



# Helping us Pray Today

## Working in a Salesian School – Working from the Heart

by Fr Anthony Bailey, sdb

Forty years ago, our schools in Great Britain were well-staffed with Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB). As the number of vocations fell and Salesians began to retire from teaching, we began to consider what to do with our schools. We even raised the question, how many SDBs do we need to teach in a Salesian school to keep a school 'Salesian'? It was felt, at the time, that the answer to this question would determine which schools we would have to close. In the

event, we did not close any of our secondary schools. Today we have more students in our schools than ever before. Most of our schools have lay leadership and staff and they are very much Salesian schools. We now know that we were asking ourselves the wrong question. We should have asked the question, How do we support our Salesian schools to ensure that they remain Salesian?

A Salesian province has a duty to support its schools. Staff have a right to know what is expected of them when they are appointed to work in a Salesian school. Every province will have devised various support systems for its schools. One small part of that support is in the work of publications. For the last ten years the staff of Don Bosco Publication

