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Catholic *South West*

Serving the
Church in the
South West

December 2019

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Catholic South West CONTACTS & DETAILS

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 West.

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.

GET INVOLVED

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 description - please send it in.

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. 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.

SUBMITTING EDITORIAL

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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 editorial please do it as early as possible.

FROM CSW

Christmas seems to come round faster and faster each year. Therefore, Advent seems shorter every year, and before we know it...Christmas will be here!

So what are we going to do to prepare for Christmas this year? What will our Advent journey be? Where do we want to end up?

The obvious answer is with the baby Jesus - and that is a lovely image. But where do we find Jesus in our lives?

Where we find him, will determine the journey we take. Perhaps we will find him in reading the Bible, or maybe in feeding the poor. Knowing this - will help us make that Advent journey. But we

should always keep in mind that where we intend to go, may not be where God wants us to go. So if it doesn't go to plan, if we end up somewhere else - maybe someone else had planned a different Advent journey.

CSW TEAM

Closing church-run schools and healthcare facilities in Eritrea denies 'fundamental human rights', says Bishop Declan



Eritrean Catholics in London and those standing in solidarity with them engaged in a 'day of witness and vigil for the Eritrea people and Catholic Church' on Saturday 2 November.

Bishop Declan Lang, addressing those gathered through his representative Fr Mark Odion MSP, at the Piazza of Westminster Cathedral, expressed his 'deepest sadness' at news that the government in Eritrea had seized and closed a number of schools and healthcare facilities run by the Catholic Church and other faith communities in the country.

This year alone 21 healthcare centres have been confiscated in Eritrea. In previous years, a total of eight healthcare centres were nationalised, taking the total to 29 centres forcibly seized by the Eritrean government.

"These healthcare centres are almost exclusively established in rural areas and small towns to serve the needs of the poor

and the needy in society," said Bishop Lang, Chair of the Bishops' International Affairs department. "The seizure of these facilities is, therefore, tantamount to a huge depravity of healthcare assistance to a large section of the population and certainly will have a lasting negative effect on the poor and may ultimately lead to the loss of innocent lives."

"Through the schools and health facilities, the Catholic Church in Eritrea serves the most vulnerable members of the society: the sick, the poor, the elderly, women and children. In addition, the Catholic Church runs orphanages and maternity wards in those rural communities. To confiscate these facilities and institutions translates to a denial of the fundamental inalienable human rights of the poor Eritreans to education and medical assistance, thus casting a bleak future for those poor and needy nationals."

Expressing solidarity with the Eritrean community in the UK and the entire

Catholic family in Eritrea over the "unlawful and unconstitutional" confiscation of the schools and healthcare institutions, Bishop Lang praised the humanitarian mission of the Catholic Church in the east African country.

"We are aware of the great remarkable humanitarian service that the Church's healthcare centres provide to all the people of Eritrea and we were distressed to learn of the recent decision by the government to close the healthcare centre and the schools. The Church's witness in trying to provide the best healthcare to the people of your country, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, is a visible sign of its commitment to the good of Eritrea, and its fidelity to the Gospel."

The Bishop concluded his address with an appeal to the Eritrean government: "We join in solidarity with the Eritreans here in the UK to appeal to the Eritrea Government to reconsider their decisions and to return the Schools and healthcare facilities back to the Church."

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 important 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 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!

LEGAL INFORMATION

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Diocesan Award 2019



On Saturday 19th October at Plymouth Cathedral, Bishop Mark welcomed a number of parishioners together with their friends and families for the annual Diocesan Awards Ceremony. These parishioners have been involved in a whole host of initiatives and parish activities and the Diocesan Award hopes to shine a light on their amazing work.

This year they were awarded to:

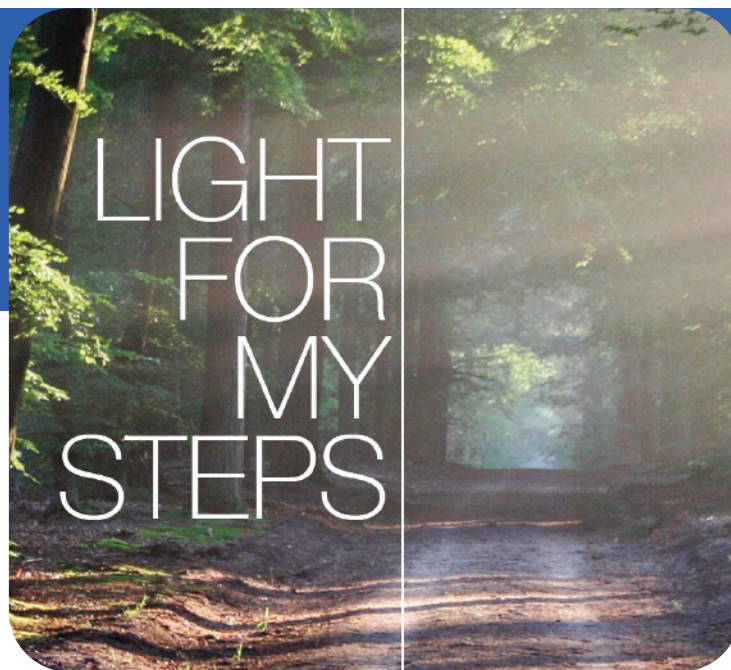
- St Mary's Barnstaple – **Julia Nott**
- St John the Baptist & The Assumption, Camborne – **Monica Biscoe**
- St Joseph's & St Walburga, Poole – **John Gregory, Edgar Riches**
- Our Lady and St Neot, Liskeard – **Richard Patt, Lesley Morgan**
- St Boniface, Okehampton & Holy Family,

- Chagford – **Norma Hynes, Mr & Mrs Teo**
 - St James & St Boniface, Tiverton – **Bridget Tosh, Teresa Cummings**
 - Our Lady Star of the Sea, Brixham – **Patricia Thomas**
 - St John the Baptist, Dartmouth – **Sheila Cripps, Dorothy Sheppard**
- Congratulations to all who received awards and thank you for their service to the church and Diocese.

Gather 2020

The annual GATHER Conference unites people from across the Diocese of Plymouth and further afield for a weekend of faith, formation and friendship. In 2020 we will gather at the Best Western Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay from Friday 31 January – Sunday 2 February.

This year we are delighted to welcome our speakers; Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ, director of the Religious Life Institute. Sr Gemma



is a teacher, spiritual and retreat director and a passionate advocate of the treasure that is the spiritual tradition of St Ignatius of Loyola; Mgr Robert Draper, Vicar General of the Diocese of Plymouth. Fr Robert is a parish priest, a teacher and preacher and has a gift of bringing scripture to life through his reflections; Fr Anthony O'Gorman, parish priest of Newquay, Cornwall. Fr Anthony leads the annual diocesan youth pilgrimage to Lourdes and is experienced in supporting the faith of young people.

To find out even more about Gather 2020 and to book your place, go to www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/farewell-to-some-wonderful-sisters-2/



Around the South West

Minehead Parishioner celebrates Centenary!

We are delighted to celebrate our "Centenarian" parishioner in Minehead/Sacred Heart Parish recently.



Pictured are Mrs Helen Dowley and Fr Michael Thomas just after a special Mass which was celebrated in Eastleigh Residential Home in Minehead. Assisted by myself Deacon David Croucher, who regularly visits the Home's residents, Fr Michael presented Mrs Dowley with a framed Papal Blessing to commemorate her 100th birthday in October, after the Mass. With a lively mind, she was delighted both by the Holy Mass and her Papal Blessing, reminding us that she was on the last ship to leave Singapore before the Japanese invasion.

Reverend Deacon David Croucher

Celebrating Bamenda Sunday in Farnborough



The Parish of Our Lady & St Dominic, Cove, Farnborough celebrated Bamenda Sunday at the 10.00 Mass. Several parishioners are originally from Bamenda and wear traditional festive clothing and lead the Offertory procession every Bamenda Sunday. This year we were also joined by the Reading International Choir many of whose members are originally from Cameroon. They sang a full joyful liturgy in African style, with the parish community joining in some of the refrains. There was an appeal and collection for the Bamenda Fund which raised £775.55 and afterwards Bamenda speciality refreshments were served in the church hall along with the usual tea and coffee.

Send us your news
csw@cathcom.org

An Historic day in Penzance



The 176th anniversary of the opening of our fine, large parish church on 26th October 1843 was marked this year on the previous Wednesday, 23rd, when Bishop Mark came to consecrate the altar in the newly-formed crypt chapel and bless the two graves of Fr. John Hearn and Mr. John Burke. Father Hearn, who as far as we know was only passing thorough Penzance in 1846, died here on 16th December 1846, and was buried in the crypt on Christmas Eve. He was only 42, and had been the Priest at the Sardinian Embassy Chapel in London, and his brother, Edward, also a priest, who was at the Bavarian Embassy Chapel. The two brothers were instrumental in obtaining the first London House of the Sisters of Mercy, in Queen's Square, Bloomsbury in 1844. Father Hearn's grave has been marked with an A.W.N. Pugin Brass since 1851. made by his friend and founder owner of Hardman & Co, Birmingham, who's daughter was the first Pri- oress of the Sisters of Mercy convent in that city. This has been restored in time for the dedication. Another grave was on the other side of the crypt, but nothing was known about the occupant.

This we discovered to be Mr. John Burke, of Kilkenny, who was aged 77 when he died in Penzance on 16th October 1851. His occupation was given as 'Gentleman' on the copy of the Death Certificate we have obtained. With the necessary Ministry of Justice authorisation, his grave was opened and the unopened lead-lined cof-

fin, exhumed and re-buried (with full Rites of the Church) in the newly formed chapel area. The former crypt for most of their time was used as a store/dumping ground. They now have an appropriate chapel to rest in peace, after nearly 170 years. Deo Gratias!

We were delighted to welcome to the Mass, 6 Sisters of Mercy who had journeyed from London to be with us. Apologies had been received from the former Daughters of the Cross in Hayle, the Mensa of the new altar coming from their former Convent chapel.

The Mass began with the hymn of St. Bernard of Cluny, 'Jerusalem the golden'. The Kyrie and Agnus Dei were sung to a setting by David Gridley (both our Director of Music and Clerk of Works), dedicated to St Eugene de Mazenod, who visited this church in 1850. The Sanctus was from the Missa Cum Jubilo (Plainsong Masses of Our Lady) and the Communion motet 'Laudate Dominum', with music by G.O. Pitoni (1657-1743). In thanksgiving at the end of the Mass, all joined in singing the Plain-song 'Te Deum', as had been sung at the opening of the church in 1843.

Bishop Mark was very moved by the occasion and spoke movingly to us too. The Homily he had prepared he said he would discard and speak off-the-cuff!

Picking up from the 1st reading of Jacob's

dream of the ladder going from earth to heaven, and making the stone he had used as a pillow for an altar, which he anointed, and which Bishop Mark did here after the homily. The Bishop felt exactly as Jacob, 'the Lord is in this place'. He likened us to the early Christians, meeting in the Catacombs for Mass, with their departed around them. The presence of the Sisters of Mercy, and the congregation, led him to speak of the vocation of all of us Priests, Sisters, Lay Faithful and encouraged us, as our predecessors had, to spread the Word of God in our day, as they had in theirs. The Bishop also told a memorable true story of his boyhood, when his mother took him and his brothers to Ireland to visit her aged aunt - the ladies spoke in Irish, so the boys didn't know what was being said, but mother was no doubt pouring out her heart about family life and problems and anxieties. The aunt said 'Think, when you see the priest pour the wine into the chalice, think of all your worries and problems going into the chalice as well, and as the priest elevates the chalice, all your problems, worries, anxieties are offered up to God, lifting them from earth to heaven.'

The floor of this newly created chapel tells a story in itself; as do many a stained glass window in our churches. It includes reclaimed Minton tiles designed by A.W. Pugin and of the same period of manufacture as our 1843 church, (and a timely acquisition by our Clerk of Works) of some

tiles saved from the bombed A.W.Pugin Convent chapel at Handsworth, the Birmingham home of the Sisters of Mercy, and recently made available through the Pugin Society.

These Quatrefoil patterned tiles are to be found either side of the new altar, and nearby a tile showing the 16th Earl of Shrewsbury's motif, who along with John Hardman, was one of the funders of the Handsworth Convent for the Sisters of Mercy. This floor then ties together the substantial efforts made by the Pugins and the Hardmans, along with their great Benefactor and supporter, the Earl of Shrewsbury who owned Alton Towers. The floor was designed by David Gridley, and augmented with new tiles made by the long-standing encaustic tile manufacturers; Craven Dunnill based in Ironbridge, and expertly laid by Jake Jay of Newquay. We are grateful to Neil Phillips (former owner of Pugin, Hardman & Powell) for some of the other Minton tiles included in this floor. Most notable, are the three sets in front of the altar with the words 'Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus' - lifting us all from earth to heaven as we join with the angels.

The celebration continued in the next room, with a buffet lunch, and much chat and enjoyment, to mark another stage of the pilgrim journey here in the 'far wild west of Cornwall', in which the importance of this church in Post-Reformation living history, plays such an important part of the Catholic Church in England.

Poetry Corner

By Margarita Engle

Kinship



Two sets of family stories,
one long and detailed, about many
centuries
of island ancestors, all living
on the same tropical farm...

The other side of the family tells
stories that are brief and vague,
about violence in the Ukraine,
which Dad's parents had to flee
forever, leaving all their loved ones
behind.

They don't even know if anyone
survived.

When Mami tells her flowery
tales of Cuba,
she fills the twining words with
relatives. But when I ask my
Ukrainian-Jewish-American
grandma about her childhood in a
village near snowy Kiev,
all she reveals is a single memory
of ice-skating on a frozen pond.

Apparently, the length of a grown-
up's growing-up story
is determined
by the difference
between immigration and escape.

Facts, Figures and Fake News

You might have heard there is an election on the horizon. This month's facts & figures are therefore all about elections around the world...

The most popular day for elections to be held around the world is Monday. There are some notable exceptions – in the US elections are held on Tuesdays and of course, here in the UK, every election since 1931 has been held on a Thursday.

If you don't vote in Australia – you'll get a fine. Australia is one of a few countries where voting is compulsory. They take it seriously too – if you don't pay the fine it will rise and ultimately you could face various penalties including losing your driving licence.

The most common age at which voting is allowed is 18 – 86% of countries have 18 as their minimum age. Just 5% of countries allow 16 year olds to vote and one country – the United Arab Emirates, requires you to wait until you are 25.

In Chile, men and women voted in separate polling stations until 2012. Although now it is no longer a requirement to have polling stations for different genders, it is still widely the case that men and women vote separately.

The world's biggest democracy is India. 900m voters took part in an election in April of this year. Votes were cast in seven stages across the nation and the time taken between the first vote cast and the last, was 39 days.

Fake Fact: The most popular day for elections to be held is actually Sunday not Monday.

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Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



ISAIAH'S HOPES FOR A SAVIOUR

As the days shorten and we prepare for our celebration of Christmas, the Church gives us the season of Advent to help us get ready for Christ's coming. Although living conditions have greatly changed since Our Lord was born 2000 years ago, our human situation is similar in many ways. Our world is marked by conflict and division, yet we long for all the nations of the world to unite peacefully. Isaiah expresses this hope, which we believe becomes possible with the coming of Christ.

On the First Sunday of Advent (1st December), we hear Isaiah's vision of the Jerusalem temple raised up on a high hill, with all the nations of the world gathering to worship the one true God. From Jerusalem, God's message of love and peace will spread out to the whole world. In this vision, the nations will convert their military weapons into farm implements and will abandon their preparations for war.

We believe that Christ's coming makes possible this transformation from conflict to peace, because he reconciles us

all. We look on the baby lying in the manger, who softens our hearts from violence and points us to our shared humanity that unites us all.

We hear Isaiah's prophecy of a new king on the Second Sunday of Advent (8th December). In today's world of complex problems, we need the wisdom of this descendant of David, this offshoot from the stump of Jesse.

On him will rest God's Spirit, bringing gifts of wisdom and understanding, counsel and fortitude, knowledge and fear of the Lord. Baby Jesus will grow up to offer us God's wisdom, lived out with fortitude. By dying and rising again, he will enable us to receive the Holy Spirit who will give us these gifts. During Advent we pray for the Holy Spirit to make us new.

The Isaiah reading that we hear on the Third Sunday of Advent (15th December) offers a wonderful vision of the desert blooming with wild flowers and God returning to his people. As a result, the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the

lame will leap like a deer.

In our world of today, many people long for health of mind or body. When Christ came to this earth, he cured the physically blind and the lame. He also healed those blinded from seeing God or from recognizing their neighbour. He restored spiritual strength to those incapacitated by sins committed or hurts received. Our Lord still has the power to heal us today in body, mind or spirit, if we turn to him.

Finally, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (22nd December), we hear Isaiah's prophecy of a royal baby who will have the name of Emmanuel, "God with us." In the prophet's own time, the people of Jerusalem faced a crisis of leadership. Many longed for a new king to guide them wisely into the way of peace. Isaiah promised that a maiden would give birth to a child, who would be a sign of God's presence with his people. In its original context, the prophecy probably referred to King Hezekiah, who became a wise and strong king for the people of Jerusalem.

But in Matthew's Gospel, the fulfilment of the prophecy goes beyond human expectation, because it is a virgin, Mary herself, who will give birth to the Saviour. Her child will be more than a sign of God's presence with us—he will be God's own Son living on earth. The royal child to be born will be not merely a human like us. He will receive the name Emmanuel, meaning "God with us." Whereas God was with the people of Israel in the Jerusalem temple, he now comes among us in a small baby. As St John reminds us: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." In today's tumultuous world, we long for peace and wisdom, for healing and good leadership. Christ can give us these gifts through his coming among us. Ultimately, he can lead us from the weakness of our earthly lives to the glory of heaven. And so, our Advent prayer is simple: "Come Lord Jesus, come and save us."

[For background notes on the scripture readings see www.tarsus.ie]

Double celebration at St Francis Church Nailsea

On Sunday 20 October there was a double celebration at St Francis Church, Nailsea, when we welcomed Bishop Declan who came to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Gustavo, Marietta, Miguel and Jim and to bless our beautiful new statue of St Francis.

The celebration was enhanced by the sun shining through the church, and the joy on the faces of our four adult confirmands was plain for all to see.

Through this sacrament the Holy Spirit

empowers the faithful to bring the Spirit's joy, peace, healing and love to those they encounter, empowers them to become true icons of Christ, making the world a better, holier, place by the witness they give. As our Year of Prayer draws to a close we listened to the gospel reading of the widow who would not give up (Luke 18:1-8) and Bishop Declan drew on this in his homily reminding us all of the need to pray continually and become more Christ-like in all that we do and are.

At the end of the Mass Bishop Declan

blessed our new statue of St Francis which had been prayerfully sculpted for us by David Harding – a gifted sculptor who uses his art as an expression of, and a way of, deepening his faith and of contributing to the New Evangelisation in this country. This statue will be a reminder to us of all that St Francis stood for. We pray that it will inspire those who pray before it with an admiration for our patronal saint who embodied in his life and work a humility, a deep respect for creation and for others and a dedication to serving others. We trust it will also inspire others to strive to

live life similarly. In turn, we acknowledge that the source of inspiration and grace in St Francis was Jesus Christ himself, as we remember the prayer Francis prayed before the crucifix at San Damiano:

**Most High, Glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me true faith, certain hope
and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord,
that I may carry out
Your holy and true command.
Amen.**





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God bless you,

Rebecca

Rebecca Molyneux
Programme Manager, CBM UK

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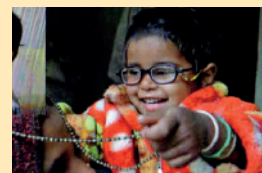
3 A gift of £95 can help more children like...



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Davis



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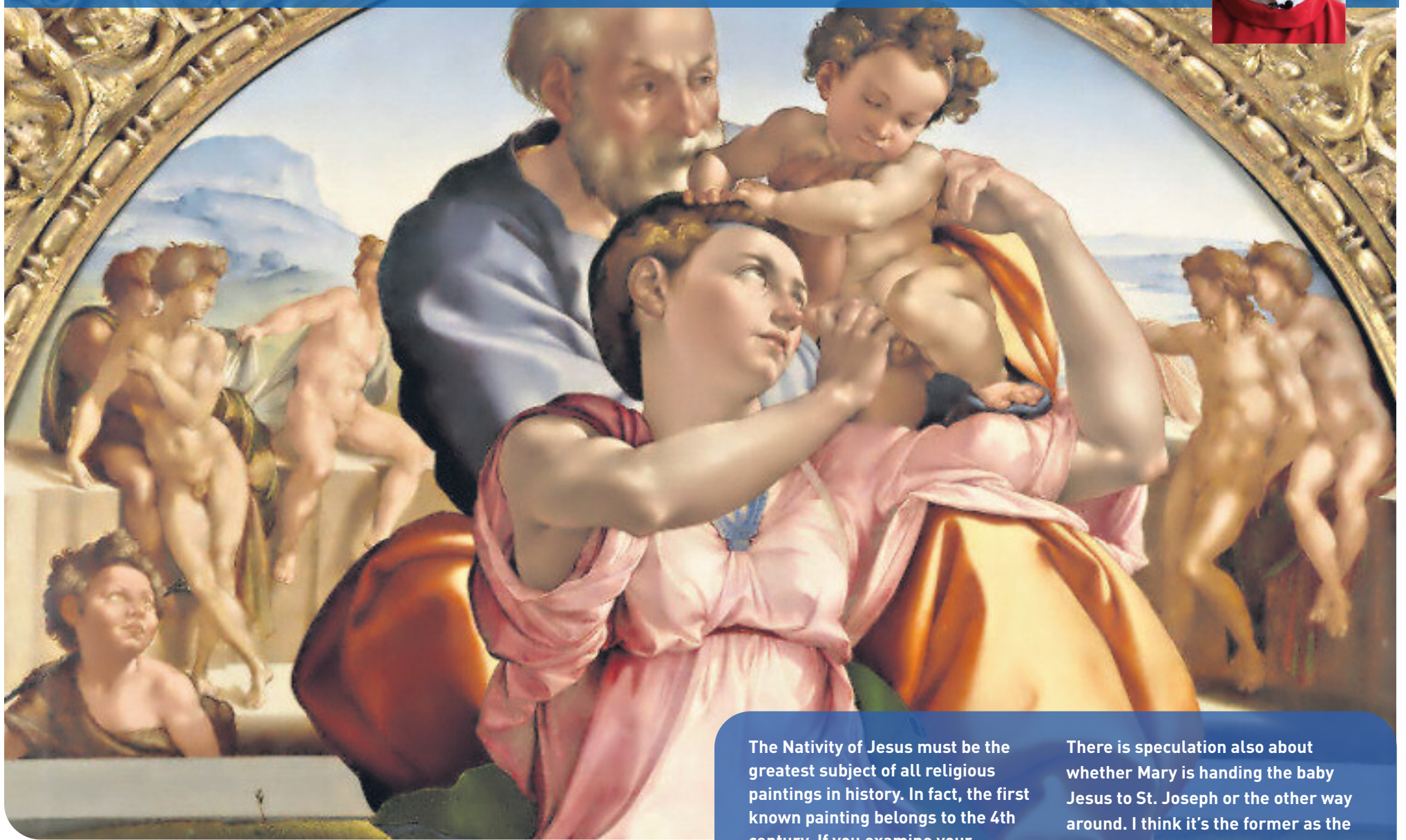
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Brush Strokes

By Fr Tom Crufferty



The Nativity of Jesus must be the greatest subject of all religious paintings in history. In fact, the first known painting belongs to the 4th century. If you examine your Christmas Cards, those you send and those you receive, you may well be surprised at the number of nativity scenes. Some will be by famous artists belonging to the Renaissance period especially.

I have a good six to eight famous works of art that have become my favourite depictions of the Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Among these is Michelangelo's "Tondo Doni" in the Uffizi in Florence. Every time I visit the famous city, I have to view the painting. It is now situated in a room recently dedicated to the works of Michelangelo. The work is so called because it was commissioned by the Doni family in Florence in 1506.

It is still in its original frame which creates its own speculation that the frame is as equally treasured as the painting itself.

The background is a rural scene with Mary as the prominent figure in the composition. She sits directly on the grass as if to say the Incarnation is an earthy event. Notice the nakedness of Mary's right foot which is the same message. But that is not all, Mary sits between the legs of St. Joseph. Michelangelo is inviting us to see a throne, take a step back and you see both sides of a magnificent chair.

There is speculation also about whether Mary is handing the baby Jesus to St. Joseph or the other way around. I think it's the former as the Mother gives her child for the salvation of the world. Michelangelo knew his scriptures and he crams as much as possible into his paintings.

St. Joseph is much older than you would expect but notice his position. This is most unusual for a Renaissance painter as Joseph is usually positioned in a humbler place. For Michelangelo Joseph is the Guardian, the Protector of the Holy Family.

There is also the question of the nude figures in the background. Is the great painter inviting us to see the nakedness of the old man in the Garden of Eden with the new man in the new Adam?

"The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit." 1 Corinthians 15:45.

Thanks for reading this, look at the painting again, stay with it for as long as you like, try to get behind the images especially of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. As a real Christmas present, place yourself and those you love into this famous work of Art. Enjoy the blessings of this lovely feast with this the most famous of artists

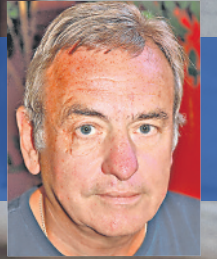
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View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING ...

In celebration of the canonisation of John Henry Newman, let me share with you a photograph I took of the crucifix which this first Briton to be canonised in 43 years kept on his desk:

A lot has changed in society, be that at national, international or global level, since the days of St John Henry Newman. The world has got much smaller and people's



Previously owned by and kept on the desk of St John Henry Newman, this crucifix was presented to The Rt Rev Anthony Joseph Emery (1918-1988), 6th Bishop of Portsmouth (1976-1988)

sensitivities are much more raw. I'd even go so far as to say that people look to be affronted, look to take umbrage, to point the finger of suspicion, disdain and accusation often condemning others for the very faults they share. It's when individuals, bodies and organisations task others to espouse attitudes and behaviour by which they themselves do not abide that the thin fabric of society starts to be rent asunder. That makes the individual a hypocrite. At the higher level of an organisation, that becomes corruption.

Surely the standards and practices for a society which would be beneficial to all are not those we might all have in common but rather those to which we should all collectively aspire. Cohesion versus Fracture. Who wants to live in a 'common denominator society'? Need the multi-culture of our day equate with multi-code?

Perhaps we have already sunk into a flailing, self-opinionated, arrogant, systems-dependent mis- and dis-informed ignorance? The problems and ills can't all be attributed to a single root cause, not even to the Whitehall Village nestling as it does at the epicentre of a vicious circle. Forgive my reference to the M25.

But thankfully we are in Advent.

Advenire in Latin means 'to approach'. The whole action of 'approaching' carries reference to where you are starting from, where you are

aiming to be and how you are meeting the challenges of getting there. It is from the word *advenire* that we get the word *ADVENT*. So it seems only fitting to reflect on what a rough, uncomfortable and uncompromisingly cold time those three monarchs must have had some two thousand years past. And what better time than now to reflect on the words of T S Eliot's *Journey of the Magi*.



Modern-day Advent, you could justifiably argue, offers its own challenges reminiscent of but not necessarily identical to those of days of yore. We are besieged with reports of natural disasters, unavoidable catastrophes, financial crises, not to mention man's disregard for man. But we have been set a clear example to follow.

As we move towards Christmas, and what that implies for the Christian world, we approach the discovery, the start and the new unblemished beginning. And so it is that I join with family and colleagues in wishing you a Holy Christmas and a Joyful New Year.

Note: John Henry Newman (21 February 1801 – 11 August 1890), Catholic theologian, philosopher and cardinal, converted to Catholicism from Anglicanism in October 1845. Canonised on 13 October 2019, he ranks among the first persons who have lived since the 17th century to be officially recognised as a saint by the Catholic Church. In 1991, Newman was proclaimed 'Venerable' by the Congregation for the Causes of. He was beatified on 19 September 2010 at an open-air Mass in Birmingham. On 1 July 2019, Pope Francis announced intention to canonise Newman. The canonisation took place on 13 October 2019, during an open-air Mass in St Peter's Square attended by Prince Charles and tens of thousands of pilgrims.

The Journey Of The Magi

by T S Eliot

A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sorefooted, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
and running away, and wanting their liquor and women, And the night-fires going
out, and the lack of shelters, And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness, And three trees on
the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel, Six hands at an open
door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you might say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember, And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death, But had thought they
were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

Pilgrimage to the Shrines of St Pio and St Francis



A Franciscan Pilgrimage of Love. From 19th - 27th September group of 30 pilgrims visited shrines in Italy associated with Saint Pio of Pietrelcina. and St Of Francis Assisi.

Most of the group belonged to one of the prayer groups in the Plymouth Diocese and elsewhere. Membership of these prayer groups enabled us to receive an especially warm welcome.

We were led by Valerie Williams, who has run Prayer Groups for many years, and has long experience of organising pilgrimages. Because of her extensive contacts and local knowledge, travel and lodging arrangements were superb.

The Spiritual Director was Mgr Bart Nannery, assisted by Canon David Annear. Sr Mary Michael gave us a series of well - researched

talks on the shrines as we travelled by coach from one place to another. Anne, a retired SRN, was our first aider: sun shone all week.

Day 1: We travelled from various points to Bristol Airport, an overnight stop enabled us to get to know each other.

Day 2: After landing at Rome's Fumancino Airport, we headed south to Pietrelcina, the village where St Pio was born in 1887. It is still relatively unspoilt.

Day 3: We walked through the countryside to Piana Romana. where the Saint first received the stigmata.

Day 4: We continued south to the small town of San Giovanni Rotondo on the Gargano peninsula, staying for three nights at the Domus Franciscana Approdo hotel.

Day 5: Our visit was timed to coincide with the Solemn Feast day of St Pio. on the 23rd September with an international Mass in the recently built (2004) church of St Pio: two archbishops. one Bishop, fifty priests, several local dignitaries, and Padre Pio Prayer Groups from all over the world. The Mass was followed by a procession to the lower church to venerate the mortal remains of the Saint.

Day 6: Morning visit to the nearby Shrine of St Michael, walking down 86 steps to the small chapel in a cave: one of the oldest shrines in the world, over 1500 years old. after lunch we visited the original Friary church (1676), Padre Pio's living quarters and adjacent church of 1959, built to accommodate the crowds who came to see Padre Pio. We toured the world - famous House for the Relief of the Suffering, 940 bed hospital requested by Padre Pio for this impoverished region of Italy and financed by the Padre Pio Prayer Groups all over the world. We were received by Archbishop Franco who, as well as being the local Bishop, has oversight of all the Padre Pio Prayer groups throughout the world.

Day 7: We set off on the long drive to Assisi stopping off at Lanciano to celebrate Holy Mass at the shrine of the Eucharistic Miracle, and to explore the historic town centre. We travelled along the adriatic coast road with its lovely views. and passed many hilltop towns.

Our hotel, the Domus Pacis in Assisi, was next to St Mary of the Angels which shelters the little chapel by St Francis himself.

Day 8: Our coach took us up to the centre of Assisi, where we had Holy Mass in the basilica of St Francis. then we took a leisurly walk through the town. Later in the day we visited San Damiano St Clare's convent in beautiful countryside, but still fairly near the town. We were met by one of the Franciscan friars, an Irishman who gave us a very helpful talk.

Day 9: Quite a rush! We had an early Mass at the Hotel. Breakfast, 9-30 travelled to Fumancino. We then flew back to Bristol. Some pilgrims went separate ways. Most of us took our bus back to Plymouth. And so in Val's words "Our Pilgrimage ends. our mission begins" We have all been spiritually renewed by these days with Padre Pio.

Pilgrim Val's next pilgrimage will be to the Holy Land 8 day 7 nights. watch out for the Time- date- Month. My numbers limited to 30 only

Article from Canon David Annear. For and on behalf of Pilgrim Val

QUOTES

As the festive season approaches, some of the more youthful amongst us will have trouble sleeping for the excitement of waiting for Christmas. So, this month's quotes are all about anticipation...

“Of all the hardships a person had to face, none was more punishing than the simple act of waiting.

Khaled Hosseini

We need the sweet pain of anticipation to tell us we are really alive.

Albert Camus

“Expecting is the greatest impediment to living. In anticipation of tomorrow, it loses today.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca

What we are waiting for is not as important as what happens to us while we are waiting. Trust the process.

Mandy Hale

“It is better to do something than to do nothing while waiting to do everything.

Winston Churchill

“Well,” said Pooh, “what I like best,” and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called.”

AA Milne



Pictures: Above: Church of St Pio, Top of Page – Assisi

St Nicholas The Wayfarers Church - Kilton

A Drop-in Prayer Day-Time Retreat Centre

At this time of year the Trustees of St Nicholas are particularly keen to welcome visitors, particularly family groups, (plus friendly dogs), as an impressive Advent scene is set out in the chancel which they hope many children will come along to see. But besides this seasonal presentation there is much of interest to be found including a library and items of historical interest.

As a parish church St Nicholas was de-commissioned in 2004 later followed by All Saints of Dodington, both churches being just a mile or so from the coast. No longer a parish church the Trustees rely mainly on visitors to support this venture into providing a specialist Retreat Centre. Seven churches now form the Quantock Coast Benefice, the narrow shape of which wraps itself westward along several miles of the North Somerset coastline, passing Hinkley Point Power Station and beyond as far as Stogursey.

St Nicholas is an oasis of quietness, ideal for retreats or a relaxing break. It is an imposing church sitting on an impressively high mound of Lias overlooking the Bristol Channel; mid-way between Bridgwater and Minehead. Being only 1.25 miles north of the busy A39 it is easily accessible.

A narrow, steep hill leads to the hamlet of Kilton, where the road opens out to a broad quadrangle. Although now in need of

some considerable restoration, traditional stone walls line the approach road, drawing your attention to a line of similarly built cottages, which long ago, housed the local school. Beyond the swathe of cattle sheds a rising meadow wraps itself around St Nicholas which dominates the sky-line; it also is enwrapped by the typical walls characteristic of Somerset.

A mile beyond St Nicholas the winding road leads to the ancient, more famous hamlet of Lilstock, once a bustling harbour village, but abandoned after a nineteenth century storm. In more recent years the harbour approach was obliterated by shingle imported in connection with the original Hinkley point works. Little remains of this once thriving port, only the chancel of Lilstock's church remains. Seating just twelve St Andrews is also still well maintained. Its focal point is a beautifully decorated slab of slate above the altar. St Andrew's is considered the sister church of St Nicholas.

Pebbles form the coastline in these parts. A cliff walk along grassland and fields tempts many walkers to brave the frequent windy weather to catch marvellous views of the Welsh hills beyond the channel, and to the south the glorious rolling slopes of the Quantock hills, recognised as forming the first Area of Outstanding National Beauty.



Two gentlemen, both experienced dowsers, one from Leek the other from Taunton have, independently, dated the foundation of St Nicholas as 6th century, with 9th 11th and 14th century developments; features of earlier eras remain; hence it has a history of well over one thousand years of worship. Pleasingly, under-floor photographic records have revealed the remains of a hewn stone wall, suggesting the first church to have been wooden with the main entrance being to the west with a smaller southern entrance. The hewn stone remains have been crossed by later foundation walls, probably 13th century. The present floor joists cross these earlier foundations to now rest on 14th century stone foundations.

A major rebuild of St Nicholas' roof and part of the tower was undertaken in 1863; a full complement of new rafters were apparently necessary for the chancel, whilst the majority of those in the nave appear to be 14th century, having large centrally placed hand carved roses. The tower had housed a magnificent barrel organ until 1985, removed for renovation, it was rehomed in St Audries / St Etheldrede

Church, a few miles further down the A39. The organ is one of only five working barrel organs in the country. Following removal of the organ St Nicholas' tower was bricked across to form a storage/flower preparation area, it is now houses a kitchen with a relaxing mezzanine space above.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Dr Kettle Williams's article on the New Evangelisation identifies two 'markets', the internal, the Catholic Community, and the 'external', everyone else.

He writes of the complexities of building and maintaining contact in a community, and the need for mutual respect. So what does a stranger walking into one of our Churches find? In one Parish a warm welcome at the door, a priest who know us all, and will be sure to talk to you if he doesn't, in another the not very Good News of our shortcomings.

The liturgy, the Eucharist above all is central to evangelisation. I know that the small red print in my missal explains the settled rubrics for the Mass, but a field of opportunity too. The tiddlers in our Catholic School show how well the readings and the bidding prayers can be prayed and shared by children. The presentations of bread and wine at the offertory, 'Blessed be God for ever' can be silent, but why ever would they be when they include the whole congregation? Music (and dance?) provide a hundred opportunities for prayer and praise. Baptisms and marriages in the context of a Mass are wonderful community celebrations; and funerals too a great opportunity for 'external' evangelisation when often the greater part of the congregation is non catholic, and the deceased believed that Christ empowered and saved him or her, [The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1687 1688, explains how important this is.]

Perhaps the 'external market' is more challenging. The easiest part is developing the interface between the Catholic and non-Catholic community. So the point of the Parish Bazaar is not primarily about raising money, any more than an orchestra or choir performance in church is entirely a musical show, and of course the Christmas Carol service and children's nativity play throw the net wide. Dr Kettle Williams mentioned advertising. It seems that a Mass taking place, or Eucharistic Adoration is a limited secret, revealed in small letters on the Church notice board. I was struck on a recent visit to Ireland by a two metre wide banner proclaiming and inviting to Eucharistic adoration at the Church in Arklow.

Perhaps Dr Kettle Williams's article will provoke more thought on evangelisation. Tertullian in the second century remarked of the Christians 'Look how they love one another'. Do we go out from our churches to show our love for those who are isolated or housebound or depressed, or is that just for the Baptists, or the Samaritans? The last line of the article mentioned the Holy Spirit, without whom we can do nothing, and His power is not confined to the Catholics or the Christians. God is generous.

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Every Saturday Low Mass 8am.

Monday 6th January 2020 Epiphany Low Mass at 12 noon - (free social lunch after Mass)

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

The Turning of the Year at Syon Abbey

by Joy Hanson

As the year turned to the shorter days, the Sisters of Syon Abbey immersed themselves in prayer. When King Henry V had founded the Abbey in 1420, along with the Carthusians, on the banks of the River Thames, their purpose was to pray for his own soul, for the Governors of England, and for the souls of the departed. For over 600 years our Sisters have ended each Divine Office with the words

"May the souls of our founders, of our Brothers and Sisters and of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of Jesus Christ, rest in peace"

The prayers for deceased were very important to the medieval Catholic. They believed in 'Purgatory', a time of cleansing of souls after death. The passage through this stage to heaven was aided not only by the prayers of the living, but also by the deceased having made a pilgrimage or given money to the church during their life time. By these means they gained an 'indulgence' which gave them remission of some of their time in Purgatory.

So the prayers of the Sisters for the souls of deceased loved ones were very important to the bereaved, and coming up to All Saints day and All Souls at the beginning of November, the Lady Abbess would receive many letters of prayer requests. In their days at Chudleigh at end of 19 century, the Sisters had started an Association called the "Crusade of Prayer for the Holy Souls". They published a newsy magazine called "The Poor Soul's Friends", which was sent out to many patrons and friends. Later this was replaced by two newsletters a year.



Christmas Crib

During Advent the Sisters went into retreat and though they did not have visitors from outside, they kept the delightful custom of the travels of the 'Holy Visitors' of the crib figures of Mary and Joseph through the convent from cell to cell. Each evening the whole community would process from the last host to the next in her cell: the host sister would be excused from choir offices the next day to venerate the Holy Couple.

Christmas came quietly, but with great joy to welcome the new-born baby Jesus, and then the doors of the Convent were opened to family visitors and friends for the twelve days of Christmas. In recent days the Sisters relaxed by watching some nice videos. Epiphany brought the Three Kings to their crib in the chapel.

In January came the ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In the year 2000 there were so many of us that my friend and I were privileged to be invited to join the few Sisters in their segregated part of the chapel.

Mother Abbess used to tell me that Christmas went on for six weeks until Candlemas and the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple; a very special festival when the snowdrops of Syon added a white purity heralding spring days to come.

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Saint Bridget of Sweden 1303-1373

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As I worked in the garden with Sister Mary Bridget, I learnt more about her namesake, the Order's Foundress Saint Bridget, who she called 'Holy Mother'. The young Swedish girl Birgitta had been born to a noble couple, Birger and Ingeborg, who had just returned from a long pilgrimage sailing from Sweden to the shrine of C6 nun St Brigid of Kildare in Ireland. The young wife conceived a child, which was saved from danger in a storm, and she saw an angel telling her to educate her daughter in Holy fear of God - thus she named her after Saint Brigid.

Birgitta soon lost her real mother but received visions of a beautiful lady, helping her with her needlework and offering her a crown, believing her to be the virgin Mary. At the early age of 13 a marriage was arranged with Ulf a Lawman Governor like her father. After 16 she raised 4 sons and 4 daughters in their wooden Manor house near Lake Boren, doubling this with running a sort of soup kitchen from her back door and helping unmarried mothers. She was also asked to be Lady in Waiting to Queen Blanche of Namur at the nearby Royal Castle in Vadstena, where she discovered so much corruption by the King demanding heavy taxes from his poor peasant subjects, that she took him to task.

As the children grew up they went to Monastery schools and the couple were able to make long pilgrimages. In summer 1341 they sailed to Denmark and walked across Europe on the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, the shrine of St James in NW Spain. On return Ulf fell ill, and as the couple rested in Belgium. Praying for his recovery they were assured by a vision from St Denis that Ulf would recover. On their return home they decided to dedicate their lives more fully to God. Ulf went to live in a Cistercian Monastery at Alvastra, and Bridget lived nearby. When he died she took off her wedding ring, hearing our Lord tell her to found a Double Order of Brothers and Sisters who would sing praises to honour Our Lady. The Monastery would be under the headship of the Abbess, with both Communities being educated and in years to come had famous libraries. She persuaded King Magnus to give her the former Royal Palace at Vadstena as her Monastery by the beautiful Lake Vattern.

As a mystic and visionary Bridget had many Revelations from Our Lady and Jesus which were recorded by her scribe. She travelled across the alps to Rome in 1450 to apply for Papal permission for founding her Order of the Most Holy Saviour, Ordinis Sanctissimi Salvatoris. This was a hard task as the Pope was absent in Avignon. Bridget had to wait 30 years until Pope Urban V eventually gave her his seal of approval in 1370. By then she was weakened by her last pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

On 23rd July 1373 Bridget died in the arms of her daughter Katherine who had come to live with her in Casa Brigida. Her frail body was placed in an oak casket which Catherine, Birger and a group of others then transported back over the alps in winter to Vadstena!. She was canonised in 1391, made one of our Patron Saints of Europe by Pope John Paul II in 1999. Now she rests in a beautiful shrine in the KlosterKirche. I was able to go to take part in the Feast tide celebrations last July with the Societas Sante Birgittae and hope to go again.

So as girl, young mother, widow, foundress of her Monastery, with so much patience, humility devotion, and diplomacy, Saint Birgittas is a mentor for us all in all stages of life.

*Joy Hanson with grateful assistance of
Sr Anne Smyth O.Ss.S., last Abbess of Syon Abbey*



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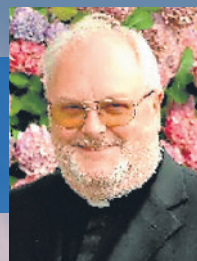
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Prayer

by Fr Denis Blackledge



STILL WAITING



Loving Lord,
we are still waiting.
Advent reminds us
that we are perched between mem-
ory and dream. The memory of your
first coming.
The dream of your second coming.
Those early Christians at the end of
the first century
had a strong sense of your second
coming,
had great expectations it could be
very soon.
At the start of our twenty-first cen-
tury
we have lost that edge, that bite,
that sense of readiness, that ur-
gency
of the final coming of your Kingdom
of justice, love and peace.

Loving Lord,
that is why we need Advent
to re-source ourselves,

to take us back to you as the source
and goal of all we are born to be.
We are an Advent People,
people of the dream.

And the essence of it all, Lord, is
that delicate balance of being still
and being able to wait. Stillness of
soul,
with you as the Centre and Centrer,
the Stillness and the Stiller,
prepares us all for the waiting.
Only by a constantly renewed return
to you as source and centre and
stillness can there be an urgent
opening up
to all that has to be undergone,
sweated through, suffered and
worked at in the waiting
for the completion of your kingdom.

Loving Lord,
we have to be content to enter into
that groaning and travail of creation

as we become altogether new crea-
tures founded in and on you.
We have to be content to work at
our patch of the kingdom-garden,
with the patience of good growers,
who sow seeds and let them be.

Loving Lord,
Advent takes us all back to our
roots,
enables us to see with far-sighted
eyes,
gives us new encouragement to
move on with that pilgrim journey
as friends and followers of the king
who is to come.

Loving Lord,
give us the grace to be
better at stillness
and better at waiting.
Give us that marathon-mentality
that keeps us coming closer
to one another and to you. Amen.

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Christmas Mass Times and Messages

Christmas Services in Buckfast Abbey & Parish 2019

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6:30 p.m. First Vespers of Christmas
8:00 p.m. Christmas Vigils
9:30 p.m. Christmas Mass in Ashburton *
Midnight Christmas Mass in the Abbey

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Christmas Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Christmas Mass in South Brent *
10:30 a.m. Christmas Mass in the Abbey (sung)
Christmas Mass in Buckfastleigh *
6:30 p.m. Second Vespers of Christmas
Compline is not sung in the Abbey from now until Monday 6th January

Thursday 26th & Friday 27th December

9:00 a.m. Conventual Mass
12:05 p.m. Mass (Blessed Sacrament Chapel)
6:30 p.m. Vespers

Saturday 28th December

12:05 p.m. Conventual Mass
6:30 p.m. Vespers

Sunday 29th December – Feast of the Holy Family

9:00 a.m. Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Mass in South Brent
10:00 a.m. Mass in Ashburton
10:30 a.m. Mass in the Abbey (sung)
6:30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction

Monday 30th December – Friday 3rd January

9:00 a.m. Conventual Mass
12:05 p.m. Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sunday 5th January – Solemnity of the Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Mass in South Brent
10:00 a.m. Mass in Ashburton
10:30 a.m. Mass in the Abbey (sung)
6:30 p.m. Vespers and Benediction

* **Ashburton Church:** Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Petrock, East Street, Ashburton, TQ13 7AT

South Brent Church: St. Dunstan, New Park, South Brent, TQ10 9AQ

Buckfastleigh Church: St. Benedict, Chapel Street, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0AJ

(All services are in the Abbey unless otherwise stated)

Buckfast Abbey Trust Registered Charity number 232497

Buckfast Abbey

The Parish of St Cuthbert Mayne

Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve
Vigil Mass of Christmas at 5pm at St Peter's, Bude

Night Mass of Christmas at 9pm at St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston
Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day
Mass of the Dawn at 8.30am at Our Lady of Victories, Callington
Mass of the Day at 10.30am, St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston

At Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Cecilia Christmas Masses

White Cliff Mill Street,
Blandford Forum DT11 7BN

will be
Children's Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve; Carols at 11.30pm;
Midnight Mass at midnight.
On Christmas Day Mass at 10am

WISHING ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS A VERY JOYFUL AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGHOUT 2019.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL FROM THE STAFF AND TRUSTEES OF THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (PLYMOUTH)



Putting All Children First
www.cccplymouth.org.uk

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

TUESDAY 24th December –

CHRISTMAS EVE
5.00 pm - Christmas Children's Mass - Most Holy Trinity, Newquay
7.00 pm - Christ the King - Perranporth
8.30 pm - Christmas Eve Carols - Most Holy Trinity, Newquay
9.00 pm - Christmas Mass - Most Holy Trinity, Newquay

WEDNESDAY 25th December –

CHRISTMAS DAY
8.30 am - Mass - Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Agnes
10.30 am - Mass - Most Holy Trinity, Newquay
WEDNESDAY 1st January –
NEW YEARS DAY
11.00 am - Mass - Most Holy Trinity, Newquay

Most Precious Blood Sidmouth

Christmas Vigil Mass 7pm on

Tuesday 24th December

Midnight Mass at Midnight

Christmas Day Mass at 10:30am

Vigil Mass

Saturday 28th December at 5:30pm

Sunday Mass on 29th December at 10:30am

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

PLYMOUTH DIOCESE
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BEST WISHES
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www.spuc.org

World Dishes

Borscht

Ingredients

- 15g salted butter
- 3 medium-sized beetroot, diced
- 1 large waxy potato, diced
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 stick of celery, diced
- 1 large carrot, diced
- 112ltr beef stock
- 12 a green cabbage, finely shredded
- 2 tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- Salt & Ground Pepper
- Optional: sour cream and dill to garnish

Melt the butter in a large heavy-based saucepan and saute the beetroot, carrot, celery, potato, onion and garlic for a couple of minutes. Pour in the stock and season with salt and black pepper.

Bring the soup almost to the boil, then simmer for about 15 minutes. Add the cabbage and tomatoes. Cover the pan and leave the soup to simmer for another 20 minutes. Taste for seasoning and add more salt and pepper to taste.

A dollop of sour cream and a sprinkling of dill finishes this soup off perfectly!



REVIEWS

DOMESTIC MONASTERY

Ronald Rolheiser

DLT, pbk, 89 pages, 2019, £6.99

This book gives practical suggestions as to how to embrace living a deep spirituality in a busy, child-centred family home situation. In other words, how to become a domestic monastery. Ten brief chapters focus on family life, in the "cell" that is home. The demands of little children are more urgent than the call of the monastery bell! Learning the value of powerlessness as a parent, and that time is God's, not ours, involves a growing commitment to the duty of the moment.

Just as a monk or enclosed sister has to show up regularly, dropping what they are doing to respond to the call to prayer to-

gether, so a parent has to lean into the delicate balance and live with the natural tensions that family life involves. Ritual, routine, and regular rhythm are key. Dreams and agenda are forever altering as a parent, and there is need for a flexible and discerning heart. Daily learning where love lies means that hearts will be stretched and shaped. The vital insight is to realise that "leisure is not the privilege of those who have time, but rather the virtue of those who give to each instant of life the time it deserves" [p.81].

Rolheiser has provided a little gem for domestic saints-in-the-making!

© Denis Blackledge SJ

DOMESTIC MONASTERY



RONALD ROLHEISER



Buckfast Abbey Trust Registered Charity number 232497

‘Listen, my son’

Rule of St Benedict



www.buckfast.org.uk/vocation
vocations@buckfast.org.uk



Buckfast Abbey

God calls to us constantly, longing to guide those who yearn for life and desire to see good days into the way of peace. The Rule of Saint Benedict helps us to hear God’s voice, in the Holy Scriptures, in the sacred liturgy and in our brothers in community. If you are a single man longing to live your Catholic faith in a way which brings great joy as it demands the best of you, consider whether God is calling you to be a Benedictine monk at Buckfast Abbey. Please reach out to us, and we will do all we can to help you.



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

- 7 Descendant of Cain church find feeble at first (6)
- 8 Archbishop’s grandmother is going after chap with drugs (6)
- 9 Caesar is distinguished put against our lot (8)
- 10 Take back-road from Arctic region and find something fishy (4)
- 11 Noah’sson’sclosingborder(4)
- 13 Sounds upset, look you, one in the Sanhedrin (8)
- 14 Hilly part of London obviously needs elevated access (8)
- 18 Cleric in East Anglia’s first to work in Iceland (4)
- 20 Tribe place top Levites in confinement (4)
- 21 In favour of action: words are for a book (8)
- 23 Some signs of a familiar Australia comeback, with backing of support the key (6)
- 24 Does this stress a Mediterranean type? (6)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Book to ban at university and church (6)
- 2 In Le Mans I almost get to grips with an ancient road rager (4)
- 3 It is a bit theatrical, this article on a Greek water goddess (6)
- 4 Pursued, but remains virtuous, we’re informed (6)
- 5 Get Durer to re-imagine the Danish queen (8)
- 6 Is able to name many lost after classic battle (6)
- 12 Ham, a main reason for David’s headquarters being here (8)
- 15 Homes are individual with great cloakrooms (6)
- 16 Beast for the mountain, one Colombia-bound (6)
- 17 Almighty crater after road is all dug up (6)

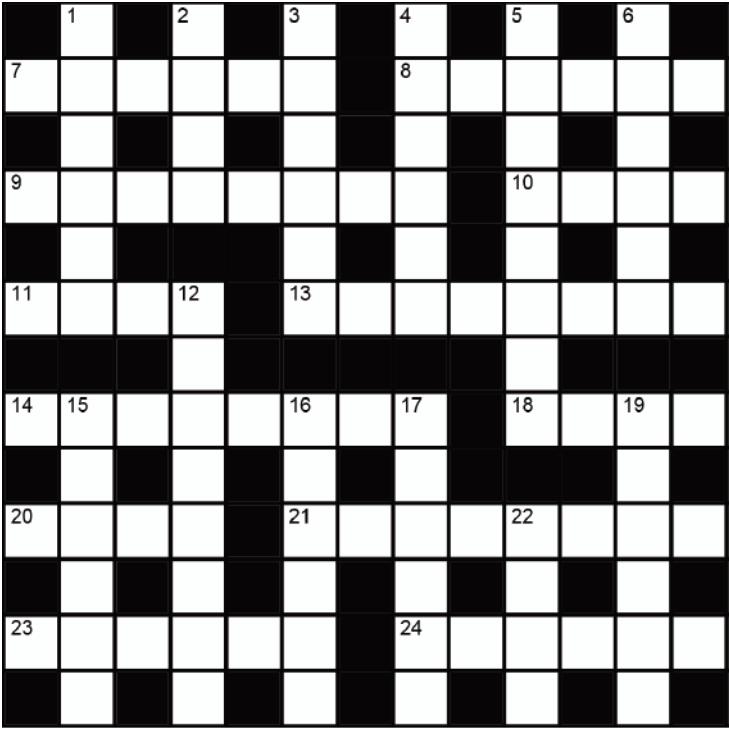
- 19 Died with atmosphere to a degree upsetting for a scribe of Esdras (6)
- 22 Where David fought Goliath: healthy, but keeled over (4)

QUICK Across

- 7 Descendant of Cain, husband of Adah and Zillah (6)
- 8 Cardinal John -----: Archbishop of Westminster (1963-1975) (6)
- 9 ----- Caesar, first Roman Emperor (27 BC-14 AD) (8)
- 10 Edible scombroid fish (4)
- 11 Son of Noah, ancestor of both Jews and Arabs, and the language group still spoken (4)
- 13 One of the conservative aristocratic Jewish priesthood named possibly after Zadok (8)
- 14 London N6? (8)
- 18 Icelandic books of epic mythological tales and poetry (4)
- 20 Extended family, especially in Scotland (4)
- 21 OT book consisting of adages from various Israelite sages (8)
- 23 Imaginary belt illustrating the progress of heavenly bodies (6)
- 24 Print-type used for emphasis, literary titles, etc (6)

QUICK Down

- 1 Apocryphal book named after Jeremiah’s secretary (6)
- 2 Crazy driver, named after the charioteering king of Israel in 2 Kings (4)
- 3 One of the 50 Nereids in Greek myth (6)
- 4 Hounded (6)
- 5 Hamlet’smother(8)



- 6 Great battle of the 2nd Punic War (216 BC), the scene of Rome’s greatest defeat (6)
- 12 Where in Gilead Jacob saw God’s angels before reuniting with Esau (8)
- 15 Homes with domes? (6)
- 16 Andean beast of burden (6)
- 17 One of the principal names by which God is designated in the Hebrew Scriptures (6)
- 19 One of the five who wrote down the visions of Esdras (6)
- 22 Valley where David fought Goliath (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 7 Lamech, 8 Heenan, 9 Augustus, 10 Tuna, 11 Shem, 13 Sadducee, 14 Highgate, 18 Edda, 20 Clan, 21 Proverbs, 23 Zodiac, 24 Italic. Down: 1 Baruch, 2 Jehu, 3 Thetis, 4 Chased, 5 Gertrude, 6 Cannae, 12 Mahanaim, 15 Igloos, 16 Alpaca, 17 Elohim, 19 Dabria, 22 Elah.