

Pilgrims blessed for their journey to Poland

Brighton: Pilgrims heading for World Youth Day celebrations with Pope Francis in Poland got an official send-off on Sunday from Bishop Richard Moth, of Arundel & Brighton.

He gave a coach load of 49 pilgrims from Sussex and Surrey his blessing as they set off for Krakow, in the south of the country.

The pilgrims arrived on Monday, joining another 1.5million young Catholics from all over the world. The theme of this year's event is Be Merciful Like the Father.

The group includes five priests, two seminarians training for the priesthood and more than 40 young people.

World Youth Day is the biggest Christian gathering to be held anywhere in the world in 2016.

It is the first time it has been celebrated in Poland since the Pontificate of Polish Pope John Paul II, when it was held in Czestochowa, Poland, just after the fall of communism in 1991.

Since then World Youth Day has been held all over the globe from North America to Europe and Asia. Last time, in 2013, it was staged in Brazil, Latin America when it drew crowds of nearly 4million people.

At this year's event, young people have enjoyed talks about their faith from Cardinals and Bishops from all over the world over three days in the mornings, with the opportunity to visit exhibitions and displays in the afternoon.

They welcomed the Pope on Wednesday afternoon and will join him this evening (Friday) for Stations of the Cross followed by a vigil of prayer tomorrow evening before a final service on Sunday.

The young people will be encouraged during the time there to reflect on what their vocation in life might be and to return to their local area and build up the life of Catholic



Endsleigh HolyChild Academy pupils hold up some of the shoes they collected for the charity event

Pupils put their heart and sole into it

School children have helped raise awareness of the crisis of homelessness by collecting unwanted pairs of shoes.

The pupils from Endsleigh Holy Child Academy and St Vincent's Academy, Hull, lined up the shoes around Hull's KC Stadium as part of the 'A Day In My Shoes' campaign in aid of local charity, Hull Homeless Outreach.

They are all part of the Mini Vinnies – a branch of the Catholic charity the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) aimed at children between seven and 11. The pupils set about making posters and

collecting over 400 shoes for the big day before lining their shoes up with 24,000 other pairs around the stadium in front of crowds of local people. The shoes will be sent to local charities.

Oliver Clark, a 9 year old Mini Vinnie, said: "I really enjoyed the day. I liked looking at the shoes lined up around the stadium."

Catherine Holtby, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator at the school and co-ordinator of the school's SVP Mini Vinnies said: "We had a great afternoon. Well done to all at Hull Homeless Outreach and everyone else who helped at the event."

young people there. The Brighton pilgrimage was organised by Diocesan Youth Adviser Jack Regan.

He said: "The purpose of the pilgrimage is not just to encounter God in the Mass with the Pope, prayers and other faith activities, but also in each other, in their fellow Catholics from around the world,

and to bring this unique experience back to where they live and share it with other young people."

As part of World Youth Day during the week pilgrims have been sharing their experiences across social media websites such as Facebook.

Joanie, one of the pilgrims, was given training in the use of social

media and press at a training day in London, which she will be putting to use during the week.

It included a talk from Sky News broadcaster, Julie Etchingham, who herself attended the first World Youth Day in Poland in 1991 on behalf of her Catholic Diocese as their World Youth Day correspondent.



City launch for book on Vatican II

London: Last week saw the launch of the English translation of *Vatican II: A Pastoral Council* by renowned Franciscan theologian, Fr Serafino Lanzetta (left). The launch was sponsored by the Latin Mass Society at St Mary Moorfield's Church.

Commenting on the English translation, Joseph Shaw, chairman of the Latin Mass Society, expressed

his delight that the book is now in print in English.

He said: "I am delighted Fr Lanzetta's book is in print in English with the sponsorship of the Latin Mass Society, and with a very successful launch.

"The ongoing theological conversation about the nature of the Second Vatican Council is essential to

the health and development of the Church today."

Fr Lanzetta's book *Vatican II: A Pastoral Council* features a foreword from the Bishop of Portsmouth, Philip Egan.

The Latin Mass Society sponsored the translation of the book into English. Copies of the book, costing £25, can be purchased from the LMS.