was acknowledged to be 'more picturesque than convenient'. Later diaries constantly refer to 'very judicious additions', but there are many references to 'the pride the poor people took in this splendid frontage'.

In addition, a public elementary school (St. Mary's) and a Private Day School, the forerunner of the later Grammar School, were erected on the same site. The school officially opened on 26th May 1870.

The immediate years following are sparsely documented although during this time the Sisters took charge of other schools such as Sacred Heart, Trott Street, in the neighbourhood. By 1899, the school now too small for increasing numbers, a further two storeys were built over ground floor classrooms to accommodate resident pupils. An extension, built outwards and over, provided a new convent chapel.

18th October 1899: 'His Lordship Bishop Bourne made his visitation. Sister Superior sent a carriage and pairs to greet him....'.

On 23rd May 1900: The sisters remained up till 10 o'clock to look at the torchlight procession in honour of the relief of Mafeking'

29th March 1901, the Day (Higher School) ceased to exist and re-opened as Notre Dame High School for Young Ladies. June 1904 came official recognition by the Board of Education. In January 1905, the school was approved as a Pupil Teachers' Centre. August 1906, the London County Council granted permission for acceptance into the school of L.C.C. County Scholarship holders. Numbers rose from 45-112. The existence of the school was secured. A new wing was begun in January 1907, joined to the existing building at a right angle to school and church. It included a large hall, (The Salle), with classrooms and dormitories above.

18th October 1907: 'The County Council paid the £15 water bill for which we had been praying all the year'.

28th April 1909: 'Recreation for dinner for the great event of Man Flying from London to Manchester'.

7th May 1910: 'Recreation at dinner to talk about King Edward who lies dead in Buckingham Palace'.

In 1914, on the outbreak of war, Sisters and children from the Belgian Houses sought refuge and hospitality which Sr. Anne of St Gabriel, Sr. Superior for Battersea, gladly gave.

12th March: 'The sanctuary lamp fell down today

1917: 'The Corpus Christi procession had to be diverted as the lawn had been planted with potatoes'.

1917: 'Sr. Josephine H.F. was decorated with a bronze medal for undertaking war work, making clothes in her school for the Belgian Refugees in France'

April 1918: 'The Beeches, Caterham, was bought, purchased as a country house for the Sisters.'

After 1919, there were no resident pupils, dormitories were converted into classrooms, library and laboratories. The Golden Jubilee of foundation was celebrated in 1920, Rev. Mother General, Mere Maria Julienne, attending with her 'most useful and enduring of gifts', a telephone! In 1928, several trees on the lawn were cut down and a full-sized netball pitch and tennis court was made for the High School, later shared in part as a playground with St Mary's. When war broke out in 1939, the whole High School was evacuated to Llandoverly in Wales. The sisters went, too. All returned by 1943. In post war years, a school in Nine Elms the Sisters had opened was closed and they withdrew from two more they had been involved with in Battersea.

Finally, in 1970, it was declared that the grammar school had to become comprehensive by 1972. Girls from the local Catholic school, William of York, were moved into Notre Dame over three years. The building opposite, formerly, Battersea County School, was used to accommodate the increase. Twelve years later, in 1982. The school was closed, building sold and it is now known as The Cloisters.

Mary Donaghey B.O.N.D

President's Report September 2018-2019

My Presidency began at the AGM 2018. I took over from the excellent and tireless Bernie Shaw. During the conference weekend we were celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the foundation of the BFNDA. Lorraine Platt (Conference Secretary) ably assisted by Margaret Dolan, had certainly put together a packed and varied programme. On Friday there was a quiz, gentle Pilates and a singsong in the lounge led by Srs. Mary and Catherine of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, sadly the last occasion on which they are able to travel from Harrogate to join us.

On Saturday we went on a coach trip to the Piece Hall in Halifax, a very enjoyable outing, only slightly marred by the coach driver who managed to get lost on both the outward and return journeys. In the afternoon, we had a talk about the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Sr. Honorine SND, a native of the Congo and known to some of us who had met her in Namur. The AGM followed, at the end of which I announced that the charity for the next 3 years is to be helping the work of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Nigeria. The Sisters in a town called Ogwa in SW Nigeria already have a Grade (Primary) School but at present, there is no Catholic secondary school for the pupils to continue their education. The sisters have been given a parcel of land by the local Bishop which is currently covered by plantain trees. They have drawn up plans for a new block of six classrooms and have also produced an artist's impression which you can see on the website bfnda.org. The project is estimated to cost £20,000.00 – a sum rather larger than we usually manage to raise, but I hope we can go a long way towards it.

The Conference dinner was a splendid occasion with many extra little touches to make it special; we had received many letters of congratulations on the 90th anniversary including those from His Holiness Pope Francis and HM the Queen. Dame Colette Bowe gave a wonderful after-dinner speech entitled; "What did we get from a Notre Dame Education? And has it served us well?" It was a splendid weekend.

On arriving home, my husband Brian asked to see the President's badge; he discovered that it bore the hallmark "T&Co" and the date marker for 1931. I sent an email to Tiffany with photographs of the badge but they found no trace. In the minutes in the archives there is an agreement to commission a Presidents's badge but no invoice or any further information.

I was invited to attend the AGM and annual lunch of the Northampton Association which took place on 28th April 2019. This was my first outing as President and I was made very welcome. I already knew a number of the Northampton members who are regular attendees at Conference, but I also discovered that I have shared acquaintances with

several other Northampton members and invited guests. Lunch at the Marriott was splendid and I was presented with a cheque for the charity. It was altogether a very happy occasion and I thank the Northampton Association for inviting me.

June 22nd 2019 was the 50th anniversary of the Canonisation of St. Julie. I, along with four other BFNDA Committee members, (and two husbands) went to Rome to celebrate the event, arriving during a heatwave which lasted the whole weekend. The day before, on the plan from Manchester, the Manchester BFNDA Committee members met the headmaster of Bishop Rawstorne School, Leyland. He was accompanying his school choir who were giving various performances in Rome. We all went to their first performance on Friday, 21st June in the church of St. Paul Outside the Walls. We thoroughly enjoyed their singing of items both sacred and profane. On the anniversary, we went to Santa Maria Maggiore, where we attended a private Mass in the Chapel of the Crucifixion, offered by Monsignor Canon Paul McInerny. Monsignor Paul had received his early education from the Sisters of Notre Dame and was very knowledgeable about the Order. After Mass, he gave us a private tour of Santamaria Maggiore, including many areas of the Basilica which the public do not normally see. He is very knowledgeable about its history and had many amusing anecdotes. We are very grateful for the generous gift of his time. On Sunday morning, we attended the 10:30 sung Mass in St. Peter's and listened to Pope Francis' Angelus address from the balcony. We enjoyed convivial meals together each evening, but apart from the concert and the two Masses went our separate ways to see the sights. It was a very good weekend.

I am very much enjoying working with the committee. All the members are very capable and good at their different roles. There are three former Presidents among them, so I am not short of people to turn to for advice. I am looking forward to the next two years.

Diane Donovan President 2018-2019

*Love the good God with all your heart and
all your soul. Do everything out of love for
Him.
St. Julie*

DIRECT MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION

This year seven Direct Members met together at the annual conference at Hinsley Hall. Many direct members are elderly and unable to make the journey to Leeds. However, you are with us in spirit and we remember and pray for you. Those of us who were there had an enjoyable weekend. Even the weather was kind to us.

The number of Direct Members is now 67 including seven new members and three honorary members. Sadly, six of our members have died during the past year, may they rest in peace. Father Chris will say Mass for these and all our deceased direct members during November.

Although not actively involved in fundraising Direct Members are always generous with donations to the Federation charity. £583.50 has been donated towards the education work of the sisters in Nigeria, during the last twelve months. Thank you everyone.

Pope Francis has conferred the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Insignia award on direct member Doreen Lambert. This award is given for distinguished service, to the Church and to the Pontificate, by lay people and clergy. We send you congratulations Doreen.

As always, I regularly receive letters and cards from Direct Members. Please continue to keep in touch. It makes my role as convenor such a pleasure.

God bless you all.

Lesley Freeman

*Let us always go on sowing the good seed;
then live in the peace of God.
St. Julie*

Liverpool Wednesday 19th June 2019

On this sunny day the Notre Dame family and friends gathered in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King to celebrate the joyful occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Canonisation of St. Julie.

The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon.

Sister Catherine Darby welcomed everyone – sisters, staff, students and friends who had travelled from all parts of the country. Schools and colleges from Dumbarton, Glasgow, Fernhill, Norwich, Sheffield, Southwark and Liverpool were represented.

The students carried their banners - with the familiar crest - into the Cathedral, and brought them to the altar together with symbols significant to their own school, together with the bread and wine. The altar was beautiful with large vases of sunflowers.

Mass began with the song of St. Julie (Ah! Qu'il est bon, Le Bon Dieu) and the recessional hymn was "Qu'il est bon." The cathedral rang with that refrain. The school choirs sang during Mass including a beautiful rendition of Panis Angelicus at the communion.

The Mass had been organized by Sister AnneMarie Niblock, Head of Southwark.

It was a memorable occasion – full of joy and hope.

Ah! Qu'il est bon, Le Bon Dieu.

Veronica Miles

*How great the harvest is everywhere and
how few labourers there are.
St. Julie*

Meeting of the National Board of Catholic Women

**Maria Fidelis School -
Saturday, 29th June 2019**

I attended the AGM of the National Board of Catholic Women on Saturday, 29th June 2019. There was a change of venue this time; the meeting was held at Maria Fidelis school close to Euston Station.

There were a number of apologies. Bishop Kenny was unable to attend as he was celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination, with his family.

It was noted that both the Catholic Women's League and the Union of Catholic Mothers have withdrawn from the NBCW. In neither case was any reason given. The President is to send letters regretting this decision.

In the last year the NBCW has suffered a deficit of £12,618. The two main causes of this were a loss on last year's AGM which was held at the Hayes Conference Centre and the heavy cost of sending delegates to conferences. It was suggested that the NBCW explores other means of funding for these conferences, such as grants from other organisations.

The focus of the National Board this year has been combating domestic abuse. It was suggested that we give Parish Priests basic information (including helplines) in order to help people who are suffering such abuse in their homes. November 25th is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. We are all encouraged to wear something orange on that day to raise awareness and, if possible, to organise events in our own localities and parishes. Further information can be obtained from the website of the National Board www.nbcw.co.uk or from The Catholics Experiencing Domestic Abuse Resources www.cedar.uk.net .

Manchester Notre Dame Association

2018 was a great year for reunions – so many people have got together in their year groups and all of them report how good it has been to renew old friendships and how easy it has been to slip back into easy companionship. Life's broad ways may scatter us far and wide but we have all walked the same corridors and shared our teenage years as children of Notre Dame.

In June, twenty two of us enjoyed a delicious Afternoon Tea (plus gossip and lots of laughter of course) at the Midland Hotel in Manchester. It will definitely be repeated in 2019.

November 17th was the date for our annual Mass for deceased members and staff, celebrated by our chaplain Father Dearman. It is a wonderful way to remember past pupils and staff. Sadly, one of our much loved teachers from Notre Dame Manchester, Pat Sheerin, died on November 9th and we were able to include her in our prayers. We also celebrated a memorial Mass for Pat, who taught at Notre Dame from 1959 and at Our Lady's High School until 1992, in February which was attended by many past pupils.

In March we held a Fashion Show to raise funds for the school project in Nigeria. We also had crafts for sale and held another of our very successful raffles. The night was a great success. The room was full and the show was very enjoyable. We were also able to collect over £1000 for our charity.

Our St Julie Mass took place in May, followed by lunch in the church hall. There was also a singsong, including the school song, Bernie's crafts and two raffles. In June we were very grateful to Elizabeth Morgan, an ex-pupil who offered to host a Strawberry Tea at her home. Unfortunately, it was a rather wet day and we were not able to enjoy time in her lovely garden but we still had a great time with Tombola, Crafts and a raffle for a food hamper. There was a great array of home baked scones and cakes and a

constant flow of tea or Prosecco for those who wished to indulge.
The magnificent sum of £573 was raised on that day.

In September we had a wonderful Conference weekend in Leeds with all our friends from the other Notre Dame groups around the country. We had a good number of participants from the Manchester group and the activities were led by Lorraine and her many helpers. Thank you to all those who helped and those who took part. Roll on 2020!

We now have over 100 fully paid members in our association and 347 people are members of our facebook group. Many old acquaintances have been renewed and many new friendships have developed through our activities. We look forward to the next year of celebrations and activities to bring together our past pupils and to raise money for our charity.

Margaret Dolan

Northampton Notre Dame Association

The Northampton Association carries on carrying on. With a paid membership of 157 and approximately 90 members attending our AGM in April, we feel we are doing well.

We have four social events during the year comprising a talk and tea and chat in March and June, a tea party in September and Christmas entertainment in December. We have between 20-40 regular attendees at these events. We hold our annual St. Julie Mass in May.

In April, this year, we were pleased to welcome several VIPs to our lunch, including Diane, our BFNDA President, the Mayor and Mayoress, council employees who had been involved in the funding of the refurbishment of the Cemetery of the Sisters in Notre Dame Mews, Canon Mark Floody and Monsignor Tony McDermott, all of whom had shown support during our year of fundraising.

We are pleased to report that the work is almost complete with the newly built and raised walls, the refurbished, original railings, the refurbished/replaced crosses marking the graves and the two information boards – one with the details of each Sister who is buried there and one with a brief history of the sisters in Northampton – newly installed. We are planning a Rededication Service in October and, what we thought would be a small celebration, appears to be growing!

Sadly, Monsignor Tony, our Chaplain, will retire after this service. He has been Chaplain for approximately 30 years and we thank him for his services. It has been decided, at present, not to allocate a dedicated Chaplain, but we have an agreement with the Cathedral for provision of our St. Julie Mass in May, when possible.

In September, 9 of our members were at Hinsley Hall, Leeds for the Conference weekend and, I am sure I speak for all of us when I say it was a lovely weekend again, meeting up with friends from around the country.

God willing, we will continue some way into the future yet!
Margaret Bradbury

A Brief History of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Northampton

In 1845 two Frenchwomen, Sisters of the recently formed “Congregation of the Infant Jesus” arrived in Northampton at the invitation of Doctor Wareing, the Vicar Apostolic, and, later, first Bishop of Northampton

A niece of Doctor Wareing’s joined the two nuns at their house in Sheep Street near to the Church of St. Sepulchre. Their mission was to undertake educational work and organise a day school for the poor, evening classes for young working girls and a day school for girls intending to be governesses and village school mistresses.

Northampton began to expand rapidly at this time with the mechanisation of the footwear industry and, due to the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, a growth in the Catholic population in the town.

The Sisters soon moved from Sheep Street to what is now part of the Cathedral Sacristy. In 1851 the sisters moved again to Abington Street where they had purchased 3 houses. However, typhus broke out and four of the Sisters died. The Congregation, which in 1846 had formally separated from its Mother House, seemed in danger of extinction, but a suggestion that the Sisters of the Infant Jesus should join the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur was enthusiastically backed by the Bishop.

The Superior of the Notre Dame convent at Clapham, Sister Clarie, arrived in Northampton, and the formal union took place in 1852.

Sister Clarie had brought the first Sisters of Notre Dame to England in 1845, and the united convent over which she presided, with its associated schools, prospered and expanded.

The Notre Dame Convent, boarding and day schools stood on a site in the centre of Northampton from 1852-1975, devotedly administered by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. The impressive frontage on Abington Street was completed in 1890. In 1873 the Sisters built St. Mary’s School, on The Mounts. The extensive grounds across The Mews housed the beautiful chapel erected in 1880. Here, too, were the tennis courts, playing fields and orchard.

The buildings were demolished in 1979. A small cemetery is all that remains of a large complex which was such a well-known landmark in Northampton. It was refurbished by the Northampton Notre Dame Association and Northampton Borough Council in 2019 in an attempt to preserve this important piece of Northampton's heritage.

*Let us preserve the spark of faith which still exists in
our society by the grace of the good God
St. Julie*

Income & Expenditure Account

General Account & Charity

Income	Year Ending	
	2018	2019
Capitation	1197.00	1215.00
Dir. Members	160.00	129.00
Badges	42.00	36.00
Miscellaneous		90.00
Charity	4378.00	3460.26
Calendars & Postage	1555.97	16.74
	7332.97	4947.00
Expenditure		
Executive	1608.08	1629.10
Travel		
Printing & Stationery	53.49	55.98
Postage & Telephone	126.57	102.32
Miscellaneous	429.26	508.21
St Julie News	190.00	220.00
Donations to Charity	4500.00	3500.00
Calendars	1061.30	
Prayer Cards		66.00
	7968.70	6081.61
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-653.73	-1134.61
Balance at Bank 31.03.18	4949.04	
Balance at Bank 01.04.19		3814.43
Carry forward to next year	4949.04	3814.43

Association Membership 2018-2019
According to Capitation Fees Paid

Association		Number of Members
Battersea	£30.00	10
Direct Members	£129.00	43
Manchester	£300.00	100
Northampton	£471.00	157
Southwark	£285.00	95
Totals	£1215.00	405

Number of members is based on capitation fees received at £3.00 per person. Most Associations have greater numbers than the above but as subscriptions are paid into the Federation throughout the year we can never get the numbers absolutely correct.

Ogwa School Nigeria Charity

Brought Forward	£91.97
Federation 2018	£729.50
Direct Members	£583.50
Manchester	£2693.70
Northampton	£1000.00
Southwark	£500.00
 Balance Carried Forward	 £5598.67
01.08.2019	

Conference Account

	2017/18	2018/19
Income		
Delegate Payments	7883.00	10070.00
Advance 17/18	322.00	
Advance 18/19		287.00
ND Cushions	1141.59	907.24
Cleared 31/03/2019		21.00
Donations		265.00
Patrons		445.00
Pens/Photos		217.00
W/Off		6.51
Total	9346.59	12218.75
Expenditure		
Conference	8319.81	1811.25
Cushions	1039.34	545.97
Total	9359.15	12357.16
Carried Forward	2839.72	2827.16
Excess of Income Over	-12.56	-138.41
Expenditure		
Balance at Bank 31/03/18	2827.16	
Balance at Bank 31/03/18		2688.75

Balance Sheet

Current Assets	2017/18	2018/19
Co-operative Bank	4949.04	3814.43
HSBC	2827.16	2688.75
Badges	120.00	84.00
	7896.20	6587.18
Representing		
Conference Fund	2827.16	2688.75
General A/C Charity	2069.97	2046.97
General	2879.07	1767.46
Badges in Stock	120.00	84.00
	7896.20	6587.18

Frances Vernals 1931-2019

Frances was born in Larkhall, Lanarkshire in 1931. She came down from Scotland when she was about 6 years old. Her Dad, Frank, helped to sink the new shaft at Beighton Pit. Her parents put a great value on education, so she went to Notre Dame as well as taking piano and elocution lessons. Her Mum, (also called Frances) had been in domestic service, so maybe that is where her aspirations came from.

After leaving school she worked at the Royal Hospital in the newly formed Medical Illustration Department. Later she worked at Rother Vale, Robert Jenkins, BOC and, finally, Tinsley Wire as a personal secretary.

She was a wonderful mother who brought us up on her own. She had a very sharp wit (as you'll know). She was a clever woman who enjoyed quizzes and crosswords. She had a great love of music and poetry.

She was amazingly generous and always thoughtful of others' needs. Family and friends were important to her, and we could always rely on her. She really was everyone's favourite "Auntie Frances".

She had four brothers and three sisters. She was survived by her brother Bernard.

She arranged several luncheon get-togethers for her Notre Dame friends in Rotherham at which donations were given to Federation charities. Despite not being able to take part in Federation weekends, due to failing health, she continued to support the current charity up to her death.

Judith, daughter of Frances

Mary Lelliot, formerly Pizzey, nee McCarthy 1934-2019

On 12th July Mary died peacefully at home with her family around her. She finally succumbed to the abdominal tumour that had haunted her for the past year or so. A requiem mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Church, Crowborough, East Sussex, where she and her husband had settled over ten years ago. The occasion was a fitting tribute to Mary and to her rare talent of friendship, which she generously shared with everyone she met. The church was packed with family, friends, neighbours, parishioners and members of the Notre Dame community.

Mary was educated at Notre Dame, Southwark leaving to go to work at fifteen at the time of the death of her father. She loved Notre Dame Southwark and kept in touch throughout her life, serving as Secretary on the Southward Association committee for some years and also on the Federation Executive during my national Presidential time.

For well over thirty years, Mary was a constant companion on our travels to Federation weekends, as well as to our more local meetings and events. She was good company, always cheerful and chatty, enjoying everything that occurred. There is no doubt that Mary will be missed by so many Notre Dame friends, both in Southwark and in the wider Federation community.

Mary dealt with the challenges in her life with courage, tenacity and practicality; not least when her first husband tragically died when their five children were yet young. She is now to be buried alongside him in a family grave. Her strong faith and spirituality were the touchstone in all her endeavours. Mary lived life to the full, in Faith, Hope and Love. May she now rest in peace and remain in our thoughts and prayers. She will not be forgotten.

Josie Spanswick Past President 2000-2003



R.I.P

Dolores Behan	Betty Holloway
Maureen Brass	Pat Hopkins
Anne Byrne(nee McCarthy)	Diana Cornwell (nee Lane)
Violette Caillebotte	Mary Jennings (nee Reece)
Pamela Collier	Caroline Keenaghan
Sr.Mary Stephen Humphreys	Mary Lelliott (formerly Pizzey nee McCarthy)
Joy Eason	Frances Vernals
Fiona Finn	Maureen Mills
Audrey Fuller	Nancy Robb (nee Quirk)
Carol Hammons (nee Sykes)	Maureen Scammell(Manley)
Mary Hobson	Valerie Thompson
Winifred Lenton(nee Berwick)	

Eternal rest give unto them O Lord