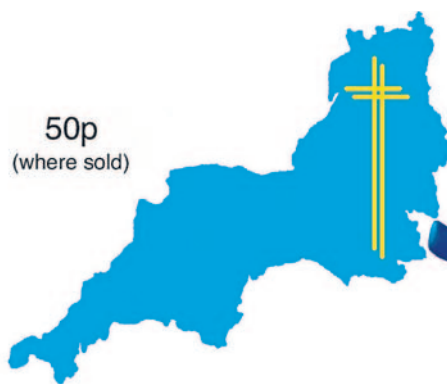


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Catholic *South West*

*Serving the
Church in the
South West*

NOVEMBER
2023

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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.
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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 CSW we have an urgent appeal from Cafod connected to the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Please support Cafod in their work and the people of Gaza with your prayers for peace and providence.

We also have information about Pope Francis's new document, *Laudate Deum*, which is a follow up from *Laudate Si*. This addresses the urgent need for change regarding the Climate crisis.

Please keep in your prayers the Synod which is currently taking place in Rome to discuss the feedback from people all over the World in response to Pope Francis' request for Synodality in the Church.

CSW TEAM

Webinar focuses on women's creativity and gifts

Professor Tina Beattie will explore how women can express their creativity and share their gifts, in a webinar organised by the National Board of Catholic Women and the Women in the Church committee.

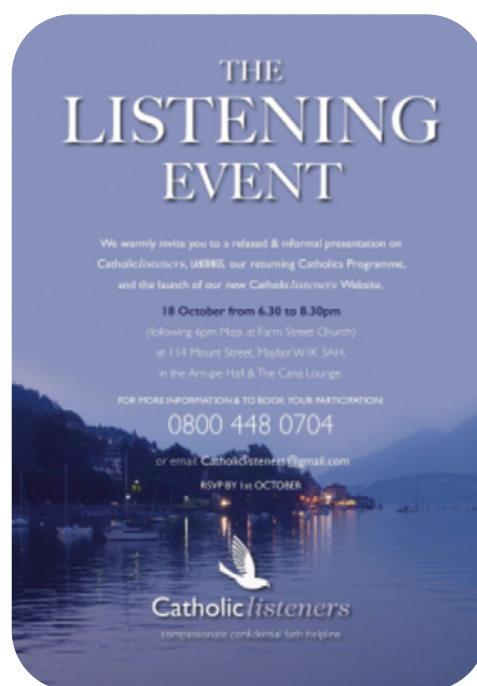
The talk - Inspiring Women: Enabling women to flourish in the Church - will encourage and support women's many abilities and callings, celebrate their achievements and try to learn from frustrations and failings.

Professor Beattie will also tell some of her own experiences as she went from

being a Presbyterian typist with very little education to becoming feminist Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Roehampton.

The webinar is on Saturday November 25 from 11am to 12.45pm.

Email nbcw@abdiocese.org.uk to register your interest. Visit tinabeattie.com to find out more about the speaker and email Margaret Clark at catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com to find out more about the NBCW.



Catholic Listeners

Catholic Listeners is a new confidential helpline service. A Diocese of Westminster initiative, it has been set up for those who want to return to the faith and are in need of a safe space to be heard.

The helpline is all about listening to others, listening to those who might have become isolated due to the pandemic. This service is based on the LANDINGS ethos of compassionate listening.

Although not a counselling service, the helpline is staffed by a team of volunteers who are trained to signpost callers to other agencies and services.

Sometimes just communicating with someone who listens and understands can help clarify a way forward.

Simply talking about a problem can ease a burden. If you or someone you know needs to talk Catholic Listeners are here to listen.

Operating three days a week from 4pm-7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays calls are free to the helpline on: 0800 448 0704

For further information email CatholicListeners@gmail.com

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!

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CAFOD launches Appeal for Crisis in Israel and occupied Palestinian territory and urges civilians to be put first

The Catholic aid agency, CAFOD, has launched an Appeal following the escalation of violence in Israel and occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), and the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

People are being killed and thousands of homes are being destroyed – families will need urgent, practical help to recover. Funds raised will ensure life-saving aid can be transferred into Gaza, Israel and other parts of oPt as soon as access is available, and that local organisations have what they need to help those most affected.

The situation in Gaza is increasingly desperate with an urgent need for water, electricity and fuel. It is reported that residents are consuming contaminated water from wells, which could lead to the spread of waterborne disease, and vital services are on the brink of collapse. Over 3,000 Palestinians and 1,300 Israelis have been killed since the violence escalated and 1 million people are estimated to have fled their homes and are living in dire conditions in central and Southern Gaza.

CAFOD has worked for many years in both Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and is in regular contact with partners as the situation develops. CAFOD's local partner, Caritas Jerusalem, has a number of staff in Gaza and commented: "Most of our employees have been forced to leave their homes. Some have sought refuge in the Holy Family Compound in Gaza City, others in UNWRA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) schools, and some in the homes of relatives and friends. Several of our employees' houses have been completely demolished. They're in shock, confused, and perplexed. They don't have electricity, and the internet is sporadic."

In a statement released on Saturday, CAFOD joined 11 other major humanitarian agencies in calling for the UK to use its influence to help protect civilians caught up in the conflict and bring an end to the fighting.

CAFOD has also asked supporters to write to the UK Foreign Secretary, urging the UK plays its part in upholding international law, ensuring humanitarian aid can reach people in need, and working with other world leaders to secure a lasting peace for the region.

Elizabeth Funnell, CAFOD's Country Programmes Representative for the



Middle East, said: "We condemn the horrific killings and kidnappings led by Hamas and the scale of the Israeli government's violent retaliation, which is causing more civilian deaths and injuries. We urge all parties to end the violence and abide by international law. This means protecting civilians, releasing hostages and not punishing innocent civilians by stopping food, fuel and water reaching Gaza.

"Right now, people are literally trying to stay alive. It's virtually impossible for people to leave Gaza so there's no way for civilians to escape the current Israeli bombardment. Thousands of people have begun to move to the south of Gaza, but the lack of food, water or shelter will have disastrous humanitarian consequences. Yesterday's attack on Al Ahli Arab hospital is a shocking reminder of how nowhere in Gaza is safe.

"The situation for families in Gaza is extremely severe and our local experts in Gaza are already providing support where they can. The level of need is huge, and other partners will start to provide urgent help to people living there as soon as it is safe to do so."

Pope Francis has also urged people to take the side of peace, saying during his weekly General Audience on 18 October: "War does not solve any problem, it only sows death and destruction, increases hatred, multiplies revenge. War erases the future."

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Laudate Deum

The Vatican released the new Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, to all people of good will on the climate crisis, on 4 October 2023. It is a document intended to follow up on his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, *On Care for Our Common Home*.

This Q&A explains some of the context and the key messages of the document.

What is an Apostolic Exhortation?

An apostolic exhortation is a teaching document from the pope, which often aims to exhort (encourage) a particular virtue or activity. Like many papal encyclicals, apostolic exhortations have often developed themes of the Church's social teaching.

Besides *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis has written five exhortations so far in his papacy, on the joy of the Gospel, love in the family, everyday holiness, on young people and the Church in the Pan-Amazonia. Three of these exhortations were written in response to Church Synods.

Why has it been released on 4 October?

The ecumenical Season of Creation closes on 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis has taken inspiration from this saint throughout his papacy, being the first to adopt Francis as a papal name. The titles of his two encyclicals, *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*, are both taken from St Francis' writings, singing praise to the Creator for his works and encouraging the Franciscan brothers and sisters in love for each other and for all living creatures.

St Francis' life and vision for his followers epitomises the humble care for sister earth and passionate concern for outcasts that Pope Francis believes is required to rise to the challenges afflicting our world today.



The next stage of the Synod on Synodality also began on 4 October 2023, with participants gathering at the 16th ordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops. As the process of reflecting on what emerged from the synodal listening process in the global Church begins, *Laudate Deum* once again highlights our current global context - one of senseless war on nature and our failure to address the human roots of the social and ecological crisis.

What does *Laudate Deum* mean?

Laudate Deum means "Praise God". This exhortation has been called a follow up to *Laudato Si'* and the title reflects this. Like *Laudato Si'* this new document reminds us of the words of St Francis' prayer-poem, the *Canticum of the Creatures*, which praises God by praising God's creation.

Pope Francis states specifically that the title of this letter is "Praise God" because "when human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies." (#73) By this he means that when we seek power for its own sake we

damage both ourselves and the planet. Power should be used to create a better world for all.

What was *Laudato Si'* about?

In *Laudato Si'* - *On Care for our Common Home*, Pope Francis urged society to move away from the myth of perennial progress at the expense of the earth's resources.

Instead, we need a new definition of progress rooted in "integral ecology", recognising that "everything is connected" and hearing both "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." *Laudato Si'* calls for all people to dialogue in society about how best to tackle the global issues we face.

What has changed since *Laudato Si'* was published?

The global pandemic was a trauma and shock to world order that, in Pope Francis' words at the beginning of *Fratelli Tutti*, "exposed our false securities". Yet, with the direct health threat under control, politics and economics defaulted to business as usual.

As the pope highlights in *Laudate Deum* (44-52), representatives from 190 countries have met annually since *Laudato Si'* was published to address the issue of climate change. While there has been some progress, the principles agreed on have not yet been implemented, and national interests are too often placed before the common good.

What are the key messages of *Laudate Deum*?

Laudate Deum is an urgent call to tackle the climate crisis, recognising that time is running out. And irreversible damage has already been done. In this letter Pope Francis states that the climate crisis is real and cannot be denied. It is caused by human activity.

But the pope cautions against seeking only technological solutions, noting that although we have more and more tools to manipulate the world, we are still failing to protect the environment from destruction. The more we seek to increase power for its own sake, the less we use our power to protect life. As he states, "Not every increase in power represents progress for humanity." (#24)

At the same time, he says, economic powers are not interested in solving the problem, because they want "the greatest profit possible at minimum cost" (13). This pursuit of the greatest profit possible at minimum cost makes caring for our common home impossible.

We need political change on a national and international level. While Pope Francis states that individual actions and efforts to minimise waste are important, he also recognises that they are not enough. We are called to continue to transform society through our individual, family and community actions, but also to call on those in power to take urgent action.

Pope Francis is clear that we all have a role to play, pressurising the sources of power and demanding change. He calls us all to be involved and particularly urges that COP28, the next round of important UN negotiations on climate change, needs to be a historic event, with binding forms of energy transition. For the sake of the future of our children we must take action.

Despite the gravity and urgency of the situation we face, Pope Francis reminds us that we must continue to hope, because to "say there is nothing to hope for... would mean exposing humanity, especially the poorest, to the worst impacts of climate change." (#54)



Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Using Our Time Wisely

Time is a strange thing. When we are getting a job done or enjoying ourselves, there never seems to be enough time. But when we are unwell, time can seem to drag.

The gospels for the last three Sundays of November help us to reflect on how we use our time and the other gifts God gives us. All three gospels are taken from the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel.

In the previous chapter of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus has spoken of the terrible events that will happen before the end of the world. We might now expect dire warnings about how we are to behave, but instead we have three parables, encouraging us to think clear-headedly about the last things.

On the 32nd Sunday of the Year (12th November) we hear the parable of the ten bridesmaids. Five of them were sensible but the other five were foolish. The sensible ones had flasks of olive oil so that their oil lamps

would burn, whereas the foolish ones brought no olive oil.

In typical oriental style, the delay in the bridegroom's arrival is because his family was haggling with the bride's family over the financial terms of the marriage contract. But finally at midnight, the contract was signed and the wedding could take place.

Both the sensible and the foolish bridesmaids had fallen asleep, but when the moment came, the sensible bridesmaids were ready with oil in their lamps. By now, it was too late for the foolish bridesmaids to get any oil.

The parable encourages us to reflect on our lives. God gives us time to prepare for the final judgment. Are we providing ourselves with oil for our lamps, so that we can welcome Christ when he arrives?

On the 33rd Sunday of the Year (19th November) we hear the parable of the talents. In the story, three men were given large sums of money. Two traded with

what they had been given, but the third just buried his treasure in the ground.

Why did the third man do this? Was he envious because he got less than the other two men? Or did he doubt his ability to use the money he had been given?

When the master returned, he rewarded the two men who had used their resources constructively to gain more. But he had sharp words for the third man who just hid his money in the ground.

God gives each of us resources and gifts and abilities. We may think that others have got a lot and we only have a little. But we can use what we have to serve our heavenly Master. Even if we have no money, we can offer a kind word or a friendly smile, and we can pray for those in need.

On the Feast of Christ the King (26th November) we listen to the famous parable of the sheep and the goats. Here we have a description of the final judgment. But we do not hear about a

long reckoning of accounts, listing our good versus bad actions.

Instead the King speaks about how he was treated in earlier time. When he was hungry, some ignored him but others fed him. When he was a stranger, some ignored him but others made him welcome. When he was sick, some ignored him but others came to visit him.


We can be very concerned about our personal holiness. But this parable encourages us to look outwards and see those around us. If we have food, can we share it with the hungry? If we live and work in a place, can we welcome strangers? If we know someone who is sick and would benefit from a visit, can we go to see them?

These three gospel parables encourage us to reflect on how we use our time and the other gifts God gives us. The final judgment will not come to us as a nasty surprise if we use our time wisely and generously.

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Waves of Love: Prayers For The Season Of Creation from Schools in our Diocese



‘Waves of love’ is the theme for the year at St Boniface and Notre Dame. In keeping with this, we are honoured to share a beautiful prayer for the Season of Creation written by Fiona Hutchings from the chaplaincy at St Boniface Catholic College. We are also delighted to share some lovely hand-crafted prayers written by pupils from Our Lady and St Patricks Primary School Teignmouth and Leweston Secondary School, Sherborne Dorset. Warmest thanks to Fiona and to inspirational teachers Cathy Blatchford and Daniel Teague, for contributing these wonderful prayers written by children to be shared across our Diocese, thereby creating ripples of greater connectivity to God and each other.

Dear God,
Help us to learn from our mistakes and improve. Guide us to care for our planet and separate good from evil. People will torment, help us to ignore. We pray that you will help us on our journey with the guidance of the archangels.

Amen
By Jess, Aged 12, Leweston School, Sherborne, Dorset.

Dear God,
We thank you for what you’ve given us: fresh food and water, a place to sleep, and a place to live. You show us that we are

strong and no matter what we do we will always be loved.

Amen
By Marnie, Yr 6, Our Lady and St Patricks School, Teignmouth, Devon.

Dear God,
Today we come together to thank you for forgiving us when we sin, protecting us when in danger, helping us when weak and for creating this oh so beautiful world. Thank you God

Amen
By Mia, Yr 6, Our Lady and St Patricks School, Teignmouth, Devon.

We praise the Lord as he guides us through a lighter path, he spreads His name as He houses us as His own on the land He provided.

Amen
By Ivy, Our Lady and St Patricks School, Teignmouth, Devon.

Thank you God for the earth we live upon. Thank you God for the stars, moon and sun. Thank you God for our fun and play, thank you God for a spectacular day!

Amen
By Juliana, Yr 6, Our Lady and St Patricks school, Teignmouth, Devon

A Prayer for the Season of Creation

by Fiona Hutchings

In this season we give thanks for the beauty of Creation
We thank God for sunshine and rain
For giving us crops to grow for food
Flowers to appreciate for their beauty or
To give as gifts to brighten a day
For giving us trees to shade us in hot weather
We thank God for our wonderful natural world
For birds, wild and domestic animals
Butterflies, bees, fish and farm animals;
For slugs, and snails and wasps and gnats
And all animal life that contributes to our ecosystem,
For our loving pets who know us so well
Who depend on us for life and health.

In this season of Creation we look around our world
And marvel at sunsets and sunrises
At full moons and starlit skies
At waves large and small
At rivers, woodland and countryside
We give thanks for the rainbow of colours
That light up our days.

But most of all we give thanks for the miracle
We see in the mirror
What a wonderful unique creation each of us is
There is no one like us
How amazing to have the gift of human life!

Creator God
Help us to notice and be grateful
Creator God
Help us to nourish your creation
Creator God
In my heart name my special natural space, or animal or person
And I thank you
From my heart I send waves of love
And gratitude to all Creation
Amen

Thank you also to Colin Bentley, an artist and photographer based in Sidmouth here in our Diocese, for contributing a beautiful photograph of God’s creation to accompany these creative and heartfelt prayers, inspired and nurtured by this years Season of Creation.

Pope makes church first co-cathedral in history of British Isles



The Church of St. Mary of the Isle, located in Douglas on the Isle of Man in the British Isles.

Credit: St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Douglas, by Andrew Abbott, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Pope Francis has awarded a U.K. church "co-cathedral status," making it the first of its kind in the history of the British Isles.

The Church of St. Mary of the Isle, located in Douglas on the Isle of Man, has achieved this rare status after Douglas was formally recognized as a city during the late Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee celebrations in June 2022.

St. Mary of the Isle will be co-cathedral along with Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. The two cathedrals are 80 miles apart and are separated by the Irish Sea, but both fall within the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Co-cathedrals are a rarity in the Catholic Church and often exist when two dioceses, each with its own cathedral, are merged, or when one diocese spans two different civil jurisdictions, as in the case of the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Monsignor John Devine, who is parish priest of St. Mary of the Isle, said the process of being granted co-cathedral recognition had lasted a whole year but expressed his delight that it had finally happened.

In a statement released by the Catholic Bishops Conference for England and Wales on Sept. 22, he said: "I am delighted that St. Mary of the Isle has been granted cathedral status; it is wonderful news for Catholics across the island."

Devine said he was first approached by Douglas Borough Council, who pointed out that cities have cathedrals and the island already has an Anglican cathedral on the west coast. They enquired whether it would be possible to elevate the Church of St. Mary of the Isle in Douglas to the status of a cathedral.

"The archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon, on the advice of canon lawyers, petitioned the Holy Father, a request supported by both the Anglican bishop of Sodor and Man, the chief executive of Douglas Council, and the president of Tynwald," Devine explained.

In the same press statement, McMahon said: "It's with great joy that St. Mary of the Isle has been granted cathedral status. The Isle of Man is a significant part of our archdiocese; it constitutes one-third of its land mass and the island's

Catholic community has increasing diversity with parishioners coming from many different parts of the world. It is fantastic that we can acknowledge this with the announcement of a co-cathedral — a status that is rare in the Catholic Church. It is something that everyone on the island will take great pride in." In the Sept. 22 statement, Devine also observed that the Isle of Man had a "unique faith story."

"Christianity in the Isle of Man traces its roots to the time of St. Patrick and St. Maughold in the fifth century. But there is limited appreciation of the unique history and traditions of the Manx Church in the rest of the archdiocese," he said, adding: "Similarly, few of the island's Catholics identify with Liverpool. However, rather than separating them further, the granting of co-cathedral status to St. Mary's will raise consciousness in Liverpool to the riches of the Manx church."

Devine said the permanent presence of the archbishop's seat at St. Mary's will also "serve as a reminder to the people of the island that the archbishop of Liverpool is their archbishop, too."

The Isle of Man is a self-governing British Crown dependency situated between Great Britain and Ireland with a population of about 84,000 people.

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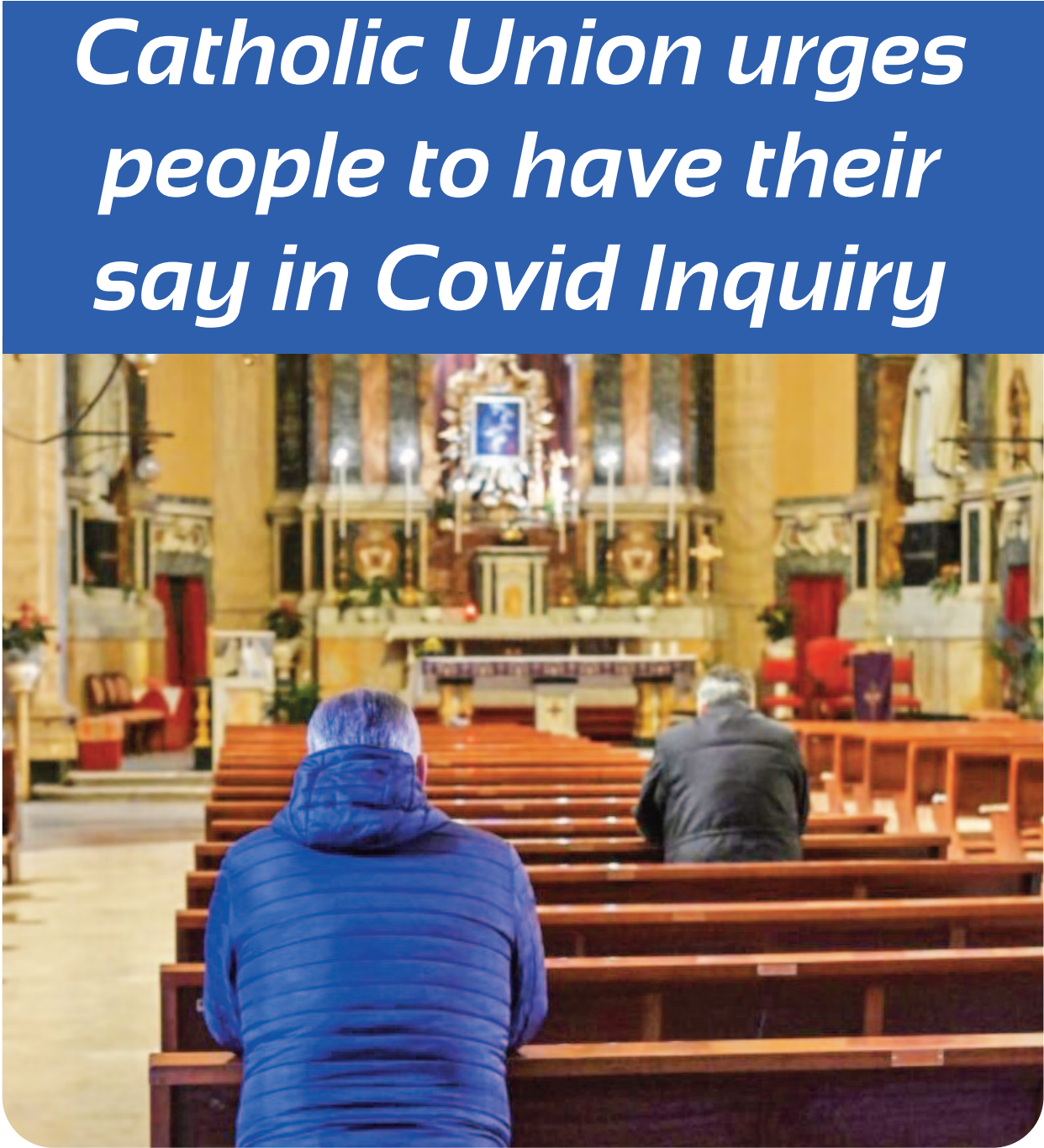
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Take part in our survey

The Catholic Union has launched a new survey on people’s experiences and attitudes towards the closure of places of worship during the pandemic.

The survey results will shape the Catholic Union’s submission to the UK Covid-19 public inquiry, which is currently considering the political decisions taken during the pandemic.

Catholic Union Vice President, and professional psychiatrist, Baroness Hollins said it was “vitally important” that the inquiry considers the decision to close places of worship as part of its investigations.

The Catholic Union played a leading role in getting churches reopened in the later stages of the pandemic. A letter organised by the Catholic Union, and signed by over 100 MPs and peers, spared churches in England being closed over Christmas in 2020.

While in Scotland, the prolonged closure of places of worship was ultimately found to be unlawful in a judgment by the Court of Session in March 2021.

The Catholic Union hopes that this survey and the work of the Inquiry will result in better decision making in the event of another pandemic, including agreement on a presumption against closing places of worship by law.

People can take part in the survey by going to catholicunion.org.uk

Catholic Union Vice President, Baroness Hollins, comments: “The pandemic touched all of our lives in different ways. The full impact is perhaps still to be realised in terms of treatment that was delayed, relationships that were strained, as well as those still suffering with or from Covid today. For people of faith, there was the added pain of being unable to go to their church either to pray alone or to participate in worship. At a time when our churches were most needed, their doors were locked. I know many people found this extremely difficult. It is vitally important that this public inquiry considers the full range of impacts caused by the pandemic, including the decision to close places of worship so that we can learn valuable lessons for the future.”

Catholic Union Director, Nigel Parker, comments: “Before Covid, few of us could have imagined our churches being forced to close by law. Yet that is the situation we faced at times during the dark days of the pandemic. Any inquiry into the UK’s response to the pandemic needs to consider the decisions around the closure and reopening of places of worship, which had such a huge impact on so many people. The Catholic Union led the charge in getting our churches open again, and we’re now committed to making sure they are never forced to close again. I encourage everyone to take part in our survey to make sure the voices of Catholic are heard as part of this Inquiry.”

View from the Pew



By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



To be, or not to be, ...

Mother, Mum, Madre, Mère, Mutti, Mamma, Moeder, Mare, Maman, Mutter, Mater ...

It's interesting that languages of Indo European stock have such similar terms for that one parent.

Ok, but we mustn't fall foul of immediately assuming that those societies, in whatever number and for which Proto Indo European has been considered the mother tongue, could be deemed matriarchal rather than patriarchal. I think we'd all have trouble identifying a matriarchal society, apart from the Amazons of the ancient Greek myth.

However, the indication must surely be that the role of mother, motherhood, is a constant which remains revered and respected across cultures for the nurturing, caring and sharing within the close-knit community of a family where the feminine principles of cooperative living hold firm.

Advent (Sunday 3 Dec 2023 – Sun 24 December 2023) will soon be upon us. Advent is a season observed in most Christian denominations as a time of pending arrival as the faithful wait and prepare for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. Advent marks the start of the liturgical year in Western Christianity and spans the time during which we wait with Mary for her to give birth to the infant Jesus.

Mary's motherhood of God (Deipara in Latin) is a long-established dogma within

the Catholic Church. The term 'Mother of God' appears in the oldest known prayer to Mary, the Sub tuum praesidium dating from around 250 AD: 'Under thy protection we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God'. Mary, as the mother of God, is there to protect all members of the wider family. This was the first specifically Marian doctrine to be formally defined by the church, formally affirmed in 431 at the Third Ecumenical Council held in Ephesus, in modern-day Turkey but formerly in Ancient Greece.

I am not alone in often feeling uncomfortable, challenged or otherwise under threat during these days of social unrest and upheaval, particularly in my attempts to reconcile the established concept of motherhood with modern-day feminism. That challenge is no more keenly felt than when women – I use the term 'women' as I would to describe my mother or my wife or our daughter – refer to themselves as authors or actors, effectively surrendering a female identity (authoresses, actresses) which others strove so earnestly to secure.

When it comes to feminism, many consider feminist campaigns, originating as they did in late 18th-century Europe, to be a prominent if not leading force behind a whole raft of major historical societal changes for women's rights, particularly in the West. Gender-neutral language, such as in the non-gender specific use of 'author' and 'actor', has been hailed as almost universally attributed with full approbation to feminist socio-political movements and ideologies. I understand and applaud the fact that the aim of those

movements and ideologies is to define and establish the political, economic, personal and social equality of the sexes. Excellent! But how can those movements and ideologies hold firm against the full spectrum of society and yet continue to bring specific identity to women? Don't get me wrong, I fully share the view with feminism that societies do and often prioritise the male point of view and that women are treated unjustly in such societies but ...

Since the 1960s, the development of (1) liberal, (2) socialist and (3) radical feminism have been referred to as the 'Big Three' schools of feminist thought and endeavour. Since the late 20th century, many newer forms of feminism have emerged. These include: white feminism (often condemned for embracing only the white, middle class, college-educated, heterosexual or cisgender); ethnically specific or multicultural feminism (such as black feminism and intersectional feminism).

Some feminists have argued that feminism, rather than defeating misogyny, often promotes misandry in the celebration of womanhood and that the elevation of women's interests above men's is thereby harmful to both men and women, to the wider family, to society at large.

So, when it comes to our modern increasingly divisive society, are we really making omelettes or just simply breaking egg after egg after egg ...?

That's my question.



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

Arundel Cathedral Chorister Is Junior Semi-Finalist For BBC Young Chorister Of The Year!

Congratulations to Arundel Cathedral chorister Amelia who has been selected from many hundreds of entries as a junior semi-finalist for the BBC Young Chorister of the Year competition 2023. Amelia joined Arundel Cathedral Choir in 2022 and recently obtained the Archbishops' Chorister Medal with distinction from the Guild of Church Musicians. Speaking about the fantastic achievement, Dr Elizabeth Stratford, Organist and Master of the Choristers, said:

"It is wonderful that Amelia has been selected from hundreds of entries to achieve a place in the semi finals of this competition, which is well established. It has recognised young singers working at a high level and has helped to establish careers, notably for Katherine Jenkins and Laura Wright.

"We are so proud of Amelia and all that she brings to our choir community and know she will sing beautifully in the competition. She is incredibly musical when she performs and draws the listener in with her storytelling and musicianship. Our prayers are with her as she competes."

Arundel Cathedral Choir is directed by Dr Stratford and includes a number of child choristers, Choral Scholars, and adults who sing the principle liturgies at the Mother Church of our Diocese. It is not necessary to read music or to be a Catholic to join the choir - younger choristers are drawn from approximately ten schools across Sussex and receive a comprehensive musical training which includes singing lessons.



Over 70,000 Catholics call for World Bank to protect farmers' seed rights

Catholic aid agency CAFOD has handed over a letter to the World Bank calling on it to help fix the broken global food system by upholding the rights of farmers to use their own seeds. The letter was signed by 18 Catholic Bishops and over 70,000 Catholics from 750 parishes across England and Wales.

The letter from Salina, a farmer in Bangladesh, calls for the protection of the fundamental rights of small farmers like herself to use their own varieties of seeds – a right that is increasingly under threat as big seed companies have come to dominate the global seed market. Her letter – signed in solidarity by over 70,000 Catholics – was handed over to World Bank staff in London and at the annual World Bank meetings taking place this week in Marrakech, Morocco.

'Fix the Food System', CAFOD's food campaign, is urging the UK government and institutions including the World Bank to protect the right of farmers around the world to save, use, exchange

and sell their own seeds. In some countries, new seed laws have been insisted on by the World Bank in exchange for financial support, yet these laws prevent farmers from sharing seeds as they have done for generations and instead force them to buy seeds from big agribusinesses.

CAFOD's Campaigns and Outreach Manager, Helen Moseley, said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who signed Salina's letter. Her message to the World Bank has been heard loud and clear: unfair rules putting pressure on small farmers to buy commercial seeds aren't acceptable. They can push farmers and the communities they feed into poverty, food insecurity and reduce their resilience to climate change."

CAFOD campaigners handing in Salina's letter were received by senior World Bank staff who agreed to meet and discuss the issue.

"It was a very cordial meeting and we explained how much support our campaign has received across the country



from ordinary parishioners," said Father Rob Esdaile, who handed over the letter to World Bank staff and whose own parish, St Dunstan's in Woking, was one of the 750 parishes who supported the campaign.

Bishop Tom Neylon from Liverpool Archdiocese said: "I support CAFOD's Fix

the Food System campaign because it's highlighting the situation that small-scale farmers around the world are increasingly finding themselves in. Caught in a huge power imbalance with large agribusiness, even their rights to their own seeds passed down from generation to generation are being threatened."

Book Reviews

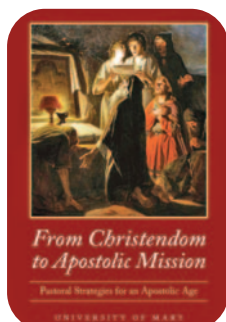


From Christendom to Apostolic Mission

£12.95

CTS Product Code: DO965
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ISBN: 9780998872896
www.ctsbooks.org

This essay is an attempt to contribute effective strategies to engage our own time and culture once more with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to awaken the Catholic imaginative vision.



Every human society possesses a moral and spiritual imaginative vision, a set of assumptions and ways of looking at things according to which life proceeds. This essay is an attempt to contribute effective strategies to engage our own time and culture once more with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and – for a weary world – to awaken the Catholic imaginative vision.

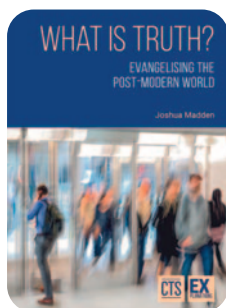
What is Truth?

Joshua Madden

£3.95

CTS Product Code: EX67
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ISBN: 9781784697594
www.ctsbooks.org

Intended as an apologetic foundation for anyone attempting to evangelise a postmodern neighbour, this book explains that to share the joy of the Gospel today, men and women must rediscover that it is possible to know objective truth about ourselves and the world around us.



Modern philosophy has limited the understanding of reason, resulting in a radical scepticism concerning our capacity to comprehend reality as it truly is and fostering an atmosphere of nihilism and uncertainty.

In What is Truth?, Joshua Madden presents a compelling case to address these concerns and provide a solid basis for those who wish to spread the Gospel to their postmodern neighbour.

To effectively communicate the Gospel's joy in today's context, Madden suggests that individuals must rediscover the

potential to know objective truths about themselves and the world. Madden concludes that this groundwork, known as the preambula fidei, makes it possible to truly know the living God, who has revealed Himself in Christ.

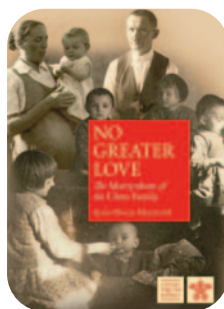
No Greater Love – The Martyrdom of the Ulma Family

Jean Olwen Maynard

£3.95

CTS Product Code: B778
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ISBN: 9781784697600
www.ctsbooks.org

In 1944, under the Nazi occupation of Poland, a family with seven small children – including one not yet born – were murdered by the Nazis. Guided by the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Ulmas had sheltered a Jewish family, a heroic act the whole family gave their lives for.



Under the Nazi occupation of Poland during World War II, Jews were indiscriminately arrested, imprisoned, and killed. Christians who helped them hide or escape placed themselves in the same peril. Józef and Wiktoria Ulma, who, guided by the parable of the Good Samaritan, which was underlined in red ink in the family Bible, sheltered a Jewish family in their village of Markowa. As a result, in 1944, Józef, Wiktoria, and their seven small children – one not yet born – were murdered by the Nazis. This biography tells the story of the heroic virtue and sacrifice that led to their beatification.

Laudate Deum

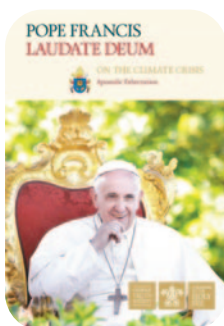
Pope Francis

£4.95

CTS Product Code: DO970
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ISBN: 9781784697723
www.ctsbooks.org

In this follow-up to his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis emphasises the need to consolidate respect for the most elementary human rights, social rights and the protection of our common home.

This Apostolic Exhortation is a follow-up to Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si*.



"It is not enough to think only of balances of power but also of the need to provide a response to new problems and to react with global mechanisms to the environmental, public health, cultural and social challenges, especially in order to consolidate respect for the most elementary human rights, social rights and the protection of our common home. It is a matter of establishing global and effective rules that can permit "providing for" this global safeguarding." (LD 42)

Towards a Full Presence – A Pastoral Reflection on Engagement with Social Media

Dicastery for Communication

£4.95

CTS Product Code: DO966
Please refer to this code when
ordering over the phone
ISBN: 9781784697679
www.ctsbooks.org

"Towards a Full Presence" is a thought-provoking guide that explores the impact of social media on our relationships with others, offering practical strategies for cultivating neighbourliness on social media and building community in a fragmented world.



"Towards a Full Presence" is a thought-provoking guide that explores the impact of social media on our relationships with others. The Vatican's Dicastery for Communication offers practical strategies for cultivating neighbourliness on social media and building community in a fragmented world.

With an emphasis on self-reflection and pastoral care, Catholics are encouraged to examine their social media habits and consider the effects on those they encounter. From fostering meaningful connections to pausing to tend to the wounds of others like the Good Samaritan, this document provides valuable insights and actionable steps for finding harmony in the digital age.

For priests, for those working in ministry, and for all who use social media, this reflection offers a refreshing and much-needed perspective on social media engagement.

"The following pages are the result of a reflection involving experts, teachers, young professionals and leaders, lay persons, clergy, and religious. The aim is to address some of the main questions involving how Christians should engage social media. They are not meant to be precise "guidelines" for pastoral ministry in this area. The hope, instead, is to promote a common reflection about our digital experiences... How much of our digital relationships is the fruit of deep and truthful communication, and how much is merely shaped by unquestioned opinions and passionate reactions? How much of our faith finds living and refreshing digital expressions? And who is my "neighbour" on social media?" (TFP 5)

Catholic Social Teaching

By Raymond Friel

£11.95

Product code: 1969
ISBN NO: 9780852316405
www.rpbooks.co.uk

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is sometimes referred to as the Church's best kept secret, perhaps because it's so radical. Catholic Social Teaching, as found in the letters and exhortations of popes since 1891, shows us a Gospel-inspired pathway to a society reconciled and in harmony through justice and love.



Raymond Friel, in his latest book, provides an introduction to this treasure of the Church. The book is aimed at those who don't know much about CST and are looking for an accessible guide to the main principles, with helpful references to scripture and the key Church documents.

There's a section on Catholic Social Action, to make it clear that all this teaching is meant to inspire people to build a better world founded on truth, justice and love. With moving examples from frontline charities and schools, readers will see what CST looks like when it hits the streets.

The final section of the book includes a CST calendar, with suggested dates throughout the year to celebrate some of the key figures and milestones in the long struggle for social justice.

This book is suitable for staff working in Catholic schools, or charities, or volunteers in parishes. It will motivate and inspire anyone who wants to make a difference, who believes that we are all in this together, one human family in a common home.

Diocese to hold its first inter-religious dialogue conference

A team of expert speakers, some of whom are internationally recognised, is lined up for Portsmouth Diocese’s first inter-religious dialogue conference, to be held on November 4, 2023 at St. Bede’s Church, Basingstoke, from 10am to 3.30pm.

There will be four speakers, and each will talk about a different aspect of inter-religious dialogue.

- The speakers are:
- * Fr Jan Nowotnik – Director of Mission and National Ecumenical Officer, Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.
 - * Fr Michael Barnes SJ – Emeritus Professor at the University of Roehampton and a research associate at the School of Advanced Study, University of London.
 - Elliot Vanstone – Mission Advisor, Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.
 - * Dr Yvette Harrington – inter-religious dialogue scholar and member of Portsmouth Diocese’s inter-religious dialogue team.

The theme of the conference echoes the teaching document Meeting God in Friend



and Stranger. Anyone with an interest in the Catholic Church’s teaching on inter-religious dialogue and its relationship with non-Christian faiths is invited to attend.

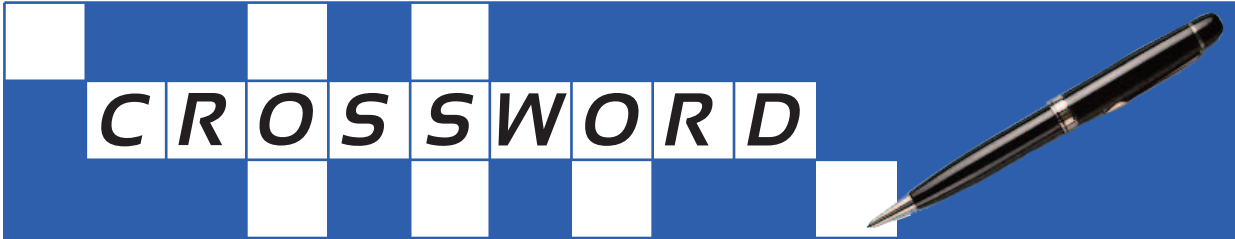
Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey, Team Leader of inter-religious dialogue in Portsmouth Diocese, said: “We re-

established the inter-religious dialogue team two years ago at the request of Bishop Philip Egan. We are now delighted to offer the Diocese’s first conference on inter-religious dialogue and are blessed to have engaged such inspirational speakers. We look forward to opening up ways of strengthening our relationship with

communities of other faiths in the Diocese of Portsmouth.”

To register for the event, use this link <https://shorturl.at/mvFOY>

By MGR Vincent Harvey



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 7 Dead set, if else fails, to make 18 when in Rome (6,7)
- 8 I am the Spanish waiter in Messiah! (8)
- 9 Mountain in Joshua can be seen in section of Horeb, altitudinally (4)
- 10 Friend from Troy, one leaving an ecclesiastic band (7)
- 12 Drama queen’s back to support the lead in Dallas – the Dynasty chap? (5)
- 14 Youngster gets sophisticated in front of the king... (5)
- 16 ...one in Judah has Henry bound by kinky Joe to tree (7)
- 19 It’s the first name in jeans for Matthew! (4)
- 20 Early Christian sect which barely made it out of 21? (8)
- 22 To which place did Jesus ride a girl’s horse? (5,2,6)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Esau’s people’s place, where style’s in ascendant (4)
- 2 First of Issachar’s successors really annexed extra land here (6)
- 3 Exist, being raised in African surroundings, to name brother of 2 (7)
- 4 Passage from article is on the Spanish uprising (5)
- 5 Missionary’s desirable little home in Darjeeling? (6)
- 6 Drugs prisoner detained by the Pope is ascetic (8)
- 11 Get trees from 11 or 16 by the thousand, to rebuild lone Philistine city... (8)
- 13 ...and cedars from here to build Jerusalem, the French and British find later (7)
- 15 Queensland site’s stop-start finish confused CIA and the Navy (6)
- 17 God’s pupil is confronted by a very large introduction (6)
- 18 Is she, looking up, last one raising any cash at Christmas? (5)

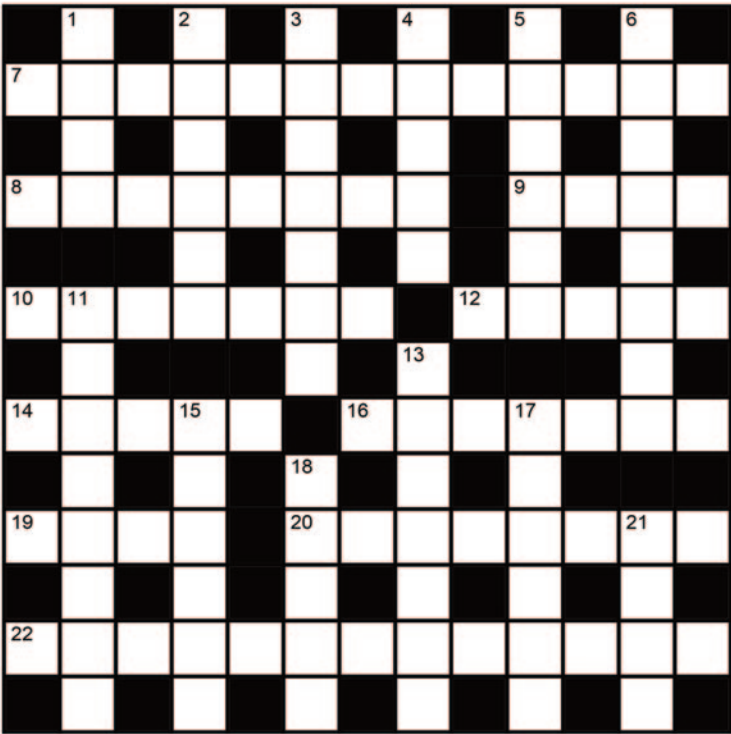
- 21 First family’s home study is situated below, note (4)

QUICK Across

- 7 Latin hymn translated into a popular carol by a canon of Westminster Cathedral (6,7)
- 8 Christ or the Messiah, as named from a reference in Isaiah (8)
- 9 Where Moses commanded Joshua to build an altar (4)
- 10 White vestment like a double-Y embroidered with crosses, worn by the Pope (7)
- 12 Dynast and hymnodist from humble origins, integral to both Testaments (5)
- 14 Young bird, especially of domestic fowl (5)
- 16 Kings of Israel and Judah sharing the same name (7)
- 19 Son of Jacob cursed by his father for attacking Shechem (4)
- 20 Early Christians who aimed to return to man’s primitive innocence (8)
- 22 Hill overlooking Jerusalem where Solomon built an altar (5,2,6)

QUICK Down

- 1 Mountainous region south of the Dead Sea in OT times, also called Seir (4)
- 2 Name God gave to Jacob... (6)
- 3 ...and one of Jacob’s twelve sons (7)
- 4 Extension of the nave in a church (5) 5 Nun and missionary dedicated to helping the poor in India (1910-1997) (6)
- 6 Ascetic 5th century British theologian (8)



- 11 One of the five Philistine cities (8)
- 13 Area north of biblical Israel famous for its cedar trees (7)
- 15 Queensland resort city facing the Great Barrier Reef (6)
- 17 Greatest of all the gods of ancient Egypt (6)
- 18 Joyful religious song celebrating the birth of Christ (5)
- 21 Land west of Nod (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 7 Adeste fideles, 8 Immanuel, 9 Ebal, 10 Pallium, 12 David, 14 Chick, 16 Jehoshaphat, 19 Levi, 20 Adamites, 22 Mount of Olives Down: 1 Edom, 2 Israel, 3 Zebulun, 4 Aisle, 5 Teresa, 6 Pelagius, 11 Ashkelon, 13 Lebanon, 15 Cairns, 17 Osiris, 18 Carol, 21 Eden.