

North Oxford Deanery Clergy hear about the Catenian Bursary Fund.



Our Lady & St Hugh. The venue of the last Deanery Meeting.

Brother President Denis was invited by The Dean of the North Oxford Deanery, Fr John Hancock, to address the clergy at the meeting held in Our Lady & St Hugh in Witney. Thirteen of the sixteen parishes in the Deanery were represented at the meeting. Some of the clergy are very conversant with the Association, others much less so. This was a great opportunity to make all aware.

After the opening prayer Denis was introduced and opened by explaining what the Association was, and as importantly, what it wasn't. There is a misconception that the association is a group of dining clubs. This myth was dispelled as Denis told of the work the association does in supporting the Catholic Church nationally, the liaison with the Bishop's Conference, the support individual members give to their parishes and the work we do in supporting our Catholic Youth using the example of our sponsorship of Flame and the Bursary Fund as concrete examples.

Denis then handed over to Chris Bevan who gave a short presentation on the Bursary Fund.

Explaining how the fund could be a great support to the Youth of the Deanery. Chris explained that the fund is a registered charity established in 1980. Since its inception it has given over £1.2M in grants to young Catholic men and women who have done amazing things all over the world through charitable projects. Clergy were told of the criteria applicants needed to conform to and how they can apply. This was followed by showing a short video in which past recipients of bursary awards told of their experiences and encouraged others to follow in their footsteps.

The presentation concluded by handing out packs containing posters and leaflets that they all agreed to display in their parishes.

Fr Mervyn Tower, of Corpus Christi Parish in Headington, spoke of his personal experience of the fund and how it helps young Catholics. He encouraged his colleagues to promote this in their parishes.

It was generally agreed that this was a very productive meeting. We were able to deliver a very good message to a number of clergy in one go, we now have a number of new advocates for the Association in our area. A job well done.

12 February, 2019.