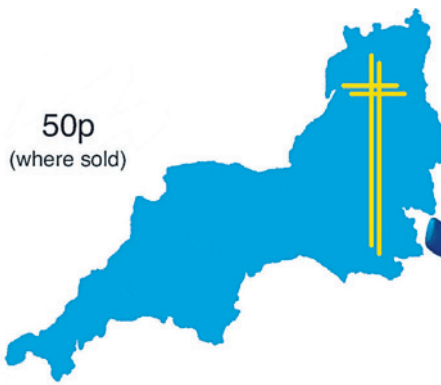


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Catholic **South West**

Serving the
Church in the
South West

January
2023

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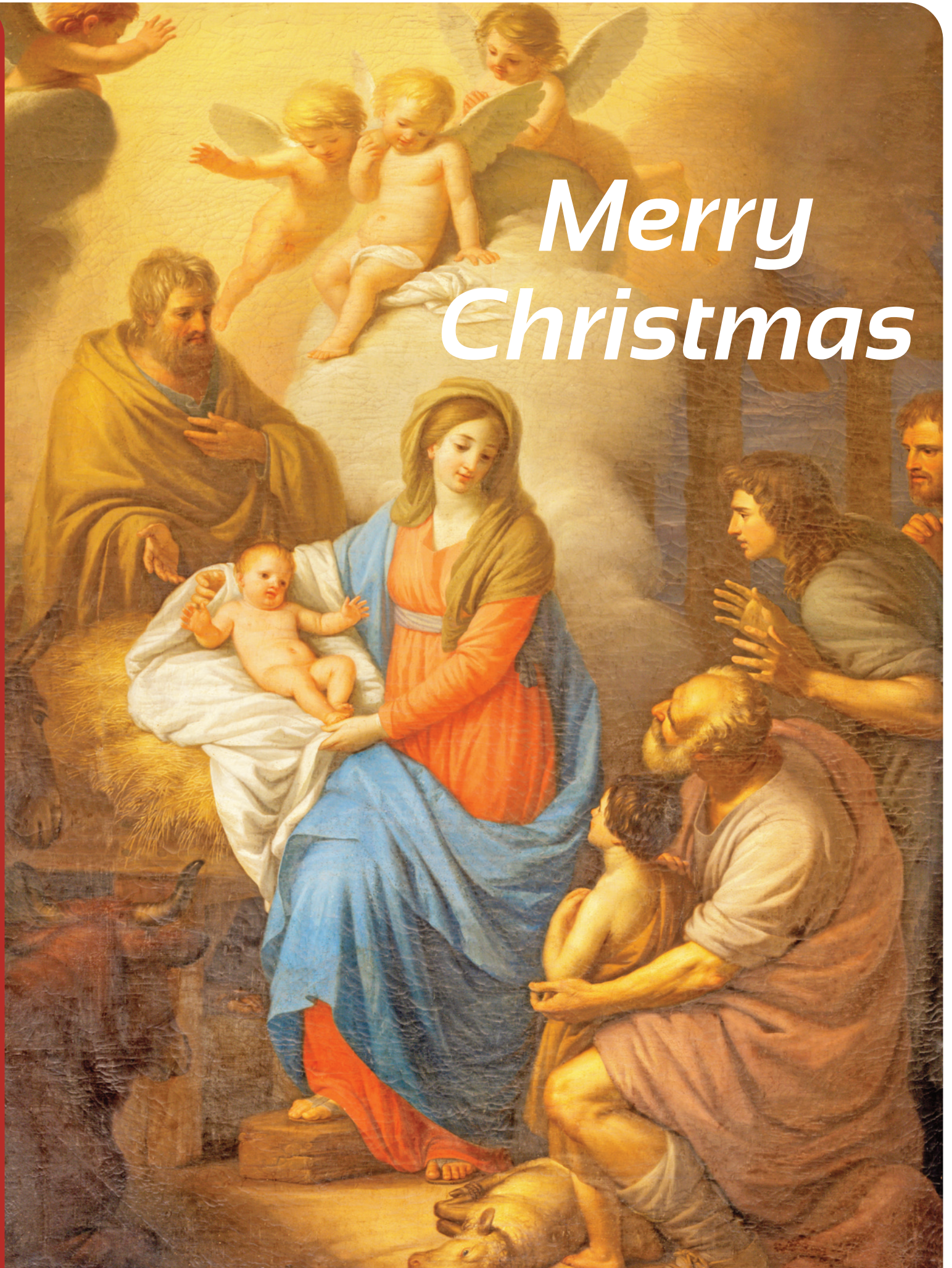
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Merry Christmas



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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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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,

First and foremost, this is our opportunity to say Merry Christmas to you! We hope you have a wonderful Christmas, and hopefully one that is more "normal" than the last couple of years.

In these last few days before Christmas, it is both an opportunity and

a challenge, to see past all the things we have to do and focus on what is important at Christmas. We shouldn't underestimate love, family and being together at this time of year. Inevitably, that doesn't just happen. A lot of work has to go into making it happen.

However, if we can focus on the meaning of Christmas, we can do all this work as a prayer. Our work can

become our gift to those around us.

We hope you have a wonderful start to the New Year. And, as ever, please keep sending us your articles and we would always appreciate you promoting Catholic South West wherever you can. We want to keep our paper going into the New Year and beyond!

CSW TEAM

The blessings of Community Sponsorship



Brigid McEleney-Smith was recently interviewed on East Devon Radio's Sunday Morning Show by Howard James about Sidmouth Companions - a Community Sponsorship Group helping to resettle a Syrian family in Sidmouth. Brigid is from the parish of The Most Precious Blood Sidmouth. Throughout her interview she detailed the fascinating and inspiring

journey her community has had, mentioning Pope Francis's call for every parish in the world to welcome a refugee family as a galvanising concept. She speaks about the enthusiasm and support of her parish priest, Fr Paul Cummins and the grace and hospitality of the wider community in Sidmouth. She also mentions the pivotal role Caritas

Plymouth has had in helping to make this wonderful story of human connection and faith in action happen.

You can read the transcript of her interview and learn more about how to get involved go to 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

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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.

Our Synodal Journey

As part of our on-going Synodal journey, the Office for Evangelisation and Catechesis recently hosted Dr Caroline Farey, who gave two talks. The first, entitled 'Entering the Decision-Making Process of the Church' looked at the two earliest accounts of voting in the Church, after Jesus had ascended into heaven. From this the talk continued to explain the voting process and the requirements for the *sensus fidei* of the laity. The second talk was entitled, 'Interpreting the Word of God for our time'. This talk explained the criteria for the interpretation of Scripture 'in accordance with the Spirit who inspired it' (CCC 111) and how important this was for lay people for our time.

If you would like to view the talks, you can access them at www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk



Advent Wreath in Weymouth



Angel Isabella and Donkey Luis lit the second candle on the Advent Wreath at Our Lady Star of the Sea Weymouth Catholic Church

Frankly Speaking



The Joy and expectation of Christmas is much needed this year. On a number of occasions in 2022 I have met friends or acquaintances who have told me that they have stopped reading or listening to news bulletins because of constant bad or sad reports of tragic or negative items.

Whilst some of this is due to editors or journalists trying to make the news instead of reporting new developments we do all need cheering up this Christmas with one important proviso - That is to "stand up for our values". That last quotation came from a comment this Advent from a Government Minister speaking of the many comments regarding Qatar being the venue for the football World Cup. I could not help contrasting that political statement with the sparse attendance in the House of Commons when the persecution of Christians was debated just a year ago. Secular thinkers usually keep quiet at Christmas and perhaps this year is the time to show that the Nativity and our Christian Faith is why we are celebrating Christmas.

One area of serious concern this year is the need for food banks in our country. We often pray for those in greatest need and this Christmas it looks like one in six festive meals will incorporate items from the local food bank. Let us never stop saying just how active Christians are in assisting these valuable social services serving nurses, children and those over 65 amongst many others.

My local Co-op has a car park attached to the store. A few years ago on Christmas morning the area was a useful venue for children playing in full safety.

That Christmas the sheer joy of those children was not only special but it did occur to me that perhaps this was the only morning in the year that they were all equal in life whatever their social background. If only that could be said all year round.

We should not forget that some who have lost loved ones this will be a hard time particularly if they have seen a child suffer. It is now 33 years since the Cardinal Hume Centre was opened in Central London for young homeless people, it now has a 39 room facility. When the late Cardinal first opened an eleven room hostel it showed his concern for young people. We should all follow his example to any young person in distress this Christmas. Let us also remember his words "Each person matters: No human life is redundant".

A Peaceful Christmas to all readers.

Send us your news
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Reflection for the third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

Sunday 11th December



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Times Are Tough

A similar story across the world: families who'd ordinarily cope are now struggling

Christine Allen, CAFOD's Director

Times are tough, but if you are able to give this Christmas, CAFOD's World Gifts are a great way to help those who need it most.

The cost of living crisis has families all over the UK worrying this Christmas. As the crisis deepens, people who'd ordinarily cope are now struggling.

Factors out of our control, such as soaring energy bills and food prices, mean what is left doesn't go as far as it used to.

But this isn't unique to the UK. In East Africa, which is suffering the worst drought in 40 years, the climate crisis means families who were used to coping with hardship now find themselves on the brink of starvation.

The situation is particularly bleak in South Sudan, a country facing the disastrous phenomenon of too much and too little water. Crumbling droughts are broken by equally devastating floods, devastating communities. CAFOD's local partners are working with people who are internally displaced, meaning they have had to leave their homes to find safety elsewhere in their own country.

One such family is Simon, a farmer. He and his wife Angela and their three beautiful children, Emma, James and Joseph, have been forced to move to a different area. But the climate crisis has once again put the family at risk, this time because of a deadly drought.

The editors and staff of The Catholic Post wish all our readers and advertisers a very Merry and Happy Christmas and New Year.

www.CatholicPost.co.uk

Operations EM offers hope for parents in prison

Cambridge Petition to create Our Lady of Walsingham feast

Choir of Angels Signs the Way

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Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 Ps 145 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

'...say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.'

Advent is a time for waiting, but the title "Gaudete" – rejoice – reminds us that we wait for the Lord joyfully, not anxiously. I suspect that it has always been so, but I am struck by how often patience is something that seems so desired and yet is so much in short supply. In a culture where so much seems available instantly, the idea of having to wait seems almost unreasonable. Waiting for someone, or something, implies a state of dependency, of lack of control over things – perhaps that is why it makes people so uncomfortable, and leads to such frustration. The Letter of James is a writing that is full of down to earth spiritual wisdom and is given to us today to make the necessary point about waiting. The people in the Exile who receive Isaiah's prophecy are those who wait for the Lord's coming and are offered three insights today. The first is that they

are not waiting for an unknown, but for a promise to be fulfilled, and that promise is one that brings total fulfilment. Because of that promise, that hope, the appropriate response is action: "Strengthen all weary hands . . . say to all faint hearts. 'Courage'."

And the third insight is to look for the signs already, here and now. In the gospel the disciples of John the Baptist come to Jesus; they have been waiting for 'the one who is to come.' Jesus simply points them to the signs; 'the blind see again, and the lame walk.' Advent reminds us that we are a people who are waiting: 'as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ' (Communion Rite). Waiting patiently is not just a passive pursuit – it invites us to wait holding on to those three insights: we are waiting for the total fulfilment of God's plan which will achieve all things in Christ; while we wait we are actively engaged in strengthening one another and especially the weak, and encouraging one another; and we are invited to look for, and point out, the signs that Christ is amongst us already.

Monsignor Robert Draper

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Operation Elf in Portsmouth Diocese



Every year, more than 300,000 children are separated from their parents through imprisonment. Operation Elf has been working to restore a little joy and hope for them this Christmas through an appeal organised by the national Catholic prison charity, Pact.

Operation Elf provides gift cards for parents in prison to give to their children at Christmas. This allows mums and dads who are prisoners to feel like parents. Children can choose a gift and have a lovely chat with their mum or dad about it. The appeal supports Pact's work to keep families together.

Pact has been collecting 80 gift cards for Portland and The Verne prisons in the Plymouth diocese.

Andy Keen-Downs, Pact CEO said: "Christmas can be a difficult time for families affected by the imprisonment of a loved-one. By donating to Operation Elf you can make it feel more like Christmas for some of the thousands of children who can't spend the festive period with their mum or dad. We've set ourselves a challenging target but with your support we're confident we can reach it."

To find out more information please see the Operation Elf page at www.prisonadvice.org.uk/operation-elf

Catholic agencies unite to back Homes for Ukraine scheme

The number of people fleeing the brutal Russian war in Ukraine and in need of shelter will continue to rise this winter.

Russian attacks on critical energy infrastructure are even taking place in areas considered relatively safer, such as western Ukraine.

Prime minister Rishi Sunak has reaffirmed the UK government's support for Ukrainian defence efforts, as well as assisting those displaced by this unnecessary war.

St John of God Hospitaller Services (SJOG), in partnership with Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), is asking for people to provide much-needed help for Ukrainian guests.

Under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, hosts who commit to providing six months of accommodation are eligible to receive £350 to help with expenses associated with hosting.

SJOG and CSAN have launched a new project offering a matching pathway, training and support for hosts and guests.

The aim is to support 600 people on their journey towards independence and provide opportunities to build a new life and integrate into the community.

One Ukrainian guest said: "I am so grateful to the UK government for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. I feel safe here, away from the sounds of sirens, curfew, and living in constant fear of shelling."

"The scheme has given me time to find my feet and build a new life. I have been in the UK for about seven months now, and I have found a job and moved out of my host's place. I am incredibly grateful for all her help and support. I will be forever grateful."

The SJOG/CSAN scheme matches hosts with guests to the requirements of both parties, including area, home and health requirements and dietary and pet preferences.

It also offers...

- Mediating first e-meetings between hosts and guests
- Toolkit for hosts and a welcome book in Ukrainian for guests

- Online training about the hosting process
- Transfer from the Poland-Ukraine border to London
- A welcome box for the Ukrainian family upon arrival
- Support during the first month of placement
- Re-matching service
- Ensuring support from local communities
- A multilingual team that speaks English, Polish, Ukrainian and Russian and is ready to help

Details of the scheme have been sent to every parish in England and Wales and the agencies hope the Catholic community will rally round to support those coming from Ukraine.

People willing to share their space with those in need of a safe place can register their interest - visit sjog-homesforukraine.uk or email homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk. You can also find out more at facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine.

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Pope Francis on.....

The meaning of Christmas for you



'God's Christmas wish isn't a buying-frenzy and feast, but gift of self'

Pope Francis has said many things about Christmas. We have selected a few quotes for you to ponder:

'If Christmas ends up as just a beautiful traditional holiday where everything revolves around us and not him, it will be a lost opportunity.'

'Christmas will not be authentic if people get caught up in a frenzy of shopping, presents and meals, all while ignoring the poor and forgetting who the celebration is really all about.'

'God's Christmas wish isn't a buying-frenzy and feast, but gift of self'

'Jesus is good, Jesus is tender, Jesus is humble. This is the real Christmas!'

'May you feel wonder when you gather in your homes in prayer before the Nativity, gazing at Baby Jesus.'

'Just as Mary was called to welcome and bring the Christ-child into the world,

people today are also called to welcome the Gospel and so that it can "become flesh" and come into the world in people's actual lives.'

'Christmas is preferring the silent voice of God to the noisiness of consumerism. If we can be silent in front of the crib, Christmas will be a surprise even for us, not something seen before.'

'We will celebrate Christmas well, if, like Joseph, we will give space to silence; if, like Mary, we say 'here I am' to God; if, like Jesus, we will be close to those who are alone; if, like the shepherds, we will leave our enclosures to be with Jesus.'

'Christmas is the payback of humility over arrogance, of simplicity over abundance, of silence over hubbub, of prayer over 'my time,' of God over my ego.'

'Every one of us has, hidden in our heart, the capacity to be surprised. May we be surprised by Jesus this Christmas.'

Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



A LOVING FATHER

As we look forward to our celebration of Christmas, we prepare to contemplate the familiar scene of Christ's birth. Our hearts are warmed as we think of how the Son of God came among us, born of Mary in the Bethlehem stable.

Our Lady responds obediently to the angel's greeting at the annunciation: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let what you have said be done to me." During her visitation to her older kinswoman Elizabeth, she gives praise to God in the Magnificat: "My soul glorifies the Lord, because the Almighty works marvels for me, and holy is his name."

Our Catholic piety tends to focus more on Our Lady than St Joseph. We hear several statements from Our Lady, but St Joseph says nothing at all in the gospels. Instead, Joseph speaks through his actions.

At first, Joseph was deeply troubled by Mary's mysterious pregnancy. Even though he was engaged to marry her, suddenly she was expecting a child, but he was not the father. Yet full of

compassion for her, he did not wish to expose her to public disgrace.

Instead, he decided to quietly cancel his promise to marry her. But in a dream, an angel told him to marry Mary, because her unborn child came from the Holy Spirit.

Responding immediately, Joseph did as the angel had commanded him, taking Mary as his wife. Obedience enabled him to surmount his difficulties and spare Mary. Indeed, in every situation, Joseph declared his own yes to God, like Mary's yes at the annunciation. Trusting in the angel's words, Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally.

In his 2020 Apostolic Letter on St Joseph: "With a Father's Heart," Pope Francis reflects on this event: "Though he does not understand the bigger picture, he decides to protect Mary's dignity and her life. In his hesitation about how best to act, God helped him by enlightening his judgment. Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is often disappointment and even rebellion. But Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the mysterious course of events."

Pope Francis adds: "As we read the infancy narratives, we may often wonder why God did not act in a more direct and clear way. Yet God acts through events and people. Joseph was the true miracle by which God saves the child and his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph's creative courage. Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world."

As Jesus' foster-father, Joseph surely had a helpful human influence on him during his early years. St Joseph modelled for Jesus a tender form of fatherhood, far removed from the violent power and toxic masculinity of King Herod. As Pope Francis says: "Today, in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident, Joseph appears as the figure of a respectful and sensitive man."

St Joseph's fatherly concern for Jesus becomes clear when we compare him with the other male figure in Matthew's birth narrative: King Herod the Great. History records that King Herod murdered several members of his family, including

three of his sons and one of his wives. In contrast, Joseph fled as a refugee with Mary and the child Jesus to keep them safe from violence. Whereas King Herod sought to make a name for himself, Joseph acted without any fuss for those he loved.

Pope Francis adds: "In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him. Joseph acted as a father for his whole life. Fathers are not born but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person."

Where there is love, the celebration of Christmas will bring joy. May the prayers of Our Lady and St Joseph help us as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth.

For Pope Francis' document on St Joseph, see the Vatican website www.vatican.va

A Christmas flap!

By Julia Beacroft

THE TRADITIONAL TURKEY roast dinner seems to be synonymous with Christmas and I've certainly had my fair share of cooking them.

Yet strangely many of us seem to be overwhelmed, worried or downright stressed at the prospect of tackling the festive big bird each year. Questions over whether we have the right sized roasting tin, the correct width baking foil and even more importantly, how long the bird will take to cook in the oven, causes many cooks to scratch their heads and ponder each year. And problems so easily arise as well... A friend of mine invited some elderly guests who had no families of their own for the Christmas meal, but nearly had a heart attack himself when he dropped the roasting tin, complete with half-cooked turkey on to his kitchen floor!

FOOL PROOF PLAN

On another occasion, my kitchen came close to resembling an abattoir, when I tried to implement what I believed to be a fool proof plan to make sure that the turkey was cooked

to perfection. Or so I thought... As a family of six we were in possession of a large slow cooker. Therefore the perfect solution to the timing debacle was to put the turkey in to slow cook overnight on a low setting. Ideal! Unfortunately however, the slow cooker was large – but clearly not large enough. Denuded of first it's wings and then its legs in a desperate bid to fit it in, my late father was heard to murmur sympathetically, "Poor little so-and- so! What have they done to you?!"

SHARING OUR LIVES

Of course, turkey dinners for Christmas are rooted in history, originally being introduced into this country circa 1500's and with King Henry VIII being the first British monarch to enjoy the bird at Christmas. Yet this year I am planning a change of menu. On Christmas Day when my large and extended family gather together, we are having 'shared plate' buffet style Christmas fayre. Why? Well, obviously if you're a roast turkey and vegetable fan this wouldn't necessarily appeal to you, but there are definitely some advantages. The idea of coming together,



bringing and sharing, is fundamentally rooted in Christianity. Hospitality and sharing our food, which has been produced by man in co-operation with God, means that we are also sharing our lives. And it seems to me that sharing our lives with each other and with the Lord is the very essence of the season of Christmas.

THE ESSENTIAL HEART

The 'bring and share' initiative is not necessarily synonymous with Christmas

dinner, but it is certainly synonymous with Christianity as we share the food and the workload! And this unique and novel way of having the Christmas meal means that all those involved can go to Mass on Christmas morning without having to worry or get in a flap about over or under cooking the seasonal turkey. Christmas Day is the celebration of the Lord's birth. This is the essential heart of the celebration of Christmas. Without the Lord, there would be no Christmas. Without turkey... we could manage perfectly.

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10.00am Sung Mass
Monday – Saturday 8am Low Mass.
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Confession: Saturdays at 3pm

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
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8.30am Mass (Mon, Tues, Thurs)
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Wed 12 noon Mass
Saturday 8.30am Mass.

St. Cyprian, Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh, Devon TQ13 0AD
No Mass at present

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No Mass at present

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Thu 8th Dec (Immaculate Conception) - 12 noon - Low Mass.
Fri 6th Jan 2023 (Epiphany) - 12 noon - Low Mass
Thur 2nd Feb (Candlemas) - 12 noon - Low Mass

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Mary's Meals Doubles the Love this winter

Donations to school feeding charity Mary's Meals this winter will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5m – meaning the public's kindness will go even further to reach more desperately hungry children with life-changing school meals.

Thanks to the charity's low-cost approach, just £15.90 can normally feed a child with Mary's Meals every school day for a year, but during this time, the Double the Love campaign means a donation of £15.90 will feed two children.

Mary's Meals serves nutritious school meals in 20 of the world's poorest countries and its work has never been more important. Conflict, food insecurity and the cost-of-living crisis is having a devastating impact in East Africa, a fourth season of failed rains is causing one of the worst droughts in decades, leaving millions of people on the brink of famine.

The promise of a meal at school attracts hungry children into the classroom where, instead of working or looking for food, they can gain an education and hope for a better future. The charity currently feeds 2,279,941 children every school day.

For children like Ulemu in Malawi, a daily meal at school has been life-changing. Ulemu is one of Chigodi Primary School's newest students, but the 15-year-old should be well into his secondary school career.

The teenager missed much of his early education because of hunger. With little food at home and no school feeding programme at his previous school, his attendance and performance suffered. Now he receives Mary's Meals at his new school.

Ulemu says: "If we had porridge at my old school, I could have been in secondary school right now. I would frequently miss classes because there was no food at home. Even if I could go to school, I could not concentrate because I was hungry.

"I concentrate in class and play with my friends because the porridge keeps me from feeling hungry throughout the day. My academic performance has improved since I joined Chigodi."

Mary's Meals has been serving children in Malawi nutritious school meals for 20 years. Chigodi is one of



Ulemu is thriving at school in Malawi

1,044 schools in the African country where the charity delivers its school feeding programme. A daily meal at school is helping children like Ulemu – who dreams of becoming a doctor – gain an education and reach their goals.

Daniel Adams, executive director of Mary's Meals, says: "In a world devastated by conflict, food insecurity and drought, bringing new hope to desperately hungry children with our life-changing school meals has never been more urgent.

"That's why our Double the Love campaign is so important. This winter donations will go twice as far, allowing us to reach even more children in countries including South Sudan, Yemen and Haiti. Just £15.90 will feed two children for a whole school year fuelling their learning and hopes for the future.

"We are deeply thankful to everyone who is helping us keep our promise to the more than 2.2m children who rely on our meals, while allowing us to reach the next hungry child waiting for Mary's Meals."

The Double the Love campaign runs until January 31 2023. Visit marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove to find out more.



Children in Malawi receiving Mary's Meals – Photos by Andrew Cawley

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Christmas Mass Times

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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.

Papal Nuncio to Great Britain appointed prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches



Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, until now Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, as prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches. He succeeds Cardinal Leonardo Sandri as prefect.

Archbishop Gugerotti studied Eastern Languages and Sacred Liturgy and was a professor of Patristics, Eastern Liturgy at

the Institute of Ecumenical Studies in Verona from 1981 to 1985. He was first appointed as an official to what was then called the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, in 1985. Twelve years later, in 1997, he became its Undersecretary.

He has also taught at the Pontifical Oriental Institute. Pope Francis named Archbishop

Claudio Gugerotti as Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain on Saturday, 4 July 2020.

Arriving during the Covid-19 pandemic, he served for just over two years. Please pray for Archbishop Gugerotti as he prepares to serve the Roman Curia in this important role.

Vatican News

What is the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain?

The Apostolic Nuncio represents the Holy Father to the Church in the UK. His role is equivalent to that of an ambassador, representing the Holy See to the UK Government - the Apostolic Nuncio to the Court of St. James's.

Book Reviews

Fiery Learning from the Pastoral Front Line

£9.99
ISBN-13: 978-1782229537
www.amazon.co.uk



No priest or lay minister could fail to gain valuable insights from this account of Fr. Darline's ministry to his parishioners. Throughout the book there is an excellent balance between the

everyday life and ministry of a priest and the work of a practising psychologist. Situations familiar to any parish priest on the "front line" are examined in the light of psychological research. This research works in harmony with a life of prayer and compassion. Detailed references are given at the end of each chapter.

The book falls into three parts. "Ministry during Covid" shows how Fr. Darline and his parishioners coped during the worst months of the pandemic. His story is a precious historical record of a particular in national and local life. Any future researcher looking back to 2020-2021 would find much of interest. Problems are squarely faced: the torment and inconvenience of lockdown, the use of technology to assist communications in a scattered rural parish, and the use of both personal prayer and psychotherapy to combat distress.

"Ongoing Journey" is more autobiographical. Fr. Darline gives us some details of his early life, and of the outstandingly good parishioners who made him welcome at Okehampton and Chagford. There are comments on the positive side of colonialism, the art and science of listening and, sadly, the antiCatholic prejudice he encountered as a priest looking for clinical placements. If he were Jewish or gay, this prejudice would be fiercely condemned. But he has a trusty weapon: "Prayers have been my life-line."

The third part, over half the book, is a series of eight short "case studies" of parishioners. I know one of them well, and can vouch for the authenticity of what Fr. Darline has to say. Much of this book was originally a series of local newspaper

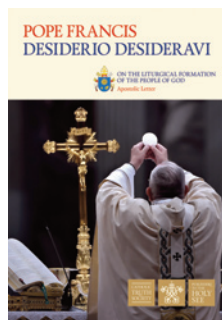
articles: one of the excellent ways in which Fr. Darline has created links with the wider community. Because of this episodic origin several themes recur: for instance, listening. Some of these stories are stressful, and Fr. Darline does not

hesitate to describe and comment on his "discomfort and anger." Sudden death, accidents and fatal illness are all part of a priest's ministry. The abiding message is that both prayer and scientific research are two essential ingredients for Fr. Darline's successful ministry.

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Pope Francis shares some reflections on the liturgy for all Catholics, focusing on the tensions present around the celebration of the liturgy and emphasising the need for "serious and dynamic liturgical formation", while calling on Catholics to accept the liturgical reform borne out of Sacrosanctum Concilium.



In this Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis shares some reflections on the liturgy for all Catholics after his Motu Proprio Traditiones custodes. Focusing on tensions present around the celebration of the liturgy, he calls on Catholics to accept the liturgical reform borne out of Sacrosanctum Concilium, and reaffirms that "The liturgical books promulgated by Saint Paul VI and Saint John Paul II ... are the unique expression of the lex orandi [the law of what is prayed] of the Roman Rite."

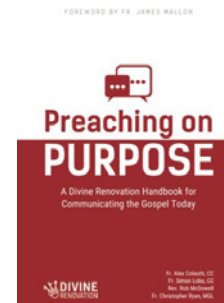
Calling for a "serious and dynamic liturgical formation" beyond the academic environment, Pope Francis criticises "a heightened personalism of the celebrating style which at times expresses a poorly concealed mania to be the centre of attention", and reminds clergy, faithful and the consecrated alike that "[t]he action of the celebration is the place in which, by means of memorial, the Paschal Mystery is made present so that the baptized, through their participation, can experience it in their own lives. Without this understanding, the celebration easily falls into a preoccupation with the exterior (more or less refined) or into a concern only for rubrics (more or less rigid)."

"With this letter I simply want to invite the whole Church to rediscover, to safeguard, and to live the truth and power of the Christian celebration. I want the beauty of the Christian celebration and its necessary consequences for the life of the Church not to be spoiled by a superficial and foreshortened understanding of its value or, worse yet, by its being exploited in service of some ideological vision, no matter what the hue."

Preaching on Purpose

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ISBN: 978-1778054600
Divine Renovation Ministry
www.amazon.co.uk

Divine Renovation's latest title, **Preaching on Purpose**, gives Catholic clergy a step-by-step handbook in developing homilies tailored for the New Evangelisation.



The book articulates what the authors call missional preaching: strategic preaching that "pierces hearts, inspires personal conversion to Jesus, unleashes missionary disciples, and helps the entire parish break out of maintenance to ignite the world through the power of the Gospel."

In an endorsement, Archbishop Mark O'Toole says, "Priests and deacons will be extremely grateful, as I am, for the imaginative way in which Preaching on Purpose puts before us the challenge of breaking open God's Word in a manner which brings transformation both in the preacher and in the hearer."

Citing Pope Francis, the Archbishop says, "The authors enthusiastically urge us all to preach in a way which 'awakens the soul...and does not put it to sleep.' All those entrusted with this sacred task will read it avidly."

The book is co-authored by four experienced preachers who wish to share with a wider audience the principles of preaching needed to enable mission, evangelisation, and parish renewal:

- Fr. Alex Colautti, CC: Associate Pastor of Saint Benedict Parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Fr. Simon Lobo, CC: Pastor of Saint Benedict Parish and author of Divine Renovation Apprentice: Learning to Lead a Disciple-Making Parish
- Rev. Rob McDowell: Wesleyan pastor and Divine Renovation leadership coach
- Fr. Christopher Ryan, MGL: pastor of St. Declan's Parish in Penshurst, Australia, and Director of the Arete Centre for Missionary Leadership It includes snapshots of preaching wisdom from other Catholic priests, including priests from around the UK.

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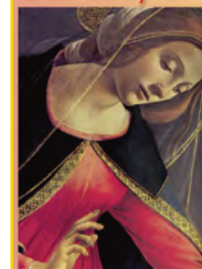
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The Road Pilgrim

Part Nine - Breakdowns & Hire Vehicles

Contact patch:
The contact patch is the tyre area in contact with the road at any one time; it is only a few inches. Without it, a car cannot go, stop or turn. The contact patch sets limits and creates possibilities. It also provides feedback for the driver, helping vehicle control.

On the highway of life, our contact patch is the present moment. The more we bring our true selves to this, the more contact we have with reality, with God. The contact patch also symbolises prayer. Prayer ought to empower our many starts, stops, and turns on the highway of life, the possibilities we explore, and the limitations we accept. Prayer gives us vital feedback too. Find God where the rubber meets the road.

Tracking (wheel alignment):
Tracking refers to a wheel's angle and direction, as set by the manufacturer. Uneven tyre wear can indicate that the tracking is out; if so, you might feel the car pulling left or right. We can often sense when our spiritual tracking is out too.

Wheel alignment can get out of line due to hitting a kerb or driving over potholes. Similarly, bumps, knocks, and careless 'driving' can affect our spiritual alignment on the highway of life. Is your spiritual tracking out? Are you in agreement with God's angle and direction for your life?

Punctures:
Has your car had a puncture? If not, you'll get one eventually. Tyres inflate and deflate. We do too. The evil spirit deflates, and the good spirit inflates. God permits our spiritual deflation to bring forth good, such as building up the virtues of faith, hope and love. Due to the self-sealing nature of tyres, it is possible to drive many miles without noticing a puncture, though the leakage eventually becomes apparent. In life, too, we might not know we are leaking graces. We'll deflate if we don't pay attention and deal with our spiritual puncture(s). Are you aware of holes in your spiritual life?

Advanced tyre technology has relevance to the spiritual life. Self-inflating tyres (SIT) sense low tyre pressure and re-inflate via components built into the wheel. A Tyre



Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) has low tyre pressure sensors. In addition, run-flat tyres resist the effect of deflation via their reinforced tyre walls. Similarly, advancement in the spiritual life—this supernatural gift from God—increases sensitivity to spiritual leakage. It also provides resilience in times of desolation, enabling re-inflation by drawing upon God's grace within one's inner core. One doesn't stay flat for long. Is God waiting to upgrade 'your' spiritual technology?

Wheels:
Are you an air cap on a revolving car wheel? Life turns: there are ups, and there are downs. The medieval 'Wheel of

Fortune' (Latin: Rota Fortunae) symbolises life's changing fortunes.¹ At the top—a king (I reign), at the bottom—a pauper (no reign), to one side—a person climbing (will reign), the other side—a person falling (have reigned). Life goes well; at different times, it does not. Things get better, at other times, worse. Christianity places Jesus Christ at the centre of the wheel of life. By living at the centre, we gain the peace of Christ; we are detached (indifferent) to changing circumstances. Don't be an air cap on the rim; live humbly on the hub.

¹ My thanks to Bishop Robert Barron's (more thorough) explanation of the 'Wheel of Fortune' metaphor. See 'Peace Beyond Understanding' on the Word on Fire website at www.wordonfire.org.



You can use both sets of clues to solve the puzzle: the solutions are the same.

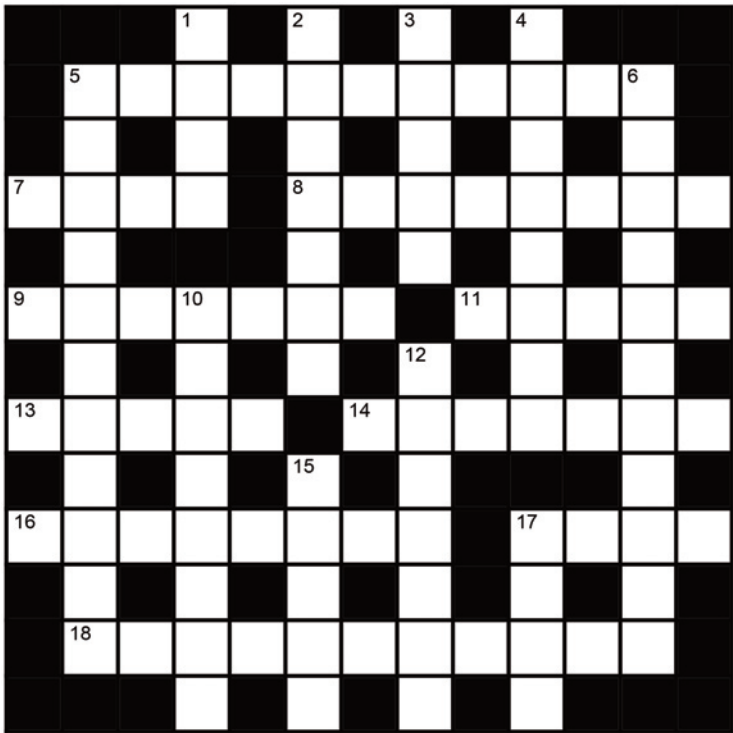
- CRYPTIC Across**
- 5 Sports two letters from Paul (11)
 - 7 Log all chocolate that's eaten around Christmas? (4)
 - 8 Naive can, strangely to medieval Schoolmen, be an influence (8)
 - 9 Building that appeals for Indian ruler to 'go back in time' in retrospective (7)
 - 11 This kind of hell hole's diabolical (5)
 - 13 Levi's sister's anger initially follows row with husband (5)
 - 14 Golden premier of chap being inducted into a mysterious religion (7)
 - 16 Note a retrogressive toilet's showy façade: a parable that highlights greed (4,4)
 - 17 'No union, no strike' letters initially given to women with habits (4)
 - 18 Bernstein, or alternative name for the Premonstratensians (11)

- CRYPTIC Down**
- 1 He composed a tune ultimately the navy embraced (4)
 - 2 Key number among Poles eroded benefice's income (7)
 - 3 Some in macho Irish group getting vocal when together (5)
 - 4 Horse old Persian tracks to a town fortified by Rehoboam (8)
 - 5 Means of executing Rugby's capacity to bind individual's attachment to one across? (11)
 - 6 Solomon's greatest hit? Perhaps not... (4,2,5)
 - 10 ...Eucharistic Prayer heard in Athens maybe a rap Noah composed (8)

- 12 Abbot's story is written up following Rector's recording outside (7)
- 15 She was unfaithful to OT chap; married an all-round raver (5)
- 17 All over English meet with French negativity, which produces zilch (4)

- QUICK Across**
- 5 Either of two books of the NT (11)
 - 7 Archaic term for Christmas from a 12-day heathen festival (4)
 - 8 Muslim philosopher who influenced the medieval Schoolmen... (8)
 - 9 ...and a pillar of Islam? (7)
 - 11 Word appearing in the OT meaning the underworld or place for departed souls (5)
 - 13 Daughter of Jacob and Leah (5)
 - 14 Ancient Greek set of religious beliefs associated with Hades (7) 16 A ---- ----: parable appearing in Luke (4,4)
 - 17 Females who have taken their final vows (4)
 - 18 Alternative name for members of the Premonstratensian Order (11)

- QUICK Down**
- 1 Composer of two oratorios, but more famously Rule Britannia (4)
 - 2 First year's revenue of an ecclesiastical benefice, passed to the Crown in 1535 and abolished in 1926 (7)
 - 3 Part of a church containing the seats of the clergy (5)
 - 4 Town fortified by Rehoboam for which Micah prophesied disaster (8)



- 5 Means of Christ's death as recorded by all four evangelists (11)
- 6 OT anthology of love poems, alternatively called 'Canticles' in some Bibles (4,2,5)
- 10 Word in the Eastern Church which equates to the Eucharistic Prayer (8)
- 12 High-ranking ecclesiastic (7) 15 Hosea's unfaithful wife (5)
- 17 The last of the 'Little Hours' of the Divine Office (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 5 Corinthians, 7 Yule, 8 Avicenna, 9 Minaret, 11 Sheol, 13 Dinah, 14 Orphism, 16 Rich fool, 17 Nuns, 18 Northtines. Down: 1 Arne, 2 Annates, 3 Choir, 4 Maresah, 5 Crucifixion, 6 Song of Songs, 10 Anaphora, 12 Prelate, 15 Gomer, 17 None.