

# NETWORK

MAGAZINE

THE PARISH  
of  
ST. WILFRID

HARROGATE



July 2010

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## July 2010

We are encouraged to see an Interregnum as a time of growth for our church communities; an insight which is to be extended where we can into the wider parish. A clergy vacancy, to use the proper term in this diocese, should be a time for us to take stock of ourselves and of where each of us is in our lives of faith and in our personal journeys with the Lord. It's a time for a renewal of perspective and sense of purpose and let's hope we've managed to achieve something of that among us here – it's not too late!

Now it's time for us to welcome Fr Gary among us as Team Rector, Parish Priest and brother in Christ. At his Induction service in the evening of 18 July we will all be asked if we are willing to support and uphold Fr Gary in his ministry with and among us. Let's face it, we're all going to give a hearty "Yes!" to this question from the Bishop. However, I wonder if we've reflected on what that actually means? It means exactly what it says.

The Catholic understanding of ordained ministry, whether deacon, priest or bishop, is *apostolic*, and not congregational. This means that we believe our clergy are sent to us with the authority of the Bishop – who stands in the Lord's place – and not simply raised up by ourselves to dance to the prevailing tune. That would be heresy. The world does not have a life independent from God; the Church has no life apart from the Lord Jesus.

He who rejects me rejects the one who sent me. At an earlier stage in my ministry, I served in a church where there was not even a single peg in the sacristy for me to hang my coat, never mind anything else I

needed to use. The theological implications of that are extraordinary! The Church exists where the actions of Lord himself – especially the Eucharist – are received and celebrated; not vice versa.

Some churches give the impression that clergy are irritating blips in an otherwise serene existence. Others head for the opposite extreme and affect a childish desire for self-centred attention and holding a real wickedness in reserve; creating a very strange, surreal, inward-looking world. Neither is acceptable and, in the wider world, nobody in their right mind would tolerate either abuse of a trained professional. Anglican parish churches are to be neither museum-pieces nor grim attempts at soap opera, despite all the evidence to the contrary.

Here at St Wilfrid's, we have a history of some very distinguished incumbents. In Fr Gary, we have a coming Parish Priest who is already a highly distinguished priest at many levels of Church life. This month we begin a new age for St Wilfrid's, in which we are all to support and help each other to become better disciples of the Lord. We are to be converted by the Good News and to show this transformation and hope to others.

I guess the most important thing to remark about our ending vacancy is to say that there never was one! Surprised? There has certainly been no Interregnum, because the reign of Christ has no gaps in it. The chair which stands before the high altar in St Wilfrid's is Christ's seat. We clergy may occupy it for a while, but it is never ours. Jesus is the one around whom all things turn, whether you like it or not, and he willingly and hopefully sends us a new Parish Priest to serve with, to follow with and to love.

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT WILFRID, HARROGATE**

**Intentions List for July 2010**

1	<b>Thursday</b>		Public Sector Workers	G
2	Friday		DMU	G
3	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>S Thomas</b>	Fr Gordon Newton	R
4	<b>Sunday</b>	Trinity 5	Our Parish	G
5	Monday		Medical Professionals	G
6	Tuesday		HLC	G
7	Wednesday		Healing	G
8	<b>Thursday</b>		General Synod	G
9	Friday	<i>of the Holy Cross</i>	SSC	R
10	Saturday	<b>of Our Lady</b>	Shrine OLW	W
11	<b>Sunday</b>	Trinity 6	Our Parish	G
12	Monday		Newly Married	G
13	Tuesday		Our Sacristans & Verger	G
14	Wednesday		Seafarers	G
15	<b>Thursday</b>	S Bonaventure	Our Bishops	W
16	Friday	S Osmund	Salisbury Diocese	W
17	Saturday	<b>of Our Lady</b>	Fr Gary	W
18	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Trinity 7</b>	Our Parish	G
19	Monday		Prisoners & Refugees	G
20	Tuesday		Our CWs & Sidesmen	G
21	Wednesday		The Departed	G
22	<b>Thursday</b>	S Mary Magdalene	Christian Unity	W
23	Friday	S Bridget	EU	W
24	Saturday	<b>of Our Lady</b>	Newly Baptised	W
25	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>S James the Great</b>	Our Parish	R
26	Monday	SS Joachim and Anne	Parents	W
27	Tuesday		Local Schools	G
28	Wednesday		The Poor & Lonely	G
29	<b>Thursday</b>	S Martha	Religious Vocations	W
30	Friday	S Peter Chrysologus	Preachers	G
31	Saturday	S Ignatius of Loyola	SJ	W

**Please take this list away with you for your diary and kind prayers**