



Fr Greg and Fr Ben

Fr Gregory Tobin

I was born in Derby City Hospital in September 1958 and baptised the following month at St Albans Church, Chaddesden. Having been given the name of Michael Walshe after my birth father from Claremorris, Co. Mayo, I was then adopted by Mathew (Roscrea Tipperary) and Doreen (Leeds) Tobin (Nee O'Neill) through the Catholic Children Society and renamed Gregory Michael Tobin.

The family home was in Arnold, Nottingham. Together with my sister Deb and brother Mark we attended The Good Shepherd School under the watchful eye of Sister Patricia (Sister of St. Joseph of Peace) then onto Christ the King Comprehensive during the time of Mr. John Bateson.

The Church provided a focus for the family. There was music, altar serving, uniformed groups, youth clubs and discussion groups which included various trips to The Briars Residential Centre where Fr Michael Bell was in charge.

Fr Owen O'Neill was Assistant Priest during my formative years and he encouraged me to consider a vocation to the Priesthood, having spoken of the fulfilling and happy years he had experienced as a Priest.

This got me thinking and in 1977, when I

Fr. Benjamin Sunder. MSFS

I was born in May 1983 and was baptised at St. Mary's Church, Kadakkam, in the Chingleput Diocese in India. As the fourth of five children to Mr. Mariya Susai and Vanathammal, my early years were profoundly influenced by my Father, who gave up a Government career as a Health Inspector to serve as a Catechist to work for God and to save souls, deeply influencing all my siblings and myself.

This life change inspired all but his eldest son to pursue religious vocations, with two of his daughters joining the St. Joseph of Cluny order, and myself answering the call to Priesthood in the Order of Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales.

My educational journey began at St. Joseph Primary School, Koothavakam, where even as a third grader, I took on responsibilities in the Parish to ring the bell for the Angelus and preparing for Holy Mass. Being the son of a Catechist, I came first at Diocesan level in my Catechism exams. I was often seen as a 'little priest' by my teachers so becoming a priest was a natural choice for me.

After completing my higher secondary

made my formal application to Bishop McGuinness, he sent me to the English College, Valladolid, Spain for 6 years of study and preparation for the Priestly Ministry. This came as a bit of a surprise as languages were not my strong point and the classes were all in Spanish after the first year of introductions to it all. Nevertheless, I always enjoy a challenge and set about learning Castellano and getting to know the people in the parish of San Isidro with the PP Don Jose.

We seminarians helped out with the music and Catechesis for Confirmation. Fr Peter Dooling, a Nottingham Diocesan Priest, was on the staff of the college, and proved to be a great support to me. Sadly, he died in 2011 whilst Parish Priest of Skegness.

During my time in Valladolid my father sadly died in April 1979. My mother then relocated from Arnold to the parish of St. Joseph's, Leicester, to be closer to her own mother and sisters.

In 1983 I was ordained to the Ministerial Priesthood by Bishop McGuinness at St Joseph's, Leicester. I have since ministered at the Sacred Heart, Carlton (1983), St Joseph's, Derby (1983-1989), SS Peter and Paul, Lincoln (1989) The Briars Residential Youth Centre (1990-2001), the Holy Spirit, West Bridgford (2001-2011), together with Our Lady of Grace, Cotgrave (2003-2011), and St Margaret Clitheroe, Keyworth (2003-2006), All Saints, Old Glossop and St Mary Crowned, Glossop (2011-2019), St. Marys Derby (2019 – 2025) and here I am back in the High Peak.

My diocesan role in also involves organising the Pilgrimage to Lourdes every July.

I enjoy playing golf and music, watching sport, and going back to Spain whenever I can!

education at St. Ann's Higher Secondary School, Tindivanam, I embarked on my formation with the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, advancing through minor seminary in Pudukottai, novitiate in Vizhagapattinam, Philosophy in Bangaluru and theological studies in Eluru, culminating in my ordination in 2011 at St. Joseph Church, Achara-pakkam, Tamil Nadu after twelve years of training.

My journey to the Priesthood has been rich and varied, serving initially as an Assistant Priest in St. Francis de Sales Church, Pudukkottai, later working at SFS ITI, then taking on roles such as Director of SFS Press after completing studies in Press and an MBA. Later, I became a Pastor in-Charge at Panampatti and St. Ann's convent then became a Superior and director SFS Press and SFS ITI, before being designated to the English Province in 2023.

Entrusting my UK life and Mission to the care of Our Mother Mary, I came to the UK. To my surprise, I was appointed to St. Mary's Church, Derby, and now to the High Peak including St Marys and the Annunciation indicating Our Mother Mary's intervention and care.

As for hobbies, I played football for my school team and played basketball in my college team and was a champion in 100 m., 200 m. and long jump. In the UK, I have begun to play badminton.

My journey in the Priesthood has been one of profound joy, fulfilling and meaningful