

# Mastering the art of Church ceremony

**On Saturday July 5th the Archbishop invited all Parish Master of Ceremonies, Assistant Master of Ceremonies and members of the Guild of Stephen to come together at the Cornerstone at St David's for a day of training.**

The day had been put together as a result of the time the Archdiocesan Master of Ceremonies, Fr Mark Rowles had spent in the Archdiocese of Westminster, at Westminster Cathedral in the April/May of 2013. Whilst there Fr Mark acquainted himself with his counterpart, Mr Paul Moynihan. Paul had gladly offered any help to our Diocese with the kind permission of Archbishop Stack first.

Hence on July 5th the day arrived and about 40 people from all over the Diocese, of different ages joined with Paul in reflecting on Liturgical practice in the various parishes represented. His Grace, Archbishop Stack began the day with an introductory talk. He spoke to affirm all present of the wonderful job our Parish MC's, AMC's and Altar Servers do in our parishes when each week they help assist our Priests in serving at the Altar and the various liturgies

that take place in our Churches. His Grace then gave a detailed and very informative talk on "The Liturgical Year" and this was then followed by Paul who began asking all present what would they like out of the day itself. Many present felt that what they needed the most would be a practical session with Paul. He explained to them that what they asked for would be dealt with in the afternoon's session.

Paul then explained to all those gathered as to how best they could provide help and support to the Parish Priest by ministering at the Altar and also when the Archbishop comes to their parishes on visitation. He split the group up into three and asked them to then consider 3 scenarios and in particular what preparation may be needed. So one group had a Confirmation Mass, another the Induction of a Parish Priest and the third the Ordination of a Permanent Deacon to consider. The responses to which were given after a generous lunch ably prepared and hosted by all of our Seminarians and Rev Michael Doyle!

After lunch feedback was given before everyone all crossed the road to the Cathedral for practical

sessions. The day ended at 4pm by a vote of thanks from Chris, one of the Cathedral MC's. Fr Mark thanked His Grace and Paul especially coming to his out of his busy schedule to give such a

thoughtful day. Since that weekend Fr Mark has had a few correspondences from some who attended to say how wonderfully informative and helpful the time together was. It was hoped by a few

that maybe something like this could happen again. What pleased everyone most though was the kind invitation by Paul Moynihan to visit him at the Cathedral maybe next time in Westminster!!!



## A musical feast from St John's College

**From the moment I heard the overture to HMS Pinafore, and the lovely playing of the love theme by oboist Morgan Foley...I knew I was in for a good evening's entertainment.**

This production by St John's College, Cardiff, was as good as any production of Gilbert and Sullivan I have seen, and I include the D'Oyly Carte company. It had everything, a brilliant orchestra, conducted by Diana Neville, lively chorus and well-cast principals.

There were some stunning high notes by Josephine, the Captain's Daughter (Andrea Mizzen) and the love scenes with Ralph Rackstraw (Karthik Kumar) were a great amalgam of romance and humour. Indeed humour is at the centre of Pinafore, no more so than the performance by Ross Lisney-Wilson as Sir Joseph Porter, sung with comic gusto and spoke with a well sustained upper-class lisp. As the Captain, Rik Banerjee sang a truly bathetic "Pale Moon to thee I sing" and I particularly liked the comic touches introduced by Joseph Evans, as the Boatswain...a part not normally played beyond the stolid Englishman, but here fleshed out into a real comic part. Moreover, he had a fine bass-baritone voice which certainly well-supported the bottom line in the choruses.

And as for the chorus, to use a football metaphor, they acted off the ball and never allowed their characterisations to drop while the focus was on the principals.

All in all, a fine performance and congratulations to Director Malcolm Harding and Musical Director Dominic Neville and all the backstage staff.

And a final word about Dick Deadeye...a threatening villain of a performance from Abbinaba Guha, well appreciated by two past Dick Deadeyes in the audience...Archbishop George Stack and your humble servant, the reviewer.

**Joseph Green**

## Young Treforest athletes celebrate a double!

**St Michael's RC Primary School, Treforest had cause to celebrate after winning the Welsh Catholic Junior Schools Athletics Championships for the second year in a row.**

This year was the 54th championships, held at Cardiff International Sports Stadium and involved over 1600 aspiring athletes from 32 schools from all over Wales. Pupils competed in twenty eight track and field events, including long jump, high jump and shot along with long distance events and sprints.

St Michael's pupils won through many individual and team events, including first places in the Year 6 relays as well as individual winners in the Year 3 boys 60m sprint and Year 5 girls 80m sprint. Both the boys and girls teams were runners up for their respective championship trophies. It came down to a nail biting finish, with only 1.5 point separating the eventual overall champions and runners up.

Ms Barry, PE co-ordinator and athletics coach at the school, said: "Many thanks to all the pupils, parents and staff for their



tremendous effort. A big thank you also to the organisers of the championships who work so hard to put the event together."

It was an emotional moment for Ms Barry, who has been at St Michael's for over thirty years and will retire at the end of the academic year.




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