Serving the Church in the South West

May 2019

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Catholic South West is a monthly newspaper for Catholics in the Plymouth, Clifton and Portsmouth Dioceses. It is published by Bellcourt Ltd

AIMS

To build community in the South West by sharing stories relating to Catholic life around the South

To encourage readers to get more involved in - or start - projects and initiatives in the local area. To provide thought-provoking articles to help readers deepen their Faith.

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We need your help!

Articles: We need your local articles - we can only include what we get. So if you have an article or just a photo with a short desciption - please send it in. Ideas: We need your ideas for the

Ideas: We need your ideas for the paper and we need your ideas in the paper. If you have any thoughts on what we should include - or if you are thinking about starting a new initiative - get in touch - we'd love to support it! Readers: If you can encourage other readers in your parish please do so. Tell them that the paper has improved

Advertising: We rely on advertising - if you know of anyone that would benefit from promoting their business, event or anything else to parishioners throughout the South West.

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DATES

Catholic South West goes to parishes on the last full weekend of the month. It is printed around the middle of the month - so if you would like to advertise or send in editoril please do it as early as possible.

FROM CSW

appy Easter to all of our readers!
We hope you have had a wonderful
Easter so far!

This edition of CSW has a slightly different feel to it. Dr Jay Kettle-Williams joined us as editor for 3 issues which morphed into 4 issues and for that we are hugely grateful! He has brought to CSW a varied group of contributors and we are delighted

that he will stay on as a regular contributor. You can read his new section "View from the Pew" on page 9.

As well as our other regular contributors we have local news from the Catholic community in and around the South West from all three Dioceses - Plymouth, Clifton and Portsmouth.

If you have any news, events, articles, or thoughtful/funny stories - please send them in. We really want to repre-

sent all parts of the South West but we can only print what we receive!

Also, if you have any comments, or if you want to receive more copies for your parish - do let us know.

Enjoy the May edition and if you have any comments or feedback please contact us - all the contact details are in the column on the left of this page.

CSW TEAM

Flores de Mayo and Santacruzan Festival

'FLORES DE MAYO (Flowers of May) is a festival in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated in the Philippines during the month of May. This is a very popular and traditional festival that is now celebrated in many parts of the world where many Filipinos reside. Here in the Devon & Cornwall and now in Dorset, this festival is now on its 9th year at the Diocese of Plymouth. SANTACRUZAN (Festival of the Holy

Cross) - a legend and a festivity depicting the searching and finding of the Holy Cross by Queen Helena, ;mother of Constantine the Great, who was a new convert to Christianity. After the Cross was found in Jerusalem and brought back to Rome, it was then welcomed with a joyful celebration of thanksgiving. This celebration is very popular among the young ladies and men as well where they dress up to celebrate this thanksgiving and many ladies representing Biblical personalities.'

The first celebration in the Southwest of England was in 2011 in Callington Cornwall, 2012-2014, that at the Cathedral of Plymouth, 2015 -2016 in Exeter, 2017 in Truro and in 2018 in Torquay.



New Canons at
Plymouth Cathedral

with ceremonial crimson continued to them. First seat in the Cathedral and the continue of t

n 25th March 2019, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, Bishop Mark installed three diocesan priests as Canons of the Cathedral Chapter; Fr Mark O'Keeffe, Dean of Plymouth Cathedral, Fr Peter Morgan, Dean of Cornwall and parish priest of St Austell and, as an honorary Canon, Fr Phillip Dyson, parish priest of Penzance.

pacity for this joyous celebration. Bishop Mark presided at the installation and was joined by the other Canons of the Chapter as well as priests, deacons and lay people from across the Plymouth Diocese. The new Canons professed their faith in unison and then, assisted by the Canon Provost, they were vested

The Cathedral was filled to ca-

with ceremonial crimson capes and the Chapter Statutes were entrusted to them. Finally each Canon was lead to his seat in the Cathedral and took his place amongst the Cathedral Chapter.

Following the installation Bishop Mark presided at a Chapter Mass. His homily encouraged us to have a renewed energy for both our love of God and our Lenten promises.

Many congratulations to Canon Mark, Canon Peter and Canon Philip. We thank you for the service you have given to the diocese and to the people of God and we ask God's blessing upon you as you begin this new chapter in your ministry.



Downside Inspires Adoration at St Bede's College, Bristol

S t Bede's Catholic College in Bristol will be starting Adoration in its new chapel in the centre of the School, which has just been conse-

crated by the Bishop of Clifton, Declan Lang.

Dom Leo concelebrated Mass with the Parish Priest, Fr. Cosmos Ikirodah, after which more than 400 pupils adored the Blessed Sacrament displayed in a new monstrance. For many St Bede pupils, this was the first Adoration for them.

The Principal, Gary Maher, has arranged for Adoration to place in St Bede's College chapel every Friday. He believes that Adoration, together with other initiatives, will strengthen School spiritually, and was most grateful for Downside's support. Dom Leo

portant to them, or some teaching that was given. Make sure readers learn something from your article - they don't just want to know who was there and what snacks were available!

2) Keep it brief: Make sure you make your point - but keep it brief and

was privileged to be able to present a new monstrance to St Bede's on behalf of the monastic community at Downside Abbey.

Adoration at Downside has been taking place daily in the Crypt Chapel since the Feast of All Saints 2017. The

Chapel is open for anyone to adore as a result of the dedication to Adoration of regular Adorers.



punchy.

3) Pictures: Send pictures as they are - even if they are very big to email. Don't reduce them in size or put them inside a Word document. They look fine on the screen but terrible in the paper!

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

1) Think of the readers: If you are writing about an event, think about the readers that don't know anything about it. Outline what happened, but focus on why people go, why it is im-

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unday 24th March, a fine sunny morning on the eve of Lady Day, and a good number of parishioners processing with lighted candles gathered round the shrine of Our Lady in the new Prayer Garden at Bridport parish church. Leading the congregation was Canon Richard, who, accompanied by Fr Cor, Deacon Mark and servers, blessed the new shrine and prayer garden.

The garden, had its beginnings four years ago when clearing and building work for the new church extension began. Canon Richard had wanted to create a prayer garden, he had in mind, the garden at La Trappe Monastery in France. Parishioners Georgette and

Mark Wormleighton were commissioned to clear and tend the area which eventually led to the making of the prayer garden which began in autumn 2018.

> Many local people walk through, lingering for a while on their journey.

Canon Richard selected the beautiful statue of Our Lady and the fine wooden archway. All the garden furniture, ie. chairs, stone benches, paving, safety rails etc were purchased entirely with donations from parishioners as were rose bushes

and shrubs in memory of their loved ones.

In addition, there are plans to have the stations of the cross around the garden. On the Sunday that fell before Mothering Sunday, Georgette and Mark helped the children to plant the flowers which had a yellow and purple theme - primroses and pansies. This yellow and purple theme will be maintained in the garden as it is developed, adding other areas of interest and a reflection bench is planned for the centre of the lawn. It is intended that the garden be a place of prayer and peace, for the parish.

The Prayer Garden has also gathered interest from people in the surrounding area.

Georgette Wormleighton, who together with her husband, created the Prayer Garden.

There is a public right of way footpath through the garden so many local people walk through, lingering for a while on their journey, admiring the beauty and peace of Our Lady's Shrine and Prayer Garden.

Pat McEvoy, Bridport

Around the South West

Diamond Jubilee for St Anthony of Padua, Broadstone



St Anthony of Padua Church in Broadstone, Dorset, will be celebrating its Diamond Jubilee (60th) on Monday 13th May 2019. Bishop Mark will be here to celebrate Mass with all the parishioners with light refreshments to follow.

New Stole for Lent

Deacon Geoffrey Carey lost his purple stole, so the sewing group at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Weymouth, made him a new one in time for Lent.



Divine Mercy **Service**

A Divine Mercy service will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Church on Sunday 28 April at 3.00pm. Fr John Watkins will be the celebrant and it will

be preceded by confessions at 2.30pm. Refreshments will be served in the St Richard Reynolds Centre afterwards and all are welcome.

Design Technology Downside

Fifth Former Teddy designs and builds a Blue-

tooth-activated motorised longboard for his GCSE Design Technology course. Teddy follows in the footsteps of his uncle, Gilo Cardozo, Founder and Executive Chairman of Gilo Industries in Dorset, Gilo was also a pupil at Downside, was taught Design and Technology by exactly the same dedicated staff, and went on to invent and build the Parajet aero engine which powered the famous flying car and took Bear Grylls over the top of Everest.

Send us your news csw@cathcom.org

Malmesbury Youth Group

The youth group from St Aldhelm's Malmesbury is a fantasticexample of Youth Ministry in a rural parish in the Clifton Diocese. Three years ago, a group of adults who wanted to see young people being part of the parish, met with Dave Wheat, Diocesan Coordinator of Youth Ministry to see what could be done. After around a year of planning meetings, formation and training, the group began with a simple session where young people could relax in an informal environment and encounter different forms of catechesis and prayer. The group meets once a month with around 15-20 young people attending, with the older young people taking on leadership roles for different games and activities.

The volunteers dedication and caring approach to young people shows what a relatively small parish can achieve in Youth Ministry.

Do you think your parish could follow the example of St Aldhelm's? For more information contact your Diocesan Youth Team:

Clifton: youth@cliftondiocese.com Portsmouth: youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Plymouth: jonathan.bielawski@prcdtr.org.uk



And finally...

CSW Contributor finds a Pearl

Esmee Nichols, a CSW reader and regular contributor, was eating an oyster bought by her husband from local fishermen at the harbour in Weymouth, when she bit on something hard. She assumed it was a piece of shell, but to her amazement it was a small pearl. Esmee was right to be amazed, only 1 in over 2000 cold water oysters have pearls.

Unfortunately, the pearl was less than 2 years old and so nothing can be done with it. Mature pearls, which are used for jewelry, usually grow for around 5 years inside an oyster. However, it was a rare and delightful surprise!

Send us your local stories - for the And Finally... section to put a smile on people's faces!



By Fr Tom Grufferty

Mindfulness of the

Feast of the Ascension





any years ago, I had arranged to meet a friend in Leicester Square in London. Having a half an hour to spare. I visited Notre Dame de France Church, just off the Square. I was overwhelmed to find there an art exhibition by Elisabeth Wang. After I met my friend, we returned together to the Church to view the paintings in greater detail. I have been astonished by this modern artist ever since that day.

Elizabeth Wang was born in 1942 and received into the Catholic Church in 1968. She was an artist, housewife and mother. She spent much of her life writing and speaking about prayer and the Catholic Faith. She was involved in the life of her home parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Harpenden, particularly as a catechist. Her children are now grown-up, and Stephen, her son, is a priest in Westminster Diocese. She exhibited at the Royal Academy, and at the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours. She had solo exhibitions of religious work at Westminster Cathedral, the Bar Convent Museum (York), the Conference Rooms at St Pauls Bookshop, and at Notre Dame de France church, London. Many of her paintings are published alongside her religious writings.

Elizabeth Wang is also the founder of Radiant Light, a movement within the Catholic Church. It seeks to encourage people to grow in holiness faith in its fullness. Jesus Christ Himself is 'the radiant light of God's glory' (Heb 1:3). Every aspect of the work of Radiant Light is dedicated to upholding the teaching of the Catholic Church. Visit the webpage of Radiant Light and explore the rich contents. The online Art Gallery contains over 5000 works of art, and most have a Christian theme. All the images can be used for noncommercial purposes. There is a wonderful lesson for pupils which can be downloaded by teachers. I have found Radiant Light generous to a fault in allowing the use of

the contents of its Art Gallery.

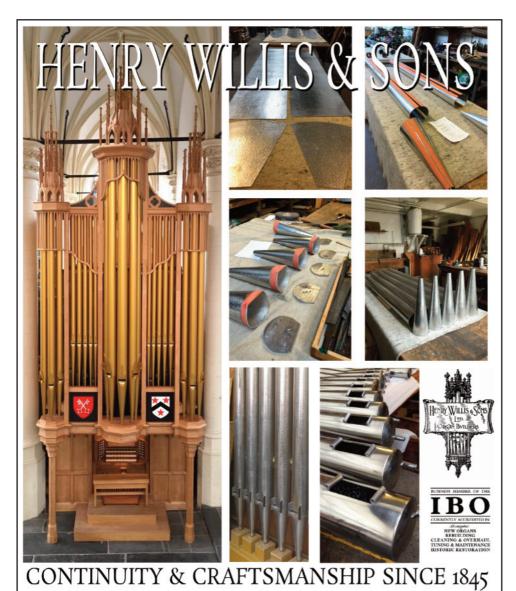
One of my favourite paintings by Elisabeth Wang is that of the Ascension. Have a look at this work of art shown here. I have examined in detail several famous paintings of the Ascension, which are inspirational and prayerful in their own way, but in all of them, there is a vast difference between this world and the world to which Jesus ascended. This is often depicted by light and darkness, i.e. the darkness of this world and the radiant light of the world of the Ascension.

Elisabeth Wang shows this contrast, but with a huge difference. This is not just the Ascension of Jesus; the whole of humanity is ascending too. This is a communal Ascension. The Risen Lord is surrounded with light and with a large crowd of people coming from the face of the Earthnotice the globe. The Father momentarily blocks the way into heaven and the narrative of the narrow door is obvious: "Strive to enter in by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter in, and will not be able". Luke 13:24

Notice the power of the left hand of Jesus. This hand points to the multitude. This is the hand of hospitality, of friendship and of love. Notice the wound on it, which is a profound sign of salvation for all. The hand with the wound is the great signpost as found in St. John: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends". John 15:13.

On the Feast of the Ascension this year, on Thursday 30th April, look at the painting, then read the scriptures for the feast, Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Hebrews 9:24-28:19-23 (Alternative Second Reading but enriching to read it) and Luke:46-53. Now meditate on the painting again, placing yourself in the vast crowd approaching the narrow door from the Earth. Allow yourself a moment to be mindful of the hand of hospitality.

Elizabeth Wang died in 2016, and she too is in the crowd.



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Poetry Corner

by Max Ehrmann



o placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in si-

As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others. even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however hum-

it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of

Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.

Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann, Desiderata, Copyright 1952.

Competition Write about this picture

by Elizabeth Johnson

rapped deep within the limitations of my understanding of love and forgiveness I cower on the ocean floor.

Protected by the hard but porous shell of ignorance and insecurity, pinning me down with memories of the present and the past I exist without meaning or purpose.

Piscine bubbles rising to the surface are my only link to the things that I strive to feel and understand as my feathery gills filter the mass of experiences and sensations of my earthly life to try and interpret a purposeful meaning.



A single word - SAVIOUR - permeates the fissures in my shell and my primitive but overpoweringly grateful and receptive mind floods with sensations of belief and selfknowledge.

I am free at last, released from my bonds, to ascend through the dark blue of the ocean depths to the lighter expanse of blue sky and the glory of redemption and the joy and promise of eternal love embracing me now and forever.



Next Time

Write about this picture. Whatever it means to you. Your thoughts, your rules!

Just no more than 200 words. Include your name and where you are from.

Please send entries to csw@cathcom.org



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Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



On 14th May we celebrate the feast of the apostle, St Matthias. His claim to fame is that he was the replacement for Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Jesus. Hardly an appealing role!

It was bad enough that the Master had been crucified. The leading apostle Peter had denied him. Other apostles had run away. Only the holy women stayed with Jesus to the end, along with the beloved disciple. Worst of all, one of Jesus' twelve chosen apostles was the person who betrayed Jesus.

We do not know why Judas Iscariot handed Jesus over to his enemies. Was he disappointed in his expectations of Jesus? Did he want a Messiah who would conquer rather than one who would suffer? Indeed, was he trying to provoke Jesus into displaying his power over the Romans? Some have explained his name (Iscariot) as meaning that he belonged to a group called the dagger-men, in Latin: Sicarii. In first-century Judea, these nationalist bandits engaged in violent activity to harass the Romans and their supporters.

Whatever his motivation, Judas himself had come to a sad end. Regretting his role in the arrest of Jesus, he handed back the money and killed himself. Jesus' original group of twelve apostles had lost one of its number, following the worst form of treachery.

What would the apostles do now? They could not undo the past. The gospels admit honestly that one of Jesus' closest friends betrayed him to death. Yet Jesus' resurrection offered a new beginning for the apostles. Hope had triumphed over despair. Life had been victorious over

Under the leadership of St Peter, the group of Jesus' followers decided to select a replacement for Judas. And the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles tells us that Matthias was selected to fill the gap.

The group of believers began by considering the qualities needed in an apostle. They were looking for a person of suitable experience—present faithfully since the time of John the Baptist at the outset of Jesus' ministry. They were also seeking someone to be witness to the Lord's resurrection.

In a miraculous way, God had turned human failure into the means for our redemption.

After discussions, they selected two worthy candidates to present before the Lord. Like the Israelites choosing their first king (1 Samuel 10:20-21), the community drew lots, so that God had the final say in the choice. Joseph Barsabbas, widely known as the Just Man (Justus), may have been the favoured candidate. But the lot fell on the less-known Matthias.

His job was to build on the failure of all the apostles, but especially his predecessor Judas. Somehow God had used Judas' betrayal, because on the third day after his death Jesus was seen alive again. God had triumphed over the

The psalm gives an appropriate picture: "The stone which

the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes." In a miraculous way, God had turned human failure into the means for our redemption.

The appointment of Matthias is a reminder to us that even at the beginning of the church, people had to cope with situations that were far from ideal. Matthias was parachuted in to a disaster area with a mission of rebuild-

We are also reminded that we belong within a succession, both within our families and within the church. Some who have gone before us have been great models for our lives, but others may have done harm. It is our job to fulfil our mission in the circumstances where God has put us.

St Matthias gives an example for us. Scripture tells us nothing more about him apart from his selection as an apostle to replace Judas. Traditions exist that he preached the gospel in several regions.

He was part of that early group who spread the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Thus he fulfilled St Peter's plan when proposing the selection of a successor for Judas: "He will become with us a witness to the resurrection."

"Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

The earliest witnesses were the twelve apostles, now including Matthias, along with many other unknown followers of Jesus. They spread the news that death was not the end, because Jesus had overcome mortality.

More recent witnesses to Jesus' resurrection have handed on the faith to us. Nowadays we have not seen the risen Lord, but we believe that he is alive. "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."





Young people across the region attend Catholic Youth Event

Over 750 young people from Clifton, Plymouth and Portsmouth were among 8,000 who attended Flame 2019 - a Catholic Youth Event held every 2 years at the SSE Arena at Wembley. The theme of Flame was Significance. Significance is defined as "worthy of attention," "with meaning," "important." In terms of Scripture, it is a word which resonates deeply with God's words from heaven at the Baptism of Jesus, and the Transfiguration, "You are my Beloved."

One young person from a parish in Wiltshire said 'this has opened my eyes to my part in the Church and that I'm part of something bigger!'

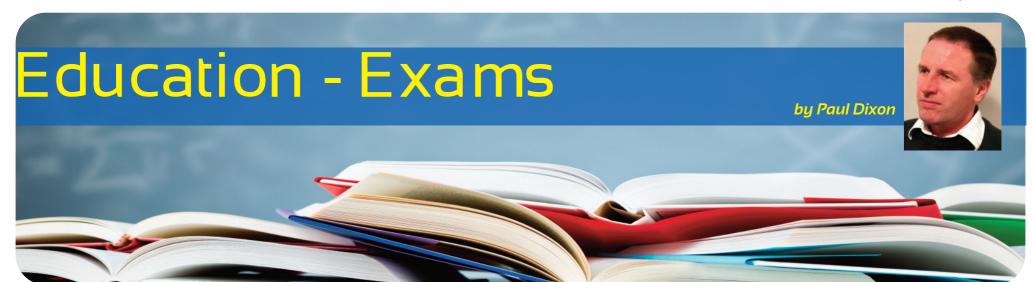
One of the speakers was Archbishop Eamon Martin, the Primate of All Ireland, who said:

"You are personally called to holiness".

On the journey home some of the young people from the Plymouth Diocese shared their #significant moments. Veronica recalled the dynamic

Robert Madu who highlighted the importance of "staying in your own lane and keeping your eye of Jesus".

Santiago, another festival-goer, commented on "not comparing myself with other people". Inspiring and powerful lessons for our youngsters to take forward. Paddy's #significant moment came from the Catenians who shared their experiences of working across the world. He was inspired and is considering getting involved him-



t this time of year, young people face the challenge of exams. Around exam time, one also hears reference to the Prayer to 17th Century St Joseph of Cupertino for success in examinations. In part, it reads: 'O Great St Joseph of Cupertino who while on earth did obtain from God the grace to be asked at your examination only the questions you knew, obtain for me a like favour in the examinations for which I am now preparing.'

While it is indeed a good call - a God call - to place your preparation for, taking of, and results of your examinations in the hands of God, I wouldn't recommend relying on any divine intervention to tweak the already-written exam questions so that they fit in with your study plans.

In recent years, exam boards have received some challenges to the results awarded, from those who believe the marks are wrong. Injustices, of course, need to be corrected; yet, I've not heard of any school or candidate appealing when results turn out to be

significantly better than expected.

The virtue of justice demands that students/exam candidates get what they deserve, no more, no less. In other words, exam results ought to truly reflect student ability and effort, as well as being an accurate measure of the standard of work presented in the exam.

Probably, the most common mistake exam candidates make, is not answering the question(s) set. Instead, they provide answers to questions they would like to be on the exam paper but are not actually there, hoping that what they write will somehow do. It won't! Read the question paper carefully, think about what it is asking of you, and then get on with it: respond to the actual question(s) asked.

The Oxford Dictionary defines the word 'examine' as to 'inspect (someone or something) thoroughly in order to determine their nature or condition'. In the 16th Century, St Ignatius of Loyola advocated examining the details of our daily lives to find

God's presence. Indeed, Ignatian Spirituality involves 'finding God in all things'. The basic idea is that we can find God in everything, including the ordinary and mundane - yes, even in the taking of exams.

To help achieve this awareness of God's presence, Ignatius stressed the importance of using the Examen. It involves gratefully reviewing the events of the day with God's help. Through regular use of the Examen, one becomes more attentive to the presence of God in one's life, and better able to discern where God is leading. It becomes a way of living. For reference, see www.ignatianspirituality.com. Plymouth Diocese also has its own Ignatian Spirituality Group (See Diocesan handbook).

By the age at which young people take their various examinations, many will have fallen away from the Faith. Part of the reason for this, possibly, is because they have not learnt how to attune themselves to God's presence in the ordinary events of their upbringing, schooling, friendships, joys

and struggles.

When exam results get published this August, at which time schools and colleges parade their academic successes, one wonders how many students moving on to the next stage in their life will do so with little or no awareness of God working in their lives. That's a shame. As 4th Century St Augustine eventually learnt, discerning God's call and responding to it, is to follow what one's heart truly desires. 'Thou hast made us for thyself. O Lord. and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.'

Learning to find God in the ordinary events of life is, perhaps, the most valuable and life-changing qualification we can help our youth to achieve. The subject matter of the Examen is 'your life'. Remember, answer the questions set:

Where is God in your life? What is God asking of you?



Koulourakia (Greek butter biscuits)

These Greek biscuits taste like shortbread but are not quite as sweet. Especially lovely with coffee.

Ingredients

- 225g butter, softened
- 150g caster sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 275g plain flour
- 1 egg, beaten





- 1. Preheat the oven to 200 C / Gas mark 6. Grease baking trays or line with parchment.
- 2. In a medium bowl, cream together the butter, sugar and egg until smooth. Stir in the vanilla and almond extracts. Blend in the flour to form a dough, you may have to knead by hand at the end. Take about a teaspoon of dough at a time and roll into twists, 'S' shapes or wreaths. If the dough is too wet, you may need to add extra flour to make the rolling easier.
- 3. Place cookies 2 to 5cm apart onto the prepared trays. Brush with beaten egg.
- 4. Bake for 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or until lightly browned and firm.

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> Third Sundays. 3pm Sung Mass No Mass Easter Sunday

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

4th Sundays 3.00pm Sung Mass (1) No Mass in the month of May

Lanherne Convent, St Mawgan, NEWQUAY, Cornwall TR8 4ER Sundays at 7.40am

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Our Lady's, Old Mill Lane, MARNHULL, Dorset DT10 1JX Thursday 13th June 12 noon Low Mass Our Lady of Lourdes & St Cecilia, White Cliff Mill Street,

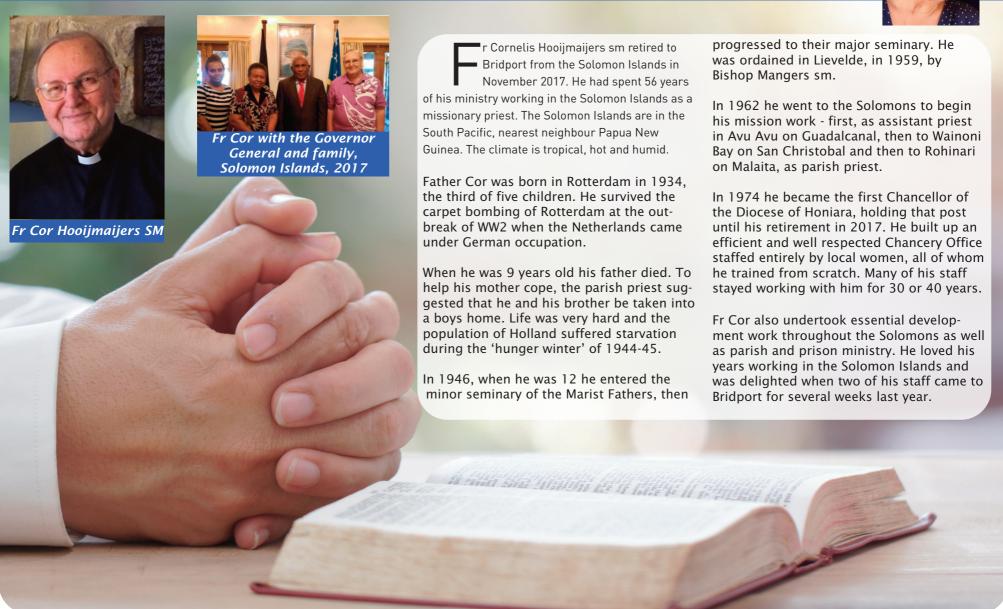
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Saturday 4th May 12 noon (Holy English and Welsh Martyrs).

Any questions contact Maurice Ouinn (LMS Rep. Devon and Dorset) on either: Email: devon@lms.org.uk Mob. 07555536579

By Pat McEvoy







Facts, Figures and Fake News

Below are various fact and figures. One is not true - see if you can work out which one is Fake News! The answer is at the bottom - just so you know that all the others are true.

- Big-Bang theory was proposed by a Catholic priest, Monsignor Georges Lemaitre.
- Over the past 100 years, the number of Catholics around the world as tripled from 291 million in 1910 to 1.1 billion in 2010.
- It was the Catholic Church that added modern-day chapters and numbered verses to the Bible.
- Anyone can baptise in an emergency situation (such as a car crash). Any person, Catholic or not, can pour the water and say the words. The only requirement is to follow the wishes of the person you are baptising.
- The Catholic Church has had 235 Popes from Peter to Pope Francis on average each Papacy lasts eight and a half years long.
- The first black person to be documented as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church was known as Saint Maurice (a.k.a. St. Mauritius or St. Moritz). He was a 3rd-century Roman soldier born in Egypt who was martyred when he refused to massacre Christians for the Roman Empire.
- While there is no definitive "head count," based on history, the Roman martyrology, and Orthodox sources, scholars estimate that there are over 10,000 saints and beati ("blesses ones").
- The tradition of honouring saints actually came from the Jews who had a long-standing tradition of honouring prophets and holy people with shrines.
- The fish, or ICHTHUS, is the symbol used by early Christians to identify themselves in times of persecution. In Greek, ICHTHUS (IX Θ Y Σ) is a monogram for the first five letters of the words "Jesus Christ Son of God, Saviour."

Fake News: There have been 266 Popes - making the average Papacy seven and a half years long.

View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams





definition / defi'nisn/not tion of the meaning of dictionary definition 2 somethin CSW looks at Salvation

Background

The word Salvation originated in English around 1200AD. It's original Christian meaning is, "the saving of the soul,". It isfrom Old French salvaciun and directly from Late Latin salvationem (nominative salvatio, a Church Latin translation of Greek soteria, noun of action from past participle stem of salvare "to save"

Church Teaching

In the Catholic theological understanding of salvation, after the Fall, humanity was "wounded by sin", and "stands in need of salvation from God". God invites us to enter into relationship with Him, and grace (Divine help), which is a gift from God, helps us to respond to this invitation by believing in Christ and the truth of the Catholic Church.

Christ died as a satisfaction for human's offence against God's honour, committed by human sinful behavior. Baptism is necessary for salvation. It erases original sin, unites the person with Jesus Christ, infuses grace or Divine help, and

gives him justification. When one is baptised, one is saved. Christ can work apart and before the Sacrament of Baptism, as desire for eventual baptism is grace enough to be saved, since God is not tied to the salvation of persons by means only of his instituted sacraments. To maintain salvation and grace, one has to perform good works and participate in the sacraments.

'Total salvation of the body and of the soul is the final destiny to which God calls all of humanity...Founded in faith, sustained by hope, and working in charity, with the example of Mary, Mother of the Savior and first among the saved, we are certain that 'our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

> Placuit Deo (It Has Pleased God) Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, March 2018

Putting the cart before the horse

xistentialism, like most long words, is easier to understand than to spell. The basic idea of is that our nature is shaped by our actions as we progressively become the ever-evolving sum of our acts. We make of ourselves what we are. Existentialism per se denies that we inherit any features or traits. We start life as a blank sheet of paper, nothing inherited, nothing innate. That obviously puts Chomsky and Saussure in opposing corners of the ring: one in the blue corner, one in the red. In the same way that any parent recognises family traits in their offspring - what with wee Johnny having Aunt Maud's eyes and bad temper - Catholic existentialism maintains that we can and that we do inherit, that we are born in an image but that we are still the architects of what we become: free will within firmly dictated parameters. I go along with that.

The idea of inheriting yet independently evolving must surely apply also to society, composed as it is of its constituent members. Society then will also develop over time as it runs its trans-generational relay race, the baton of inheritance being passed down through the ages.

'Approximately one in ten of the UK's population is Ċatholic'

The term 'society', a short umbrella word, which therefore has wide breadth and profound depth of application covering a host of meanings, can refer to a basic family unit - such as a husband and wife - or a larger family unit or group, association, team, club, tribe, sect, nation, union or whatever congeries, each with its respective terms of association, its code of behaviour, its rules of membership, its allegiance, its protocol, its 'understanding' among members. And all the

while any such form of society act and behave, so will its nature and character evolve. Nothing can be made to stand still.

Problems arise when the member of any social group rejects the collective rules to which they have subscribed yet they may still want or even demand the freedoms - facilities, opportunities, benefits, entitlements and protection - offered by membership. They forget that with entitlement comes responsi-

The freedoms we traditionally enjoy, inherent in British society, inherited over time, have been largely fought for and won on Christian principles. People forget that point. The irony these days is that, under the protection of the inherited Christian principles of tolerance, there are vociferous minority voices within society bent on destroying the safeguards which the majority of us support in protecting the wellbeing of each and every one of us.

'A politician's focus can readily go off target'

Approximately one in ten of the UK's population is Catholic, slightly more than the Asian population, yet the Catholic lobby putting aside other Christian communities - is largely ignored, often criticised, readily mocked and even condemned or attacked - in what can otherwise be a minoritysensitive or even minority-obsessed society. A politician's focus can readily go off target with disproportionate favour in our entitlement-heavy, responsibility-light world towards numerically smaller, noisier and often destructive interests.

It's not for me to delve deep into a philosophical treatise. God forbid! But we don't need one. To my mind it's better that the horse keeps pulling the cart ... and certainly before the one, by its very actions, evolves existentially into the other.

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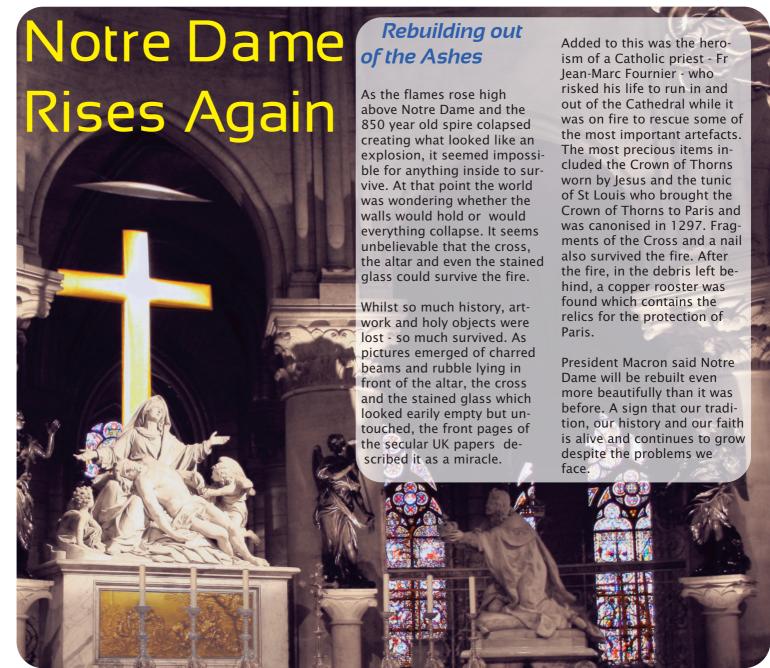
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Backstage

The idea behind the

Dowry Tour

by Derek Williams

n August 2017, the Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham offered an idea to the leadership team at the Shrine. To rededicate England as the Dowry of Mary. In order to prepare the nation for this rededication a preparation period of two years was proposed. In this period the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham would be taken to every Cathedral in England and Wales.

This idea was subsequently proposed by the Rector, Mgr John Armitage, to the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. They accepted it, but it was to be confined to England which is the Dowry of Mary.

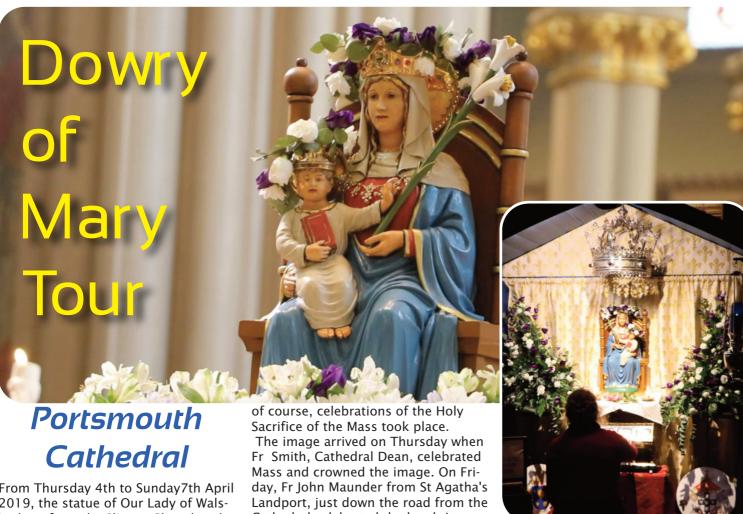
The idea was then taken to the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom which has a principle mission as 'The Conversion of England and Wales'. The Guild has been instrumental in spreading devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham and in helping rebuild the shrine. As a result they became the principle sponsors of the

In January 2018 the Rector wrote to every Catholic Bishop in England and subsequently to every Cathedral Dean confirming the Tour and asking for dates to hold a triduum of prayer in every Cathedral. The triduum would begin on a Thursday around 5pm and conclude with a midday Mass on Saturday. This would enable the statue of Our Lady to be back in the Slipper chapel for Sunday when we always attract large numbers of pilgrims.

In spring 2018 the Dowry Tour team at Walsingham were very busy working out how the tour would look. After some deliberation it was agreed that we would take an exhibition detailing the history of the Dowry and the Shrine. However, there was a very crucial element missing. As we studied both the history of the Dowry and the history of the shrine it became very clear that the Walsingham message was really about a house. Our Lady led Richeldis in spirit to Nazareth and showed her the house where the angel had greeted her:

"Look, daughter," said Our Lady, "take the measurements of this house and erect another like it in Walsingham, dedicated to praising and honouring me. All who come there shall find help in their need. It shall be a perpetual memorial to the great joy of the Annunciation, ground and origin of all of my joys, and the root of humanity's gracious redemption. This came about through Gabriel's message that I would be a mother through my humility, and conceive God's Son in virginity."

We had no idea what the original house looked like, but we used our imagination. So when we head out to each Cathedral we take the Slipper Chapel statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, a Holy House which houses the statue, an exhibition, and a shop.



From Thursday 4th to Sunday7th April 2019, the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham from the Slipper Chapel at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham visited St John's Cathedral as part of the Dowry of Mary Tour around all the Catholic Cathedrals in England in preparation for the Re-dedication of England as Mary's Dowry in 2020.

We give thanks for the many graces received from the visit during which a packed programme of talks on the Dowry of Mary, Marian devotions and,

Cathedral celebrated the lunchtime Mass in the Cathedral which was offered in the distinctive Ordinariate Use of the Roman Rite: the first time this form has been offered in the Cathedral. Then in the evening, I celebrated a Votive Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham which concluded with the Act of Consecration to Our Lady. On Saturday, we welcomed Dom Cuthbert Brogan OSB, Abbot of Farnborough to celebrate the lunchtime Mass.





Plymouth Cathedral

The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham will be at the Cathedral in Plymouth this month, from 16-18 May.

Thursday

5.00 pm - Opening Rosary of intercession

6.00 pm - Solemn Holy Mass & pro-

Main celebrant: Bishop Mark O'Toole 7.15 pm - 8.00 pm Talk: Dowry of Mary, Mgr John Armitage

Friday

9.00 am - Rosary & Litany of Saints 11.00 am - Schools' Holy Mass Main celebrant: Mgr John Armitage 12.00 pm - Angelus

2.00 pm - Rosary for vocations 2.50 pm - Adoration & Divine Mercy

Sacrament of Reconciliation available 4.00 pm - Holy Mass i(Ordinariate Rite)

5.00 pm - Talk: Dowry of Mary by Mgr John Armitage

6.00 pm - Angelus and Holy Mass Main celebrant: Canon Mark O'Keeffe 6.45 pm - 8,00 pm Eucharistic healing service and Benediction

Saturday

9.10 am - Rosary & Litany of Saints 10.00 am - Adoration Sacrament of Reconciliation available 11.10 am Talk Dowry of Mary by Mgr John Armitage

12.00pm Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham

Clifton Cathedral

For those in the Clifton Diocese you will have to wait until 20th - 22nd February 2020 until the Dowry Tour comes to Clifton Cathedral.

> For more info see www.dowrytour.org.uk

A Prayer to the Virgin Mary

This is a prayer that is never known to fail, a prayer for a very special intention, in your most needed time, so this is not your everyday prayer.

Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me show herein, you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven and earth!

I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in this necessity (say your intention). There are none that can withstand your power, oh show me herein that you are my Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Holy Mother, I place this course in your hands. (Say this portion of the prayer three times).

Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, in all instances of my life you are with me. I want, in this short prayer, to thank you for all things, as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

After the prayer, recite nine Hail Mary's and also you can include the "Queen of the most Holy Rosary, Pray for us.'

Recite this prayer for three consecutive days and on the last day after you pray, publish it and your intention will be guaranteed.

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and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of

sinners, now and at the

God, pray for us

hour of our death.

For each gold **bead** say an Our **Father**

START

Say the Creed first

Jesus rises from the Dead

FINISH - say the Hail Holy Queen

For each blue bead say the Hail Mary

Ask for the words for the Creed and the Hail Holy Queen

Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.



The children's pages are taken from Reach - the quarlerly newspaper for children and parents at **Catholic Schools and Parishes**

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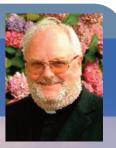


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rayer

by Fr Denis Blackledge



RISEN AND RISKY



oving Lord, resurrection scared me stiff. Facing you, fresh and risen, broken and given,

is no easy matter.

I can understand why your first friends

were bolted behind locked doors and were frightened out of their wits

by the talk of you as really risen. After all, it's much easier to cope with a dead body than to follow you marked for life.

Living, yes, living in a resurrection world

means always a fuller-frontal facing of you, Lord.

You look me straight in the eye and say 'Do you love me?' You look me straight in the eye and say 'Peace be with you'.

You look me straight in the eye and say 'Follow me'.

You look me straight in the eye and say 'You'll do greater things

You look me straight in the eye

and say 'I forgive you'. Loving Lord,

your resurrection, livingness and

lovingness is so overpowering,

too much for me to take on board.

Heart-busting. Mind-boggling.

I can only take a little at a time.

Loving Lord,

and when I hear you saying to me

'I am sending you' it's all too much. Why pick on me?

Why not pass me by and let the next person

be your messenger?

Yes, you make demands that are demanding.

It's no pretence, this resurrection world,

it colours all I am and can. it centres me on you, Lord.

Loving Lord,

and the same Good News is true for each man, woman and child. Yet how slow each one of us is to really listen

to this astonishing Good News that your rising makes all the difference

to how I see the world around me, and in particular how I see the individuals around me.

Resurrection rings new bells. It means each of us is called to greatness.

It means each of us meant to be an encourager.

It means a re-awakening of our very

selfhood as gift to be ever more fully re-

ceived

and as task to be worked at more eagerly.

It means the end of complacency, the end of compromise.

It means a new start,

a new vision,

a new hope,

a new horizon, a new world.

Risen, Loving Lord, let me see again.

Amen.

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QUOTES



The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

Chinese Proverb

For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others, for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness, and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone. Audrey Hepburn



66

Good, better, best. Never let it rest, 'Until your good is better and your better is best.'

St Jerome

Happiness radiates like the fragrance from a flower and draws good things towards you.

Marharishi Mahesh Yogi



A little nonsense now and then, is relished by the wisest men.

Roald Dahl

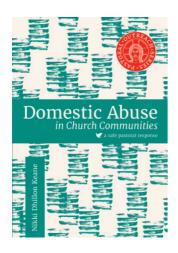
A tree is known by its fruit: a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; those who sow courtesy reap friendship, and those who plant kindness gather love.



DOMESTIC ABUSE IN CHURCH **COMMUNITIES**

A safe pastoral response

Nikki Dillon Keane Redemptorist Publications, 82 pages, pbk, 2018, £4.99



The author is a counsellor with extensive experience in the field of domestic abuse. She has written a superb, sensitive and sensible book on this life-and-death issue. In ten brief chapters she begins by explaining what domestic abuse is, who is affected by it, how it happens, and how to understand spiritual abuse. Areas covered include feeling scared by a partner, how to help someone else, how to create a safe helping environment, and how to give appropriate spiritual support. She moves into the delicate area of working with perpetrators, as well as self-care and safety for helpers. She ends by providing organisations, resources, and further reading material.

Domestic abuse is potentially fatal. Domestic violence, intimate partner violence, domestic violence and abuse are defined in law, and there is victim/survivor and perpetrator. In 2013 the UK government defined domestic abuse as follows: "Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged sixteen or over who are, or who have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality." There is a variety of kinds of violence: psychological, emotional, isolation, physical, sexual, economic, neglect, stalking, harassment, digital, spiritual. All are based on power and control as the central focus of any abusive rela-

The shocking figures are often not known. In the UK every six seconds a woman is assaulted in her home; one in four women will experience domestic abuse at some point; one in four of all rapes are connected to domestic abuse; and on average two women a

week are murdered by their partner or ex-partner, and up to ten women a week commit suicide as a result of such abuse. Domestic abuse can affect men and women of any age group; it happens across every culture and socio-economic group and level of education; and is often unrecognised. People living with chronic illness or disability are twice as likely to be victims. Dating abuse is increasingly common among young

people. Children and the elderly are often at risk, as are people far from their country of origin, and LGBT+ communities. And one in six men experience domestic abuse at some point in their life.

There is a regular cycle of how such abuse develops. Perpetrators are subtle: they do not behave abusively at the start of a relationship. There is almost always a period of "grooming", before chipping away at the victim's confidence, and disrupting relationships with family and friends. After a so-called honeymoon period, tension builds; then an abusive incident occurs, followed by reconciliation. The victim may not realise that abuse is occurring, but there may be threats, fear of death, combined with a sense of duty and having nowhere to go, as well as sheer exhaustion.

Various myths need to be debunked concerning perpetrators. Here is a list: they do it because they have a mental health problem; they do it because they have an alcohol or drug problem; they do it because they have anger issues or problems controlling their temper; they do it because of their culture or religion; they do it because they were a victim of abuse in the past.

There are three main forms of spiritual abuse: preventing someone from practising their religion or spirituality against their will; forcing someone to practise a religion or spirituality likewise against their will; or using a twisted form of religious or spiritual teaching to gain or maintain control over another person, or to coerce them to stay in an abusive relationship. There are various crass ways of colluding with spiritual abuse. The author quotes eleven such pieces of socalled "advice" on page 39, which are actual quotes from actual "advice" given. They are phenomenally stupid and dangerous.

In Catholic Canon Law Canon 1153 says clearly: "A spouse who occasions grave danger of soul or body to the other or to the children, or otherwise makes the common life unduly difficult, provides the other spouse with a reason to leave, either by a decree of the local bishop or, if there is danger in delay, even on his or her own authority." In other words, psychological, spiritual or physical abuse is sufficient reason to leave a spouse.

For a spouse who is scared of his or her partner, the author lists seven things it might help to know: you are not alone; it's not your fault; God does not want you to suffer; nothing is wrong with you; people can help; safety comes first; and you are impor-

When it comes to offering help, if there is immediate danger to spouse or children, call 999 straight away. If safeguarding measures are needed, follow the procedure laid down by local church or place of worship, but tell the victim/survivor of this notification. If the case is non-urgent, there is need to be aware of safety considerations: any intervention has the capacity to increase risk, so make sure what is the safest method of contact. Perpetrators, for example, often check mobile phones, or hack into email accounts. It often takes a team of professionals with different areas of expertise to deal with abuse situations. but there is also an important role for non-professionals too. Certain kinds of support are not helpful: do not suggest anger management training for perpetrators. And do not suggest relationship, couple therapy, family therapy or marriage enrichment programmes.

Recognising the signs of domestic abuse is key. The perpetrator will exhibit jealousy and possessiveness, control, or imbalance of power in relationship. The victim/survivor will shows signs of isolation, self-neglect, change of appearance or behaviour, fear of spouse, or physical injuries. Though perpetrators are clever, and cause injuries that cannot be seen.

Reacting and responding to disclosure may be helpful or unhelpful. Unhelpful reactions include disbelief or minimisation; victim-blaming; feeling overwhelmed, or excessively angry; believing that the perpetrator is not

that dangerous; or even trying to heal the relationship or save the marriage. By recognising these instinctive natural reactions they can be overcome. Safe and helpful responding needs to be clear from the start of the kind of help you can and cannot offer: be clear about your limitations, about confidentiality, and about safeguarding. Give time, understanding, reassurance, and encourage the creation of a safety plan as you help the person access support safely. And, with permission, jot down the key points shared by the victim. Check up on them, work alongside professional services, and enable the person to feel valued and believed.

Helpful stories of individual victim/ survivors are dotted throughout the book. When it comes to spiritual abuse there is a distressing story of how a woman who used to go to a prayer group was abandoned by the members of the group when she left her partner who was abusing her. It is important to be familiar with the teachings of your faith about gender equality, healthy relationships and abuse, and to understand how to challenge internalised spiritual abuse, and to create abuse-free communities.

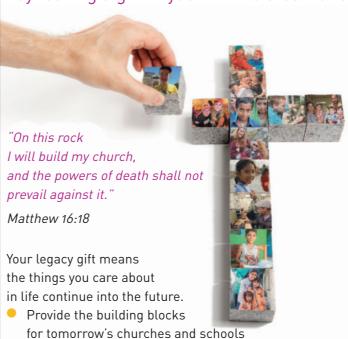
Sensible advice is provided about never approaching a perpetrator, as this may put the victim/survivor at risk. And what to do should a perpetrator approach you to ask for help, plus rules for staying safe around perpetrators. Finally, a dozen self-care tips are proposed for helpers.

All in all, this is a superb practical manual, written from the heart by a counsellor with extensive experience in this delicate and difficult field.

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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

- 5 Recipient of Paul's letter that destabilized rich nation (10)
- 8 Philosopher's utter pretentiousness (4)
- 9 Aaron's wife is with the priest, the scoundrel son of 4? (8)
- 10 Principal faction of the IRA, given time (7)
- 11 Trifle with this 3 character, for instance (4)
- 13 Church composer means little in Wales (4)
- 15 A royal seal about to be given to a body of water (4,3)
- 18 Forebear little boy getting to popular jelly first (8)
- 19 Celtic language after humankind multiplied (4)
- 20 Hot stews among diverse spread in period before the fast (10)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Don's place eats up mucho euros, tovarich! (6)
- 2 Thiamin's oily, but there's no resistance in New Orleans (3.4)
- 3 Elevated inner area of Athens? (5)
- 4 Descendant of 18's church is held in one takenover bar (6)
- 6 Petra they made eat bananas mushed up (10)
- 7 Where Paul landed in Crete markets line the harbour (4.6)
- 12 One idiot's introduced in attempt to make a trio (7)
- 14 Jeremiah is sick, without yours truly, on return

flight from Mecca (6)

- 16 3 character's father's contracted to follow the Lord (6)
- 17 I love in old Italy being on Venice's banks, being awake (5)

QUICK Across

- 5 Order of architecture: amateur sportsman (10)
- 8 Influential German idealist philosopher (1724-1804) (4)
- 9 Wife of Aaron (8)
- 10 Dignitary presiding over a cathedral or college church (7)
- 11 Ninth letter of the Greek alphabet (4)
- 13 Family of German (Protestant) church composers (4)
- 15 Lake of Central Asia now only a quarter of the area it was in 1960 (4,3)
- 18 Youngest son of Jacob (8)
- 19 British language officially extinct in 1974 (4)
- 20 Season immediately preceding Lent (10)

QUICK Down

- 1 ----- -on-Don: Russian city, centre for the resurgence of Cossack nationalism (6)
- 2 Nickname for New Orleans (3,4)
- 3 Of or concerning the Greek region which encompasses Athens (5)

- - 4 Father of Sheba who rebelled against David (6)
 - 6 Biblical people whose capital was Petra in modern Jordan (10)
 - 7 Port in Crete where Paul docked on his way to Rome (4,6)
 - 12 In Christianity the union which makes up one Godhead (7)
 - 14 Flight of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina in 622, beginning the Muslim era (variant spelling) (6)
 - 16 Eleventh letter of the Greek alphabet (6)
 - 17 Stir up, affect (archaic); remove (legal) (5)

SOLUTION

Down: 1 Rostov, 2 Big Easy, 3 Attic, 4 Bichri, 6 Nabataeans, 7 Fair Havens, 12 Trinity, 14 Hejira, 16 Lambda, 17 Amove.

Across: 5 Corinthian, 8 Kant, 9 Elisheba, 10 Provost, 11 lota, 13 Bach, 15 Aral Sea, 18 Benjamin, 19 Manx, 20 Shrovetide.



The Annual Novena in honour of St Rita of Cascia patron of the helpless

begins at St. Rita's Centre, Honiton, Devon on 14th May and finishes with Mass at 12 noon on 22nd May. Following Mass roses will be blessed for distribution to the sick.

After the feast day blessed rose petals will be sent out to those who request them.

To join in the novena please write to: St Rita's Promotions, St Rita's Retreat & Conference Centre, Ottery Moor Lane, Honiton, Devon EX14 1AP For more information: 01404 42635.

Email: <u>stritas@btinternet.com</u> Web site: stritascentre.org