

Becoming a Dementia Friendly Church

By Maureen Knight

Over 130 attended a conference on 'Becoming a dementia Friendly Church'. The day began with a beautiful prayer service led by Father Chris Thomas, about everyone being welcome, in which we were all given a white rose and invited to place it in the central focal point as a symbol of our care for people living with dementia.

Father Chris Fallon reported on the four key points of the Archdiocesan action plan and the progress that had been made since the Archdiocese joined the Dementia Action Alliance. You can read all about that on the Dementia Action Alliance website where it is listed as Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool: www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances/3012_liverpool_dementia_action_alliance

The four main sessions were led by June Andrews, Professor Emeritus at Stirling University, former director of the Dementia Services Development Centre and author of 'Dementia: The One Stop Guide'. In the morning Professor Andrews spoke about understanding dementia and the experience of people with dementia. After lunch Gina Shaw, the 'poster girl' for the Alzheimers' Society Dementia Friends movement, spoke about her own experience of living well with dementia. Professor Andrews helped to reflect on the role of parishes and chaplaincies in the pastoral and spiritual care of people with dementia and their carers, and what a dementia friendly parish might look like.

Here are a few examples of the ideas that people attending the conference took away with them:

- Let people know we want to be a dementia friendly parish
- Hold Dementia Friends sessions for everyone in the parish, especially those who visit the sick
- Improve the lighting and signage in our churches and community rooms
- Don't stop visiting because someone has dementia – maintaining relationships is vital
- Recruit more Dementia Champions
- Sing one old hymn at every service
- Train all hospital visitors to make sure patients keep drinking to maintain their hydration
- Start a 'cuppa and natter' group or a community choir, open to everyone, including those living with dementia and their carers

If you would like to know more, to volunteer to arrange a Dementia Friends session in your parish or to train as a Dementia Champion, contact Maureen Knight, Pastoral Formation, Tel: 0151 522 1046, email m.knight@rcaol.co.uk



Michelle Davies (Alzheimer's Society and Archdiocesan Dementia Working Group), Father Chris Fallon, Father Chris Thomas, Professor Emeritus June Andrews, Maureen Knight)

Obituary of Canon Roger Daley

Canon Roger Daley who served in the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese for 38 years died on Monday 23 May at the age of 85 and in the 55th year of his priesthood.

Roger Austin Daley was born in Liverpool on 11 January 1931, the son of Thomas and Catherine Daley. He attended Notre Dame and St Francis Xavier's, Liverpool and then read for a law degree at the University of Liverpool. He studied for the priesthood at Campion House, Osterley, and the Venerable English College, Rome. He was ordained priest in Rome on 29 October 1961.

In November 1962 he was appointed as assistant priest at St Clare's, Liverpool. With his legal background it was not surprising that in the autumn of 1964 he was sent to Rome to study for a licentiate in Canon Law at the Gregorian University. On completion of his canonical studies he returned to the archdiocese in 1966 to take up an appointment as assistant priest at St Alban's, Liverpool, during which time he was also appointed as a Diocesan Notary. The following year he was appointed as assistant priest at St Nicholas, Liverpool, and remained there until January 1973, a period which included the closure of the old Pro-Cathedral. From 1968 he combined his parish duties with the post of Diocesan Advocate in the Metropolitan Tribunal. From 1973 until 1982 he ministered in All Saints' parish, Liverpool, again combining parochial and tribunal work. In February 1977 he succeeded Father Kevin O'Connor as Vice-Officialis.

He became a parish priest for the first time in March 1982, with his appointment to St Hugh of Lincoln, Liverpool. It was during his tenure there that he succeeded Canon Brian Mullan as Officialis in 1984. For more than twenty years he continued to lead the Tribunal in its work with his customary quiet, assiduous and unassuming manner. Throughout this time he continued to exercise pastoral ministry beyond the offices of the Tribunal: as chaplain at the Good Shepherd Convent, Liverpool from 1988 to 1993, parish priest at St Mary's, Little Crosby from 1993 to 1999, supernumerary priest at St Paul's, West Derby in 1999 and at Our Lady of Good Help, Liverpool from 1999 to 2004, and chaplain at the Cenacle Convent, Liverpool from 2004. After he retired in February 2006 he continued to live at West Derby, Liverpool, until increasing frailty necessitated his move to Ince Blundell. For his outstanding services to the archdiocese he was appointed an Honorary Canon of the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter in November 1989.

Canon Daley's Funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Family church, Ince Blundell, followed by interment at Allerton Cemetery, Liverpool.