

# Guild of Our Lady of Ransom

(*The Catholic Church Extension Society*)

*Master of the Guild:*

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## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF RANSOM

*September 14th to 22nd, 1963*

### INTENTIONS

**The Conversion of England and Wales**

**The Restoration of the Lapsed**

**The Forgotten Dead**

**The Poor Country Parishes**

**The Intentions of those whose Petitions are to be carried to Walsingham**

A Plenary Indulgence *toties quoties* may be gained, under the usual conditions, by Ransomers on the Feast of Our Lady of Ransom, September 24th, as often as they visit the Blessed Sacrament in any church and there recite six Paternosters, Aves and Glorias according to the intentions of the Holy Father.

MY DEAR RANSOMER,

**Can You Help Us Meet An Emergency?** I turn to you because I have nobody else to whom to turn. For some time, we have succeeded in giving grants to the tune of some £11,000 a year to poor parishes and travelling missions. This has been possible because of the generosity of Ransomers, from the proceeds of appeals made by our preachers Sunday by Sunday, **and as the result of generous legacies**, sometimes amounting to several thousand pounds apiece.

For some time I have been warning those concerned that these large legacies are falling off and that we cannot expect to receive more in future. It is clear that the type of person, able to help us in this way, is becoming extinct.

**We are now up against it.** The last of these legacies has been spent and, unless this Novena is unusually successful, our Christmas grants will go down. The result will be a set-back in the conversion of England and Wales. The money is used:

- (1) To provide travelling missions to serve those parts of the country which are still priest-less and church-less. The missionary provides the only hope of the non-Catholics in these areas of learning the Faith, and the only hope of the Catholics living there of receiving the Sacraments. Without his ministrations they inevitably lapse.
- (2) To establish a resident priest as soon as possible in every town and village of England and Wales. Nobody can bring the Faith to people like the resident priest. Nobody can care for the faithful like the resident priest.

Travelling missions are expensive and can never pay for themselves. If their vital work is to continue, they must be helped from outside. Recently established parishes can never pay for themselves either. If they are to have the chance to survive and grow, they too must be helped from outside. We must keep them until they have enough Catholics to pay their own bills.

The priests who run travelling missions and minister in small country parishes do not ask much. They are prepared to face poor food, lack of housekeepers, constant toil, if only they can be sure that their work is to go on. Possible closure through lack of funds is their worst headache—the fear that the souls for whom they are responsible will be deprived of the Sacraments and will lose the Faith, the fear that the non-Catholics will be deprived of the chance, which the priest's presence provides, of learning the Catholic religion.



I am not pitching it too high. Unless we get more money from the Novena appeal, these things may happen.

**Do you really want to see England and Wales brought back to the Faith?** I am sure that you do. I am sure that you will be prepared to do a little extra to ensure it.

This is what I want you to do:

- (1) If you have supported us in the past, do it again. If you have not, do it now. Every little helps.
- (2) I do not want to put a greater financial burden on you personally. Will you therefore try to interest at least three of your friends and get them to send us through you £1 each, or at least as much as they can afford?

**IF EVERY RANSOMER GAVE £1 FOR THE NOVENA, WE SHOULD GET £30,000. IF EVERY RANSOMER GOT THREE FRIENDS TO GIVE £1 EACH, THAT WOULD BE £90,000 MORE, AND THE TOTAL WOULD BE £120,000 . . . ENOUGH TO INVEST AND GET AN INCREASED ANNUAL INCOME OF £6,000.**

May God bless you.

*Laurance Goudier.*

*Master of the Guild.*

## THE WILDERNESS



Here there is no altar and no priest. The Faith of the faithful is in jeopardy. The Gospel is not preached to those others for whom Christ died.

God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Matthew iii, 9.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight his paths . . . the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways plain. Luke iii, 4-5.



Robert L. McConnally  
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## MASS IN THE CAFÉ



SEVEN

This priest serves ~~nine~~ counties and travels 30,000 miles a year. Here the surroundings are profane and unworthy, though the Mass is priceless anywhere. To these people it means everything. It is all they have. There is no resident priest and they wonder what is going to happen if death comes suddenly.

Which of you, if he ask his father bread, will he give him a stone? Luke xx, 11.

*Robert's mobile chapel*

## THE TRAVELLING CHAPEL



Once a country bus, now a travelling chapel. If only there were more of these, the Faith would be preached to even larger numbers. But they are costly and the money available is far short of the need.

*He sent them . . . before His face into every city  
and place whither He Himself was to come.*

Luke x, 1.



Robert saying Mass in mobile chapel.  
1962

## INSIDE THE BUS



If only there were more of these, the problem of the isolated Catholic would be solved. Here you see the Mass being celebrated, God being glorified and the faith of His people being strengthened by the grace which flows from the Holy Sacrifice.

And they were persevering in the doctrine of the apostles, and in the communication of the breaking of bread and in prayer. Acts ii, 42.



## THE TEMPORARY CHURCH



It cannot last for long. It must always be kept locked for no priest lives near. Once in England men poured out their substance, not only to provide shelters for those who went to Mass, but to provide magnificent temples where God was worshipped in the glory of soaring vault and carved stone, by which men's minds were lifted heavenwards.

**And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

Luke iii, 6.

ST. MATTHEW'S

BARTON LE CLAY (BEDS) 1961

THIS WAS MY RECORD - FROM MY FIRST VISIT WHEN THERE WAS NO CHURCH TO GETTING THIS WAS SIX MONTHS AND THEN THEY GOT A PERMANENT CHURCH



## A CHURCH AT LAST



At last they have a church. God's people can go to God's house. At last God's priest can live near his altar and in the midst of his flock. At last a permanent church bears its witness to the truth and the Son of God waits in His tabernacle to welcome all who come to Him with the warmth of His love. From all sides the people go to Mass—on foot, by car or bicycle, while the coaches bring in those who live far away on the outskirts of the parish.

The Lord increased daily together such as should be saved. Acts ii, 47.

I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to Myself. John xii, 32.

~~THIS IS THE NEW CHURCH AT~~ THIS IS THE NEW CHURCH AT  
NEWMARKET OPENED IN 1966



## WHAT THE PRIESTS SAY

*A priest in Birmingham archdiocese:* "I have two primary and one secondary school in the parish—none Catholic of course—besides a number of children scattered over isolated villages and farms. The cost of travelling is alone quite heavy for a poor country parish. At the same time I am trying to build a Mass Centre four miles away, where I now have some fifty people coming to Mass every Sunday. The children there have never seen the inside of a church except on infrequent visits elsewhere—their whole life as Catholics has revolved around the primitive facilities of a hired hall."

*A priest in Clifton diocese:* "As I write the temperature is around freezing and the snow is 'seeping' through the roof; my biggest problem is trying to keep warm. The heating here—just two paraffin oil stoves—is grossly inadequate: your generous cheque, therefore, comes as 'a ray of warm sunshine' as it will be used to provide some form of adequate heating for our little church and house."

*A priest in Lancaster diocese:* "Today I received, for this little parish, a wonderful Christmas present of £200. The total congregation is just over a hundred, scattered about in five villages. We are kept going, as regards costs etc., by also having the chaplaincy of an Open Prison. Owing to the impossibility of some Catholics in outlying districts being able to get regularly to Mass, we have established a few Confession and Holy Communion centres, from which a few good Catholics struggle when they can to Mass on Sundays."

*The Menevia travelling missionary:* "Your donation amply covers the expense of keeping the Travelling Mission vehicles on the road for another twelve months."

*A priest in Middlesbrough diocese:* "I wish to thank the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom for the cheque of £100 . . . Where it is inconvenient or impossible for the children to come to church for instructions, I myself or a lay catechist must go to the village to instruct them. This is done by bicycle no matter what the weather. To visit the sick, administer the sacraments and instruct the children in the remote parts of the parish entails hiring a taxi which I can ill afford. Such a grant as yours lightens my burdens."

*A priest in Northampton diocese:* "The mission-parish of which I am priest-in-charge has less than two hundred souls scattered throughout a score of villages in rural Northamptonshire. For about fourteen years now Mass has been said in a 'temporary', huddled church situated on an allotment belonging to one of our parishioners."