Serving the Church in the South West

November 2022

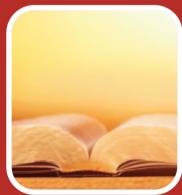
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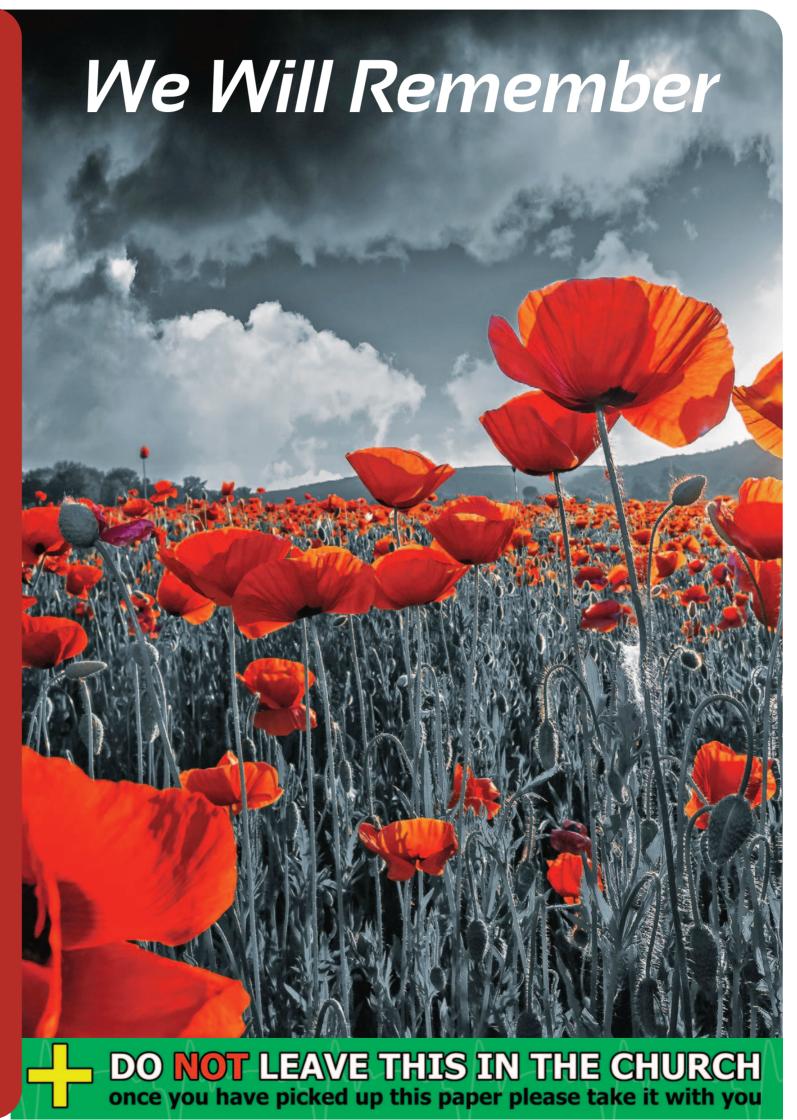
Remember, Remember...



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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 us on 01440 730399 ads@cathcom.org

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

Dear Reader,

In the month of November we remember our loved ones who have departed this life, and we think about those who sacrificed their lives to protect other people's freedom. This year we particularly thing of those in the Ukraine, soldiers and civilians, caught up in the violence of war.

Our scripture focus, on page 6, looks in hope at the Bible and what it tells us about our departed loved ones.

There is information about 2 ordinations to the priesthood that have taken place at Buckfast Abbey. Also, there is information about events around the Diocese that have been taking place for the World Day of the Poor and the Season of Creation.

Please do send us your articles, your stories and your events. The next edition will be the Christmas edition and it would be excellent to have a broad selection of articles from across the Diocese.

CSW TEAM

Intergenerational Linking – Congratulations to St Mary's RC Primary, Buckfast

Caritas Plymouth was delighted to welcome pupils from St Mary's RC Primary School, Buckfast to the Diocesan offices at St Boniface House on 18 October to present them with a 'Caritas in Action' award for their fantastic work with Willow House Care Home as part of our intergenerational linking project. The Headteacher of St Mary's, Miss Slack, and three pupils, came to talk about their work to the Caritas Manager, Deborah Fisher, Jeremy Skelton from the Diocesan Education Service and Canon John Deeny, Chair of Caritas Plymouth.

Art and gardening were the two things that the children and care home residents wanted to focus on. A recent project enabled them to join forces on a collaborative arts activity, resulting in some beautiful, framed paintings on the theme of 'Season of Creation.' A local artist facilitated the work, in which the children painted vibrant pictures and the care home residents decorated the frames. Both the children and care home workers reported how much everyone enjoyed the process. They benefited from the opportunity to connect across generations and create art together.

The children were enthusiastic and would 'recommend this project to other schools.' Miss Slack said that the project was 'really valuable as it gave children insight into



other settings and has inspired children to connect with other care homes and older people. The project has also helped to shape the future aspirations of some children. One pupil has continued to visit residents of a care home in their own time and other children have discussed a possible career in the care sector and medicine.'

Canon John Deeny congratulated the children on being such a wonderful example of faith in action. He also shared a prayer (right) and blessed the artwork and all those involved in the project. If you would like to know more about intergenerational linking please contact caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

Lord God,

We ask your blessing upon this work of art, and on all who have been involved in its creation.

May all who see it be reminded of the beauty of your creation, of the beauty of encounter between children and our elders.

May we all be inspired to care for our common home, and to care for one another.

We ask this blessing: the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

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.

Season of Creation 2022 – What happened in our Diocese?

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:24

During the Season of Creation, parishes and schools held services and events to discuss climate change and reflect on how we, as a Catholic community, can respond mindfully and collectively to the 'cry of the earth' and the 'cry of the poor.' The following are a few of the many activities which took place.

Holy Cross parish in Yelverton hosted a talk on climate change, how corporate global interests impact the environment, and positive ways to save our planet. Children from Holy Cross Catholic Primary School created a model out of recycled materials, which was the centrepiece of a 'Season of Creation' exhibition in the hall. The Church of the Most Precious Blood in Sidmouth hosted a workshop with a local artist bringing young people together to reflect on how we can care for 'Our Common Home.' The children created their own pledges for the environment using recycled materials. They crafted without paper by creating some beautiful beach sculptures.



Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together hosted an event at St Mary's parish to explore how we can respond to climate change. People shared their pledges to care for creation and will support each other to follow through on their commitments. Sclerder Abbey hosted an open day offering a simple lunch and presentations on caring for Creation, their permaculture project and practical tips for gardeners. The Abbey invited visitors to tour the grounds and to gather ideas on what proactive steps they could take to

care for the environment. Parishes across the Diocese held prayer services and celebrated Mass for Season of Creation. We look forward to seeing how communities across the Diocese continue to put their faith into action and strive for ways to come together to care for Our Common Home.

"There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si.

World Day of the Poor 2022

Over 45 people attended an event on 12 November at St Mary's in Poole to reflect on Pope Francis's message for World Day of the Poor. Participants were from across the Diocese, mainly from the Dorset Deanery. We were grateful to be joined by the Dean Canon John Webb, and by Canon John Deeny, Chair of Caritas Plymouth who led the event and liturgy.

Raymond Friel OBE, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network, introduced the work of Caritas across the world and the importance of our faith as the source and summit of our charitable work. Raymond talked about the first document of Catholic Social Teaching 'Rerum Novarum' and how relevant this is to the current situation: "Some remedy must be found and quickly found for the misery and wretchedness, which presses so heavily at this moment on the large majority of the very poor'. He talked about the preferential love for the poor and the need to work for their relief, defence and liberation. CSAN has two current campaigns which everyone is invited to support – the cost-of-living crisis and a partnership with St John of God SJOG to find hosts for Ukrainian families. Caritas



Social Action Network - Caritas Social Action Network - CSAN

John Paul de Quay from the Ecological Conversion group explored the concept of integral ecology, right relationships with God and the importance of asking the question 'How did we get here?'. Pope Francis explored integral ecology in Laudato Si' - the importance of living in harmony with God, others, nature and self. We are not separate from our planet nor from our neighbour but are interdependent with our brothers and sisters and our Common Home. 'Nothing in this world is indifferent to us -

everything is connected'. John Paul introduced a set of resources to help parishes, groups and individuals reflect on how we can build caring communities using an integrated approach The Journey

Caritas Plymouth is happy to organise events at Deanery and parish level to help us to reflect as a Diocese how we are responding to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. Please get in touch if you would like to invite us to run an event or we can help in some other way. Please contact caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

Around the South West

Remembrance Garden in Plymouth Cathedral

During this important month, the Dean of St Mary and St Boniface Cathedral, Canon Mark O'Keeffe, a former army chaplain, is



inviting the recently and not so recently bereaved to light a candle and/or plant a Remembrance Cross in the Remembrance Garden to remember loved ones who have died.

He says: "November 2 is All Souls Day- a day when we traditionally visit the graveyard where our loved ones rest and pray for them. We have been getting the Garden of Remembrance ready for the community of Plymouth – a quiet space where all can come and remember and light a candle or plant a Remembrance Cross if they so wish."

The Remembrance Garden will be open throughout the month of November from 9.30am to 3.30pm weekdays and 7.30am to 7pm on

Reverse Advent Calendar



In his message for World Day of the Poor 2022, Pope Francis reminds us of the meaning of solidarity: 'sharing the little we have with those who have nothing, so that no one will go without'. As so many struggle with the cost-of-living increases, foodbanks are under increasing pressure to help those in need. Caritas Plymouth would like to suggest a Reverse Advent Calendar as a way to use the time of Advent to reach out to those in need, by donating food and special items for families living in poverty around the Diocese.

For more information please go to: www.plymouthdiocese.org.uk/reversecalendar/

Send us your news csw@cathcom.org



Two new Priests ordained at Buckfast Abbey

September 16th was a joyous day at the Abbey when two monks were ordained priest by Archbishop George Stack. We were doubly blessed that Dom Andrew Prickett of the Buckfast Community and Dom John George of the Community of St Gregory the Great have been called to become priests. Abbot David Charlesworth and Abbot Nicholas Wetz, their Superiors, also participated in the ceremony.



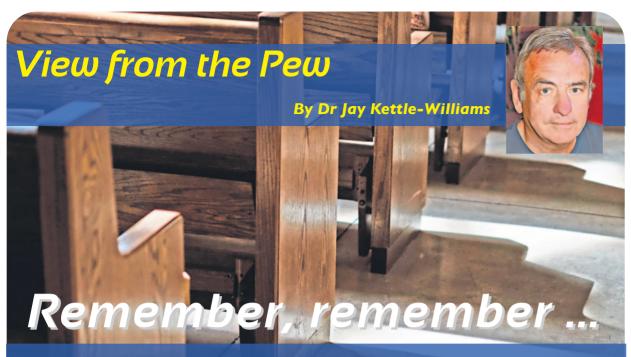












Remember, remember the fifth of November, Gunpowder, treason and plot, I see no reason why gunpowder, treason Should ever be forgot ...

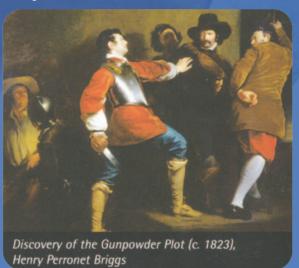
he 5 November is the date every year when the effigy of Guy Fawkes is burned on bonfires across England in recognition of Fawkes' part in the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Fawkes didn't devise or lead the plot to assassinate King James I, but he is still singled out as one of British history's greatest villains more than 400 years after his death.

Guy Fawkes, also known as Guido Fawkes, the name he adopted while fighting for the Spanish in the Low Countries, was baptised at the church of St Michael le Belfrey on 16 April 1570. As the customary gap between birth and baptism in those days was three days, he was probably born on or around 13 April of that year.

Fawkes was born and then educated in York. His father died when Fawkes was eight years old, after which his mother married a recusant Catholic. Fawkes later converted to Catholicism and left for the continent, where he fought in the Eighty Years' War on the side of Catholic Spain against Protestant Dutch reformers. He travelled to Spain to seek support for a Catholic rebellion in England but was unsuccessful. He later met Thomas Wintour, with whom he returned to England as the new recruit in the group of provincial English Catholics planning to blow up Parliament.

By 1604 Fawkes had become fully involved with the plotters, led by Robert Catesby, who planned to assassinate the Protestant King James I (King James VI of Scotland) and replace him with his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, third in the line of succession.

Fawkes was described by the Jesuit priest and former school friend Oswald Tesimond as 'pleasant of approach and cheerful of manner, opposed to quarrels and strife ... loyal to his friends'. Tesimond also claimed Fawkes was 'a man highly skilled in matters of war', and that it was this mixture of piety and professionalism which endeared him to his fellow conspirators.



The plotters secured the lease to an undercroft beneath the House of Lords, and Fawkes was placed in charge of the gunpowder they set about stockpiling there. 20 barrels of gunpowder were brought in at first, followed by a further 16. By 20 July 1605 the stage was set. The forthcoming opening of Parliament was then postponed, due to the ever-present threat posed by the plague, to Tuesday 5 November 1605. Attempts were made by the plotters to warn off potentially like-minded sympathisers and other Catholics who might be attending on the day planned for the attack.

Prompted by the receipt of an anonymous letter, the authorities searched Westminster Palace during the early hours of 5 November. They found Fawkes guarding the explosives. Over the next few days, he was questioned and tortured, and eventually he broke. Immediately before his execution on 31 January1606, Fawkes jumped from the scaffold where he was to be hanged and broke his neck, thus avoiding the agony of the mutilation that followed.

Two months previous, on 5 November 1605, Londoners had been encouraged to celebrate the King's escape from assassination by lighting bonfires, a custom upheld to this day.

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

Masses in the Extraordinary Form in Plymouth Diocese:

Lanherne Convent, St. Mawgan, Cornwall TR8 4ER

Sundays; 8.30am Low Mass
10.00am Sung Mass
Monday – Saturday 8am Low Mass.
Thursdays 8am Low Mass and 6.15pm Low Mass
Confession: Saturdays at 3pm
St. Edward the Confessor, Home Park Avenue, Peverell,

St. Edward the Confessor, Home Park Avenue, Peverell,
Plymouth, Devon PL3 4PG
Sundays 8.30 am Low Mass. 1st Saturdays 11.30am Mass
Holy Angels Shrine Church, Queensway, Chelston,
Torquay, Devon TQ2 6BP
Sundays 10.30am Sung/High Mass.
Confessions before and after Mass. 3pm Vespers
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays; Adoration 5pm Mass 6pm
Fridays 12 noon Mass. 4,30pm Vespers. 5pm Adoration
Tuesday and Saturdays 8.30am Mass
St. Cyprian, Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh, Devon TQ13 0AD
No Mass at present

No Mass at present

Blessed Sacrament, Fore St., Heavitree, Exeter, Devon EX1 2QJ

No Mass at present
Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Cecilia, White Cliff Mill St., Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7BN
Tuesday 18th October (St. Luke) Low Mass 12 noon. Wednesday 2nd November (All Souls) Low Mass 12 noon.

Before travelling any distance and to avoid disappointment, contact the LMS Rep on either 07555536579/devon@lms.org.uk



Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Hope for our Departed Loved Ones

November is the month when we especially remember the dead, both those who have died recently and those long departed. As the leaves fall from the trees, we are reminded of the cycle of birth, growth and flourishing, but eventually death.

At the start of November, we have two linked feasts. On 1st November we celebrate All Saints, a reminder that we belong to the great people of God, scattered all over the world, united with those who have gone before us. We are reminded that God calls each one of us to lead a holy life. As baptised people, we seek to live as God's children on earth, so that we may be ready for eternal life in heaven.

St John tells us in the feast's second reading that what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed to us. But we have the hope that we will see the Lord face to face, united with all the angels and saints in glory.

This hope shines through our celebration of All Souls Day (2nd November). The readings speak to us of the promise of the resurrection for all who trust in God. Our present life is not the end, but rather the prelude for the life to come.

Our hope is clearly expressed in the readings for the 32nd Sunday of the Year (6th November). The first reading tells the terrible story of the Maccabean martyrs, put to death by the Greek king Antiochus Epiphanes around 165 BC.

This pagan monarch, who ruled over the Holy Land at that time, sought to abolish the Jewish religion and make everyone worship the Greek gods. But the devout Jews stood firm and were even willing to give up their earthly lives rather than break their faith in God.

These martyrs realised that if God had created them with earthly life, he had the power to raise them to new life. Hence, before being executed, the fourth brother proclaimed: "Ours is the better choice – to meet death at men's hands yet relying on

God's promise that we shall be raised by him "

The gospel for that Sunday also gives us Jesus' response to a clever challenge by the Sadducees, who objected to faith in the resurrection. What about a childless widow, who had been married to seven brothers in turn? In the resurrection, who would she be married to?

But Jesus answers by challenging their earthly way of thinking. On earth people marry wives or husbands, but in the resurrection, there will be no more marriage, because people will be like angels. Jesus does not give us a detailed philosophical description of heaven but affirms its reality.

The Sadducees who posed their question to Jesus were unaware of what would happen within a few days' time. Now that Jesus had reached Jerusalem for the final time, the plots against him would be fulfilled. He would be arrested, put on trial, condemned to death, and crucified.

But unknown to the Sadducees, he would rise again on the third day and be seen alive by many witnesses before his ascension. In other words, he would be the conqueror of death and the one to lead us into eternal life.

When we remember the faithful departed in November, we may feel sad at our loss of beloved family members and friends. But we are also consoled by our faith that Jesus has overcome death and has prepared a place in heaven for each one of us.

So, during November, we pray for those who have gone before us: "May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

NB: A new book is just published: Maynooth College Reflects on Facing Life's End.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Maynoot h-College-Reflects-Facing-Perspectives/dp/1788125827

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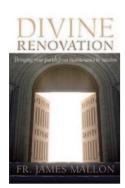
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Book Reviews

Divine Renovation: From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish

Fr James Mallon £35.60 ISBN 13: 9781627850384 amazon.co.uk

This book comes with a recommendation from the Cardinal Archbishop of Quebec, 'Truly inspiring, practical and challenging. I believe that this is where the Lord is leading the Church.'



He looks at the declining Mass attendance and the closure of parishes in his own country, Canada, and acknowledges that in the past being a Catholic was often a matter of identity as members of a particular community, and that this sense has been lost. He reflects that many Catholics cannot find their way round a Bible, and that their personal prayer may be only what they learned as children. Fr Mallon's proposal is that in our Parish we first make disciples of ourselves and each other. Only then can we become apostles to spread the good news, succinctly defined by one of his sources as:- 'one beggar telling another beggar where to

Chapter two looks at the research as to why Catholics have left to join Evangelical Churches, for 'a personal encounter with Jesus Christ;' 'for community where people are accepted and feel valued: 'Biblical and doctrinal formation for spiritual personal and community growth'; and 'Missionary commitment to bring people to the family of God.' Yet these characteristics which ex Catholics find in other churches are exactly those which should enliven our own communities.

A thought provoking analysis of Clericalism defines it perhaps differently to what we thought it was. (pp 72-5,) He sees it as a division between clergy, religious and clericalised lay people, the 'super Christians' who are expected to be perfect, and the rest of the community, of whom nothing much can be asked, yet we are all called by our baptism, and all equally called to holiness. And if clergy have to be perfect, then their faults have to be concealed, until horrific stories emerge decades later.

The core programme of what we should do is a ten step process examined in Chapter 5. Step 5 is 'Meaningful Community.' Fr James reminds us that people do not usually select a church to

go to from the validity of its teaching, but whether they feel welcomed and included. Perhaps an especially neglected step is the formation of small communities, a general characteristic of our parishes in Africa where it is forced upon them by the size and scattered nature of parishes. In the initial proclamation of the Good News he has made great use of the Alpha programme, first developed in this country by Anglican Christians. He explains the development of his ideas, that some initiatives didn't work at first, and that he'd at first trodden on toes However he's written an excellent parish manual, and his ideas are not to be dismissed.

Fabulous Friends

£6.50 each inc p&p or £15 for all three (BACS & payment details available on request)

All three books are available to order from Fr Robbie at robbielow2@hotmail.com

If you are looking for children's **Christmas** presents and a way to help children's charities, look no further.



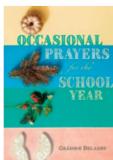
During the lockdown Fr Robbie Low produced two children's books with his friend and neighbour the artist Jan Burrell. The first, 'Mama Mia and the Pizza Pie Party', taught you a little Italian and how to make the ideal authentic Pizza in a story about family faith and friendship. The second, 'The Night Journey', begins and ends in the family farmhouse in the Fowey River Valley and links the Midnight Mass with the wonder of the Christmas story in a children's adventure. Between them these books have raised over £12,000 for children's charities. Now Jan and Fr. Robbie have produced a third volume entitled 'Fabulous Friends'. Jan provides the cast of colourful Cornish characters with Fr Robbie's amusing and touching biographical poems to accompany the wonderful illustrations.

Occasional Prayers For The School Year

Grainne Delaney £11.95

Messenger Publications

The author needed a simple handbook of pravers for school assemblies, so decided to write her own! It came as a result of twenty years as chaplain in an Irish Jesuit Comprehensive



High School. Month by month she takes us through the school terms, with a

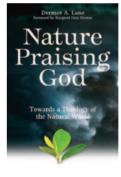
variety of themes from September to July, sometimes ending with a quote from scripture, sometimes using a poem created by students, or prayers of intercession. And offering additional prayers from Pope Francis, for finding God in nature, for governors' meetings, for when a loved one is sick, or for lighting a candle.

There's candour and simplicity here, along with the bonus of a useful tool for individuals of all ages - the Ignatian Examen, a daily prayer of awareness of one's conscious activity which enables gentle growth in the Spirit. At first the cost might seem steep for such a short volume, but a practical tool like this will be a godsend to school chaplains and the

Nature Praising God

Towards a Theology of the Natural World Dermot A Lane £12.95 Messenger Publications

This is an awfully good book, written with verve. challenge, coherence, clarity and zeal. Seven chapters, beginning with a sample of texts of nature praising God, and a note on the



personification of nature, are followed by a brief summary, which encapsulates beautifully the key themes. The author is very well read on the subject, so vital in an age where dominion has turned to domination of humankind over creation, and where often reverence and respect for the natural world has been forgotten. The select bibliography and index are profoundly thorough.

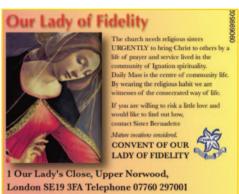
There's a deeply embedded foundation of the work of Teilhard de Chardin and Karl Rahner, alongside more modern biblical and theological commentators. Nature is shown as a living community, grace-filled and sacramental. The key role of the Spirit is highlighted in nature-based pneumatology, rooted in Old Testament as well as New. [Ruach – Hebrew for spirit, wind, breath, can also mean atmosphere, or the first sacred thing. It is mentioned in the Old testament 378 times, far more than covenant (289) or mercy (251).]

Fascinating developments in a naturebased Christology are adduced, moving from the quest for the historical Jesus to the quest for the cosmic Christ. An overview of the Incarnation moves from incarnation to deep incarnation, and to a new theology of nature as subject and agent. The author goes on to integrate a theology of creation in the service of the

liturgy, retrieving the theology of creation out of nothing, through continuous creation, to the promise of a new creation. Then the epilogue gathers up the fragments towards a theology of creation praising God.

Here we meet a true professional, who unknits profound theology for anyone who is willing to take up the fascinating challenge of this volume. It will be music to the ears of Pope Francis, as his Encyclical Laudato Si is central to this fresh take on the theology of the natural

Fr Denis Blackledge SJ







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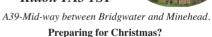
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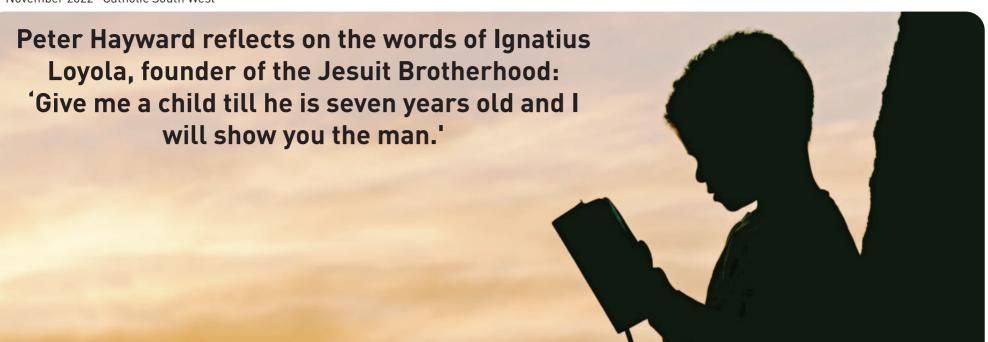


Why not drop into St Nicholas to spend a little time of quietness; reflecting on 2022, now so nearly behind us.

Then move forward to December 25th, a date offering us all hope and joy for the future. Where a scene of Our Hope awaits and welcomes you

To Advertise please contact Natasha on 01440 730399 natasha@cathcom.org





The first seven years ...

Now, with half-term behind them, many students resume their studies – be that at primary, secondary, tertiary or higher level – in the run-up through Advent, starting on 27 November, to Christmas..

Education (Latin educare: to lead/draw forth from within) is the process by which

a person is nurtured, developed, helped and brought to fulfilment. In Romance languages the developed form of the Latin term educare has less to do with schooling, but relates more to how a person is mannered or brought up: una person bien educada in Spanish is a wellbrought-up person.

Plymouth CAST is a family of Catholic schools that benefit from working in partnership as part of a Multi-Academy Trust. Our Plymouth CAST schools enjoy working together collaboratively so that the children and young people we serve, grow and flourish as a result. Our staff are committed, caring professionals who benefit from high quality professional development and support.

Plymouth CAST is one of the largest Multi Academy Trusts in the south west, serving the counties of Cornwall, Devon and Dorset, all within the Diocese of Plymouth.

> The Trust comprises of 34 schools; 32 primary, 2 secondary and 1 nursery.

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> Plymouth CAST, Edmund Rice Building, St. Boniface's College, 21 Boniface lane, Plymouth, Devon PL5 3A

We can be well educated, formally educated, educated at The University of Life or by any combination of the three. Education, then, is not the process by which a person is fed a diet and which, once that diet is consumed, means that that person is now educated. Not at all! That's rote and smacks of indoctrination. Education need never stop. 'Education is what is left after you've forgotten everything you have learned' (Albert Einstein).

Attitudes to education traditionally vary across cultures. For some it's experience, i.e. less formal education, which gives value to the individual. This attitude is common across Northern Europe. For others, such as in Southern Europe with its distinctive work ethic, it is formal qualifications which bring value. Elsewhere education may be preserved or otherwise reserved for one element of society, perhaps even one gender.

At one point in our history, education as we now recognise it, was reserved for the clergy - just that one element in society whereby men of the cloth could read publicly from the Bible, and having studied scripture, having studied what was written, could then pronounce authoritatively.

This practice of effectively monastic education then reached out beyond the cloisters into the public domain. Public schooling came into being, born of the clerical model. But the new 'public' schooling now included young men who were not necessarily preparing for or being prepared for the priesthood. As matters progressed these lay students were to become focused on taking up other roles in public life.

The educational process, how we develop and from what starting point, is critical. Existentialism, by way of example, maintains that we start life a blank sheet of paper, that what we do in life moulds us. We are the sum of our acts. Catholic Existentialism, on the other hand. maintains that we inherit (perhaps mother's eyes, father's colouring, Aunt Maud's temper etc.), in short: we are born in an image and that image is of God.

The educational process however it comes about creates, feeds and supports the culture of which it forms part. Culture, be that identified with a nation or other group or whatever congerie, mirrors the community and the relationships between its constituent parts. Culture can be identified as being composed of three elements: (1) how the individual functions, reacts and behaves (Psychology); (2) how that individual functions alongside others in context (Sociology) and (3) how those individuals in context express or otherwise declare themselves (Expression).

The Catholic educational process has long been hailed as positive, bringing value in the Christian context to the whole cultural spectrum. That success is readily identifiable, notably with regard to primary and secondary sectors. You do see that Catholic message and example being carried to the whole educational spectrum in some countries where they even have networks of Catholic institutions of further and higher education.

Could such networks be the optimum target for us in our country?