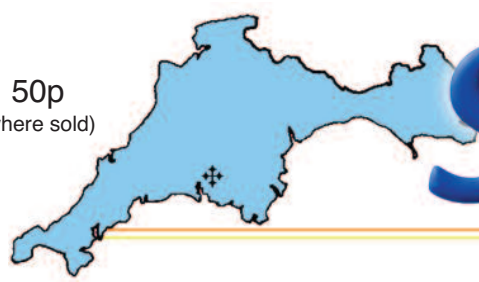


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South West*

Issue 250 October 2018



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I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Liverpool and Locally

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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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The Plymouth Catholic Choir

On Saturday 17th March 2018 at St. Austin's Priory Ivybridge during a Mass celebrated by Fr. Guy de Gaynesford for the intentions of the C.W.L. we lost part of our ceiling.

Thankfully no one was injured and Mass continued to its conclusion. After many weeks of quotes, scratching of chins, decision making and hard work we finally on Sunday 17th June returned to our spiritual home.

All services had been taken in our parish rooms,

though a novelty at first it soon became less so. The ceiling was not restored to its former glory, but something much, much better.

To celebrate this event and raise some much-needed funds, we held a Midsummer Concert on the 27th June. The Plymouth Catholic Choir performed a wonderful selection of hymns and songs, much appreciated by the audience. We enjoyed Mac IRobinson on saxophone accompanied by his wife Denise, Daniel Phipps playing classic guitar, St Austin's Priory Ukulele

Band led by Alison O'Connell and Ben Blades singing songs from Les Miserables. What an evening!!!

The choir practice at Our Lady of Lourdes in Plympton on Wednesday evening from 7:30 until 9pm. Please come and join us, you will be made most welcome.

*Rita Joesbury
Publicity Officer*

Fr. Bryan Sidney Storey
8th May 1933 - 26th July 2018

The funeral of our beloved priest, Fr. Bryan Storey, took place on the 9th August 2018 at St. Paul the Apostle, Tintagel, the church at which he was Priest in Charge for forty five years. Fr. Storey was ordained in 1960 at St. Anselm's, Tooting Bec and was then appointed Curate at St. Peter's, Hove in the Archdiocese of Southwark but which in 1965 became part of the newly-formed Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. He was granted leave of absence and spent the last forty seven years of his life in the Diocese of Plymouth, for the first two years as Assistant Priest at St. Mary's, Bodmin and then at St. Paul's.



The principal celebrant at the funeral Mass was our own Bishop Mark. The concelebrants were the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton Richard Moth and Bishop Emeritus Christopher Budd, and fourteen other clergy. There were also four deacons, including two who assisted at the altar, and a number of religious in the congregation, including several Friars of the Immaculate, a Canon Regular of Prémontré, and some Religious Sisters. The rest of the approximately 200 strong congregation came from far and wide. They included civic authorities, members of the Methodist and Anglican churches, together with many locals who knew Fr. Storey, some from the time when he was a schoolboy and was evacuated here during the war years (and not yet a Catholic). A reception afterwards was held at the Tintagel Social Hall and was attended by most of those who went to the Mass.

Fr. Storey leaves behind a thriving congregation and will be sorely missed, not just by the Catholic community, for he extended his Ministry to anyone he learnt was in need.

Requiescat in Pace.

The Clewer Initiative



This is a three year project started in October 2017 by the Church of England on a Diocesan basis. So far 15 Anglican Dioceses have signed up with Truro in the process.

The next meeting will be on 1st December in conjunction with other similar organisations but with a focus on refugees rather than 'slavery' at All Saints Higher Town, Truro, 10am-4pm.

Albania and two other countries are the main source of women being tricked with false promises and then taken illegally to the UK for prostitution. Clewer has been preceded by other groups with similar intentions, ie to identify out 'slaves' and assist them.

Santa Marta

Santa Marta is a Roman Catholic organisation founded in 2014 with similar aims but one big difference. They are global and work with overseas partners. Prevention is their main objective coupled by assisting 'slaves' who have been either forcibly or voluntarily returned "home". They are very frequently women in disgrace who will be ostracised by their families and communities. Plymouth Diocese is in the process of joining and has a new Caritas Centre for this work in Devon, Cornwall and part of Dorset.

Afternoon Tea in Penzance

It had been in the Holy Family newsletter for weeks: Afternoon Tea in the Presbytery Garden, but when the day came, after 50 days of sunshine, it rained! The event was duly postponed, but in this wide-spread Parish, not everyone received the news. When the weather cheered up in the early afternoon, several turned up to support their Church. Nothing daunted, Father Philip and his assistant Christine, welcomed all, found more chairs, squeezed them in between others, and produced a cuppa with scones and cream for those gathering around the large table in the Presbytery kitchen. I would not have missed it for the world. I haven't laughed so much in years, as each and everyone recalled funny moments in their lives. The Cornish gentleman present had more Blarney than his Irish wife! For an hour or so, we joshed and joked back and forth, and there was great hilarity. And it was good!

The real Afternoon Tea in the Presbytery Garden was held a week later, on a warm and sunny Sunday. The ladies looked pretty and elegant in their summer attire. The flowers in the garden were colourful. The few stalls sold inviting goodies. The scones with jam and cream were served by charming ladies wearing pinafores to protect their dresses. Those assembled sat under small marquees to shade from the sun. It was altogether a delightful gathering, with hints of times past. But that Afternoon Tea in the Presbytery Kitchen will stay longer in the memory of those who were blessed to be there.

Thank you, Father Philip and Christine, for your great hospitality, on both occasions.



Helston Summer BBQ



A summer BBQ was held in the garden of the Presbytery at St. Mary's Helston in August. The guest Chef was Fr. John Gilbert from Truro. Parishioners from Falmouth joined in the fun.

Teddy Bear's Picnic in Falmouth

St. Mary's Falmouth held a great Teddy Bear's Picnic on Saturday! The Parish Hall looked stunning with lots of Bear decor. There was a Bear Tombola, stalls selling toys, children's books, cakes, brick a brac, pin the honey pot onto the bear (an alternative to pin the tail on the donkey!) and a hugely successful face-painting. There were special plates of food for the children with sandwiches cut in Bear and donkey shapes, Jelly, grapes and a small cake decorated with a bear. For the grown-ups there was a Cream Tea! All great fun!

Around the South West

Patrick Shonfield Awarded Benemerenti



Pope Francis has awarded Patrick Shonfield the Benemerenti Medal for 70 years continued and unbroken service to the Catholic Church - and in particular Our Lady Star of the Sea and the Parish and the Church of St Joseph's in Weymouth. The medal was presented to Patrick at Holy Mass and we wish him our warmest congratulations!

Charity Hair Cut

One of the young parishioners in Weymouth has cut her hair to raise money for the Princess Trust. The hair will be used to make wigs for children who have lost their hair during chemotherapy. The whole parish are so proud that she did such an amazing thing and donated her hair to such a worthy cause. Well Done!



Apostleship of the Sea invites you to a Mass in honour of our patron Stella Maris, Our Lady Star of the Sea. Come along and pray for the work of Apostleship of the Sea and for seafarers on Wednesday 26th September 2018 at 7pm at St Mary Immaculate Church, Kilgrew Street, Falmouth TR11 3PR. Fr Brian Kenrick will celebrate Mass, which will be followed by a reception. All invited, please come along. For more information and to RSVP contact salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk Website: <http://bit.ly/SMMass18>



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TO GO HERE!**

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Maybe you should
start something!**



Plymouth Circle Flagship Event: When the Bishop of Plymouth came for tea!

Dan Sobey – membership officer

Since his consecration as the 9th Bishop of Plymouth in 2014, Bishop Mark, (or Father Mark as he is happy to be called) has been a very 'active', energetic and engaging clergy member within all aspects of the Catholic church here in the Diocese of Plymouth.

I've heard him talk several times already at different masses and events, so it was, for all us Catenians as well as myself a fantastic opportunity to have him all to ourselves as guest of honour for our flagship event.

The Bishops talk was titled "Disciples making disciples" and started with a lovely personal account of how Bishop Mark had met and thought fondly of the Catenian association in his early career and how he admires the three principles that we are built on, Family, Faith and Friendship.

With this in mind, he gifted us all with a prayer card of Saint Anne, that symbolised family life as the heart of life and the family as a little church.

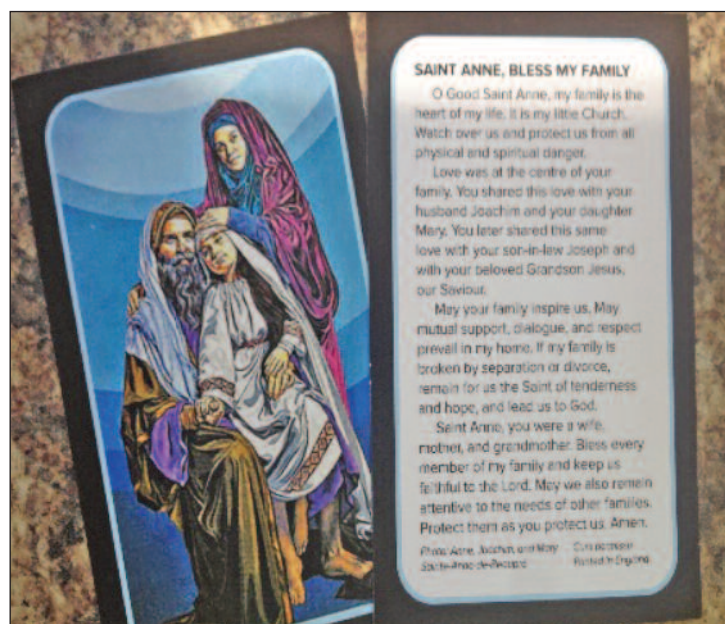
Bishop Mark then moved into his talk, his theme, was very much in the spirit of the current church aims of us 'disciples making more disciples' – essentially the spreading of the Christian faith.

He used a lovely analogy of a beautiful flower bed of daffodils that needed support and protection on all 4 sides from the harsh elements. Obviously this was a reference to the 'bulb' of Faith in God, that in order to flourish needs some help! It was lovely to hear that it's the job of the Holy Spirit to do the 'work' but we, can help those bulbs blossom based on 4 components:

1. Prayer – so essential to every person of Faith, prayer is the tool for communication. By supporting each other in and with prayer is fundamental.

2. Faith Foundation – any structure must have a strong foundation to be built on and Faith is no exception. The Church has a great many sacraments that are 'of' the church and 'for' the church, that allows the formation of a strong Faith Foundation.

3. Loving service – the helping of others has always been the greatest way to promote the flow of 'love' in its truest state from one person to



Prayer Card



President John Modley and Bishop Mark O'Toole

another and in doing so shows the flow of God's love.

4. The Eucharist – the involvement and participation in the Eucharist allows the most 'humble' of followers to share in the joy and presence of the Lord in a 'real life' experience.

Bishop Mark shared a few personal stories of people he had met who were looking for God, but had felt the Catholic Faith had nothing for them! He shared a story of a Dierdre O'Toole, (no relation to the Bishop) who he had met at a Temple of

Hinduism in London, she was of Irish origins, but had felt the Church had offered her no 'spiritual' evolution.

Fr Mark beautifully conveyed how hard he had found that conversation and why he is such an advocate for introducing the Holy Spirit to those who feel that the Church lacks Spiritualism.

The Bishops talk ended with him offering congratulations to Norman and Maureen Young, who were celebrating 65yrs of marriage and Peter Ware for his 40yrs as a Catenian.

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Bishop Mark congratulating Norman and Maureen Young on their 65th wedding anniversary



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ADOREMUS - Let us Adore

Liverpool and locally.....

On the weekend of September 7-9th the Bishops of England and Wales held a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool.

This gathering of the clergy, religious and laity was held to promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church.

The title of the Congress - Adoremus - was a call for each of us to rejuvenate our worship of Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist and to focus on the place of the Blessed Sacrament in our lives.

In solidarity with those attending the Congress, Father Philip arranged for parishioners from Holy Ghost Church Exmouth and St. Peter's Church Budleigh Salterton to come together as one for the celebration of Mass and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the garden of Holy Ghost Church.

In his homily Father Philip referred to the word "Ephphatha" which we had just heard in the Gospel reading. He explained that it means "Be opened" and said that the word "Ephphatha" is just as relevant to the Church today. He told us that whenever we feel hesitant or tongue-tied as disciples we should pray for more openness to hearing the word of God and listening to what God is asking of us.

Father Philip told us that at the time of the last Eucharistic Congress in 1908 a public procession of the Blessed Sacrament was not allowed. He said that nowadays we can be more open about expressing our Faith, explaining that as we are all tabernacles of Christ we carry Our Lord out into the world wherever we go. Father said that by celebrating Mass and Benediction out in the open we were sharing our faith and were being witnesses to neighbours and those passing by. He also told us that by our example we can show others the Good News that Jesus Christ loves us, gave his life to save us and lives by our side every day, to enlighten, strengthen and free us.

There was a large congregation attending Mass, sitting on an assortment of garden chairs, picnic benches and colourful rugs and cushions. After Mass coffee was served and it was wonderful to see so many people sitting outside in the warm sunshine eating their picnic lunches and chatting with their fellow parishioners.

*Written by Gloria Atkinson Parishioner of
Parish of The Holy Family, Exmouth*



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Plymouth Diocese Cateche



The two week period of the Summer Camps took place, somewhat unusually, under an almost continuous cloudless blue sky this year, which brought happiness and fun to the young people, and filling the environs of Buckfast Abbey with laughter and prayer.

In this important year of millennial celebration for the Benedictine Community at Buckfast our theme 'Abide in Him' allowed us to look deeper into life in community, and in particular allowed us to explore the Benedictine presence at Buckfast itself. For example, we all spent a very special time in the new garden looking at the deer drinking at the pool, and listening to a talk by the Abbey's Head Gardener, Aaron Southgate, as he explained the meaning behind the planting choices, and the Millenium Garden design process.

Fionnuala Quinn C.O. of the senior Camp quotes "I don't know if you have ever visited the ruined church up on the hill between Buckfast and Buckfastleigh, but if you have not, we would highly recommend it. Being within walking distance of where we stay at the Abbey, it has become a regular venue for some of our spiritual activities on Senior Camp. Imagine, when there, the nave at dusk dotted with lighted tea lights flickering in jam jars; bats gradually replacing the swallows swooping in and around the derelict walls and the rebuilt tower; and 37 teenagers and helpers sitting where the altar should be, in silent contemplation, drinking in the moment"

Of course, as always, the activities this year on Senior Camp were very varied, It was lovely to welcome Bishop Mark to one of our camp barbecues, where the campers were able to talk to him in a relaxed and

informal setting. We had a great day out in the middle of the week at Dartington Gardens, where we spent the morning in the gardens thinking and exploring Matthew 25, and then walked down through the fields and woods to the shops for a picnic and a browse.

Sarah Williams, one of the helpers on the Junior camp quotes "The junior campers were, undoubtedly, spiritually refreshed and equally as exhausted by the end of our jam-packed week. We were treated daily to the children's abundant interpretations of God's providence within the bible and their own lives, which was summarised in our very own 'Providence - The Board Game' - which the campers created, constructed and completed with great enthusiasm before the week was done!"

One of our areas of interest during the camps for all groups was the livelihood of the Monks who live in the Abbey. All groups investigated the newly-established Monastic Way which is an encapsulating interactive display in which the campers could ask their own all-important questions - such as 'can Monks watch the television?' or 'use mobile phones!' That said, the children never shy from talking to the visiting Monks, who are always welcoming, during the week to find out what it is that they actually do!

We did find out that some of the Monks are partial to gardening during their free time and contribute towards the fabulous upkeep of the gardens on the Buckfast site. Each of us tried our own hand at gardening, potting our own lavender clippings to take home in the hope they will flourish in the same way the children had done over the course of the week -



Catechetical Summer Camps 2018

although for a plant it may take a little longer to do so

The Junior Camp, in common with the other groups, enjoyed plenty of prayerful experiences and were fortunate enough to use the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for our final night prayer, blessing five hand-decorated plant pots, given as a gift to each of the charities of the Buckfast Millennium fund along with our prayers and best wishes to all.

Sarah Williams
Helper, Junior Camp

Jillian Wilce, C.O. of the St. Petroc's camp, which caters for the Year 11 and 12 age-group, states that the camp met for the fourth time this year with 5 young people on the cusp of adult life. The young people explored who they were as individuals and how that means we all experience and express faith. We listened to one another's faith journeys and also how others in the Plymouth Diocese Catholic Community lived out their faith through their work and family life. We went on a learning walk and asked all those tricky questions that face us as we start out in adult life and considered what the Church has to say about such things. We had a week of extremes; we laughed and cried, had very serious conversations and very daft ones, were surrounded by people in the middle of Torquay high street (recognising this was all part of God's Kingdom) and spent time in solitude high on the coast path, we prayed indoors in semi darkness and prayed at the top of a vineyard.

But most importantly we proclaimed our faith in each and every encounter and in each and every moment

of our waking day!

The Camps are, as everything, becoming more work to organise, not least due to understandable and necessary increase in Safeguarding and Health and Safety Guidelines. We would like to thank the Plymouth Safeguarding Team for their continual and consistent support of the camps; Susanne Kovall for her work processing camper applications; and all volunteers for bearing patiently with the processes and demands.

As always, they could not take place without the support of so many people from across the diocese and beyond. Or thanks goes to everyone who helps in whatever way to make the camps a success – The Abbott and all the staff at Buckfast Abbey who help us during our stay with the Camps; Deacon Simon Fletcher, from Efford, who helps with the storage and transportation of the Camp resources, (including our marquee); the sisters at Mount St Mary's who support us with our planning meetings; the C.W.L. groups around the area who support us with the preparation of lunches, and, of course, the many helpers from across the diocese and beyond, who give up a week of their summer holidays to help on the Camps.

If you are reading this thinking that you would like to get involved, please do contact us using the details in the Year Book. We would love to hear from you.

Deacon Michael Turnbull
Chair, Plymouth Diocese
Catechetical Summer Camps
Committee





On Sunday 24 June the good Lord provided stunning weather at the annual Youth Rally, St Ritas Honiton. The aim of the day is for parishes to participate in various sports events with It's a Knockout, Tug of War as team events and individual competitions, Penalty Shooting, Netball, Skittles and Trampolining. This year a total of 70 youngsters took part from parishes in Exeter, Exmouth, Sidmouth, Honiton, Okehampton and Plymouth. We also had a tuck shop and BBQ for everyone to sample. The John Woolcott cup in memory of John who started the Youth Rally 40 years ago, was the It's a Knockout winners and was won by the 'A' Team, Blessed Sacrament, Exeter. This was presented by John's sister Rita. The Father Shaun Flannery Trophy for the overall winners was also won by the 'A' Team, and presented by Father Shaun. Father Jacek provided us with a wonderful mass and many thanks to Colin and all the very talented musicians

for a truly lovely service. Many thanks to the ever loyal Smiths, Chris Lee, Ben Barter and Hugh and all the helpers from the parishes who threw themselves into help and made it a lovely day. Derick Richards from Exmouth who has for decades produced a wonderful sound and PA system deserves a special mention, as it was his 75th birthday and final performance.

Thank you for so many years of dedication. Young helpers on the day were wonderful, David Kemp and Danny Pittan gave it a real boost being



involved in every part of the day. Please can young people who would like to help with the youth rally and other events, such as Youth Sunday in Plymouth, Ice Skating, November 25. We do need more young helpers over 18. You are the future in

years to come and are always welcome. Special thanks to St Rita's for being hospitable as always.

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Exeter locals add miles to around the world challenge



Exeter churchgoers have joined thousands of others to help complete a 24,900-mile walk around the world in solidarity with refugees and migrants.

Over 65 supporters of the international development charity CAFOD completed a one mile walk from Sacred Heart church to Blessed Sacrament church as part of the Share the Journey campaign.

CAFOD supporters from Exeter have been supporting the campaign, launched by Pope Francis in September 2017, and Catholics in

England and Wales have already walked over 100,000 miles - the distance of four laps around the world.

The campaign calls on the Prime Minister to ensure that the UK takes a lead during UN refugee negotiations to ensure that people forced to flee their homes are treated with dignity.

Parishioners and priests from several local churches and organisations got involved to show their support.

Shirley Larkin, one of the locals involved in organising the event, said: "The walk was a very moving experience. Once it had finished, we gathered in the garden for a time for reflection. People spoke about memories of meeting refugees from Europe during the war, about the practicalities of carrying a load and about how lucky we are to live in a place and time of stability.

"We cut footprints from the outline of our feet and placed them down in the church to signify and visualise the journeys refugees must take."

CAFOD's local representative in Exeter, Simon Giarchi, added: "We want to say a massive thank you to everyone who took part in this walk.

"Share the Journey will deliver a powerful message to world leaders that we want new global agreements that ensure refugees and migrants can live fairly and with dignity."

Find out how you can join the campaign at cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney

Footsteps Added to Refugee Art Installation at Westminster Cathedral



A man from Dorset, who has been walking as part of a global campaign to stand in solidarity with refugees has represented the Diocese of Plymouth by donating his shoes in a public act of solidarity artwork curated by the international development charity CAFOD.

Campaigner Bernard White, from St Joseph's Parish in Wool, got involved in an around the world challenge as part of the Share the Journey campaign. Initially, the target was for CAFOD supporters to walk once around the world - 24,900 miles.

Since the launch of the campaign action earlier this year, more than 90,000 miles have been walked by people like Bernard.

Bernard's shoes sat alongside hundreds of others sent in from people across England and Wales, refugees in Calais, MPs and international CAFOD staff, set out in a trail leading from the open doors of Westminster Cathedral.

The Share the Journey campaign was launched by Pope Francis in September 2017 and is being championed by Catholic charities such as CAFOD. The campaign calls upon the Prime Minister to



ensure the UK takes a prominent lead at a UN assembly in New York, where world leaders will reach two new agreements on protecting refugees and migrants.

Bernard said: "We walked in the beautiful countryside on a warm, sunny afternoon. We couldn't help contrasting the conditions and the tea and cakes afterwards with the plight of refugees and migrants walking to escape violence and poverty to seek a better life for themselves and their families and reflecting on this."

CAFOD's local representative in Dorset, Simon Giarchi, added: "People from across England and Wales, especially in Wool, have really united in support of the Share the Journey campaign. To have Bernard's shoes sitting alongside so many others was extremely poignant and shows just how widespread the support of this campaign has been.

"Share the Journey will deliver a powerful message to world leaders that we want new global agreements that ensure refugees and migrants can live fairly and with dignity."

Find out how you can join the campaign at cafod.org.uk/sharethejourney



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Applications close: 17 December 2018 at 5.00 pm

Interviews: Week commencing Monday 28 January 2019



“Groundbreaking” statement on Anglican:Catholic relations

A document has been published this summer by ARCIC (Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission) which has taken 7 years to produce after what Archbishop Longley, co-chair of ARCIC describes as the: “hiatus caused by the changes within the Anglican Communion, such as priestly and episcopal ordination of women”. The 34,000 word document, in a process known as “receptive learning”, seeks to overcome obstacles to dialogue by inviting Catholics and Anglicans to learn from each other’s differences rather than focus on what each has in common. Anglicans are encouraged, for instance, to learn about models of unity from the Catholic Church, while Catholics are invited to consider how laity can be better involved in decision-making.

The document includes the following statement:

“While the commission recognises that some decisions regarding ministry made by provinces of the Anglican Communion are not open to the Roman Catholic community, others potentially are, eg a female diaconate, a fuller implementation of licensed lay pastoral assistants,

the priestly ordination of mature married men..and the authorisation of laypeople to preach.”

The document, “Walking Together on the Way: Learning to be the Church-Local, Regional, Universal” is available for free on the Vatican website and will hopefully be available soon from bookshops. The Catholic commentary on the document, also on the Vatican website, makes links between the theme of the document and the vision of Pope Francis:

“WTW’s three levels of communion—local, regional, universal—are explicit elements in the Pope’s vision. ‘Synodality is a constitutive element of the Church. In this Church, as in an inverted pyramid, the top is located beneath the base.’ ‘A synodal Church’, he says, ‘is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening “is more than simply hearing”. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the “Spirit of truth” (Jn 14:17), in order to know what [the

Spirit] “says to the Churches” (Rev 2:7).’ He then talks of how this listening to the Spirit is a process that necessarily begins at the local level, and finds further ratification and synthesis at the regional level, and then reception by the whole Church (all the churches in communion) at the universal level, specifically through the instrument of the Synod of Bishops. Such a synodal Church, he says, requires effective institutional structures for listening to and determining the *sensus fidelium*. As the Pope notes, synodal structures already exist in canon law for listening to the faithful, from the parish, diocesan, national, regional, and international levels. But these structures need to be further realized, not so much simply as papal and episcopal structures for governing and teaching the peripheries, but also as structures for enabling genuine participation by the peripheries in the governing and teaching of the whole Church. “

Peter Farrell, local organiser for ACTA.. “promoting dialogue in the church”.

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St Cyprian’s Chapel, Ugbrooke House, CHUDLEIGH, Devon TQ13 0AD
4th Sundays 3.00pm Sung Mass

Lanherne Convent, St Mawgan, NEWQUAY, Cornwall TR8 4ER
Sundays & Days of Obligation (2) 8.00am Sung Mass
Mondays to Saturdays inclusive 7.30am Low Mass

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Thu. 18th Oct (St Luke) 12 noon Low Mass
Thu. 13th Dec (St. Lucy) 12 noon Low Mass

Buckfast Abbey, (Blessed Sacrament Chapel) BUCKFASTLEIGH TQ11 0EE
Thu. 11th Oct (Motherhood of the BVM) 10.00am*
Wed. 14th Nov (St Josaphat) 10.30am
Wed. 8th Dec (Immaculate Conception of BVM) 10.00am*

Our Lady of Lourdes & St Cecilia, White Cliff Mill Street, BLANDFORD FORUM DT11 7BN
Thu. 15th Nov (St Albert the Great) 12 noon Low Mass

(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)
on either : Email : mq018q1057@blueyonder.co.uk Mob. 0555536579

Worth waiting for

By Julia Beacroft

Wait for the Lord

*Wait for the Lord, his day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch,
take heart.*

WE NOW MOVE into the beautiful autumnal month of October with all its accompanying spells of sunshine, showers and mists. The month of October has always been a particular favourite of mine – and not just for the weather patterns either.

Both my mother and my eldest son have their birthdays during this month and there is exactly fifty years and one day difference in their ages. How lovely, you might say, but when I gave birth, my Mum was quite indignant about the date! The story goes something like this...

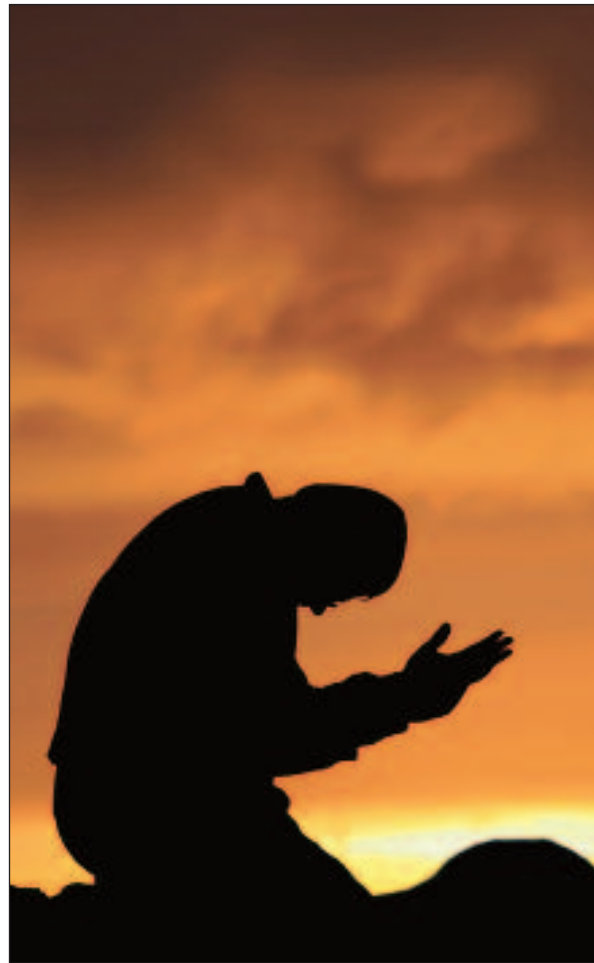
INDIGNANT

When I'd had my first scan during my pregnancy, we were all thrilled to find out that my due date of delivery was the same as my Mum's birthday – October 11th. However, nature has a way of taking control in these matters and my beloved first-born arrived a day early on the 10th of the month. When the besotted grandparents arrived at the hospital to see their first grandchild, my mother turned to me and said indignantly: "Well, you could have waited another day!" This has become a family joke to this day and one which my grown-up son often laughs about with his grandmother.

All of us, at some time or another find that we have to wait for things and this can often be frustrating and sometimes stressful in varying degrees. In fact, in a world where we all tend to demand things instantly, it is surprising how much time we still spend awaiting decisions, actions, advice, news and a whole host of other factors.

TAKE HEART

Yet even in this modern world there is another aspect of our 'waiting' which we understand is vital to our spiritual well-being and contentment. The Lord waits for us to spend time with him. And in this waiting we know that his invitation is an open one and all we have to do is to take advantage of it. Prayer, reflection and contemplation and being in his presence at Holy Mass are simple means to which we can build our relationship with Jesus Christ and spend the vital time with him, which we all need.



Furthermore, we have been assured that the Lord will come again to this world in all his glory. We may have been waiting for this to happen for over two thousand years but we can still be assured that this will be the case. And so, in recognition of this 'waiting' we must also keep our own lives in good order as we never know when this event will occur. In the words of the beautiful Taize chant, we must 'keep watch and take heart'.

And so in this lovely autumnal month of October, may we wait for the Lord and wait upon the Lord who is always with us no matter what the date.

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Day 1 Meet your Tour Manager and the rest of your group at London St Pancras. Here, board the Eurostar service to Paris and continue on to Chambéry where you overnight.

Days 2-3 Venture into Italy today by rail as you journey to Milan in Italy. From here travel on to the shores of the azure Lake Garda and to the picturesque lakeside town of Toscolano-Maderno. You check into our hotel before enjoying dinner later. Day 3 is at leisure.

Day 4 Your excursion today takes you on a journey to one of the world's most romantic cities - the charming metropolis of Verona. On arrival, you are taken on a guided tour which includes the ever-impressive Roman Arena, Juliet's iconic balcony and the majestic city gates.

Days 5-6 Take a boat journey across the tranquil Lake Garda waters to beautiful Sirmione today. Sat on a peninsula stretching out across the lake, Sirmione is one of Italy's prettiest towns,

To Chambéry

To Toscolano-Maderno

Historic Verona

Magnificent Sirmione

looked over by the majestic Scagliar Castle, a 13th century medieval port castle. Enjoy free time here to explore the winding streets and sunny squares with their traditional Italian cafés and bars. Your following day, Day 6, is yours.

Days 7-8 Bid farewell to Italy today as you travel first to Verona by coach, before continuing from here across the Alps through to Innsbruck in Austria. From Innsbruck, we continue north across the Austro-Germanic border to the small, quaint town of Oberammergau. On Day 8, you experience the iconic Passion Play. Just once a decade, the unassuming town of Oberammergau hosts the world's largest and most famous passion play detailing the final days of Jesus Christ. With your tour, you are granted top tier seats near the centre of the auditorium, the perfect place to witness the 2,000 strong cast and crew put on one of the oldest continuous religious plays in the world. Oberammergau truly comes alive with the production which sees hundreds and thousands of visitors come to the village.

Day 9-10 Leave Oberammergau today as you travel by rail to the

Bavarian town of Nuremberg where you overnight. On Day 10, continue to Brussels where you board the Eurostar to London.

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