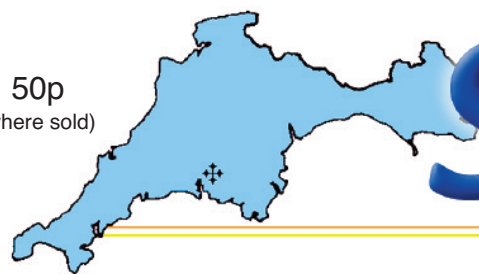


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# Catholic **South West**

*Serving the  
Church in the  
South West*

Issue 249 September 2018

## **Run to the Son**

**Pages 6 & 7**



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*'Catholic South West' is the monthly newspaper which serves the communications needs of the clergy, organisations and people of the South West*

**EDITORIAL**

Nick Layton

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Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, CB9 7BN  
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Website: [www.cathcom.org](http://www.cathcom.org)

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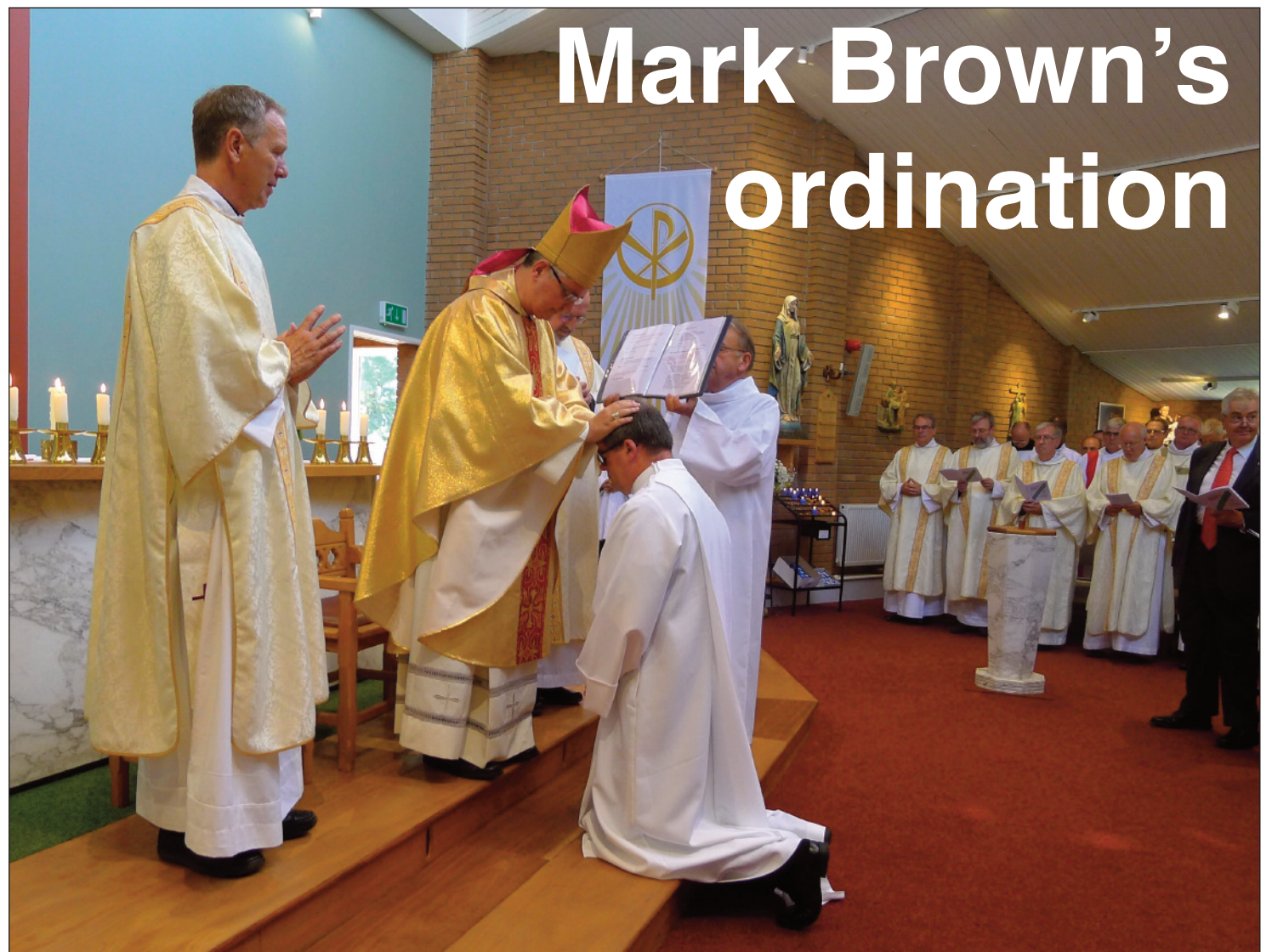
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# Mark Brown's ordination

Bridport Catholic Church was full on Saturday the 14th when for the first time in its history it was the setting for an Ordination Mass, celebrated by the Bishop of Plymouth, the Rt Rev Mark O'Toole. He was joined by Catholic priests and deacons, local parishioners and the family and friends of schoolteacher Mark Brown who was ordained Deacon, to serve the people of the parish under the direction of the Bishop and the Parish Priest, Canon Richard Meyer. A choir of young singers came from St Augustine's School at Weymouth where Mark teaches.

During the Mass Mark was clothed by his wife Helen and Canon Richard with the traditional vestments of a deacon. The Mass concluded with a special blessing from the Bishop for Mark and Helen and their family.

After the Ordination Mass there was a reception in a marquee on the lawn of the presbytery next door to the church. The following day Deacon Mark preached his first sermon at the Parish Mass. There was then another party, and Deacon Mark was presented with gifts from the parish.

## Pope Francis' challenge to us in *Laudato Si':*

a shared reflection led by  
David McLoughlin

**WHERE..** St Joseph's Church Hall, Queen Street,  
Newton Abbot TQ12 2ET

**WHEN..** 2.30pm- 4.30pm, Sat 3rd November 2018

**FOR..** All Welcome, free entry, free tea/coffee



A brief exploration of Pope Francis' message to the world and how it impacts on us all and reveals the main themes of the current Papacy.

David studied at the Gregorian University, Rome, before teaching theology at Oscott. He has just retired from his post as Senior Lecturer in Theology at Newman University. He has been a consultant to the Vatican, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and to various charities including Cafod, Marriage Care and Pax Christi.



Event organised by the local branch of ACTA, "promoting dialogue in the church"

Further details from Peter Farrell tel 01626 369478 or e mail: [petane@outlook.com](mailto:petane@outlook.com)





# Rev Bryan Sydney Storey

## Catholic Priest of Tintagel, Cornwall

### Priest of the Arundel & Brighton Diocese

**Born: 8th May 1933 – London**

**Died: 26 July 2019 – Truro, Cornwall**

Father Bryan Sydney Storey was born 8th May 1933 in London. He was the oldest son of Dorothy & Sydney Storey, he also has a younger brother Keith, who died a few years ago. He was evacuated to Cornwall with his schoolmates in 1940. He and his brother Keith stayed with Rita Deacon (Auntie Rita) and her son Roger, who lived in Bossiney Road, Tintagel. He attended St Materiana Anglican Church in Tintagel every Sunday and was greatly influenced by Canon Arthur Cuthbert Canner. It was here he soon discovered his belief in God. In 1948 he converted to the Catholic faith. After having worked in various London accountancy firms, he did his two year compulsory military service in the R.A.F. as a clerk.

He was accepted for training in the Catholic seminaries of St Augustine's, Walworth, London and St John's, Womersley, near Guildford, Surrey (1953- 1960).

Father Bryan was ordained on the 16th June, 1960 at St Anselm's Church, Tooting Bec, SW London, by Archbishop Cowderoy for the Diocese of Southwark. He served 11 years as a curate at the Parish of St Peter in Portland Road, Hove. During this time the new Diocese of Arundel & Brighton was formed and he became a priest of the A & B

Diocese on 14th June 1965.

He moved to Cornwall in 1971. It was meant to be a temporary move but lasted over 47 years! For two years he helped the Canons Regular of the Lateran based in Bodmin to serve 16 mission stations in Cornwall. He was allowed, in 1973, to be Priest in Charge of the C.R.L. Mission in Tintagel. In 1976 the Canons Regular of the Lateran (C.R.L.) left Bodmin due to decreasing vocations, yet Father Bryan stayed on!

These were extremely hard years for Father Bryan as priests did not get a salary. He lived as the poor do. He found a little flat in Trewarmett run by Roger Deacon and his wife Pat. He lived there for many years before buying his own little cottage in Trewarmett and then finally building Chy an Pronter ('Priest's House' in Cornish), and living his final years next to the church he had served and loved so well. The Mission is not small and in his younger days Father Bryan would cycle everywhere in the parish visiting his parishioners and searching out those who had lapsed through the Legion of Mary. He also founded the International Crusade for Moral Reform and ran Eucharistic Renewal Books.



Father Bryan used to love writing letters on subjects that interested him. He appeared on many local radio stations throughout the UK and was even given a five-minute slot on Channel 4 so he could have his say on morality.

Many in the media labelled him a controversial priest because of his conservative views, but those who knew him well saw deeper into the heart and soul of this priest. He was a man of faith, which showed by his actions towards others. He would be the first to ask everyone to pray for the repose of his soul as he was a great sinner. But this great sinner led many to repentance. Many converted to the Catholic Faith because of his love, life and great belief that God had greater things for all of us if only we would open our hearts to him.

He had a great love for the Blessed Sacrament and spent many hours kneeling in front of the tabernacle in deep prayer. The confessional was also a very high priority in his life. Not only did he himself confess regularly, but he made himself available at all times for those in need of the Lord's mercy.

In 2010 he celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood at St Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Tintagel, Cornwall. During the last few years Father Bryan suffered from two different types of cancer, Parkinson's Disease and finally he broke his hip and died due to complications caused by pneumonia.

Please pray for the repose of his soul.

**Myke Rosenthal-English**  
(Personal friend for over 59 years and former Media Secretary to Father Bryan)



*Fr Storey's Ordination*



*Fr Storey's Ordination*



*Fr Storey - Veneration of the Cross Easter 2009*

## Around the South West

**The CWL had a very enjoyable 'ecumenical tea'**



**Rosalie Langdon at the end of the table in black.**

The CWL had a very enjoyable 'ecumenical tea' recently in Dorchester. Sixty people, members and visitors, attended. Our speaker was Gabriella Crouch from Dorchester County Museum. She told us of the success of the visit of Dippy the dinosaur to Dorchester in the spring - 150,000 visitors came to the museum, far above expectations. Gabriella said how the visit had brought businesses, the community and schools together. The museum has been given a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund, so it will be closed for two years for refurbishment. However, the museum will take on a new lease of life - 'a museum without walls' - with a Pop-Up version of it starting in Brewery Square until February 2019, and then it will move around the county.

We bid our fond farewells to Rosalie Langdon who is moving closer to her family in York. Rosalie has worked tirelessly for the CWL both in Dorchester and nationally and she was presented with a gardening voucher in our appreciation. We shall miss your cheery presence Rosalie.

## Fr Ken's Garden Party



On Sunday, July 22nd over 200 parishioners from St Catherine's Wimborne gathered at a garden party to say thank you to Canon Kenneth Noakes on the occasion of his retirement. The garden party, organised by members of the parish, was enjoyed in bright sunshine. Cakes, sandwiches and a glass of Prosecco gave it the feel of a royal event!

Many parishioners expressed their appreciation for the personal support given by Father Kenneth and all thanked him for the sure way in which he has led the congregation.

He was presented with a selection of gifts including a book of messages from the youngest children in the Parish, a print of 'The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb' by Hubert and Jan van Eyck and the generous result of a parish collection. He will be greatly missed but all wish him a peaceful and happy retirement.

**WE NEED  
YOUR  
PARISH  
NEWS TO GO  
HERE!**

**No parish news?  
Maybe you should  
start something!**



# Diocesan Pilgrims and friends celebrate the Feast of St James with Bishop Mark



On July 25th, the Feast of St James, pilgrims who had journeyed on the Diocesan pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in May were invited to a reunion at Holy Ghost Church Exmouth. The pilgrims who attended the reunion came from a wide range of parishes across the Diocese with people travelling from as far afield as Camborne in Cornwall and Sherborne and Poole in Dorset. They were joined by friends and family members, parishioners from Holy Family Parish and Sisters

from the Holy Family Convent.

The evening began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark O'Toole who was assisted by Canon Keith Mitchell, Father Philip Austen and Deacon Terry Enright. After welcoming everyone, Bishop Mark told us that he was pleased to be using incense during the Mass but said unfortunately it wouldn't be quite as spectacular and dramatic as when we witnessed the Botafumeiro in action during the International Pilgrim Mass in Santiago!



Canon Keith delivered the uplifting homily and spoke on behalf of many of the pilgrims when he said he had become more interested in the life of Saint James and had felt closer to him since being on the pilgrimage. He reflected on what we had learnt while walking the Camino. He said that through the life of James we learn about discipleship and explained that discipleship is about faith and service. Canon Keith told us how James had preached the gospel to the people of Spain before returning to Jerusalem where he was martyred and reminded us of how the disciples of St James brought his remains back to Galicia by boat and carried them inland to be buried at Santiago de Compostela.

When Mass ended Father Philip thanked everyone for coming and said he hoped we would have a good evening even though we would not have the spectacular firework display that pilgrims would be having in Santiago. We then had an opportunity to pray at a statue of St James that Father Philip had brought back with him.

After Mass there was a shared supper which had a Spanish theme. There were delicacies such as

jamon serrano, chorizo, Spanish olives, patatas bravas and not one but two delicious Santiago cakes. It was a beautifully warm evening and as we sipped glasses of tinto de verano (red wine of summer) outside in the evening sun it was good to catch up with all the friends we had made on the pilgrimage before going into the hall for a delicious meal.

After supper we watched the premiere of the Diocesan pilgrimage to Santiago DVD which had been put together by Eric Howard ably assisted by his wife Philippa. The photos on the DVD reminded us of all the wonderful places we had been and Eric had thoughtfully added headings, beautiful music and inspiring quotations to the photos which served to personalise the DVD.

Going on pilgrimage brings many blessings. One of which is sharing such a truly inspiring experience with others. During our pilgrimage to Santiago there was an amazing camaraderie among the group. At this wonderful reunion this camaraderie was evident once again.

*Gloria Atkinson*



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# The Fools

## Pilgrimage –

### *the walk of the common man along the Spiritual path*

By Dan Sobey

“So, Daddy” asked my 11-year-old daughter “what is a pilgrimage?”

“Well” I replied thinking about it “it’s a spiritual journey to a sacred place” I concluded, very happy with my answer, which to an 11 year however made no sense and didn’t give her the answer she wanted.

As she and her sister looked at my ‘Pilgrim guidebook’ my other daughter volunteered another explanation: “It looks like a long walk to some old church” which seemed to satisfy them both, all I could say was “yeah, something like that”

You see, this year marks my 40th year on the planet, so my lovely wife Lisa had put out a few feelers as to what she might get me for my big 4-0, as a Spiritual person, a Pilgrimage was certainly in her thinking, but which one? She told me later that she had almost booked me a trip to Lourdes, she had looked at the Holy land, but she wasn’t sure, so she got the big guns in – my mother, who suggested that the Camino trail to Santiago De Compestela would be more my thing, and she was right!

As a Personal Trainer, Fitness Instructor, life coach and general big mouth I like to be active and whilst I do enjoy ‘quiet’ peaceful times, when it’s coupled with physical activity it ticks all the boxes for me.... So, it was with great excitement that my wife booked me a trip to Santiago and with my backpack loaded up off I went on my Pilgrimage – The Fools Journey had begun.

Who’s the fool? Well, the fool maybe has a bit of a poor image! because we often think of the fool as someone who is foolish! And whilst we are often guilty of doing daft things from time to time, the fool is actually a character who doesn’t think, they just bundle up their belongings and then they have faith in the journey and ‘go with the flow’.

I spoke with a good friend of mine before I went on my Pilgrimage and he said “let the lord lead the way – go with the flow”. It was this same line but from two different places that gave me the basis of my trip.... Open up to the Lord, and let God lead the way – Go with the flow!

The route of Santiago or St James, is also known as the route of the common man, you don’t need a doctorate in theology or be a professor of philosophy to find God, He is for everyone, He is for the prince and the pauper, He is for the learned and the least, He is found in the profound and the profane, in the magical and the mundane, in the person next to you in the family member you leave behind.

The road of the ‘common man’ is not to diminish the grandeur of God, but rather help us see Him in everything. The Fool therefore in his innocence and naivety of the human world and all its ‘hang ups’ is led along the spiritual path to enlightenment enjoying the adventure as they go.

My journey actually started in my home town of Plymouth, this is one of two official ports for English Pilgrims to leave from (Great Yarmouth is the other). The conventional route for the English Pilgrim is to set sail from Plymouth – I however got the train to London and then flew from Stansted, but that was not an easy route either!!



**This picture is from Plymouth Barbican, you can see the scallop shell (symbol of the Pilgrim) on the wall behind me.**

I met the most wonderful and gracious of hosts, and although there was a language barrier the unconditional love – the Agape, that the residents and guest house owners showed to us travelling Pilgrims and the shared feeling of purpose and journey amongst the travellers, meant that the faith of God and the confidence in the journey made it a lovely place to be.

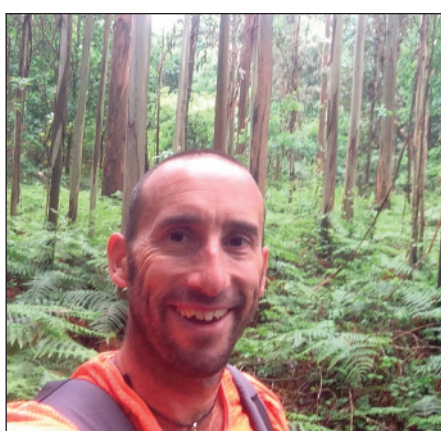
I did meet loneliness on my travels – I actually experienced this in the airport before my journey had actually begun. As a person of faith, I

know I’m never alone, but I had read that Mother Theresa famously said that the ‘worst’ poverty was loneliness, so I purposely closed myself off and was all alone and she was right it is horrible! It’s clear to see how that feeling can lead people into depression and all manner of troubles.

How to best overcome that loneliness? By seeing everyone in me and me in everyone else. So, I took that feeling of ALONE and changed to ALL-ONE and instantly I saw myself in everyone else and as someone who often talks to himself, talking to others and sharing in each other’s experiences made the normal sterile place of the airport a happier place to be.

I also met death on my travels, actually I met a French chap called Pacos (Spanish mother) who when I first looked at him I thought “jeeppers, that fella looks like a cancer patient!” sadly he was, with a final push of ‘energy’ he decided that he wanted to walk the Camino, something he had always put off, and even though he was in poor shape, here was a man literally near death, yet squeezing as much out of life as he could! The several kilometres of walking I did with him were very inspirational, to live each day as if it is your last, was the message I got. He saw I was wearing a Rosary, so a really special thing was to say the Rosary whilst walking along the strange road to Saint Jacques, an Englishman and a Frenchman, saying the Hail Mary, half in English and the other half in French.... I don’t know if he is still alive but God Bless you Pacos.

I met serenity and intolerance too, I found this in a sleepy little village a short walk (5Km or so) from the main route, but I’d heard the extra distance was worth it. I arrived at this sweet unassuming church, and, as was my custom, lit a few candles and settled into the back pew to say a few prayers and practice one of the Spiritual exercises I was led to do. Sat up on the Altar was a little old Spanish man, I don’t think he was a Priest, but he could have been. We were sat there in silence for several minutes when I heard a commotion from outside, a few moments later a coach load of tourists came flying in, snapping cameras, talking – rather loudly and even one on their phone..... there was a huge bang as the little Spanish man slammed his prayer book into the pew and he bellowed “SILENCIO”, he then rattled off a load of Spanish, and whether you understood Spanish or not the meaning was clear!!! He ran around the church and chased these noisy tourists out, slammed the door and bolted it shut.... he was not going to tolerate their disrespect of the church. What was really fascinating was when he returned to the Altar, he took a deep breath in and as he breathed out he was able to settle back into this Holy and meditative state, his sense of harmony, peace and serenity was restored in one breath, amazing.



I met friends loads of friends, it was lovely to get to know people and even though there was the standard small talk, very quickly you were able to get into some very deep conversations very quickly, the shared journey along the road acted as a springboard to dive into some meaningful conversations. Many people were not Religious but were looking for direction, many had ‘issues’ with Religion but wanted a Spiritual experience, many were grateful for the life they had and wanted to say ‘Thank you’ for their health. Some just liked a good walk.

I met God, He (and She) was everywhere, in everyone, in everything and in the nothing in between, in the laughter and in the tears, in the life and the death, in the tourists making noise and in the serenity of the churches, in the beauty of the countryside and in the hustle and bustle of the cafes and guest houses, going out to find something I realised it was already there – it existed in me all along but I already knew that, I just needed reminding.

Arriving in Santiago was almost bitter sweet, it represented the end of my walk and the goal of my journey, however going from lovely countryside and into a city is never a ‘nice’ transition, the peace, harmony and tranquillity of the natural environment is replaced by the noise, hustle and pollution of the human environment, but arriving at the Cathedral of Santiago was fantastic, whether you are of a Religious or Spiritual persuasion or not, you cannot help but pick up on the energy and the certain ‘vibe’ of the place.

There is debate as to the authenticity of relics and remains of St



**The ‘fool’ – Dan Sobey during his Pilgrimage to Santiago De Compestela**

James held under the Altar, but you cannot help but be humbled and reflective in the holiness of the place, it truly is a very special, spiritual and Godly place.



**Myself and Fr Manny, the Filipino priest who led the English Mass at the Cathedral**

The cathedral has a plethora of small chapels around it and mass is celebrated in various languages throughout the day in the different chapels, and what is lovely is the great sense of community that is easily built upon straight away – the first English mass I went to had about 20 people in it,

and before mass started properly we all had a chance to introduce ourselves and give a brief ‘story’ for our Pilgrimage, the sense and feeling of community was instant and this became our Holy Communion before the Eucharist and the mass had even ‘properly’ started.

I started my Pilgrimage with the dictionary definition of what a Pilgrimage means: ‘A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a sacred place’.

But I quickly realised that all journeys are spiritual, and all places are sacred... walking my children to school thru the woods and streets of Plymouth is special time, a cancer patient is going thru a spiritual journey, a recovering addict is on a journey to the sacred place of recovery and we are all on a spiritual journey thru this human experience heading to the scared place of heaven.

Famously Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said **“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience”**

However, many of us don’t realise that, or if we do we often forget. We are all members of the same ‘stuff’ and when we remember that we re-member that is, unify to God, to each other and to everything.

Enjoy the journey, keep the faith and join the Pilgrimage

If you are on social media check out #SobeysPilgrimage and see how I got on.

If you or your group would like to know more then please contact me via email: djsobey@hotmail.com





# RUN to the SON

## Evangelisation in Action – Plymouth



For the second consecutive year beautiful Abbey grounds in Devon were the setting for an inspired gathering where enthusiastic souls drew to drink from a fount of grace: all eager to grow in the “art of discipleship” and to praise and worship the One who is.

As is often the way, after a Spirit-filled weekend, the impact of such an event (in this case Run to the Son held at Buckfast Abbey, 22-24 June, 2018) often shows itself in the days that follow. I am happy to report that our recent evangelisation event was no different. Some wonderful effects emerged within the first week brought about as a direct result of the inspirational content for which we have to thank a dedicated team who thought of our every need. We benefitted from an outstanding setting and a well thought through programme which balanced prayer, teaching, Rosary and Sacraments with time for socialising and quiet reflection.

Diocesan attendees made their way from Dorset, Devon and Cornwall to the stunningly beautiful Abbey grounds (complete with Millennium and physic gardens which were oases of peace, colour and art) - as well as one attendee making the huge effort of driving from London (it took ten hours - scenic route) and two others journeying from Southampton (three trains and a bus ride!). During the weekend, we also attracted a couple from Ireland who were at the Abbey for other reasons and who told us that they would look out for ‘Run to the Son 2019’!

Run to the Son involves an all-night vigil (for those able) in Adoration. A marquee with hot drinks and snacks kept the blood sugar levels up and allowed for deep meaningful conversations among the gathered (and what a friendly group of attendees there were)! For many, a highlight was the midnight procession behind the Blessed Sacrament with prayerful music stops en route to a small gazebo on the hill

complete with makeshift altar where we prayed under the stars, made our commitment to proclaim the Gospel and were anointed with oil of joy in order to go forth (yes, the smiles said it all). The candlelit procession returned to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for hourly scripture, prayers and song while the huge stained glass window of Jesus remained black until just gone 4.00 am when faint signs of light began the process of revealing His figure. Slowly, colour lit up the glass in the halo - gold and red and by the dawn Mass (feast of the birth of St John the Baptist), concelebrated by Bishop Mark and Fr Jon Bielawski, the purple robes in the window were clear and the colour in the glass intense although I had been hoping to see the sun peeping through especially as it was such a glorious weekend weather-wise. By the end of Mass, I was not disappointed. Seemingly on cue, the sun’s rays lit up the face and halo of Jesus so brilliantly as if it were a gift to us all and a reminder that God’s timing is perfect in all things!

Other popular highlights were the food provided by The Grange restaurant (even on Friday evening for our arrival, there was a comprehensive and delicious buffet); the talk given by Fr Oscar seemed to launch people into another stratosphere - it certainly woke us up with humour, testimony and quirky examples of turning conversations into moments of hope where the kerygma is commonplace. The workshop showed how we, as children of God, are agents of hope and life for our brothers and sisters. Many of us have family who may be going through a lukewarm, indifferent or dry patch and we would love someone to speak to them about their hope in Jesus - so why not us?

Part of the scripture provided for meditation was from Ezekiel (37:1-14) - the dry bones. Reading it, it is easy to envisage the bones coming together, being covered and finally the breath of God enlivening what was a desolate scene. Praise God that we as disciples, and “Agents of Life, Hope and Change” are part of a similar process being enlivened and have learnt the valuable lesson of not only praying for opportunities for faith encounters but to actively look and fish for them in a natural way.

I have to say that the weekend was an excellent way to mark a couple of the longest days in the calendar and that the impromptu evening ‘races’ (runs) at sunset in a field contributed to a fun and fulfilling Run to the Son - a spiritual and inspirational ‘School of Evangelisation’ for all and truly a time of joy and blessing.

### The Harvest is Rich!

Good news travels fast and within the first week, reports emerged of Run to the Son ‘graduates’ stepping out in trust and in prayer where people have been practising the ‘how to’ of evangelisation. Using the newly delivered “Genesis Model” which breaks everything down and respects every person’s level of confidence to begin, people have felt encouraged, inspired and faith-filled which must be attributed to the prayer and teachings over the weekend. Indeed I have also heard of renewed commitment to prayer - both generally and in front of the Blessed Sacrament.





# ON

## South Diocese

As Run to the Son is a weekend of invocation to the Holy Spirit for a fresh outpouring of the gifts required to equip us for our Church's mission, we were not too surprised to hear of immediate fruit! I finish by sharing so that you may be encouraged too:-

*"On Monday we met a farmer about using his machinery to cut back grass in an orchard in a hamlet near where we live. He was going for an annual MRI scan that afternoon for an ongoing condition and I said 'I'll pray for you' - the first time I've said this to a perfect stranger. I was emboldened by Run to the Son! On the way from the orchard to where our cars were parked, my wife mentioned a book she'd read about heaven (Imagine Heaven) detailing the common aspects of near death experiences. The farmer then collapsed. My wife held onto him and prayed for him. I called the ambulance. He got back on this feet. Then collapsed again. I rang for his wife as well. It all turned out well - he spent Monday night in Hospital. And he said he was very glad to have met us! I couldn't help feeling that the Lord was at work there somehow and it made me realise that proclaiming faith can be practiced anywhere"*

Another graduate wrote:

*"Filled with confidence from all that we had heard at the workshops, three of us stayed on for the Sunday and were able to 'engineer' several encounters during the rest of the day, although we did accept that Buckfast Abbey was a very sympathetic place to approach people as most people, whether catholic or otherwise, came for the beauty and peace of the grounds and were open to easy conversation and of course the weather was perfect. The encounters came about by -*

*Casual conversation whilst sharing a bench seat and talking about the beautiful weather*

*Whilst walking through the Millennial gardens and commenting to a passer-by about it*

*Whilst walking around the scented garden and passing a couple seated in the corner*

*Helping a little boy to light a candle within the Abbey (actually this 5 year old wanted to fill every empty holder on the stand but it was the reason to start up the conversation with his family)*

*Whilst walking around the herb garden and drawing a passing couple's attention to the tadpoles*

*All of these situations led on to meaningful encounters which will be shared at the next Intentional Discipleship Meeting"*

More fruit of a different type was the news that a participant attended Mass the following weekend and expressed an interest in converting to Catholicism – what a 'mid-summer celebration', or rather, a 'run' to the Son in His real presence in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. Hallelujah!







# Church sleepover & breakfast on the beach!



On Friday 13th July, a lovely summer evening, class 6 from St Joseph's School Exmouth 'slept over' in Holy Ghost Church. They heard about two occasions when the resurrected Jesus appeared to his disciples before going down to the shore and spending time playing games on the Maer.

All the children wrote prayers on 'fish' cards which were then tied onto a fishing net in the church. They decorated 'stained glass' jars to hold their candles on the altar, prayed evening prayer together, enjoyed hot chocolate & marshmallows - before spreading out their sleeping bags and pillows around the church. Sleep came very late to many of them!

The children were woken early on Saturday morning at 4.50a.m. and listened to the Gospel reading of Jesus having breakfast ready on the beach for his disciples. They then walked to the beach for their own breakfast. They enjoyed freshly cooked fish (and bacon rolls!) and still had plenty of energy to run around the deserted beach!

This wonderful occasion will be remembered by all who took part and is becoming a tradition for class 6 leavers at St Josephs. We are very grateful to the staff who supported the sleepover.



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# FROM KENYA TO TRURO

## W.O.R.K. A presentation

It was on a very hot and humid evening on Thursday 19th July, that our parish was treated to an enlightening and extremely informative presentation by Mgr Adrian Toffolo and Mary-Jane Butler, on the magnificent projects they have been working on in rural Kenya.

A fascinating and absorbing two hours held us in awe of the work and of the amazing achievements of the 'Widows and Orphans in Rural Kenya' (W.O.R.K.) Charity.

From small beginnings a huge transformation has spread throughout the Diocese of Bungoma, a largely rural area in the west of Kenya, and roughly the size of Devon and Cornwall.

Following the AIDS epidemic which decimated the population aged between fifteen and mid-forty, many who were left were widows and orphaned children who had nothing and with few prospects. So some ten years ago, the W.O.R.K. began.

W.O.R.K. 'tries to offer hope and a chance to improve the quality of life where there is NO HOPE'. This aim sums up the work and operation of this organisation, and thanks to the dedication of the founders and hard work of the volunteers, hope for a future turns into reality.

Not only health care but education and employment issues are addressed, with all

donations being channelled towards a variety of thoroughly researched practical projects.

'If you give a man a fish you feed him for a day, if you give him a hook and teach him to fish you feed him for a lifetime. Wise words endorsing the main object of sustainability by providing the means and resources for self sufficiency.

Priorities are given to health-care, education for the orphaned children and training for employment for the widows to provide future skills and careers for themselves.

Since it began, much has been accomplished. W.O.R.K. has two large health centres providing care for the poorest in two distinct parts of the Diocese. Included are facilities for out-patients and in-patients, a laboratory, a minor theatre, trauma unit and maternity provision. Mobile clinics also serve the area.

Necessary to achieve sustainability, education and training are essential. So, funding for orphans to receive secondary and tertiary education is provided. For some, vocational training and apprenticeship courses are more suitable, and also skills based training for widows, with loan facilities to purchase animals or for work related tools. The buying of animals provides a living for life as the young they produce then provide a living for another family and so on.

This barely covers the whole story, so much is involved, from the administration such as, fund raising, publicity materials, co-ordinating, travelling, planning, organising, to the hands-on side of building the structures and much, much more but importantly, it is by acting on the ideas that fulfil our vocation to holiness.

The hope and joy this gives was evident from all the smiles radiating on the faces of the individually and personally known women and children introduced to us by Mary-Jane. A very cohesive 'family' community working together for each other, came across.

Real poverty such as we in the West rarely experience is embraced here with a deep faith, sense of humour and with willingness to overcome the many problems a hostile environment creates,

which was plain to see. It struck one forcefully that although considered 'poor', in contrast to our 'rich' society, there is a great deal to be learned from the people of rural Kenya, and indeed from those who go the extra mile/s to help them.

We left the hall full of admiration for the hard work, the volunteers and especially for the widows and orphans who triumph through so much adversity and smile throughout. We were much encouraged and inspired by this and the many ingenious fund raising ideas and hope to further our support for this deserving endeavour.

Please take time to look on the website: [www.work-kenya.org](http://www.work-kenya.org) for more information.

*[Written by Genevieve Knight, for the parish of Our Lady of the Portal and St Piran, Truro]*



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# ST BONIFACE

## PATRON OF OUR DIOCESE

*A homily preached by Canon Kenneth Noakes at the Chapter Mass on St Boniface Day,  
5 June 2018, at Plymouth Cathedral*

No doubt we have all felt a bit of a fraud at times in our priestly ministry. Not that we have doubted the validity of our orders, but we have been doing something beyond our capacity, outside our comfort zone. This was the case for me last summer when I joined the Wimborne twinning group on their visit to Ochsenfurt in Germany. The link between the two towns goes back to the late 1970s when Fr Joseph O'Brien was parish priest of Wimborne and Fr Adam Zirkel was in Ochsenfurt. I have had to read many learned articles in German but ordinary conversation in German is beyond me. Thank goodness German is much less slippery in pronunciation than either French or English. You read what you see, every syllable of it, so I got by.

One of the highlights of my visits was to go to Fulda, where the body of St Boniface was taken for

burial after his martyrdom at the hands of bandits at Dokhum in Frisia.

Today we celebrate the life and work of the patron of our diocese St Boniface. There are two recurrent themes of Boniface's long and eventful life in the West Country of England but largely spent in Germany. They are these:  
1) his zeal for mission  
2) his loyalty to the Pope and the faith of the Church.

Anglo-saxon Benedictine houses provided most of the monks and nuns who spent their lives in missionary work in Germany. Though missionary work was not an essential part of the Benedictine rule, a very important precedent had been set when the Benedictine monk, Augustine, was sent by Pope Gregory the Great in 597 to conduct a mission in England. Augustine left the stability of his Roman monastery on the Caelian hill for a very uncertain future.

The Benedictine contribution to the German mission was provided not only by Boniface but also by his collaborators including Benedictine nuns from Wimborne – Lioba, Thecla, Walburga.

Born in 675, Boniface was formed at Benedictine houses in Devon and in Hampshire at Nursling. He had a great love of scripture and the Church Fathers and was a most able teacher. After ordination at the canonical age of 30 he decided to forsake his own country and eventually gained his abbot's consent. Travelling to Rome in 718, Boniface gained the blessing of Pope Gregory II to preach the word of God to those people still bound by the shackles of paganism. The area of his mission was to be Bavaria and Hesse. Tirelessly Boniface gave himself to the mission of the Church, confronting pagans, destroying their temples, on one occasion felling a sacred oak, and building churches and establishing monasteries. He also had a mission to those Christians carried away from the right path by false doctrine and to those who obviously failed to seek to live by the tenets of the Gospel. He was concerned with establishing discipline within the Church and enforcing the canons.

Called back to Rome by the Pope, Boniface was made a bishop in 722/3 and returned to Germany. He became legate of the Universal Church in German and servant of the Apostolic See –

receiving the pallium as archbishop in 732.

In a famous letter of 738 he asked the prayers of the English Church for his work to help him to withstand evil and to be God's agent in converting pagan Saxons to the faith and uniting them to the Holy Church.

After visiting Rome in 738, Boniface summoned a synod for all Christian Germany and established a diocesan structure in Bavaria. Not only Germany felt the benefits of Boniface's work – he went on to reform the Church in France where discipline had collapsed – and it was to the North of Germany in Frisia that he met his martyr's death.

Boniface was truly a missionary disciple to use Pope Francis's favourite phrase. Formed by a love of scripture he gave himself wholeheartedly to God's service and the service of his fellow men and women. In his letters he constantly styles himself, 'servant of the servants of God'.

Boniface's mission was unique, but we all share the same call as he had to be missionary disciples. We are called to be members of "an evangelising community", in Pope Francis's words, "which knows that the Lord has taken the initiative. He has loved us first." Therefore, says Francis, "we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast." In our day and in our own places, we are commissioned to do as Boniface did.

Alongside his missionary zeal, Boniface always showed great loyalty to the Pope and to the Faith of the Church. As Boniface wrote, "It is our firm resolution to preserve the Catholic Faith and the unity of the Church of Rome." As I have noted, he went to Rome to visit the pope on a number of occasions, in fact dealing with three Popes in succession – Gregory II, Gregory III and Zacharias. He kept the Holy Father fully informed of his work, not only by his visits but also by correspondence. The Pope responded to Boniface's questions about pastoral matters. It is intriguing that Boniface shares the English distaste, still prevalent, for eating horsemeat. In a letter of 732 Pope Gregory II comments on Boniface's report that some Germans eat horses. The Pope shared Boniface's distaste as he says, "this is a filthy and abominable custom which must be suppressed." Ever the practical Englishman, one letter of



Boniface's tells us he sent gifts to the Pope, not only of silver and gold, but also a warm rug.

The oath sworn by Boniface in 722 promises to Pope Gregory II that he will uphold the faith and purity of Holy Catholic teaching, will persevere in it and will not agree to anything that is opposed to the unity of the Church, but will show complete loyalty to the Pope and to the welfare of the Church. He will have no part or lot with bishops who deviate from the teaching of the Fathers, will correct them or, if that is impossible, report the matter to the Holy See.

As St John Paul II stated, "communion and mission are profoundly interconnected." Those of us who were formerly Anglican priests were jolted by events into a fresh understanding of the importance of communion. We had been taught to uphold the Catholic Faith – we had to learn no new doctrines when we were 'recycled', to use a convenient phrase. But orthodox belief is not enough – it is not enough, for example to believe all that the Church teaches about the Real Presence or about the Mother of God. Being in communion is also essential – being in visible communion with the Catholic Church founded by Peter, being in communion therefore with Peter's successor and the bishops in communion with him. St Boniface undertook his mission under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, always seeking to deepen and further the communion of the baptised, be they converts from paganism or lapsed Catholics now returned to the fold, with Peter's successors and the whole Catholic Church.

We are indeed fortunate as a diocese to have as our patron a man filled with missionary zeal and a man who longed for others to enter into the full communion of the Catholic Church



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St Cyprian's Chapel, Ugbrooke House, CHUDLEIGH, Devon TQ13 0AD

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(1) Except in December when on 2nd Sunday.

(2) Preceded by Rosary and sermon. \* denotes change from usual time

Any questions contact Maurice Quinn (LMS Rep, Devon and Dorset)

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