



SUMMER SCHOOL NUMBERS UP

Dominic Robinson reflects on *Living Theology* at Ushaw College

The annual *Living Theology* Summer School, now well established at Ushaw, the Northern Seminary and Education Outreach Institute on the outskirts of Durham, was once again blessed with an enthusiastic group of participants who threw themselves into a hectic round of lectures, liturgy and leisure. In all, 117 came from all points of the UK and from further afield. That numbers are up cannot be a bad sign.

This year's theme was 'The Church and the World: the Nature of Dialogue'. We were treated to a series of varied, stimulating and provocative keynote addresses, introduced by Dr Paul Murray, Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology and Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies at the University of Durham. Dr Murray, the lay Catholic scholar working at the cutting edge of contemporary ecumenical endeavour, set the tone by presenting his framework for a new era of dialogue built on principles of mutual learning and enrichment. Fr Michael Barnes SJ of Heythrop College then grounded this in the specifics of inter-faith dialogue, with special attention to the British context and to the multi-faith community of Southall, west London, where he lives and works. Finally, Fr John Moffatt SJ, Chaplain at the University of Oxford, gave us a fascinating presentation on the issues



Sharing, learning and praying together at the Living Theology Summer School.
Photos: Rosa Postance



in the contemporary debate between science and religion.

The core of the Ushaw summer school, however, is always the course programme. Once again this year we were able to present a diverse choice of topics which complemented and enlarged on the theme of the Church and dialogue. Courses were presented on the Catechism, Conscience, the Psalms, the Councils of the Church, Positive Psychology, the Theology of Marriage, St Luke's Gospel, Theology, Faith and Internet, and the Ignatian understanding of Dialogue, as well as the now established course for first-timers giving an introduction to Theology. Five of this year's tutors were Jesuits, working as part of a mixed team comprising a Shrewsbury

seminarian, a Mill Hill Father and Holy Child Sister, along with Ros Stuart-Buttle, the Director of Ushaw Education Outreach, who also very kindly looked after the six CCRS (Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies) students on the course.

A key ingredient of *Living Theology* is the celebration of the liturgy – Morning and Night Prayer, a Liturgy of Penance and Reconciliation, and, at the centre, the Daily Mass. We were privileged to have with us as Director of Liturgy this year Patrick Geary, of Clifton Cathedral, who, with a group of assistants, dazzled us with his skill, expertise and boundless enthusiasm. We were also incredibly grateful to Denis, Eddie, Grant, Kensy, Philip, and Riccardo, the incoming 2nd year Harborne novices, who as our administrative assistants, impressed us all with their generosity, patience, approachability and sheer hard work.

Work now begins, through our lay committee – without whose organisation nothing would be possible – on planning for next year. Dates are July 25 – 31, so do watch this space, the Catholic press, and the *Living Theology* Britain website, www.livingtheology.org.uk

WESTMINSTER CHOIR TO SING AT STONYHURST



The world-renowned Choir of Westminster Cathedral will be performing a concert of choral music at St Peter's Church, Stonyhurst, at 7.30 pm on 1 December. Owing to the expected demand for seats, entry to the concert will be by ticket only. Contact j.hewat@stonyhurst.ac.uk for more details, including your postal address and the number of tickets required when ordering.