

**Fr Danny Langland's Diamond Jubilee Mass – words at the end of Mass
celebrated by Fr Danny.**

Dear Fr Danny, we want to congratulate you and wish you well on this your Diamond Jubilee – 60 years of priestly ministry is quite a milestone! And the year, 1960, that you were ordained was quite a year. Some things to note from that year.....

A 3-bedroom house cost just over £2,000 and the average weekly wage was just under £10.

John F Kennedy was elected American President, and Elvis Presley left the American Army, to take up his singing career again, releasing the hit single, "Are you lonesome tonight?"

Harold Macmillan, the British Prime Minister, makes his "Winds of Change" speech regarding the rise of the African Continent. 17 countries in Africa become independent during that year. Africa is, of course, close to Fr Danny's own heart as he would spend 18/19 years there on mission.

Harper Lee publishes her novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* winning the Pulitzer Prize, and *Ben Hur* is released at the Cinema, winning 11 Oscars.

Coronation Street airs for the 1st time on British TV. Originally scheduled for only 13 episodes, it is now in its 60th year, too, and will air it's 10,000th episode.

And on 24th September 1960, a youthful Daniel Longland, with dark hair, is ordained a priest to serve as a Franciscan Friar. He spends the next 19 years on Mission in South Africa, a country which he keeps in his prayers over the years and praying that all its people will eventually be given freedom, and that does happen. After almost 20 years on mission, Fr Danny's health deteriorates and he returns to Plymouth, his home city to recuperate. After 2 years, in 1981, he is incardinated into the Diocese of Plymouth and becomes a priest of our Diocese

For the next 40 years Fr Danny works in a variety of parishes. We recall them today, not only for Fr Danny's ministry but also to remember those priests, religious and lay faithful with whom he worked and who benefitted from his priestly ministry. They are St Augustine's, Weymouth, St Marychurch, Abbey Road (Torquay), Newquay, Cambourne and Redruth, Newton Abbot, Beacon Park (and so begins Fr Danny's long association with Derriford hospital), Sidmouth and finally as Parish Priest in Tavistock. Through those years' Fr Danny also began a long association with the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes Pilgrimage, and was for many years their Chief Chaplain. We know your love of Lourdes, and Our Lady, Fr Danny. Your

work with the Society, especially with the sick and those in need, is much appreciated by many.

Since he resigned from Ecclesiastical Office, Fr Danny has continued to do generous supply work in Plymouth, especially at the hospital, at Christ the King, and in these past years as Chaplain to Nazareth House.

So, a long, varied and generous priestly ministry. Fr Danny we congratulate you on this important milestone – Happy Diamond Jubilee! We give thanks to God for your priestly life. We ask God's continued blessing upon you. We ask you now, on this your anniversary, to bless us all.

+Mark O'Toole
Bishop of Plymouth