



**REMEMBER!**

## *email Communiqué*

**Society of King Charles the Martyr - American Region**  
***Our Lady of Walsingham – 15 October 2021***

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## **The Conviction of Catholicity: The Walsingham Shrine & the Royal Martyr**

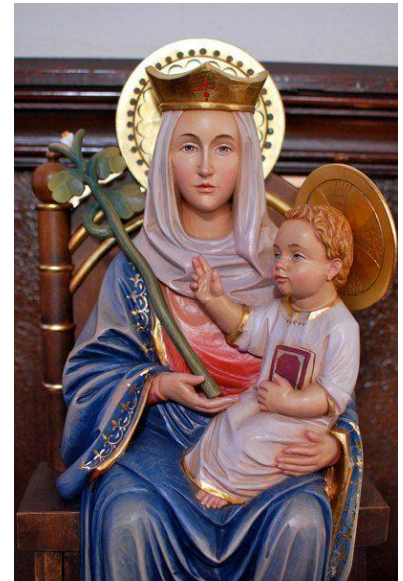
I have long had a devotion to Fr Alfred Hope Patten, restorer of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. I find him compelling and sympathetic. He was a principled romantic, a bit insecure, and utterly convinced in the rightness of his cause. Sometimes I find his personality hits a little too close to home. Fr Patten's correspondence with the Bishop of Norwich, Bertram



Pollock, is often a masterclass in perseverance and misdirection. The Lord Bishop was very likely fond of Fr Patten as a man, but did not share his catholic convictions. Fr Colin Stephenson recalls, with characteristic wit, the exchanges between the Bishop and Vicar of Walsingham when the former visited the parish. Bishop Pollock arrived at the vicarage and was greeted by Fr Patten with the words "How nice to see you, my Lord." The reply: "Not nice at all, I have come to see the church." When asked about the service called Benediction, Fr Patten said it was just "two hymns, a prayer, and a

blessing." Upon seeing the church Bishop Pollock said, "It is far worse than I expected, far worse; all these things which you have put in must be cleared away."

If the rector had been anyone other than Fr Patten, this might have been the end of the restoration plans for the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Fr Patten, however, received this instruction as the mandate to erect a separate Shrine, which he did in quick order. On October 15, 1931, 3,000 people gathered to escort the image of Our Lady of Walsingham from the parish church to the new Shrine which was blessed by Bishop O'Rorke.



One often thinks of Joseph's words, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good." It is by the patient and persevering perspective of faith that God's Will comes into focus. The lens through which that focus comes is more likely than not, struggle and suffering. We are strengthened by the examples of men and women who were convinced in their faith. Conviction that keeps us safe while harming others is not of God. Conviction that harms us for the sake of others is from love. Fr Patten did not suffer bodily harm, but he did endure much to ensure that we have the great privilege of praying before the image of Our Lady of Walsingham. Our devotion to the Royal Martyr flows from his conviction of the catholicity of the English Church, a conviction that was not only worth living for, but dying for. His death was horrific, yet the exchange from an earthly crown to a heavenly one grabs our attention from the malaise of complacency to consider again what truly matters. For those who lived and died for their conviction of things hoped for, we are grateful.

+ *The Rev'd Steven C. Rice, Obl.S.B., D.Min., President*

## Society Various & Sundry

- + On 30 September **we closed the fiscal/membership year with a surplus of \$10,400**. This higher-than-usual surplus happened due to a convergence of higher-than-expected contributions and life memberships with lower-than-planned Annual Mass and general administrative costs. Watch the next (December) edition of the *SKCM NEWS* for further details.
- + In early October **we mailed our annual statement** so that members and friends may, depending upon their membership status, pay annual (including future years) dues, support the Annual Mass and/or the General Fund, become a Life Member, and/or purchase Society goods. Where we are now is Annual Mass and General Donations are up 50% but dues payments are down a bit (only one new Life Member compared at three at this time last year) and no new members yet. If you haven't yet acted on your statement, please do so.
- + **Our membership currently totals 493** – Over 50% higher than 10 years ago - and thus most likely will continue to grow. We now have 102 Life Members, including one who joined a few days ago.

## Upcoming: Nativity of KCM

**M**ark your calendar: 19 November is the day when we commemorate the birth of Charles Stuart at Dunfermline Castle to King James VI of the Scots and his queen, Anne of Denmark, in 1600. Since this is an important Caroline observance, this Society (together with our Mother Society across the Pond) encourages all members and their churches to make proper observance. Thus, **the Eucharistic propers for this feast are attached.**

**SOCIETY OF KING CHARLES  
THE MARTYR  
39th ANNUAL SOLEMN MASS  
OF S. CHARLES, K.M.**

**You are invited to join us at  
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Clarksville (near Nashville), Tennessee USA  
11 a.m., Sat., 29 January 2022  
+ WATCH FOR STREAMING INFORMATION +**

**Preaching:** Bishop John Bauerschmidt of TN  
**Celebrant:** Fr Roger Senechal, TN Chapter Chaplain  
For Friday reception, hotel, & luncheon info: go to [www.tnskcm.org](http://www.tnskcm.org)  
**Local info:** [gregsmithdtm@gmail.com](mailto:gregsmithdtm@gmail.com) or website



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