



Extended Family Newsletter

Issue 38 - December 2020

News from the EF Core Group

The Core Group has continued to meet regularly during the Pandemic by virtue of Zoom.

In November, we celebrated Founder's Birthday with a virtual Prayer Meeting on Zoom, our first venture into the world of bigger Zoom meetings.

Currently we are planning a virtual day of recollection on the theme of CHANGE, to be held in February, around Foundation Day. Details of this will be sent out after Christmas.

The Core Group at work



Greg Smith, John Newby, Kath Nolan
Liz Nugent, Eileen Silvester, Moira Lever
(Peter Silvester sadly wasn't present that day)

We are grateful to a number of EF friends who are helping us with the technical side of this venture. This is to replace our annual get together at Noddfa which sadly had to be cancelled.

Greg Smith

News from Béziers

To all of the Extended Family we wish a Happy New Liturgical Year and a Happy Advent! Let us be "watchmen" in the confidence, the joy of the unexpected from this God who joins our humanity and is present at the heart of our lives!

Like you, we are living in confinement with an early easing on Saturday, November 27. Since we could not meet at the Mother House, it was by mail and emails that we reached all the members when we were celebrating the anniversary of Father Gailhac's birth, on November 13th. There was a letter inviting members to visit the website and recite the Extended Family Prayer every Friday (you have inspired us). A time of meditation and prayer offered by a small team.

Now in order to facilitate access we are sending Institute podcasts to people who have internet. (2 sent to date).

In community, we carry the sick in our prayers: Thierry, Jeannine and others through the intercession of Father Gailhac.

From each and every one of us we hope that you will be able to find your families again ...
Wishing you all the blessings of God-with-us

Sr Françoise for the Extended Family of Béziers

Carte Noël de Béziers

Christmas Card from Béziers

« Réjouissons- nous tous car
c'est pour nous tous que ce
sauveur est né.
Il nous a apporté à tous la
grâce qui nous rendra la
liberté, la vie et la gloire du
ciel ».

Père Gailhac 1884



"Let us all rejoice because this
Saviour was born for all of us.
He has brought us all the grace
that will give us freedom, life
and glory from heaven."

Fr Gailhac 1884

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année
Feliz Natal e Bom Ano Novo
Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year

Marie-Jean, Marie-Paule, Bernadette, Lucienne, Françoise, Claudia

News from Carlisle - Covid-19

These past few months have been abnormal for all of us, leaving us worried and concerned not only for ourselves but for our family and friends during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We in the UK were fortunate that the weather was fabulous for the 12 weeks of lockdown and it was great to see so many families out walking together. I live alone and it was also great for me to get out and walk every day.

This was all to change for me at the beginning of April when I read on Social media that a 'Covid-19 Support Group' had been set up in Carlisle and were seeking volunteers. Their aim was to supply emergency food parcels to those who's financial circumstances had changed drastically due to the Coronavirus, and to supply lunch packs to children who were no longer at school and, therefore, not able to receive their free daily meal. They also saw a need for a shopping service for those people shielding/isolating who had no means to get their weekly shopping.

I volunteered to do shopping during the week and to deliver emergency food parcels on a Saturday. In the beginning there were lots of volunteers as so many people were furloughed

from their work but we were all kept busy everyday with shopping tasks. When lockdown ended in the beginning of July, many of the volunteers went back to work, but there were still lots of requests for shopping. I found myself shopping for 3 to 4 people every day, Monday - Saturday. In the past month many have now been able to make arrangements for their own shopping tasks, leaving me with shopping to do for 6 regulars which I do over 3 days.

In September the original Food Bank came to an end and a new project 'Affordable Food Hub' was set up, where a food order can be purchased for a small amount. For example, a food order of £25 can be purchased for £5, thus giving people on low-income affordable food. The orders are delivered to their homes and I have started to deliver some of these orders one day each week.

My eyes have been opened these past 9 months to the number of people in our city living on low income and the number of elderly people with no one able to do the shopping tasks due, quite often, to family members living away from the city and unable to travel during the lockdown periods.

Maureen Wilson

News from the Extended Family in Furness

As lockdown continued, our monthly prayer meetings moved online, using Zoom. We've now invested in a licence so that we can have uninterrupted sessions. We've been busy learning how to use Zoom better and working with the Core Group to prepare for the Foundation Day gathering.

We were sad not to be at Noddfa in October, but are looking forward to getting there sometime soon, when it is safe for the Sisters to have us there and for us to be together again as a large Extended Family group.



Some of our 'regulars' at the August meeting

After the strangest of years, as Advent goes on, we have to prepare for a very different celebration of Christmas too with no singing of Advent or Christmas carols in church to raise our spirits, but we will celebrate the coming of our God.

Ann Newby

What do you want from your Newsletter?

In the last issue, I asked to let me know what you, our readers, wanted from your Newsletter. Your views will help me and the Core Group to shape our Newsletter to meet our future needs. In this issue, I was hoping to report what your views suggested and the way ahead but, so far, I have received too few replies to form a consensus view.

It would be really helpful if you could find some time to relay your thoughts to me after Christmas, say, by the end of January.

The questions I asked were:

- What sort of content do you like best and what least?
- What would you like to see more of/less of?
- Do you think it is too long or too short?
- Do you think there is anything missing from the usual content?
- How do you get on with using the links and viewing linked articles?
- What do you think we should be using the newsletter for?

If you don't want to do this individually, perhaps you could get together with some of your local EF group members, and then let me know what you think. Please let me know your answers by emailing them to me at the EF Newsletter email address below. Any other comments you might have would also be welcome.

I will let you know what general feelings emerge from your responses as soon as I can after receiving your feedback.

John Newby

As always thanks to the contributors and to Sister Thérèse-Marie for her work on the translations to and from French.

The newsletter is published in English and French versions. If you (or someone) else would prefer to receive the French version then please get in touch.

Could you contribute an item to the newsletter? Photos and articles – no matter how short – are always welcome and will be held for the next available newsletter. Don't delay - exercise your literary talents now! Contributions in English or French (both, even!) are equally welcome to the email address below.

Similarly, if you would no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please inform the editor at the address below.

E-mail: efnewsletter@outlook.com