

# OFS GB NEWS

## New National Council - So What Are They Hoping To Achieve?



From left to right: Brigid Rawlinson, Helen MacGilp, Liam Redmond, Kathy Maskens, Dianne Fisher, Thelma Rogers & Paula Pearce



Mags Ivatts - Our new Communications Minister - she deals with the website



Angela Bradley- Our National Registrar Minister: She deals with what happens to our members & their fraternities: professions, elections, deaths etc..



Fr Patrick Lonsdale OFM (Wood Green) who presided over the election & our lovely Fr John



Chapter discusses the theme: Servant Leadership, what it means & what it means to live it



Servant Leadership: leading by example

## Election Wend: Theme for Discussion: 'Servant Leadership'

### The New National Council

National Minister - Kathy Maskens (South East, Croydon) 2nd term

National Vice Minister - Liam Redmond (North West, Liverpool) 2nd term

National Treasurer - Helen MacGilp (Scotland, Inverness) 1st term

National Formation Minister - Paula Pearce (East Anglia, Norwich) 1st term

National Youth & Families Minister - Brigid Rawlinson (East Anglia, Norwich) 2nd term

National Registrar - Angela Bradley (SW & Wales, Port Talbot) since 2018

National JPIC Minister - Thelma Rogers (SW & Wales, Clevedon) 1st term

National Communications Minister - Mags Ivatts (South East, Croydon) 1st Term

National Secretary - Dianne Fisher (London, Gibraltar) 3rd term

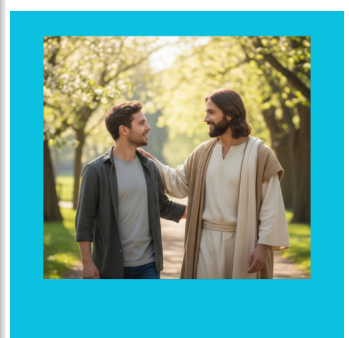
National Spiritual Assistant - Fr John Cavanagh OFM Cap - since 2018

National Spiritual Assistant - Br Donal Walsh OFM (Glasgow) - since 2018

National Spiritual Assistant - Fr Max Martin OFM Conv (Liverpool) - since 2025



Servant Leadership: leading with love



On 1st November a new council was elected. It took place at High Leigh Conference Centre and was presided over by Maurice Devenney, national minister of Sweden & Fr Patrick Lonsdale OFM, from Wood Green, London.

The theme for the weekend was 'servant Leadership' and Kathy produced washing bowls and towels where everyone had to wash the feet of the person next to them. This was to demonstrate an act of humility when Jesus said "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45) & in Matthew 23:12 Jesus says, "those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" & again in OFS **Rule 19** it says: 'Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others. Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father'

**For more on Servant Leadership click here: [More on Servant Leadership](#)**

## Ministers' Outgoing Reports

The outgoing reports from each of the National Ministers were circulated.

Reports included were from:

The Spiritual Assistants (Br Donal, Fr John & Fr Max)

The National Minister (Kathy Maskens)

The Vice Minister (Liam Redmond)

The Treasurer (Maureen Coulson)

The Registrar (Angela Bradley)

The Communications Minister (Thelma Rogers)

The JPIC Minister (Veronica Hughes)

The Youth & Families Minister (Brigid Rawlinson)

The Formation Minister (John Power)

**If you would like to read the reports please click here:**

**[Read Ministers' Reports Here](#)**



## What do we Know About our National Council Members?

Some of the members you'll already know but if you'd like to know a bit more about them then read on:

### **Kathy Maskens - National Minister**

Been National Minister for 3 years and previously National Vice Minister for 4 years. She was also Regional Minister for the South East for 6 years from 2018 until 2024. Professed in 1995 and belongs to Croydon fraternity. She works in the nursing profession. Has a clear vision of the direction the Council needs to take.

### **Liam Redmond - National Vice Minister**

Been National Vice Minister for 3 years and is also Regional Minister for the North West for the last 6 years. He works as a hospital chaplain in Liverpool, North West region. He has a gift for listening to people which he brings to the council. Says we need to be the bridge between secular people and the church.

### **Dianne Fisher - National Secretary**

Has been secretary for 7 years now and previously was Company Secretary for 10 years for her family business. She is from Gibraltar fraternity which is part of London region. She has family in Gibraltar and the UK. She was professed in 2015.

**Paula Pearce - National Formation Minister.**

She is one of the first members from 1979 & has served both locally and regionally in several offices over the years. She is currently Formation Minister for the East Anglia region & has been invited by Midland and Southern regions to lead Regional Days. She was National Minister from 2012 - 2018 & Formation Minister from 1999 - 2002. She has lectured at the Franciscan Study Centre & would like to find people who can take formation to the fraternities by offering her support, love & experience to help the Fraternity grow.

**Brigid Rawlinson - National Youth & Families.**

Has been National Youth and Families Minister for the last 3 years. She was also Regional Minister for East Anglia for 3 years from 2019 until 2022. Her fraternity is in Norwich. She is married and has two adult sons. She is a trained nurse and midwife and has worked as a midwife in Malawi, East Africa. In recent years she has worked as a support worker in a mental health charity and is now employed in the NHS as a Youth Worker supporting young people (19yrs - 25yrs) with diabetes. Her interactions with young people are guided by the Holy Spirit.

**Thelma Rogers - National JPIC Minister**

Served as National Communications Minister on the last council and as Regional Minister for SW England and South Wales. She is a qualified accountant but on retirement through vision difficulties worked as an NHS hospital chaplain. She has also worked with prisoners, domestic violence and other welfare charities supporting those at the margins of society. Her hope is to identify a unifying project which will bring us into mission and to introduce speakers to OFS GB Fraternity to support our mission. Acutely aware of ecological issues & has a strong sense of justice drawn from her work within the NHS, welfare charities & living as a visually impaired woman.

**Mags Ivatts - National Communications Minister**

She is a wife, mother and grandmother. Was professed in 2021 and feels she is still learning. Retired Head of Information Technology at local hospital. Minister of Hollington Fraternity and Regional Formation Minister. Works at local independent food bank where she is responsible for fund raising. She has a keen interest in the advantages technology lends for communication and information sharing.

**Helen MacGilp- National Treasurer**

Currently Regional Minister for Scotland and previously National Vice Minister (2012-15). She works part time as a prison librarian at HMP Inverness and is very involved in local parish activities. Has a desire to serve the OFS and to share the treasure of our Order with others.

**Angela Bradley - National Registrar**

Formerly Regional Minister for SW & Wales. Has also been Regional Formation Minister. National Secretary from 2006 - 2012. Appointed as Assistant Registrar in 2015 & National Registrar in 2018.

## On 1st November 2025 a new National Council was elected, but what are the priorities for this new term of leadership?



This coming year in 2026 will be the centenary of the Transitus and in line with that **our first priority** will be getting ready to **receive the Queen of the Franciscan Family icon**. Yes, that's right, you read correctly, we are receiving the icon as of May next year in 2026 until the end of January 2027.

The icon was created in 2018 in Lithuania in the run up to the third European Youfra Congress. On March 17th 2018 the icon was consecrated & started its pilgrimage among the European OFS fraternities.

So, you are probably wondering how this will work? Well, each region is given a month in which to receive it. You will need to think about where you'd like to display it and which events you'd like to host it around. A list has been drawn up already:

**MAY: South East , JUNE: London & Gibraltar, JULY: South West & Wales, AUGUST: Southern, SEPTEMBER: Midlands, OCTOBER: North West, NOVEMBER: North East, DECEMBER: Scotland, JANUARY: East Anglia**



Each region will have a named contact who will be responsible for it while it is in their region. This will be decided by your Regional Council. Kathy Maskens, National Minister, will have overall responsibility for it and make sure it gets to Ireland safely at the end of January 2027.

If you would like a more in depth explanation of the icon then please click here:

[In Depth explanation of the icon](#)

**Secondly, Formation:** Now that the Fraternity has an official formation program under way (thanks to John Power) Paula would like to visit the regions to find out what problems they might have delivering it and offer her support. She is currently looking at putting the Candidate material into book form for the regions to use. If you need support with formation and would like to contact her please click here:

[Contact Paula](#)

**Thirdly, JPIC:** Thelma is thinking about charities & missions that we can affiliate ourselves with. Her idea is to affiliate ourselves with already established charities or missions which are local, Christian and small scale. At our first JPIC meeting working alongside charities in the sphere of refugees and migrants was identified as a unifying project pertinent to the whole of Great Britain. She also wishes to continue our support for the John Bradburne Leprosy Charity in Mutemwa, and to support Brigid's work with Youth and Families through talks and events around ecological and justice and peace formation. If you have an idea or would like to contribute by attending or speaking at an event then please click here [Contact Thelma](#)

**Fourth, Youth:** Brigid is currently looking at Franciscan pilgrimage sites around the country to possibly attract young people to know about St Francis, informing them who St Francis is and let them know God's passion and love for them in their lives. She is looking at ages from around 18 - 30 yrs.

She has spent time trying to get to know young people by talking to them in the parish and generally just being present if they want to ask any questions. She suggests approaching the chaplaincies in the universities to explain who we are and that we are available. She would like each region to find at least one young person in their fraternities and then she would like to get them together on Zoom. If you think you may have a younger person in your fraternity then please let Brigid know by clicking here to email her: [Contact Brigid](#)

**Lastly, Secular Franciscan Presence:** Kathy suggested opening up our fraternity meetings to the local parishes. For example if a fraternity holds its meeting after Mass in the same church, then invite the parish to attend the meeting so that they can join in with the formation for that day. Make the meetings more attractive by bringing food to share afterwards. (Everyone brings a dish) Show them that the Secular Franciscans are a family.

Likewise, if you are holding a talk or event in your fraternity make sure you advertise it in the parish with posters etc.. If there is something going on in the parish don't be afraid to get your Franciscan stall in there!

## National Archives

John Power has been appointed as the new National Archivist. During our recent National Elective Chapter it was recognised that our National Archives needed someone who would be able to focus on how best to manage them going forward. John Power was requested to take on the role which he accepted. This is a non elective position on the National Council.