



CELEBRATION FOR MAMMA MARGARET

Fr George gave a lovely presentation about Mamma Margaret, followed by the enrolments of Terry, Marlene and Joan.

“Becoming a Salesian by Joan Turner”

On 26 November I was privileged to be enrolled as a member of the Salesian family. Just over four years ago I was invited to a meeting of Croxteth cooperators. I was made to feel so much at home and have felt a part of the group from that first meeting. My first but lasting impressions were of the prayer and reflection. All the meetings had a theme relevant to the Salesian spirit reaching out to the young and local community. The highlights for me is the spirit within the group. Each member of the group show their love and support for one another during times of difficulty and of joy.

Since attending meetings I have been involved in children's liturgy and tots groups. I feel I have become more confident, and more relaxed in mixing with people. I have enjoyed learning about all the different aspects of Salesian life. I have developed my Salesian spirituality, and I try to put Don Bosco's spirit into everything I do.

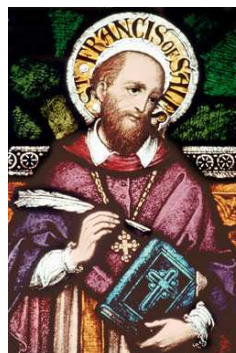
WHY SALESIAN ?

St Francis de Sales
1567—1622

We look to Jesus to know God and how God is to us. That's why Jesus could say: “Learn from me”. St Francis de Sales is one who learned and lived the gentle love of Jesus.

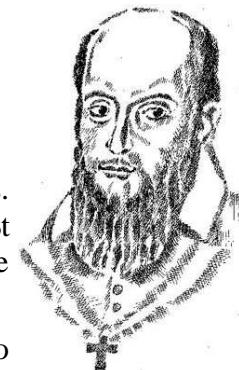
St John Bosco saw in St Francis de Sales someone to imitate. Francis was for him much more than a patron saint. When he was ordained a priest St John Bosco made this resolution: “The love and gentleness of St Francis de Sales will guide me in everything”. Anyone who wanted to share in his work for young people had to have that same ‘spirit of St Francis de Sales’ and so could be called: SALESIAN.

For Francis, God is above all the God of my heart. He is father and mother to me: he carries me and nurtures me; his heart touches my heart. My daily life is the ordinary place to find God. For Francis, the ‘present moment’ is like an eighth sacrament, a sacred meeting place with God. ‘As sure as the sun will rise tomorrow, so surely will God be there with me as he is today’. I can have the deepest trust in God. ‘If I have some heavy cross to bear, he will either take it from me or give me the strength to carry it’.



My life in all its humanness is unique and beautiful—God's great gift to me. Francis believed in the radical goodness to be found in each one of us: a potential for good that is greater than any tendency to evil. This ‘humanism’ of St Francis de Sales encourages me to believe in a full blossoming of my life, both natural and supernatural. This is the way of ‘SALESIAN holiness’. Jesus came to reveal the loving kindness of the heart of our God. Francis and Don Bosco show us how to find that love.

With thanks to ‘Salesian Footprints’



Mamma Margaret Day

("Behind every successful man is a 'great' woman")

Fr John Dickson gave a presentation on the influence Mamma Margaret had on the Salesian Family. The Salesian spirit and style is rooted in what John Bosco learnt from his mother as he grew up. The Preventative System and the famous good night are a tribute to her. Fr John pointed out how Mamma Margaret had no formal education, suffered hard times growing up. She married a widow with one son and also looked after his mother. She later had two sons and when John Bosco was two her husband died leaving her to care for three boys and her mother in law.

As a lone-parent she had to deal with the difficulties between the boys. But it was Margaret's faith which helped her to cope. Her children witnessed this faith and her compassion for sharing what she had with her neighbours. The ordinariness of Mamma Margaret can be a role model for us all.

Sr Patricia Devine followed comparing likenesses between Mamma Margaret and St Mary Mazzarello. Both women lacked a formal education, both had strong personalities, both full of wisdom and had tremendous faith in Our Lady.

We are very grateful to both Fr John and Sr Patricia for their inspirational talks, which took place in Scotland, Bootle and Chertsey.

The picture on the right was taken at the Bootle talk. From right to left is Tess, Marie, Fr Bernard, Bro Matt Jeziorski and Phyllis.

Mary Owen, Glasgow &
Eleanor Neeley, Bollington



Cooperators Congress Meeting in Rome

The Third World Congress of Salesian Cooperators took place in Rome in mid-November. Representing our Province was Tess John, Annabel Clarkson and Sr Eileen McGarry FMA.

The Congress had been convened to deliberate and vote on the revisions to the Regulation of Apostolic Life (RAL). The document has been divided into two parts, the Statutes and the Regulations, and is now called the Project of Apostolic Life (PAL). Congress members approved the document ad experimentum for six years and its acceptance by the Holy See is now awaited.

The Rector Major has challenged all cooperators to ask ourselves "what our Movement means to us". He then spelt out the challenges to be met by us:

- * Evangelisation
- * Family
- * Life
- * Education
- * Involvement in Political Life

The Congress was not all work, there was plenty of celebrating, singing, throwing sweets in the crowd.

Each of us received a medal personally, everyone was remembered in our prayers.

Sr Eileen McGarry FMA



The Alverstoke Cooperators Group

Our group has continued to grow as a result of showing the Don Bosco films early in 2006. We have now five ladies who wish to become Salesian Cooperators.

Margaret and Derrick Hobbs joined seven cooperators from Chertsey to visit Turin for the celebrations of Mamma Margaret becoming Venerable on the way to Sainthood.

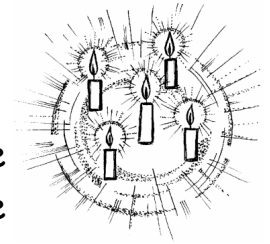
At Capriglio on the 150th anniversary of Mamma Margaret's death a plaque of her was blessed. It is on a wall in a museum dedicated to her and Don Bosco. After the blessing we went to the church where Mamma Margaret was baptised and married, for mass. Twelve priests concelebrated—it was a wonderful occasion.

We then went to Valdocco to the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians for a rosary followed by mass. It was great and the choir was superb, the soloist an FMA was delightful. The next day Sunday we went to Colle Don Bosco for the conclusion of the celebration. First we had a classical concert of arias from operettas sung for us by a large choir. We also had mass concelebrated by the Bishop from the local Province.

This was the end of a week-end celebrating Mamma Margaret. Derrick and I are so happy that we have been part of this and have so many memories.

Margaret Hobbs (Alverstoke)

CANDLES



Jesus said: "I have come into the world so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."

LIGHTING A CANDLE IS A PRAYER



When we have gone it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for the sad, the sick, the suffering, for the peace of the world. And prayers of thankfulness too.

LIGHTING A CANDLE IS A PARABLE



Giving light to others, it burns itself out. Christ gave himself for others. He calls us to give ourselves.



LIGHTING A CANDLE IS A SYMBOL