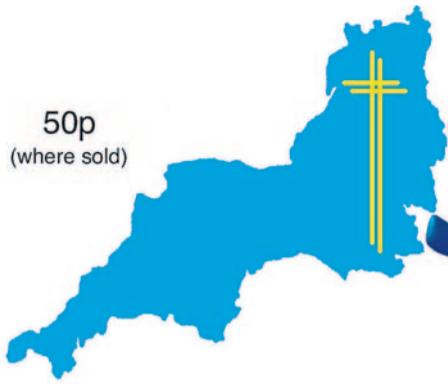


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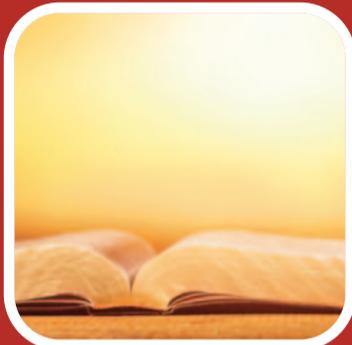


Catholic South West

Serving the Church in the South West

November 2021

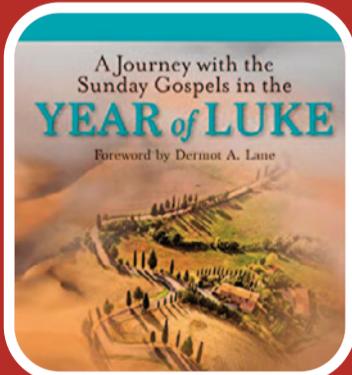
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For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



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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, do let us know.

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

Thank you for the huge response in sending articles in from around the Diocese. We have tried to include as many as possible. Please keep them coming!

Catholic South West is your paper, but it can only reflect your news if you send it to us. So if you do have some parish

news that would be of interest to people throughout the Diocese do let us know. We will try to include as much news as we possibly can.

This month there is a lot of information about the Synod which has now started in the Plymouth Diocese after the launch by Bishop Mark in the Cathedral last

month. Everyone is encouraged to get involved and have their say, for the future of the Diocese and the wider Church. This is your opportunity to discern and share what you think and feel.

CSW TEAM



LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

Caring for our brothers and sisters means caring for the home we share. This responsibility is "essential to a life of virtue" (LS 217).

On 25 May 2021, Pope Francis launched the Laudato Si' Action Platform - a seven year journey of ecological conversion in action. The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations, and "all men and women of good will." (LS 3) Taking a truly ground-up approach, it is rooted in the strengths and realities of communities around the world, empowering all to take "decisive action, here and now" as we journey towards a better future together. (LS 161).

The seven year journey is inspired by the integral ecological vision of the Encyclical and guided by seven Laudato Si' goals: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, Ecological Economics, Simple Lifestyles, Ecological Education, Ecological Spirituality and Community engagement with participatory action.

The Platform hopes to create a people's movement from below to contribute to the critical mass needed for radical societal transformation. The platform creates a space for the Universal Church to respond to the global emergency we are facing. The site offers concrete, practical expertise on actions that support your progress towards the seven Laudato Si' Goals.



In the Diocese of Plymouth we are carrying out a range of actions to be good stewards of the earth. If you would like to get more involved or share your thoughts on any of these issues please contact caritas@prcdtr.org.uk.

You can find out more about our own Diocesan work on the environment www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk

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.

Bishop Mark launches Diocesan synodal Journey: 'Walking Together'.

The Synod is a two-year 'synodal' process taking place in the Catholic Church from October 2021 that culminates in the final Synod Gathering of Bishops in Rome in October 2023. The overall theme is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission". Pope Francis opened the Synodal Journey in Rome on 10th October.

Together with members of the Clergy, Religious and lay men and women – who each gave testimonies during the service at Plymouth Cathedral, Bishop Mark spoke about how important home is for us. How we all long for a place to call home where we are secure, where we can rest. This journey where we recognise that we walk together. We too long to be at home. To be secure, to find a place of rest and of safety. Ultimately that will come for us when we find our place in the Father's House. Will be embraced by Him in an eternal face to face.

Extract from Homily

How we all long for a place to call home where we are secure, where we can rest. Today we launch in the Diocese this Synodal journey. This journey where we recognise that we walk together. We too long to be at home. To be secure, to find a place of rest and of safety. Ultimately that will come for us when we find our place in the Father's House. Will be embraced by Him in an eternal face to face. Unlike Nietzsche we do not walk this road alone. Other people on the road are our brothers and sisters. We are here to help one another walk this road together to the Father's house.

And so, we encounter one another along the Way. We meet one another face to face. The One who teaches us how to do this well, is the Lord Himself. We hear in the Gospel, of what happens to those who walk the road of life. It takes place on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus,

"As the two disciples talked and discussed these things with each other Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them...."

The Lord walks with us! How often we forget this fundamental truth of being a disciple. The Lord does not stand aloof. He is

completely present to them. He is open to encounter. Nothing leaves Jesus indifferent; everything is of concern to him. Encountering faces, meeting eyes, sharing each person's history. That is the closeness that Jesus embodies. He knows that someone's life can be changed by a single encounter. The Gospel is full of such encounters with Christ, encounters that uplift and bring healing. Jesus did not hurry along or keep looking at his watch to get things over. He was always at the service of the person he was with, listening to what he or she had to say.

As we start this process in the Diocese, we too are called to become experts in the art of encounter. We do so, not so much by organizing events or theorizing about problems, or planning strategies for pastoral reorganisation, but in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another. Time to devote to prayer and to adoration – that form of prayer that we so often neglect – devoting time to adoration, and to hearing what the Spirit wants to say to us individually and to the Church. Time to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say, to build rapport, to be sensitive to the questions of our sisters and brothers, to let ourselves be enriched by the variety of charisms, vocations, and

ministries. Does not St Paul remind us in that letter to the Corinthians of the great variety that there is:

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them".

There is so much richness in our diocese which we need to be open to encountering and receiving, such diversity but all united together in the power of the Spirit of the Risen Jesus.

.....

Jesus in the power of His Spirit wants us to help one another along the road, to find our home in Him, and to find new ways, new models, new pathways which will help us to reach out, to invite others in our world to join us on the road. For the Lord desires so very deeply that they too find their home in Him. We are called to be the instruments of that. May the Holy Spirit help us to encounter one another, to listen deeply to one another, to show us the direction the Spirit wants us to travel, so that we can be more effective witnesses of Jesus to those who do not know Him.

+Mark O'Toole
Bishop of Plymouth

Around the South West

Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)



On October 12th, nearly 60 people came together online to reflect and pray for prisons, prisoners and their families. Speakers included Bishop Mark O'Toole, Andy Keen-Downs, Chief executive of Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) and his team, Canon Paul Douthwaite, the National Catholic Chaplain for Prisons and Deacon Nick Johnson.

For more information or to hear a recording of the event please go to: www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/prisonswereport-2/

Walking Together

Everyone is invited to a Diocese of Plymouth online event on



Tuesday 16th November at 7pm where Austen Ivereigh will explore the topic: "Behind the global synod: why Pope Francis wants you to speak boldly and listen carefully."

Austen Ivereigh is a leading writer, journalist and commentator best known for his books on and with Pope Francis, and for his role in the media explaining the convictions of the Catholic Church. He is a Fellow in Contemporary Church History at Campion Hall, Oxford and a regular contributor to The Tablet.

Please register to join us for this really interesting discussion about the global synod and what this means for our Diocese, with an opportunity for Questions and Answers.

To register please go to www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/austenivereigh/

Send us your news
csw@cathcom.org

Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Falling Leaves and Living Hope

In 1844, Thomas Hood wrote a poem about his experience of November. It begins by describing the fog of Victorian London: "No sun - no moon! No morn - no noon - No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day - No sky - no earthly view."

The poem ends on the same gloomy note: "No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease, No comfortable feel in any member - No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds, - November!"

At least for us the severe winter fogs may have gone, but November is still the month when we see the leaves falling from the trees. Nature prepares for the dead of winter, when everything seems lifeless and still. This month can be a time of reflection for us when the dark evenings encourage us to gather our memories.

For Catholics, November is the traditionally the month when we remember the dead and pray for them. The month begins with All Saints Day, when we recall great figures from our past and ponder on the call to imitate them.

Then we have All Souls Day, when we remember the faithful departed, especially those whom we have known and loved. We give thanks for all the good we have received from them, and we pray that they may be safe now in God's hands.

A few days later, around the anniversary of the ending of the First World War, we also keep Remembrance Sunday, when we recall the victims of the two world wars and subsequent conflicts. On that day we also pray for peace, so that ongoing conflicts may be resolved by negotiation rather than weapons.

In November, when we see a cemetery, or when we think of those who have gone before us, it is natural to remember the past, with its blessings and its struggles. But as followers of Christ, we also look forward in the hope of being reunited in heaven with the faithful departed.

We believe that Christ came to this earth to save us by sharing our life, right to the point of dying. But on the third day he rose again, and he has returned to his heavenly Father to prepare eternal places for each of us believers.

The apostle Paul outlines the significance of the resurrection (First Corinthians 15): "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith has been in vain." Our whole faith centres on this hope of resurrection, based on Jesus' own ris-

ing again.

St Paul adds: "If Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins." Jesus' death and resurrection offers us forgiveness of past sins and the offer of new life. As Catholics, we also pray for forgiveness of the sins of those who have gone before us.

Without the resurrection, those who have died believing in Christ have just perished. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, to prepare a place in heaven for all those believe in him.

In the month of November, we can think back to the events of Holy Week—Christ dying to redeem us and rising to open up for us the gates of heaven. As we remember our departed loved ones this month, we pray that they may enjoy peace and happiness in the loving hands of God.

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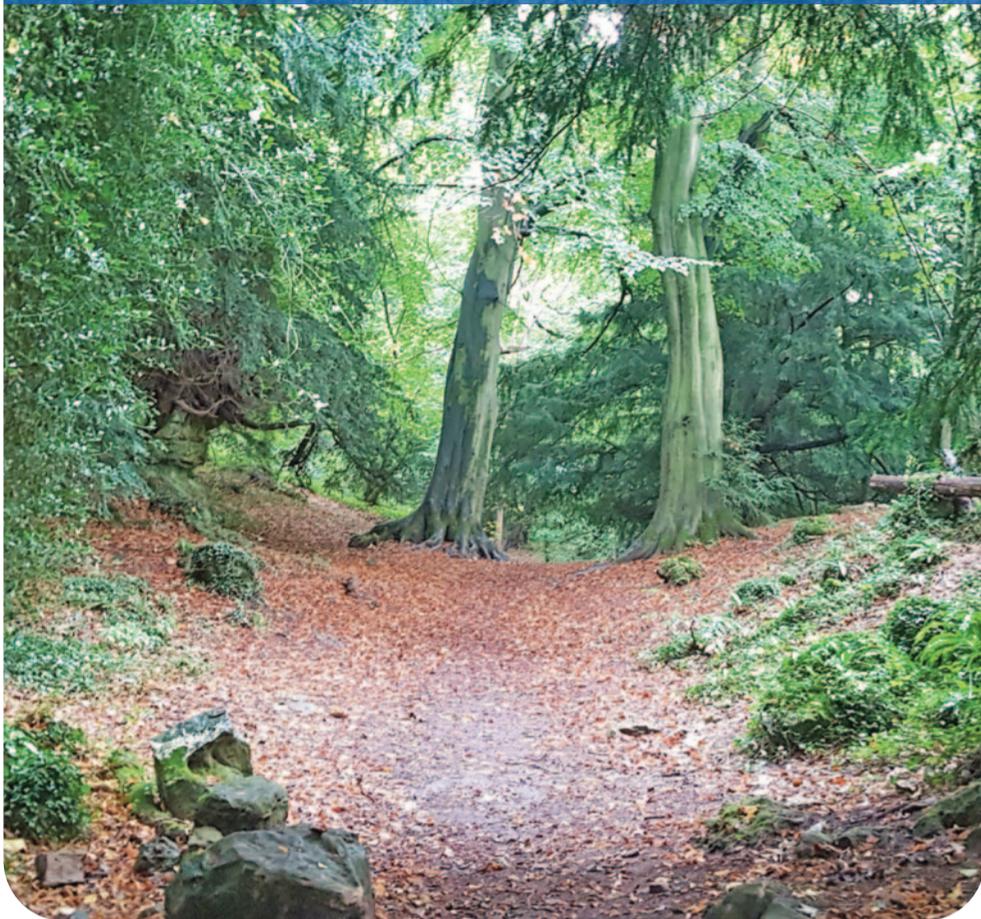
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Prayer for COP26



The 2021 United Nations climate change conference, COP26, is taking place in Glasgow from Sunday, 31 October to Friday, 12 November 2021. Governments and negotiators from 197 countries will meet to discuss how to keep temperature rise below dangerous levels and to prevent further climate change.

In the run-up and during the summit, we invite you to pray that the leaders and negotiators work together for positive outcomes for people and for our common home.

A PRAYER FOR THE COP26 CLIMATE TALKS

In the run up to COP26, we are asking people to pray that the leaders meeting in Glasgow work together for positive outcomes for people and the planet, by using this prayer in their parishes and at home.



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

CAFOD

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CAF6167

"I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affects us all." Pope Francis *Laudato Si'* §14

COP26 is the United Nations climate change conference being held in Glasgow between 31st October and 12th November. It will be attended by leaders from over 200 countries to discuss climate change and how to tackle the global ecological crisis. The conference follows on from a series of summits including the Paris climate talks in 2015, where countries pledged to work together to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5°C. If we exceed this threshold, millions of the most vulnerable people in our communities at home and abroad will be at risk of the devastating effects of climate change.

Visit: cafod.org.uk/cop26



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Cut out here



Loving God,
We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe,
and in the smallest of creatures.

We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us
as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they
seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society.
Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions
for the poorest and most vulnerable,
and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son.

Amen



A PRAYER FOR THE COP26 CLIMATE TALKS


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News you may have missed!

Pope Francis sends message of spiritual closeness and blessing to those affected by Plymouth shootings.



In a letter communicated to the Bishop of Plymouth, Bishop Mark O'Toole, from the Secretary of State at the Vatican, Pope Francis has expressed his spiritual closeness to those affected by the shootings in Plymouth and imparts his Blessing to all concerned.

Bishop welcomes G7 leaders

In an address to an Interfaith gathering at Truro Cathedral, Bishop Mark O'Toole, the Bishop of Plymouth, welcomed the G7 leaders, to the South West of England, "to our beautiful part of the world". He expressed the hope that having enjoyed their stay, they would go on "to work more diligently for the care of our common home, and for the dignity of the poorest".



Pope Francis stood underneath a canopy as he spoke to an empty St. Peter's Square

During the Urbi and Orbi prayer, Pope Francis stood underneath a canopy as he spoke to an empty St. Peter's Square.



The Pope likened the coronavirus pandemic to an "unexpected, turbulent storm" that brings us on "the same boat."

He also expressed gratitude for the "ordinary people ... who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines" – doctors, nurses, grocery store workers and cleaners, among other essential employees working at the frontline of the pandemic.

Albert Lawes Ordination to the Diaconate

Homily for Diaconate of Albert Lawes, Plymouth Cathedral, 12th July 2020
Well, it is not Palazzola. It is



not Rome. A diaconate ordination does not have any anointings, although at this one, you would wonder, with all the cleansing gel we have to use! Albert, this is not how we had envisaged your diaconate ordination was going to be. But the sun is shining. And, in the mystery of God's Providence, the Church receives a new deacon. In the diocese we celebrate the gift of a new servant of Christ. Your bishop gives thanks to God and we all rejoice that this day has come.....

Pope Francis pre-COP 26 Appeal

"We have inherited a garden: we must not leave a desert to our children."

lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production."

During the meeting 'Faith and Science: Towards Cop26' held in the Vatican on 4th October Pope Francis, along with scientists and religious leaders, signed a document calling for the world to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible. In the run up to the UN Climate Change Conference which takes place from 31 October to 12 November in Glasgow, the meeting appealed to governments "to raise their ambition and their international cooperation to favour a transition to clean energy; adopt sustainable land use practices; transform food systems to become environmentally-friendly and respectful of local cultures; end hunger; and to promote sustainable

The Joint Appeal also encourages us as individuals to engage our congregations and institutions and our neighbours to build resilient and just communities which embrace sustainable lifestyles.

Pope Francis affirmed that "everything is connected in our world", adding that science, as well as our religious beliefs and spiritual traditions, highlight the connectedness between ourselves and the rest of creation. He reiterated the importance of Openness to interdependence and sharing, the dynamism of love and a call to respect as interpretative keys that can shed light on common efforts to care for our common home.

Prayer Corner

Denis Blackledge SJ

ON THE MOVE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amen.

The years I spent there were very happy ones

On August 15th I resigned as parish priest of Holy Angels, Chelston, Torquay.

In 2006 I became Catholic Chaplain to Torbay Hospital and also began to do some Masses at Chelston (while based at Paignton). Then in 2009 I was appointed to Chelston.

The years I spent there were very happy ones. Many young families attended, especially Syro-Malabar Catholics from the Indian state of Kerala. My guess is that the average age of those attending the 0930 Sunday Mass was about thirty. Weekday Masses were also well attended - pre Covid; but they picked up again when Masses with congregations were restored.

My years were blessed with a large and loyal band of altar servers and people who looked after the sacristy, music, children's Liturgy and preparation for the sacraments.

In later years (after visits to Kerala), we had an annual celebration in honour of St. Alphonsa (India's first native saint). This included a colourful outdoor procession, usually also attended by the local member of Parliament and his wife.



The photograph which was taken after my last Sung Mass. Most of the servers have assisted me for over 10 years and are now at university (or beyond).

The parish is now under the pastoral care of Fr. Colin at the Assumption, Torquay. Holy Angels has become a shrine church ministered to by the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.

Please, as I do, keep the people and pastors in your prayers so that Holy Angels may continue to witness to God's love in Chelston.

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Masses in the Extraordinary Form in Plymouth Diocese:

St. Edward the Confessor, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, PLYMOUTH PL3 4PG
3pm Sung Mass. Confessions before and after Mass.
1st Saturdays 11.30am

Blessed Sacrament, Fore St., Heavitree, EXETER, Devon EX1 2QJ
No Mass November (1)

St. Cyprian, Ugbrooke House, CHUDLEIGH, Devon TQ13 0AD
No Mass November (1)

Lanherne Convent, St. Mawgan, NEWQUAY, Cornwall TR8 4ER
Sundays ; 8.30am Low Mass, 10.30am Sung Mass

Monday – Saturday 8am Low Mass.

All Saints 8am Sung Mass + 6.15pm Low Mass

All Holy Souls 8am Mass and Procession + 6.15pm Low Mass

Thursday 8am and 6.15pm Low Mass

Confession: Saturdays at 3pm

Holy Angels Shrine Church, Queensway, Chelston, TORQUAY TQ2 6BP
9.45 – 10.15 am Confessions, 10.30am Sung Mass, 6pm Vespers & Benediction

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 4.30pm Vespers

5pm Adoration (with Confession available) 6pm Low Mass

Tuesdays & Saturdays 8.30am Low Mass

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Monday November 1st All Saints 12 noon Low Mass

Wednesday December 8th Immaculate Conception 12 noon Low Mass

Saturdays 9.30am

(1) In case of change, contact

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View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



BODY AND SOUL

By way of an aside:

Thank the Lord that matters with regard to COVID now seem to be getting under better control and that we might finally be leaving the pandemic behind. Our sympathies to all those who may have suffered or lost loved ones during and as a result of the emergency.

A sincere thank-you and generous mark of appreciation to all those front-line and other often unsung indispensable, paid or volunteer workers - medical, carer, supply/distribution, servicing, communications, judicial, military, retail, police, teaching - who remained throughout at post and continued selflessly to deliver.

God bless.

-o0o-

The NHS has been compared to a religion by some. I find it hard to get my head round that comparison.

Well, being the world's 21st most populous nation, Britain hosts the 5th largest organisation in the world, the largest organisation in the whole of Europe: our NHS. Costing in excess of

£130 billion p.a. (2018/19) the NHS, of which the UK might justly be supremely proud - despite its fallen global ranking from 1st to 4th against other nations' health services - has been employing one in every 38 of the nation's population, one in every 18 of those in work. Ok, the NHS is hardly comparable to a religion, but it arguably occupies a position of respected prominence in our society.

According to the Cambridge English Dictionary, the term 'society' refers to 'a large group of people who live together in an organized way, making decisions about how to do things and sharing the work that needs to be done. All the people in a country, or in several similar countries, can be referred to as a society'.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the term 'religion' relates to 'action or conduct indicating belief in, obedience to, and reverence for a god, gods, or similar superhuman power; the performance of religious rites or observances'.

Ok, and here comes the rub. We are now, God willing, pulling ourselves out of the pandemic and distancing ourselves less from each other. But what pressures does that release or further impose upon society at large and on the practice of our religion in particular?

Our society seems to be in turmoil: pushed one way by the demands of diversity in its myriad fragmented forms yet retro-rocketed by the demands of social assimilation and social inclusion which pull in the opposite direction. No wonder that so many of us, of whatever age, register stress born of those many concerns. No wonder that so many continue to demand entitlement from society before acting with a vestige of collective responsibility: 'What's mine's mine, what's yours we share'.

Something is drastically out of kilter. There's anxiety. There's fear. There's suspicion and lack of trust. There's paranoia prompting disregard for one's fellows, and often antagonism behind a cloak of half truths. So there's much

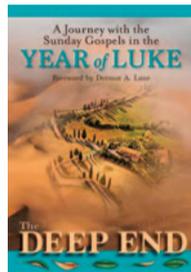
more to do than simply mend what sticks and stones may have broken. How many of us randomly retreat to the security of seclusion and isolation, maybe posturing in paranoid fashion behind all manner of security devices, while curtain-twitching from within our virtual or even actual palisades?

During Mass I always look forward, not exclusively I stress, to the Rite of Peace: a time of ritual compassion for one's fellows, a time to register fellowship among the community. How can we, as Christians, 'step up to the plate' and help promote that comradeship beyond the church portal? Now don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting we all run off down the High Street acknowledging one and all, left right and centre, while chanting 'Peace be with you'. I honestly don't think that will go down too well, certainly not in my neck of the woods. I'd probably be arrested. But perhaps I could try starting with a little more eye contact, with a more-ready smile ... With such gestures we might all help ease a brick out of the wall isolating so many in our midst.

REVIEWS

THE DEEP END

A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Luke
Triona Doherty & Jane Mellett
Messenger Publications,
160 pages, pbk, 2021, £12.95



This book is worth the money for the short extracts from multiple authors included after their sound reflection on each Sunday Gospel, before their final invitation each week to delve into the deep. There's treasure here! For example, from the Second Sunday after Christmas: "God loves things by becoming them. God did so in the creation of the universe and of Jesus, and continues to do so in the ongoing Body of Christ." [p.37, Richard Rohr] Or from the Fourth Sunday of Easter: "The beginning of the path to finding God is awareness. Not simply awareness of the ways that you can find God, but an awareness that God desires to find you." [p.81, James Martin] Or from Corpus Christi: "In the Eucharist, Jesus becomes the voice of those who have no voice. He speaks for the powerless, the oppressed, the poor, the hungry. In fact, he takes their place. And if we close our ears to their cries, we are shutting out his voice too." [p.93, Pedro Arrupe SJ] Or for the Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time: "Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can be part of the community, nor should the doors of the sacraments be closed for simply any reason...The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak." [p.97, Pope Francis]. Or for the Thirty-first Sunday: "The question is not 'How am I to find God?' but 'How am I to let myself be found by [God]?...God is looking into the distance for me, trying to find me, and longing to bring me home." [p.147, Henri Nouwen]

I cannot recommend this double-act authorship of Triona and Jane too highly. I'll be using it as a preacher during this Lukan year, and it will be a boon to anyone who wants to deepen their love and knowledge, not just of Luke, but of all the authors they give us a glimpse of.

QUOTES

Words to live by...

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”
Soren Kierkegaard

“Sing like no one's listening, love like you've never been hurt, dance like nobody's watching, and live like it's heaven on earth.”
(Attributed to various sources)

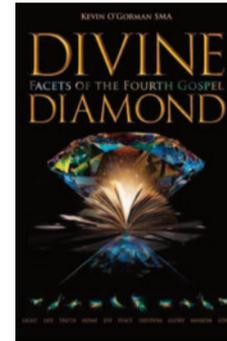
“The time for seeking global solutions is running out. We can find suitable solutions only if we act together and in agreement.”
Pope Francis

“By polluting the oceans, not mitigating CO2 emissions and destroying our biodiversity, we are killing our planet. Let us face it, there is no planet B.”
Emmanuel Macron, President of France

“We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it.”
Barack Obama, Former US President

DIVINE DIAMOND

Facets of the Fourth Gospel
Kevin O’Gorman SMA
Messenger Publications,
pbk, 86 pages, 2021



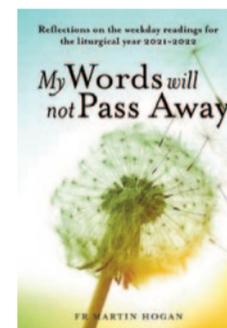
The 'Prayer to the Jesus of John's Gospel' on the final page of this wee volume nicely and beautifully sums up the ten facets highlighted by the author. From the very first page it is clear that the writer is deeply influenced by the great Johannine writer, Raymond E Brown, whose seminal two-volume commentary on John still impacts decades after he wrote it.

Using the image of the facets of a diamond, O’Gorman focuses on ten themes threaded throughout John's Gospel. These are: light, life, truth, home, joy, peace, freedom, glory, mission and love. The previous nine are encapsulated in the tenth, which gives the whole its pivotal centre.

These ten short chapters are crammed full of insights from Brown, and those who have followed him in their efforts to shine further light on this diamond of a Gospel. This is a book to fill both mind and heart.

MY WORDS WILL NOT PASS AWAY

Reflections on the Weekday Readings for the Liturgical Year 2021-2022
Fr Martin Hogan
Messenger Publications,
pbk, 310 pages, 2021



This is the author's sixth book in the series of weekday reflections on the daily scripture readings. That fact speaks volumes. He comes across as a wonderful pastor who understands his people, and who speaks to their needs as friends and followers of Jesus. Just read the first sentence of each day, and you will see how thoughtful it is, and how he delves nicely into both Old and New Testament readings, and more. Look, for example, at the first sentence on the following dates, one chosen per month: 18 December, 6 January, 4 February, 10 March, 1 April, 2 May, 2 June, 1 July, 3 August, 16 September, 17 October, 1 November.

This volume is written with our covid era very much in mind. It will be as useful for presiders, or for any individual who wants to ponder seriously on the overall movement of our Church's liturgical year. It will provide fresh insights and ways into scripture, twinning the readings with hints and challenges to live the Christian daily to the full. There will be little nuggets that will impress, and touch the spirit.

A companion to treasure.

© Denis Blackledge SJ

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Google Calendar ICS

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Harvest Festival

What is a Harvest Festival?

Each Autumn, lots of the food that is grown is ready to be picked or collected. This is called the harvest.

The Harvest Festival is to celebrate the harvest. We celebrate all the food that has been grown in fields, gardens, allotments and plant pots.

It is also a chance to thank God for the food we have and to think about those people who do not have food.

Why do we celebrate it?

Harvest Festivals have been celebrated for thousands of years. For many of us, we feel a long way away from food being grown in a field. We might not live near fields or even if we do - we probably buy a lot of our food from supermarkets.

But supermarkets aren't magic! The food doesn't appear from nowhere. It all relies on crops that are grown and collected at harvest time.

In the past, if it was a bad harvest and there was not enough food - you would have gone hungry. Many people in the world still go hungry because they don't have enough food.



Enough Apples?

If your teacher had enough apples for every person in the class to have one each, how would you feel if some people had 2 and some had half an apple?

Would that be fair???

If we had enough apples for everyone in the world to have 1 each, some parts of the world would get more than others. Have a look at the map.

Do you think that's fair???



The world produces enough food to feed everyone, yet, about 800 million people suffer from hunger. That is one in nine people.

On World Food Day, October 16th, let's remember and pray for those 800 million people who are hungry.

Harvest around the World



UK

Wheat being harvested in a field with a combine harvester - making it easier to grow more crops. Wheat is ground into flour to make bread, cakes and many other things.



Thailand

Rice being picked by hand in fields that have to be full of water for the rice to grow, called paddy fields.



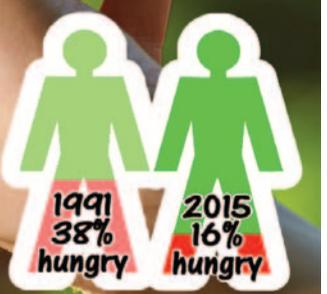
Ethiopia

Lettuce being grown in a field and harvested by a woman carrying her baby on her back - this is very common around the world.

The food we eat each day celebrates God's harvest all over the world. It celebrates God's diversity - and we are lucky enough to share in that!

However, not everyone around the world is able to share this great gift. Many people go hungry every day. Imagine how you would feel if you hadn't eaten anything today. Pretty bad huh? But imagine if you knew tomorrow was going to be the same - and you have no way out.

The best way to say thanks to God for everything He gives us is to help those who have nothing.



Bolivia

This is how chocolate starts off - it is made from Cocoa which grows in these pods and are harvested by hand.



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

Similarly, if you try the QUICK clues, use the CRYPTIC clues to help you prove the solution

CRYPTIC Across

- 1 Angel of the bottomless pit's one rotten fellow (7)
- 5 Check car's tyres at the front (5)
- 8 Picnic things are put in this stylish con tainer (4,3)
- 9 Poke around firm in Israel (5)
- 10 It amplifies the matter of fruit on the turn (5)
- 11 Within visual range for observation (7)
- 12 Total lack of interest to cross a yard by track (6)
- 14 Zambia's evacuated, following small brown lines on a page (6)
- 17 Say farewell to lion-hearted after salute... (7)
- 19 ...awards partly leave them mystified (5)
- 22 The rise of Southwell? (5)
- 23 Rat one that double-crossed (7)
- 24 Somewhat dark Welsh river seen in a wasted day (5)
- 25 James' and John's dad, retiring bishop, drifted away during last Letter from America (7)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Racing here is one from an Aberdeen, perhaps (5)
- 2 Bother with navy getting deck out (5)
- 3 Judge's board he upset (7)
- 4 Note number on top have the spirit to support head (6)
- 5 How meats are cooked in France, on Sunday, in early summer months (2,3)
- 6 One of ten sides last month suffering no end (7)
- 7 Dorcas the Greek gets to name it on headgear, but not all (7)
- 12 Charged with using cue cards, Rabbi pulled out (7)
- 13 On English vessel find a set forever young (7)
- 15 Jesus Christ the Gambler, said John? (3,4)

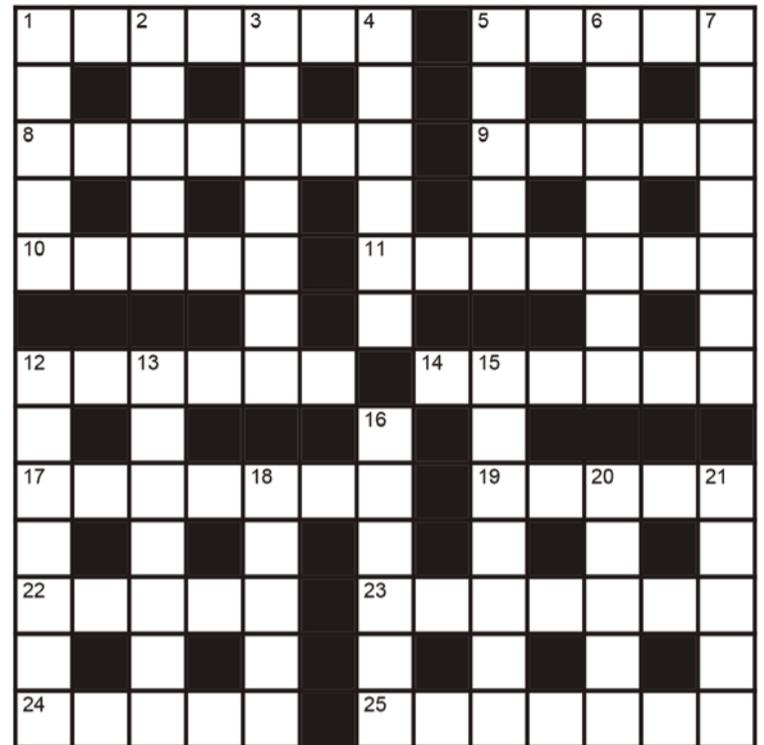
- 16 Conquistador, the first in Colombia with, surprisingly, zero time in there (6)
- 18 The event to broadcast? (5)
- 20 Greek character with very little English, Theodorus, is turned down (5)
- 21 Eastern wrap snacks are easily tucked into (5)

QUICK Across

- 1 Hebrew version of the Greek Apollyon (7)
- 5 Inspect (5)
- 8 Insulated container which keeps food cold (4,3)
- 9 Progenitor of the Israelites (5)
- 10 Electronic receiver that detects and de modulates and amplifies transmitted signals (5)
- 11 Perception (7)
- 12 Absence of emotion or enthusiasm (6)
- 14 Group of lines in a poem, play, etc (6)
- 17 Toodle-pip! (7)
- 19 US TV Awards (5)
- 22 Increase in size, magnitude, number, or intensity (5)
- 23 Someone who betrays his country (7)
- 24 Dark-skinned (5)
- 25 Father of apostles James and John (7)

QUICK Down

- 1 Racing venue in Berkshire (5)
- 2 Festoon (5)
- 3 In the Book of Judges, the only female judge (7)
- 4 Small measure of spirits; mug (6)
- 5 Of meat cooked in its own gravy (French) (2,3)
- 6 Ten-sided figure (7)



- 7 Woman in Acts, from Joppa (7)
- 12 Defendant in a criminal proceeding (7)
- 13 Eternal (7)
- 15 Euphemism for Jesus Christ in John (3,4)
- 16 Hernando -----, 1486-1547, conquistador (6)
- 18 Pass on (5)
- 20 Subdued (5)
- 21 Ranees's wrap (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Abaddon, 5 Audit, 8 Cool bag, 9 Jacob, 10 Turner, 11 Tabitha, 12 Accused, 13 Ageless, 15 The Lamb, 16 Cortez, 18 Relay, 20 Muted, 21 Saree
 Down: 1 Ascot, 2 Adorn, 3 Deborah, 4 Noggin, 5 Au Jus, 6 Decagon, 7 Traitor, 24 Dusky, 25 Zebedee
 Insight, 12 Apathy, 14 Stanza, 17 Cherio, 19 Emmys, 22 Swell, 23

Facts and Figures

100 acres of rainforests are cut down every minute

Rainforests are being cut down at a rate of 100 acres per minute. If this trend continues, the world's rainforests will be gone by 2100.

Less than 4% of American forests remain today

The majority of trees in American forests have been cut down for building and fuel. Interestingly though, the world's oldest trees are 4,600 years old and grow in the US.

Beef is one of the biggest causes of deforestation

Cows require 28 times more grazing land compared to pigs or chickens. Cattle ranching contributes to deforestation turning one-fifth of all pastures and ranges into deserts.

Humans use only 1% of all available water

About 71% of the earth is water. The oceans hold approximately 96.5% of this water and the ice caps hold about 2%. The remaining water exists in rivers, ponds, glaciers, ice caps, lakes, as water vapor and our taps, among other water bodies. Only 1% of the earth's water is safe for human consumption.

5 million tons of oil end up in oceans

About five million tons of oil produced in the world end up in oceans every year.

78% of marine mammals at risk of choking on plastic

Seventy-eight percent of marine mammals are at risk of accidental deaths, such as getting caught in fishing nets.

Plastics kills over a million sea animals annually

Plastic bags and other plastic rubbish that ends up in the ocean kill over 1,000,000 sea animals every year.

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