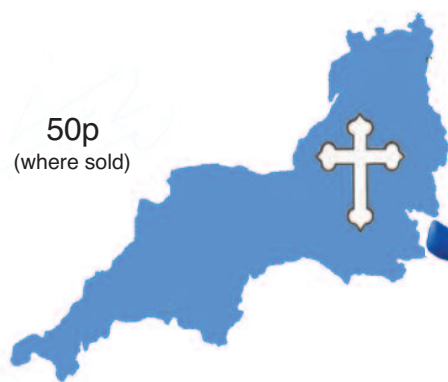


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Issue 254 February 2019



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Catholic South West

(tabloid newspaper in full colour) invites contributions relevant and of interest to its readership.
Catholic South West welcomes submissions

Submissions of any type – e.g. anecdotes, comments, reviews, features, observations, reports, etc. whether addressing regular slots or not - are invited in electronic format.

Feature articles should not be in excess of five hundred words. All copy should be submitted as attachments in regular Word format (e.g. Verdana 10pt), single-line spacing, standard line length (70 strikes per line), in b&w and with as few effects as possible. Titles and main straps should be in bold title casing 20pt and 14pt respectively with conjunctions, prepositions, definite and indefinite articles in lower case. Quotations to appear in single marks.

Contributors are invited to submit head/head & shoulders photographs and a biographical note not exceeding 25 words.

Photographs (ideally jpeg) of sufficiently high quality (300 dpi or higher, not embedded) complementing any copy or relevant theme copy are similarly welcome.

Photographic Pointers:

- Photographs from mobile phones are not usually of sufficiently high quality
- A minimum of 3m pixels/300 dpi or higher generally ensures quality
- Landscape shots (i.e. rectangle resting on long side) are best for groups
- Portrait shots (i.e. rectangle standing on short side) are best for individuals
- Shortfall in sharpness of focus is accentuated in print
- The subject of the picture should occupy at least 60% of the frame
- Pictures ideally tell a story

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Jay Kettle-Williams

User-generated content across social media platforms brings unprecedented empowerment to many. But with that empowerment should come responsibility lest such enablement slide down a slippery slope into offence, deception - such as we have seen particularly of late with fake news - and self-deception, just one short step away from self-obsession which, like all forms of

power, can corrupt.

Fascination with Number One runs totally counter to the message of mercy which, being the sine qua non of Christianity, should stand at the very forefront of our minds and actions.

Coming back for a moment to what is called 'Citizen Journalism', surely ours is now the responsibility to help pour oil on those waters and to help shape to better effect how society behaves, how society presents itself and how society looks at itself. That's not easy.

It's hard, for instance, when someone moves to block you in in the car park and from whom you get a ranting mouthful of obscene abuse when you gently point out the inconvenience caused.

It's hard, for instance, when holding the door open for a young woman heavily laden with shopping as she leaves the shop, to stomach the charge of taking her to be nothing

but a poor, weak woman incapable of getting through a door on her own.

Holding your tongue is one thing. Showing mercy takes much more effort. But mercy is the better part:

'The quality of mercy is not strained; It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven

Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest

It blesseth him that gives and him that takes'

From a speech by Portia in Williams Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* Act IV, Scene 1.

mercy n. compassion; forgiveness; disposition to be kind; something for which to be thankful; relief; alleviation of distress. Synonyms: leniency; clemency; charity

Catholic South West,
life-style publication for those
practising or interested
in the Catholic faith



BEFORE YOU GO:

- Before you go talk to someone who's already been out travelling during their gap year.
- Read the advice from the FCO (Foreign & Commonwealth Office) and note the contact points for our embassies and consulates in the countries you'll be visiting.
- Check that you have any medicines, medication you may need while away and that you can readily charge any mobile device you'll be travelling with.
- Take a pen drive, the wristlet type is ideal, with a scanned copy of your passport, travel docs, etc.
- Carry a card identifying you as a Catholic

(Your parish church may have such still available. Alternatively cut out from CSW)

- Make sure friends, family and your parish priest know you are off on your travels.
- Learn something about where you are going before you get there.

WHILE YOU'RE AWAY:

- Never draw attention to yourself. Never look lost and always walk as though you know exactly where you are going.
- If lost or unsure where you are, better to ask a mature lady, uniformed (police) officer for guidance. Alternatively go straight to reception in the largest, international chain hotel, or contact staff or cleric at a local church.

- Respect local cultures, after all half the reason to go travelling is to open your mind and learn more about others.

Perhaps note a few ice-breaker terms in the major languages you might encounter.

- Never drop your natural guard.

- Make it hard for pickpockets, e.g. whenever you can wear your backpack on your chest. Don't keep checking your wallet, that'll only signal to others where it is.

- Stay in regular contact with friends and family at prearranged dates and times. With all that said and done, we wish you God speed. Enjoy your adventure ...

Bon voyage!



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Cover photograph © JLKW. This icon represents the loving alliance through Mary with Christ in the family: Jesus in the middle, Mary on the left and Joseph on the right.

Note: An icon is a devotional painting of Christ or of another holy figure, typically executed on wood and used ceremonially in the Byzantine and other Eastern Churches.

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PRIEST'S PROFILE

With this issue of CSW we feature Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams Nuncio to Great Britain

On 8 April 2017, Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams Nuncio to Great Britain, replacing Archbishop Antonio Mennini as the Holy See's ambassador to Great Britain, Archbishop Mennini having been transferred to the Secretariat of State, the Vatican department responsible for relations with states.

Archbishop Adams was born on 24 August 1944 in Philadelphia, USA.

He was ordained priest on 16 May 1970 by John Joseph Cardinal Krol, the Archbishop of Philadelphia.



Having studied in Rome, His Excellency graduated from the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in 1976 and has served three Popes in Apostolic Nunciatures around the world.

Archbishop Adams was Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh from 1996

- 2002 before being appointed Nuncio to Zimbabwe where he served for five years.

In 2007 Pope Benedict appointed him Nuncio to the Philippines and, in 2011, in the same capacity to Greece.



BRUSHSTROKES



The Power of a Painting

Fr Tom Grufferty recalls a young man's letter to his parents

Jesus and the people in the Parish that I have asked to join the priesthood. I have been accepted for training which will take six years. I will be going to the Seminary in September this year. Now, Mum, I know what

you are thinking but I could easily join an enclosed community of Monks and you would hardly ever see me again. Yes, Dad, I know that this decision will grieve you greatly. You have often spoken on how you look forward to your grandchildren bearing the family name. That may now never happen unless the Catholic Church changes its rules on clerical celibacy.

I realise that this is going to be a powerful shock to you both. That is why I left a bottle of Rioja and a bunch of red roses in the garage, but before you open the wine finish reading first because there is more and another surprise. I am sure you remember the day all three of us visited the National Gallery in London as a treat for my 8th birthday. All three of us stood in silence before Giovanni Sassoferatto's Painting of *The Virgin in Prayer*. For me it was a great mystery but none more so than what soaked into my very being that day. You remember you had to drag me away even though I knew you had arranged other exciting things for the rest of my birthday.

The painting has inspired me for

the last 16 years so much so that I have secretly visited the painting many times since. It is serene, and I found serenity in the person it depicts. It is a profound picture of love like the love you have both shown me for the last 24 years. Your love has contributed largely to all the decisions I am now writing about.

Thanks for taking me to the Gallery all those years ago. Don't blame yourselves for what you did because the consequences are bright and beyond what could ever be expected.

Now, get those roses and open the wine. Don't worry about me I am staying with very dear friends from St Joseph's for a week and next Friday I will return to that special love only you both have for me. By that time, you will have recovered, and I will have told my friends at the bank that my future investments are already taken care of.

With great love and the deepest affection.

Your loving son,

Brian

The Virgin in Prayer by Giovanni Sassoferatto, Room 31. National Gallery, London



Dear Mum and Dad,

I know that you will find this very distressing. I have decided to give up my very good job in the bank despite the positive promotion I received in March. You have often praised me for the prospects the bank had for me. I will not be coming home tonight because of the arguments that this will cause. I have found Jesus and joined the Catholic Church. This happened some time ago, but I was not able to tell you for obvious reasons. A few months ago, Mum, you remarked how consistent I was on doing a cycle run on Sunday morning, but the truth is that I was at Mass down in St Joseph's. I know that you will not believe this but everybody in the Parish is very friendly and welcoming. They are so enthusiastic and genuinely like my company as I do theirs.

I have never experienced such a sense of belonging, even greater than that wonderful family holiday we had in Whitehaven two years ago, as I do in the Church.

I thought that I might write this letter in two parts because there are other surprises to come as well but I opted to tell you everything now. You see I have such a great love for

JESUS' FIRST SPEECH IN LUKE'S GOSPEL



Fr. Jeremy Corley

One of the most famous 20th-century speeches was made by Winston Churchill, just after he became wartime Prime Minister. Addressing the British parliament on 13th May 1940, he declared: 'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.' The statement was a forceful expression of his challenge to the people, at that critical time of military threat.

'Luke chapter 4 presents Jesus' famous speech in the synagogue at Nazareth'

Luke chapter 4 presents Jesus' famous speech in the synagogue at Nazareth, the town where he had been brought up. Right at the start of his ministry in Galilee, we read this story of Jesus' offer of good news being rejected. This speech marks a key moment in Luke's Gospel. Luke has to explain how the peace-loving Jesus, offering the good news of God's mercy, ended up suffering execution at the hands of the Romans.

"The speech expresses the ministry of Jesus in miniature"

The speech expresses the ministry of Jesus in miniature. The first half of the story is read as the Gospel for the 3rd Sunday of the Year (27th January) and the second half as the Gospel for the 4th Sunday of the Year (3rd February).

Luke's version is a story of two halves, beginning with acceptance but ending with rejection. Luke plays on a Greek word, meaning 'acceptable' (dektos). In the first half, Jesus announces that now is the 'acceptable' year of the Lord, in other words, the Lord's year of favour. He invites people to return to God and receive the offer of divine mercy and healing.

The second half of the story uses the word 'acceptable' in a different sense. Jesus knows that a prophet is not 'acceptable' among his own people: 'No prophet is ever accepted in his own country.' Just as John the Baptist was beheaded, Jesus himself will end up being crucified. Sadly, God's acceptance of humanity is met by human rejection.

Luke plays on a Greek word, meaning 'acceptable' (dektos)'

Scripture Notes by Father Jeremy Corley

In his speech, Jesus explains his mission by quoting Isaiah chapter 61: 'The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives.' Jesus knows he has been sent 'to proclaim to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.' This promise of liberation represents his gracious words. No wonder the hearers were astonished.

'No prophet is ever accepted in his own country'

This expectation of the Messiah's activity matches what we find in one of the Dead Sea Scrolls (the Messianic Apocalypse): 'The Messiah will honour the pious on the throne of eternal kingship, by setting prisoners free, giving sight to the blind, and straightening out the crooked. He will heal the badly wounded, and the dead he will make alive. To the poor he will bring good news, the uprooted he will lead, and the hungry he will enrich.'

The prophetic hope of a Messiah was now becoming true in Jesus' words and actions. The poor were hearing the good news of God's love, the physically blind were being healed, and the spiritually blind were starting to realise that God was present in their lives. Thus, God was using the ancient biblical text to speak to his people today.

But the mood in the story suddenly changes.

Jesus reflects on the possibility of rejection by declaring: 'No prophet is ever accepted in his own country.' Jesus refers to two Old Testament prophets who reached out to Gentiles at times when many Israelites had turned away from God. Elijah raised to life the son of the widow of Zarephath, a village now in modern Lebanon. Elisha cured the leprosy afflicting the army commander, Naaman, who came from Syria.

Within the whole context of the story of Jesus, the implication is that many of his own people will ultimately reject his message, even if some Gentiles accept it. Indeed, the Acts of the Apostles will tell us how Jesus' message spread among the Gentiles after Pentecost.

'Will we accept his message of mercy to all people?'

At the time, however, the hearers in the synagogue were very unhappy, because Jesus seemed to be insulting his own people. So they hustled him out of the town, and led him to the brow of a nearby hill, intending to hurl him off the cliff, but he escaped their clutches. This was hardly a positive beginning to his ministry.

As we hear this gospel today, we have the same choice faced by those first hearers of Jesus' words. Will we accept his message of mercy to all people, even to outsiders and those on the margins?

With this issue we go

BACKSTAGE

and take a peep at

The Popemobile

Popemobile is the informal name for any one of specially designed motor vehicles used by the Pope during outdoor public appearances. There have been many different designs for Popemobiles since Pope John Paul II first used a modified truck to greet crowds on his first trip to Poland as Pope.



Some Popemobiles are open-top, others have bullet-proof glass to enclose the Pope, introduced after the Ali Agca assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in 1981. Some allow the Pope to sit, while others are designed to accommodate the Pope standing. The range of Popemobiles allows the Vatican to select the most appropriate vehicle for each occasion e.g. varying level of security, distance to be travelled and speed of travel. The vehicle registration plates carry the letters SCV standing for Stato della Città Vaticano (Italian) and Status Civitatis Vaticanae (Latin), meaning 'Vatican City State'. The vehicle is only ever driven by an experienced and trusted member of the state where the Pope is visiting.

The Popemobile most often used by Pope Benedict XVI when travelling abroad was a modified **Mercedes-Benz M-Class**. Two of the celebrated vehicles, complete with their bullet-proof glass enclosures, were earmarked for Pope Benedict's visit to Edinburgh, London and Birmingham. These

have room for two papal aides sitting in front of the Pope's elevated chair.

The Pope enters through a rear door and ascends several steps. The Pope then sits in his chair which is elevated into the panelled cubicle by a hydraulic lift. In addition to the driver, there is room for one passenger (usually a security agent) in the front of the vehicle. The vehicle's security features include bullet-proof glass windows and roof with reinforced armoured side panel and undercarriage.

The **Mercedes-Benz M-Class** is a luxury mid-size utility vehicle (SUV), first offered in 1997 as a 1998 model, and built by the German car maker Mercedes-Benz. In terms of size, it is slotted between the smaller GLK-Class (based on the C-Class) and the larger GL-Class, with which it shares platforms. Standard spec: 2987 c.c. Top speed 130 mph, 0-60 in 7.6/8.3 secs depending on SUV model (300 or 350). Basic on road price in excess of £42,500

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For those who have experienced the frustration of being unable to communicate meaningfully or effectively, Makaton really can help. Makaton takes away that frustration and enables individuals to connect with other people and the world around them. This opens up all kinds of possibilities.

Makaton uses signs, symbols and speech to help

people communicate. Signs are used, with speech, in spoken word order. This helps provide extra clues about what someone is saying. Using signs can help people who have no speech or whose speech is unclear. Using symbols can help people who have limited speech and those who cannot, or prefer not to sign.

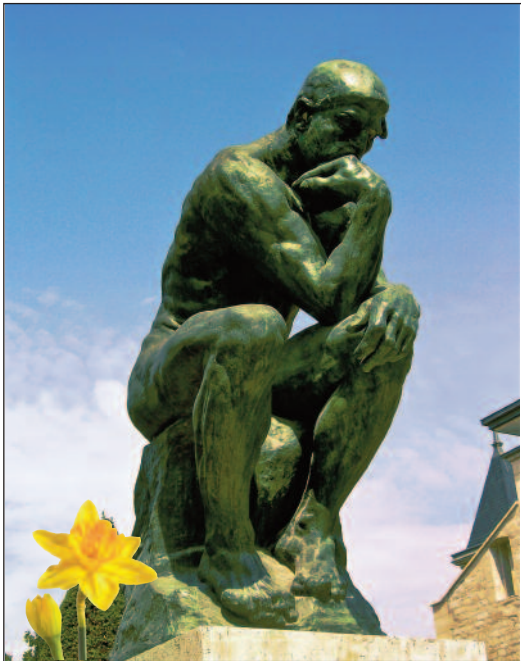
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- write letters and messages
- help people find their way around public building

Today over 100,000 children and adults use Makaton symbols and signs. Most people start using Makaton as children then naturally stop using the signs and symbols as they no longer need them. However, some people will need to use Makaton for their whole lives. Further details: www.makaton.org

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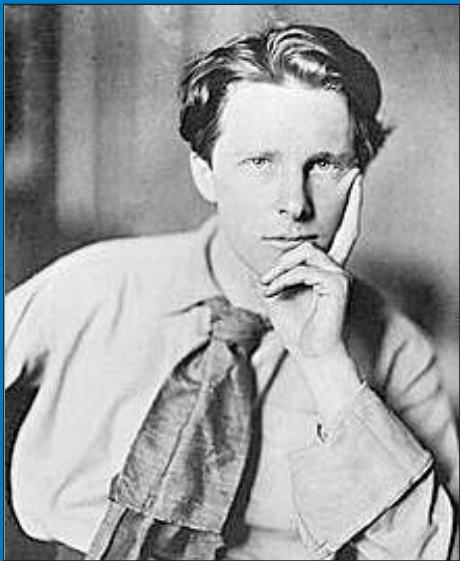


Le Penseur by August Rodin

The Soldier

*If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.*

*And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.*



Photograph of Brooke by Sherrill Schell

Rupert Chawner Brooke

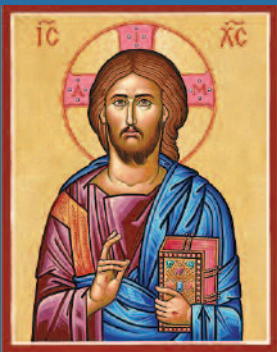
(3 August 1887 - 23 April 1915) was an English poet known for his idealistic was sonnets written during the First World War, especially *The Solider*. He was also known for his boyish good looks, which were said to have prompted the Irish poet W. B. Yeats to describe him as 'the handsomest young man in England'.

Please feel free to cut this out and pop it into your wallet

Service

"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connections and between persons. I shall do good and be a preacher of truth in my own place."

Blessed John Henry Newman (adapted)



For more information:
www.catholicnews.org.uk

Produced by the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales



As a Catholic I,
am called to:

- Share with others the joy of knowing Jesus Christ ←
- Pray ←
- Celebrate the sacraments regularly ←
- Love my neighbour as myself ←
- Use the gifts that I've been given wisely ←
- Forgive as I have been forgiven ←

In the event of an emergency please contact a Catholic Priest



Fr Denis Blackledge

PRIE-DIEU

ON THE MOVE

Loving Lord,
whatever else you are,
you are a God who is on the move.
There are so many signs of life,
movement, freshness, newness.
What a wonderful gift it is
to belong to a pilgrim people
led by a Pilgrim God!

Loving Lord,
you are the Still Mover.
always source and resource,
the still point,
the gentle centring factor,
the provider of balm and calm.
Always egging us all on
to greater things, to more,
to better love and service
of you and our sisters and brothers.

Loving Lord,
you are our Good News.

you are constantly making the first move,
and that move is always towards us,
graciously inviting us to tag along
and throw in our lot with you
as friends and followers.
Your first move is always
a drawing closer to each one of us,
but never as a threat.
Trouble is, so often we misread
your motives.

Loving Lord,
as the first mover,
you are also the giver of motive-power.
You are the one who gives us
what makes us tick.
You are the gentle pressure-to-goodness
that underpins and gives sense to our lives.
You give us the power
to feel our way to you,
because you are always coming
to meet-and-greet each one of us.

Loving Lord,
as we look back on this past year
and look forward to a new year
we can rest and remember gratefully
and notice all those ways
in which you have moved us along
closer to you and to one another,
sometimes in spite of ourselves.
And we can look forward eagerly
to your moving us on a little more.

Loving Lord,
keep us always aware
that you are with us
every step of our pilgrim way.
Keep us all moving closer
to you and to one another.
Amen.

**© Denis Blackledge SJ is Parish Priest
of St Francis Xavier's, Liverpool.**

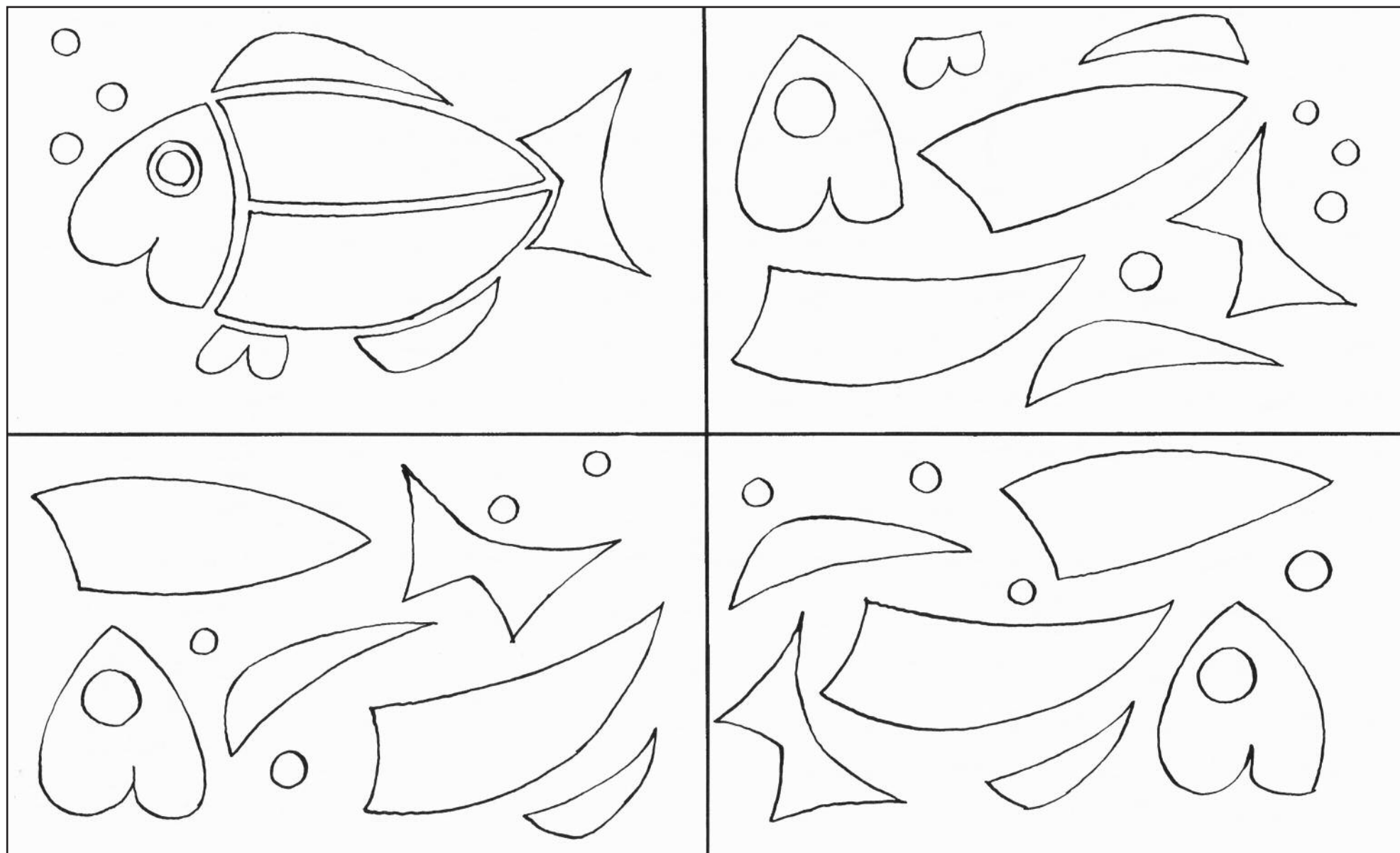
LANDMARKS

Buckfast Abbey, forming part of an active Benedictine monastery at Buckfast (Devon) first became home to an abbey in 1018. The first Benedictine abbey was followed by a Savignac (later Cistercian) abbey on the site of the current abbey in 1134. The monastery was surrendered for dissolution in 1539, with the monastic buildings stripped and left as ruins, before being finally demolished.

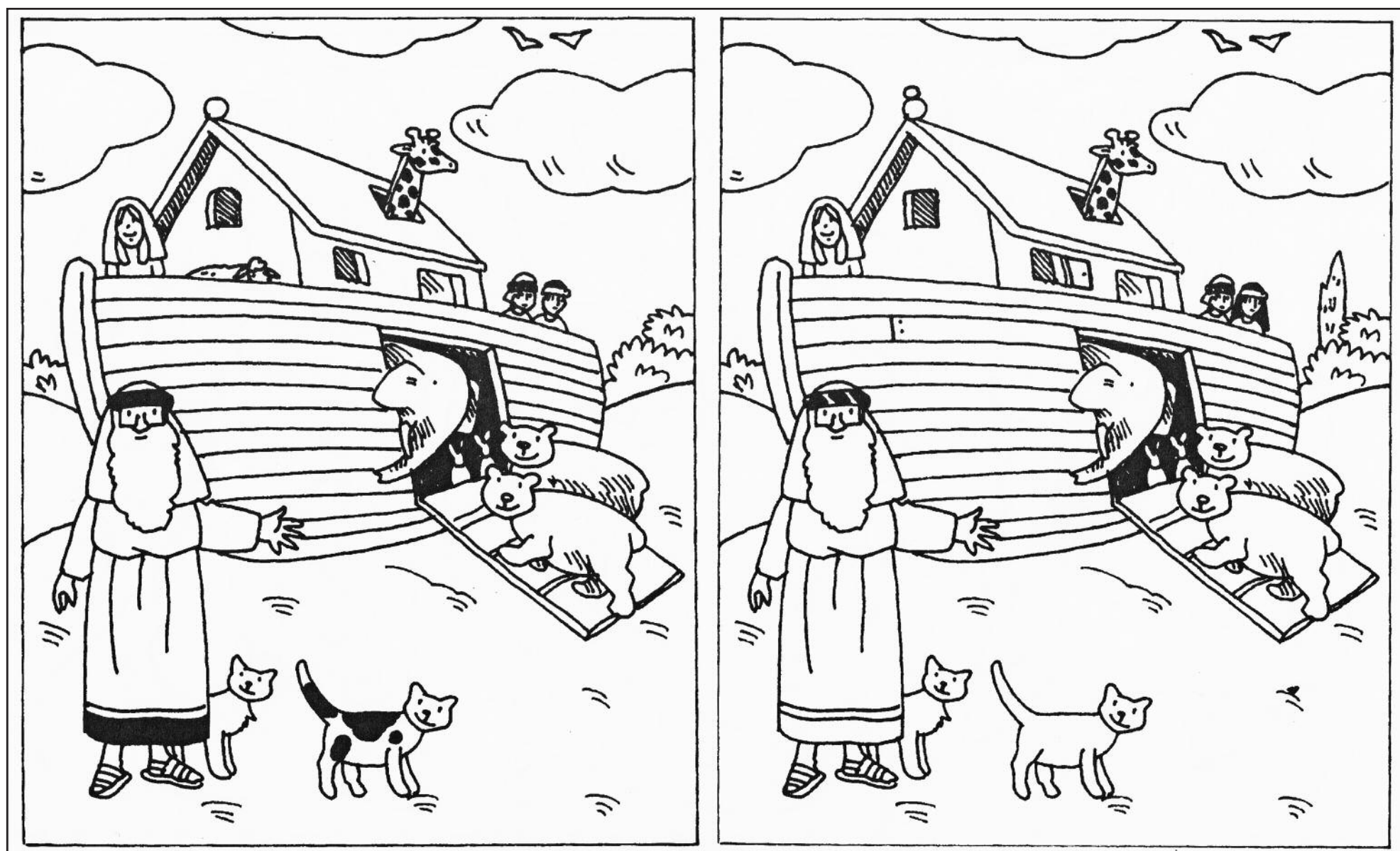
In 1882 the site was purchased by a group of French Benedictine monks, who refounded a monastery on the site, dedicated to St Mary. Work on a new abbey church began in 1907. The church was consecrated in 1932 but not completed until 1938. Buckfast was formally reinstated as an Abbey in 1902



JUST FOR JUNIORS

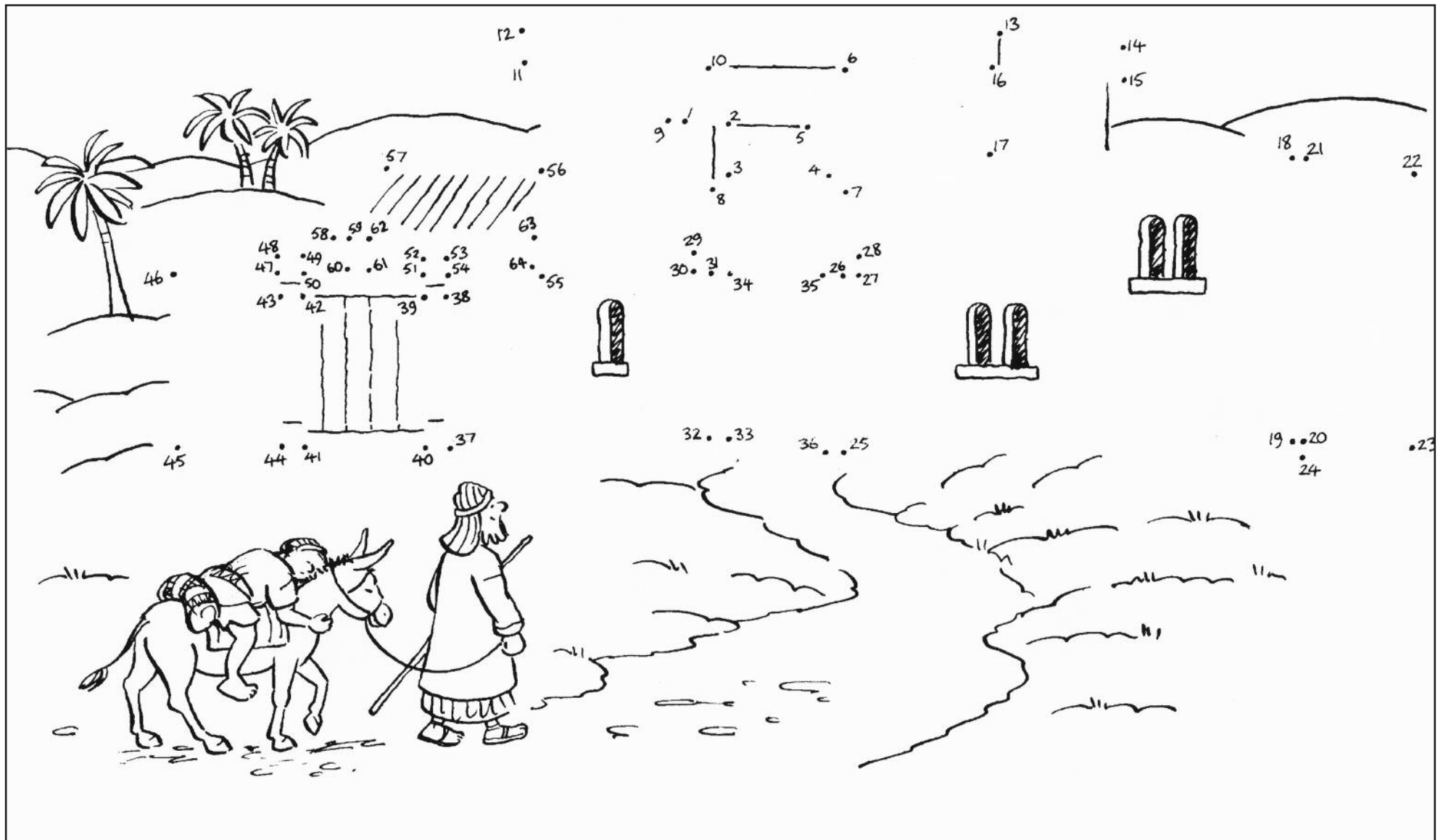


Which box has the right pieces to make the fish?
Read about Jonah and the great fish in Jonah 1:1-17

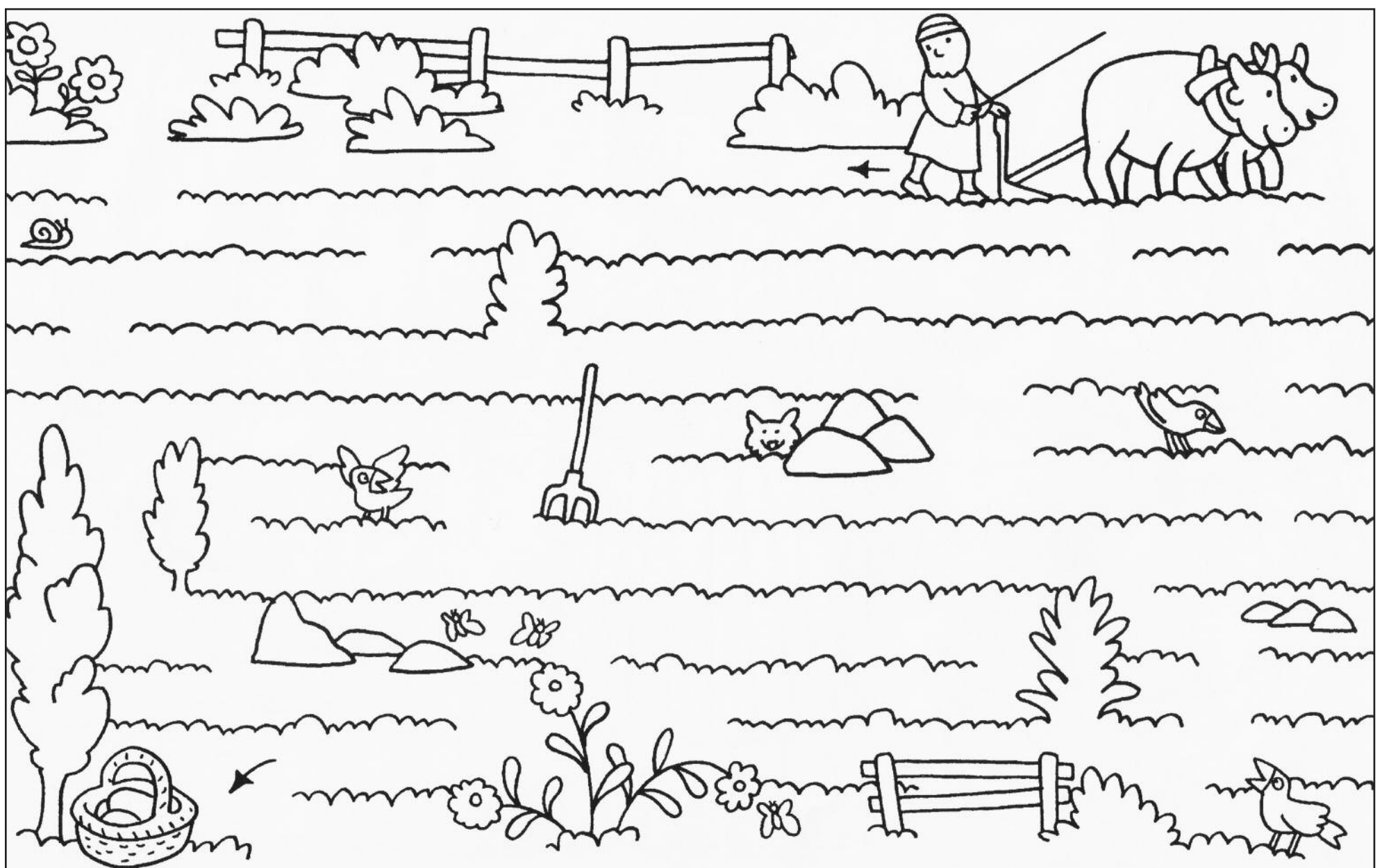


The boat Noah built was like a floating zoo.
Find ten differences between these pictures.
You can read the story of Noah's ark in Genesis 6:1 - 9:17

JUST FOR JUNIORS



Join up the dots. Where is the good Samaritan taking the injured man?
You can find this story in Luke 10:25-37.



Help the farmer to get to his lunch basket.
Read about the farmer who prepared the ground and sowed seed in Matthew 13:1-23.

NEWS

...AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation celebration at St Joseph's Church in Newton Abbot



Confirmation candidates and Bishop Mark



Cake cutting



Bishop Mark's Homily

At the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 9 December, seven young people received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Mark O'Toole, Fr Anthony Onuoha, Mgr Canon George Hay, Fr Cyriacus Uzochukwu and Fr Victor Agbaka. The church's youth choir treated the parish by singing several songs during the Mass. After Mass the parish came together to enjoy a shared lunch to celebrate with the young people. Bishop Mark spent time talking to parishioners, and also helped the candidates to cut their cake. It was a very special day, and everyone wished the young people every blessing for their ongoing faith journey.



Final Procession

In Veritate

... fascinating facts and figures

Despite the strong opposition of King George III, opposition which delayed reform, 1829 brought the culmination of the liberalisation of the anti-Catholic laws. Parliament passed the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829, giving Catholics almost equal civil rights, including the right to vote and to hold most public offices.

According to the latest survey, Catholics constitute 8.3% of the population of England and Wales.

Thirty years ago there were 50,000 Christians in south-eastern Turkey speaking a dialect of Aramaic - the language of Christ. Now there are 2,500.

There are about 6,800 languages in the world.

10.6 million Britons admit to being teetotal.

One in eight children and teenagers in England had a mental health disorder in 2017, a major new study has found. (For further details: N&A).

There are always more baby boys than girls born in England and Wales. In not one year, stretching back to the start of Queen

Victoria's reign, have girls outnumbered boys at birth. A ratio of roughly 105 male births for every 100 female ones is generally seen as natural and normal.

Approximately 78.5 million Bibles are distributed globally every year. About 50 Bibles are sold every minute. The Bible, initially spoken (oral tradition) and then written (achieving a literary coefficient) over 1300 years or so, contains many types of documents including poetry, legal texts, songs, letters, eyewitness accounts, people stories, historical records and advisory/cautionary comments. The longest chapter is Psalm 119 with 176 verses.

11 of the EU's 28 member states (The UK not yet officially classed as having left) allow gay marriage.

Do dog owners become more active because they always were active or does owning a dog make you more active? The jury is out on that one. But a recent survey of 3.4 million Swedes (40-80 years old) has concluded that dog owners have a lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease or other causes. Time now for walkies.

'Quote - Unquote'

There are two rules for success: 1) Never tell everything you know'

Roger H Lincoln

'Those are my principles and, if you don't like them ... well, I've got others'

Groucho Marx

'I like long walk, especially when they are taken people who annoy me'

Noel Coward

'The Seven Deadly sins are: Wealth without work, Pleasure without conscience, Knowledge without character, Business without morality, Science without humanity, Worship with sacrifice, Politics without principle'

Mahatma Gandhi

'90 per cent of the politicians give the other 10 per cent a bad reputation'

Henry Kissinger

'The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn'

John Lubbock

'You just have a different relationship to somebody when you're looking at them than you do when you're punching away at a keyboard and some symbols come back; I suspect that extending that form of abstract and remote relationship, instead of direct, personal contact, is going to have unpleasant effects on what people are like. It will diminish their humanity'

Noam Chomsky

'I read about an Eskimo hunter who asked the local missionary priest, "If I did not know about God and sin, would I go to hell?" "No," said the priest, "not if you did not know." "Then why," asked the Eskimo, "did you tell me?"'

Annie Dillard



Dominica Roberts

Most Catholics understand not only that deliberately ending an innocent human life before birth is wrong, but also that every year there is increasing evidence that abortion harms women, often physically as well as mentally and spiritually. We see charming ultrasound pictures of unborn babies. Of the 550 babies aborted every day in our country, about 50 are developed enough to look like a tiny born baby, to move independently, and to pull away from a painful stimulus.

Again, in spite of constant publicity by the BBC and other forms of media, it is clear to most that it would be very dangerous to weaken the laws against euthanasia or assisted suicide, which at present protect the vulnerable disabled, chronically ill, depressed or very elderly. The appalling abuses reported from the Netherlands and Belgium, for example, cannot be hidden.

When it comes to the need to defend human embryos, however, not everyone understands the issues. Each one of us started life as a single cell, a complete human being. We all know and believe that Our Lord's human life started at the Annunciation, as a single cell inside His blessed mother.

In vitro fertilisation (IVF) is often not seen as wrong. Yet it involves not only an intrusion into the married life of the parents, against all Church teaching, but also widespread loss of human lives. One of the pioneers, Steptoe, called the still full-stop-sized embryo a few days after fertilisation 'a minuscule human being in the earliest stage of life'. The Human Fertilisation Authority admits that two million such lives have been deliberately or carelessly destroyed in IVF, and also in experimentation (which has not produced any of the promised cures).

However sympathetic we are to couples who have trouble conceiving, however happy we are for friends who have had a child through

IVF, it is a false kindness to pretend it is not wrong. Many more lives will be lost if we ignore this.

There are positive practical ways to help in all three areas. When we say abortion, euthanasia and human embryo destruction are wrong, it is not an optional extra but a duty to help those with burdens, for example by supporting groups who help pregnant women or the disabled or lonely. Prolife help for those having trouble conceiving can be found at <https://lifefertilitycare.co.uk> or by calling 01926 834 654.

Dominica Roberts is active in several pro-life groups

LIFE MATTERS

The three areas of prolife battle are abortion, euthanasia and human embryo abuse



Gregg Watts

CRUISE CHAPLAINS

Gregg Watts points out that life on a cruise ship is not a picnic for everyone

The talk in Plymouth about a new £8 million terminal for cruise ships is, understandably, about the boost to the local economy this could bring. Cruises are now one of the most popular types of holiday for many people.

With their bars and restaurants, theatres, shops and swimming pools, cruise ships are a cross between a floating hotel and a resort. But when we hear about cruises, we rarely hear about the men and women who make all this possible.



Many of the crew members on cruise ships are Catholics, often from the Philippines or India, which is why Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) has seen a steep rise in requests from cruise companies for it to provide chaplains on board. Over Christmas and the New Year, eight AoS chaplains took to the ocean waves on P&O ships.

Spending a couple of weeks cruising around the Mediterranean or the Caribbean might sound a cushy number for a priest, but those who have served as cruise ship chaplains say this is far from the case.

'All aspects of parish life can be found at sea - the regular round of Masses and other sacraments: marriages performed by the captain, occasional deaths, sickness,

pastoral emergencies and opportunities, anniversaries and celebrations,' said Father Alan Griffin, who has served on the Queen Mary 2 from Southampton to the North Cape.

A large cruise ship can have a crew of as many as 1,200. Typically, the crew can be at sea for ten months at a time. Unlike the passengers, they won't be found sipping cocktails by the pool. Many are paid low wages and rely on tips to make up their money, much of which they send back to their families.

Father Neil Ritchie, who has served on the Azura, said, 'Above the thrumming of the engines beneath, and the clatter of crockery from the cafeteria next door, we'd celebrate our Holy Week or Easter Masses.'

'Many of the crew members on cruise ships are Catholics'

He made himself available at set times in the crew's lounge for anyone who wanted to come and see him for confession or just to have a chat.

Shift work can make it difficult for some of the crew to attend Mass, so chaplains often celebrate Mass in the crew mess, down in the bowels of a ship, at night, after their evening shift ended. Even then, however, some of the crew are still on duty in the casino, bars and dance venues till the early hours of the morning.

'Many conversations I had with crew members took place more informally in the crew mess, maybe over curry or fish stew and rice, or in corridors around the ship in a few moments snatched from their busy routines.

'I would hear about their joys and hopes, see

cherished pictures of their children, and maybe hear about their worries and concerns, which can be all the greater when separated from home by thousands of miles of sea.'

'Their faith is a vital part of life'

For many of the crew, their faith is a vital part of life, he added. 'It's a sacrifice for them to work at sea when the chance to celebrate Mass is infrequent. This often only happens over the Christmas and Easter periods when there might be an AoS chaplain on board.'



Azura departing Tallinn



The Apostleship of the Sea, AoS, is a registered charity and agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of England & Wales and Scotland. It is wholly reliant on voluntary donations and legacies to continue its work.

90% of world trade is transported by ship, and more than 100,000 ships visit British ports every year. However, the life of a modern seafarer can be dangerous and lonely with up to a year at a time away from home, separated from their family and loved ones, often working in harsh conditions.

AoS chaplains and ship visitors welcome seafarers to our shores - regardless of their colour, race or creed - and provide them with pastoral and practical assistance.

For more information contact John Green, Director of Development on 020 7901 1931 or 07505 653801 or email johnngreen@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk



Apostleship of the Sea
Supporting Seafarers Worldwide

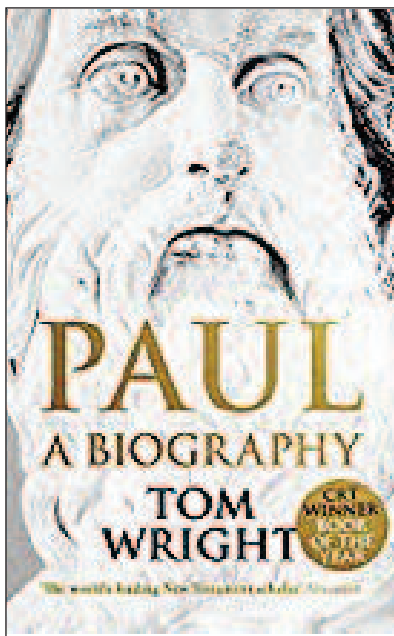


PAUL

A Biography
Tom Wright

SPCK, hardback, 464 pages, 2018, £19.99

By any standards this book is a tour de force. Tom Wright is known worldwide as a superb New Testament scholar, and his latest creation reads almost like a novel, as he reconstructs the life of Paul. His intimate knowledge of the man from Tarsus shines through page after page, and his fifteen chapters shed remarkable light on this truly remarkable man. The final chapter sums up all the previous fourteen, and is an admirable summary of Paul's life and work.



As the author says: 'It is always risky to summarise, but part of the point of the present book is to invite readers to so live within Paul's world that they will be able to read the letters in their original contexts and so grasp the full import of what was being said.' [p159] Paul is utterly convinced that Jesus ushers in a new creation, and the messianic events of Jesus and the spirit are not simply another religious option; rather, a new and uncomfortable reality has been born.

Wright is meticulous in his timeline of Paul's life and writings, and his journeys. His summaries of each letter culminate in the superb account of the Letter to the Romans. [And notice that a woman, Phoebe, took the letter to Rome!]

Paul comes alive in this admirable tome, and the chronological table at the end of the book gives the approximate dates of his writings and his travels. And throughout the book Wright uses his own complete translation of the New Testament for Everyone [SPCK, pbk, 2011], and almost all the twelve pages of notes are references to scripture texts.

Written with elegance and humour, Wright's knowledge of his subject is breath-taking, and he has produced a classic in a language every reader can understand.

© Denis Blackledge SJ

EATING DISORDERS

Julie Jeffs

Redemptorist Publications, 64 pages, pbk, 2018, £5.99

The author, a counsellor and psychotherapist, first tells of her own eating disorder as a teenager, and this raw honesty puts the cream on this sensitive practical approach to individuals suffering from eating disorders. Her key starter sets the tone: 'It isn't what or how they're eating, it's what's eating them.' Having given a clear definition of the three types of eating disorder – anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating – she goes on to explain the reasons why an individual might be consumed by such an illness. Through case studies she gives examples of what might bring on such a state, and how to make contact and trusting relationship with extremely under- or over-weight individuals.

Such eating disorders bring anxiety, anger and distress to family and friends, and the author presents a list of dos and don'ts in enabling sufferers to go through five stages of recovery. From being un- or under-aware of the difficulty, through preparation and action, she leads to a process of maintenance of betterment. She provides tools for recovery, and shows what can trigger a binge, and lists organisations for support and treatment.

Practical to the end, she gives a key point to be aware of for each of the three types of eating disorder when help is being offered. Bite-size pieces of help are enough for anorexics; with bulimia a lot of help may be swallowed and vomited back at you; and you might feel that binge eaters will eat you up completely.

This booklet is for those involved at any level of expertise or training with people with eating disorders, with a view to greater empathy and focus in care, and to stimulate further reading or training and better skills and knowledge. It provides plenty to chew on!

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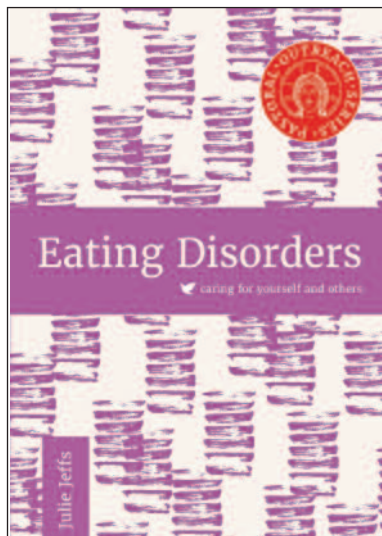
SUICIDE

An understanding and compassionate approach
Dr Adrian Trealor

Redemptorist Publications, pbk, 55 pages, 2018, £5.99

The author, a Christian consultant and psychiatrist, does exactly what it says in the title: through individual stories and his own experience he provides a pastoral approach that is understanding and compassionate. Suicide, as he says 'is a huge tragedy for those who kill themselves, and devastating for those left behind'. In seven short chapters, plus a conclusion, he highlights key aspects in dealing with this touching tragedy, which, as he says 'should demand the best of any Christian community'. He covers aspects of prevention, noticing warning signs, and urging appropriate medical care and treatment for those with suicidal tendencies. Over 6,000 suicides a year occur in our country, mainly by hanging, poisoning, drowning or jumping. Most are as a result of psychiatric illness, and occur mainly between the ages of 30 to 60, three quarters by men, though suicide in old age is not unknown. He lists key risk factors, which might be severe mental illness, drug or alcohol abuse, a history of trauma or abuse, unemployment, social isolation, family breakdown, imprisonment or chronic pain.

Supportive presence is central, as being listened to and taken seriously when a person is feeling worthless, unwanted



or hopeless may lead to a change of mind from an individual seriously contemplating suicide. The author reminds us that having a Christian faith does not prevent suicide. But neither does Christian faith condemn those who have succumbed to suicide. The author provides examples of sound non-judgmental pastoral care for individuals or families affected by the tragic death of a loved one, with compassionate funeral preparation. Suicide victims are as worthy of a dignified Christian send-off as anyone else, and loved ones are sometimes not aware of the tender compassion Christian ministers will show in such cases. This may also involve ongoing support emotionally, practically and spiritually. 'What if?' and shame might need to be faced full-on, for example, or regret, guilt or self-blame.

Sensitive and sensible, rooted in compassion, this will bring consolation and peace not least to those who have lost loved ones or friends to suicide. I heartily recommend it.

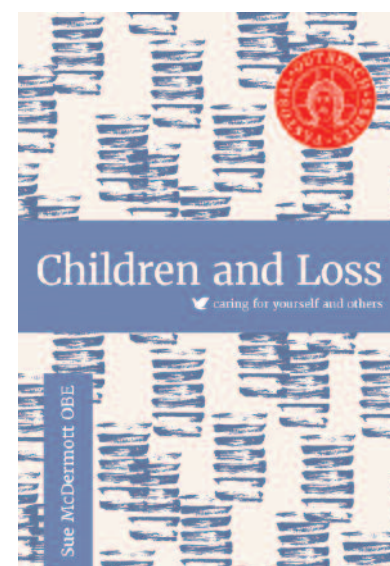
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CHILDREN AND LOSS

Caring for yourself and others
Sue McDermott OBE

Redemptorist Publications, pbk, 65 pages, 2018, £4.95

This is an excellent pastoral outreach approach booklet, scripted by an author who has more than twenty-five years of experience with Rainbows Bereavement Support Group GB. Written with simplicity, sound sense and deep sensibility, it covers not only bereavement through the death of a loved one, but also other significant losses, such as loss owing to refugee status, loss of trust owing to abuse or neglect, or loss through separation or divorce.



There are sections which deal with 'those who care' and 'those who suffer' – remembering that in many cases this will be the same person. There are careful explanations of the variety of ways in which children may grieve, depending on their age or background. Nor is the evident need for safeguarding protection issues omitted. No-one can tell another how she or he will grieve, and that grief may come not just post-death, but pre-death, for example, in the case of a loved one dying of a terminal disease.

Children and young people with intellectual disability are dealt with delicately, as is the issue of caring for the carer. The whole 'feel' of the booklet is just-right. A variety of Christian prayers are added, as is a sample service of remembrance which may be used profitably annually in a parish or church assembly. There is also a selection of further reading, with a wealth of practical suggestions.

All in all, superb – I recommend you go and get a copy. It may help you with events that happened long ago when you were a child or young person, and were plunged into loss and grief. It certainly rang bells in my own mind and heart when I lost my own dad in an accident at work when I was eleven. It is also a way of thanking all those individuals who give their time and love to the Rainbows groups in our schools.

© Denis Blackledge SJ

Every journey towards the priesthood is unique but the following might give some insight into the shape typical route might take:

Living out my baptismal vocation -

I know God loves me and has called me by name, I know God wants me to live out my life in response so that call to holiness and my baptism into God's 'chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation'. (Pet 2:9)

Discerning my particular vocation -

I want to discern what definite service God has planned for me. I pray, asking the Lord what He has in mind for me and I speak to friends and/or family and/or other trusted people.

Testing my Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood (initial conversations) -

I want to ask the Church to help me discern my vocation so I speak to my parish priest or the diocesan vocations promoter who will try to support me in this process. He might put me in touch with a spiritual director and point me in the direction of resources and gathering to give me opportunity to explore my vocation further.

Testing my Vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood (formal application) -

I'm ready to offer myself to the Church as a priest so, if the vocation director agrees that I am ready, I begin the formal application. This includes writing about my faith journey; a psychological assessment, undergoing safeguarding checks, a selection weekend with interviews looking at my relationship with God and others as well as my academic ability (to check I will be able to cope with the studies). There will also be an interview with the Bishop, who is responsible for the final decision.

Beginning my formation -

If the Bishop accepts me I will begin my studies for the diocesan priesthood, which are likely to last 6 years (possibly less for mature students) at a seminary and there may also be an additional preparatory year in Spain. This time will give me and the diocese further opportunities to discern my vocation and for me to undergo formation in the following areas: spiritual, human, pastoral and academic. As with each of these stages I will be offered support in lots of different ways and will need to take increasing responsibility for my own formation.

Eligible men enquiring into priesthood as a vocation are asked to contact their Parish Priest.



Catering for catholic tastes

CSW brings the world's cuisine to your table Pavlova (New Zealand)

If you have ever had trouble making meringue, this is the answer.

Pre-heat the oven to Mark 4, 180 C. Line a baking tray with non-stick baking paper. Separate **2 eggs** carefully so the whites are free from even a speck of yolk. Whisk the whites with a small pinch of salt in a clean, absolutely grease-free bowl until stiff. Sieve in **4 ounces (125 grams) caster sugar** gradually, beating all the time. Gently fold in **1/2 teaspoon of white vinegar**, **1 teaspoon cornflour**. optional few drops **vanilla essence**. Either spread on the paper in one round, or make smaller meringues.



Put in the oven, then at once turn the setting down to Mark 2, 150, and leave for 1 1/4 hours. Turn off oven but leave the meringues in until cold. It is easy to double or even triple the amounts. Cooking time remains the same. They will keep for several days in an airtight tin or box, if carefully hidden. Fill with whipped cream and fruit to serve.

Perfect for using up egg whites. Or if you start the Pavlova, use the yolk for **Easy Hollandaise sauce** (France not the Netherlands, in spite of the name) Melt **3 ounces (95 grams) butter** and let it cool until warm but not hot. Whizz **2 egg yolks** with **2 teaspoonfuls of lemon juice** (and a good pinch of salt if unsalted butter) in a blender for several minutes. Continue to whizz as you pour in the melted butter gradually. Put in a warm bowl and keep it warm, not hot. Perfect with asparagus or for eggs Benedict. Also easy to make double the quantity.

An argument dating back generations between Australia and New Zealand over which of the invented the pavlova, named after the Russian ballet Dancer Anna Pavlova, appears to have finally been settled in favour of New Zealand. Ed.



MARY'S MEALS sets up programmes in schools in some of the world's poorest communities to attract chronically hungry children into the classroom where they can receive the education they would not otherwise have. It costs just £13.90 to feed a child with Mary's Meals for an entire school year: 7p per meal. Further details: www.marysmeals.org.uk

Thinking of becoming a Catholic?

You'll probably have questions. Well, here we have some FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) put by those thinking about becoming a Catholic

For the answers to these and any other questions about becoming a we,come member of the Catholic community, you have a number of easy options: Get in touch with the priest at your nearest Catholic church; Contact the Editor (see page 18); Visit www.rcia.org.uk

When might I become a Catholic?

Can I bring a friend to the meeting?

Do I need to know a Catholic to become a Catholic?

Is there anything I can do now?

Do I need to know Latin?

I am not sure whether I was baptised - does it make a difference?

Do I have choice of which parish I go to?

Who should I contact? Who should I ask for?

How long will it take?

What things might keep mr from being a Catholic?

There are some aspects of the Catholic Church I have questions about.

Do I need to know a Catholic to become a Catholic?

How will I know whether this is right for me?

Will I be pressurised? Is there a deadline?

My spouse is Catholic and I have been going to Mass for years - can't I just be done quickly?

My Catholic friends uses words I don't understand - will they be explained?

I am a Catholic, my non-Catholic friend is asking me all these questions what do I say?

What do I need to do to join the Church?

I was brought up Church of England will that make a difference?

Is it a course - does it cost me anything?

Is there a book I could read?

I work shifts - Will I have to go to every meeting?

CROSSWORD ...DESIGNED TO TEASE THOSE EAGER WORD BUFFS AMONG OUR READERSHIP



You can use both sets of clues to solve the puzzle: the solutions are the same. So, if you want to try the CRYPTIC puzzle, for instance, but are unsure, use the QUICK clues to help you work out the solution. Similarly, if you try the QUICK clues, use the CRYPTIC clues to help you prove the solution

CRYPTIC Across

- 1 Face crisis of mistaken identity in ritualistic killings... (10)
- 6 ...horse transport is to the fore at this point in the massacre (7)
- 7 Correct final word at the onset of death (5)
- 9 Reciprocate – redact reference to duke (5)
- 10 Shriek as I opened up old shell (7)
- 11 They have branches for senior church officers (6)
- 13 Friar found among Dachau's tinsmiths (6)
- 16 Every single politician in the first place is to blame (7)
- 18 Local network in the old days for French white (5)
- 20 Irish town's particular court being defaced... (5)
- 21 ...it's the Welsh place to hold the drunk over (7)
- 22 Blessings of 60s music – duet is not in tune (10)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Modern country, once a biblical one, since has fallen away (5)
- 2 Monks, collectively, have writer's block? (7)
- 3 Goats one leads on times with flying things swarming about (6)
- 4 Type of savings account, one belonging to Esau (5)
- 5 Ivory source pub cancelled for good – that's cool (7)
- 6 This is me, article broke,... (9)
- 8 ...in nomadic order? (9)
- 12 Mozart, he wrote with (the odd note at the foot of) a flipping little book (2,5)

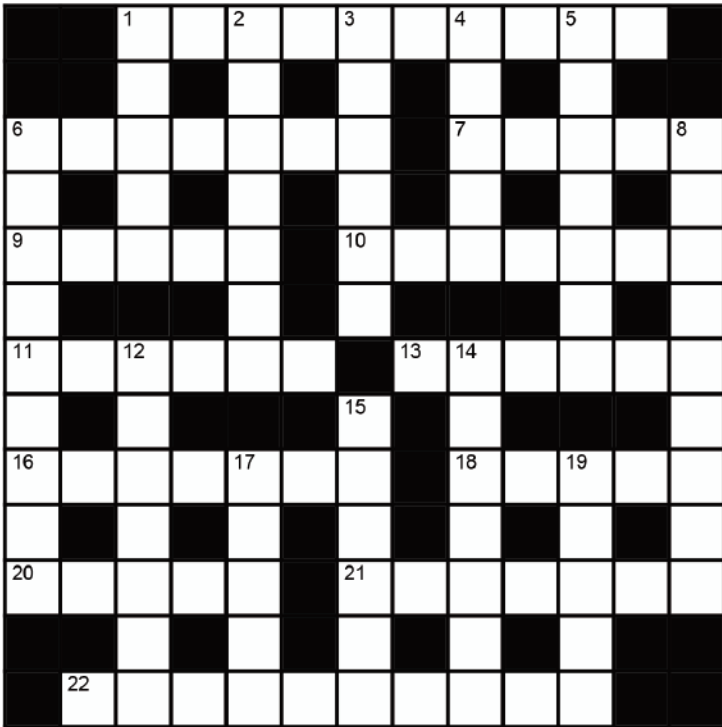
- 14 The Archers stripped of raison'd'être in defiant stance? (7)
- 15 Isle's lord, the third-lowest ranked among mag-nates (6)
- 17 What the precursor to 4's savings account set-up means? (5)
- 19 Beetle duck's in with admits it and confesses (5)

QUICK Across

- 1 Acts of killing (an animal or person) in order to propitiate a deity (10)
- 6 Savage and excessive killing of many people (7)
- 7 Make better (5)
- 9 Change chemically (5)
- 10 Yell (7)
- 11 Officials in the early church; officers of various Protestant churches (6)
- 13 English adjectival variant of Augustinian (6)
- 16 Charge a politician with an offence committed while in office (7)
- 18 Mel -----, lead voice for Warner Bros animation, known best for Bugs Bunny (5)
- 20 Main town of Co Clare, Ireland (5)
- 21 Place in Mid Wales, its name redolent of Stevenage or Harlow, perhaps (7)
- 22 Eight sayings of Jesus at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (10)

QUICK Down

- 1 Roman province of the NT, capital Antioch on the Orontes (5)
- 2 Ecclesiastical assembly of the monks in a monastery (7)
- 3 Types of mountain goat (6)



- 4 Son of Abraham (5)
- 5 Svelte; chic (7)
- 6 White Friar... (9)
- 8 ...Black Friar (9)
- 12 Lorenzo -- -----, Mozart's librettist for The Marriage of Figaro etc (2,5)
- 14 Not vanquished or overcome; free (7)
- 15 Isle of Kent, but no longer an island (6)
- 17 Source of strength: holding (5)
- 19 Pledges; acknowledges (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Sacrifices, 6 Carnage, 7 Amend, 9 React, 10 Exclaim, 11 Elders, 13 Austin, 16 Impeach, 18 Blanc, 20 Ennis, 21 Newtown, 22 Beatitudes. Down: 1 Syria, 2 Chapter, 3 Ibexes, 4 Isaac, 5 Elegant, 6 Carmelite, 8 Dominican, 12 Da Ponte, 14 Unbowed, 15 Thanel, 17 Asset, 19 Avows.



IT'S TIME TO BECOME A ZERO HERO

Bernard White reports on his journey with CAFOD to COP24 in Poland



Picture by Rosie Heaton

On 5 December, I put on my woolly vest, scarf and gloves and joined over 30 supporters and staff of CAFOD (the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) on a 24-hour coach journey from London to Katowice in Poland, where the global climate change conference, COP24 (Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Climate Agreements), was taking place.

We travelled to Katowice to march and impress on the COP24 delegates CAFOD's new campaign message that that the increase in global temperature above pre-industrial levels must be restricted to below 1.5 degrees centigrade and, to make this happen, net emissions of greenhouse gasses are to be reduced to zero by 2050. The most significant greenhouse gasses are carbon dioxide, mainly from burning fossil fuels (coal, gas, wood and oil), and methane from cattle and the melting of permafrost in the arctic.

While we were in Katowice we also took part in events organised by CIDSE, an umbrella organisation of Catholic agencies in Europe and North America, which taught us much about climate change, and where we discussed mitigation and adaptation measures so that we could more effectively campaign in the UK on our return.

CAFOD is the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Climate change is undermining the work that CAFOD is doing to relieve poverty and hardship. Our faith requires us to love one another, and we cannot do that by behaving in a way which is harmful to others (as well as ourselves and our descendants). The Bible also tells us that we must cultivate and care for, protect and preserve the planet (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, para 67).



The 423 million people who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change are already living in extreme poverty. That is more than the populations of the USA and the UK combined. Joseph Moeono-Kolio, climate activist in the Pacific told CAFOD:

'Rising sea levels erode our coastlines and homes. Extreme weather keeps destroying our infrastructure. Rising acid levels in the ocean are ruining our coral and fish stocks. I could go on and on.'

A report in October 2018, commissioned by the COP in Paris in 2015, looked at the effects of restricting the increase global temperature above pre-industrial levels to 1.5 degrees centigrade, rather than 2 degrees. The implications are dramatic and devastating for many countries, particularly developing countries, including loss of land, homes, livelihoods and life, and resulting in a much greater movement of people across the world. Most countries at the COP have policies in place which would lead to temperature increases of much more than 2 degrees.



Current policies in the UK would reduce net emissions of greenhouse gasses by just 80 per cent. CAFOD begins a campaign in 2019 to urge the government to reduce net emissions in the UK to zero by 2050. Unless it does so, we will not keep the temperature increase under 1.5 degrees.

I urge everyone to help and to begin by asking your MP to become a Zero Hero and urge Parliament to change the Climate Change Act 2008 to introduce measures for the UK to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/climate



Bernard White is CAFOD Volunteer/Campaigns Coordinator, Plymouth diocese.

The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no. 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee 9387398. Registered office: Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB.

CAFOD
Just one world



**Paul Dixon
asks whether
Cornwall's
Catholics are
getting a fair
crack of the whip**

CORNWALL: TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!

Paul Dixon sets a challenge for Cornwall



Goonhilly near Helston is destined to become 'the world's first commercial deep-space communications station', and Newquay is set to become the 'UK's first horizontal Spaceport'. Cornwall can also become the cyberspace launchpad of the first online UK Catholic Religious Education (RE) school.



In last month's edition of CSW, I raised the flag concerning the absence of any Catholic secondary schools in Cornwall, and as a result the lack of Catholic RE available for our Catholic youth.

In the absence of any Cornish Catholic secondary education, there is a question to be asked: Is parish catechesis in Cornwall up to the job of adequately assisting parents in educating their children in the faith? If not, an online Catholic RE school can become a valuable resource within parishes to help support our youth.

'Is parish catechesis in Cornwall up to the job?'

There will also be many Catholic children and youth across the country who are not, for whatever reason, enjoying the benefits of attending a Catholic school. Cornwall happens to be an excellent example of this 'problem', and perhaps too the seedbed from which a solution evolves.

If everything is hunky-dory with Cornish Catholic RE, then the UK has nothing to worry about if, in the future, it loses all its state-funded Catholic secondary schools, since they merely need to follow the Cornish model of how to cope. However, if the current Cornish model of parish catechesis wouldn't be good enough for the rest of the country, then it isn't good enough for Cornwall now.



Offering online Catholic RE at GCSE, A-level, and perhaps also at Key Stages 3, 2 and 1, could be the start of something special. It can be if our Catholic community, working together and led, crucially, by its hierarchy, make it happen. For this initiative to succeed, it requires the backing of the Catholic Education Service (CES), diocesan bishops and its enthusiastic promotion by parish priests within our parishes.

'Offering online Catholic RE could be the start of something special'

It might also be the case that what would put the oomph back into Catholic RE is the provision of a new Catholic qualification(s) that offers greater depth in the teachings and practice of the Catholic faith. Eric Hester, a former Catholic school headmaster, writing in the Faith magazine 38(6) (2006), called for a national Catholic examination at the age of 16+ that was set by Rome. He also stressed the need for greater use of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in the teaching of Catholic RE.

In a climate where it is probably foolish to trust any political party to respect and preserve our Catholic schools, it might well be prudent for the Church to begin the process of establishing an online UK Catholic RE presence in addition to its traditional Catholic schools.



While a national set-up of an online Catholic RE school will provide the benefit of economies of scale, and is, no doubt, the best way for an online Catholic RE school to function, it is probably best to pilot any such new initiative at an individual diocesan level. Cornwall seems to be as good a place as any to start. Anyone interested?

A cost-effective and easily accessible online Catholic RE resource will also be beneficial for adult catechesis in our parishes. In addition to online courses in Catholic GCSE and A level Religious Studies, the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) could be made far more widely available and affordable within parishes via an online Catholic RE school.

The CCRS qualification, although primarily designed for teachers in Catholic schools, offers a superb course of study for anyone who has an interest in Catholic Christianity. The CCRS is, however, a hugely neglected

course. For example, the CES 2017 Census Data for Schools and Colleges in England informs us that only 4.2% of the combined total of teachers within English Catholic secondary, sixth-form and independent sector hold this qualification.

Although there are excellent courses run by diocesan catechetical centres across the country, the cost of them, as well as perhaps the logistics involved, can make accessing them prohibitive for many. The provision of low-cost, high-quality online Catholic RE courses can, therefore, prove to be a hugely beneficial resource within our parishes.

Blessed John Henry Newman said: 'I want a laity . . . who know their religion . . . who know just where they stand . . . who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it. I want an intelligent, well-instructed laity.'

Is an online UK Catholic RE School a good idea? I think so. Please do write in with your thoughts and suggestions.

'It is probably foolish to trust any political party'

To finish, let's take heart from the 'Cornish fact' that there are more saints in Cornwall than there are in heaven. Be that as it may, in improving the provision of Catholic RE, we ought not to do it dreckly or leave it for others up north to get around to doing it. Let's do a proper job now, my ansuns.

SITCOMS STAYING IN TOUCH WITH COMMUNICATIONS

An occasional feature supporting communication strategies

'Communication is part of God's plan for us' Pope Francis

CSW continues to evangelise not only directly but also in support of communications in general by helping with sharing and promoting good practice. With this issue we look at the received wisdom concerned with launching and sustaining an e-newsletter.

E-newsletters are one of a number of contemporary market approaches: a traditional newsletter but emailed out to like-minded people. They are an instrument in viral marketing, readily distributed and cascaded via email. They won't necessarily serve to engage the uninitiated. The e-newsletter, email newsletter, is a powerful marketing and communication tool that has various useful functions: it reminds readers about you, what you've been doing, what you're going to do and it helps build a unique relationship with readers.

Points for consideration:

- As with any form of communication, first determine your market before you develop a comms channel. Don't be media led: just because carrier pigeons exist... An e-newsletter might be the last thing your market needs.
- Having decided on the viability of an e-newsletter, it's then a matter of determining size and format. You'll find a wide range of templates freely available on the internet. Perhaps start with the options you might find in your current software package.
- Select a modern, ideally a sans serif font, to enhance the sense of modernity.
- Colour is important. Some recipients may want to print out hard copy. They won't thank you for exhausting their colour cartridge

every time they print. The same applies to illustrations.

- Avoid getting too intricate and involved, especially visually, with what you put before your readership, i.e. with what you take to market.

Size is another factor: the bigger the e-newsletter, the longer it'll take to download. This point is particularly pertinent if your readership is poorly served by the internet.



- Content starts with a name. What to call it? Do you want a catch phrase, a descriptor, humour...?
- Think of a sub-title, a sort of standfirst-cum-positioning statement, encapsulating what the e-newsletter is all about.
- Copy should not be discursive. A magazine or a totally dedicated publication is the best place to discuss Einstein's theories.
- A newsletter is just what the name suggests.
- Copy should be CLEAR: Concise; Logical; Engaging; Accurate; Relevant.
- Whether or not you have a contents list will depend on size, structure, format...

It's a good idea to archive your e-newsletter in anticipation that the readership will find value in looking back to previous issues. If your e-newsletter is a punchy complement to your website, addressing a specific forum or theme, the website will be a convenient place to archive it. In which case, as in any other, it must be part of a clear, focused comms strategy.

- Editing is important to preserve stance, approach, style, pitch, etc. Single penmanship can offer a limited, bland and unappetising diet. On the other hand, a clutch of random articles is no more appetising than a basket of shopping at a checkout.
- How regular will it be? Like any serious publication, it'll need to be regular. But how regular? That'll depend on how regularly you can commit to producing it to the standard required to maintain (1) valued offering, (2) effect and (3) engagement among the readership
- What to do with it, now that you've got it? Better that it be mailed out on request. That request should follow announcement by whatever means at your disposal, perhaps including an initial one-off drop to persons for whom you hold email addresses ... but this takes us into the mire of spam and potential blacklisting.
- Ensure you offer the facility for recipients to unsubscribe.
- Remember to blind copy your readership or you'll really annoy Tom, Dick and Harriet.

LIVE NATIVITY EVENT

Mary Bradley reports from
St Mary Immaculate (Falmouth)

Falmouth's 7th Live Nativity Event took place on 9 December. A flock of sheep started at Events Square and made its way through the town as hundreds of spectators watched to the Manger on the town's Piazza.

Mary on her donkey with Joseph walking at her side moved past the flock of sheep, past the choirs of angels outside the parish church and past Herod as the crowds of onlookers mingled with the shepherds and sheep. Further on the route were the three kings, adorned in robes of bright colours. Unfortunately the camels had lost their way en route but the local alpacas did a good job instead, being much admired by the crowd. Fr Brian Kenwick quickly acquired the necessary skills to manage his alpaca, telling the children how to stroke them and make friends with them.

At the conclusion of the event Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus (a real baby this time) were seated in the stable in the big marquee and everyone was able to hear a short story of the Nativity.

Everyone was then invited for drinks and homemade Christmas goodies while the choir of St Mary's Primary School sang Carols and Christmas songs.



Word Perfect ... JUDGEMENT

'The Day of Judgment' teaches us, that in some way or another, the time will come when we will all face assessment, effectively trial, by God. In Old English, 'The Day of Judgment' was known as 'doomsday', from where the Domesday Book gets its name.

In the Old Testament, such an impending trial was known as the 'Day of Jehovah' or the 'Day of the Lord'. In the New Testament, Jesus is described as the one who will be the judge.

It is Jesus who describes God's judgement as similar to that of separating sheep from goats. He encourages his disciples to be more like sheep because it's His sheep that the Lord herds:

2 Corinthians 5:10

'For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ'

Luke 6:37-42

Do not judge, and you will not be judged'

John 8:108

Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her'

James 4:11-12

Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another'

Luke 6:31-36

'Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful



Go for IT!

Soft and hardware of interest for the home, school, parish and elsewhere

WHEN IN ROME ...

As you come across key buildings and monuments in the 1841 map of Rome, accessed on bit.ly/rome440, you can discover and read a selection of 19th Century literary works that have been inspired by them. This creation by the Morgan Library and Museum also lets you compare old and new images of the landmarks for a better sense and understanding of the eternal city.

MORE FREE FOTOS

Met Museum has now made more of its digitally catalogued artworks available online: www.metmuseum.org

STORING MATERIALS

There are several very simple, straightforward and cost-effective ways of storing documents and photographs safely: (1) Back up to an external hard drive; (2) Back up to rewritable DVDs; (3) Back up to cloud storage e.g. Dropbox; (4) Back up to flash memory, a USB key.

THE ULTIMATE WEDDING

A dream wedding takes a huge amount of planning. The Ultimate Wedding Magazine can help future newly-weds through the maize and over the hurdles: www.ultimateweddingmagazine.co.uk

DROPBOX

Don't use it? Well, why not? There's only been a frustrating 2GB limit to the free version but that's the best place to start. Give it a go! Store in the Cloud the personal, group or other data you'd always want to be at hand and never lose. For sharing data, it's easy to send a link to specific items for friends, associates, groups, etc. to download.

IMPROVE YOUR WRITING

Be that for your parish newsletter, website or CSW, there's a useful add-on in Google Docs which you could employ: ProWritingAid. Key in a couple of hundred words into Google Docs, go to Add-Ons, ProWritingAid, Summary Report for an analysis and report on your quillmanship. You can install this add-on by going to Google Drive in a browser, click New, then Google Docs and follow the add-ons menu ... and Bob's your uncle!

COMPUTER TIPS

For a range of useful computer tips visit <https://www.computerhope.com/tips/top10.htm>

MULTIPLE SOC-MED POSTING

SessionBox, Chrome's add-on, makes easy work of using websites with multiple accounts at the same time. Create an independent tab with a click of a button: sessionbox.io

INTERNET SPEED

Are you getting the speed you're paying for? You could check using a tool like Speedtest.net or simply go to the Google homepage (www.google.co.uk) and type speed test in the search box, press enter and click on Run Speed Test.

GOING DUTCH

Splitwise keeps track of any bills, expenses, etc. you share, making it easy to settle up with colleagues, friends, relatives, fellow pilgrims and others: www.splitwise.com

LAUNCH OF CARITAS PLYMOUTH

'Look around us, see the need and then put our faith into action', that is the call to all parishes and Catholic charities in the Diocese of Plymouth.

Bishop Mark O'Toole is establishing Caritas Plymouth, a network of parishes, charities and services engaged in charitable work in the name of the Church; striving to live out the gospel by supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable people in local communities.

The Diocese has been working with Catholic charities such as the Catholic Children's Society, Apostleship of the Sea, the Catenians and the St Vincent de Paul Society to agree four priorities and a structure for Caritas Plymouth.

A big consultation event was held in December 2018 at St Boniface College (Plymouth) looking at local needs and possible action through Caritas Plymouth in all four priorities. These are Children and Family Life, the Elderly and Isolated, Homelessness and Refugees and Migrants.

The notes from this event are being turned into a draft Operational Plan which will be available for consultation from February 2019 on the website www.caritasplymouth.org.uk



Bishop Mark O'Toole

Canon John Deeny, Vicar General and Parish Priest at Launceston is leading the establishment of Caritas Plymouth.

Caritas Plymouth will be launched on 18 May 2019 at St Nicholas School (Exeter). For more information on this event and to reserve a place please contact Zoe Oldman, Caritas Development Worker at: caritas@prcdtr.org.uk



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a: Handed out in church, not left in a pile for collection

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To increase your allocation of copies for addressing all the above targets, please contact the Editor.

Your church, parish or deanery might also like to promote the fact that **Catholic South West**, apart from being distributed in hard copy, is also freely available online at cathcom.org from where it can be readily downloaded in full colour and/or greyscales.

The greyscales version is for those people for whom colour distinction may cause problems.

Thank you all for what is crucial support in promoting our publication. Without your help our mag would never reach home.

Kind regards,
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Please note that opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Publishers, Editor, any Diocese or the wider Roman Catholic Church.

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MOVERS

...AND SHAKERS



THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

for 2019 as entrusted to

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
(Apostleship of Prayer):

February

UNIVERSAL - HUMAN TRAFFICKING

For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

What is the process in the preparation of the prepared prayer intentions? The faithful from around the world suggest papal prayer intentions to the international office of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network in Rome. Through prayerful discernment the international office selects a large number of them and submits them to the Vatican for further selection, with the Pope making the final selection. The Vatican then entrusts to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network the official set of monthly prayer intentions, which are then translated into the major world languages and published in print and digital formats.

DEAR POPE ... Pope Francis has been given a set of letters written by pupils in Catholic primary schools across England and Wales. The letters were written in response to *Laudato Si'*. Monica from CAFOD's education team handed the letters to the Holy Father. For more CAFOD news: cafod.org.uk/latest

GLORIOUS ORDINATION in Liskeard Catholic Church: The Bishop of Plymouth, Mark O'Toole, visited the parish of Liskeard to carry out a solemn, but beautiful, ordination before a packed congregation just before Christmas.



Bishop Mark greets John Allen before the ordination

John Allan, who has lived in Liskeard for 8 years was ordained as a Catholic priest at the service, in the company of 12 fellow priests from across the Diocese of Plymouth. John has previously spent 35 years as a clergyman in the Church of England, serving parishes in rural Kent, before converting to the Catholic faith. He was ordained as a Deacon in July 2018 and has assisted parish priest, Fr Gilmour McDermott during the year.



Newly ordained Fr John Allen with Bishop Mark and Fr Gilmour McDermott, parish priest of Liskeard

John has been supported all the way on his journey of faith by his wife, to whom he has been married for 37 years. He now looks forward to serving in the capacity of a priest in Liskeard and the surrounding parishes, as required. The celebration was followed by a fulsome tea in the town's Public Hall, which was enjoyed by many members of the parish from Sclerder, near Looe and Liskeard.



WE WELCOME the appointment of Zoe Oldman as part-time Caritas Development Officer for the Diocese of Plymouth. Zoe, who will be working Tuesdays (am) and Thursdays (all day), can be contacted by email: Zoe.Oldman@prcdtr.org.uk The Caritas Plymouth network (www.caritasplymouth.org.uk) is a confederation of local Catholic charities and parishes involving the following partners:

The Apostleship of the Sea www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk
The Catenians www.thecatenians.com
The Catholic Women's League www.catholicwomensleaguecio.org.uk
The St Vincent de Paul Society www.svp.org.uk
The Catholic Children's Society www.ccsplymouth.org.uk
Justice and Peace www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/plymouth

TO RECEIVE the 'Tell the Church' Bulletin for details of events organised by or linked to Taunton's churches email tellthechurch@tauntonteamchaplaincy.org



FOREIGN SECRETARY JEREMY HUNT has ordered a review into the plight of persecuted Christians around the world and how much help they get from the UK. The review, led by the Bishop of Truro, will look at government efforts to help some of the 215 million Christians who faced discrimination and violence last year, according to the Foreign Office. Officials say violence against Christians is rising

dramatically, with an average of 250 killed every month. The Foreign Office said the review would 'consider some tough questions and offer ambitious policy recommendations'. The Bishop of Truro - the Rt Reverend Philip Mounstephen - is expected to report back by Easter. The review will have three aims:

- * To map the persecution of Christians in "key countries" in the Middle East, Africa and Asia
- * To provide an analysis of current UK government support*
- * To offer recommendations for a "cohesive and comprehensive policy response"

Note: Philip Ian Mounstephen (born 13 July 1959) is a **British Anglican** bishop and missionary; he has been the Bishop of Truro (the diocesan bishop of the Diocese of Truro) since November 2018.

MOST HOLY TRINITY CHURCH in Newquay had a very exciting year in 2018, having been joined with Christ the King (Perranporth) and Our Lady Star of the Sea (St Agnes) so that they are now one big Parish. Jodie Roberts (Parish Secretary) reports: 'Fr Anthony O'Gorman has served us all over the last year or so and we are very proud to say that on Tuesday 11 December 2018, we had an Induction Mass to appoint Fr Anthony officially as our Parish Priest. It was a momentous occasion where many Clergy came to concelebrate Mass and was a very powerful witness for all. The Mass was very special in that nuns, laity and clergy all came together, young, old, traditional and conservative, making it such a Catholic gathering. Many commented on how moving the Liturgy was. There was a superb buffet afterwards where we had the occasion to toast Fr Anthony and welcome him formally into our family. We hope to have many years of growing together in our faith.' For further details and photos: <http://www.mostholyltrinity.co.uk>

GOOD PRACTICE: If your school or other Catholic organisation is doing something particularly well and if you'd like to share your good practice, why not send details to the Editor on csw@cathcom.org for our GOOD PRACTICE feature?



Note: The term 'Movers and shakers' was coined by poet Arthur O'Shaughnessy in his 1874 poem *Ode*.



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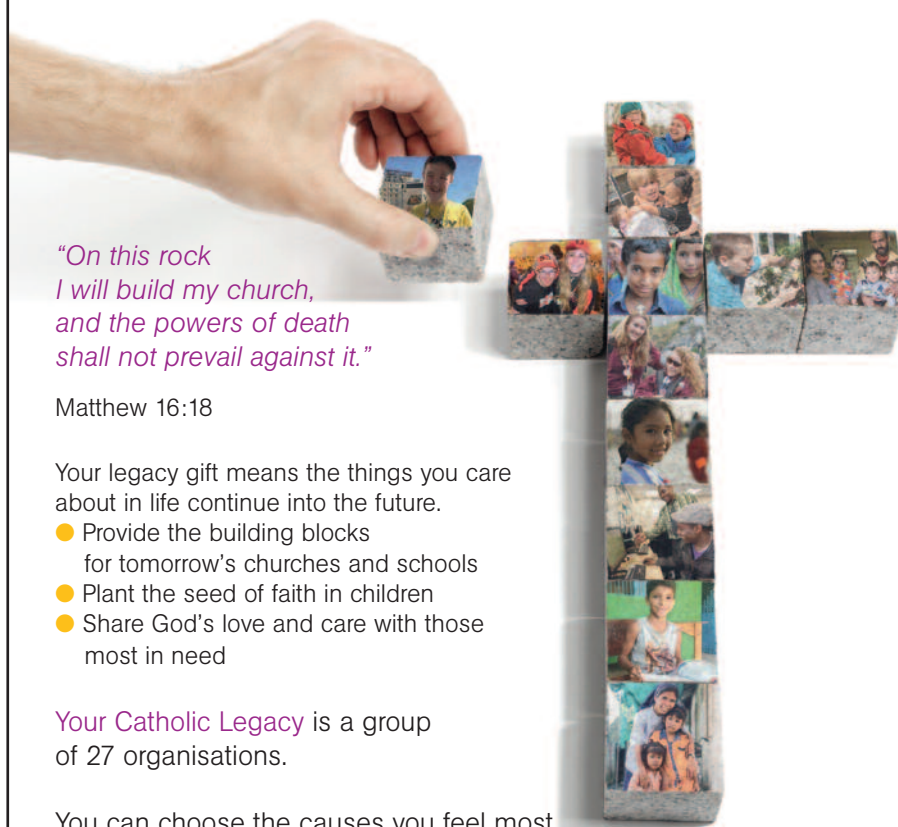
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Thank you.