

ST PAUL'S POST



*Our birthday girl
this week is:*

Anne Harnett

26 July

Waiting for the "when" keeps me from appreciating what I now have. Longing for promises and dreaming dreams is not a harmful deed as long as the present moment is not overlooked, as long as gratitude rises for what is already here, as long as I do not base my happiness on what is still wanting. Thankfulness for what has already been given is the foundation for hoping for what is not yet.

Joyce Rupp



The *In House Audit* work for the year ending March 17 is now complete.

I would like to thank all the Sisters and Bursars who responded so quickly to my many requests for information on Income and Expenditure and sent the documents as requested. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Bursars for their continued work in keeping the monthly accounts up to date. You do a great service for your community.

Thank You!
Savio



Mother Mary Joseph: Update Three

HER FORTITUDE IN PROVIDING CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR THE POOREST OF THE POOR

In spite of the Reformation's laws forbidding Catholic schools, the Catholic Church in England, right through the penal times, had in fact had a number of hidden schools. From the 1829 Catholic Emancipation Act it had had them openly but they were few and far between because of Catholics' poverty. By 1849, however, the British Government was willing to give a grant to a Catholic school that had already reached a suitable educational standard. The clergy in Manchester and the industrial towns, in particular, were desperate for this financial aid, because of the increase in their parishioners, coming from both the English countryside and Ireland.

Unfortunately, with the arrival of numerous Irish Catholics, there was also an influx of Irish Orangemen, supported in their anti-Catholic activities by English Evangelicals, a group who had been the main persecutors of English Catholics from the 1530s. They had tormented Blessed Dominic Barberi in Stone and so Elizabeth Prout would have been aware of them; and they were powerful in Manchester and in the Lancashire cotton towns, especially in Ashton-under-Lyne. They were not only against Catholic education but against Catholics' very existence and especially against priests and religious.

Elizabeth Prout was, therefore, a unique treasure from 1849-1854, because, as still a lay woman, she was free to move as a Catholic teacher from one school to another as needed. Hence she taught the Catholic Faith, as well as giving a general education, in St Chad's girls' school, Ancoats, 1849-1851; St Chad's infants' school, Angel Meadow, 1851-1852; St Mary's, Deansgate, 1852; St Joseph's, Goulden St, 1853; and St Mary's day and boarding schools, Levenshulme, 1854. She also taught in Sunday schools and, for a time, in St Chad's night school. On 21 November 1854, of course, she and five other Sisters made their Vows and thus became professed religious. Undeterred by opposition, however, she taught in Ashton-under-Lyne, 1855 and in Sutton, 1855-1863; and she opened a girls' day and boarding school in Parr Hall in 1855; a parish school, Blackbrook, 1855; and St Joseph's parish school, Peasley Cross, 1857. In all these schools she thus also raised up many of her socially poor Sisters, too, to the missionary and social status of being teachers in public schools.

It was a marvel of her fortitude that she achieved so much educationally in both the Dioceses of Salford and Liverpool, while also successfully founding a new religious congregation that was both contemplative and active and Passionist to its very core. In view of her delicate health, she was truly heroic.

Sister Dominic Savio (Hamer) CP (Cause of the Servant of God, Mother Mary Joseph of Jesus CP, *in saeculo* Elizabeth Prout), Convent Lodge, 19 East Beach, LYTHAM, Lancashire, UK, FY8

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