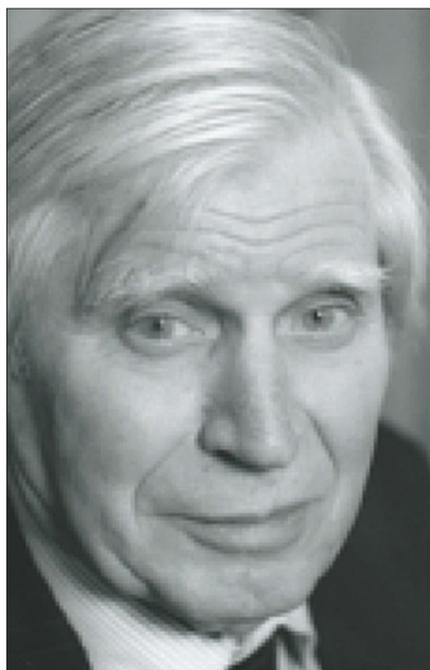


IN ILLO TEMPORE -

Tellingly retold, from our magazine archives, a regular look-back at key LMS developments over the decades

30 YEARS AGO

There was more than a degree of sadness about the newsletter of summer 1982, in the wake of Pope John Paul II's visit to the United Kingdom. For it was the last issue to carry an editorial from the outgoing chairman, Alfred Marnau, who not only had been a co-founder of the LMS but also the driving force behind the 57-name petition to Rome in 1971 which - very directly - prompted the papal approval of the so-called "Heenan Indult", which relaxed, in England & Wales, the illegal restrictions on the Traditional Mass that had prevailed since the mid-1960s. But that wasn't the only reason for the rueful tone of that newsletter, which was still in its original typed and stapled format of just 12 A4



pages. In giving way to the new chair, Michael McMahon, the outgoing incumbent reflected on the papal visit - and the failure of an ignored LMS petition which had asked His Holiness to celebrate an Old Mass whilst in Britain - with an understandably downcast mood. However, for all that, Alfred's last editorial still finished on a defiant but heart-rending and loyally optimistic note. "The Pope is OUR Pope, too!", he fulminated. "We must face the fact with sorrow,

with loving sorrow, that we have not yet been given one crumb of comfort. Perhaps this should not surprise us. We did not get near the Pope except when some of us took place in an all night vigil on Wimbledon Common. There, we were near his sacred person, praying for him, praying for our Faith and for the restoration of the Old Mass, the subject of the plea to the Holy Father signed by all those taking part. Should we leave the Church in order to be wooed back? No, we shall not leave Her. Neither shall we be robbed of any part of our faith by anyone. It is inconceivable that the Pope's last word on the liturgy has been spoken. It would be wrong to misinterpret his silence so far. This great and holy man will not abandon so many of his flock as some bishops seem prepared to do. But time is short. It might be one minute to midnight for the Church as well as for the world."

20 YEARS AGO

In the summer 1992 issue of the newsletter - now in a 14-page, A5 stapled format, our much respected former secretary, Sue Coote, could easily have stayed her pen for some 20 years and submitted virtually the same report in summer 2012, so familiar was the landscape she surveyed in a broad sweep of the state of domestic Church matters. "The International Commission for English Liturgy is about to force yet another version of the Mass upon us," wrote Sue. "It will, of course, use its power to inaugurate non-sexist language. I cannot understand why! God made us man and woman. We are different. The Greek church has not changed; neither, to my knowledge, have any other ancient rites. Since the "*Missae Normativa*" was introduced, the reverence and the awe has disappeared. Many priests improvise instead of going by the texts they should follow. At one time when the faithful were waiting for the beginning of Mass they would kneel and pray. Nowadays there is non-stop chattering, not only from the children but from their parents who do nothing to control them.

"The Second Vatican Council firmly stated that 'Latin remains the language of the Church'. In how many churches do parishioners have the opportunity of 'saying and singing the parts of the Mass which are rightfully theirs'? Mass attendance continues to fall year by year. Our children and grandchildren are expected to learn their Catholic Faith by learning it as just another religion like any others."

15 YEARS AGO

Finally and fittingly for this edition - dedicated as it is to our recently deceased former chairman, Chris Inman (with namecheck tributes in various sections of this issue) - we finish with an interesting note of his from the summer newsletter of 1997 (which, by then, was a 28 page, A4 format). In his Chairman's message, Chris related how buoyed he had been by some rare, positive coverage of the LMS in the UK Catholic press. "Further to the messages in the May newsletter from myself and the Deputy Chairman," wrote Chris, "which resulted in an article in the *Catholic Times* which was far from unfavourable, I have sent an open letter to each member of our hierarchy and also to the religious affairs correspondents of our weekly and Sunday broadsheets, with a copy of the *Catholic Times* article, expanding upon our concern. I did this conscious of the fact that, world-wide, there has been a considerable change of attitude over the last 15 years or so. Then, there were few bishops who would concede that there was anything wrong with the content of the expertly devised 'renewal'...now there are far more bishops, both privately and publicly, concerned about the failure of the 'renewal' to achieve its advisors' expectations about their ever-declining Mass counts and reducing revenue and acute shortage of vocations from a largely lapsed younger generation."

What Chris couldn't have known, though, was that the pro-LMS report in the *Catholic Times* that he referred to was eagerly facilitated by its then editor...who, in turn, would go on to edit Mass of Ages.