



Rosary Shrine News

ISSUE 2, FEB 2018

- Welcoming Visitors
- Conserving Heritage
- Building our Community
- Inspiring Hearts & Minds



A Pilgrim Church

We extend a warm welcome to the increasing numbers of pilgrims and visitors who come to pray or simply to enjoy the beauty of the Shrine.

Visits have been encouraged by a feature in **'Oremus'**, the diocesan magazine, and by our rich programme of events.

In the summer, we even received visitors from the USA who read a feature about the church in the **'National Catholic Register'**.



Parish: 150 Years!

October being the month of the Rosary is a busy and significant month for us. **Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP** joined us again to celebrate Mass on the feast of the Holy Rosary. This special Mass also marked the 150th anniversary of the parish community at St Dominic's, and was a beautiful occasion to remember God's blessings and give thanks for all those who contribute to the parish.

Archbishop Malcolm mentioned the processions that used to take place in the wide aisles of the church,

and fittingly we held a beautiful torchlit **Rosary Procession** every Saturday during the month of the Rosary.



New Marian Images

We have also begun to attract pilgrims from London's diverse ethnic groups. In December, the Mexican community including the Consul and many others gathered with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Edward Adams, to welcome a new 'relic image' of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** sent to us from Mexico City.

We also welcomed a statue of Our Lady of the Rosary from the Philippines, the first authorised statue in the UK of **Our Lady of Manaog**. Filipinos from all over London came for the 'Simbang Gabi' Masses in the run-up to Christmas to venerate the image, and to celebrate as a community. These were joyful, delicious occasions for us at St Dominic's!

Works in the Pipeline

We recognise that the lack of facilities such as a **welcome centre** and café does limit the hospitality that we can extend to our visitors. Likewise, in the winter months, the church can be very cold without an economically viable and efficient modern **heating system**. We are

exploring ways to address these issues and to seek funds to improve the welcome we offer to all.

As Spring approaches, the **Lady Chapel** is entering its final stage of restoration, and the **sound system** will be upgraded after Easter. Planning is also underway for a new **Rosary Garden** to be planted behind the Lady Chapel.

There, we hope to have plaques commemorating the Mysteries of Light, a Rosary-shaped path that is wheelchair-accessible, and a serene environment for prayer and quiet reflection that would benefit the local community.

We welcome any support you can offer. See over for details of fundraising progress.

For news, events calendar, online giving: www.RosaryShrine.co.uk



Fundraising Update

Patrons: Princess Josephine Loewenstein, Countess Dora della Gherardesca

Thank you for your support!



In Memoriam

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of those whose legacies we received recently. Of your charity, please pray for:

- Josie Bermingham

We also remember Wendy Searle whose fundraising efforts were featured in the last newsletter, and who sadly died after a short illness.

Sacred Music

Your donations help to provide beautiful music in the Liturgy and in special concerts. The 12 noon Sunday Mass is now designated the 'Rosary Shrine Solemn Mass' and features the **Rosary Shrine Singers**, a professional group led by Matthew Schellhorn that sings from the 'sacred treasury' of polyphony and Dominican chant.

Music also provides an opening

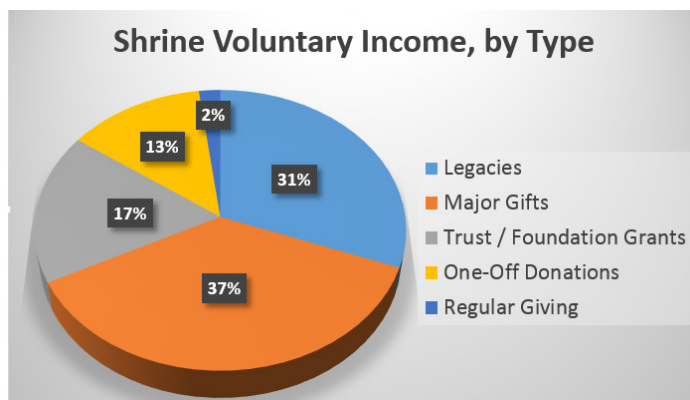
for more people to come and visit us. This year we are collaborating with **The Bach Players** who are performing **Biber's 'Rosary Sonatas'** over the course of three concerts in Advent, Lent (24 Feb), and Eastertide (12 May). Rick Jones reviewed the first concert in **'The Tablet'**, and he observed that 'St Dominic's was in effect built for such a performance... Architecturally, the building is one of the marvels of the Gothic Revival.' He declared these

concerts to be 'well worth making space for in your new diary'.

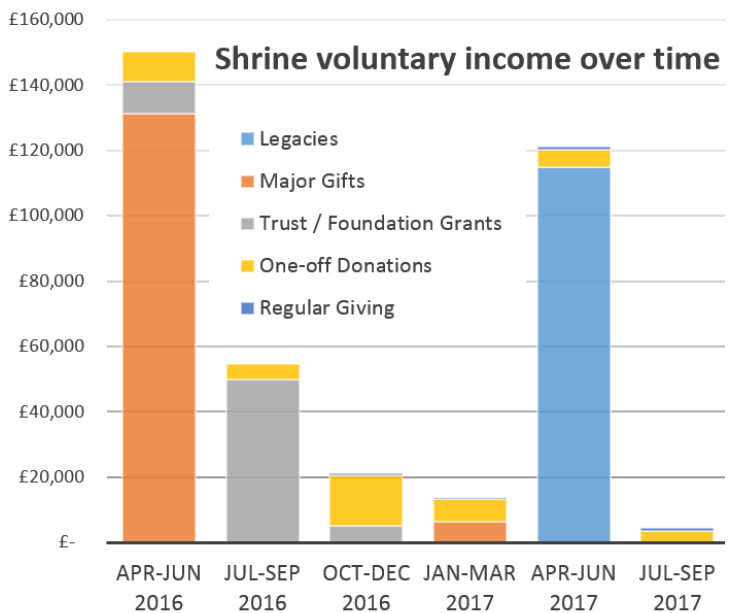
We have also had a choral concert performed by **'The Lyra Singers'**; the conductor is a parishioner, and half the proceeds were generously donated to the Rosary Shrine Fund.

We welcome any gifts you wish to make specifically to support the provision of music: speak to Fr Thomas or email thomas.skeats@english.op.org

Latest Fundraising Figures



Legacies and major gifts (of £5000 or more) have made a big impact on the progress of our campaign. If you would like to discuss giving in this way, please contact Fr Thomas thomas.skeats@english.op.org.



Progress against revised target (£750,000)

Raised or Pledged ✓ £374,000	Still to Find £376,000
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The English Province of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans) is a charity registered in England and Wales (231192) and in Scotland (SC039062).