

APRIL 2025

50p  
(where sold)



# Catholic **South West**

*Serving the Church in the South West*



## **Inside**



*Join in the  
Pilgrims of Hope  
Page 3*



*Pilgrims of Hope  
Pages 4 & 5*



*St Vincent de Paul  
Society  
Page 10*



*Group cake sale in  
aid of Cafod  
Page 11*







CONTACTS & DETAILS

Catholic South West is a monthly newspaper for Catholics in the Plymouth, Clifton and Portsmouth Dioceses. It is published by Bellcourt Ltd

AIMS

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

GET INVOLVED

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

SUBMITTING EDITORIAL

To send in editorial or to get in touch please contact us at:  
CSW - Bellcourt Ltd  
N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre  
Steeple Bumpstead  
Haverhill, Suffolk  
CB9 7BN  
[csw@cathcom.org](mailto:csw@cathcom.org)  
01440 730399

ADVERTISING

To advertise in Catholic South West please contact us on 01440 730399  
[ads@cathcom.org](mailto:ads@cathcom.org)

DATES

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

Wanted Parish Correspondents

The Catholic South West is looking for a Parish Correspondent in your parish to send in local news for publication in this newspaper.  
All items to be emailed to [csw@cathcom.org](mailto:csw@cathcom.org) before 10th of the month

Donation to Caritas Plymouth by Plymouth Councillor



“A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:35

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth provides crisis grants to individuals and families facing situations of unusual hardship. We work through our parishes and schools to reach those in most need. We rely on donations to allow us to respond to urgent requests. We were very grateful this week to receive an £800 donation from Plymouth City Councillor Tina Tuohy, which was handed over to Fr. Appollos of the Catholic Parish of the Holy Trinity and Caritas Plymouth. This funding will be used to support families in Plymouth, working through our Plymouth CAST schools to identify those who would most benefit from a little bit of extra help.

Plymouth Councillors have an annual grant allocation to help not-for-profit groups and organisations in the city. We are most grateful to have been chosen for this generous support.

Caritas crisis grants help people of all faiths or none. We work quickly to offer a helping hand so that people can get back on their feet and access longer term help if needed. In the past we have received applications from families who are struggling to afford food for their children; we supported a family who arrived in Plymouth having been promised a place to stay and a job, but when they arrived,

were left stranded; we helped a family whose heating had broken down in the middle of winter but couldn't afford to purchase a heater; we supported a mother who had moved into a property on her own with her children and was in desperate need of essential items for the home. These are just a few examples of the people we have been able to help.

If you would like to donate to our crisis grant fund go to [www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/donate/to-caritas/](http://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/donate/to-caritas/), we would be very grateful for your support. The needs are many, but with support we can make a difference.

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

1) **Think of the readers:** If you are writing about an event, think about the readers that don't know anything about it. Outline what happened, but focus on why people go, why it is important to them, or some teaching that was given. Make sure readers learn something from your article - they don't just want

to know who was there and what snacks were available!  
2) **Keep it brief:** Make sure you make your point - but keep it brief and punchy.  
3) **Pictures:** Send pictures as they are - even if they are very big to email. Don't reduce them in size or put them inside a Word document. They look fine on the screen but terrible in the paper!

LEGAL INFORMATION

Please note that opinions expressed in this paper and on any linked sites or publications are not necessarily those of the Publishers, Editor, any Diocese or the wider Roman Catholic Church  
Every reasonable effort is

made to ensure that due acknowledgement, when appropriate, is made to the originator of any image submitted for publication. It is understood that those submitting material for publication in CSW either hold the copyright or have arranged for publication with the appropriate authority.





# Our Lady and St Neot Liskeard: Join in the Pilgrims of Hope

2025 will be a momentous year for Our Lady and St Neot Liskeard; having welcomed at the end of last year our new Parish Priest Fr Cyriacus. We look forward to joining him this Jubilee Year as 'Pilgrims of Hope' for his guidance and support to understand and reestablish our relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

Since the beginning of the year, we have opened our St Neot room on the first and third Saturdays of the month to the Liskeard Community, providing a home cooked meal and dessert, along with fruit, tea/coffee and biscuits. We also have a clothing rail inviting unwanted clothes to be brought in for anyone to take from it any items that can be of use to them. We welcome all to come in and light a candle, say a quiet prayer or just have a chat in a warm friendly environment. We go out around the town giving out invitations and inform partners such as the Foodbank, Royal British Legion, Salvation Army and Food Hub. This year we have made new contacts and benefactors for what is a real need in the Liskeard Community during the Winter months.

Following on from 'warm space', all Fridays during Lent following Stations of the Cross and Mass, we will again have our 'Lenten Lunch' comprising of a choice of two soups, rolls, fruit and the usual teas/coffees and biscuits. We are often joined by non-Catholics and this year we hope for one Friday to be joined by representatives from the other churches in our Liskeard community.

This year our parish will celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope; we hope to visit and pass through the Holy doors in our diocese and to learn about and reflect on the six themes for the year using resources provided by Caritas Plymouth diocese. This will be a time to re-establish our relationship with God, with one another and all God's creation. Pilgrim passports can be collected and stamped at each Holy door. We hope to be joined by people from all other churches in our parish, Our Lady of the Angels, Saltash; Our Lady of Light, Sclerder Abbey, Looe; St Joan of Arc, Torpoint.

The parish pilgrimage is being led by St Neot Group and in our January meeting we discussed: What is a Jubilee year?



Biblical history: Holy doors in Rome and in our diocese, and what can we do as Pilgrims of Hope.

In February's meeting we followed the Caritas theme Caring for Creation, and we referred to Laudate Si and the message of 'the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor' and looked at the progress made. The message that 'Every parishioner's effort built up as a collection action of the church'.

The final answer: There are several ways to protect God's creation, such as practicing the 3 Rs, using renewable energy, reducing pollution, and conserve resources. These actions help minimize waste, and maintain biodiversity. Taking such steps fosters a sustainable environment, for current and future generations.

Preparation was also made for our March meeting; where we visit the Holy door at Launceston, St Cuthbert Mayne. A Mass intention for our group will be said. There will be a guided tour and pilgrim pack available, and passport stamped. An opportunity will be available to venerate the skull of St Cuthbert Mayne. Finishing with refreshments in the parish hall.

Rosemarie de Boyer

For all your advertising requirements please contact Nick on 01440 730399  
nick@cathcom.org

## Monthly National Catholic Newspaper

**Catholic news and stories from across the nation and beyond to build the Catholic community and deepen Faith**

**The UK's first Carbon Neutral  
National Catholic Paper**

**Subscribe@catholicpost.co.uk**  
**01440 730399**  
**www.catholicpost.co.uk**







# JUBILEE 2025



## *Pilgrims of Hope: Celebrating the Jubilee in Rome and at Home*

The Jubilee Year 2025, themed "Pilgrims of Hope," is well underway, ushering in a sacred time of faith, renewal, and grace for the global Catholic community. Declared by Pope Francis, this Holy Year unfolds through a series of Jubilee celebrations, each dedicated to different groups and held in various locations throughout the year. These events allow people from all walks of life to embrace the Jubilee's spiritual message in a deeply personal and transformative way.

At the heart of the Jubilee experience is passing through the Holy Door, a powerful sign of the pilgrim's spiritual journey. As the faithful cross its threshold, they are reminded of Jesus' words in John 10:9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." Passing through the Holy Door expresses a conscious decision to follow Christ, entrusting oneself to His guidance as the Good Shepherd. While those who travel to the Eternal City will experience this first-hand, the Jubilee is not limited to a physical pilgrimage to St. Peter's Basilica. The universal Catholic faithful are invited to participate fully through prayer, live-streamed events, and local celebrations in their parishes and designated Jubilee Churches.

### Upcoming Jubilee Events in April

One of the most eagerly awaited events in April is the Jubilee of Teenagers (25-27 April), which coincides with the canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis. This momentous occasion will be a source of immense joy and inspiration for young people worldwide. Whether in Rome or at home, these events offer opportunities for prayer, reflection, and spiritual enrichment. Those unable to make the pilgrimage can still fully engage through prayer, online participation, and local celebrations, ensuring that the Jubilee's spirit reaches every corner of the world.

### 1. A Time of Grace for Those Who Care and Those in Need

**The Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers (5-6 April)** is a reminder of Christ's compassion for the suffering and His call to care for the sick. This event honours patients, medical professionals, caregivers, chaplains, and volunteers who dedicate their lives to healing and service. As Pope Francis continues his recovery, it remains uncertain whether he will personally preside over the events. A solemn Mass is scheduled for 6 April at 9:30 a.m. (UK time) in St. Peter's Square, offering prayers for the sick and recognising healthcare workers. The Holy

Father has continually emphasised the importance of acts of mercy, which not only alleviate suffering but also foster gratitude and solidarity within communities.

To participate this special Jubilee at home, here are a few suggestions:

- Watch the live-stream of the Jubilee Mass on EWTN or YouTube Vatican News English at 9:30 a.m. (UK time) on 6 April.
- Host a special Jubilee Mass in your parish, honouring the sick and those who care for them.
- Include special Prayers of the Faithful, such as:

\* For all medical professionals,

caregivers, and chaplains, that they may carry out their mission with wisdom and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.

\* For all who are sick, that they may receive comfort, healing, and access to quality healthcare, let us pray to the Lord.

\* For Pope Francis, that the Lord may grant him strength and healing, let us pray to the Lord.

• Invite the bishop or priests to bless healthcare professionals and hospital chaplains during local Masses.

• Organise a parish outreach initiative to visit the sick, offer companionship, and provide support to those in hospitals, care facilities, or homebound.





2. A Celebration of Faith and the Digital Age Saint

One of the most uplifting events of the Jubilee Year will be the Jubilee of Teenagers (25-27 April). This vibrant gathering will include prayer services, workshops, cultural exchanges, and Eucharistic celebrations, fostering faith, community, and evangelisation.

Interest has been overwhelming, with over 300,000 pilgrims already registered, and Rome is preparing to welcome up to half a million for the Canonisation Mass of Blessed Carlo Acutis. As the first millennial saint, Carlo’s deep love for the Eucharist and innovative use of technology to spread the Gospel have inspired millions worldwide. Known as “God’s Influencer”, he continues to capture the hearts of young people. Many dioceses across the UK are organising pilgrimages to Rome and Assisi to be part of this historic moment and to visit Carlo’s tomb. But for those staying at home, here are some ideas to celebrate locally:

- Watch the live-stream of Carlo Acutis’ Canonisation Mass on EWTN or YouTube Vatican News English at 9:30 a.m. (UK time) on 27 April.
- Recognise and celebrate teenagers in the parish during weekend liturgies on Divine Mercy Sunday (26-27 April).

- Include a special Prayer of the Faithful: We lift up to You all the young people of the world, especially those gathering for the Jubilee of Teenagers in Rome and in our community. May their hearts be open to Your love, their minds eager to know Your truth, and their lives inspired by the example of Blessed Carlo Acutis, who found his strength and joy in the Eucharist.
- Host a Jubilee Eucharistic Holy Hour, inviting teenagers to lead prayer and witness their faith.
- Plan a local pilgrimage for young people to their Diocesan Cathedral or local Jubilee Church.
- Arrange a parish youth event, including Mass, Holy Hour, and fellowship.

3. A Celebration of Dignity and Inclusion

On 28-29 April, the Jubilee for People with Disabilities will affirm that every person has a place in the Church—not despite their differences, but because of them. This event honours their unique gifts and essential role in the Body of Christ. Pope Francis, who has used a wheelchair since 2022, has emphasised that disability is not a limitation but an ordinary part of Church life. He calls people with disabilities to be evangelisers, sharing the



Gospel through their lives and witness. In his 2022 message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Pope Francis reminded us that no disability—temporary or permanent—diminishes our dignity as children of God. Ideas to celebrate locally are:

- Recognise and honour people with disabilities during weekend liturgies on 26-27 April.
  - Include a special Prayer of the Faithful: For all persons with disabilities, especially those participating in the Jubilee for People with Disabilities in Rome and in our community. May their unique gifts enrich the Body of Christ, and may we, as a Church, always recognise their dignity, contributions, and role as evangelisers in spreading the Gospel.
  - Plan a local pilgrimage for persons with disabilities to a diocesan cathedral or Jubilee Church.
  - Organise a Eucharistic Holy Hour, highlighting prayer and reflection.
- Wherever we are, we are all Pilgrims of Hope, called to live out the grace of the Jubilee Year in our daily lives. Whether through pilgrimage, prayer, or acts of service, this sacred time invites us to renew our faith, embrace hope, and

strengthen our bonds as the Body of Christ.

As we mark the Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers and the Jubilee for People with Disabilities this April, let us pray in a special way for Pope Francis, asking the Lord to grant him strength and healing as he continues to guide the Church with wisdom and compassion.

Let us also honour and encourage the young people in our parishes this month. They are the future of the Church, and our hope lies in them. Like Carlo, may they be inspired by the Eucharist, grow in faith, and boldly share the Gospel in today’s world.

If you feel inspired to bring the Jubilee into your local community, speak to your parish priest and fellow parishioners to build interest and plan meaningful celebrations. This is our Church, and by coming together in faith, we ensure that the spirit of the Jubilee—one of mercy, inclusion, and renewal—reaches every heart and home.

Gwen Wiseman

# Novena to Blessed Carlo Acutis

Opening Prayer

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I thank you for all the grace and favours with which you enriched the soul of Blessed Carlo Acutis during his 15 years on this earth. Through the merits of this Angel of Youth, grant me the grace which I earnestly seek (Ask the grace which you seek). Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us! (Pray: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be.)

Day 1 – Good Friday (April 18): Love for the Cross

**“Golgotha is for everyone, no one escapes the cross.”**  
Lord Jesus, today we remember Your Passion and death. Blessed Carlo Acutis embraced suffering with faith, offering even his last illness for the Church and the Pope. Help me to carry my daily crosses with love, just as Carlo did. Amen.  
(Pray: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be.)

Day 2 – Holy Saturday (April 19): Waiting in Hope

**“Sadness is looking at ourselves; happiness is looking toward God.”**  
Blessed Carlo Acutis, you who have never looked away from your great love, Jesus, give me the grace also to live with this happiness in this world. In moments of darkness, help me to trust that You are near. Amen.  
(Pray: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be.)

Day 3 – Easter Sunday (April 20): Christ is Risen

**“Always to be united with Jesus, that is my programme of life”**  
You who have lived in the heart of Jesus, give me the grace to apply Jesus’s plan of love to everything. As we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, fill our hearts with joy and gratitude for the gift of eternal life. Amen.  
(Pray: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be.)

Day 4 – Easter Monday (April 21): Devotion to the Eucharist

**“The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven.”**  
You have always looked for your hidden Jesus in the Tabernacle. Give me the grace of a deep fervour for the Eucharist. May we learn from his example to make the Eucharist the center of our lives. Amen.  
(Pray: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

Day 5 – Tuesday (April 22): Love for Our Lady

**“The Virgin Mary is the only woman in my life.”**  
You loved the Virgin Mary above all women. Give me the grace to respond to her kind and good love. Teach us to turn to Mary in our needs and to follow her example of humility and faith. Amen.  
(Pray: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be.)

Day 6 – Wednesday (April 23): Surrender to the Lord

**“Not I, but God.”**  
Teach me to live with selfless love, seeking not my own will but Yours. Help me to place You at the center of my life so that all I do reflects Your love. May I serve others with the same generosity and humility that You have shown me. Amen.  
(Pray: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be.)

Day 7 – Thursday (April 24): The Power of Confession

**“Confession is like the fire underneath the balloon enabling the soul to rise again... It is important to go to confession often”**  
You who have lived this sacrament of reconciliation so well, give me the grace constantly to seek confession and the grace of a deep contrition. Amen.  
(Pray: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be.)

Day 8 – Friday (April 25): Called to Walk Uniquely

**“All are born originals, but many die as photocopies.”**  
You invite me to know You personally and to embrace the unique path of faith You have set before me. Help me to avoid the trap of conforming to empty traditions or societal expectations. Teach me to live authentically, embracing the individuality with which You have created me, and to follow You with a sincere and open heart. Amen.  
(Pray: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be.)

Day 9 – Saturday (April 26): Longing for Heaven

**“I am happy to die because I lived my life without wasting a minute on things that do not please God.”**  
Blessed Carlo, give me that grace of graces – perseverance to the end and the desire to be a saint. Amen.  
(Pray: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be.)

Final Prayer (Each Day)

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank You for the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Carlo Acutis, Pray for Us!

# Jubilee 2025 Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity  
and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.  
Amen





# Volunteers – A Sign of Hope



And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

On Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 March the fifth major Jubilee event was held in Rome, dedicated to the world of volunteering. Pope Francis said that “in our societies, too enslaved to market logic, where everything risks being subject to the criterion of interest and the quest for profit, volunteering is prophecy and a sign of hope.”

Many parishes celebrated this Jubilee to thank those who volunteer in our parishes, schools and local communities. One event took place in Plymouth, where Caritas brought together representatives from churches in the Plymouth Deanery to celebrate the work of volunteers. Fr. Appollos reflected on the importance of using our gifts and talents in the service of others. Individuals shared their experience of volunteering and the benefits they found, not only for those they aim to serve, but also for themselves.

The Love in Action group at Plymouth Cathedral organise events for the local community; a breakfast club for the local school and practical support for Ukraine.

Many people talked about their work with charities in their local community such as supporting the Mayflower project, fundraising for vital equipment for the

hospital. Some volunteers support people to deepen their faith. The Welcome Mondays group at Beacon Park shared their hospitality which they provide every Monday for the local community. Volunteering can be as simple as being there and listening, and can be done in small ways. It can create new friendships and foster a sense of parish community.

People talked about the personal benefits of volunteering – a sense of fulfilment in giving back to the community and helping those in need; helping those who are overburdened; making sure that people know that someone cares. Many felt that they get back as much as they give and feel privileged to go and visit “lonely people”.

Volunteering is an expression of God’s love poured out for our neighbours. If you would like to share your volunteer celebration with us or find out how you can volunteer in your local area, please get in touch with [caritas@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:caritas@prcdtr.org.uk)

**“I thank you heartily, dear friends, because, following the example of Jesus, you serve your neighbours unstintingly. On the streets and in homes, in the company of the sick, the suffering and the imprisoned, with the young and the elderly, your generosity and commitment offer hope to our entire society.” Pope Francis**

## Pope Francis – Thank you all!

Text prepared by the Holy Father



Pope Francis has recently been released from hospital but whilst there, sent this message as part of his Angelus address:

Sisters and brothers, I am still sending you these thoughts from the hospital, where as you know I have been for several days, accompanied by doctors and healthcare professionals, whom I thank for the attention with which they are taking care of me. I feel in my heart the “blessing” that is hidden within frailty, because it is precisely in these moments that we learn even more to trust in the Lord; at the same time, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to share in body and spirit the condition of so many sick and suffering people.

I would like to thank you for the prayers, which rise up to the Lord from the hearts of so many faithful from many parts of the world: I feel all your affection and closeness and, at this particular time, I feel as if I am “carried” and supported by all God’s people. Thank you all!

I pray for you too. And I pray above all for peace. From here, war appears even more absurd. Let us pray for tormented Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan and Kivu.

Let us entrust ourselves confidently to Mary, our Mother. Happy Sunday, and arrivederci.

+ Pope Francis

**For all your advertising requirements  
please contact  
Nick on 01440 730399  
[nick@cathcom.org](mailto:nick@cathcom.org)**



# Christians hold vigil outside ARC conference

On February 21st a group of Laudato Si Animators and members of Christian Climate Action held a prayer vigil at the entrance to the Alliance for Responsible Citizenship (ARC) Conference at the Excel Centre in East London.

This was the last day of a three day international gathering convened by Canadian psychologist Jordan Peterson and funded largely by multi-millionaire businessman Sir Paul Marshall, who is a strong opponent of net zero emissions targets.

Among the four thousand attending the ARC conference were conservative politicians, Christian leaders, oil industry insiders and prominent climate deniers many of whom were invited to give keynote speeches at the conference.

Artist Helen Elwes who took part in the Vigil with her painted banner 'Mother of Mercy' said: "We felt it was important to pray and witness outside this gathering, for God's Creation and for the poor in the global south who are already experiencing climate breakdown. The disinformation and climate change denial being spread by the organisers of this conference is deeply worrying. Jordan Peterson has

called manmade global warming "the great climate con" and has been described by climate scientist Michael Mann as "a central cog in the denial machine". The fact that so many, including Christians and church leaders, are being influenced by Peterson and his associates is disturbing when all the scientists are telling us we desperately need to take urgent action to curb escalating CO2 emissions and stop runaway climate change."

CCA member Melanie Nazareth said: "We prayed for the organisers and delegates at the ARC Conference to advocate and act with the urgency necessary to safeguard the gift of creation. Creation is crying out. Climate denial and delay is destroying our precious Earth and sacrificing the poorest and most vulnerable. We need action now."

The group held vigil from 8am-4pm. Helen added: "We had some good encounters with attendees, many of whom were Christians, including several Catholic priests. Because we were there praying we found we were able to talk together and find some common ground. We gave out prayer cards with Pope Francis 'Prayer for our Earth' printed on



the back and some attendees even stopped to thank us for being there."

Towards the end of the day they were joined in prayer by an Italian Priest

attending the conference. Together they read the day's Bible reading about Jesus restoring the blind man's sight and prayed for our Common Home and for Pope Francis's speedy recovery.





# Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



## The Dignity of Christ, the Merciful Martyr

On Palm Sunday (13th April) we hear the long gospel of Jesus' passion and death according to Luke. Whereas Mark emphasises the horror of the cross, where Jesus is abandoned by his twelve disciples and seemingly forsaken by God, Luke focuses on the dignity of Christ, who patiently accepts his suffering to fulfil God's saving plan.

Luke's account highlights Jesus' mercy towards his enemies, because he prays for their forgiveness. Jesus also shows mercy towards his weak disciples, who will later be restored when Simon Peter strengthens them. At the Last Supper, Jesus commends his disciples for having stood by him faithfully—even though they will soon abandon him. Jesus warns that they will be sifted like wheat, but his prayer for Simon Peter will enable him to strengthen the rest of them—yet only after he has first denied his Master.

Luke's description of the Gethsemane scene is noteworthy. Whereas Mark focuses on how the disciples could not stay awake when Jesus was praying in the garden, Luke makes an excuse for them: they were sleeping because they were overcome with sorrow. Moreover, God's mercy towards his Son is evident during his agony. When he is sweating blood in his prayer, an angel from heaven comes to strengthen him.

Soon Jesus is arrested and taken to the high priest's house. Meanwhile, Peter is outside warming himself by the fire, where he denies Jesus three times. At this point, Luke mentions a poignant moment, when "the Lord turned and looked at Peter." No words are exchanged, but Peter knew that Jesus was right to say: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter's weeping led to a change of heart for him.

When Jesus is sent by the Roman governor Pilate to be questioned by the local king Herod Antipas, he says nothing,

but perhaps he is praying for his persecutors. At the end of this questioning, Herod Antipas and Pilate make up their differences and are reconciled.

At the end of his trial before Pilate, Roman governor makes a clear statement: "I have found in him no crime deserving death." Luke highlights the innocence of Christ, who bravely suffers unjust death as a martyr. The murderer Barabbas is released, but the peacemaker Jesus is led out to be crucified.

Luke reports the distress of the women of Jerusalem, who are pained to see what is happening. Even at this stage, Jesus shows concern for them. He warns them that when Jerusalem is later attacked, they will be weeping for themselves and their children.

From the cross, Jesus begs God to pardon his executioners: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And he utters words of forgiveness for the violent

criminal being executed alongside him, who begs: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." The man hears the merciful reply: "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke emphasises the dignity of Christ who dies as a martyr. As he is dying on the cross, he prays: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." His prayer shows that he has accepted the will of his heavenly Father, right to the end.

Even with this terrible death, we hear of one of the Jewish authorities who disagreed with the decision to have Jesus eliminated. After Jesus has died, Joseph of Arimathea gets permission from Pilate to take down the body from the cross and to give Jesus a decent burial before sunset. The holy women also see the tomb where Jesus is buried. This will become important on Easter morning.

**Funeral Services**

**WCP**  
SINCE 1842  
**Walter C. Parson**  
Funeral Directors  
Family run for seven generations  
**01752 767676 • wcp Ltd.com**

**Cotton & Son**  
Independent Family Funeral Directors  
Serving the community of Weymouth, Portland and the surrounding areas for over 100 years.  
**01305 76 76 76**  
✓ Private Chapel of Rest ✓ Bespoke Cremations & Burials ✓ Pre-Payment Plans Available  
Pre-Payment Scheme Available.  
[www.cottonfunerals.co.uk](http://www.cottonfunerals.co.uk)

## Statement: Bishop-elect of Plymouth

At the beginning of November 2024, just before I was to begin my ministry in Plymouth, I let it be known that concerns of a personal nature had been raised, to which I had to attend immediately. This has taken longer than I anticipated.

All things considered, I have come to the decision to present to the Holy Father a request to step down from my appointment as Bishop of the Diocese of Plymouth. The Holy Father has accepted my request.

For the immediate future, I will be taking a sabbatical: a time of prayer and personal reflection, the next stage on the journey of my ministry.

I realise, with regret, that this leaves a continuing vacancy in the Diocese of Plymouth. I assure the lay faithful, clergy and religious of the Diocese of my good wishes and prayers, and ask the same of them for me.

+ Bishop Philip Moger

**RICHARD W. GEGG & SONS**  
Roman Catholic Funeral Directors  
• 24 hour service  
• Private chapels of rest  
47 Rolle Street  
EXMOUTH  
Tel 01395 224040 or 222444  
also serving Budleigh Salterton and surrounding areas.  
**GOLDEN CHARTER PLANS**  
available as part of our service  
**Golden Charter**  
Funeral Plans

**Allwood Independent Funeral Service**  
We offer a sympathetic, caring and personal service to help you prepare a unique and memorable tribute for your loved one.  
**Totnes Office**  
Station Road, Totnes, TQ9 5LF  
**Tel: 01803 862050**  
**South Brent Office**  
14 Station Road, South Brent, TQ10 9BE  
**Tel: 01364 388220**

**K.J. Lack**  
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE  
A funeral service tailored for each family, with a personal and compassionate service to assist you at your time of need.  
**01803 313200**  
• Covering Torbay and surrounding areas  
• Dedicated Chapel of Rest  
• 24-Hour Availability  
• Offering Direct Cremations with care and compassion  
Golden Charter Funeral Plans available  
153 St Marychurch Road, Torquay, TQ1 3HW  
[www.kjlackfuneralservice.co.uk](http://www.kjlackfuneralservice.co.uk)

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



# View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



## Blood will out?

Judas Iscariot intrigues me, and for reasons even preceding his arrival on the scene.

Gaius Julius Caesar was born one hundred years before Christ. Christ may well have known about Caesar and the Ides of March, a time associated with misfortune and doom - around 15 March in our Gregorian calendar - when Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC. Christ may well have learned of the assassination and of Brutus' hand in the deed but the term 'Et tu, Brute', as popularised in the play Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616), may not have so readily come to His mind. Brutus had been seen as a supporter of Caesar. So, who was to know that he had it in him to do what he did? What resentment he must have harboured and let fester in his heart, resentment which was to bind him to the other conspirators.

Judas Iscariot, just as Christ and the other disciples, was a subject of the Roman Empire which Caesar had helped to develop and consolidate. The name 'Iscariot', perhaps being a descriptor of some type, defies any firm consensus as to its meaning or significance. Could it refer to a personal characteristic, place of provenance or a group identity as is the long-established practice here in the UK and elsewhere? A probability proposed in some quarters is that Judas was Ish Kerioth (→ Iscariot?), a 'man from [the town of] Kerioth' of the tribe of Judah (Joshua 15:25-27). But of the life of Judas before the appearance of his name in the lists of the apostles absolutely nothing is known.

I am certainly no Bible scholar, not by a long chalk. However, when it comes to Judas' character, some maintain that he could have been a sort of Barabbas, a bit of a brigand, on the reflection that not all the disciples came from backgrounds deemed whiter than white. So, is what Judas did by betraying Jesus any indication or reflection of his character? The existentialist argument that we are the sum of our acts could hold firm at this



point. On the other hand, Judas, irrespective of his true nature, could have been simply trapped in and trapped by inevitability, a hostage to the destiny with which, as Jesus recognised, Judas was going to comply: 'What you are going to do, do quickly' (John 13:27 JB).

Judas couldn't have been a totally bad guy, surely. After all, Jesus had picked him to be one of the twelve, the group reputedly symbolic of the twelve tribes of Israel which were named after the 12 sons of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. According to biblical texts, Jacob (also known as Israel) was chosen by God to be the patriarch of the Israelite nation. His twelve sons form the patriarchs for the twelve tribes of Israel. Listed oldest to youngest those sons were: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin. According to the Hebrew Bible or Tanakh also known in Hebrew as Miqra, the tribe of Judah, and to which Judas would have belonged, was the first tribe to take its place in the Land of Israel where it was to be found in the southern region. It was a member of that first tribe who was then destined to betray Jesus and subsequently to commit suicide.

Judas' fate, however his suicide was prompted and administered, could have been down to his character or otherwise dictated, forced upon him by

circumstance. Was it to atone that he tried to return those pieces of silver? Albeit an oblique reference to 'nature or nurture', we are surely faced with a dilemma: are we looking at Judas' remorse for the inevitable deed he was to commit or his despair at the predicament he had been obliged to create, figuring so prominently in the ensuing scenario?

One thing is for sure: without Judas as a major actor, crucial in triggering Jesus' path to crucifixion, the Easter story of resurrection as we know it would not be there for us.

So, Happy Easter to one and all!

Acknowledgements and Attribution:  
Accompanying image (Statue with Blowing Horn) after the sculpture Exultate Jubilate by Philip Jackson. Texts/References adapted and/or adopted from <http://en.wikipedia.org> under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License 4.0: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>; Photograph (Unsplash): Pieces of Silver (with grateful thanks to <https://zlataky.cz>)



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

**Our Lady of Fidelity**

The church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignation spirituality. Daily Mass is the centre of community life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses of the consecrated way of life.

If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette

Mature vocations considered.

**CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF FIDELITY**

1 Our Lady's Close, Upper Norwood, London SE19 3FA Telephone 07760 297001

Hookway Surveyors -  
proud to support Diocesan  
Schools and Academies

- Funding Bids
- Cost Planning
- Condition Surveys
- Project Management
- Principal Designer Services
- Advice on Internal Remodelling

T 0117 955 4545  
E [info@hookway.org.uk](mailto:info@hookway.org.uk)  
[www.hookway.org.uk](http://www.hookway.org.uk)



### Female and Male hair replacement system



Call to book a consultation appointment  
**07404060905**  
Salon address  
83A fore street, Torquay TQ1 4PZ  
Email:  
[ariscandshinesalon25@outlook.com](mailto:ariscandshinesalon25@outlook.com)

### Church Pews Uncomfortable?

Why not try

**safefoam**

top quality upholstered foam pew cushions?  
Safeoam, Green Lane, Riley Green,  
Hoghton, Preston PR5 0SN  
[www.safefoam.co.uk](http://www.safefoam.co.uk)

Freephone 0800 015 44 33

Free Sample Pack of Foam & fabrics sent by first class mail.  
When phoning please quote MV101



For all your advertising  
requirements please contact  
Nick on 01440 730399  
[nick@cathcom.org](mailto:nick@cathcom.org)



# Easter 2025 Mass Times

**Our Lady of Lourdes  
& St. Cecilia**  
White Cliff Mill St.,  
Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7BN



**EASTER MASS TIMES**  
**Holy Thursday Mass**  
Thursday 17 April - 19.00  
**Good Friday Liturgy**  
Friday 18 April - 15.00  
**Easter Vigil**  
Saturday 19 April - 20.00  
**Easter Sunday Mass**  
Sunday 20 April - 10.00

**Catholic Church of the Most Precious Blood**  
Radway, Sidmouth, EX10 8TW  
01395 513340

Wishing you all a Holy and Happy Easter  
Everyone is welcome here, no matter who you are,  
or where you are on your faith journey

Easter Services will be celebrated on :  
**Palm Sunday** Vigil Mass - Saturday 5.30pm  
Sunday Mass - 10.30am Process from St Teresa's Hall  
**Maundy Thursday** Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7pm  
**Good Friday** Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3pm  
**Holy Saturday** Easter Vigil - 9.00pm  
**Easter Sunday Mass** - 10.30am  
Details of all other services can be found at  
[www.churchofthepreciousbloodsidmouth.co.uk](http://www.churchofthepreciousbloodsidmouth.co.uk)

  
DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH

  
**BUILDING  
CONSERVATION  
UK LTD**

All Church maintenance  
Specialists in churches and listed buildings  
✉ [danielhussey@me.com](mailto:danielhussey@me.com)  
[www.buildingconservationukltd.com](http://www.buildingconservationukltd.com)

**0800 0521030**

  
**Bluebird Care**  
NEW Devon

Exeter: 01392 426006  
East Devon: 01404 814880  
Exmouth: 01395 570003  
Teignmouth: 01626 335321  
[bluebirdcare.co.uk](http://bluebirdcare.co.uk)





**C.R. Stanley Carpets**  
Large Selection Of Quality Carpets In Stock

We Supply, Measure,  
Deliver & Fit

All Leading Makes Of Carpets  
& Vinyls Supplier

100's of Rolls in Stock

5000 sq. ft. Showroom

Free Estimates • Competitive Prices

HOME SERVICE AVAILABLE

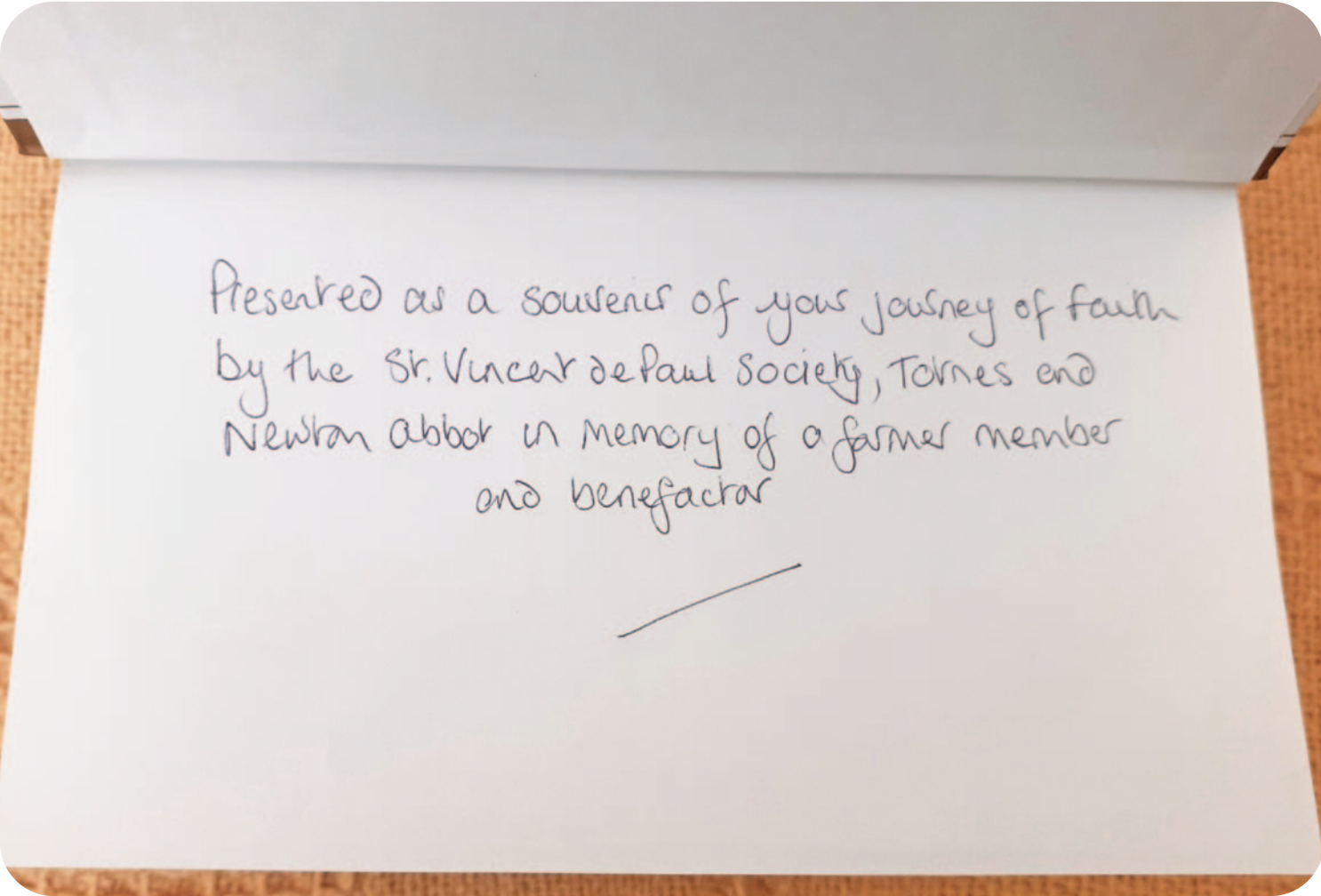
Established Over 25 Years



**For Friendly Advice Call: 01752 776555**  
[www.stanleycarpets.co.uk](http://www.stanleycarpets.co.uk) - 87 Crownhill Rd, Crownhill, Plymouth



# The St Vincent de Paul Society, Totnes and Newton Abbot

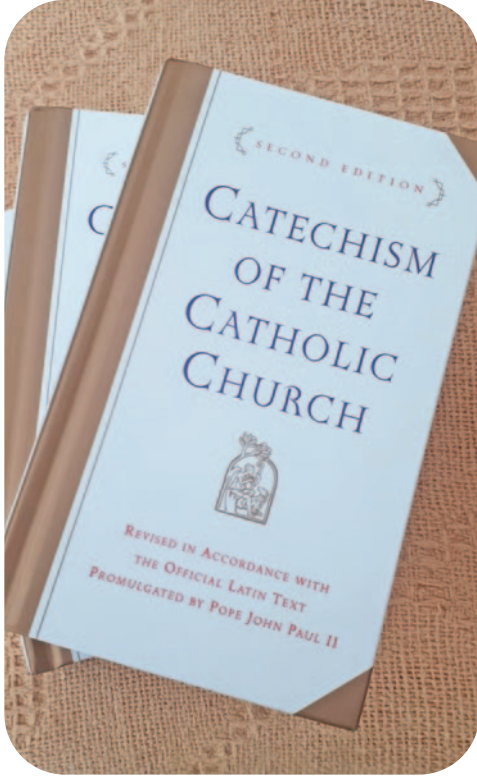



Since its foundation in the 1830s in Paris, the St Vincent de Paul Society has been supporting the poor, sick and marginalised in hundreds of countries around the world, responding to the challenge presented to its student founders by their atheist friends: to demonstrate 'practical Christianity', 'turning concern into action'. In doing so, the SVP puts into practice the true Christian charity inspired by the example of St Vincent de Paul himself.

We make no exceptions: SVP can help all members of society. In many parts of the UK, the SVP visits prisoners, and helps ex-offenders; in recent months, among offenders released early to relieve pressure on overcrowded prisons, SVP has heard of men having no shoes, and many with no accommodation to go to. Our SVP group, the Totnes and Newton Abbot Conference, has HM Prison Channings Wood in our area. One of our members years ago used to be a prison visitor there, and we hope to have a member visiting in the future. In the meantime, over the last year or so we have been able to support the work of the chaplains.

In May 2024 we provided catechisms to three inmates who were in the process of preparing for baptism. In June last year we provided embroidered t-shirts and sweat-shirts for chaplaincy representatives, inmates who assist with chaplaincy activities. Then in the following couple of months we provided four wheelchairs at the request of Father Anthony, Parish Priest at St Joseph's, Newton Abbot, who is chaplain at Channings Wood: they are needed to help disabled inmates attend religious services. So, whilst our SVP members are not yet involved directly in prison visiting, we are able to support the chaplaincy.

Please support your local SVP group: we need your help and prayers... and please consider joining SVP!





**SPUC Branches in the Plymouth Diocese send best wishes to readers of CATHOLIC SOUTH WEST for a Happy Easter**

*"Standing up for life from conception to natural death. Will you stand with us against assisted suicide and be a voice in defending innocent unborn life in 2025?"*

The society for the Protection of Unborn Children

[www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk)  
Local contact:  
Christine Hudson - 07742320717



# First Holy Communion group cake sale in aid of Cafod

Our Parish First Holy Communion children make a special effort each year during Lent to raise money for CAFOD. This Lent we had a cake stall after Mass on the second Sunday. Our 11 children, with the support of their parents, baked and provided an amazing variety of cakes, large and small. We are so grateful to our parishioners who supported this venture and everyone was delighted with our grand total of £145.55.

This will certainly help our brothers and sisters in need across our precious world.

Anne Hall, on behalf of Fr Anthony and our First Communion team, Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Weymouth.



For all your advertising requirements please contact Nick on 01440 730399 [nick@cathcom.org](mailto:nick@cathcom.org)

## Help needed to raise £30,000 to renovate the convent kitchen and refectory



A message from the sisters of Mary Morning Star: 'The Lynton Adventure started 6 years ago when we moved into a convent that needed a lot of care and attention to bring it back to life.

After fixing the leaking roof, installing central heating, and replacing the lead pipes so that we could drink the water from the taps, we are now hoping to modernise the kitchen and replace parts of the wooden floor that have been damaged by leaking water from the sink.

Why not make this fund raising initiative your Lenten almsgiving?

Your generosity can help us to continue our mission to be a presence of joy and prayer at the heart of the Church.

Thank you for supporting contemplative life.

To donate please go to [www.justgiving.com/.../sisters-of-mary-morning-star](http://www.justgiving.com/.../sisters-of-mary-morning-star)



# Want to reduce your Parish Admin?

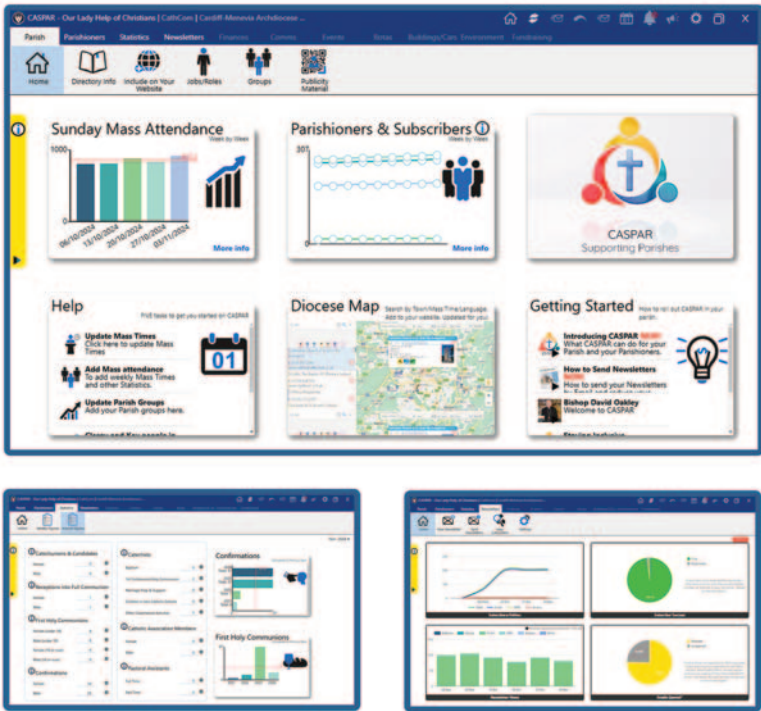


Send your parish newsletter by email or text message

Save Time  
Save Money  
Save Carbon

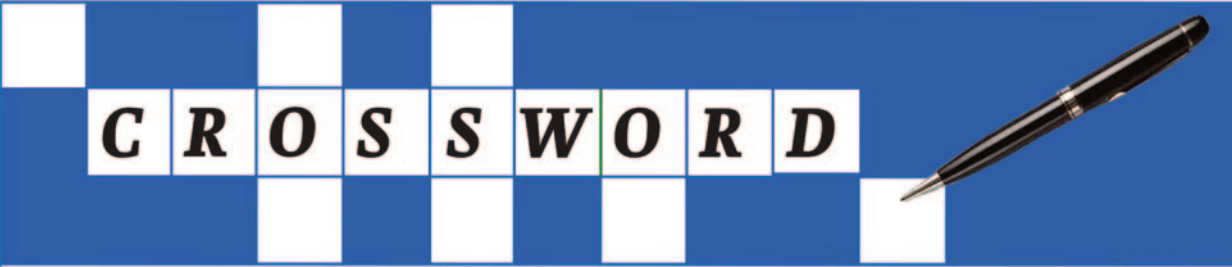
**CASPAR CHURCH**

[www.caspar.church](http://www.caspar.church)



- ## Less Admin - More Ministry

  - Online Parish Census
  - Parishioner Database
  - Automatically Update your Website
- Send Parish Newsletters Online
  - Communicate with Parishioners
  - Encourage New Volunteers



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 7

Henry tracks Tolkien's mine to reach Solomon's temple (6)
- 8

Awful creature! (6)
- 9

Acre in Alaska's fine, in retrospect, for Hebrew port (4)
- 10

He came back after nudge, one by a spirited lass (8)
- 11

This book's dull...also cut (7)
- 13

Irish saint's oddly evoking good old Exodus (5)
- 15

She, unfaithful to the prophet, married raver, it's going round (5)
- 16

Occupation Ulster's withdrawn from, coming to an end (7)
- 18

Psalm setting, before/after? - a tight one (8)
- 19

Spring fast with hospital department appeal ending (4)
- 21

One of Cain's descendants turned bad in Paris, taking 17's heart (6)
- 22

Unwanted buildup of swabbies, one on top of the other (6)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1

City that's ultimately shabby, on the other hand is the capital of Kosovo (4)
- 2

Some versions have this chap meeting Jesus in hero's temple in error (5,3,5)
- 3

Guy retired after return of writer's block (7)
- 4

Doctor regularly looks into muscles - they used to read a lot from them (5)
- 5

Hear old priest's moving 'Hallelujah' (6,3,4)
- 6

Someone Paul addressed after show, one decked in brown (8)

- 12

Oxford guy, a leading chap, who's been to Mecca to get David's boy (8)
- 14

Graduate is, with anger over race, wearing a clerical head covering (7)
- 17

New report supports pharaoh who killed Josiah (5)
- 20

Arkwright's circle is embraced by revolutionary dynasty (4)

QUICK Across

- 7

Mountains where Abraham was told to sacrifice Isaac (6)
- 8

Deadly; subject to death (6)
- 9

Variation in spelling of Acre in the OT (4)
- 10

Infamous son as described in Jesus' parable (8)
- 11

One of the Synoptic Gospels (7)
- 13

St ----- of Glendalough, Co Wicklow, d 618? (5)
- 15

Son of Japheth and wife of Hosea bearing the same name [Gen] (5)
- 16

Occupation of the apostle brothers Andrew and Simon Peter (7)
- 18

Common designation of Psalm 51, set to music by Allegri and others (8)
- 19

Post-Shrovetide fast (4)
- 21

Descendant of Cain: 20's father (6)
- 22

Fearsome person: kind of sauce (6)

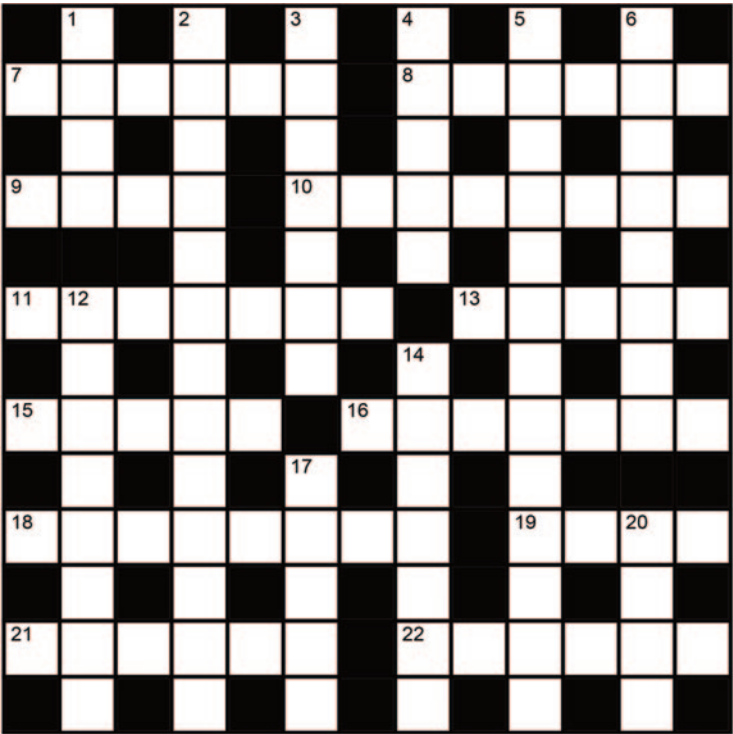
QUICK Down

- 1

Archbishopric second only to Canterbury in importance in the C of E (4)
- 2

Popular name of a Pharisee, possibly, who hosted Jesus in Bethany (5,3,5)
- 3

Meeting of a knightly order (7)



- 4

Pulpits or reading desks in early Christian churches (5)
- 5

English translation of 'Hallelujah!' (6,3,4)
- 6

Citizen of an NT Roman province (8)
- 12

Fourth son of David (8)
- 14

Cap worn commonly by RC clerics (7)
- 17

Pharaoh, the slayer of Josiah at Megiddo (5)
- 20

Captain for 40 days and nights (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 7 Moriah, 8 Mortal, 9 Akko, 10 Prodigal, 11 Matthew, 13 Adonijah, 14 Biretta, 17 Necho, 20 Noah.  
Down: 1 Arkh, 2 Simon, 3 Chapter, 4 Ambos, 5 Praise the Lord, 6 Galatian, 7 Lamech, 8 Tartar, 9 Lament, 10 Miserere, 11 Lent, 12 Gomer, 13 Fishing, 14 Miserere, 15 Lent, 16 Gomer, 17 Fishing, 18 Miserere, 19 Lent, 20 Gomer, 21 Fishing, 22 Miserere.