

Episcopal Vicariate of Great Britain and Ireland

Annual Conference

Friday 23rd to Monday 26th May 2008
All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney, St Albans

“For the Life of the World” : Communion and Community

We are pleased to announce that the Annual Conference will take place on the late May Bank Holiday, 23rd to 26th May 2008. We hope that those people who attended the last conference, and many others, will be able to come and experience the spirit of the Vicariate gathered around Bishop Basil, with the opportunity to meet fellow members of the Exarchate from Western Europe.

As always the conference has a programme of talks, discussion groups, workshops, and round tables. At a deeper level it is the spirit of fellowship - opportunities to renew old friendships and make new ones, to speak with our priests, to share and grow in our common faith - that gives it life. But at the heart of the conference is the daily cycle of services: Vespers and Matins, with the Vigil and the sacrament of Confession on Saturday evening, and the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning.

We have found an excellent new venue for the Conference:

**All Saints Pastoral Centre,
Shenley Lane, London Colney, St Albans, Herts, AL2 1AF.**

This former Anglican convent, now owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster, has a direct association with St Alban, Protomartyr of Britain. The extensive grounds contain the site of the Chapel which was the dwelling of the priest for whom St Alban gave his life. The buildings form a quadrangle around a central cloister garden, making it a compact, intimate site which draws people together. The facilities - which include single and twin-bedded rooms, a lift to the first floor, comfortable sitting rooms and bar, a large galleried meeting room with a PA system and induction loop, and a beautiful chapel - will meet our needs in a way that has not been possible before. Although charges are higher than we have been accustomed to at a school, they are still extremely reasonable, and far less than we could hope to find elsewhere.

You can look up the Centre at <http://www.allsaintspc.org.uk>

Arrival & Departure. The Pastoral Centre will be available from mid- afternoon on Friday, so that those wishing to avoid the Bank Holiday traffic can arrive early, settle in and relax before supper and the evening talk. Departure is mid-afternoon Monday.

Children and Youth Programme. Thanks to generous support from the Parishes and Communities it has been possible to re-instate a Programme of activities for children and youth during the morning talks and afternoon discussion groups, and to offer reduced conference fees for them (see Booking leaflet for further information.)

Booking: Your completed application form with payment must be returned by **15th February**, because an early booking commitment is required by the Pastoral Centre. Although this is a new timescale for us, we think this early commitment will be a positive feature in terms of giving people time to plan ahead, save money, and book travel in advance at cheaper rates.

Payment: If you can, please send your full payment by **15th February**. If you cannot pay the full amount immediately and wish to pay by instalments, please discuss this with us in advance. Payment from abroad can be made by Travellers Cheques, or directly into the bank account - details will be supplied upon request.

Requests for Bursaries: All requests for assistance with fees will be considered by the Conference Committee. So that the Bursary Fund can support the greatest number of people, we urge you to contribute as much as you can towards your own fees, and to pay by instalments if that will help you. Please do not feel shy about asking for help if you need it, as we would like to enable everyone who wants to come to do so.

Cancellations: The Pastoral Centre will charge 30% for cancellations made after **23rd February**. The scale of charges then increases by 10% monthly. We will be unable to make refunds for cancellations after **2nd May 2008**.

Appeal for Bursary Contributions: Our ability to help those who cannot afford the full conference fees depends entirely on donations to the Bursary Fund . This year many people contributed most generously to the Fund, for which we are extremely grateful. This money assisted 19 people to attend the conference who otherwise could not have done so.

In order to continue enabling Vicariate members who may be in financial need to attend the conference, we appeal to you to make a contribution to the Bursary Fund for one of the following amounts, or whatever you can afford:

£250....£200....£150....£100....£50....£25....£15....£10

Any amount will be gratefully received.

Cheques should be made out to:

“Episcopal Vicariate Conference Account”

Please send your donation to the following address:

Lisa von Schlippe, Vicariate Conference, 20 Canada Road, London, W3 0NP

If you have any queries about the conference please contact :

Telephone: 020 7243 0801 (Kelsey Cheshire)

E-mail: conference@exarchate-uk.org