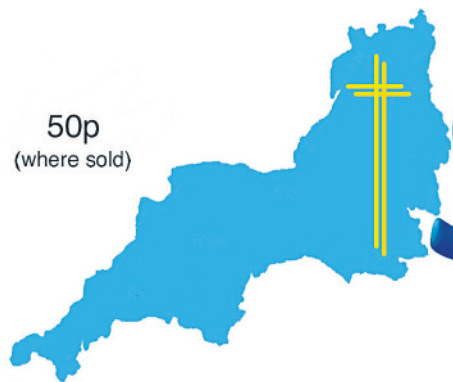


50p
(where sold)



Catholic **South West**

Serving the
Church in the
South West

April 2020

Inside



*Celebration of Life –
Page 2*



*New Catholics -
Page 3*



*Pope's message
for Lent
Page 7*



*Buckfast and the
Shroud of Turin
Page 16*

*What should I do
for Lent?
"Pray" – Pope Francis
Page 7*

PLEASE



DO NOT LEAVE THIS IN THE CHURCH

once you have picked up this paper please take it with you

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, do let us know.

SUBMITTING EDITORIAL

To send in editorial or to get in touch please contact us at:

CSW - Bellcourt Ltd
N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre
Steeple Bumpstead
Haverhill, Suffolk
CB9 7BN
csw@cathcom.org
01440 730399

ADVERTISING

To advertise in Catholic South West please contact:

Janet Took
janett@cathcom.org
01440 730399

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

This month we have had a huge amount of editorial to fit in - so apologies to those who sent in articles that we couldn't fit in! We will try and fit them in next time.

The most important thing this month

is obviously the Coronavirus. There isn't a huge amount of information in the paper about it because advice is changing daily. But it is IMPORTANT that once you pick up this paper, you MUST take it away with you. Please do not put it back or

leave it in the church. This will ensure we don't spread the virus.

No one is quite sure what will happen in the next few weeks - but we wish you a very Holy Easter!

CSW TEAM

Celebration of Life

Thanksgiving Mass for Life of Br. Michael Strode

The life of a caring, thoughtful and self-effacing man who touched the lives of many people in the Westcountry, and far beyond, was recently celebrated in Torquay following his death on 27 December, aged 96.

While working as a young doctor in a home-school for disabled children in the 1950s, Dr Michael Strode had had the idea of taking children with special needs - and later disabled adults - on 'holiday pilgrimage' to Lourdes. Uniquely at the time, he insisted that child and helper should share their week together in a 'family' group rather than being housed apart in hospitals and hotels. What became HCPT (Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust) grew rapidly. By the 1990s it was taking 2000 children to Lourdes every Easter week and another 1000 disabled adults during the summer season at the beautiful Hosanna House, facing the Pyrenees near Lourdes. Well over 5000 people travel with HCPT every year in small groups of 'love, laughter and opportunity'.

In his retirement Michael had become a Cistercian monk. Following his death, the Westcountry region of HCPT organised a Mass at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Torquay in thanksgiving for the life of Brother Michael. Bishop Mark O'Toole, who had travelled with HCPT as a helper and chaplain, concelebrated the Mass along with Plymouth diocesan clergy who had also been with HCPT groups.

Fr Jon Bielawski, who had been a member of the region's oldest 'family' group 45 for 23 years, preached the homily. Regional Chair Richard King spoke of Brother Michael's legacy, having first met him in 1970. The Mass ended with a rendition of the now traditional 'Rise and Shine', an action-filled anthem adored by thousands of children - and many helpers - over the years.

Following Mass we came together for a glass of wine and refreshments. Barney Bettesworth secretary of group 539, one of



HCPT's adult summer groups that celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, said, 'The Mass was a beautiful tribute to a great man. Everybody I have spoken to who attended thought that it was a very special HCPT occasion.' It was indeed a very joyful celebration and a lovely atmosphere in honour of an inspirational and visionary man whose work continues to yield a rich harvest in service to others, particularly among young people.

HCPT is always glad to hear of any child or adult with special needs who would appreciate a week in Lourdes. Contact: westcountry@hcpt.org.uk.

Richard King
(HCPT Chair Westcountry Region)

OBITUARY Major Tim McCoy 1939-2020 Major Tim McCoy makes his last pilgrimage

Faithful soldier and pilgrim Major Tim McCoy was a distinguished veteran soldier who was one of most respected and recognisable characters in Totnes, standing tall with his staff and eye patch. Family, friends and members of the Totnes Branch of the Royal British Legion gathered on March 6th at St Mary and St George Roman Catholic church to pay respects to him in a Requiem Mass in the Latin Rite. This was celebrated by Father Peter Coxe, with servers from the Latin Mass Society.

As a youngster Tim McCoy had attended St Ignatius College, then joined the Royal Navy in 1957, but his training as Air Crew Pilot was curtailed by cutbacks. He joined the North Rhodesia Police in 1959, then served in the King's African Rifles, completed Signals training then SAS selection in Rhodesia. He later served in England, Ireland and Germany in the Royal Signals before his next postings in the Middle East

Oman. His later career included time on loan service with the armed forces of Brunei and in the Sultan of Oman's armed Forces. He served in the Gulf war with the RAF. A keen bass singer, Tim enjoyed taking part in several local choral societies. When he was younger Tim had been a keen rugby player, accomplished yachtsman and horse rider.

Tragedy struck in 1993 after retirement when Major Tim was mugged one night down in the London Underground. He was left unconscious at the foot of an escalator, incurring various neurological injuries, loss of sight and what he called his "grem-lins". He retired to Totnes and spent time working with SCOPE, supporting others who are disabled.

We were fellow pilgrims who had made the hard journey to Santiago de Compostella in Northern Spain and I used to hail him 'Hola peregrino' "Hello pilgrim")



and spur him on in his courageous struggles in life. He made his last brave pilgrimage with his niece. When illness struck in 2018 my late husband Robin Hanson and he were fellow pilgrims in the ward on their journey in Torbay Hospital before he moved to a Nursing home in Newton Abbot.

His last send-off outside the Church was a Guard of Honour by the Totnes Branch of the Royal British Legion accompanied by the Last Post, a moving tribute to a faithful valiant soldier and pilgrim.

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

Please note that opinions expressed in this paper and on any linked sites or publications are not necessarily those of the Publishers, Editor, any Diocese or the wider Roman Catholic Church. Every reasonable effort is

made to ensure that due acknowledgement, when appropriate, is made to the originator of any image submitted for publication. It is understood that those submitting material for publication in CSW either hold the copyright or have arranged for publication with the appropriate authority.

New Catholics in the South West

On the first Saturday of Lent, as at the start of every Lent, new Catholics gathered at the cathedrals around the country together with their respective Bishops to celebrate the Rite of Election, where those who are journeying towards becoming part of our Catholic community are presented to the Bishop.

In the Cathedrals of Clifton, Plymouth and Portsmouth family and friends, sponsors and godparents, joined with those preparing for Baptism (catechumens) and those preparing to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church (candidates) as they came to this stage of their journey towards reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

As always, the catechumens and candidates were supported by their own communities and the wider diocesan family for this celebration of their faith and their commitment to live out the gospel which they are now embracing, forming a loving friendship with God whom they are called to know and make known.

They inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect at the cathedral as a pledge of fidelity. Now the catechumens are called "the elect" or "the illuminandi" ("those who will be enlightened"). They now begin a Period of Purification and Enlightenment — the final, intense preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. During the following five Sundays of Lent, three scrutinies (rites for self-searching and repentance) and the presentations of the Creed and Lord's Prayer take place.

The witness that these candidates and catechumens give in taking this courageous step is always an inspiration to those who come to pray for them and to support them in their journey. It is also a reminder of our own call to continual conversion of our hearts and our lives.



Plymouth Cathedral



Clifton Cathedral



Portsmouth Cathedral

Peter McGauley received the pro ecclesia et pontifice award at the Catholic Church in Sidmouth Sunday 8th March

Peter McGauley from the Catholic Church in Sidmouth was awarded the pro ecclesia et pontifice award on Sunday 8th March by Bishop Mark O'Toole who is the bishop of the RC Diocese of Plymouth. This award is the highest medal that can be awarded to a lay person by the Papacy.

Peter has been an integral and influential member of the congregation here in Sidmouth since he first joined the parish almost 30 years ago and he has been recommended for this award due to his unceasing commitment to work diligently and selflessly for the good of the parish, the Church and the wider community. He was responsible for setting up the Sidmouth Conference of the St Vincent de Paul society which visits sick, housebound and vulnerable members of the community. In addition, in his role as SVP President, he was part of the group which set up our local charity Sid Valley Help which unites and mobilises the goodwill of the community to support all local residents in times of illness, loneliness and other difficulties. Peter is a trustee of the charity, using his experience with the SVP to reach into the wider community and continue the good work there.

He is also Chair of our Parish Finance

Committee, and is an active Reader and Eucharistic Minister ever since joining this parish, regularly supporting and animating the weekly liturgy in these important ministries. Peter is currently President of the Exeter Circle of Catenians, a role which he carries out with his customary enthusiasm and vigour.

He has also been a Trustee of the Diocese for the past ten years, during which time many have benefited from his wisdom and insight on a variety of matters.

In short, Peter continues to work tirelessly in a range of roles, displaying the same stalwart qualities in all of them. Impelled by his faith and his love of the Church, the outstanding service and zeal he has demonstrated over many years he has qualified to be presented with this award.



New Canons at Clifton Cathedral



Fr Christopher Whitehead from St John's in Bath along with Fr Gregory Grant from St Patrick's in Redfield were installed as a Canons and members of the Cathedral Chapter at Clifton Cathedral on Tuesday 25th February 2020.

Fr Frank Bermingham from St Augustine's in Downend was made an honorary Canon.

The Cathedral was full of their parishioners and family who were there to wish them all well.



Around the South West

Bridgwater Parish honour its Altar servers



On the weekend of 15/16 Feb, Bridgwater Parish honoured a number of its Altar servers for their faithful service. This celebration involved the presentation of medals from the Guild of Saint Stephen.

At the Saturday Vigil Mass Julian Camp received the Silver medal of merit. Julian has been a server in Bridgwater for 46 years and we look forward to his golden medal presentation in 4 years' time. Mark Dodden received his silver medal in recognition of his years of serving and acting as the parish M.C. Medals were also given to Dominic Lambert and Matthew Fermor.

New Manager for Caritas, Plymouth

A new, full time Caritas Manager



has been appointed. Deborah Fisher OBE has a wealth of experience in the charitable sector and was a Trustee of the Diocesan Trust for four years. She currently has a senior role in the British Red Cross. She will be taking up her new role on March 16 2020.

Justice and Peace is soon to be integrated into the work of Caritas Plymouth, and will come under the remit of the new Caritas Manager and the Caritas Committee.

Rose Stole and Lectern for Weymouth



The Weymouth Sewing Group have made a stole and Lectern Banners for Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Weymouth. Pictured here are Chris, Esme, Nan and Ann with the Stole they made for Fr Stephen Geddes.

Send us your news
csw@cathcom.org

Solemn Profession of Dom Andrew Prickett



The monks of Buckfast Abbey were delighted to hear their brother in Christ proclaim his final vows as a Benedictine monk on 5th January, 2020. This moment is the culmination of a process which takes about five years, during which time a man who “longs for life and desires good things” (Rule of St. Benedict) and believes that God may be calling him to follow Jesus closely, body and soul, gets to know the monastic community to which he feels attracted and tries to attune himself to the rhythm of life in the monastery, which is designed to bring us closer to God and to our neighbour.

Brother Andrew studied Chemistry at University, ultimately achieving a doctorate, which enabled him to work in the chemical industry for some years. Feeling the call of the Lord to follow him, he tried his vocation as a diocesan priest, becoming a seminarian for about four years, including a successful placement in a parish in the

North of England. However, this proved not to be his calling, and he returned to lay life with a career change: having spent some time in Lourdes, he wished to give himself to caring for others, looking after older people who needed a little help to remain in their own homes. The Lord’s call to follow Him more closely never went away, and he was accepted as a postulant at Buckfast Abbey. He followed the usual training and discernment process, being clothed as a novice after a few months and, after the novitiate year, making vows for three years, which brought him to the moment we celebrated in January.

In his homily on that day, which also celebrated the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Fr. Francis, Prior Administrator of the Abbey, said, “Like the wise men, Br. Andrew has had the wisdom and insight to notice the sign of Jesus in the heavens. Like them, he has also had the courage to leave what is familiar and comfortable be-



hind and stride out into the unknown to pay homage to the Lord, and to discover what this strange manifestation means to his life.

Monks live in a way unlike most people, but we don’t do that for its own sake: We aren’t doing it because it’s exotic, or because it gives us a sense of security, or because it makes people think we are holy. We do it simply because it is the way we have discovered which brings us closer to Jesus Christ.

We yearn to know the Lord, and so we come to a place where his Word surrounds us all day every day and we can encounter him in our brothers, and all who come to the monastery, as we offer them our unconditional love.

So, Brother Andrew, as you stand here ready to make your lifelong commitment

to the monastic way of following Christ, know that we are with you to support you; that we thank you for your generosity and courage; that we in this monastic community undertake to nurture and support you as you continue to seek God through prayer and through being one of us, being part of our strengths and our frailties.

Be one who always listens for the voice of the Lord, whose love is always new and fresh, whose courage is unflinching, whose kindness never ends. You have chosen to offer yourself to God through the profession of monastic vows. In the words of the Mass today, may the One God, by whose grace you have been called and by whose grace you will succeed, sanctify your offering, so that you, who by God’s gift are dedicating your life to God today may, at the glorious coming of His Son, be admitted to the joy of the eternal Resurrection.”

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.



DID YOU THINK LEPROSY WAS A THING OF THE PAST?



For thousands of years leprosy has been the scourge of poverty-stricken communities across the world and, sadly, it still exists in many countries today. The disease frequently leads to severe, life-changing disabilities and those who suffer from it are often excluded by their community, and struggle to fend for themselves.

124 years dedicated to the relief of suffering

St Francis Leprosy Guild has been dedicated to the relief of suffering caused by leprosy



©Medical Missionaries of Mary

for more than a century, during which time many religious sisters, brothers and priests have made it their life's vocation to care for those with the disease. Today we are determined to build on their legacy and seize our opportunity to help beat leprosy once and for all.

A leprosy-free world is finally within sight

Just a few decades ago, more than five million people were being diagnosed with leprosy every year, their lives destroyed physically, emotionally and socially by the disease. Today, this number has reduced significantly but remains stubbornly at over 200,000 new cases annually, worldwide. St Francis Leprosy Guild is committed to achieving a leprosy-free world and we genuinely believe that it is now within sight, if only people like you are prepared to help.

Early detection can stop leprosy in its tracks

Leprosy is curable and since the World Health Organisation made multi-drug treatments freely available 16 million people have been cured of the disease. New cases of leprosy tend to

be concentrated in isolated communities where people are still living in dire poverty and have little or no access to healthcare. If leprosy is to be stamped out for good, your support is needed to train local healthcare workers who can reach out to these communities. By supporting early detection and treatment - before the disease takes hold - you can help to prevent untold suffering.



If you are able to send a donation of just £30 today, you will help us support around 30 inspirational partners, such as the Bombay Leprosy Project. This is training local healthcare volunteers to work both in the slums of Mumbai and surrounding rural areas, so they can monitor people for early symptoms and provide prompt medication.

Help to beat leprosy for good

St Francis Leprosy Guild and its partners are working with remote and marginalised communities across Asia, Africa and South America. Please send £30 today using the form below or donate online at www.justgiving.com/stfrancisleprosyguild. Together, let's seize the opportunity to create a leprosy-free world and help put an end to people's suffering at last.

Donate at www.justgiving.com/stfrancisleprosyguild

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

First Name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

Here is my gift of: £30 ☐ £60 ☐ £100 ☐ Other £

DA2021

By Cheque/Postal Order/CAF Voucher (to St Francis Leprosy Guild) Visa/MasterCard/Amex/Maestro (delete as appropriate)

Card no.

Issue no. (Maestro only)

Expiry date

/

Issue date

/

Security code

(3 digits on the back of your card, 4 on front of Amex)

THANK YOU!

Name on card

Date / /

Please return this form with your gift to:
St Francis Leprosy Guild, 73 St Charles Square,
London W10 6EJ.

SFLG ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD

Please fill in your name and address. **We will never pass on your details to any other organisation and will treat them with respect.**

We will use the personal information you have provided to process your donation and to contact you with news of our work. If you would prefer not to receive further communications please tick this box ☐ or you can call us on **020 8969 1345** to let us know which communications you would like to receive. To read more about how we value your privacy, visit www.stfrancisleprosy.org

Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



PALM SUNDAY

St Matthew's long account of Jesus' suffering and death is the gospel reading on Palm Sunday (3rd April). When we lose someone we love, we often seek to remember as many details as possible about their last days and hours. Similarly, all four gospels provide lengthy accounts of Jesus' death.

While the basic story is shared with the other gospels, Matthew includes a few unique features. For example, only Matthew mentions the unsuccessful intervention by Pilate's wife and the governor's subsequent gesture of hand washing (27:19-25).

Pontius Pilate was a wily Roman governor, who was sometimes not afraid to provoke the people of Judea. For instance, he upset the Jewish population by trying to bring Roman military insignia into the Jerusalem temple, although their images of Tiberius Caesar broke the Jewish Law.

In the account of Jesus' passion, Matthew reports a message sent to Pilate by his wife when he was seated on the judgments chair. Because of a recurrent troubling dream about Jesus, she urged her husband to have nothing to do with him.

Her dream shows us that not all the imperial establishment wished to see Jesus dead. The dream represents the voice of conscience, or perhaps a subconscious perception that executing Jesus was wrong.

After Jesus' birth, his foster-father Joseph acted on another dream to take the young child to safety in Egypt, away from King Herod's murderous intentions. By acting on his dream, Joseph saved Jesus' life. Yet on this occasion, Pilate does not act on his wife's dream, but instead allows Jesus to be executed.

However, to express his ambiguous feelings about the death sentence, Pilate calls for water and washes his hands in front of the crowd. Does this action really absolve him of blame? Pilate seeks to pretend that he is not responsible for the death sentence that he has just passed.

The Jewish law had a ritual of hand washing when the body of a murder victim was discovered, and the killer was unknown (Deuteronomy 21:6-9). But here the Roman governor actually decreeing the death was washing his hands. In an earlier century, the

prophet Isaiah had warned the people: "Your hands are covered in blood. Wash, make yourselves clean. Take your wrongdoing out of my sight" (Isaiah 1:15-16).

Matthew then reports the crowd's response to Jesus' death sentence: "His blood be on us and on our children." Often in past centuries, this verse was cruelly misused to justify ill-treatment of the Jews.

But the Vatican Council teaches us: "Although the Jewish authorities pressed for the death of Christ, what happened in his passion cannot be charged against all the Jews, without distinction, then alive—nor against the Jews of today" (Nostra Aetate, paragraph 4). Matthew was aware of the destruction of the Jerusalem temple, previously foretold in the gospel (24:2). Some of the crowds, with their children, would rebel against Roman domination in 66 AD, but the Romans would brutally crush this Jewish revolt in the year 70. This devastating event could be viewed as punishment for the crowds involved in demanding Jesus' death.

But in his 2011 book (Jesus of Nazareth, volume 2), Pope Benedict suggests another interpretation: "These words are not a curse, but

rather redemption, salvation." If we believe that Jesus willingly shed his blood on the cross to save everyone, could it be that unwittingly this crowd was actually (in the divine plan) calling for Jesus to save them through his blood?

Noting that Matthew's account speaks of all the people demanding Jesus' crucifixion, Pope Benedict declares: "Matthew is certainly not recounting historical fact here. How could the whole people have been present at this moment to clamour for Jesus' death?" Moreover, according to the angel's announcement to Joseph before the nativity, Jesus' mission will be "to save his people from their sins" (1:21). Surely, by shedding his blood Jesus does save his people from their sins.

These details from St Matthew, describing the way Jesus was sentenced to death, add poignancy to our prayerful reflection on the crucifixion. Pilate had so many opportunities to spare Jesus, but failed to do so.

Sometimes we fail to respond to Jesus' mercy, and instead relapse into our sins. As we contemplate Jesus giving up his life to save us, let us pray for the grace to see him more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly, day by day.



LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2020

How will you celebrate?

Join Pope Francis and take the next step in your Laudato Si' journey. Commit to an ambitious action that grows your response to "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."

No matter where you are in your journey, take the next step as a community during Laudato Si' Week, 16-24 May, when Catholic communities everywhere celebrate the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'.

Suggested ideas are available at www.laudatosiweek.org,

but you're welcome to take any action that is inspired by Laudato Si', accelerates solutions to our ecological crisis, and builds community for the long term.

There's an urgent need to solve the ecological crisis. Our faith calls us to do more together.



Pope Francis' LENT MESSAGE 2020

"We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity.

1. The paschal mystery as the basis of conversion

Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This kerygma sums up the mystery of a love "so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue" (Christus Vivit, 117). Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do with as we will. Rather, life is born of the love of God our Father, from his desire to grant us life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10). If we listen instead to the tempting voice of the "father of lies" (Jn 8:44), we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness. In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian what I wrote to young people in the Apostolic Exhortation Christus Vivit: "Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew" (No. 123). Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.

2. The urgency of conversion

It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God's mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a "face to face" relationship with the crucified and risen Lord "who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God's love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what

truly matters in God's eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will. In this favourable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. Hos 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Spouse's voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

3. God's passionate will to dialogue with his children

The fact that the Lord once again offers us a favourable time for our conversion should never be taken for granted. This new opportunity ought to awaken in us a sense of gratitude and stir us from our sloth. Despite the sometimes tragic presence of evil in our lives, and in the life of the Church and the world, this opportunity to change our course expresses God's unwavering will not to interrupt his dialogue of salvation with us. In the crucified Jesus, who knew no sin, yet for our sake was made to be sin (cf. 2 Cor 5:21), this saving will led the Father to burden his Son with the weight of our sins, thus, in the expression of Pope Benedict XVI, "turning of God against himself" (Deus Caritas Est, 12). For God also loves his enemies (cf. Mt 5:43-48).

The dialogue that God wishes to establish with each of us through the paschal mystery of his Son has nothing to do with empty chatter, like that attributed to the ancient inhabitants of Athens, who "spent their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new" (Acts 17:21). Such chatter, determined by an empty and superficial curiosity, characterizes worldliness in every age; in our own day, it can also result in improper use of the media.

4. A richness to be shared, not kept for oneself

Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth's goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for profit, which is a form of idolatry.

Today too, there is a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by alms-

giving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world. Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness. We can and must go even further, and consider the structural aspects of our economic life. For this reason, in the midst of Lent this year, from 26 to 28 March, I have convened a meeting in Assisi with young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers, with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy. As the Church's magisterium has often repeated, political life represents an eminent form of charity (cf. Pius XI, Address to the Italian Federation of Catholic University Students, 18 December 1927). The same holds true

for economic life, which can be approached in the same evangelical spirit, the spirit of the Beatitudes.

I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

FRANCIS

Rome, at Saint John Lateran,
7 October 2019
Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

Buckfast Abbey Shops Bookshop, Gift Shop, Monastic Shop

Come and see the variety of religious books, Christian resources, Cards, Jewellery, CD's, DVD's, ideal gifts!

Also our interesting range of Monastic produce from across Europe.

PLUS - items from local artisans including delicious fudge made by the monks of Buckfast Abbey.



Buckfast Abbey

Car Parks and Entry to The Abbey is free.
You can always phone us on (01364) 645506 or
email on bookshop@buckfast.org.uk

www.buckfast.org.uk

Brush Strokes

By Fr Tom Grufferty



Praying with Caravaggio for the Easter Octave: Easter Sunday

The Gospel Readings for the Easter Octave are very inspiring and none more so than on Wednesday 15th April. Luke 24:13-35. The meeting of Jesus with two of the Disciples on the Road to Emmaus is only found in St. Luke. It is profound story of great importance not only for Cleopas and his companion but for all of us who meet Jesus in the Breaking of Bread. I personally love the suggestion that somebody has made that the companion of Cleopas was his wife.

As a believer in the Lord meeting us in the breaking of Bread I would like to invite to read, contemplate and pray the Gospel story in a different way this year. First read the gospel slowly for three days during the octave of Easter, perhaps in three parts. Do this in the morning so that you can be mindful of the events and the words in the story for the rest of that day.

It would be great if you could attend Mass on Wednesday so that you hear the Gospel proclaimed within the Eucharist itself. Make sure you place yourself in one of the following characters as found in this great painting of Caravaggio. In 1601 Ciriaco Mattei, commissioned Caravaggio to paint this masterpiece. Mattei had a brother who was a Cardinal and they were a rich noble family. We are very lucky in this country because the painting is displayed in the National Gallery in London. (Room 31). I often go there just to soak up the atmosphere. It is noticeable that the painting attracts a wide variety of people including school children out for the day. It is also very useful to listen to the guide explain the story to the children.

Now make the masterpiece personal to you. Look at the characters with the intention to make yourself present.

Look at Jesus. He does not have a beard which is most unusual 400 years ago. This is the face of a man who has not suffered the crucifixion of only a few days ago. This is the New Christ of the Resurrection. There is youth and vibrancy in the face. This is life and life in abundance. Jesus is using both hands to bless. With the right hand he blesses the disciples and with the left hand he blesses the bread. There are three pieces of bread on the table. A carafe of wine as you would expect. The exotic fruits are interesting because these would not be found in springtime but only in the Autumn. I wonder what Caravaggio was saying there. Also notice that the bowl of fruit is tilting precariously towards the edge of the table.

The reaction of Cleophas and his companion is my favourite part of the painting. One stretches out his arms in disbelief. Notice the Camino shell as the sign of universal pilgrimage. The other one is about to leave the table because he is in a state of shock. Notice the hole in the elbow of his garment. Perhaps the bowl of fruit is tilting over too in disbelief.

Then there is the Inn Keeper who wears a Muslim head covering. He is non plussed. I wonder if he stands for all the atheists and agnostics Caravaggio met in his travels.

Finally look at the source of light which enables us to see the details. Caravaggio was revolutionary in his use of light and it would not surprise me that he is telling us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Stay with the painting if you like but when you have finished read the Gospel story again preferably in three parts. Then when you are at Mass next time make a real effort to recognise

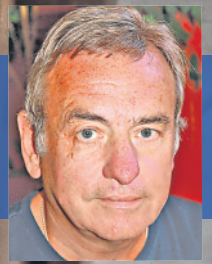
HENRY WILLIS & SONS

BUSINESS MEMBERS OF THE
IBO
CURRENTLY RECOGNISED BY
NEW ORGANS
REBUILDING
CLEANING & OVERHAUL
TUNING & MAINTENANCE
HISTORIC RESTORATION

CONTINUITY & CRAFTSMANSHIP SINCE 1845
 ROTUNDA ORGAN WORKS, 72, ST. ANNE STREET, LIVERPOOL. L3 3DY
 HEAD OFFICE: 0151 298 1845 SOUTH WEST (CLIVE ELLISON): 01872 552 245 ~ 07967 311 189
www.willis-organs.com @WillisOrgans

View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



BESET BY CONTAGION

Gordon Bennett was a bit of a rogue. The Lord alone knows why or how he gave his name to an exclamation in English. Perhaps it's something to do with him being American, of Scottish descent, publisher of the New York Herald, outspoken and all-round hell-raiser who regularly scandalised society with his extravagantly flamboyant behaviour. The same Gordon Bennett, son of Gordon Bennett, gave his name to a street in Paris. One day I'll get there, if only out of sheer devilment to have a snap taken of myself under the street sign.

-oOo-

My key-hole, pew-view of society reads rather bleakly at the moment. I see rights vie ever more strongly with responsibilities, as self-esteem battles tirelessly with altruism, as authoritarianism wrestles against basic democratic freedoms. The former combatant in every one of these duels looks to be gaining the upper hand and one thing is clear as we sit around the table enjoying the tea party that's life: there simply ain't enough cake to go round. Is it that people are being starved or have their appetites grown?

There's no such thing as a problem, only a solution waiting to be found and, as laws beyond our control dictate, the pendulum swings two ways: the greater it swings one way, the more forcefully it will return to swing the other. Ultimately it'll settle down to a common-sensical balance with opposing pressures coming to common accord. But common sense is in such increasingly short supply these days that Tony Blair, even some years ago, proposed banning the expression from our lexicon. Let's wait and see.

In the meantime, Cardinal George Pell and other activities nearer to home keep the question of clerical abuse firmly in our minds. Cardinal Pell, 78, has launched a final bid in Australia's top court to overturn his convictions for child sexual abuse. The ex-Vatican treasurer is serving a six-year jail sentence after a jury found he abused two boys in a Melbourne cathedral in the 1990s. Pell, previously one of the Pope's most senior advisers, is the most senior Catholic priest ever to be found guilty of such crimes.

Then former cabinet minister Amber Rudd being no-platformed at Oxford Uni raises concern for the rules governing etiquette. The ex-Conservative MP, a former home secretary and work and pensions secretary, saw her planned appearance at an International

Women's Day event cancelled with just half-an-hour's notice. A number of students had taken exception to Ms Rudd's handling of the Windrush scandal - over which she was forced to resign - and the policies she supported when in office.

And more self-appointed pundits have been chipping in, purporting to offer received wisdom on all manner of issues but all the while disseminating ignorance. It was Robert De Niro who recently said that Donald Trump 'needs to be humiliated' and that he, De Niro, would like to see a 'bag of s***' thrown in the president's face.

How does any of this prompt a more cohesive society? Society is brittle, like a biscuit - Forget the cake! That's all spoken for.

You can't simply silence the voices you oppose, be that in the Hong Kong of today, Germany in the '30s, Golgotha of yesteryear ... The pendulum gets more vengeful the more it's pushed in the one direction.

You might wonder: 'Is Freedom the right to tell people what they do not want to hear?' (George Orwell). However, when it comes to freedom of speech, I often think of the quote attributed to Francois-Marie Arouet, a French Enlightenment writer, historian and philosopher famous for his wit, his criticism of Christianity, especially the Roman Catholic Church, as well as his advocacy of freedom of speech, freedom of religion and separation of church and state, who is better known by his nom de plume Voltaire: 'I wholly disapprove of what you say - and will defend to the death your right to say it.'

Our Catholic Church is a society not really like any other. Its reach is global. It works within a variety of contexts striving in the face of many pressures, be they imposed from without or from within. With challenge there does come opportunity. But perhaps there needs to be further collapse before the new re-build. Evangelisation, all the while, needs to be bi-focal with focus both on sustaining recruits and on recruiting others. You need two to tango. For people to come to the church, the church needs to be seen to come to the people.

Reason, they say, separates us from other animals. At the risk of sounding arch, let me ask: 'So what becomes of us if we don't use our reason and no longer think things through?' That surely takes the biscuit.

Gordon Bennett!

CSW – Our Thanks

The Trustees of St Nicholas Wayfarers Church Kilton, wish to extend their sincere thanks for the publication of Parts 1 and 2 of the article on St Nicholas which appeared in the CSW December and February issues.

As a new charity, founded to look after St Nicholas since its recent restoration, Trustees hope parish groups, individuals and families alike, will take advantage of this new centre and be able to utilise facilities and access information available, besides enjoying the beautiful surroundings in which the church stands. A separate meeting room and personal spaces are also available.

Providing opportunities for spiritual refreshment and growth are primary features within objectives for future use of St Nicholas. Provision of retreats and vigils are to be offered which will respect and respond to the seasonal nature of the Churches calendar, together with the availability to celebrate personal anniversaries and family events.

History, Mystery and Grace are an integral part of many ancient churches. As St Nicholas dates back to the 6th century there is still much to be discovered within



its boundaries, besides the written word. It is hoped therefore, that snippets of architectural and archaeological interest may be passed on to readers. More importantly though, is the Grace that resides within its walls. Parishes are welcome to hold a service or Mass during the course of a planned visit.

Looking forward to greeting you for that always welcome 'pause to listen' in life; be it come wind or sunshine!

Blessings and thanks again.

Sr Annette Stapleton 01278 733 504 for information / bookings.

Celebrating 600 years since the First Professions of the Brigidines

02 MAY 2020

SYON ABBEY
600th
Anniversary

St. Bridget, Pray for us

Mass @ Buckfast Abbey Main Celebrant: Rt. Rev. Mark O'Toole @ 10:00 AM

Syon 2020-A Celebration of 600 Years since the First Professions

From previous articles you may remember that the continuity of Syon Abbey right through the Reformation and her return to England is unique. The first professions of the twenty-seven sisters, five priests, two deacons and three lay brothers were made on 21 April 1420 in their first monastery in Twickenham by the River Thames. Archbishop Henry Chichele conducted the ceremony, welcoming them into the Order of the Most Holy Saviour. On 5 May, the Bishop of London, Lord Richard Clifford confirmed the election of Joan North as Abbess, and Thomas Fishbourne as Confessor General.

"... the which persons I trust, by God's grace shall much profit in that place in that holy company of men and women."

Henry Fitzhugh's vision of an English house of the Bridgettine Order, had truly become reality. The Sisters were from educated families, and life was strict inside the enclosure, with Daily Offices sung in honour of Our Lady, fasting, long silences and prompt obedience. The community moved down to the drier site at Isleworth in 1431, where the huge church was built, becoming the largest in London until it was sadly ruined in the traumas of the Reformation. By then Syon had the largest library in England and had great influence on contemporary spirituality in medieval England.

Our last Abbess Anna Maria, Sister Anne Smyth O.Ss.S was the fifty-ninth Abbess in a long succession of those women responsible for guiding the community through the difficulties which beset them.

All together, there have been 398 sisters and 138 priests and lay brothers in the 600 years of the Community.

Syon 2020 Celebrations at Buckfast Abbey Saturday May 2

We are holding a celebration of 600 years since the First Professions of Syon Abbey on May 2, at Buckfast Abbey, Devon. Mass at 10 am will be concelebrated by Bishop Mark O'Toole with Emeritus Bishop Christopher Budd and Dom Boniface Hill of Downside Abbey. All are welcome to this, which will include Bridgettine chants from the Syon Breviary sung by young women choristers from the University of Exeter Chapel Choir.

Afterwards there will be an opportunity for all to view an exhibition of Syon's history, photographs from inside the Cloister, and the beautiful Syon Vestments. The afternoon talks are now nearly fully subscribed by the invited guests.

These will include a special guest, the current Lord Thomas Clifford of Ugbrooke who is directly descended from Bishop Richard Clifford as mentioned above. 'Together as we were in 1420, the mission of the Bridgettines is Unity' Joy Hanson, former gardener at Syon Abbey. Further details from joyhansonuk@gmail.com

With grateful thanks to Sr Anne Smyth OSsS and to Professor E.A Jones author of England's Last Medieval Monastery, Syon Abbey 18415-2015 Gracewing ISBN 978-0 85244-872-4.

SYON 2020

BUCKFAST ABBEY ~ SATURDAY 2nd MAY 2020 ~ 10 am - 4.30 pm

CELEBRATE with us the 600th anniversary of the moment when the first English monks and nuns made their vows to join England's ancient Syon Abbey in April of 1420.

SYON ABBEY was founded in London by King Henry V, the hero of Agincourt. The Sisters of Syon have kept him in their prayers for six centuries as shown in their Royal Charter.

10.00 A.M.

11.40 A.M.

3.30 P.M.

1.30 P.M.

1.45 P.M.

THE ORDER of The Most Holy Saviour (Bridgettines) was founded in Sweden in 1370 by Saint Bridget who was created a Patron Saint of Europe in 1999 by Pope St John Paul II.

WE THANK GOD for the unceasing prayerful devotion of all the men and women of Syon Abbey to this day. They are the last of England's ancient medieval monasteries.

PROGRAMME

MORNING

10.00 am: Bridgettine 600th Anniversary Mass in the Abbey.
Principal Celebrant: Bishop Mark O'Toole.
11.15 am: Morning Coffee.
11.40 am: Time Team video of the 15th Cent Syon Abbey.

AFTERNOON in the Conference Centre:

1.30 pm: Display of Syon Abbey artefacts.
1.45 pm: 'England's Last Medieval Monastery' talk by Prof. Eddie Jones of Exeter University.
2.30 pm: 'Life of the early nuns' talk by historian Dr Victoria Bainbridge. (3.00 pm: Afternoon Tea)
3.30pm: Interview with Sister Anne Smyth, O.Ss.S. the last Lady Abbess of Syon.

~ ~ 12.30 pm: Lunches may be bought in The Grange Restaurant ~ ~


FREE ADMISSION ~ ~ AMPLE PARKING ~ ~ DONATIONS WELCOME

ST BRIDGET'S FRIENDS ~ an ecumenical, international Facebook group. Secretary: Joy Hanson: joyhansonuk@gmail.com
Visit www.syonbreviary.co.uk

Poetry Corner

Oscar Wilde

Easter Day



The silver trumpets rang across the Dome:
 The people knelt upon the ground with awe:
 And borne upon the necks of men I saw,
 Like some great God, the Holy Lord of Rome.
 Priest-like, he wore a robe more white than foam,
 And, king-like, swathed himself in royal red,
 Three crowns of gold rose high upon his head:
 In splendour and in light the Pope passed home.
 My heart stole back across wide wastes of years
 To One who wandered by a lonely sea,
 And sought in vain for any place of rest:
 'Foxes have holes, and every bird its nest.
 I, only I, must wander wearily,
 And bruise my feet, and drink wine salt with tears.'

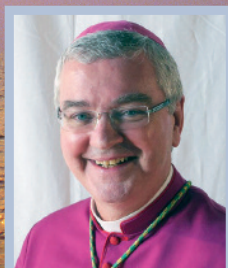
SPIRIT OF

1620—2020
Mayflower
 400™

Bishop Mark O'Toole invites you
 to come and join our
 Freedom Walk of Witness
 as we remember
 the pilgrims voyage to freedom.

Good Friday, April 10th 2020
 on Plymouth Hoe

Assemble at
 Christ the King Church
 by 11am



Bishop Mark O'Toole



DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH



Wayne Ricketts Stained Glass

New contemporary and
 traditional stained glass
 designed, made and fitted.

Professional repairs and
 restoration.

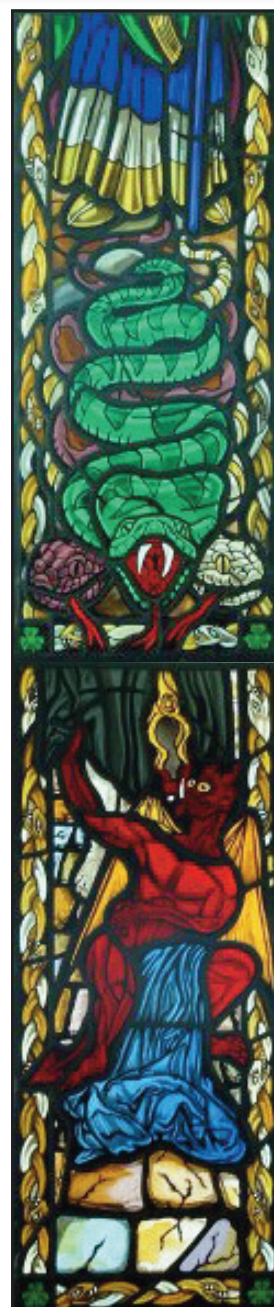
Website:

customstainedglass.co.uk

Email:

wayne.ricketts@btconnect.com

Tel: 0117 955 5390



Don't Screen Us Out!

Shockingly published figures highlight that 90% of babies who are prenatally diagnosed with Down's Syndrome are aborted.

Heidi Crowter, a 24-year-old woman from Coventry who has Down's syndrome, has joined forces with Cheryl Bilsborrow of St Mary's parish in Great Eccleston, to launch a landmark case against the UK Government under the banner 'Don't Screen Us Out' over the current discriminatory abortion law which allows abortion up to birth for Down's syndrome. Cheryl has a two year-old son Hector with Down's syndrome. Cheryl recounted a conversation she had following a prenatal test when she was offered a termination for Hector at 38 weeks gestation because Hector happened to have Down's Syndrome. Cheryl replied in shock and disgust "I'll pretend I didn't hear that."

Currently in England, Wales and Scotland, there is a general 24-week time limit for abortion, but if the baby has a disability, including Down's syndrome, cleft lip and club foot, abortion is legal right up to birth.

Appearing with Cheryl on the Victoria Derbyshire show in February and doing several media interviews Heidi said: "At the moment in the UK, babies can be aborted right up to birth if they are considered to be 'seriously handicapped'. They include me in that definition of being seriously handicapped – just because I have an extra chromosome! Can you believe that?"

What it says to me is that my life just isn't as valuable as others, and I don't think that's right. I think it's downright discrimination!

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recently said that the United Kingdom should change its abortion law to make sure that people like me aren't singled out because of our disabilities.

Sadly, the Government decided to ignore their recommendations and didn't change the law. So now, I am going to take the Government to court with other members of the Down's syndrome community to make sure that people aren't treated differently because of their disabilities."



Cheryl with big sister Tilly and Hector

Can you help Heidi and Cheryl?

Heidi and her legal team have set up a CrowdJustice crowdfunding page to help raise the initial £20,000 to start legal proceedings, pay for legal advice and begin the preparation of the case. To find out more and to make a contribution to the case please visit: www.crowdjustice.com/case/downrightdiscrimination/

Facts, Figures and Fake News

Human babies cannot taste salt until they are 4 months old

The first flags on pirate ships were red, not black – symbolising bloodshed

Sound waves can be used to extinguish fires

Only about 200 people speak Latin fluently

Blood makes a loop around your body more than 1,000 times a day

Two billion people on Earth eat insects as part of their regular diet

Fake Fact: Actually estimates are that there are only 100 people who can speak fluent Latin but the popularity of Classics as a GCSE is increasing so you never know – this number might be set to rise!

**Please support
our Advertisers**

C.R. Stanley Carpets
Large Selection Of Quality Carpets In Stock

We Supply, Measure, Deliver & Fit

All Leading Makes Of Carpets & Vinyls Supplier

100's of Rolls in Stock

5000 sq. ft. Showroom

Free Estimates • Competitive Prices

HOME SERVICE AVAILABLE

Established Over 25 Years

For Friendly Advice Call: 01752 776555
www.stanleycarpets.co.uk - 87 Crownhill Rd, Crownhill, Plymouth

Tel: 01579 351231

Rising Sun Nurseries
Harrowbarrow Callington Cornwall PL17 8JD

Rising Sun Nurseries, near Callington, Cornwall, has a complete range of garden care products, tools, pots, composts and accessories for all your gardening needs, and a wide range of plants, shrubs, trees, bulbs and seeds for every garden. We are open 7 days a week throughout the year. There is ample parking and our coffee shop serves snacks, cakes, teas and ices. Our friendly staff are always on hand to help you and to offer advice and recommendations.

- Bedding Plants
- Hanging Baskets
- Patio and Pot Plants
- Bird Feeders
- Annual Seeds
- Ceramic Pots and Troughs
- Composts
- Gifts
- Cut Flowers and Bouquets
- Christmas Trees

HTA National Garden Gift Vouchers

Rising Sun Nurseries, Harrowbarrow, Callington, Cornwall PL17 8JD
01579 351231
Website: www.risingsunnurseries.co.uk

**Plymouth Praesidium
LEGION OF MARY**

**Sending you our
Best Wishes
For A
Holy Easter**

If you are interested in and want to know more about the Legion of Mary, please come along to one of our weekly meetings on

**Thursdays 6pm at the
Cathedral Centre**

Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) continues to provide pastoral care and practical help

With alarm around the world about the spread of coronavirus, Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) continues to provide pastoral care and practical help to the world's 1.5 million seafarers.

Much of the focus on stemming the spread of the coronavirus has been centred on airports and flights. Yet, arguably, ports play an even more important role in our life.

It's estimated that around 90% of goods coming into the UK arrive by ship. This includes everything from cars and computers to fuel and vegetables. Many of us are probably unaware of just how vital seafarers are to our daily lives and the global economy.

The Stella Maris teams of chaplains and ship visitors, which operate in over 300 ports in 40 countries, play a vital role in supporting seafarers. In the south-west, they cover a number of ports, including Southampton, where last month Bishop Philip Egan blessed the new seafarers' centre at St Joseph's church.

St Joseph's is just a short walk from the cruise terminal and the closest seafarers' facility to the port. Here, seafarers can relax over a tea or coffee, use free WiFi to contact their families back home, and chat with friendly port chaplains or ship visitors.

"We continue to visit ships and support seafarers but are making sure our teams are aware of this latest situation and advise them to adhere to the guidance issued by their local port authorities and health offices," said Martin Foley, Stella Maris CEO.

"We have been informed by our colleagues in the Philippines that the Philippines Port Authorities has stopped all welfare service providers and other related organisations from boarding ships. Similarly, our teams in Cape Town South Africa have been asked to suspend ship visiting until further notice."



He added that the global nature of shipping means that any infectious disease is a risk for seafarers as they travel, and Stella Maris recognises the possible impact the outbreak may have on seafarers' mental and emotional wellbeing while being ready to support seafarers and their families.

Recent cases of cruise ships being turned away from ports because some passengers have been infected by coronavirus grabbed the headlines. While radio stations did phone interviews with worried passengers to discover what conditions were like on board, there was no mention of the crew.

It's common for cruise ships to have a crew of 1,000 or more, many coming from the Philippines and Catholic regions of India. These are the people who work in the restaurants and bars, organise activities and entertainment, and clean the cabins.

In January, the Westerdam cruise ship was refused entry to a number of ports after visiting Hong Kong during its 30-day cruise around the Far East. For the 1500 passengers and 800 crew members, this was a stressful time. Also on board was a Stella Maris cruise chaplain, who celebrated Mass each day and provided pastoral care to both crew and passengers. He contacted Fr Sinclair

Oubre, chaplain in the Port of Beaumont, Texas, to ask for a novena for illness or virus.

Fr. Oubre googled "novena for plagues", and found something called the Fourteen Holy Helpers Novena and also St. Roch, who is patron saint for those stricken with sickness. From this information, he was able to write a novena and send it to the priest on the ship.

Fr Tom Grufferty, a Portsmouth diocesan priest, served as a Stella Maris cruise chaplain on the Ventura during its voyage from Southampton through the Atlantic down to the sunny Mediterranean.

"A very large number of those at sea are married with wives and young children in Kerala and the Philippines, and they might not see their families for anything up to twelve months," he said.

While seafarers might seem remote from our lives, living as they do an almost nomadic life, sailing across the oceans from one port to another other, they face exactly the same issues as those of us who live on land, said Father John Lavers, Stella Maris port chaplain in Southampton.

"People are people no matter if they work on land or sea. The problems and difficulties are the same. The most important element is to be present to people especially in their time of need."

www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk



JOE WALSH TOURS
 LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2020

DIocese OF PLYMOUTH
LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
31 JULY 2020 | 6 NIGHTS
 Led by the Bishop of Plymouth Rt Rev Mark O'Toole

£799
 per person

PRICE INCLUDES »

- » Direct return flights from Exeter to Lourdes
- » 6 nights accommodation at selected hotel
- » Breakfast, lunch & dinner served daily
- » Airport taxes & charges, UK government levy and city tax
- » Full religious programme facilitated by Joe Walsh Tours in conjunction with the Diocese of Plymouth
- » Optional day excursion to Gavarnie (cost approx. €30)

LONDON: 0203 468 0617 | MANCHESTER: 0161 820 8790
www.joewalshstours.co.uk | info@joewalshstours.co.uk
Licensed by the Commission for Aviation Regulation, TO 052 and TA 0689 in compliance with the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Package Regulation 2018.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
 arranged for readers of Catholic South West

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE
 AVAILABLE TO ANYONE UP TO 85 YEARS OF AGE.
 MOST PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS ACCEPTED
TOP QUALITY COVER
 With a 24 hour helpline and an air ambulance get-you-home service.
 Mention this advert to get a Special Catholic South West discount.
 Don't forget we also offer SINGLE-TRIP COVER, with no maximum age limit and up to £20,000 cancellation cover per couple.
CALL FOR DETAILS AND PRICES
0116 272 0500

FT *Travel Insurance* **Real people - not machines!** **UK based**
 Authorised and regulated by the FCA

Church Pews Uncomfortable?
 Why not try

top quality upholstered foam pew cushions?
 SafeFoam, Green Lane, Riley Green, Houghton, Preston PR5 0SN
www.safefoam.co.uk
Freephone 0800 015 44 33
Free Sample Pack of Foam & fabrics sent by first class mail. When phoning please quote CSW101

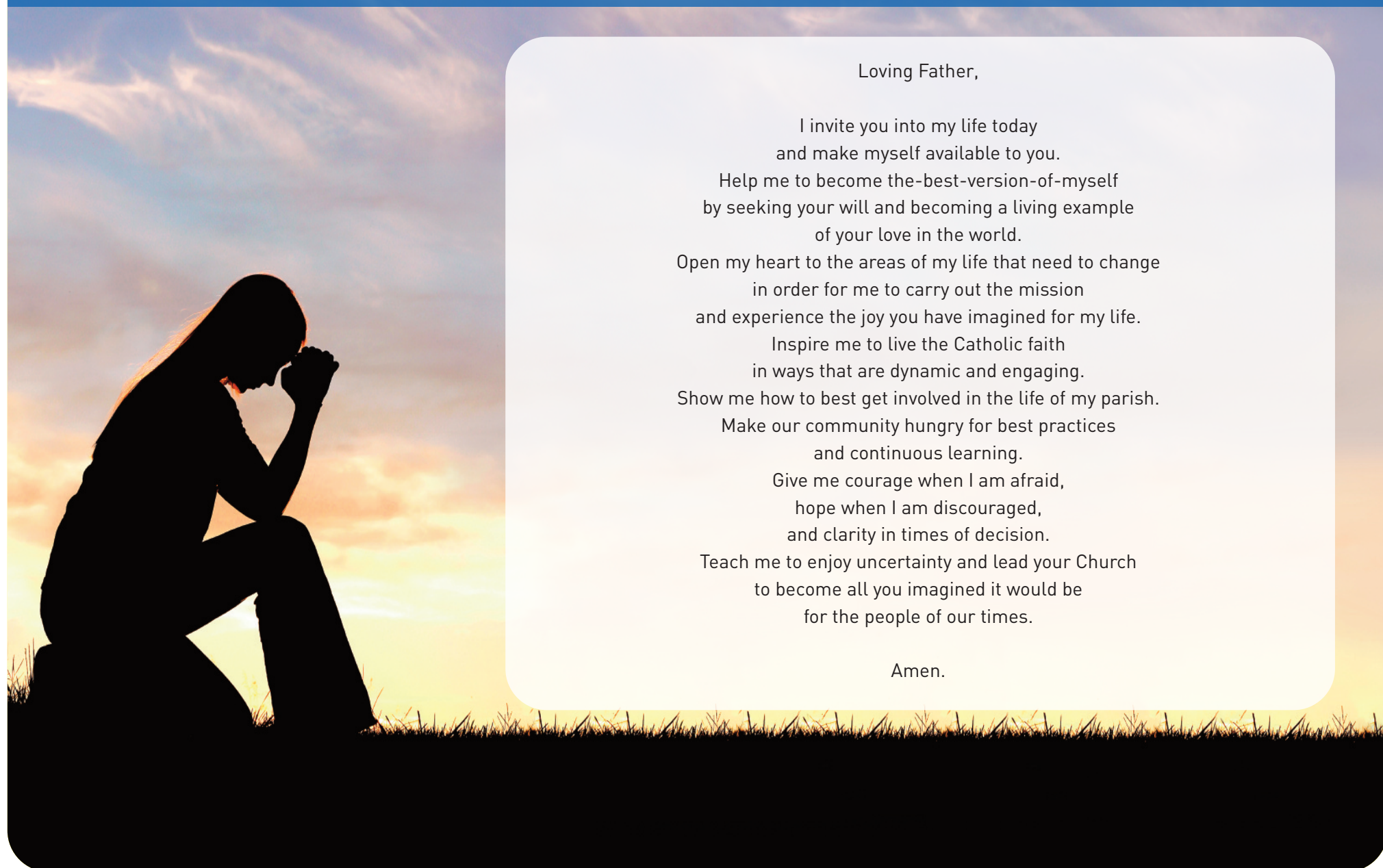
Our Lady of Fidelity

The church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignation spirituality. Daily Mass is the centre of community life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses of the consecrated way of life. If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette. Mature vocations considered.

CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF FIDELITY.
 Central Hill, Upper Norwood, LONDON SE19 1RS
 Telephone 07760 297001 Fax 0207 766 6579

The Online Catholic Directory since 1997
 Part of the CathCom Group:
 Publishing: Catholic Voice of Lancaster | Middleborough Voice | Hibernian News | Catholic News | The View
 Catholic East Angles | ABB News | Catholic South West | Reach | View | Unity | CNA News | The Catholic Mirror

Prayer



Loving Father,

I invite you into my life today
and make myself available to you.

Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself
by seeking your will and becoming a living example
of your love in the world.

Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change
in order for me to carry out the mission
and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.

Inspire me to live the Catholic faith
in ways that are dynamic and engaging.

Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.

Make our community hungry for best practices
and continuous learning.

Give me courage when I am afraid,
hope when I am discouraged,
and clarity in times of decision.

Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church
to become all you imagined it would be
for the people of our times.

Amen.

Funeral Services

Cotton & Son
Your Local Independent Family Owned and Run
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Jane Cotton Dip FD
Margaret Sherratt Dip FD
Nathan Westwood Dip FD

Milton House • 1 Milton Road • Weymouth • DT4 0AZ
Tel: (01305) 76 76 76

K.J. Lack
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE

funeral service tailored for each of
our families, with a personal and
compassionate service to assist at your
time of need

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

Covering Torbay and surrounding areas
Dedicated Chapel of Rest
24 hour availability

153 St. Marychurch Road, Plainmoor, Torquay
Tel: 01803 313200
Website: www.kjlackfuneralservice.co.uk

Allwood
of Totnes
**Independent
Family Funeral Service**

We offer a sympathetic, caring and
personal service to help you prepare a
unique and memorable tribute for
your loved one.

Available 24 hours
01803 862050

Station Road, Totnes, TQ9 5LF
Opposite Railway Station, behind TTS Tyres

YOU CAN SUPPORT
spiritual and social help for
the sick and suffering

learn more here:
obitel-minsk.com
st.elisabeth.shop@gmail.com



To Advertise in the
Funeral Section contact
Janet Took
01440 730399
janett@cathcom.org

RICHARD W. GEGG & SONS
Roman Catholic Funeral Directors

- 24 hour service
- Private chapels of rest

47 Rolle Street
EXMOUTH

Tel 01395 224040 or 222444

also serving Budleigh Salterton
and surrounding areas.

GOLDEN CHARTER PLANS
available as part of our service

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

The Latin Mass Society
www.lms.org.uk 020 7404 7284

**Masses in the Extraordinary Form in
Plymouth Diocese :**

St Edward the Confessor, Home Park Ave, Peverell, PLYMOUTH PL3 4PG
Sundays Sung Mass 11.30am. Confessions 11am.
1st Saturday Devotions 11am Confessions Low Mass 11.30am
Full details Holy Week Services for Lanherne & St. Edward's www.tlmplymouth.co.uk
Blessed Sacrament Church, Fore Street, Heavitree, EXETER EX1 2QJ
1st Sunday of April Palm Sunday - Sung Mass with Blessing of Palms 3pm.
Other months Sung Mass 2nd Sundays 3pm.
St Cyprian's Chapel, Ugbrooke House, CHUDLEIGH, Devon TQ13 0AD
4th Sundays 3.00pm Sung Mass.
Lanherne Convent, St Mawgan, NEWQUAY, Cornwall TR8 4ER
Sundays Sung Mass 8am. Conf. 7-7.30am, preceded by Rosary and Sermon 7am.
Monday - Saturdays inclusive Low Mass 8am
Thursday evenings 6.30 - 7.30pm Adoration with Confessions.
Our Lady's, Old Mill Lane, MARNHULL, Dorset DT10 1JX
Thursday 23rd April 12 noon Low Mass
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St. Ignatius, North Road, Chideock, Dorset.
Saturday 27th June Sung Mass 10.30am with Veneration of Relics.
Music Rupert Bevan Elgar's Mass for Five Voices.
**Our Lady of Lourdes & St Cecilia, White Cliff Mill Street,
BLANDFORD FORUM DT11 7BN**
Every Saturday Low Mass 8am.
Thursday May 21st 12 noon Low Mass.

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



Immune System Boosting Vegetable Stir-Fry

Now is as good a time as any to boost your immune system! Look for foods that are high in vitamins C, B6 and E as they all help to boost your natural immunity.

For the stir fry sauce:

- 3 tbsp soy sauce
- 3 tbsp water
- 2 tbsp dry sherry
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 2 tsp sugar
- 1 tbsp cornflour
- 1/4 tsp chili flakes
- 1/4 tsp mustard powder

For the stir fry:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 250g broccoli, cut into small pieces (contains vitamins A, a range of Bs, C, E and K – an uber food!)
- 200g Mushrooms – thickly sliced (rich in a range of B vitamins)
- 1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced (high in vitamins A and C)
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped (contains vitamins B6 and C)
- 3 spring onions, thinly sliced (vitamins A, B6 and C)
- 1 tbsp grated fresh ginger (vitamins B3, B6 and C)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by making the sauce. Whisk all the ingredients together and then put on one side.
2. In a pan, bring 1 inch of water to a rapid boil. Add the broccoli and cook for 2-3 minutes. Tip the broccoli into a colander and run cold water over it to stop it from cooking any more. Put it on one side to fully drain until you need it.
3. In a large non stick wok or pan, heat the oil over a high heat. Tip in the mushrooms and pepper and cook for 5-6 minutes until the mushrooms are browned and the peppers are softened. Add the garlic, spring onions and ginger and cook for about 30 seconds, stirring constantly. Tip the broccoli into the pan and warm it through which should take about 1 minute. Add in the sauce. Toss all the ingredients together until the sauce is thickened and the vegetables are evenly coated. It should take about 30 seconds. Serve immediately with either rice or noodles.



REVIEWS

PASTORAL MINISTRY IN CHANGING TIMES

The Past, Present and Future of the Catholic Church in Ireland
Aidan Ryan

Messenger Publications, pbk, 144 pages, 2019, £11.95

It is the end of an era for the Catholic Church, not just in Ireland, but in Britain. What Father Aidan Ryan, long-term pastor of an Irish rural community, has wisely and thoughtfully written, could be said to apply equally in Britain.

Here we are presented with a selection of his writings from *The Furrow*, the earliest from 2006, and the most recent from 2019.

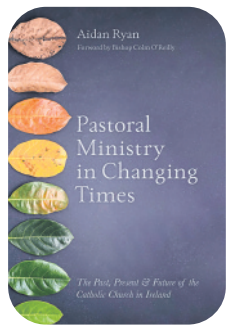
There are four parts in the book: Irish Catholicism Today; sacraments; parish life; and looking to the future.

His 2017 and 2019 writings are particularly relevant: how laity, clergy and religious cope with what is effectively the end of an era, and how they face into a future which is going to be distinctly different. He speaks from his broad experience of living through such vast changes, which touch folk in rural as well as urban areas.

As we enter a new decade, there is plenty of material here to give much pause for thought and, hopefully, to throw down a practical challenge for concerted intelligent action. For any diocese pondering a synod, for example, this is ideal as a starter to stimulate discussion. And it has the hopeful and compassionate touch of

Pope Francis about it.

© Denis Blackledge SJ



Easter Mass Times

Holy Week and Easter Triduum 2020
St Cuthbert Mayne Parish,
Launceston Mayne Close, PL15 8XQ
Tel: 01566 773166

9th April 7pm Maundy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and Watching at the Altar of Repose	11th April 8pm Easter Vigil 12th April Easter Sunday Mass 8.30am: Our Lady of Victories, Callington 10.00am: St Peter's, Bude 10.30am: St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston
10th April 3pm Good Friday Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion Confessions available before and after	

Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Cecilia

White Cliff Mill Street,
Blandford Forum DT11 7BN

April 9th., Maundy Thursday:

Mass at 7pm

April 10th., Good Friday:

Liturgy at 3pm

April 11th., Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil: 8.30pm

April 12th., Easter Sunday:

Mass at 10am

Catholic Church of The Most Precious Blood
Radway, Sidmouth, EX10 8TW
01395 513340

Wishing you all a Holy and Happy Easter
Everyone is welcome here, no matter who you are, or where you are on your faith journey

Easter Services will be celebrated on:

Palm Sunday Vigil Mass - Saturday 5.30pm
Sunday Mass - 10.30am (Process from St Teresa's Hall)
Maundy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7pm
Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3pm
Easter Vigil Saturday - 9pm
Easter Sunday Mass - 10.30am
Details of all other services can be found at
www.churchofthepreciousbloodsidmouth.co.uk



Social Care Health and Education (SHE) Recruitment is a Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Companies House registered agency. Although based in Milton Keynes we have carers that will come and support you in the comfort of your home.

We provide

- Live in carers (long and short term)
- After hospital discharge support carers and nurses
- End of life care support
- Sitting services whilst carers go away for a day or night
- Waking nights staff
- Staff are experienced and DBS cleared. Friendly, kind, honest and gentle carers and nurses.

We provide services for clients who are privately funded and those on direct payment.

Please contact Gertrude on Mob 07988698468
Email gertrude.munyongani@sherecruitment.co.uk
Challenge House, Sherwood Drive,
Milton Keynes, MK4 6DP

Celebrating our Schools

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SCHOOL ON THIS PAGE FOR SUPPORTING THE PAPER

St Edward's School
Unity Achievement Faith

The staff and students of St Edward's School wish all readers a very happy and holy Easter

The Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England educating in partnership

Dale Valley Road, Poole, BH15 3HY
Telephone: 01202 740950
www.st-edwards.poole.sch.uk
email: enquiries@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk

Find Mass Times around the Diocese

www.catholicdirectory.org

on your Computer

or on your Mobile

Images of a computer screen and a smartphone displaying the Catholic Directory app.

SPUC Branches in the Plymouth Diocese send best wishes to readers of CATHOLIC SOUTH WEST for a Happy Easter

Standing up for life from conception to natural death.

Will you stand with us and be a voice in defending innocent unborn life in 2020?

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

www.spuc.org

definition /,defɪ'nɪʃən/ no tion of the meaning of dictionary definition

CSW looks at the word "Fasting"

For Catholics, fasting, taken as a technical term, is the reduction of one's intake of food to one full meal (which may not contain meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Fridays throughout the entire year unless a solemnity should fall on Friday and two small meals (known liturgically as collations, taken in the morning and the evening), both of which together should not equal the large meal. Eating solid food between meals is not permitted. Fasting is required of the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 on specified days. Complete abstinence of meat for the day is required of those 14 and older. Partial abstinence prescribes that meat be taken only once during the course of the day. Meat is understood not to include fish or cold-blooded animals.

Prior to changes made by Pius XII and Paul VI, fasting and abstinence were more strictly regulated. The church

had prescribed that Catholics observe fasting or abstinence on a number of days throughout the year.

In addition to the fasts mentioned above, Catholics must also observe the Eucharistic Fast, which involves taking nothing but water and medicines into the body for one hour before receiving the Eucharist. The ancient practice was to fast from midnight until Mass that day, but as Masses after noon and in the evening became common, this was soon modified to fasting for three hours. Current law requires merely one hour of eucharistic fast, although some Catholics still abide by the older rules.

Colloquially, fasting, abstinence, the Eucharistic Fast, and personal sacrificial disciplines such as abnegation of sweets for Lent are altogether referred to as fasting.

The Buckfast Abbey Chapel Window and the Shroud of Turin: An Image of Redemptive Suffering

Article originally appeared in 'Mass of Ages', Summer 2019 issue



Visitors to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Buckfast Abbey are always struck by the impressive floor-to-ceiling stained glass window of Christ, offering his body and blood in the Eucharist. Many puzzle over the seemingly abstract choice of colours - the face, for example, contains a mixture of reddish-brown, green, blue and more.

However a comparison with the face in the Shroud of Turin reveals that there is nothing abstract about the choice of colours. The similarities between the two images are so close that the monk who created the stained glass window, Dom Charles Norris, must surely have been influenced by the Shroud image.

Look first at the reddish-brown areas of the face in the window. Both eyes are surrounded by this reddish-brown glass, the left eye more than the right. Forensic pathologists who have studied the Shroud of Turin point out that the area around the left eye is considerably swollen, possibly suggesting a broken cheekbone, likely to have closed the eye. The area under the right eye is also swollen, but less so. The use of reddish-brown glass in the window

therefore seems to replicate the injuries shown on the Shroud.

The similarities do not end there. The face of Christ in the window has an odd white patch in the beard. Comparison with the Shroud shows a similar appearance, where part of the bloodstained beard was pulled out by Christ's torturers prior to the crucifixion.

The face also appears to record a similar pattern of bloodstains from the Crown of Thorns. Note the distinctive '3' shaped bloodstain on the forehead of Christ in the Shroud, and then note the position of the prominent red-brown glass section in the window, with its small lower drip of blood also present. The other bloodstains on the forehead of the Shroud image have similar echoes in the face of Christ in the window.

Next look at the hair in the Shroud image. As a result of the rigours of the Passion and Crucifixion it would have been matted with sweat and blood into the rigid strands visible in the image. The head of Christ in the window has a similar appearance, even down to the shape of the hair where it meets the shoulders. The trickles of blood through the hair, which appear white in the famous 'negative' image of the Shroud, correspond to the sections of white glass in the window.

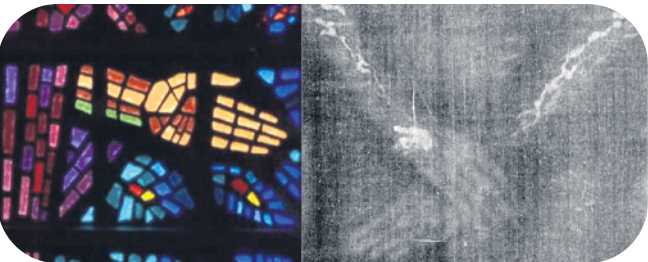
Turning to the arms, we see further similarities between the two images:

Some have observed that the use of straight lines of coloured glass on the forearm gives the odd impression of the arm being almost octagonal in shape. However comparison with the Shroud shows that the use

of red-brown glass is once again a portrayal of blood flows, and the area of colour in the palm of the hand is the location of the nail wound (the exit wound on the Shroud appears to be at the wrist, but it has been pointed out that the entry point may have been the base of the palm, with the nail being driven in at an angle). It has been commented by forensic pathologists that the direction of blood flows, down the forearms of the man in the Shroud, is one of the most convincing details suggesting the Shroud's authenticity. The same feature is clearly visible on the arms of Christ in the window.

The image in the window of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel therefore seems to be less an abstract use of colour, and more an accurate portrayal of Christ's Passion - a reminder that the light of the resurrection only comes to us through the darkness of His suffering. To those who can visit Buckfast Abbey this Easter, the window will be a moving and powerful reminder of the reality of the event on which our faith is based.

(Mackenzie Robinson is an Oblate of St Mary's Abbey, Buckfast, the Director of St Benedict South West (www.stbenedict.co.uk), and lectures on the Shroud of Turin.)



Use the QUICK clues to help you work out the solution.

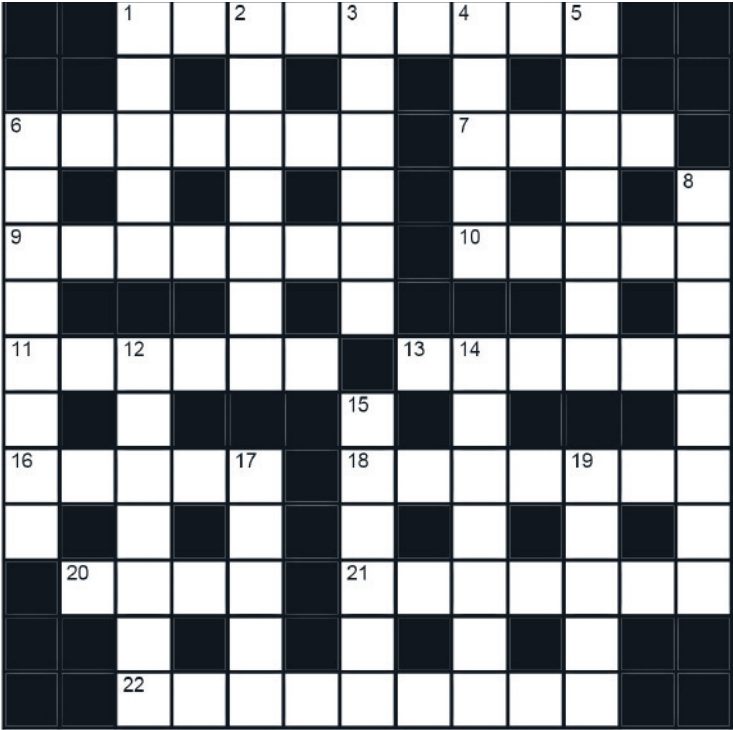
QUICK Across

- 1 Those from Asia Minor with Charlie murdered Sicilian (9)
- 6 One tribe's adopted son, the first from Seleucia to become king in Parthia (7)
- 7 Gold's next after dropping half off by Sword Beach river (4)
- 9 Peter Nally's intrinsically indestructible (7)
- 10 Repeated theme brings staleness to essence of duet (5)
- 11 He foresaw, in dividing bread, hard time to return (6)
- 13 Elegant lieutenant to ex-England manager's not quite English (6)
- 16 Cripples saint, and blacksmiths? (5)
- 18 For St Peter's he wrote an unfinished dirge, retro-style, following everyone else (7)

- 20 Mildew found in the US, and many an ancient place in North Wales (4)
- 21 Card needed to enter a hospital in Gadite town (7)
- 22 Mad Seneca's angry being representative of Syrian city (9)

QUICK Down

- 1 Indian division English players head (5)
- 2 Part of old Italy for Santa to drop in on a number (7)
- 3 Cellist's a class apart (6)
- 4 Cool American? Idiot's totally revolting (5)
- 5 Raised roads, for example, in an African country (7)
- 6 Mate of Daniel's gone funny after lying in (8)
- 8 Wicked heathenism divided saint shortly



- abandoned (8)
- 12 What road engineer has to inform carmaker? (7)
- 14 Almost rude and extremely trite book of verse (7)
- 15 About to 'allez', as they say, landing in France (6)
- 17 Very bad place sees Norman bishop entering extremes of sadism (5)
- 19 Gill's going to order round (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Cilicians, 6 Arcases, 7 Orne, 9 Eternal, 10 Telford, 14 Vulgate, 15 Calais, 17 Sodom, 19 Globe. Down: 1 Caste, 2 Lucania, 3 Casals, 4 Aloof, 5 Senegal, 6 Abednego, 8 Nehemiah, 9 Caste, 10 Lucania, 11 Nathan, 13 Svelte, 16 Gilles, 18 Allegri, 20 Mold, 21 Ataroth, 22 Damascene.