

## REVEREND CHRISTOPHER DELANEY O.S.B. R.I.P.

It was with deep sadness that we received the news last Sunday that Fr Chris had died. He had recently suffered a sequence of falls which had weakened him significantly. He remained alert and engaged until the very last days.

News of his death spread swiftly and widely. Fr Chris had maintained a high profile on social media and over seven thousand people have expressed their condolences in recent days through various strands. In expressing their sorrow, many have shared stories of how Fr Christopher impacted their lives. We give thanks for his priestly ministry in our midst, a ministry mediated through his monastic vocation.

Dom Christopher Delaney became a member of the English Benedictine Congregation at Buckfast Abbey in Devon. Following his embrace of monastic vows, he was ordained to the priesthood. In 1967 he moved to Cardiff, taking up residence with the Ampleforth Community that was caring for the parish of St Mary of the Angels.

Many secondary schools were being built across the Archdiocese of Cardiff at that time, including Bishop Hannon High School in Fairwater. Bishop Hannon was the place where Fr Chris began his extraordinary work with children and young people. He contributed to the life of the parish alongside his fellow monks in so many ways, but it was his work in schools that will be best remembered.

Generations of children will remember well the first time they laid eyes on this amazing priest and monk. Perhaps they will recall his unruly hair, or his unique technique of riding a bicycle. All will recall that this was a man with a heart and soul that was ready to embrace one and all. Fr Chris made himself available, always ready to listen, eager to encourage and willing to support.

In the 1970's he played a significant role in establishing the 'Soup Run', addressing the needs of the homeless, drawing in helpers from north, south, east and west. He visited families and was remarkable in maintaining personal links with so many over the years. We could fill many pages with recollections but that is best done elsewhere.

Fr Chris retired from his role here in Cardiff in 2010, returning to Buckfast. For a number of years, he became the first point of welcome for the vast number of visitors entering the Abbey grounds. The unmistakable profile and the mischievous smile were easily identifiable even at a distance.

As we all know, Fr Chris eventually managed to manufacture a return to Cardiff after some ill-health, taking up residence at Nazareth House. This return to his beloved city brought him many blessings and enabled him to contribute so much to the lives of those who remained close to him unto the end.

His Funeral Mass will be celebrated At Buckfast Abbey on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon.



## **FUNERAL MASS AT BUCKFAST ABBEY**

We have arranged a 49 seater bus to enable those parishioners of St Mary's and Holy Family Churches, without private transport, to attend the Funeral Mass of Father Christopher Delaney on Friday 20th May.

The bus will be at the entrance of Sophia Gardens at 8.15am to leave promptly at 8.30am on Friday 20th May. The journey will take about 3 hours.

There will be a lunch served at The Grange Restaurant at The Abbey following Father Delaney's Funeral Mass.

The bus will leave to return to Cardiff at 3.30pm.

The cost of the bus is a subsidised £15 per person.

Please ring Kath Elley on 07976 903111 to book your place. Please bear in mind that places are obviously limited.

## **MEMORIAL MASS IN ST MARY OF THE ANGELS**

We will celebrate a Memorial Mass for the eternal repose of Fr Chris on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm in St Mary of the Angels, Kings Rd, Canton. This will provide an opportunity for all to come together in Prayer, Thanksgiving and Celebration.

The maximum we can accommodate in the Church will be 500.

There will be a reception in the Hall afterwards but it should be noted that the capacity there is restricted to 200.

There will be a collection taken at the Memorial Mass in support of the 'Reaching Out' Project, in recognition of Fr Christopher's multi-faceted ministry to the vulnerable.

I have ordered Memorial Books for the recording of tributes in honour of Fr Chris. They are not yet printed and will not arrive until next weekend.

Please note that parking is limited in the area and therefore allow time for travel and arrival at the Church.

May he rest in peace. Amen.