

BROMLEY CIRCLE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023



What a day for Bromley Circle to welcome Ales Vochyan as our new member of the Circle and a young man!! Wonderful photographs of Ales receiving his membership Certificate from Brother Joe, Circle President and of course the Bromley tie and cuff links and accompanied in the top photograph by Peter Coward Provincial President, and Roger Lillie Immediate Past GBNC President who had travelled from Southampton to be at this meeting. The Circle also welcome Sylvie, to the Circle and both Ales and Sylvie will bring a fresh new family to the Catenian Association.

OUR LADY OF GOOD REMEDY

At a recent Southwark Diocese Justice and Peace Assembly I raised a request that all parishes should turn to Our Lady of Good Remedy to seek her help with turning the Government's policy on Migrant and Refugees. There has been petitions, letters, email and protests outside the Home Office and we fail to recognise the most productive armoury within our faith and that is prayer.



Our Lady of Good Remedy

DEAR LADY OF GOOD REMEDY, source of unfailing help, thy compassionate heart knows a remedy for every affliction and misery we encounter in life. Help me with thy prayers and intercession to find a remedy for my problems and needs, especially for...

On my part, O loving Mother, I pledge myself to a more intensely Christian lifestyle, to a more careful observance of the laws of God, to be more conscientious in fulfilling the obligations of my state in life, and to strive to be a source of healing in this broken world of ours. Dear Lady, be ever present to me, and through thy intercession, may I enjoy health of body and peace of mind, and grow stronger in the faith and in the love of thy Son, Jesus. Hail, Mary.....

Feast Day
October 8

At the Assembly last month, I launched the prayer to Our Lady of Good Remedy and distributed prayer cards with the prayer and asked everyone to take it back to their parishes and promote it more widely and use it to change the Government's attitude to Migrants and Refugees alongside our advocacy support at Parliament. No one in around 50/60 people had ever heard of this prayer which was slightly disturbing. The idea is that we want this prayer to be distributed throughout the Diocese and every Catholic use this prayer to change the Government's attitude. I have asked everyone who attended the Assembly, to include this in their Bidding prayers.

THE HISTORY BEHIND 'OUR LADY OF REMEDY'

800 years ago Christians were being captured and sold into slavery by the thousands, and nobody knew what to do about it. Then, in the year 1198, a man had an idea. St. John of Matha founded the Trinitarians to go to the slave markets, buy the Christian slaves and set them free. To carry out this plan, the Trinitarians needed large amounts of money. So, they placed their fund-raising efforts under the patronage of Mary. They were so successful at that, over the centuries, the Trinitarians were able to free thousands and thousands of people and to return them safely home. In gratitude for her miraculous assistance, St. John of Matha honoured Mary with the title of 'Our Lady of Good Remedy.' Devotion to Mary under this ancient title is widely known in Europe and Latin America, and the Church celebrates her feast day on October 8. Our Lady of Good Remedy is often depicted as the Virgin Mary handing a bag of money to St. John of Matha. When in need - for whatever reason, but especially where you have had difficulty obtaining help - invoke the aid of Our Lady of Good Remedy, and you will surely experience the power of her intercession. Her feast day is coming very soon on 8th October. Please join me in this prayer and change the Government's policy on Migrants and Refugees.

I have sent requests to some of the other J&P groups in England and I will also write to Catena to spread the word to all the Circles and so spread the word. I have been using this prayer for over 40 years for all my requests and often send a prayer card to those who are ill and not well. I have sent this prayer to Ubbo Bakker, who is recovering in Darenth Valley hospital, Dartford; he is Spruce Ward if anyone cares to send him best wishes.

PRAYERS FOR CATENIANS AND FAMILIES:

Please remember we have the Province Mass for our deceased members this Saturday 7th October at St James Church, Petts Wood at 6.00pm.

We remember our own deceased Pauline Parker (and it was good to see so many members attending Pauline's requiem Mass) and Ranjana Chauchan; the foundation Mass to be held at the Cathedral in November has been postponed until 2024. We keep all those who are unwell in our prayers, especially, Aidan McPartlan and Brian Daley who is recovering from his recent operation, but still has many hospital appointments at various different hospitals. Brian accompanied me to the Blackheath Circle meeting last month which was a good start. Ubbo Bakker is now in Darenth Valley hospital, Spruce ward, if you wish to send him good wishes. I have sent him a prayer card of Our Lady of Good Remedy, and he has a long road to recovery, I am told, he will need all our prayers. Let me know if you know who is in need of prayers and I will list them in the circular, and Newsletter.

CATENIAN BURSARY AWARD

The Circle were delighted to present Joseph Canning with his well deserved Bursary in recognition of his terrific contribution to the young people of the village of Chipetwete in Malawi. It is no mean feat to travel over 5,000 miles over two days each way and provide help and assistance to many young people disadvantaged of the economic and educational benefits that we all enjoy. Joseph made many new friends and we are indebted that a young man should make the effort to travel these distances and give of his time so generously. But, Joseph said that he gained far more from the experience than he ever considered, made such good friends and he wants to make another visit. We should add Joseph has wonderful parents, Jon and Claire, who supported him all the way and we know what that means. Joseph has just started studying at Cardiff University where he is beginning a 4 year Business Management Degree.

