



Dolen Mynyw Menevia News

Official Newspaper of the Menevia Diocese
<http://www.dioceseofmenevia.org>

Number 136
July
2008

FREE

Published on the last
Sunday of the month
for following month

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE REV. PHILLIP HARRIES

The Mass of Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood of the Rev. Phillip Harries, at the hands of the Rt. Rev. Dom. Mark Jabalé O.S.B., Bishop of Menevia, took place in a crowded St. Joseph's Cathedral on Saturday 31st May.

Phillip's mother and father, together with other family members and friends, had pride of place in the front rows and, on the sanctuary were many of his (now) brother priests and permanent deacons of the diocese, together with those who were fellow students, from Oscott College where he had trained. The two principal deacons at the mass were also ordained deacons who studied with Phillip at Oscott.

Following the Introductory Rites of the Mass, for the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the feast where we celebrate Mary being greeted with great joy by her cousin Elizabeth, and her soul glorified God for His Kindness), the Ordination Rite commenced with Phillip being called forward before the bishop, who had taken up his place at the front of the sanctuary.

Fr. Paul McNally, Pastoral Director of St. Mary's College, Oscott, then presented Phillip to the bishop, and on behalf of the Church, formally requested that he be ordained.

The bishop's homily (see page 3 for the full text of this) followed confirmation of this request.



The examination of the candidate, together with his 'Promise of Obedience', then took place and the Solemn Litany of the Saints was sung whilst Phillip prostrated himself as a sign of his total dependence on Almighty God.

The 'Laying on of hands' (the ancient sign of the calling down of the Holy Spirit) by the bishop (and in turn those of all the priests present) then proceeded, before the investiture with stole and chasuble and anointing of hands.

Fr. Phillip's parents then brought the chalice and paten forward to the bishop,

who in turn handed them to Fr Phillip saying: "Accept from the holy people of God the gifts to be offered to him. Know what you are doing, and imitate the mystery you celebrate: model your life on the mystery of the Lord's cross"

The bishop, and all the priests present, then gave the kiss of peace to Fr. Phillip and the Liturgy of the Eucharist proceeded. After which all were invited to join in celebrations in the Cathedral parish hall.

(See more photos on Page 4 taken during this solemn and happy event - and we pray that we may witness many more in the not-too-distant future)

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