

## **FROM THE DEAN.....**

One thing which is undeniable about Fr Basil is that he gathered round him a team which represented every aspect of parish life. It was as though he was making sure that the parish could survive and prosper without the need of a parish priest. I do know that the Camino had become increasingly important to him and his vocation, and that his travels to Spain and Portugal might have become more frequent. To my way of thinking, he was looking towards a dual vocation, that of parish priest and itinerant pilgrim.

Whether that is true or not, what is certain is that the parish of Chard and the communities in both Crewkerne and Ilminster demonstrated a competence that should be the ideal in every community. It's based on trust. Fr. Basil trusted you, and you honoured that trust in the way you celebrated his Requiem Mass on Monday.

What pleases me is the joy you displayed in both the Liturgy and the 'wake' - and the way in which the Parish continued their celebration in the hall afterwards was most fitting. What is important, particularly during the next however many weeks or months it may be until the Bishop can find a replacement for Fr. Basil, is that nothing should change. The mould is set, and there is no need to puncture it, or disfigure it. I encourage you to continue with your various ministries, and celebrating the prayer of the church as you have been doing.

It's always a joy to come to Chard, and I always feel so welcome in your company. I am confident that the next incumbent at 'English Martyrs' will relish the joy of learning from you. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Louis