

## **CWO e-news March 2008 issue 3**

### **WOW (Women's Ordination Worldwide)**

Steering committee meets 3-6 April at The Royal Foundation of St Katherine, Butcher Row, London, E14 8DS.

### **Vocation Sunday 13 April**

If you can be in London on that day, please join London CWO on the piazza of Westminster Cathedral.

This is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations - Good Shepherd Sunday. They will assemble with all the banners and placards they can muster at about 11a.m. This will mean they can catch the congregation leaving the 10.30 sung Mass, and also those going in for the 12p.m. Mass.

They look forward to seeing you there.

### **CWO Archives**

CWO's archives are being deposited in the Women's Library in Castle Street in London. We are very lucky because the earlier material is already being archived and will soon be ready for use.

### **Greenbelt 22 - 25 August 2008**

Cheltenham Racecourse

Greenbelt gives space to a range of issues, especially those that are given little or no debate at other Christian events.

We have booked a stall at this year's festival so come and see us if you're visiting the festival.

See <http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/> for more details.

### **Please sign the petition on shortage of Catholic Priests in England and Wales**

This is mainly about married priests but there is a clause about women's ministry.

View and sign the petition online at

<http://www.petitionthem.com/default.asp?sect=detail&pet=4024>

## **Conference in Strasbourg – France**

18th Meeting of the European Network Church on the Move

19th European Conference on Human rights in the Church

2 Rue De La Carpe Haute 67000 Strasbourg, France

Le Centre Culturel St Thomas is situated in a park of two hectares, 10 minute walk from the Council of Europe.

Thursday 1 May 5.00pm to after lunch on Sunday 4 May 2008

This conference is a business meeting which includes a study day on the Saturday, the topic of which is –

Secularisation in a multicultural and multiconvictional Europe in search of social cohesion based on common values

CWO is offering a bursary to members of £50 towards the fare (on Eurostar - cost between £128 and £139 return). Full conference cost for accommodation and food - €270. Whoever comes will be expected to write a personal reflection on the Conference for the Newsletter which comes out by the end of June.

## **Letter to Scottish Bishops and summary of replies 2007**

I sent a letter dated 10/10/07 on behalf of all the Scottish members of CWO to all the Scottish Catholic Bishops requesting that they ask for the ordination of women to the diaconate and priesthood to be added to the agenda of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2008 and to support these issues if they appear on the agenda.

I received replies from six out of the eight Scottish Bishops. The replies were supportive, but with the required degree of caution and Vatican correctness in interesting variations! One Bishop called us in kindly terms to obey Pope John Paul II's teaching on the ordination of women to the priesthood, but continued that the ordination of women to the diaconate is still officially an open question and is "the subject of on-going study and deliberation within the Catholic Church and in an ecumenical context."

By contrast another Bishop said, "however, you are free to present your case as you have done and no doubt my colleagues will be as interested as I am to read what you have said even if it may be difficult for us to respond as you might wish we could."

Some of the letters indicated that, because I had written to all of the Scottish Bishops, my letter would almost certainly be discussed at their November meeting.