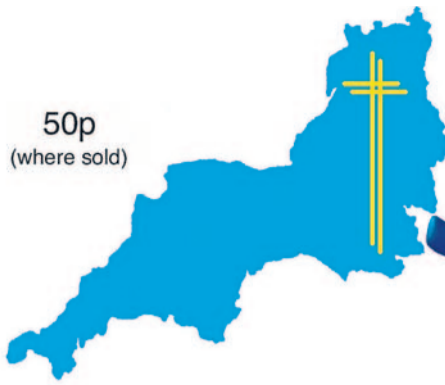


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Catholic *South West*

Serving the
Church in the
South West

MAY
2024

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Laudato Si Week



DO NOT LEAVE THIS IN THE CHURCH
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Catholic South West is a monthly newspaper for Catholics in the Plymouth, Clifton and Portsmouth Dioceses. It is published by Bellcourt Ltd

AIMS

To build community in the South West by sharing stories relating to Catholic life around the South West.
To encourage readers to get more involved in - or start - projects and initiatives in the local area.
To provide thought-provoking articles to help readers deepen their Faith.

GET INVOLVED

We need your help!

Articles: We need your local articles - we can only include what we get. So if you have an article or just a photo with a short description - please send it in.
Ideas: We need your ideas for the paper and we need your ideas in the paper. If you have any thoughts on what we should include - or if you are thinking about starting a new initiative - get in touch - we'd love to support it!
Readers: If you can encourage other readers in your parish please do so.
Advertising: We rely on advertising - if you know of anyone that would benefit from promoting their business, event or anything else to parishioners throughout the South West, do let us know.

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DATES

Catholic South West goes to parishes on the last full weekend of the month. It is printed around the middle of the month - so if you would like to advertise or send in editorial please do it as early as possible.

LAUDATO SI WEEK EXHIBITION

Can you contribute to a wonderful celebration?
19-26 May 2024
Calling craft groups and creators



"There are no lasting changes without cultural changes ... and there are no cultural changes without personal changes" (Laudate Deum, 70)

Each May holds special significance for those who strive to protect our planet and promote environmental stewardship. It marks the anniversary of Laudato Si', Pope Francis' groundbreaking encyclical on caring for the environment. This year's Laudato Si' Week theme is inspired by the symbol for the Season of Creation 2024, "first fruits." We are invited to be seeds of hope in our lives and our world, rooted in faith and love.

During Laudato Si' week, Caritas Diocese of Plymouth will be celebrating five years since it's launch with a prayer walk and

exhibition at Plymouth Cathedral to reflect on how we can care for God's creation, hearing the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The exhibition will focus on Laudato Si' interpreted through artwork and reflections by pupils from local Plymouth CAST schools.

Visitors to the Cathedral will also be invited to add to a mass participation artwork - Mossy Carpet. This artwork will help us to consider how our small actions can make a huge change, and how our Christian faith calls us to be part of the restoration of nature in a time of climate and ecological crisis.

There will be open workshops from 12-4pm on Monday 20 May at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Boniface to add to the

Mossy Carpet. There is no need to book - anyone is free to drop in and participate for as long as they like. If you would like more information please email caritas@prcdtr.org.

The Mossy Carpet will be in place from Saturday 18th- Friday 24th May for people to visit and add their contributions. If you cannot come to the Cathedral but want to contribute, please contact caritas@prcdtr.org and we can send through some guidance. We have already received one lovely contribution (pictured above) and would welcome more.

The Mossy Carpet hope to create 100 metres of carpet in time for an installation at an iconic venue to coincide with COP30 (the United Nations climate conference) in November 2025.

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!

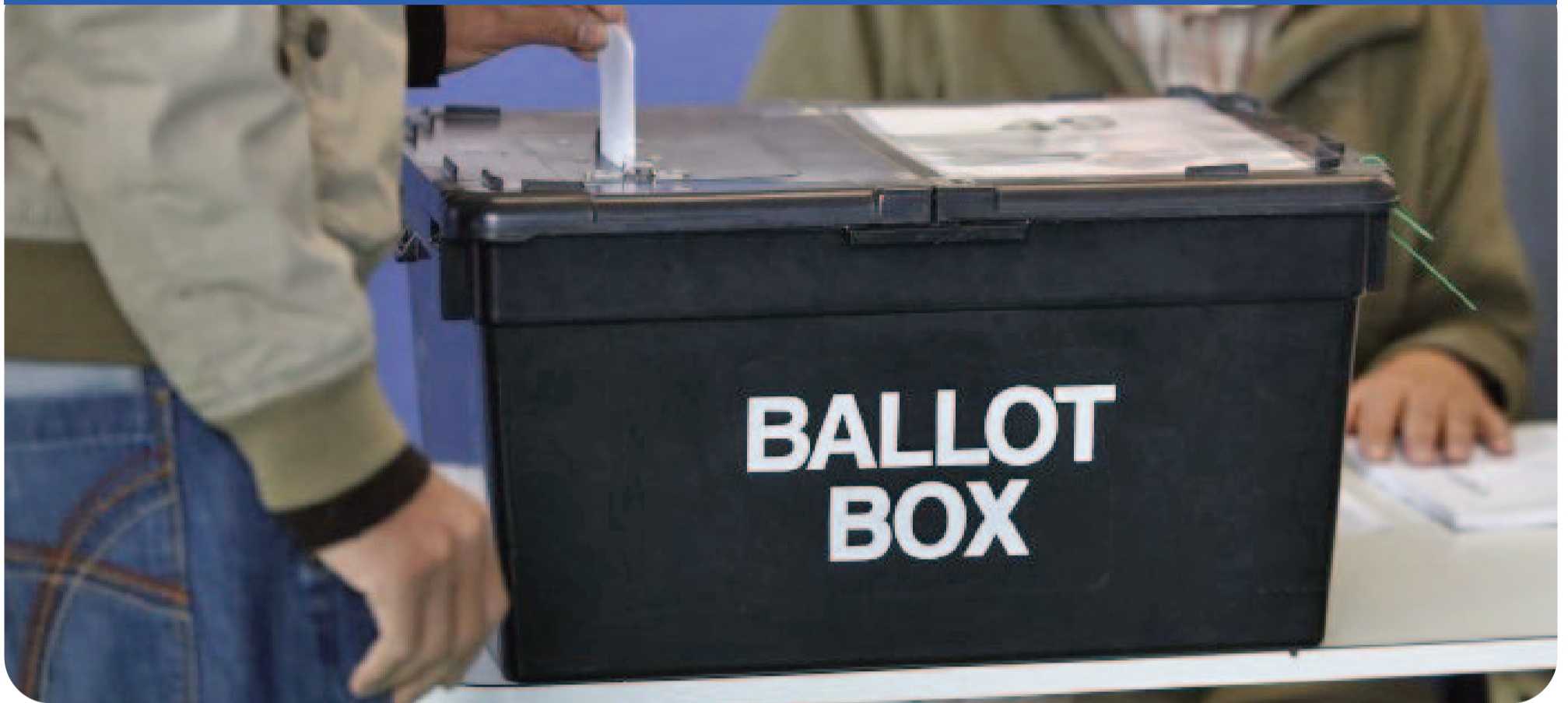
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Survey shows high number of Catholics plan to vote in General Election



The Catholic Union has found that participation by Catholics in the next General Election is likely to be extremely high.

A survey of the Catholic Union's members and supporters found that just over 90 percent of responders were planning to vote in the upcoming General Election, which the Prime Minister has said is due to take place in the "second half of this year".

The figure is significantly higher than the average turnout for national polls, showing the importance of Catholic voters going into this next election. Average turnout for the past three General Elections stands at 67 percent nationally.

The survey also found a strong link between politics and religion with 92 percent of people saying that their faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church "help to influence" how they vote.

The results from the survey add further weight to the contribution of Catholic groups and charities ahead of the next General Election. The 4.5 million Catholics are the largest religious minority group in the country and one of the most politically active.

The top five issues identified in the survey as being of most concern to Catholics ahead of the election were care for the poor, religious freedom, family life, education, and life issues.

The Catholic Union will be using the results of the survey to inform a special election publication which will contain some key themes and questions for candidates ahead of the election. Further information will be coming shortly.

James Somerville-Meikle, Deputy Director of the Catholic Union, commented: "These results show that faith is not something that can be put in a box and kept out of public life. Faith is hugely important in terms of motivating people to vote and in deciding how to use that vote. There are over 4.5 million Catholics in Britain so this is not a community that politicians can afford to ignore.

"This survey is the first step in our General Election plans. We want to make sure that the voices of Catholics in this country are heard loudly and clearly by those who seek to lead and govern us. Please add your voice to ours by becoming a member of the Catholic Union so we can continue this important work."

Mike Kane, Vice President of the Catholic Union, said: "This is a really important election. I strongly encourage Catholics in this country, and everybody, to get involved and make your voice heard. Whatever your views, please make sure that you vote. Taking part in free and fair elections is a great gift and we should not take it for granted."



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Light a Candle for Peace

Our Lady of the Angels, Saltash, Cornwall

The idea of opening our church to fellow Christians and our neighbours to light a candle for peace came after having read some of John O' Donahue's "Benedictus – A Book of Blessings" late one night. He writes

"When you give in to helplessness you collude with despair and add to it. When you take back your power and choose to see the possibilities for healing and transformation, your creativity awakens and flows to become an active force for renewal and encouragement in the world" (pg 225)

Since February 2022 when the Russian army started its invasion of Ukraine, I have been in various states of anger, distress and apprehension for the future of Europe let alone my grandchildren. My mother's family all lived in Eastern Poland before WW11 began. This area is now Western Ukraine. Towards the end of the War the bulk of my mother's extended family escaped to Silesia in Western occupied Poland courtesy of the retreating German Army. By the time this had happened my mother's parents and younger sister had died within the USSR. Only my mother and sister had survived Stalin's ethnic cleansing.

With this family background you can understand why February 2022 was so significant for me. Refusing to give into despair, I started reading a wonderful prayer for Ukraine printed by aid to the Church in Need (ACN) on a prayer card. It gave me great comfort as part of my morning and night prayer time. Another prayer card produced by ACN is worded in such a way that it could be used to pray for all wars and areas of conflict. John O'Donahue's words gave me the inspiration to open our church and the Holy spirit the strength to see it through. Our parish Fr Gilmour was very supportive. A friend and fellow parishioner, Jacqui McCormick and I had a kitchen table conference and put together a list of essential tasks. A kind Buddhist neighbour used her IT skills to produce a good quality poster and the rest of the organisation was hard work.

The Christians that did come and light a candle for peace in our church among the housing estate overlooking the River Tamar, found an atmosphere of profound peace. Jacqui's paper doves "flew" up the wall behind the altar. The altar itself was decorated with scented candles, red poppies and dried beech leaves. Before the altar was a large table with lot candles

Light a candle for Peace A Parishioner's perspective

Motivated by an urge to pray for peace, the Church of Our Lady of the Angels, Saltash opened its doors on Friday 15th March to encourage all to come inside and light a candle for peace.

Our church was opened for two sessions on the day from 1230 -1330 and 1630 to 1730, the later session to allow working people the opportunity to come and pray.

The organisers invited all the faith groups in Saltash to come and use our church to light a candle and pray for peace, particularly in conflict situations in other parts of our world experiencing the pain associated with the lack of peace.

Forefront in the organisers minds was the situation in Israel and Palestine, the birthplace of our saviour Jesus Christ, the continuing violence in Ukraine and all the other areas of our God given

world who are experiencing violence. All the faith groups invited joined with our us in our prayers for peace.

During our sessions there was an atmosphere filled with peace and a remarkable sense of Our Lady of the Angels and God our Father being with us. All who took part in "Light a Candle for peace" remarked upon the peaceful and reflective environment offered by the church of "Our Lady of the Angels".

At the close of the last session as there were only members of the congregation of Our Lady of the Angels present, the Blessed Sacrament was placed on the altar. This was unplanned, but became a spirit filled impulse that enriched our concluding prayers for in the hearts of mankind and ultimately in our world.

Jacqui McCormick



and candles for lighting. Centre stage of the table was out Parish's Taybeh Dove of Peace candle holder which has featured in a previous copy of CSW. Fr Gilmour brought this dove sized candle holder back from a trip to the holy Land. We also had a prayer focus for the Ukraine which I set up in 2022. The ACN provided us with prayer cards and white dove cut outs with a blank side for a personal prayer for peace in the Holy Land. Volunteers from the congregation were there to welcome people, show them where to light their candles, write a prayer on a dove if they wished and offer refreshments together with conversation in the hall.

A Baptist friend had forewarned that he could only make a brief visit, but he stayed

for thirty. He found that he could not easily withdraw from the atmosphere of serenity and peace he had encountered. A sign that we had created something good.

Since March 15th tens of thousands have died as a result of war in Ukraine and Gaza, Sudan and other countries. Russia is now systematically destroying Ukrainian power plants and water supplies together with other infrastructure.

The work of the Holy spirit is never ending. We will be lighting more candles for peace soon. Why don't you?
Alexandra Williams

**"Benedictus. A Book of Blessing" (2007)
John O'donahue.**

Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Replacing the Irreplaceable

On Thursday 9th May we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. We recall his final resurrection appearance, when he took leave of his disciples for the last time.

How would the disciples be able to cope? Who could replace their irreplaceable Master, whom they had tried to serve for the past three years?

Before leaving them, Jesus promised to send them his Spirit. They were to wait in the city until they were clothed with power from on high.

Whereas John the Baptist had baptized people in water, they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

For many people, the Holy Spirit is the hardest person of the Trinity to comprehend. It is fairly easy to understand God the Father as the Creator of the world—the Maker of everything that exists.

We can also understand God the Son, because he has been made visible to us. Jesus was born in the stable at

Bethlehem. Once he had grown up, he walked the roads of the Holy Land, teaching and healing, until he was arrested and crucified. Yet at Easter he rose again, before ascending to his Father.

But what about the Holy Spirit? How can we understand him? Scripture assists us by using several images: breath, wind, water, and the Paraclete.

Just as God first breathed the breath of life into Adam, so Jesus breathed on his disciples in the upper room, empowering them to be bearers of forgiveness. Just as the wind blows wherever it wishes, bringing power and energy, so the Spirit works in all those who receive new birth from the Lord. For all who believe, the Spirit would become the water, deep within their hearts, welling up to eternal life.

In addition, the Spirit would help the disciples as their Paraclete—their Advocate and Consoler. Although Jesus would not be physically present with them, his Spirit would guide them and lead them into the future.

Jesus' words to them at the Last Supper include this promise: "I will ask the Father and he will give you another Paraclete, to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, since it does not see or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and will be in you" (14:16).

Jesus mentions "another Paraclete" because the Spirit would be an Advocate for his disciples like Jesus himself. The Spirit would be sent by the Father at Jesus' request, to remain with them and continue his advocacy for them after Jesus' departure.

Jesus also speaks of the Paraclete later in the Last Supper discourse: "The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (14:26).

The reassuring presence of the Spirit or Paraclete would not only remain with the disciples, but would also teach the disciples in their times of uncertainty, reminding them of everything that Jesus had told them.

Later in the discourse, Jesus again mentions the Paraclete: "When the Paraclete comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that comes forth from the Father, he will testify about me, and you also will testify" (15:26-27).

Besides bearing witness to Jesus in the hearts of the disciples, the Spirit also enables the disciples to go forth and bear witness to Jesus before others, even during times of persecution.

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' promise would be fulfilled. Instead of leaving them like orphans, he would send them his Spirit. The disciples would be able to cope, because Jesus' Spirit would replace their irreplaceable Master, making him present to them.

Jesus makes the same promise to us. We are invited to receive his Spirit day by day. Let us ask him to renew his presence within us: "Come, Holy Spirit, and dwell within us."

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Critical Conversations into Critical Care



Over 100 people from around the country packed into the auditorium of Winchester Arc Centre last Saturday for the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth's What does it mean to be Human? event, a one-day Symposium attempting to tackle long-standing and controversial questions in modern medical ethics and social care.

Over the course of the day, the legal, medical, moral and religious aspects of holistic patient care from conception to end of life were discussed and debated in a series of thought-provoking keynote addresses, workshops and panel discussions.

In his introduction to the Symposium, the Bishop of Portsmouth, Bishop Philip Egan remarked: "The point of today's Symposium is to help turn moral strangers into 'moral friends'. We hope to get everyone – irrespective of their religious beliefs – talking to each other with respect and appreciation. We hope to grow in understanding of one another, where people are coming from, and even to learn from one another. Like learning a foreign language, how can we express what we believe in another language? Can we learn from it? Can we even be changed by it?"

Following two keynote two presentations: What does it mean to be a Human Being? (Mgr. Michael Nazir Ali, former member of the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority and Chair of its Ethics and Law Committee) and How significant is the Sexual Revolution? (Ryan Christopher, Policy Officer and Director of ADF UK and co-founder of Humanum Institute), delegates had an opportunity to join a number of workshops.

The wide-ranging themes of the workshops included The Human Person: United or Divided? (Dr. Catherine Knowles), Abortion: The Unseen Grief (Rachel MacKenzie), Mental Health and Spirituality (Dr. Gerard Fieldhouse-Byrne), The End of Life: Fact and Fiction in the novel *The Beast of Bethulia Park* (Simon Caldwell), Should Religion and Spirituality have a role in Healthcare Provision? (Dr Maria Lynch) and Dysphoria v. Ideology: Walking the Gender Tightrope.

David Wells, the popular and internationally acclaimed author and motivational speaker, was host for the day and had this to say about the ambition of the Symposium:

"It is one thing to live out our faith on a Sunday morning in the shadow of our steeples and within earshot of our peeling bells. What I really admire about the intention behind this Symposium is the Diocese's commitment to blur the boundaries between what we profess together in our faith and the world around us. Our faith is often challenged, not by the reaction of others as to whether we go to Church or not, but how we live it out beyond the pews and pulpit in the board room, building site or, in this case, within the context of a challenged and overstretched Health Service. How is what we believe good news for a Health Service in crisis? How can those working in the Health Service call us to be authentic in our faith? Today has been all about meeting and hearing from some extraordinary people and discovering that faith and medicine can indeed learn a great deal from one another."

What does it mean to be Human? is the third in a series of similar events staged by the Diocese of Portsmouth. Previously, in 2018, the Diocese held a highly successful Symposium on the topic of Science and Religion with some high-

profile speakers, including Professor Brian Cox. Then, over the period of national lockdown in 2021, it went online to host a virtual Symposium on Politics and Religion, featuring speakers including Jacob Rees-Mogg and Ruth Kelly.



View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



Making ends meet

I had driven across country following increasingly narrow and winding lanes on my way to a market town in Hampshire, in the diocese of Portsmouth. The satnav brought me to the local parish church where I drove onto the open, rough surface of the church's large, sloping car park. I'd come to determine the financial ins and outs of what comes into play when priests retire. Who better to help me with that than the new resident, now four years retired: the Right Reverend Peter Doyle, Bishop Emeritus of Northampton, who had previously been a priest in the Diocese of Portsmouth for 37 years under Bishops Worlock, Emery and Hollis.

I selected the topmost corner of the car park, furthest from the road, right in front of a high garden fence which was punctuated by a similarly high gate. As the car crunched to a halt, the gate swung open and Bishop Peter beckoned me into his garden at the back of the priest's house. 'The coffee's on,' he explained. 'I've even got some lemon drizzle cake for us to enjoy while we discuss what you wanted to chat about. Care for Priests in retirement, no?'

We moved from the garden through the patio doors into the Bishop's sitting room, at one end of which, away from the sofa and armchairs, was an elegant writing desk with computer and associated matters. He beckoned me to sit down on the armchair of my choice.

'I've been very fortunate,' the Bishop explained as he poured the coffees. 'Now, what would you like to know?'

'Well,' I started, 'I just wonder how it all works. What forces, considerations and support come into play when priests retire? I presume the picture is far from plain sailing, probably affected by any number of issues of concern both within and beyond the Church.'

Bishop Peter, who had been Bishop of Northampton for 15 years, explained that diocesan Bishops and their dioceses have responsibility and a duty of care for retired incardinated Priests with regard to board, lodging and general support. On the other

hand, retired religious Priests – such as friars and monks – become the responsibility of their respective congregations.

I was already aware that dioceses often have a Retired Priests' Fund or some such for which the laity would be encouraged to constitute a much-needed revenue stream integral yet presumably keenly ringfenced within the diocese's accounting procedures and which could be independently invested. But diocesan finances as a whole often follow offset principles. Offset accounting removes or limits liabilities whereby a deficit in one area can be eliminated, or otherwise offset or counterbalanced by an equal profit or credit in another.

Bishop Peter went on to explain that, by way of monitoring and support, the trustees of a diocese will usually appoint a welfare officer normally working in association with and supported by a Priests' Welfare Committee.

Different dioceses, faced with differing and varied financial burdens, will differ in the quality and grade of support they are able to offer. Longevity, rising costs and reduced income streams are challenging factors to add to the mix.

To purchase property exclusively for the use of retired priests will be beyond the reach, be that in part or whole, of many dioceses. Their only option then in that regard is to finance the conversion of existing property with whatever concomitant entitlement.

In some instances, there may be a requirement for nursing. This may place further burdens in cases where state aid is not available.

Priests may have made private arrangements for their own personal or state pension. Others may have inherited their own family property or wealth.

Once retired, Bishop Peter continued, priests might be able to supplement any pension - assuming they still be fit, willing



and available – by 'supply', receiving a fee and travel expenses for celebrating Mass where there is no regular priest available or if standing in for a fellow priest who may be off sick or on holiday.

Mass intentions constitute a further revenue stream but only active parish clergy have access to the Christmas or Easter offerings.

On death, procedures will obviously follow a priest's wishes but a Bishop will be buried in or near his Cathedral.

And on that note the Bishop served more coffee and we set about finishing what was left of the lemon drizzle cake.

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

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£11 million and counting...Father Johnpromise Umeozuru discusses the Closer to Christ campaign with parishioners at Holy Trinity, Church Crookham.

Diocesan Fundraising Campaign breaks all records

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is celebrating the achievement of a staggering milestone in its fundraising campaign Closer to Christ.

The campaign, which began three years ago, was started to address significant needs in the Diocese's parishes and ministry. The aim was to sustain and rekindle the faith community by supporting Priests from formation and into retirement and ensuring that parishes had the necessary resources to thrive in the future, particularly as they emerged from the Covid pandemic.

Announcing the milestone achievement as total pledges to the campaign surpassed the £11 million-mark, Bishop Philip Egan said: "Thanks to the Lord, the leadership of our priests in over 60 parishes and the extraordinary generosity of approaching 3,500 families, I am so pleased to share that we have now secured in excess of £11 million in pledges. Three quarters of parishes who have participated have

exceeded the targets set and more than 20,000 households have been engaged in the Campaign. I find this truly remarkable and it speaks to the genuine commitment to the future of our Catholic faith across our Diocese."

Bishop Philip went on to say: "The Closer to Christ campaign provides us with a unique opportunity to realise our mission of bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church. This exciting initiative will enable us to continue our journey to become ever more outward facing and evangelistic, while supporting our local parishes, who are the backbone of our Church."

"I am humbled and encouraged by this wonderful success and so grateful for the tremendous kindness and participation of so many. This is a very special moment for me and I am sure for everyone in our Diocesan family."

Ageing Well - A Caritas/SVP Event, Launceston

All were welcome at a joint SVP/Caritas event at St Cuthbert Mayne parish in Launceston on Saturday 20 April to discuss ageing in the South West and how we are called to respond.

Pope Francis has made "old age" a pastoral priority of his pontificate. Alongside migration and climate change, he has said that it is one of the most urgent issues facing the human family at this time. The Pope has repeatedly called out "the cruel abandonment of older persons" during the pandemic and has established a World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly. This event will celebrate the wonderful contribution older people make to society – including through volunteering – as well as encouraging parishes to think about how we can support each other if people need greater care and support as they age. We want to promote and defend the rights of older persons and create a culture that cherishes life at all stages – especially when it is at its most vulnerable.



This is a partnership event with SVP, with guest speakers came to join us. The day supported us all to think through the implications of an ageing society and to

gather good practice already in place and new ideas which can be shared across the diocese.

(Picture from the Age Positive Image Library)

AFAQ Project bringing hope for the future through enterprise

Transitioning from tourism to skilled jobs

80% of Palestinian Christians have lost their tourism-related income due to the combination of Covid-19 and the current war. With such an unstable political situation, it is unlikely that tourists will return for some time.

For the future of the Christian community in the Holy Land, it's essential to support careers and businesses that don't rely on pilgrims and tourists.

Working with Bethlehem University and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we are supporting self-employed people through the AFAQ Project.

We have helped 29 existing small businesses by providing business development, professional coaching, and grants for much-needed equipment.

Raji's Barber Shop



Tomah was able to open a small barbershop in his village. The grant helped him to buy a barber's chair with adjustments for children, as well as razors and scissors. He is proud to build his business, and welcomed the Parish Priest as one of his first customers.

Family Pastries

This family has been able to develop their pastry business and offer a larger selection of products in their community thanks to the AFAQ Project. The grant meant they could invest in a food mixer, freezer and kneading machine. Working together makes the family feel more hopeful about the future.



Location Sandwich

These two entrepreneurs were about to close the business they'd been fighting so hard to keep. Support from the AFAQ Project helped them to buy vital kitchen equipment, and to work on a sales plan in order to turn their sandwich service into a success.



The AFAQ Project helps people start a new chapter in their professional lives – it builds resilience and self-esteem and offers a way for Christians to create a source of income in the Holy Land without having to cross into Israel or rely on tourism. That means fewer Christian families emigrating.

The Hope & Healing Fund will help to power this project. Thank you for your donations.

I'M STANDING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

DON'T LET THEIR LIGHT GO OUT

"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE." — JOHN 8:12

Give today:
friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/hope

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds' especially that caused by war in the Holy Land, and may you help us bring Hope and Healing to our brothers and sisters this Eastertide.



Book Reviews



Cherishing Your Wedding

Kerry Urdzik
£14.99

CTS Product Code: PA48

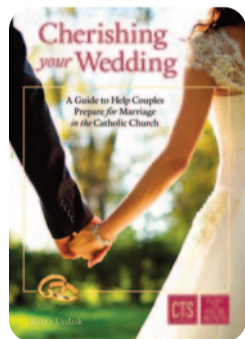
Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone

ISBN: 9781784695576

www.ctsbooks.org

This UK ONLY item is a special order and will take approximately 7-10 days to arrive.

Everything you need to know to prepare for married life and to have a beautiful ceremony is attractively laid out in this handy guide for anyone wanting to get married in a Catholic church.



This guide covers everything you need to know to prepare for married life and to have a beautiful ceremony. Offering guidance to couples preparing for marriage, it addresses both the practical and spiritual aspects of planning a Catholic wedding, both within and outside of Mass. Couples will find that it provides a rich formation in marriage catechesis, helping them to understand the teaching of the Catholic Church on matrimony and family life.

With each chapter also containing practical tips, points of reflection and a prayer, and printed in full-colour with glossy pages, this is an invaluable resource, ideal for anyone who wishes to get married in a Catholic church. It is also the perfect supplement for marriage ministers and catechists as they accompany couples on their journey to the altar.

No Greater Love – The Martyrdom of the Ulma Family

Jean Olwen Maynard
£3.95

CTS Product Code: B778

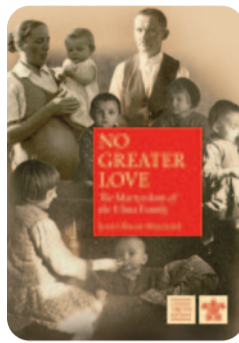
Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone

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.

7 Words on Marriage

Fr Ivano Millico
£6.95

CTS Product Code: PA69

Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone

ISBN: 9781784697778

www.ctsbooks.org

Drawing from the marriage promises, married couples in Scripture, and the insights of Pope Francis and Pope John Paul II, we can discover the faithful presence of our loving God in the life-journey of every married couple.

Raphael. I take thee. Ring. Blessing. Nuptial bed. Cana. Sunem.

These are seven life-giving words on your marriage and to your marriage, as it is here and now, whether you took your vows decades ago, are newly-wed, or even still preparing for your wedding day. Drawing from the marriage vows, from stories of couples in Sacred Scripture, and from the practical and inspirational insights of Pope Francis and Pope St John Paul II, we can discover the faithful presence of our



loving God in the life-journey of every married couple.

Every marriage is different, yet the same: joys and sorrows, blessings and failures.

These seven words reveal marriage as a sign of hope: an assurance that we can still have faith in marriage, the most beautiful thing God has created.

This is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival

Bishop Robert Barron
£6.95

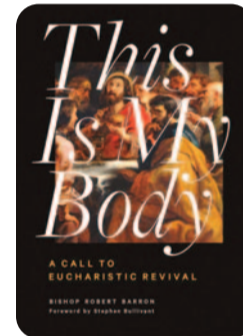
CTS Product Code: DO969

Please refer to this code when ordering over the phone

ISBN: 9781784697716

www.ctsbooks.org

In this brief but illuminating text, Bishop Barron offers a threefold analysis of the Eucharist as sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence, helping readers to understand the sacrament of Jesus's Body and Blood more thoroughly so that they might fall in love with him more completely.



A recent Pew Forum survey revealed the startling statistic that 69% of US Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the state of belief in the UK, as outlined by Professor Stephen Bullivant in the foreword to this UK edition, is not dissimilar.

This indicates a spiritual disaster in the Church, for the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." This *This is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival* is designed to accompany renewal of devotion to Christ truly present in the Eucharist. In this brief but illuminating text, Bishop Barron offers a threefold analysis of the Eucharist as sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence, helping readers to understand the sacrament of Jesus's Body and Blood more thoroughly so that they might fall in love with him more completely.

Discover the profound truth flowing out of Jesus's words at the Last Supper: "Take, eat; this is my body. . . . Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant."

LIFE: MY STORY THROUGH HISTORY

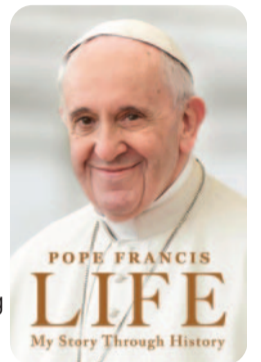
By Pope Francis
£25.00

Product Code: 102610

ISBN NO: 9780063387522

www.rpbooks.co.uk

For the first time, Pope Francis tells the story of his life as he looks back on the momentous world events that have changed history—from his earliest years during the outbreak of World War II in 1939 to the turmoil of today.



An extraordinary personal and historical journey, *Life* is the story of a man and a world in dramatic change. Pope Francis recalls his life through memories and observations of the most significant occurrences of the past eight decades. The book opens with three-year-old Jorge in the kitchen with his mother in Argentina as World War II breaks out, and he goes on to witness several historic events:

- the fall of the Berlin Wall
- Videla's coup in Argentina
- the moon landing in 1969
- and even the 1986 World Cup in which Maradona scored the unforgettable "hand of God" goal.

Here are the frank assessments and intimate insights of a pastor reflecting on the Nazi extermination of the Jews, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the 2001 terrorist attack on America and the collapse of the Twin Towers, the great economic recession of 2008, the Covid-19 pandemic, the retirement of Pope Benedict XVI, and the subsequent conclave that elected him Pontiff.

The "pope callejero" recounts these world-changing moments with the candor and compassion that distinguishes him, and offers important messages on major crises confronting us now, including social inequalities, climate change, international war, atomic weapons, racial discrimination, and the battles over social and cultural issues.

Translated from the Italian by Aubrey Botsford

Tackling Modern Slavery

Tuesday 30 April 10.30am-12.30pm St Mary's Poole

Modern slavery is a serious crime being committed across the UK in which victims are exploited for someone else's gain. It can take many forms including trafficking of people, forced labour and servitude. Victims are often hidden away, may be unable to leave their situation, or may not come forward because of fear or shame. Caritas Diocese of Plymouth is hosting an event to help us learn how to spot the signs of modern slavery and what we can do about it. We will be hosting a speaker from the Medaille Trust and will have a Q&A with an expert panel including a representative from the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority. We will hear about those who are victims of modern slavery in the UK and get practical advice about what to look out for and what we can do if we have concerns.

The address for the event is as follows
Parish Rooms of St Mary's Poole
211A Wimborne Rd, Poole, BH15 2EG

All are welcome to Mass at 10.00.
There is ample free parking.
Please register here or email
caritas@prcdtr.org.uk.



Our Sponsored Seminararian

We were delighted recently to hear from our sponsored seminararian Francis Otieno Achieng in Malawi.

We have been sponsoring Brother Francis for the last four years of his training for the priesthood at Christ the King Major Seminary in Malawi through the Missio SPA sponsorship scheme. This means that the parish donates £500 for his last four year's Theology training costs and prays regularly for him. We also write him occasionally and at Easter and Christmas.

Brother Francis has written to tell us that he has now been ordained Deacon and will be ordained to the priesthood later this year. (See letter right)

St Mary's Falmouth have been part of the SPA scheme for the last 24 years and we have sponsored young men from Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Kenya, and India.



It is a privilege for us to do this and a reminder of the universality of the church in which we are united as one body with Christ as head.

Society of St Peter the Apostle
(spa@missio.org.uk)

Letter from Deacon Francis Otieno

Dear St Mary Immaculate SPA Group

Receive New Year greeting from me. First and foremost. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for offering to sponsor me through my entire Seminary, Theological studies and for your continuous support both financially and spiritually. God has been gracious to me and my family, and on the 7th January I reported back to the Seminary to continue with my priestly formation after taking a break for December holiday. I am pleased to inform you that this is my last Semester of my Seminary formation and it will be ending on the 2nd May, after which I will be able to go back to my Archdiocese and commence my apostolate wherever the Archbishop will send me to.

I'm from Bondo Parish in the Archdiocese of Kisumu covering the Lakeside of Kenya in the Western region of our country. It is my pleasure to inform you that I was ordained together with four brothers in Christ into the Order of diaconate on 6th January this year on the Solemnity of Epiphany in the tradition of our Archdiocese. This is

the last step towards Priestly Ordination which God will be in the course of this year. I am also delighted to inform you that the Kenyan and especially the Church in Kisumu is vibrant and full of life bringing the good news to all the corners of the diocese and promoting peace and awareness among the faithful.

Finally I would like to re-echo my gratitude for your continued support both financially in sponsoring me through the Seminary studies, and for your constant spiritual support through prayers and finally for your constant outreach through the missio letters. I'm quite indebted and I promise my constant prayers too for the success of the mission of the Church and also success of all the activities that you engage in as a group. May the good Lord protect and nourish you all throughout this year and may he grant you an enriching Lenten period.

Yours in Christ
Deacon Francis Otieno



Once again the Filipino communities here in Devon and Cornwall will initiate to celebrate the

12th Flores de Mayo & Santacruzán on May 12, 2024 at Plymouth Cathedral

FLORES DE MAYO -

A typical, traditional and religious festival of flowers celebrated during the month of May in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary when young children will offer flowers to our Lady, Mother Mary after the procession and before the Holy Mass. This festival is celebrated throughout the Philippines and has now been replicated in many places all the world where Filipinos reside.

SANTACRUZÁN -

A legend depicting the searching and finding of the Holy Cross by Queen Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, who as a new convert to Christianity. After the Holy Cross was found in Jerusalem and brought back to Rome, it was welcomed with a joyful celebration of thanksgiving. There will be a procession which will commence from the city centre of Plymouth and where ladies will represent some many biblical personalities.

As there are many Marian devotees here in the Cathedral, we have invited different nationalities to participate in this event. A celebration of the Holy Mass will be held at the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Boniface, Plymouth Cathedral.

We invite devotees to participate in this annual event.

'The Pope Video - For the Role of Women' Pope Francis – APRIL 2024



FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

"Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."
- Pope Francis -

In many parts of the world, women are treated like the first thing to get rid of.

But this does not play out in practice.

There are countries where women are forbidden to access aid, open a business, or go to school. In these places, they are subject to laws that make them dress a certain way. And in many countries, genital mutilation is still practiced.

Governments need to commit to eliminate discriminatory laws everywhere and to work toward guaranteeing women's human rights.

Let us not deprive women of their voice. Let us not rob all these abused women of their voice. They are exploited, marginalised.

Let us respect women. Let us respect their dignity, their basic rights. And if we don't, our society will not progress.

In theory, we all agree that men and women have the same dignity as persons.

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

To watch the video, visit thepopevideo.org



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 7 Day before a period of abstinence upset the sad voyeurs (6,7)
- 8 Diverse views of two students in the group? (4)
- 9 Entirety: perhaps a long time coming? (8)
- 10 'Praise be to God': the French-American and English party embraced (4,3)
- 11 Lead of apostles appears to dwindle (5)
- 13 Oracle turned up, seen in company of lowly bishop (5)
- 15 Outmanoeuvre plan to get rid of dreadful Metro for something new in Paris (7)
- 18 Sorry Beth, an all-round tart prior to Lindisfarne (8)
- 19 One attends fires, getting up to no good (4)
- 20 Converted a Tao lifesaver and beatified one (6,2,5)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Contents of sermon by group Left ignored - it comes from the Parisian quarters (3,10)
- 2 Rights of Asian country put in a letter from Paul (6)
- 3 Ahab's wife's the first in jail: ever zealous, ever brazen, ever lustful (7)
- 4 French chap leaves during the season in Babylonia of old (5)
- 5 People of the Gold Coast, like before (6)
- 6 Book's antiquated cover is made for a Navy's Broad Church chap (7,6)
- 12 Quietly go on to Square assuming that the first of February will bring the Pope (7)

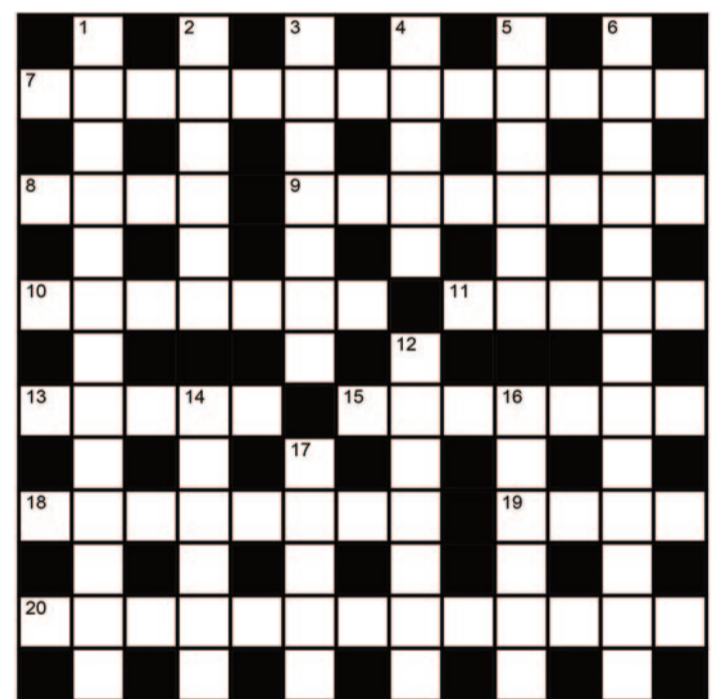
- 14 You ask how we enter heaven, initially in Hebrew, Lord? (6)
- 16 Not obligatory in Church to elect four for admission (6)
- 17 Saul's daughter finds setter near pub, having fallen over (5)

QUICK Across

- 7 Time at the eve of Lent for confession and absolution of the faithful (6,7)
- 8 Title given to some bishops (4)
- 9 Time without end (8)
- 10 'Glory to God in the highest', or 'Praise (be) to God', in the Latin (4,3)
- 11 Leader of the Apostles, entrusted with the 'keys of the Kingdom of Heaven' (5)
- 13 Female seer (5)
- 15 Beaujolais ----- or ----- Riche, for instance (7)
- 18 Saint, the apostle of Northumbria (c 635-687) (8)
- 19 Chinese mafia (4)
- 20 Saint whose feast day falls on October (6,2,5)

QUICK Down

- 1 Christ's promise of coming blessings (3,10)
- 2 Paul's longest letter: a text of primary importance for the Christian theological tradition (9)
- 3 Wife of Ahab, often synonymous with a wicked, scheming woman (7)



- 4 Region in modern-day Iraq before it became Babylonia (5)
- 5 Ghanaian people, alternatively-named 'Ashanti' (6)
- 6 Poet, Oxford don and son of the founder of the Broad Church movement (7,6)
- 12 High Priest (7)
- 14 Popular derivation of the Hebrew proper name for God (6)
- 16 Given by vow (6)
- 17 Daughter of Saul, initially promised to David (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 7 Shrove Tuesday, 8 Abba, 9 Eternity, 10 Laus Deo, 11 Peter, 13 Sibyl, 15 Nouveau, 18 Cuthbert, 19 Tong, 20 Teresa of Avila. Down: 1 The Beatitudes, 2 Romans, 3 Jezebel, 4 Sumner, 5 Asante, 6 Matthew Arnold, 12 Pontiff, 14 Yahweh, 16 Vote, 17 Merab.