

# Holy Cross Abbey, Whitland 2017 News

## Greetings from the Whitland Community



Pope Francis with Dom Eamon Abbot General



M. Christine greeting the Pope



Farewell and thank you

## This has been a grace filled year

### General Chapter in Assisi 2017

The General Chapter was a very positive experience of communion in the Order in spite of a persistent bug which laid so many low. The highlight was the private Papal audience on 23<sup>rd</sup> September

#### Sr Usia

Sr Usia received the Cistercian habit, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, the feast of All the Saints who follow the Rule of St Benedict. Sr Usia entered Holy Cross Abbey on 14<sup>th</sup> May after 19 years as a sister of the Missionary Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSp's).

#### Sr Jenny

In August Sr Jenny required emergency surgery and after 5 weeks in hospital she is returning to good health.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December the feast of the Immaculate Conception she received the black scapular, on her journey to being an Oblate.



#### Safety Work

A huge amount of time, work and expense has gone into upgrading the monastery's electrics and fire precautions. This work should be completed in 2018 and is funded by a very generous bequest.



#### Brother Visitors

On a very wet summer's day the monks of Caldey braved the weather for a lovely visit on 26<sup>th</sup> July, which we all enjoyed.

#### Health

This year Fr Michael, our part-time Chaplain, had a hip replacement and Sr Jean has now had both hip joints replaced.

## The French Connection

We continue to be blessed with French students wishing to come during the summer to improve their English through voluntary work. This year Edouard started to help Dave prepare 9 new allotment beds for soft fruits.



Then Adhemar & Corentin finished off the work with gravel pathways.



All have been a delight to meet and very willing to adapt to the monastic environment and the weather. We thank them and wish them well with their studies.

## Diocesan Clergy

Many thanks to our Chaplain, Fr Michael Hart for his thoughtfulness and kindness. A big thank you once again to the priests who generously come and celebrate Mass for us, especially during the time of Fr Michael's surgery. And a big thank you to Fr Pius, Parish Priest in Carmarthen, for his monthly talks on Philosophy, which have been very enjoyable and rich.

## Abbey Bakery Customers

Thank you for your support. Our Community earns its living through baking and retailing

## Regular Visitation 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August

Dom Erik, our Father Immediate, Abbot of Mt St Bernard, made the Regular Visitation, which was very positive and forward looking. We are very grateful to our brother from Mt St Bernard, Fr Denis Geoghan, without whom our Easter and Christmas liturgical celebrations would have been diminished.

## Songs of Praise



Mark Warburton, a BBC producer for Songs of Praise, contacted us to look at the possibility of our participation in one of the programmes. We agreed to take part and spent a day filming from 3am – 7.30pm. The programme can be seen

[Modern Nuns Prt1 J d'A - YouTube](#)

[Modern Nuns Prt3 J d'A - YouTube](#)

## Trip to Lantau

16<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November M. Christine and Sr Elsie visited Hong Kong: M. Christine to give retreat talks to our brothers of Our Lady of Joy monastery on Lantau Island and Sr Elsie to visit her family. They also visited our sisters at Our Lady Star of Hope monastery in Macau



## Thank you

To our staff – Jan, Julian, Dave & Suzanne, to Eleanor our volunteer gardener, to Luke's and Sue's teams. Everyone makes a generous contribution to the richness of life.