

CHURCH REPORTER

10/2021

Newsletter for the English speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society
Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Stříbro

10th October 2021 | Volume 6



5th October 2021, Church of the Holy Saviour in Prague at Charles Bridge: The beginning of the new academic year, the main celebrant of the Holy Mass Mons. Tomáš Halík, parish priest of the Academic Parish, laureate of the Templeton Prize. Photo by Jakub Nagy.



Pastoral Care of Lawyers in Prague

Festive Mass at Beginning of Academic Year

On Tuesday 5th October 2021, the Holy Mass was celebrated in the Church of the Holy Saviour in Prague on the occasion of the beginning of the new academic year. The Church of the Holy Saviour is located in the very centre of Prague, at the foot of Charles Bridge and is the centre of the Academic Parish of Prague. The Roman Catholic Academic Parish at the Church of the Holy Saviour has been operating in Prague since 1990 under the administration of Mons. Professor Tomáš Halík, leading Czech theologian, philosopher, sociologist and religionist, President of the Czech Christian Academy and laureate of prestigious awards, such as the Templeton Prize. The Academic Parish provides the pastoral care for students, teachers, and employees of Prague universities.



Mons. Tomáš Halík during a sermon in the full Church of the Holy Saviour in Prague.

Photo Jakub Nagy

The Mass was celebrated by Mons. Tomáš Halík. Revd Professor Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP, Chairman of the Church Law Society (pictured below), Dr Marek Orko Vácha, prominent Czech expert on medical ethics, university pedagogue, theologian, and writer, Dr Ondřej Salvét, historian, expert on the history of the hidden church in Czechoslovakia before 1989 and other priests of the Academic Parish and priests who teach at Prague universities concelebrated.



Students, teachers and other members of the academic community and employees of Prague universities, as well as other supporters of the Academic Parish from non-academic environment, were represented in large numbers. The Holy Mass was accompanied by a traditional musical production, this time performed by the ensemble Salvátorská schola.

At the end of the Holy Mass, members of the spiritual administration of the Academic Parish were introduced and offered a wide range of activities that can be engaged in in the Academic Parish – from spiritual, cultural and social to sporting events.

The Holy Mass was followed by the usual informal gathering associated with a small celebration and refreshment at the Student Courtyard of the Klementinum, which was also traditionally complemented by live music.

Jan Beránek, Jakub Nagy



Association for Support of Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life

Consecration of New Prison Chapel in Ostrov nad Ohří

On 1st October 2021, a new chapel was ceremoniously consecrated in the Ostrov nad Ohří prison (western Bohemia, near Karlovy Vary/Carlsbad). The chapel was consecrated by His Excellency Mons. Tomáš Holub, Bishop of the Pilsen Diocese (western Bohemia), and His Excellency Mons. Ladislav Hučko, Bishop of the Apostolic Exarchate of the Greek Catholic Church in the Czech Republic. The prison ministers were represented by Chief Chaplain Otto

Broch,¹ Catholic permanent deacon, and Pavel Zvolánek, his deputy and preacher of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



New prison chapel in Ostrov nad Ohří.

Photo: Prison Service of the Czech Republic

The chapel was originally handed over for use on 4th August 2021, all its equipment and paintings, which are exhibited in the chapel, are the work of convicts living in prison, who created them as part of resocialization and leisure activities.



Interior of the new prison chapel in Ostrov nad Ohří.

Photo: Prison Service of the Czech Republic

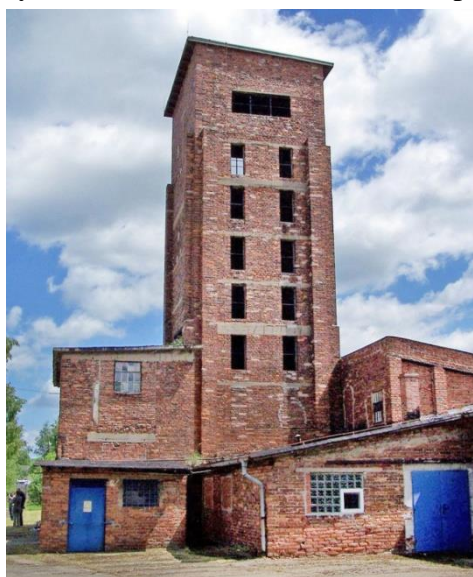
¹ We informed about the appointment of permanent deacon Mgr. Otto Broch as Chief Chaplain of the Prison Spiritual Service on 2nd December 2020 in Church Reporter No. 12/2020.

Ostrov nad Ohří Prison is located approximately 16 km from Karlovy Vary/Carlsbad and is used as higher security prison and, to a limited extent, also as remand prison. At the end of March 2021, a total of 1,091 convicted persons and 42 accused persons were placed in prison. Revd Andrej Penjuk, member of the Greek Catholic Church, holds the position of prison chaplain.



In the middle Mons. Ladislav Hučko (in a red robe), to his left Mons. Tomáš Holub, to his right Andrej Penjuk, Otto Broch and Pavel Zvolánek. Photo: archive of Mons. Tomáš Holub

There are about 50 prison chaplains in the Czech Republic serving the spiritual care service for convicts, mostly employees of the *Prison Spiritual Service* (part of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic), led by Mgr. Otto Broch, Chief Chaplain. Members of the non-profit non-governmental organization *Prison Spiritual Care*, which has about 200 members and chaired by Pavel Zvolánek, B. Th., also help with the demanding care for prisoners.



Near the prison, in the cadastre of Ostrov nad Ohří, there is a place of reverence situated in the area of the former communist labour camp Vykmánov, which was in operation between 1951 and 1956. The internees in this camp lived in appalling conditions and were almost permanently exposed to uranium ore radiation, which they had to process here, and which was then provided free of charge to the Soviet Union, justified by party leaders as a gift of gratitude for “Red Army liberation” in 1945. Today, in addition to the memorial plaque, the unfortunate events that took place in Vykmánov are especially commemorated by the seven-storey tower (see picture on the left), in which uranium was processed and which was renamed by prisoners as “Red Tower of Death”. Today, this tower belongs to the comprehensive list of mining monuments inscribed on the UNESCO list under the name Ore Mountain Mining Region.

Jan Beránek, Jakub Nagy

From New Publications

HILL, Mark QC, SANDBERG, Russell, DOE, Norman, GROUT, Christopher, *Religion and Law in the United Kingdom*, Third edition, Wolters Kluwer, 2021, 264 pp., ISBN 9789403534954.

ŠABAKA, Petr, *Dostal jsem slovo. Paměti vojenského kaplana Armády ČR od roku 2007* [I Was Given the Floor, Memoirs of Military Chaplain of Czech Army since 2007], Trinitas, Svitavy, 2021, 135 s., ISBN 978-80-86885-56-8.

Journals, periodicals

Folia Theologica et Canonica, Faculty of Theology of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest, ISSN 2063-9635, Vol. IX, No. 31/23, 2020.

Ecclesiastical Law Journal, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, ISSN 0956-618X, Vol. 23, No. 3, September 2021,

z obsahu:

DOE, Norman, *The Court of Arches: Jurisdiction to Jurisprudence – ‘Entirely Settled’?*, pp. 322–341.

Church Reporter – Newsletter for the English speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society, Prague – Brno – Olomouc – Stříbro, published by Church Law Society, Sudoměřská 25, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic.

Photo on the front page: 5th October 2021, Church of the Holy Saviour in Prague at Charles Bridge: The beginning of the new academic year, the main celebrant of the Holy Mass Mons. Tomáš Halík, parish priest of the Academic Parish, laureate of the Templeton Prize. Photo by Jakub Nagy.

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Available online at: spcp.prf.cuni.cz/newsletter. Issues appear monthly.

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ISSN 2695-012X