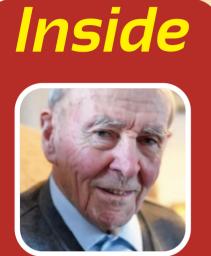
South West

Serving the Church in the South West

> July 2023



50p

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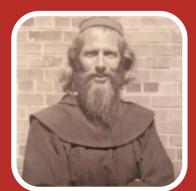
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DO **NOT** LEAVE THIS IN THE CHURCH once you have picked up this paper please take it with you

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 cswfdcathcom.org 01440 730399

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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,

In this month's Catholic South West, we have some incredible celebrations, with two priests in the South West

celebrating 70 years of priesthood. We also have some great articles about day to day life: overcoming with loneliness; the voluntary work of the St Vincent de Paul society; and finding God in humble service – with a focus on John Bradburne.

All of this is inspiring, and at the same time, challenging. It gives us ideas and inspiration of what we can strive for, and it challenges us to turn this inspiration into action. We are called to respond to the needs of those around us, and these articles focus on people who have done exactly that.

We hope you enjoying this edition of Catholic South West!

CSW TEAM

70 years a priest



Many congratulations to Canon Peter Wilkie who has just celebrated his 70th anniversary of ordination as a priest! Canon Peter was ordained on 4th June 1953 at St Agatha's in Kingston-on-Thames by Archbishop John Henry King, who went over specially to his home parish to celebrate the ordination. Many

will remember him from his ministry at St Swithun's, Southsea, the Cathedral, St Joseph's, Bracknell, Sacred Heart, Bournemouth, St Bernard's, Holbury, St James', Reading, St Edward's, Chandlers Ford, Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi, Fordingbridge, and St Francis of Assisi, Milford-on-Sea. In addition, he was Chaplain to Winchester Prison for 20 years. He became a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter in 1989. When he was at Beaumont College, he played cricket against the Oratory at Lords. – the only Portsmouth priest to do so! So, congratulations to Canon Peter – ad multos annos!

See backpage for the 70th Anniversary celebration of Fr Denis Collin

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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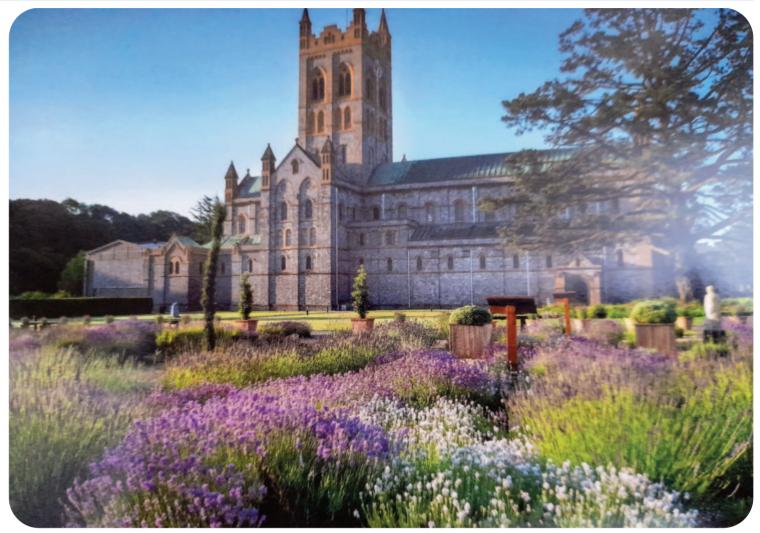
Our Lady & St Neot Celebrate the Coronation and some Bethany Group Ladies visit Buckfast Abbey

On Sunday 7th May, the Coronation weekend, Fr Gilmour invited parishioners and friends to share lunch in the St Neot Room, Liskeard following the 11:00 Mass.

The 'Warm Space' ladies from our Bethany Group put on a wonderful spread including smoked salmon and soft cheese baps, coronation quiche, sandwiches, coronation trifle, homemade cakes, and so much more. Glasses of Prosecco and glasses of Pimm's were free flowing. The cold buffet was a great success and many friends and parishioners stayed long into the afternoon. The weather meant we stayed in the St Neot Room rather than the Presbytery Garden. The food, the Pimm's, the decorations and the company made a grand celebration. Well done ladies and a big thanks to all who helped.

Our Bethany Group – who meet once a month – on Wednesday 17th May made a visit to Buckfast Abbey, arriving in time for the Mid-day Mass and a picnic lunch afterwards. The day offered an opportunity for prayer, quiet contemplation and reflection. Mary: one of our ladies even managed to do some evangelisation.

We were also able to see the Hair Shirt of Saint Thomas More in the Chapel of the Holy Cross. Thomas More wore this rough cloth made from goats' hair during his lifetime to encourage self-control and a penance for past sins. It also united the wearer with Jesus Christ, who underwent suffering and death on the Cross to come



to the glory of the Resurrection. Thomas More wore this garment freely as an act of devotion.

The hair shirt was sent by Sir Thomas More the day before his martyrdom to his adopted daughter Margaret Giggs. Margaret gave it into the safe keeping of Sir Thomas' own daughter Margaret Roper, who later returned it. When Margaret Giggs became Mrs Clement, the hair shirt remained in the Clement family until 1626. It was then bequeathed by Dr Caesar Clement to the English community of nuns at Saint Monica's Convent in Louvain. The English nuns of St Monica's convent eventually settled at Abbotskerswell in Devon bringing the hair shirt with them. On the closure of Abbotskerswell Priory in 1983, the hair shirt passed to the Diocese of Plymouth and was kept for a time at Syon Abbey, South Brent. In 2011 the Diocese of Plymouth asked Buckfast Abbey to house this significant relic of Saint Thomas More in such a way that it may be readily seen and venerated by members of the public.

Weather-wise it turned out to be a glorious, sunny day at Buckfast Abbey, walking around the beautiful gardens, the quiet, peaceful, tranquil cemeteries of the monks, priests and laypeople. All who went had a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

> Article and photos by Rosemarie de Boyer





Alright? Reflections on coming to the UK by Fr Ignatius of Bideford

Alright? The sweet sound of the word makes me feel comfortable as I am new to this country from India. When I first arrived and started to experience this country and its culture, I had thought about how I would cope with everything, including living and succeeding in my life here. However, whenever I meet new people, they make me feel at home because of this word alright. I learnt that 'alright' is just the British way of saying hello or a question as to how one is feeling. When I hear this word from unknown people, I feel overwhelmed with feeling and at one with people. Similarly, the words 'thank you' and 'you're welcome' and giving way to pedestrians on the same side of the road, as well as cars too, and waving a hand as a sign of 'thank you' when driving is so interesting and inspiring to me.

All these experiences make me happy, and I feel fine here. From these experiences, I want to tell you that simple encounters that we make when we meet someone creates a good feeling in the receiver. When I go out walking and hear these words – HMC: Happy Mood Creators

- I feel a change within that gives me happiness, strength, and the feeling that there are good souls amongst us. Hence, I view that social and personal encounters are of great effect and value. Meeting someone and asking them about their life can create such an impression upon their mind. Sometimes it can dispel confusions. fear, and give them fresh insights to turn their pain into joy. Therefore, having an encounter with someone can encourage him or her to find a new way to a peaceful life on earth. It can alleviate numerous problems that someone may undergo. Visiting a person and chatting with them is never a useless thing. It has a therapeutic value and makes positive changes to all those involved. However, due to the busy schedule of life, with work commitments, and other responsibilities that we have, this can become difficult. Inevitably, this causes reservation within us about caring for the wellbeing of others so personally in our everyday life. We may ask the question: how does it benefit me to care for the wellbeing of others? Why should I bother? From my experience, the benefits are undeniable. When I talk to my friends and consider others. I receive in return

feelings of happiness and peace of mind. If I share my problems, I can get new insights into preserving my state of mind and dealing with my situation. On the other hand, when I concern myself with the problems of my friends and provide guidance in their moments of distress, I experience feelings of warmth and accomplishment that I have supported and been there for someone in their time of need. However, the benefits of being there for those we meet is not limited to positive feelings. As humans, we require positive social relationships in order to lead fulfilling and happy lives. No one can state, with all honesty, that it is possible to live in complete independence. The importance of even short conversations in the street, or the wave of a hand when driving, is underestimated. The feelings that are produced as a result of these encounters can be truly life-changing for some people, especially those experiencing loneliness or particularly distressing moments of their lives. Hence, once in a while, let us reach out to friends, relatives and family, the sick and the housebound, and even the stranger. Developing an encounter can give him or



her moments of closeness and affection, which may heal any loneliness and give them a feeling of real warmth and strength.

Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body (Proverbs 16:24).

Yes, the words expressed with a smile, love and kindness will create such an impact in someone's life enabling them to experience God's love through human encounters. We are God's children, let us make everyone feel God's love and care through loving words and deeds.

Hi alright.....

Fr Ignatius is Parish Priest at Sacred Heart Church, Bideford. A member of the order of St. Eugene De Mazenod, he came to the parish last October from the Archdiocese of Pondicherry – Cuddalore in the State of Tamil Nadu, India.

Celebrate World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly – 23 July 2023

On Sunday 23th July, we celebrate the third World Day for Grandparents and Elderly. Pope Francis has chosen the theme "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50) connecting the Rome event to the great celebration of the World Youth Day in Lisbon (Aug. 1-6), and in other words to ideally put young and old 'in dialogue', as the Pope has always desired. The day will be celebrated with a Mass by the Pope in St. Peter's Square.

Since the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis has insisted on overcoming the "throwaway culture" and embarking on a culture of relationships. Today we all know that we live in a society where the elderly are not at the center. The Holy Father's reflection prompts us to ask some soul-searching questions, "What do we do for the elderly? How do we take care of them? Do our elderly feel lonely? Do they truly have dignity?" Here, we have to put the elderly person at the center and learn from them, and have the desire to think about them and desire to know how they are doing.



One of Caritas Diocese of Plymouth's priorities is to embrace the value that older people can offer and reach out to those who may be isolated or facing difficulties. A core part of our work is to encourage our Diocesan schools and parishes to develop intergenerational links and to foster a culture of dialogue between generations and we can offer resources and grants to support new activities. For resources for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly please visit:www.catholicgrandparents association.org. If you would like any more information please email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



THE WATER AND SEED OF LIFE

Water is an amazing thing. Although without any taste, it is the most necessary thing for us to consume. In fact, two thirds of our bodies consist of water. A potato is 80 percent water and a tomato is 95 percent water. When we turn on the tap and water comes out, we take it for granted. It is only when water is cut off that we become aware of our reliance on it.

In Laudato Si' (nn. 28-30), Pope Francis reminded us of the importance of water for the health of everyone on our planet: "Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Yet access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival." During the summer months in England, we often have dry spells when we come to realise our need for water. Garden lawns turn brown, flowers start to droop, and some crops begin to wither in the fields. Then suddenly there can be a cloudburst, and lawns turn green again, flowers revive, and crops start growing again.

The Isaiah reading on the 15th Sunday of the Year (16th July) reminds us of the power of water to make crops grow: "The rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating." Even though we may plant the crops, we do not make them grow. God provides the rain and other conditions that they need for growth.

The prophet uses the example of water to describe the powerful effect of God's word: "In the same way, the word that

goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do." Isaiah emphasises the gift of God's word, which is able to give us life and teach us the way to heaven.

The gospel for the same Sunday gives us another image for God's word—the image of the seed planted in the ground. Here Jesus' parable of the sower highlights the need for our response. The sower does his job distributing the seed. In ancient Palestine the seed was just thrown on the ground, as we sometimes do with grass seed.

Jesus describes four kinds of soil, representing four sorts of response. Are we like the edge of the path, failing to appreciate God's word, so that it gets snatched away from us? Are we like the patches of rock, where the divine word has shallow roots and withers when difficulties come? Are we like the soil where the thorns of worldly worries and financial ambitions choke the word? Or are we like the fertile soil that receives the word with understanding and produces rich fruit?

In today's world, we often face many distractions from prayerfully listening to God's word. Watching sport and keeping up with social media can seem more attractive than spending time quietly reading and pondering scripture. To use Isaiah's language, the water from heaven can drain away without producing any harvest in us. Or to use Jesus' language, the word given to us can fail to take root and produce a rich yield.

Simon Peter once said to Jesus: "Lord, you have the message of eternal life." This is our belief. During the summer holiday season, may we give some time to prayerfully ponder the Lord's message, so that we may make progress on our journey to eternal life.



The St Vincent de Paul Society, (the SVP)

The SVP is an international voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to those in need – irrespective of ideology, faith, age, ethnicity or gender. The society is a lay organisation, initially formed in Paris by Blessed Frederick Ozanam and his companions and active in England Wales since 1844.

In every diocese in England Wales the SVP organisation conforms exactly to the diocesan borders with one notable exception, Plymouth. Dorset SVP is aligned to Portsmouth Diocese probably for reasons of geography. Therefore, when we refer to the Plymouth SVP Central Council we mean the Cornwall and Devon area only. Each SVP Central Council has its own organisational setup with the head office being in London. Head office consists of various departments to ensure the smooth running of the society from SVP Shops, SVP Support Centres to Twinning which looks after our support to places such as India and Sudan. The vast majority of members are volunteers and a high proportion remain as members for as long as they are able.

Local History: The first SVP Conference was formed in our area at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Boniface in 1850. The average attendance at 48 meetings in 1929 was 7 and their report reads; 'Stranded merchant seamen have been helped. Many certificates of good character given to men for employment. Clothes and boots procured enabling people to attend church. One brother devotes time to emigration work. Active co-operation is maintained with the Sisters of Charity, (St Teresa's Convent)'. Holy Cross Conference was formed in 1894 and they met at a local school. Their president was James Weekes of Plymstock. Members 8. Average attendance at 51 meetings 6. Their report; 'The Workhouse has been visited regularly and the Rosary recited and Catholic books and papers distributed. At Christmas gifts were made after Mass to the Catholic inmates. The Brothers are greatly indebted to the Rev Fathers Lee and Monohan for much interest shown. The conference has suffered a great loss by the death of their Spiritual Director, Monsignor Barry, Vicar General and request prayers for his soul. R.I.P. Patronage, - the conference takes an active part in the Apostleship of the Sea; ships in port have been visited'. End of

quote. Readers will note that the SVP Conferences met once a week and that members were all male. In modern times conferences decide whether to meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly depending on their circumstances and of course ladies are able to join. In fact, the previous national president of the SVP in England Wales was Helen O'Shea, and our current national president is Elaine Heyworth.

What Inspired me to Join. The SVP is truly a voluntary organisation and members are absolutely free to choose the type of work they do. The term 'president' of a conference is traditional and does not imply that he or she is there to give orders. On the contrary, persons who hold office of any sort are considered servants in the same manner as anyone else. We get involved with assisting the poor and needy in numerous ways and this service to the poor is inspiring indeed and it can truly be referred to as 'faith in action'. Without doubt there is a spiritual dimension to this work and it was this which immediately made me realise I had made the correct decision in joining the SVP. In recent years Pope Francis has asked us to pray and serve the poor as part of our Christian vocation. Pope John Paul 11 echoed the Second Vatican Council in a statement which might seem surprising. 'The vocation of the lay faithful to holiness implies that life according to the spirit expresses itself in their involvement with temporal affairs and in their participation in earthly activities. They must see that their daily activities as an occasion to join themselves to God, fulfil his will, serve other people and lead them to communion with God in Christ'. End of guote. Further quote from The Mind and Heart of a Vincentian: 'Our spiritual growth comes primarily through the loving relationships in our lives, and our zeal to seek justice in the spirit of the Gospel, giving ourselves without counting the cost'.

Conference meetings. These should last no more than 45 to 50 minutes. They are commenced by brief set prayers and then a spiritual reading from books especially written for Vincentians. A brief discussion then follows where members may make comments on the reading. Business is then discussed in a friendly respectful manner including the needs of beneficiaries. At the conclusion there are brief closing prayers. More Local SVP History. Torquay



'The Society is under the Patronage of St Vincent de Paul and it is inspired by his works and thinking'.

Assumption Conference dates from March 1874. In 1929 there were 9 members and the conference met 52 times. 325 visits to beneficiaries were made that year.

Sacred Heart Conference Exeter dates from October 1924. Average attendance at 50 meetings was 4. 'The usual Christmas parcels were distributed and an outing for 100 children organised. Two old men were placed in a home at Plymouth. Patronage. Help is given in managing the scouts and cubs'.

The Modern Day SVP. Our basic visiting the sick and needy continues and great strides have been made in the extent of work covered being far too much for this article. During the last 30 years there has been a gradual decline in our conference numbers in the Plymouth Central Council so I am asking you to at least consider the merits of the SVP. Should you wish to learn more about us then please contact me by calling 01566 775820, 0756 363 5480 or by emailing geoffprovis@hotmail.co.uk

You may find that this may add a new dimension to your faith as occurred with myself.

Yours in Christ,

Geoff Provis, St Cuthbert Mayne Parish, Plymouth Central Council President.

Tackling Loneliness – we can all play our part

Caritas Outreach project lead, Tanya Trevena, shares some reflections on loneliness and isolation as part of Loneliness Awareness Week 2023.

"As we step into Loneliness Awareness week. I have been reflecting on my almost 2 years working in Plymouth for the Caritas Plymouth outreach project. It is easy to see how people can quickly become lonely. A change in circumstance can bring a newness to life that means you have to adjust. The loss of a spouse or family companion, children leaving home, a change in location, a new job, a change in health can all lead to a loneliness and a feeling of being isolated. Similarly, changes in our emotional wellbeing can lead to a feeling of disconnectedness or invisibility to those who are around us.

My initial conversations with parishioners included some who were still feeling the aftershocks of the pandemic. Some had absorbed a sense of fear and were unsure about mingling again, others had decided that the change of lifestyle had become habit and so they were just going to stay in. Other difficulties arise for those who would like to go out but are not able to drive to an event anymore and the thought of navigating bus changes to get themselves across the city is complicated and not easy. These parishioners may find that their only excursion is to come to Mass on a Sunday, and they are looking forward to being greeted by a warm, friendly congregation who will give them a



little bit of their time. It's not just the elderly that suffer from loneliness though. others may be at home with a new baby, navigating how to be a parent for the first time. Loneliness can affect anyone at any stage of life.

I am happy to say that we have had some success in Plymouth setting up new activities. An example of this are 'Welcome Mondays' held at Holy Family church. These sessions started as a Winter Warm Space, but it was clear that everyone involved, both volunteers and visitors enjoyed the opportunity to come together and experience community. Connecting over a free cuppa and games, people have grown in their belonging, we are a family. When asked what the benefits of coming are, people replied, "It's a chance to see a smiling face", "It's made a difference to my life. I think the people that are coming here are lovely, very, very friendly and I really do enjoy it", "It has given me something to look

week and I leave every time, no matter how long or short it is with a spring in my step"

We all need connectedness, a sense of belonging and to feel a part of something. So, if you were a person that went out and clapped for the NHS during COVID, perhaps you would like to continue the demonstration of reaching out to someone around you. Maybe each Thursday set aside a time to make a phone call or have a chat with a neighbour, checking in with them to make sure they are all right. You might like to volunteer to help with a community initiative, something that is close by, to help those in your area, or put yourself on the coffee rota and give just a bit of your Sunday to those who go home to an empty house.'

If you would like to know more then please contact

tanya.trevena@prcdtr.org.uk

forward to", "I meet new people every Catholic Children's Society - Annual Appeal 2023

The Catholic Children's Society based in the Diocese of Plymouth will be holding its Annual Appeal over the Bank Holiday weekend of 26th and 27th August 2023.

The theme of this year's Annual Appeal is 'Creating Hope for Families - Changing Lives' and the charity really does need your help please as more and more families are struggling to provide the basic essentials of life for their children.

CCSP, the only children's charity in the Diocese, aims to help vulnerable families through their Essential Grants programme by providing vital items such as children's beds, school uniform and shoes as well as white goods including cookers, fridge/freezers and washing machines. They are being inundated with requests for their financial support and received 396 applications last year, compared to 314 in 2021, 219 in 2020 and 178 in 2019. They envisage the number of families looking to them for their help will only continue to rise as the costs of living are becoming too much for so many families

At present they have had to put a maximum limit on the amount of grant

funding they can approve each month, as they simply cannot continue to approve the number of requests for support that they are receiving. Feedback from the families that they are able to support has been overwhelming as the grants really do make a massive difference to the lives of families living in our Diocese which includes Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset.

Unfortunately, they can only approve a certain amount of funding each month and the charity is now having to turn families away, who they would previously have tried to help. It's hard to imagine that there are children who do not have a proper bed to sleep in, or suitable shoes to wear to school and that there are families who can not afford to purchase a cooker to prepare healthy nutritious home cooked meals.

CCSP could not continue to do what it does without the support of their loyal supporters in the parishes. Please support this year's Annual Appeal as much as you can over the weekend of $26^{\mbox{\tiny th}}$ and 27th August or alternatively, please consider helping in other ways, as we are always looking for help.

Please call 01364 645420 for more details or visit www.ccsplymouth.org.uk for

alternative ways to get involved or donate throughout the year.

THANK YOU !!







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9th July is Sea Sunday.

Please pray for seafarers and fishers and support the Catholic charity ministering to them: **Stella Maris** (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea). To donate, go to www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate

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Masses in the Extraordinary Form in Plymouth Diocese: Lanherne Convent, St. Mawgan, Cornwall TR8 4ER Sundays 8.30am Low Mass10.00am 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, 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: 10.45am Sung/High Mass (Confession before and after Mass and every day if required). Vespers & Benediction. 8.30.am Low Mass Monday, Tuesday & Saturday 12 noon Low Mass Wednesday & Saturday 12 noon Low Mass Wednesday & Friday 12 noon Sung Mass Thursday 5.30pm Vespers, 6pm Adoration (Confessions), 7pm Compline. Wednesday 12 noon Mass - Saturday 8.30am Mass. St. Cyprian, Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh, Devon TQ13 0AD 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 Saturday mornings 9.30am Low Mass

Friday 16th June (Most Sacred Heart of Jesus) 12 noon Low Mass Saturday 22nd July (St Mary Magdelane) 12 noon Low Mass Before travelling any distance and to avoid disappointment, contact the LMS Rep on either 07555536579/devon@lms.org.uk



Recognised for service to Catholic education



Kate Griffin recognised for service to Catholic education

Photo: Paul Hampartsoumian

Kate has, as a former successful headteacher, generously given her expertise both to Westminster and Plymouth Dioceses at executive, governance and trustee levels

The evening sun was radiant, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when parishioners and many visitors gathered at the Church of St Edmund of Canterbury, Whitton.

All were present to celebrate with Kate Griffin the Holy Father, Pope Francis' decision to confer upon her the Damehood of the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory the Great and this was her Mass of Investiture with Cardinal Vincent presiding and conferring the damehood on the Pope's behalf.

Concelebrating were Parish Priest, Fr Nigel Griffin, Kate's husband, and many priests. Also present were a strong Anglican contingent including the Archdeacon of London, the Venerable Luke Miller, friends and associates of Fr Nigel from his earlier ministry as an Anglican priest.

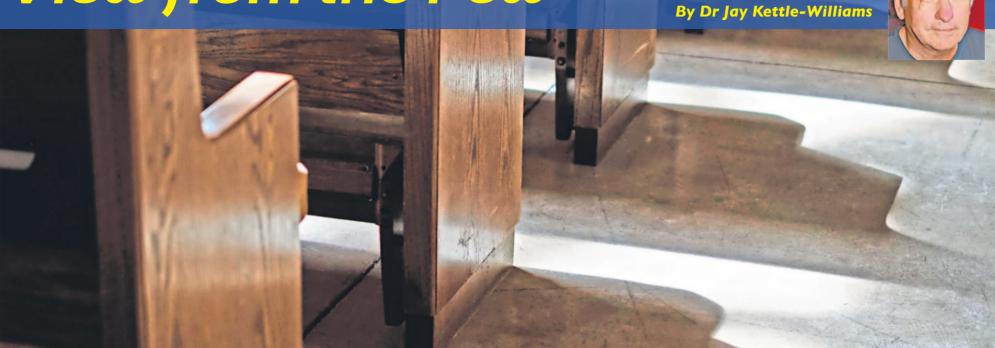
In his homily Cardinal Vincent described the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St Elizabeth as her bearing to her cousin the light of Christ, the Light of the World, and which brought such joy to St Elizabeth and to St John the Baptist in her womb. This bearing of Christ's light he saw, too, in all those dedicated to the ministry of Christian and Catholic education. He referenced Kate's many decades of service in this ministry and some of her key contributions.

Kate has, as a former successful headteacher, generously given her expertise both to Westminster and Plymouth Dioceses at executive, governance and trustee levels; at national level through the Management Committee of the Catholic Education Service; and even at international level through the International Confederation of Principals of which Kate, in 2008 and 2009, was the first Briton to be elected President.

After a joyful Mass beautifully prepared by many parish volunteers, a magnificent reception followed in the parish school, St Edmund's, of which the parish and school could also be justifiably proud as they certainly were also of Dame Kate Griffin and of their Parish Priest, Fr Nigel, whom the Cardinal also particularly thanked for his ministry in the parish.

> Canon Michael Dunne Chair, Westminster Diocesan Education Commission

View from the Pew



Messages in The Bottle

CSW (*Catholic South West*) covers an area falling across three Catholic dioceses: (1) **The Diocese of Clifton** (under The Rt Rev Bishop Declan Lang, appointed the ninth bishop of Clifton on 27 February 2001); (2) **The Diocese of Plymouth** (currently *sede vacante* but formerly under *The Right Reverend Mark O'Toole*, appointed the 9th Bishop of Plymouth on 9 November 2013, then translated to both the Archbishopric of Cardiff and Bishopric of Menevia on June 20th and 22nd 2022 respectively) and (3) **The Diocese of Portsmouth** (under The Rt Rev Bishop Egan, appointed the eighth Bishop of Portsmouth on 11 July 2012).

Each of these three dioceses enjoys a long and marked maritime history: Bristol has been a trading port stretching back over 13 centuries; Plymouth's rich maritime heritage, based on fishing and trade, is keenly identified as having a long and continuing association with the Royal Navy. But it can be reasonably argued that Portsmouth, hosting the oldest naval base in the Royal Navy, might be most keenly applauded for standing out for so long at the forefront in the naval defence of the realm.

Portsmouth is a two-cathedral city occupying Portsea Island which, as I often remark, is shaped like an inverted thumb or perhaps more appropriately like a Barrell bottle of old, such as traditionally used for liquor and spirits. Portsea Island in parallel with the Gosport promontory to its west offers a sheltered inlet which leads up to Portchester, the site established by the Romans as a military camp (Latin: *castra*).

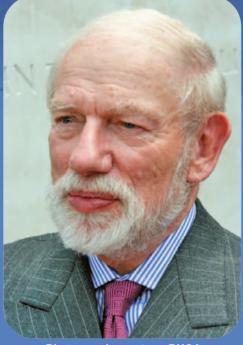
As you drive into Portsmouth (aka Pompey) and work your way acros



St John The Evangelist

town from the bottom of the M25, perhaps on your way to Gunwharf Quays, you pass the Catholic Cathedral of St John which, a mere stone's throw from Portsmouth & Southsea Rail Station, puts a firm and resolute Christian stamp on the centre of town. It's then, immediately on your left as you approach the lights at the corner of Victoria Park, that you see the piazza at the west end of the Cathedral with the 3metre high, bronze statue of St John the Evangelist, one of the fishers of men, so apt for a coastal establishment. St John stands there pointing resolutely to Heaven while looking stoically at the traffic passing by. The statue of St John the Evangelist is one of two works in town by the internationally renowned sculptor Philip Jackson: the one referring to the Church, the other to the State.

Scottish-born Philip Henry Christopher Jackson CVO DL (born 18 April 1944), one of the foremost, award-winning figurative



Photograph courtesy PHCJ Philip Jackson

sculptors in Britain today, is noted for his modern style and emphasis on form. Being Royal Sculptor to the late Queen Elizabeth II, his work appears all across the UK as well as abroad. Football fans for a kick-off (I can't resist the pun, however arch!) will be well aware of Jackson's bronze statue of Bobby Moore, standing 6 metres tall, at the main entrance to the new Wembley Stadium. Readers may also recall that the herald imaging at the foot of this column is modelled on a further work by Jackson, *Exultate Jubilate*.

That other work by Jackson in Portsmouth is the Falklands War sculpture of a Royal Marine: The Yomper, bronze and twice lifesize, watching the shipping and keeping an eye on the many 'keep-fitters' exercising up and down the seafront at Eastney, near where the Royal Marines Museum used to be, that museum now being in the dockyard. It



Photograph © jlkw: The Yomper

was the Royal Marines who popularised the word 'to yomp', meaning to carry full kit on a long-distance march. Having disembarked from ships at East Falkland on 21 May 1982 they yomped 56 miles in three days, each carrying 80-pound loads of equipment, en route to Port Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands, which had been occupied by Argentine military forces. The iconic photograph taken at the time shows a yomper with the union flag flying defiantly from his radio aerial.

Note: To see other works by Philip Jackson visit www.philipjacksonsculptures.co.uk



Dr J L Kettle-Williams is an experienced business communications consultant and wordsmith (tutor, writer translator).



Meditations on Stations of the Cross

by John Henry Newman (Author) £3,50

www.ctsbooks.org

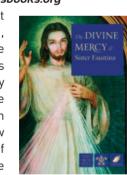
Blessed John Henry Newman's celebrated meditations on the passion of Our Lord have been edited and enhanced with illustrations Thev remain a moving and enriching commentary on the de-

tails of Christ's sufferings and their bearing on our own human existence. An excellent companion to Lent and Easter for for use on Fridays of the year. Updated and revised by Donal Antony Foley.

The Divine Mercy & Sister Faustina

Fr Andrew Witko £3.95 CTS Product Code: D650 Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone ISBN: 9781860820786 www.ctsbooks.org

Beloved by Pope St John Paul II, devotion to the Divine Mercy has grown in popularity since its humble beginnings in Poland. Yet few know the details of its origins or of the devotion itself. That



fascinating story is told here.

Beginning in 1931, Jesus appeared to a Polish nun called Sr Faustina Kowalska. He requested an image of himself to be painted, inscribed with the words "Jesus, I trust in You", promising that "the soul that will venerate this image will not perish."

Pope John Paul II has described the Divine Mercy as an antibiotic for the illnesses of the contemporary world. But while devotion to the Divine Mercy has grown in popularity, few know the details of its origins or of the devotion itself. This booklet offers this information, beginning with the life of St Faustina, it relates her journey to join the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, her visions of Jesus and his request for the creation of the Divine Mercy image. The devotion itself is also explained, with detail about the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Divine Mercy devotions and prayers are also included.

MEDITATIONS

The Rosary with **Pope Francis** Alessandro Saraco, **Pope Francis**

£3.50 CTS Product Code: D787 Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone ISBN: 9781784690168 www.ctsbooks.org

scriptural is

This

rosary

Includes

ROSARY accompanied by meditations on the mysteries from the teachings of this truly Marian Pope. indulaences for saying the Rosary & pravers

Marian written by Pope Francis.

One of the first actions of Francis's papacy was a visit to St Mary Major in Rome to present a bouquet of flowers to Our Lady. This scriptural rosary is accompanied by meditations on each mystery taken from the teachings of this truly Marian Pope. The booklet contains sections on indulgences for saying the Rosary and Marian prayers written by Pope Francis.

My Simple Mass Book

David Belmonte. Pierpaolo Finaldi

£4.95 CTS Product Code: CH48 Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone

ISBN: 9781860828782 www.ctsbooks.org

illustrated This guide to the Mass is an invaluable tool to children help engage with what is happening and why, while interspersing the texts of the Mass with devotional texts and child-friendly explanations. А perfect First Communion gift.

This handy guide to the Mass for children is a must-have for First Communion age children and above. To help enrich their experience of the Mass, the texts of the Mass are colourfully illustrated and interspersed with devotional texts and explanations of the various parts of the Mass, facilitating conscious and active participation on the part of the child.

further deepen the child's То understanding, the illustrations depict not only the events happening in the church during Mass but their theological and personal significance for the child. A

perfect First Communion gift and a great tool for teaching children what is happening at Mass and why it is happening ..

The Beautiful Story of Jesus Maïte Roche

£6.95 CTS Product Code: CH61 Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone ISBN: 9781784690823 www.ctsbooks.org

Maite Roche tells the good news of the life of Jesus for children in an indispensable book for getting to know Jesus better and for being introduced to the words of the gospels.

Much-loved illustrator Maite Roche uses all her skill and experience to tell the good news of the life of Jesus for children. An indispensable book for getting to know Jesus better and for being introduced to the words of the gospels. These colourful books are a delightful companion for young children discovering their loving friends in heaven and the story of their faith. The beautiful illustrations and the simplicity of the language lead children to a closer relationship with God.

Jesus, I Adore You

Sabine du Mesnil £5.95 CTS Product Code: CH74 Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone ISBN: 9781784696344 www.ctsbooks.org

beautifully illustrated explanation of Eucharistic Adoration to help children prepare for a special meeting with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

"Let the children come to me!"

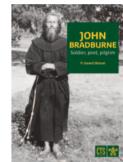
How can children be introduced to Eucharistic Adoration? With colourful and inspiring illustrations, Jesus, I Adore You helps children to prepare for a special meeting with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. In child-friendly language, this little booklet explains what Eucharistic Adoration means and prepares them for an encounter with God.

Once children understand what their special meeting with Jesus is about, they need to know what to say. Age-appropriate meditations and advice help guide their time in adoration, while prayers, readings from Scripture and the Saints encourage them to converse with Jesus. The perfect gift for children doing their First Holy Communion

John Bradburne

Fr Gerard Skinner £6.95 CTS Product Code: B777 Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone ISBN: 9781784697525 www.ctsbooks.org

Secular Franciscan from Cumbria, Servant of God John Bradburne poured himself out in love for the lepers he served, unwilling to abandon them even to save his life. His



legacy offers a striking example of authentic holiness in the modern, conflictstricken world.

The life of John Bradburne reflects a struggle familiar to many people today: if you want to find God you need to search. Bradburne's search, his life's pilgrimage, took him from his birthplace in Cumbria through India, Malaya, and Burma during his soldiering years, and finally to Africa where he at last found God and his own sacred calling amongst the lepers in Mtemwa, Zimbabwe,

Led by a faith that he often expressed profoundly and poetically, John Bradburne followed the example of Christ, pouring himself out in love of the lepers he served, unwilling to abandon them even to save his own life as the violence of the Zimbabwean struggle for independence closed in around Mtemwa.

Remembered by those who knew him for his humility, simplicity, joy and friendliness, John Bradburne offers a striking example of authentic holiness in the modern, conflict-stricken world.





Servant of God John Bradburne – Finding God in the humble service of the outcasts.

Fr Jonathan Cotton

He was often to be found busking with his recorder collecting money for local charities

Last month on June 10th, a memorable celebration of the life and impact of the Servant of God John Bradburne was held at Buckfast Abbey in Devon. I was very happy to concelebrate Mass with the monastic community and take part in the afternoon's proceedings. John was related to the 12th Century Bradburne Family of Ashbourne, Derbyshire in our Diocese, where can be found in St Oswald's Church the 15th Century family burial memorial. His cousins were the playwright Terence Rattigan and the last Governor of Rhodesia Christopher Soames.

Who is John Bradburne?

After his experience as a Captain during the Second World War serving with the Ghukhas in Asia, John Bradburne was received into full communion with the Catholic Church in 1947 at Buckfast Abbey. He returned from the war an unsettled man. From a comfortable middle-class background, born near Penrith and educated at the Gresham School in Norfolk, the poverty he encountered in India, various bouts of malaria, hiding in the jungle from the Japanese Army and eventually escaping, all must have challenged him. He was unsure of his life's vocation.

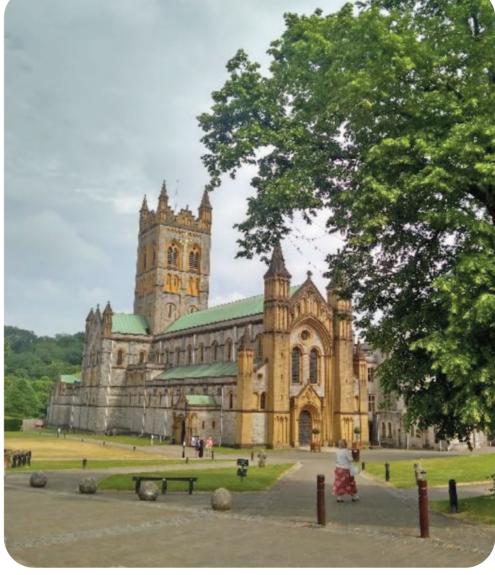
Trying various jobs in different parts of the country, even considering marriage, he was often to be found busking with his recorder collecting money for local charities. He loved writing poetry and composing his own songs. His eccentric behaviour earned criticisms such as "crazy poet" or "upper class tramp". But, increasingly he felt called to solitude and the contemplative life. The various monasteries he tried did not work out for him. Becoming a member of the lay Third Order of Franciscans seemed to fulfil part of his vocation. But where, like St Francis of Assisi, could he best live a life of humble, obscure service? It was about this time that John confided three wishes to a Franciscan priest: that he would work with lepers; that he would die a martyr's death; that he would be buried in a Franciscan Habit.

He travelled to the Holy Land, then to Rome, and eventually ended up in Africa when, with a friend, a chance visit to the Mutemwa Leper Settlement in what is now Zimbabwe, convinced John that he had found his place of vocation. His first wish! He was appointed the Warden of the Settlement and he transformed the lives of the lepers. He saw in them the face of God. They saw in him a friend and their champion. He offered them simple health care with the help of a nearby doctor and nurse. Building a Chapel, he provided the opportunity for daily prayer based on the Franciscan Office and lots of singing and organ playing on his harmonium.

While John preferred the solitary life, he was nevertheless, a joyful & social person. But, he would resolutely defend the dignity & rights of his leper friends. This got him into trouble with some of the hostile local people – hostile towards the lepers – and a conflict of interests with the local Management Committee of the leper Settlement. He was sacked – creeping back at night to carry on his caring work among the lepers. Once the dispute was settled, John was reinstated but a simmering hostility remained. The encroaching civil war of independence added to the tension.

On September 2nd 1979, John was kidnapped by some bandits, perhaps hoping for some ransom money. But the local guerrilla commander ordered John's release, recognising John as a good white man who helped black people. But as John made his way back to Mutemwa with a group of refugees, as dawn broke on September 5th, some of the bandits shot him in the back and killed him. A martyr of charity, his second wish.

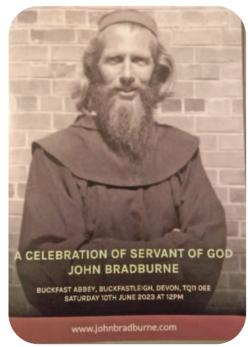
Mystical phenomena frightened off the party of refugees from burying his body unseen heavenly choirs, a white bird hovering protectively over the body, three shafts of light merging into one above the body. The body was recovered the next day by a local Jesuit priest and the funeral was arranged for September 10th in Harare Cathedral to be celebrated by the local Bishop. After three lilies, representing The Holy Trinity [John's particular devotion], were placed on the coffin by a friend, three drops of blood were seen to drip from underneath the coffin. After the funeral, the coffin was opened but no leaking of blood was found but it was noticed that John was not dressed in the Franciscan Habit. This was immediately rectified and the coffin was closed. John's third wish! He was buried in the Jesuit Cemetery nearby, at the Chishawasha Mission, alongside other Religious killed in the civil war.



Buckfast Abbey, Devon

Immediately, John's intercession was claimed for various favours and miracles received, with his hut and chapel at the Mutemwa Leper Settlement becoming a place of pilgrimage for many thousands of pilgrims every year. John's example is a counter-witness to a materialistic society, who befriends & loves not the influencers and celebrities but the outcasts, whose first love is the community of the Godhead, attracting others to belong with his joyful serving, creative poetry and loud music-making!

You will have to read one of the excellent biographies to find out why bees and eagles are associated with John's protection, how he described his special relationship with Mary the Mother of



Booklet for the Celebration Day.

Jesus, and why his relationship with the persons of the Holy Trinity is so central to his spirituality, as well as why his commitment to serving the poorest outcastes was his life's vocation, seeing in them his opportunity to serve Christ as described by Jesus in his parable of the sheep and goats. His 6,000 lines of poetry [see www.johnbradburnepoems.com.], written throughout his adult life, give intimate insights into his interests and spirituality. Further Reading: John Dove, Strange Vagabond of God [Gracewing]; Didier Rance, John Bradburne – The Vagabond of God. [DLT]; Fr Gerard Skinner, John Bradburne – Soldier, Poet, Pilgrim. [CTS]; Tom Russell, OFM, "John Randal Bradburne, 1921-1979. Servant of God. [Franciscan Missionary Union.]



Buffet and Presentations at the Abbey

Congratulations to Canon Denis Collin on the 70 year anniversary of his ordination!

We are delighted to congratulate Canon Denis Collin on his platinum jubilee: 70 committed years of faithful and loving service! Today, on the 14th of June, a special Mass has been said at St Mary's Poole to celebrate and give thanks for his wonderful ministry and dedication. Below are a few words from Canon John Webb about Fr Denis



Ordination Day 14th June 1953 Plymouth Cathedral

Canon Denis Collin

Canon Denis Collin, born in Sligo in 1929 was Ordained for the diocese of Plymouth On 14 June, 1953 by Bishop Grimshaw (later Archbishop of Birmingham).

Fr Denis served in many parishes across the diocese before retirement. I first met Fr Denis at Wembley stadium in 1982 when we went to see Pope John Paul II. At the time Fr Denis was parish priest of the Sacred Heart Church in Bideford, North Devon and I was in my first year of studies for the Priesthood at Campion House. Osterley. I later spent a period as a student with Fr Denis and in 1988 became his curate in 1988 at St Peter's Crownhill, Plymouth.

Whilst a very faithful Priest, Denis was always forward thinking and a great supporter of Vatican II. He was always supportive and encouraging to Priests who had left the ministry and today still keeps in regular contact with a number of them.

During his active ministry Fr Denis was

vocations Director for a number of years

and later became editor of the Diocesan

Denis' relaxation was running and he has run several marathons including the London Marathon four times, on one occasion finishing in under four hours. He also ran in the New York, Rotterdam, North Devon and Poole marathons. Since arriving in Poole four and half years ago Fr Denis has become a well known and loved figure in St Mary's parish.

He regularly concelebrates at the 9.30 Mass on Sunday mornings and loves greeting the people after Mass. Although retired for many years now Denis still regularly attends the Dorset Deanery meetings and takes an active role in any discussions and loves sharing in the discussions over lunch and a glass of wine afterwards!!!!



Year book

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

CRYPTIC Across

- Levant traders take one Hispanic hybrid (11) 6
- Abraham's shortly to go round where Nile breaks, to 9
- reach a northern region (7) 10 It's Amos' place to enumerate koalas passing through (5)
- Group of graduates with different perspectives? (4) 11
- 12 Franciscans, for example, regulate ordainers (weeding out the amateur perhaps) (2.6)
- 15 African is, for instance, the unknown factor in the vessel, when turning it about (8)
- 17 Originally from Ziph, orders arrived naming Tanis as another option (4)
- Object of gold Saul connected to sorceress here 19 (2-3)
- He made Paul see granny in the road getting through 21 (7)
- 22 Apostle and Marlowe, both upset (11)

CRYPTIC Down

- Singer in church's son is seen before returning to a 1 place in Brazil (8)
- OT people are in the sea briefly: over a quarter 2 heading south (5)
- Utter ape-like tribe (6) 3
- Women, religious, organized rites on board (7) 4 5 Numbers giant's dad's an obsessive type: there's no
- alternative word for it (4) 7
- Georgia meets attorney in the matter of Nebraska's miraculous sighting there (9)
- RC doctrine John used extremely during Messina trip 8 (9)
- 13 Bible people's style is in the ascendant: it's embracing drugs (8)
- 14 Reuben's people were here draining Arabah, and

- perhaps seeing their future within? (7) Arthurian site above (and below) a French
- valley [6] 18 Detergent (before it's tipped over), is
- acceptable to priest (5)
- Fellow in OT book has limited English (4) 20

QUICK Across

16

6

9

10

11

(4) 12

17

3

5

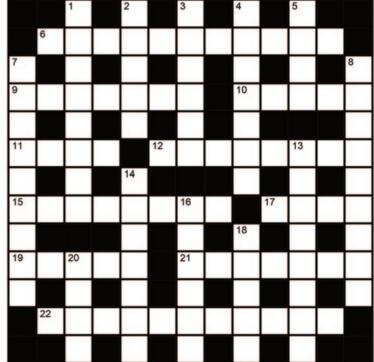
7

8

- Descendants of Canaanites, great traders using ports like Tyre and Sidon (11)
- NT region NW of Damascus: its name given to a cattle town of the Wild West (7)
- Town south of Bethlehem, home of Amos (5)
- Aramaic word for 'Father', as used by Christ
- Belonging to the clergy (2,6) 15 Mediterranean African (8)
- Alternative name for the ancient 15 town of Tanis [4]
- Place near Mt Tabor where Saul consulted a 19 necromancer (2-3)
- 21 Curer of Paul's blindness in Damascus (7)
- Apostle sometimes identified as Nathanael (11) 22

QUICK Down 1

- Chorister (8)
- Persian peoples, descendants of Japheth (5)
- Second son of Jacob and Leah. and his tribe [6]
- ----- of Loreto, perhaps (7) Ancestor of a race of giants, mentioned in Joshua and elsewhere (4)
- Inhabitants of the city in which the miracle of the Legion and the swine took place (9)
- RC doctrine where salvation is for those subject to



supernatural determinism: the rest are assigned to perdition (9)

- 13 Biblical people descended from Esau, settled in the southern Dead Sea area (8)
- 14 Town east of the River Jordan given to Reuben's people (7)
- 16 Legendary last resting place of King Arthur, once associated with Glastonbury Tor (6)
- 18 Priest whose name was used by Handel for George II's coronation anthem (5)
- 20 Senior college fellow; head of the Sacred College (4)

SOLUTION

14 Ataroth, 16 Avalon, 18 Zadok, 20 Dean. Sisters, 5 Anak, 7 Gadarenes, 8 Jansenism, 13 Edomites, Bartholomew Down: 1 Choirboy, 2 Medes, 3 Simeon, 4 Orders, 15 Egyptian, 17 Zoan, 19 En-Dor, 21 Ananias, 22

Across: 6 Phoenicians, 9 Abilene, 10 Tekoa, 11 Abba, 12 In