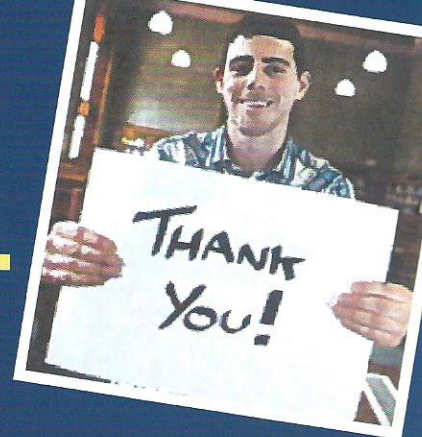




£1,000,538

'THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS'



That's the total up to 11 November. It is made up of ** monthly **Standing Orders**, producing almost £150,000 (307 received in October, adding £4,000 to the Fund) ** special **Discounts** (for example, on fees from the Seminaries who prepare our Students for the Priesthood) and financial support from Organisations

connected with the Diocese, as well as ** **Private Gifts** from individuals (such as Shares and Legacies), worth almost £50,000 and ** Regular Contributions from our **Parishes and Fundraising** activity (some £800,000 +).

If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans'!!

Readers will recall that there were 3 objectives underpinning the launch of the Menevia Jubilee Fund. First was to support the Seminary Training of would-be Priests. We asked both young Priests who were ordained just over a year ago to let us have some 'impressions' of their priestly service and activity during that time. Fr. Mansel makes the first contribution; we shall publish Fr. Liam's (as well as recently ordained Fr. Keith Evans') in our next issue.

Now read on

I was ordained Priest in July 2013. If anyone had said to me that before the end of the year I would be in my third parish, I might have looked at them quite suspiciously. God certainly had plans for me that I didn't see coming.

My first placement was in St Benedict's, Sketty. The people of the parish were wonderful. I am still sorry that I was only there for 3 short months. I am deeply grateful to the late Sr. Josephine Brady, who introduced me to Singleton Hospital, where I continue to visit from Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Mumbles.

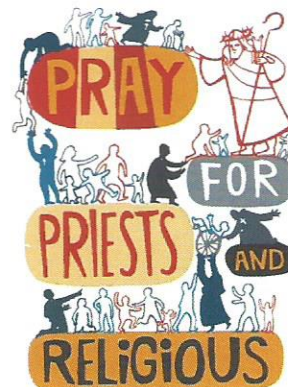
In November, I went to Lampeter and Llandeilo, while Fr Valentine was away. After getting over the initial shock of the monk-like existence that awaited me, I settled in.

By the time the four weeks were over, I could have stayed there quite happily. These were two very beautiful churches and two very beautiful parishes.

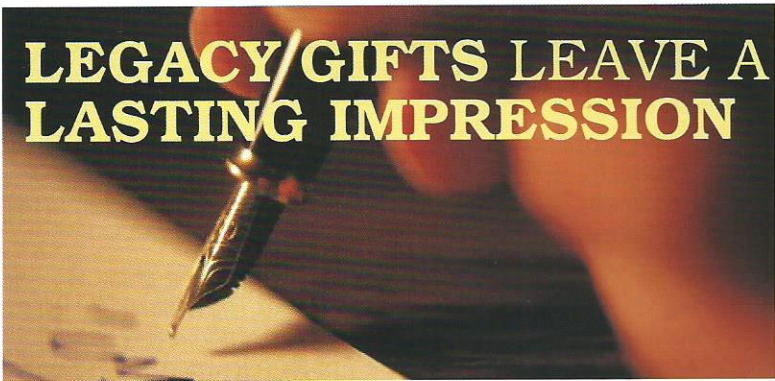
In December, I came as Assistant Priest at Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Mumbles, another beautiful and welcoming parish. That was already nearly twelve happy months ago.

Having a sound prayer life as the bedrock to priestly ministry is something that is emphasised over and over again in Seminary. A priest has a unique and privileged life. He can be part of so many individuals' lives, sharing their pain, joy, and suffering. He can be the centre of everything one minute, and completely alone the next. Despite everything else that goes on in a priest's life, we always try to maintain our loving relationship with God. It is with and through God that everything makes sense. It is in God where we find true happiness.

I have no plans for the next 12 months, but you never know!!



LEGACY/GIFTS LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION



In our last issue, we published details of how you might arrange to make a Bequest or Legacy to Menevia Diocese, for action after your time. Bishop Tom has indicated that he will be more than happy to discuss your ideas with you in person, as well as suggested wording for inclusion in your will.

If you would like to talk to him in complete confidence, please either ring on 01792 644017 or E-mail bishop@menevia.org.

'Give thanks to the Lord; give praise to his name'.

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales said it would be permissible to eat cold turkey (or other meat) on Boxing Day, even though it's a Friday. Yum! Yum!