

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE SALESIAN FAMILY

# **DON BOSCO TODAY**



**Discovering  
Treasure Within**



THE SALESIAN BULLETIN · YEAR 119 · ISSUE 2 · SUMMER 2011



# Editorial

I would like to begin by thanking all readers who kindly sent donations after the last issue of *Don Bosco Today*. Your constant generosity is much appreciated. Some readers wrote to say that the donations slip was badly positioned since when it was cut out, the article over the page was spoilt. It has now been moved to page 19 where only the price list suffers. Thank you for your observations.

This edition is about our family, our Salesian Family. The articles introduce the people we have appreciated, and the people we now appreciate, people who work in the name of Don Bosco, including the young people who are our hope of tomorrow. We are on Christian-name terms with them, as their faces shine out from the Contents page.

I would, personally, like to pay tribute to two of these family members - **Margaret** and **Laurence**. Both these Salesian teachers made a deep impression on me, and more importantly both made a deep impression on the thousands of students who benefitted from their teaching and from their example. I became aware of the effect Margaret had on her students when I was a governor at St John Bosco's High School in Liverpool. The music she inspired the girls to produce was legendary; the prize nights at the Philharmonic Hall were unforgettable. My gratitude to Laurence is for the five years of teaching I received from him. In the days of blackboard and chalk, he was a master of presentation with beautiful handwriting and a wonderful clarity of exposition, always the result of painstaking preparation. These two teachers proved that good teaching is so much more than imparting knowledge, with Music and Mathematics came their personalities, leaving an indelible impression on all who were blessed by their presence.

In this issue we meet Tony, who has been a missionary in his own country of birth and in other lands; recycled so many times. Luc is a Belgium missionary who after many years in Korea became a Salesian superior in Rome and is now Bishop of Ghent. A brilliant linguist and musician, he brings the unpretentious simplicity of Don Bosco to the arduous task of being a bishop. He has a unique gift of celebrating, with young people, the joy of being Christian. In this issue we see how the young people from our school in Chertsey enjoyed the privilege of seeing some of the work of the Salesians in India. The article *Helping us Pray Today* reminds us that young people will pray in their way if we can help them.

Finally Michael reminds us of the powerful lessons the Mystics can teach us. Michael has been doing sterling work these last few years, preaching retreats in so many parts of the world, and writing books which are much appreciated. His retreats are spiced with endless stories from his many years of teaching in Bootle. Although he supports Bolton Wanderers, he manages to stay cheerful.

Tony Bailey SDB

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# Mgr. Luc Van Looy SDB

## Let's begin on musical note. How many languages do you speak, how many musical instruments can you play?

Music and languages go hand in hand, so they say. I was lucky to learn quite a few languages, I especially cherish Korean, I spent many years in Korea. Even now I am comfortable in seven languages, and use them all regularly. As for the music, I have a piano in my office, a gift from the Rector Major when I was ordained bishop. Also I regularly play the organ, because when we bless an organ in the parishes of the diocese, they always ask me to play. Then there is my accordion, which I always take with me in my car when I attend meetings of young people or visit hospitals.

## What does it mean being a *Salesian* bishop?

It means being close to the people, and relating in a friendly way to young people. It means having an open house, open for everyone. My house is a kind of oratory, where people can relax with their bishop. The chapel door is always open, and I encourage those who work in the house to make a visit.

## What was your boyhood dream?

As a child, I dreamt of becoming a missionary. My parents were daily communicants. My uncle, who was a priest, had been in China and the Philippines as a missionary. The stories my uncle told me made me dream. He died fifteen days before my first appointment to Korea, after giving me his chalice.

## Tell us about your diocese.

The diocese of Ghent has 1,300,000 inhabitants. Most of them are Christians. There is a good group of Muslims, Turks and Moroccans. For me the Catholic school is important. We have about 800 schools in the diocese. There are 427 parishes and 450 priests, many of them over 75 years of age and we have 84 permanent deacons. In recent years we have had to merge the parishes for lack of priests. The training of the laity is our priority.

## What are the biggest problems you face?

The main difficulty is that of vocations. We invest heavily in youth, we have strong youth ministry teams, we organise the best experiences for them, yet we have few vocations. Sometimes I wonder why the Lord does not give us vocations.

The problems of the Church in Belgium are severe right now. The outbreak of moral scandals gives us no peace. The judiciary, parliament, and the media will not let us work in peace. It is true that the Church must become transparent, visible, and render justice where needed. I think this is a good time to review the way we work, we must become a humble Church, close to the people who suffer. Once purified, we could work better by following the model of Christ the Lord.

## How do young people relate to the Church in Belgium?

The first day I arrived in the diocese, the priest who welcomed me, asked if I was willing to celebrate Mass that evening with young people. I did. From time to time I meet with these same young people to celebrate Mass and spend the evening with them. Every Thursday, at 7pm, a group of about sixty of them come for Mass and a lively prayer meeting. Particularly strong is the celebration of Good Friday, with the cathedral full of young people for hours, in the adoration of the cross.

## What was your most memorable experience?

The most beautiful experience is perhaps our annual Bavo Day (St Bavo is the patron of our diocese). It is a day for young people preparing for Confirmation. This year there will be 4500 of them, together with their catechists, for a day of catechesis, prayer and celebration. That's when the city realises that the Church is alive. Last year there were 170 volunteer helpers. At the end of the day, they are invited to dine with the bishop in his home. My house is full from 7pm to 10pm, singing, eating and celebrating. A wonderful experience that we repeat this year for the fifth time.

## What are your thoughts about the Salesian Congregation?

The Salesian Congregation is the mother of the young, in terms of its spirituality and its concern for the poor.

## What would you want for Europe?

For Europe, the spirit of Christianity. Even if the politicians don't recognize it, Christianity made Europe.

To achieve this, I think it is important to strengthen cooperation between countries in the Church. We have much to offer. The danger is that we are very fragmented, even as a Church. And then, pray and pray - pray that the Church finds a future in Europe.

**Never stop asking people to pray,  
— with the  
Scriptures.**







# A Recycled Missionary

“Who would have thought I would be a missionary?”

In some sense of the word I was reminded that I *was* one, not because of the fact that I was baptised, nor by any ecclesiastical authority, but by the secular enforcements of the law of the State Government in India. I left Kenya, the country of my birth for India, in 1965 at the age of 18, soon after completing my GCEs. I began my training for the priesthood in the Salesian junior seminary of Don Bosco, Lonavla. In my mind I was to live a normal life of a pre-novice discerning my vocation to be a priest.

But being a foreigner, holding a British passport, studying in a religious institution, I was already categorised as a *missionary*, subject to regulations that would monitor my movements from one state of India to another. I would have to present myself to the local police, should I want to go to another state. So began my *missionary vocation*. With my whereabouts carefully monitored, I went through the various stages of formation, passing through three different states before being ordained as a *missionary priest* in Mumbai, in 1977.

# Project Africa

In 1979, when the Rector Major, invited volunteers for Project Africa. I saw this as an opportunity to work as a priest in Kenya, my home country. Sadly, I was reminded by my confreres, that I was not going to Africa as a missionary but as one who was merely returning to his home country, Kenya. So the Provincial put things right and assigned me to the mission Parish in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania.

The start of my first missionary journey, like that of St Paul, was almost shipwrecked by the local government authorities in India. I was not given the green light to *sail* with the first missionary expedition for Africa, my *boat* was firmly grounded, as my papers (those of a foreign missionary) were not in order. I was duly reminded of my predicament by the immigration officer, who told me very casually but sarcastically, *Not even your Jesus Christ can save you from this*. The Salesian Brother who was trying to facilitate my journey assured me that all would be well and I need only to whisper the words of Matthew's gospel, *you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved*. How right he was. That night I was able to join the rest of the group on the boat.

For the next few years in Tanzania, I enjoyed a most wonderful missionary experience. On several occasions when I visited the far-flung outstations of the parish I was assigned to. On any Sunday I could be celebrating Baptisms, First Communions and Marriages, all in one grand, colourful and vibrant service. Being *a missionary* meant touching the lives of young people by word and example; standing up for what they dreamed; gently but firmly guiding them along the paths they wanted to tread; exploring with them the many options that lay before them in their search for God in their lives. The new Provincial, in 1986, *de-missioned* me – I was to go *home* – to Kenya, where I was to work for almost twenty years.

# Project Europe

To prevent any further *burn-out* to my potential as serving as a missionary elsewhere, I returned to my home Province in India in 2009 and was labelled as a FMA (Failed Missionary of Africa) but with a prospect of joining the GBR Province. My time spent in Goa, assisting youth in a school for alternative learning, helped me build up fresh energy.

When the Regional Superior for Asia visited Goa, he talked to the local confreres about Project Europe. He actually offered the bait and I snapped at it immediately and applied to be part of Project Europe. Strange enough, I was being reminded once again by the powers that be, that I was not going to Great Britain as part of Project Europe, but merely joining my family there, which I had left 34 years ago. I took that with a great spirit of resignation as I slowly began to understand that others could interpret your intentions and tell you what you did not want to hear. Then, instead of being assigned to a community in England, I was requested to go to Scotland, a totally new place for me. This was to be a missionary experience I had so much to learn from.

I have been in Easterhouse, Glasgow, for almost two years. The warmth and friendly nature of its people put me so much at ease, that even the severe winter I had to endure, did not deter my resolve to adjust to my new surroundings. Every now and then the people, with great concern for me, would be asking if I was doing OK. My reply was always, *I'm, oooh rite, nay bother*.

Chasing arrows? Recycling actually gives you a warm glow, it makes you satisfied in the knowledge that you are making a positive contribution to the world around you. So why don't you give it a go and get the same glow? That is what I have been telling myself in this new area of my *missionary land*.

Fr Tony Fernandez SDB



# SISTER MARGARET POWER FMA 1936 - 2011

Margaret was the youngest of a family of four. She attended the Convent of Mercy in Garnethill Glasgow for three years, leaving in 1949 to enter the FMA Aspirantate in Chertsey, England. In Chertsey she continued her education until her profession in 1955. Shortly after her profession Margaret endured the terrible suffering of the death of both her parents within weeks of each other. Later she was to write, *I have been through great suffering, personal and emotional, but have felt supported all the way by my Sisters.*

After her profession she attended the College of the Immaculate Conception in Southampton, England, where she trained as a Junior Teacher. From 1957 Margaret spent her life with young people teaching in schools in Cowley, Chertsey and Liverpool, and working in clubs, both in and out of school. Although she had trained to teach younger children, she was later asked in 1966 to move into the Secondary School sector. She described this as a great upheaval, but with her generosity of spirit, which was so typical of her, she accepted this obedience and began to discover and use her great talents in music. Margaret attended Keele University, from 1975-1976, to gain a Diploma in Music. From then on, it was in this area that Margaret was most associated. Her choirs were well known in the city of Liverpool. She spent many hours, both in and out of school, working with the girls in choirs, orchestra, musical productions, and liturgies. She was invited to be a member of the Archdiocesan Music Commission where she was a valued member for many years. Her vitality, dynamism, energy and humour made her well-liked and respected.

In 1993 Margaret retired from her role as a teacher. She described her retirement as *a relief, but in many ways very painful*. Being with the young had been such a vital part of her life. In 1994 she was appointed as Animator in our house in Rotherhithe, London. After a sabbatical year in 2003, Margaret was Bursar in our house in Kendal before being appointed Animator of the community in Easterhouse Glasgow.

In 2009 Margaret was again visited with a great suffering. Her brother Michael, a Salesian priest, who had gone to work in South Africa, died suddenly. This was a terrible blow to Margaret. On finishing her term of office as Animator in Easterhouse Margaret visited her other brother Tom in Canada. While there, she became ill and was admitted to hospital. After returning to Glasgow her health gradually deteriorated until after Christmas when she was again admitted to hospital in Glasgow where sadly she died.

Margaret had a great capacity for friendship. Her many friends, Sisters, and past pupils mourn her loss which has come as a great shock to our Province. One of the SDBs said, on hearing of her death, *God blessed me with some very special friends and Margaret was one of the very best.*

The Sisters in the Province will so miss Sr Margaret's vibrant presence at the gatherings, where she led with such enthusiasm and strength the *O Qual Sorte*..<sup>1</sup> organised and accompanied the music for so many professions and interspersed her faithful life with a unique sense of humour which will be greatly missed.

May she now be singing with the choirs of angels in Heaven.

Sr Pauline Clark FMA  
(Provincial GBR Province)

<sup>1</sup> a popular Salesian anthem -  
*O qual sorte, siamo Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice...*  
*We are fortunate to be*  
*daughters of Mary Help of Christians.*





# FR LAURENCE MARTIN SDB 1920 - 2011

Laurence was born in Marylebone, London. He and his younger brother, Denis, were brought up by their mother, a devoted Catholic who grounded her sons in the faith and who was determined that her boys would get the best she could give them, although the family found it difficult to make ends meet. Laurence and Denis were enrolled in the Salesian College, Battersea, paying what the mother could afford. Laurence liked what he saw at Battersea and expressed a wish to become a Salesian. He joined the Salesian Novitiate in Cowley, Oxford. He was professed in 1936. He continued with his studies of Philosophy at the Salesian House of Studies in Oxford. In September 1937, as part of his training, he was sent to the junior school in Burwash, Sussex, where, he said, he was not a success. He found it difficult to get the measure of junior students who were under twelve years old.

After a year he went to Shrigley where he taught with greater success. He took his perpetual vows in 1941. Fr Hall, the provincial, arranged for Laurence to study for his degree in Mathematics at Kings College, London. In 1946 he returned to Shrigley for a year to teach and commence his theological studies. He went to Blaisdon, then the Theologate, and was ordained in 1950. He then began a long period of teaching Mathematics. - for five years at Shrigley and then for thirteen years at the Salesian House of Studies at Beckford, where he prepared generations of young Salesians for a degree in mathematics. There is still a good number of Salesians in the province who owe him a great deal in this regard and for the Salesian example he gave. In 1968 he went to Thornleigh Salesian College in Bolton where he taught mathematics for a further nine years.

In 1977 he had a three year break from teaching. He became part of the retreat team at Savio House. In 1980 he was, for a short time, chaplain to the Salesian Sisters at Hastings. Thereafter, he went to the Salesian community at Farnborough which was his community until he died. At Farnborough, his skills as a teacher of mathematics were harnessed by the College, especially at senior level. He continued with this for as long as he thought he effectively could. For a period of nine years he was chaplain (part time) at HM Prison at Coldingley.

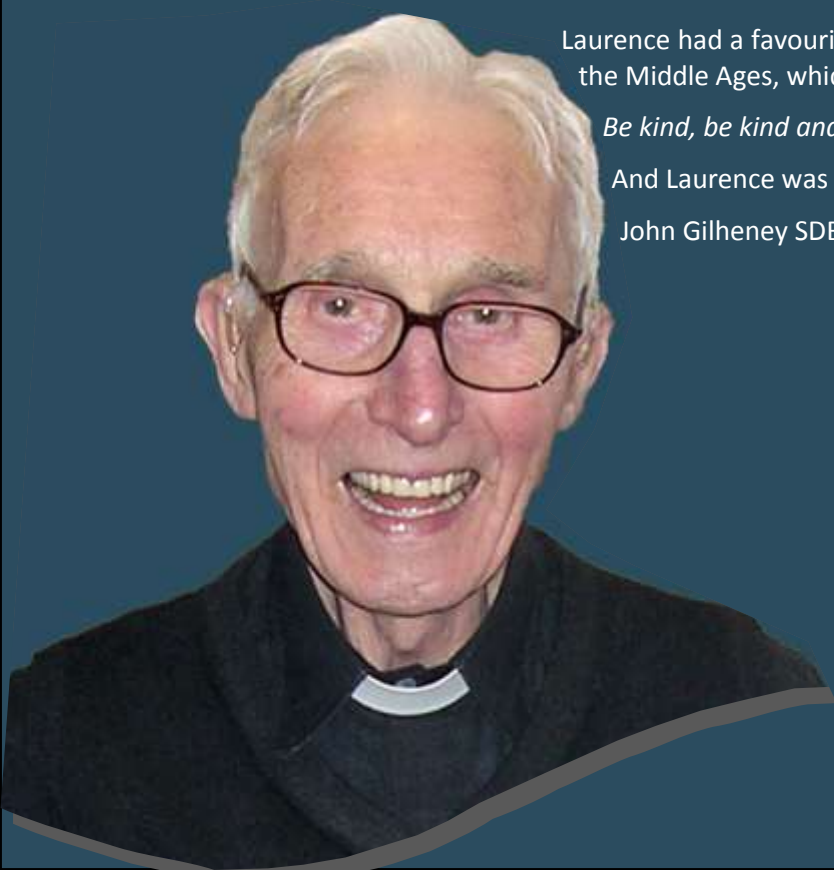
The tributes that came from those to whom he ministered give ample evidence of his great gentleness and sensitivity, together with his own dominant recognition of his priesthood and the power of God and His holy Mother in his life. He had two periods when he acted as chaplain to the Nazareth Houses in Southend and at Hammersmith. On returning to Farnborough he filled his time quite happily with prayer, reading and keeping abreast of a large correspondence from people whom he had met along the way. He was a happy and fulfilled Salesian who had a broad welcome and smile for all. His stroke occurred in November 2010. He was in Frimley Park Hospital, for a few weeks and then in the Stroke Rehabilitation Unit of Farnham Hospital where he was excellently nursed. Then a place was found for him at Hammersmith, at the Home where his mother had been and where he had acted as chaplain. He looked forward to going home to Heaven. He died on the 20th April.

Laurence had a favourite saying, a quotation from an (unknown) *Beatus* from the Middle Ages, which he would often repeat:

*Be kind, be kind and you'll be a saint.*

And Laurence was kind, very kind.

John Gilheney SDB



# CHERTSEY GOES TO INDIA

**DURING THE FEBRUARY HALF TERM FR ANDREW EBRAHIM AND PIPPA CARR  
TOOK A GROUP OF SIXTH FORMERS FROM SALESIAN SCHOOL CHERTSEY TO INDIA**

**EACH PARAGRAPH IS A STUDENT'S REFLECTION**

The trip to India was one of the most moving, educating and rewarding experiences I have ever had. Not only have I learned about the realities of life in a society completely different to our own; including witnessing first hand the impact of the Indian caste system, I have become aware of the fact that there are greater gifts you can give to a person than money. I will never forget the smiles on the faces of the children from the Ashalyam just because we were there, spending time with them. They had a greater impact on me than they will ever know. Just seeing the way that places such as Asha Bosco can provide opportunities for these children, which they would never otherwise have had, is incredibly rewarding.

Our trip to India is one which will remain with me forever; it was full of a mixture of emotions. One minute we were laughing and the next we were brought back down to the reality of the lives of the poor in India, particularly those living on the streets. Nothing could have prepared us for our experience in Kolkata, but I am still overwhelmed by the welcoming receptions we were greeted with everywhere we went. It is difficult to put our trip into words which do it justice. It was an experience that forced me to ask myself a lot of questions, but most importantly it gave me hope in the power of people and their love.

It was a great privilege to be able to visit a number of homes where we were able to witness exactly how the money, our school and parish raise, is being used. At every home we visited we were greeted with numerous shows of singing and dancing, all of which put our singing to shame! We were all given garlands of flowers, which the children put around our necks as a sign of welcome. All the children we saw were so joyful and happy, yet they have nothing. It is an experience which you cannot put into words. Their friendliness was heart warming as they held our hands, calling us Auntie or Uncle whilst guiding us around their home, showing us all the fruits and vegetables they have grown.

One of the most touching parts of our trip was the visit to the tomb of Mother Teresa. It was clear she lived such a humble life, and changed so many lives for the better. It was a moving experience where we were able to find out how she gave up the security of life with the Loreto Sisters, and devoted herself to the poorest of the poor of Kolkata almost up until the day she died.

As Don Bosco Park Circus was an all boys school, it was good to visit St Paul's, the Daughters of the Cross school, to see some female faces! All the sisters and the girls were so inviting and treated us like one of them. Some of the older girls taught us to dance, the younger girls sang us some lovely songs. It is not only a school, they also have a section where they look after elderly women, a training centre for Sisters, a home for street children and a school farm providing them with a large amount of their food.

This trip was such an amazing opportunity, we are all so grateful to everyone who welcomed us. It has made us all appreciate the little things in life which we all take for granted. The Ashalayam will remain in my heart forever. Being able to visit our link school in Kolkata, Don Bosco Park Circus, was great because we were able to see how Don Bosco has such a large influence on the people of Kolkata. In fact, a roundabout in Kolkata is named after Don Bosco, with a statue in the centre with three children around him. The two children, at the front, represent Salesian school children, and the boy behind Don Bosco represents the many street children that the Salesians look after. The Salesian ethos in Chertsey mirrors that of Kolkata.

It was really nice to see our link school, Don Bosco Park Circus, and meet all the pupils and talk about the differences between life in India and in the UK. It was very interesting to see the way Salesians operate in another country. It was great to see the work that the Salesians are doing, especially in the Ashalayam project, which all of us enjoyed visiting, as it was right in the middle of a slum!



I don't think I will ever be able to understand how people who have absolutely nothing, can seem so happy about their situation, it is unbelievably admirable. Despite being one of the poorest types of environment, the sense of community and cohesion that was apparent throughout the slums that we visited in Kolkata is incredible. Going to India was also the greatest cultural experience I have had the chance to have; from the infra-structure, to the incredibly welcoming and giving mannerisms of most Indian people.

The most touching part of the week was the hospitality. We couldn't have felt more welcome all week from the priests in the Salesian house, to head teachers of various schools, to the street kids themselves. It was incredible to see the smiles of children who have absolutely nothing yet can still find joy in music, dance and each other. We have a lot to learn from their hope and attitude. The reality of the scale of the poverty stuck me when retracing the steps of Mother Teresa.





## Clapping

We are programmed to see problems and to solve them.  
We have minds that can focus too much on mistakes.  
It is best to recognise the good that is always here and thank God for it.  
So invite the group to respond to the litany by a short round of clapping as an active prayer of gratitude.



## Lord

We thank you by clapping for a new day to experience, good friends to share the day with, many different gifts in this group, hidden acts of kindness in our group, the courage to say we are sorry, the fun that happens by accident.

*Add your own*

Lord thank you for the ability to see what's positive in each other and enjoy the gift of life you give us every day. **AMEN**



## Reach for the Sky

Ask the group to stand and relax their arms by giving them a gentle shake.  
Then stretch them up to the ceiling with fingers pointed.  
Ask them to take a full breath as they stretch and hold it before relaxing.

***Repeat three times.***



## Lord

You ask us to grow strong and flexible by stretching ourselves against life's challenges. Help us to reach for the challenges of this day. May the challenges we meet remind us of the way that you too were stretched on a cross so that new life might come through the Resurrection.

May the times when we are stretched today bring life into all those we meet.

**AMEN**





# Swatch & Pray

David O'Malley SDB



AMEN

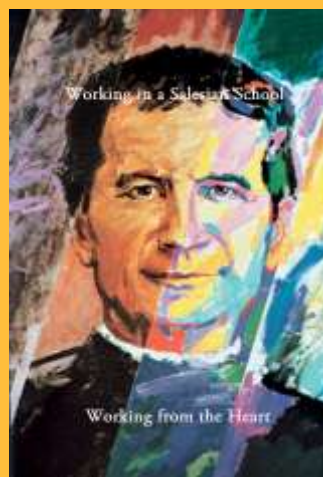
AMEN

AMEN

## Helping us Pray Today

Forty years ago, our schools in Great Britain were well-staffed with Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB). As the number of vocations fell and Salesians began to retire from teaching, we began to consider what to do with our schools. We even raised the question, *How many SDBs do we need to teach in a Salesian school to keep a school 'Salesian'?* It was felt, at the time, that the answer to this question would determine which schools we would have to close. In the event, we did not close any of our secondary schools. Today we have more students in our schools than ever before. Most of our schools have lay leadership and staff and they are very much *Salesian* schools. We now know that we were asking ourselves the wrong question. We should have asked the question, *How do we support our Salesian schools to ensure that they remain Salesian?*

A Salesian province has a duty to support its schools. Staff have a right to know what is expected of them when they are appointed to work in a Salesian school. Every province, in the Salesian world, will have devised various support systems for its schools. One small part of that support is in the work of publications. For the last ten years the staff of *Don Bosco Publications* have sought to provide some of this support by encouraging Salesians to collaborate in the creation of publications which staff will welcome, since these publications will help them in the education of the young people entrusted to them. Some publications have been written specifically for the staff in our Salesian schools, for example the booklet



**Working in a Salesian School - Working from the Heart.** This short booklet, which summarises the essentials of our Salesian Preventive System, is given to everyone who works in our Salesian Schools. However, when we display our books at teacher conferences we make this booklet available for anyone to take, free of charge. Participants at conferences always appreciate a gift.

While being aware of the needs of the staff and young people in our own Salesian schools, most of our publications have a wider remit; they are designed for all Christian schools. For example the book entitled *The Christian Teacher: Shepherd of Loving Kindness* by David O'Malley SDB, while being firmly based on Salesian principles, is widely appreciated in Christian circles and is used in teacher-training courses.

A recent interesting development has been the introduction of *Swatch & Pray*, a 60 card-resource of prayers, actions and reflections for use with young people. It brings together the Church traditions of **praying with the body and with the heart.** These prayers are designed to be used in large groups, small groups or individually. The swatch can be given to an individual to choose a prayer or the leader may select an appropriate prayer for that day. The activities and reflections lead **from life experience** into *prayer*. We have had a very positive response to *Swatch & Pray* from many Catholic schools and orders from Anglican schools. It seems they enjoy praying in this Salesian way.



# The Treasure Within

## Rediscovering the Mystics

There is a subtle but profound shift taking place in our times. We live in a very busy, highly extraverted culture, that fills us with all kinds of information and endless entertainment, yet there is a hunger in our souls that our technical brilliance cannot fill. It has always been the task of great religions to feed this hunger, but some of our institutional Churches struggle to meet this need.

Our busyness and willpower never seem to be enough. Not only that, but this distant God, who we are told is a God of love, seems determined to punish us. The task of healthy religion is to shatter this toxic image of God and shatter our egotistic sense of self and totally transform our lives. We are invited to undertake this journey. It is not easy. Sometimes we prefer to say our prayers, even attend church services, perhaps even study some theology, but we want to keep the ego in control of all this. We want to feel good about ourselves. The mystics invite us to go beyond the question of worthiness, performance religion, or religion as a set of requirements, and, instead, to surrender to a religion of relationship. We are invited to look into the mystery of our life in God. This is our true identity, and once we realise it everything changes. We look out at the world with different eyes. We discover how deeply we are united to God, not by our own efforts but by the gift of transforming grace. We begin to taste what St Paul meant when he said, *I no longer live, Christ lives in me*. We cannot achieve transformation; it is the work of the Holy Spirit. God never forces himself on us, but he invites us to open the door, to enter through the narrow gate to discover the treasure within which is the divine indwelling. What we are asked to do is to slip out of our external world of activity and busyness from time to time, on a daily basis ideally, and to enter our inner world in silent prayer, where, as Jesus promises, the Father is already waiting for us.

There have been five people who have touched my life and given me the confidence to embark on this journey. They have deeply explored the contemplative journey. They have written about it, they invite us to follow them.

Firstly there is **Thomas Merton** who has been a key figure in the recovery of the mystical contemplative tradition in the Western Church.

**Julian of Norwich** was Merton's favourite English mystic and she was probably the first woman to write a book in English. She has a beautifully compassionate spirituality, revealing that God is incapable of anger. When we fail, God looks at us with pity not with blame. She freely speaks of the fatherhood and the motherhood of God.

**Thérèse of Lisieux** is a universally popular saint whose gift to the Church was the discovery of her *Little Way* which is rooted in the spirituality of imperfection.

**Bede Griffiths** was an English Benedictine who went to live in India to find the other half of his soul.

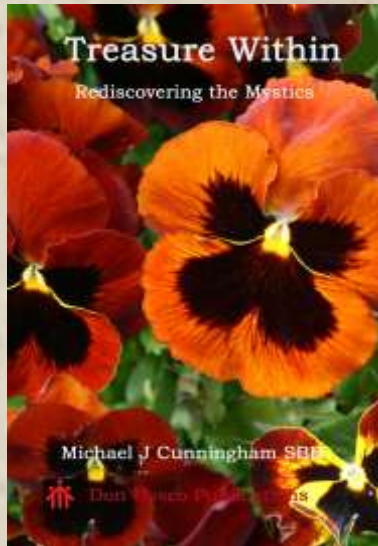
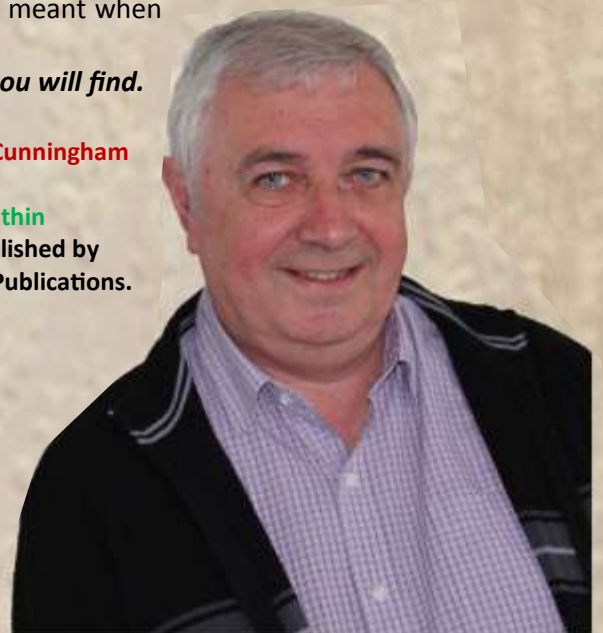
**John O'Donohue**, an Irish philosopher-poet sought to move the Church towards a recovery of the more mystical tradition

These men and women invite us to undertake the great adventure of the human soul. Their lives point to the vision and experience of all the mystics: oneness with God, oneness with others, oneness with creation. I encourage you to embark on this journey to explore what Jesus meant when he said:

***Seek and you will find.***

**Fr Michael Cunningham**

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