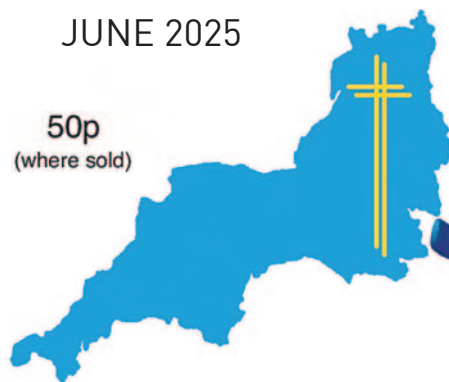


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Catholic **South West**

Serving the Church in the South West



Inside



Relics Cathedral Tour
Page 2



Laudato Si
Page 5



**Pope Francis' final
gift to Gaza**
Page 6



Pope Leo Biography
Page 7

Pope Leo XIV





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.

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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

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before 10th of the month

Pilgrim Visit of the Virgin Statue and Relics to Plymouth Cathedral



The World Apostolate of Fatima in England and Wales has arranged for the two National Statues of Our Lady of Fatima to visit the Cathedrals of England and Wales between May 2025 and October 2026. The Pilgrim Virgin Statue and Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco visited the Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Boniface, Plymouth, on 10 May 2025. The programme started at 10.00 am. This Visitation is a particular remembrance of the apparition to Sr Lucia, the oldest Fatima seer, which took place in December 1925 when she was a postulant with the Sisters of St Dorothy at Pontevedra in Spain.

The Blessed Virgin appeared with the Child Jesus and gave more details of the devotion of reparation which she had mentioned to the shepherd children during the July 1917 apparition.

You can see more details about this Five First Saturdays devotion by scanning the QR code.



It is providential that this celebration coincides with the larger celebration of the Church's Jubilee year, which has the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope."

The Visitation included a number of different events, including:

- Procession of the Fatima Pilgrim Virgin Statue.
- Enthronement and Crowning of the Fatima statue.
- Holy Mass will followed the enthronement.
- The opportunity to venerate the relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco.
- The Rosary will be prayed with the intention of world peace.
- Informative talks and videos about Fatima were presented.
- Participants can enrolled in the Brown Scapular devotion.
- The Visitation concludes with a Holy Hour and Benediction.

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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Some reflections on Pope Leo XIV from our Diocesan Administrator



The first words of the new Pope Leo in his opening address to the world from the balcony over St Peter's square were of peace; "Peace be with all of you. This is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd. Who gave his life for God's flock." Pope Leo also spoke of building bridges and the importance of dialogue, "We can be a missionary Church, a church that builds bridges, that is always open to everyone." He also emphasised a continuity with Pope Francis by referencing him directly, "Thank you Pope Francis!" he said. These words give us an insight into the kind of Pope Leo wishes to be, bringing continuity and his own insight into the needs of the Church.

Cardinal Vincent spoke to the press after the Conclave. Among other things, he mentioned that the relatively rapid decision was a sign of the level of agreement amongst the Cardinal electors. This is a very positive sign for the future of the Church. It looks like Pope Leo has many of the qualities you would look for in

a shepherd; He has international experience. He was born in Chicago to a French father and an Italian mother. He worked among the poor in Peru. He has as been a teacher, Parish Priest, Bishop, Archbishop and Cardinal. Latterly he has worked in the Curia (Vatican offices) in Rome.

He has a passion for the poor and the marginalised. His choice of name, Leo, maybe relates to Leo 13th who was the father of modern Catholic social teaching. Leo 13th wrote the papal document *Rerum Novarum* ('Of revolutionary change'), on the rights of workers and the need for the Church to involve itself in promoting social justice in the light of the Industrial Revolution. Leo is perhaps indicating his desire for the Church to reach out to those who are suffering as a consequence of economic and social depravity in today's world

Pope Leo is a proven leader. He has served as Superior of the Augustinians, elected by his peers (which is a sign the

of the esteem his fellows held him in). He was a Bishop in Peru and was elected as the vice president of the Bishop's conference in Peru. He has been a member of the Curia, serving in many roles in the Vatican, most recently as Prefect of the Dicastery of Bishops – the office that chooses Bishops, a very respected role.

Pope Leo is known as a humble pastor. In his opening address to the Cardinals who elected him, he said, 'I am a son of Saint Augustine, an Augustinian, who said, "with you I am a Christian, for you a bishop". So may we all walk together towards that homeland that God has prepared for us.' He later quoted St Ignatius who said that people who exercise authority in the Church should, "make oneself small so that he (Christ) may be known and glorified." In this way, Pope Leo is emphasising that he is a servant of Christ, and not one to lord it over others on account of his role.

The motto that Pope Leo has chosen, 'In illo uno unum' can be translated as, 'In him who is one, we are one' or 'In the one Christ, we are one.' So, unity with Christ is very much part of his way of thinking. As a bridge-builder (the word Pontiff comes from a Latin word meaning bridgebuilder), Pope Leo is reaching out to us all, welcoming all as he did in his opening address, and calling us all into unity with Christ. I find this vision inspiring, and full of hope.

May God bless Pope Leo in his ministry, fill him with wisdom, courage and insight, and deepen his relationship with the True Shepherd and Servant King, Jesus Christ.

God bless you.

Paul Cummins
Diocesan Administrator
Diocese of Plymouth

Photo © Marcin Mazur/CBCEW

Parish Safeguarding Representatives Conference



On Saturday we held our annual Parish Safeguarding Representatives Conference at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre. Over 40 Parish Safeguarding Representatives were in attendance from across the diocese.

The theme of this year's conference was Modern Slavery, and was entitled, 'Hidden Journeys – Unveiling exploitation in the UK'. The day was led by Deborah Fisher and Alex Miranda, from the diocese's Caritas team, as well as Rev. Edwina Fennemore from the Clewer Institute.

In the morning Deborah spoke about Catholic Social Teaching on modern slavery. Edwina then outlined what modern slavery might look like in our diocese and how to share concerns safely. Edwina emphasised the need to work together ecumenically.

One of our parish priests, Fr Victor Agbaka spoke about situations where someone was at risk of exploitation, and

the need to be aware of cultural differences that might make it hard to tell someone what is happening to them.

In the afternoon, Alex gave a presentation about what we can do in our communities to protect and support people that may be victims of modern slavery. She emphasised that it was important to inform the Safeguarding Office about any concerns.

During the day the opportunity was taken to thank our Parish Safeguarding Representatives who have been in role for 10 years or more for the service they give voluntarily in their parish.

This included:
10 years service –
3 Parish Safeguarding Representatives
11 years service –
3 Parish Safeguarding Representatives
12 years service –
3 Parish Safeguarding Representatives
15 years service –

2 Parish Safeguarding Representatives
16 years service –
3 Parish Safeguarding Representatives
17 years service –
2 Parish Safeguarding Representatives
19 years service –
3 Parish Safeguarding Representatives
20 years service –
7 Parish Safeguarding Representatives

A new award has been created to recognise outstanding contributions made to safeguarding in the diocese. The award is called 'The Saint Germaine Award in recognition of contribution to safeguarding in the Diocese of Plymouth'. This award was created in recognition of Bob Brown, the former Safeguarding Coordinator for the diocese, who retired from the role earlier this year after 14 years. The first recipient of the award is Geoff Provis, who was a longstanding Parish Safeguarding Representative, that was proactive and diligent in this role for many years and helped to shape the role

that it has become today. We are thankful to Geoff and to all of our Parish Safeguarding Representatives who work hard, often behind the scenes, in our churches. If you have any concerns that you would



Geoff Provis receiving the The Saint Germaine Award

like to discuss with the Safeguarding Office please call 01364 645430 (Monday to Friday, 9:00am – 4:30pm).

Laudato Si 2025 – Young artists start a conversation

In the run up to the 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si we wanted to share some of the art and reflections of three very special young artists from Notre Dame school, who worked together last year to produce a triptych focusing on the fragile balance that we find ourselves in across the world today. Tanya Trevena, Caritas Development Worker, caught up with Giuliana, Niamh and Lexi, and asked them about their work.

You illustrated the statistic that 'since the 1970s there has been 60% decline in all wildlife'. How did that make you feel?
"I thought we need to look up where it is happening and the part of the world that we need to protect more and raise awareness about more".

"In the middle of my image is a timer to show how we're running out of time, there is the extinction of animals and also the world is rapidly getting destroyed. We need to have a nice side of life, illustrated by the dove who's flying freely. Then we need to sort out something about what's going on behind the curtains, I mean that some people will disregard what's going on in the world and they'll just see the goodness. But there's also badness that they won't look at, because their main focus is everything that's nice and they'll just ignore everything that's bad."

"We talk about the good things we never talk about the bad things, but with this art piece, we need to show it to them. We need to talk to more people about what's happening. I hope people may see it and say, 'Oh, that looks amazing, but what's the story behind that?' And then that can start a conversation."

"I believe we definitely all need to talk, because there's a lack of it and when people do mention it, some people push away from it. But I feel like we need some social circles that will talk about the message and then, maybe like us, make an art piece about it and show it somewhere where it's more public so people can start those conversations. People can start fighting for what's right in the world -what's better."

"I feel like it's definitely made us think about all the animals that get killed. They're cutting down forests and destroying their habitats. I've seen videos, where fishes are losing their habitat and that really hurt me because I thought, 'Oh, so we're living happily in houses, but then animals that have been here longer than us, they don't have that, because it's been taken away from them.' Why are we taking that?"



Did you enjoy the project?

"Yeah, it was fun to make an art piece that would stand out and start the conversations. You've got to think more deeply, that can show what's going on in the world. The deer represents what we are losing and shows how something will go extinct the more that we kill them."

"I like that art does most of the speaking."

The Laudato Si exhibition provided visitors with the opportunity to see pieces that had been created by all of our CAST schools in the city of Plymouth. Each display was part of a prayer walk around the Cathedral and was accompanied by questions to ponder and suggestions of ways to put small changes into our lifestyle to lessen our impact on this earth and start to Care for Creation.

If you missed the exhibition, please scan the QR Code below and follow the links to three short videos and take a mini prayer walk of your own around each vital topic.



We have a new exhibition this year featuring photographs from around the Diocese reflecting on the beauty of God's creation.

If you would like to know more about the work of Caritas or are interested in seeing what your parish could do to make an even bigger impact in Caring for Creation, then please do get in touch caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

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The Popemobile of Peace: Pope Francis' final gift to Gaza

This was one of Pope Francis' final wishes. He entrusted the initiative to Caritas Jerusalem, seeking to respond to the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where nearly one million children have been displaced. Amid the horrific war, collapsed infrastructure, a mutilated healthcare system and lack of education, children are the first to pay the price, with starvation, infections and other preventable conditions putting their lives at risk.

Pope Francis often stated: "Children are not numbers. They are faces. Names. Stories. And each one is sacred", and with this final gift, his words have become action.

The repurposed popemobile is being outfitted with equipment for diagnosis, examination and treatment - including rapid tests for infections, diagnostic instruments, vaccines, suture kits, and other life-saving supplies. It will be staffed by doctors and medics, reaching children

in the most isolated corners of Gaza once humanitarian access to the strip is restored.

In a press release, Peter Brune, Secretary General of Caritas Sweden, writes: "with the vehicle, we will be able to reach children who today have no access to health care - children who are injured and malnourished".

"This is a concrete, life-saving intervention at a time when the health system in Gaza has almost completely collapsed", he added.

Caritas Jerusalem, which has long served Gaza's communities under difficult conditions, is leading the on-the-ground effort. With over one hundred staff members committed to healthcare delivery, the organisation is now building on the Pope's legacy of compassion and strength whilst bringing his final blessing to the people of Gaza.




Turning the popemobile into a health clinic Caritas

"This vehicle represents the love, care and closeness shown by His Holiness for the most vulnerable, which he expressed throughout the crisis," said Anton Asfar, Secretary General of Caritas Jerusalem.


In photos released from the project, the vehicle appears to have been carefully

adapted to fit the needs of those most in need.

But "it's not just a vehicle," Brune said. "It's a message that the world has not forgotten about the children in Gaza." And it is also an invitation: that the rest of the world remember, too.



Answer the call: Teach in a Catholic School



Are you a Catholic, or are you motivated by working in an organisation with strong Christian values and a commitment to inclusion and moral purpose? Have you considered bringing your skills, experience, passion and faith into a Catholic setting? Now is the time to explore how you can make a real difference to children's lives in the Diocese of Plymouth and work for a school Trust who are driven by our mission and Gospel values. Come and work in our Plymouth CAST Catholic schools!

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- Who can inspire children to achieve their full potential.

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- Join our talent pool, send your CV to Personnel@plymouthcast.org.uk

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Robert Francis Prevost: From Missionary Bishop to Pope Leo XIV

Robert Francis Prevost, known to the world today as Pope Leo XIV, was born on 14 September 1955 in Chicago, Illinois, into a culturally rich and devout Catholic family. His father, Louis Marius Prevost, was of French and Italian heritage, and his mother, Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. This multicultural background would later shape not only his pastoral sensitivity but also his language skills.

Early Formation and Religious Life

Prevost's religious vocation began early. His brother, Lou, recalls that from a very early age whilst other children were playing soldiers, Robert was role playing being a priest. He entered the minor seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and later studied at Villanova University, an Augustinian institution in Pennsylvania. There, he earned a degree in mathematics in 1977. That same year, he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in Saint Louis, making his first profession in 1978 and solemn vows in 1981.

His theological formation was undertaken at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. In 1982, he was ordained a priest in Rome at the Augustinian College of Saint Monica. He was just 26 years old. From the outset, Prevost's ministry was marked by international engagement, rigorous scholarship, and an unwavering commitment to the Church's mission in the developing world.



Robert Prevost School Photo

Missionary Work in Peru

Prevost's years in Peru remain one of the defining periods of his life. He arrived in Chulucanas in 1985 and soon after moved to Trujillo, where he served as formation director, prior, and judicial vicar for the Archdiocese. His pastoral work included service in impoverished neighbourhoods, where he founded and administered parishes such as Our Lady Mother of the Church and Our Lady of Monserrat. His



Robert Prevost with Pope John Paul II

deep immersion in Peruvian society and Church life earned him a reputation for compassion, simplicity, and effectiveness. In 1999, he returned to the United States and was elected Provincial Prior of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Chicago. Just two years later, he was chosen as Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine, a role he held for two terms from 2001 to 2013. During his leadership, he visited Augustinian communities in over 50 countries and promoted intercultural dialogue and formation.

Language Skills

Prevost's linguistic fluency is one of his most defining and practical attributes as a leader of a global Church. He speaks English, Spanish, Italian, and Latin fluently. Growing up in a multilingual household, he was naturally exposed to different languages. His years in Peru made Spanish his daily working language, both in the classroom and in pastoral settings.

In Rome, where he pursued graduate studies and later worked in senior Vatican roles, he developed complete fluency in Italian and scholarly proficiency in Latin. His capacity to preach, teach, and govern in multiple languages has made him an effective communicator, capable of fostering trust and unity across diverse cultural and linguistic contexts.

Why 'Leo'?

In his first address to the cardinals on 10 May, Pope Leo said that there were a number of reasons for choosing the name

Leo "but mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his historic Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution." Pope Leo XIII, whose papacy ran from 1878 to 1903, had as his central focus, the conditions of the working classes against the backdrop of the industrial revolution.

Pope Leo went on to say "In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defence of human dignity, justice and labour,"

Papacy

Pope Leo XIV brings a unique combination of experience and vision to the papacy. With a deep commitment to unity, his episcopal motto, *In Illo uno unum* ("In the one Christ we are one"), reflects his dedication to fostering reconciliation and strengthening the Church's global unity. Having spent significant time as a missionary in Peru, he understands the challenges facing diverse regions of the Church and is likely to prioritise a global, inclusive approach, with particular attention to Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

His extensive academic background, especially in canon law and theology, suggests a papacy focused on the education and formation of clergy, ensuring they are well-equipped for contemporary pastoral challenges. Pope

Leo XIV is also likely to continue advocating for interfaith dialogue, building on his years of experience with the Vatican's Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

With a history of working in impoverished areas, it is likely that his focus will be on social justice, addressing poverty and inequality and promoting human rights. Additionally, his papacy will likely continue the Church's commitment to environmental stewardship, building on the legacy of Pope Francis.

Photos courtesy of the
Midwest Augustinian Province of
Our Mother of Good Counsel



Image CBCEW

Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



The Spirit at Work

"The Apostles were poor men, young men, at the time of their calling – perhaps before the descent of the Holy Ghost not cleverer than some of you here." These words from a teacher inspired Edward Elgar to compose his oratorio, *The Apostles* (1903), expressing in music the impact of the Holy Spirit on the first followers of Christ.

On Pentecost Sunday (8th June) we celebrate the Holy Spirit's coming on those first Galilean disciples, gathered for prayer in the upper room. Besides the eleven disciples with Matthias, there were also Our Lady and the holy women joining in this prayer.

The coming of the Holy Spirit was marked by audible and visible signs. The disciples heard the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and they saw tongues of fire that came to rest on each of them. They began proclaiming God's mighty works in languages that others could understand.

Many Jews from across the Mediterranean had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast. No matter where they came from, they heard the apostles speaking their own language. The implication was clear: Christ's message is not just to stay in Jerusalem but to be spread far and wide.

Before ascending into heaven, Christ had told the apostles about the future impact of the Holy Spirit's coming: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria – and to the end of the earth." The Acts of the Apostles shows how this began to happen.

In the early chapters of Luke's second volume, we read of Peter and the other apostles proclaiming the good news of Christ's resurrection. We also read of the early Christian community gathering for prayer and sharing their possessions with those in need. We hear of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, imitating Christ in his death.

Later we hear of the great persecutor Saul encountering the risen Christ on the

road to Damascus: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" As a result of this encounter, under the name of Paul (meaning Little One), he brings Christ's message all over the eastern Mediterranean. The Acts of the Apostles ends with Paul arriving in Rome, considered by some ancient Jews as the end of the earth.

In the subsequent centuries, we find the Holy Spirit inspiring the spread of Christ's message all across the Roman empire and even beyond it. After the martyrdom of St Alban, we find the Christian gospel spreading across Britain and Ireland, through saints like Augustine of Canterbury, Ninian, Patrick, and many others.

Over the centuries, we find the Holy Spirit inspiring the founders of religious orders, including Benedict, Francis of Assisi, Dominic, and Ignatius Loyola. In the Carmelite tradition, we find God's Spirit inspiring Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, and Edith Stein.

We also find the Holy Spirit inspiring the care for the sick through dedicated religious congregations and lay carers. And we find God's Spirit inspiring education for the young through religious communities and lay teachers.

In recent centuries we see the Holy Spirit inspiring missionaries to bring Christ's message to distant lands – indeed, to the end of the earth. As a result, we now have priests from Africa and India and the Far East ministering in Britain.

Today also, the Holy Spirit inspires us to give our witness to Christ through our words and also through our actions of kindness and care. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us, so that we can play our part in renewing the face of the earth. "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love."

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View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



Bairns or weans. Come on, hen!

The Sunday Times recently carried an article by David Leask, a Times and Sunday Times news reporter based in Scotland. The article, 'My life as a priest in modern Scotland? It's a bit like Father Ted', introduced Fr Mark O'Donnell to the paper's readership. Fr Mark - 35, 6ft 4in, oft times bearded and now five years into his vocation (see inset) - is parish priest at St Aloysius in Chapelhall, an old mining village just off the M8 between Glasgow and Edinburgh. He is also school chaplain to St Margaret's High, in Airdrie, where he used to teach maths.

In Leask's article, perhaps still downloadable, Fr Mark identifies his and our joint nation's status quo: cultures in conflict, growing atheism and secularism but against all of which Catholicism is reportedly showing resilience with children and young people returning to the faith. Some 95,000 across Scotland attend weekly Mass as opposed to 60,000 attending Scottish Kirk services. Those two sets of adherents are marked to this day by their use of language.

It was at Fr Mark's parish church that my wife - a Chapelhall lassie, born and bred - and I were married. She then came back with me, down south of Hadrian's wall.

Commenced in AD 122, Hadrian's Wall (pictured) marked the northernmost border in these isles of the Roman Empire and was designed to protect and defend against marauding raiders from the north, perhaps such as the like from Chapelhall and beyond (I jest!). It was the former

defensive fortification of the Roman province of Britannia - never representing the Anglo-Scottish border - and stood up to 15 feet on completion, straddling the 73 miles in northern England between Wallsend on the River Tyne in the east and Bowness-on-Solway in the west.

Hadrian's Wall had been the extent of the Pax Romana. Under that umbrella, Latin would have been the lingua franca by which Rome administered and controlled her sovereign territory which she considered she ruled by divine right.

Language, interestingly enough, is the only social institution without which none other can function. So language brings cohesion, however that be administered. Language is the cement to the various bricks which go to build a society, be that at the micro level (of a group, club, trade, profession ...) or at the macro level of a religion, nation state, political union or empire. Little wonder then that any such congeries sets its own jargon, lingo or language as the identifier for the bonding, the kinship between its members. The greater the adherence to the one language, then the greater the cohesion across membership and practices. The Spanish Empire, the Muslim Empire, the British Empire, the Zulu, Portuguese, Russian Empires and others, not forgetting the Roman Empire, bear witness to the phenomenon that language bonds, a phenomenon reflected in the one-time universal use of Latin across our Church.

After the publication of the 1962 edition of the Roman Missal, the 1964 Instruction on implementing the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council interestingly then laid down that 'normally the epistle and gospel from the Mass of the day shall be read in the vernacular', perhaps thereby spreading a sense of ownership - as some would have it - but perhaps thereby fracturing small-c-catholic cohesion, as others might argue.

Jesus, of course, would have been brought up in a multilingual environment. Aramaic, a Semitic tongue, would have been his native language. Latin, was the language of the controlling power of Rome and probably very much to the annoyance of many at Jesus' time. The language of Rome was very much at variance with and posturing against Greek at the time, preceding the East-West



Fr Mark O'Donnell

Schism, also known as the Great Schism or the Schism of 1054, which was to break communion between the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

The language we use and the way we use it, can often prompt emotions, ideas or conclusions in others. Language selection in a bilingual or pluri/multi-lingual environment can have dramatic consequences. It can flag up, identify and bond ... as well as alienate.

George Bernard Shaw in Pygmalion wrote about language, English and the English in particular: 'The English have no respect for their language, ... and it is impossible for an Englishman to open his mouth without making some other Englishman despise him.'

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

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JUBILEE 2025



PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pilgrimage of Hope Diary: Our Lady and St Neot, Liskeard

On Wednesday 19th March 2025 our Parish visited St Cuthbert Mayne RC Church Launceston. As you can see from the photos there was a very good turnout and there were representatives from all our four churches, and we were very warmly welcomed to the church. We opened with prayers and sang: 'Make me a channel of thy peace' with organ accompaniment. We were then invited to come forward and venerate the relic of St Cuthbert Mayne, after which we said the very emotive Litany of St Cuthbert Mayne.

Afterwards, we were allowed to walk around the church at leisure and have our passports stamped. This is the first Holy Door in our Diocese we have visited, celebrating the late Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Hope. Finally, we gathered in the parish hall for light refreshments, reflection, and to renew old acquaintances.

On 23rd April 2025, our St Neots Group hosted a talk by Caritas (Plymouth Diocese) on 'Modern Day Slavery' - an eye-opening and emotive topic. Myth: Slavery is a Thing of the Past. Fact: No, it is not. Slavery has ancient roots in history and still exists today in many different forms. There are more people in slavery today than at any other time in history. "What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor?" declares the Lord God of hosts. Isaiah 3:15

The late Pope Francis' stated aim was to "... free the victims of the new forms of slavery... to unmask the traffickers and those who create this market, and to offer effective assistance... for the promotion of human dignity, that it may be able to draw out the best of every person and of every citizen."



Who are today's victims? Women and men, boys and girls are bought and sold worldwide. They may be living in poverty, unaccompanied children, migrants or people displaced by conflict. They are abused in many ways: Forced Labour and Begging; Domestic Servitude; Child Soldiers; Organ Removal; Sexual Exploitation and Forced Marriage. No-one knows the true scale of modern slavery - but 1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children.

Modern Slavery is happening here in the UK, hidden in plain sight. There are actions we can take:

- 1} Write to your MP ask them to encourage our government to continue their commitment to tackling modern day slavery.
- 2} Support Stella Maris and their work to tackle modern slavery affecting seafarers.
- 3} Organize for a speaker from Caritas Diocese of Plymouth to talk to your parish.
- 4} Explore what you can do to raise awareness and take action for those enslaved at home and abroad.
- 5} Find out about the Catholic Church's campaign against Trafficking and Slavery. Thanks to our talk we learnt: What Modern Day Slavery is, how to recognize it and what to do!

On 14th May we will be visiting St Mary and St Boniface, Cathedral, Plymouth, the second of our Holy Doors. We will have space to reflect and pray and have our passports stamped.

After Mass on Mothering Sunday 30th March, we distributed our daffodil posies to all the four churches in our parish, honouring all mothers remembering their unwavering love and the role they play in our lives, and we also remembered Mary, the mother of God, as a model of maternal love and intercession. Fr Cyriacus handed out personally a posy to every lady in the congregations after each Mass and then encouraged all gentlemen present to take one home for their mothers or neighbours. All the posies were kindly made by volunteers in the St Neot room the day before.

During the Triduum (Holy Week) at our Holy Saturday service (19th April) all four churches from our parish gathered at Our Lady and St Neot, Liskeard. The choir was led by Sclerder Abbey Choir and the singing was heavenly. Two were baptized, and two were received into the Catholic church - all from our parish.

Every Thursday evening, we have Exposition, Silent Prayer and Divine Mercy Litany before the Blessed Sacrament. May we heed the Lord's invitation: "Come to me" - by kneeling before the Tabernacle; "Could you not watch one hour with Me?" Every first Saturday of the month, we have Open Church at Liskeard. Please come and light a candle, have a quiet prayer or have a chat. Complementary Tea/coffee and biscuits. All very welcome. "Be still and know that I am God."

Article written by Rosemarie de Boyer



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TAIZÉ by Sea

Taizé is synonymous with a genre of music that is both spiritual and meditative and is played regularly at services around the world. Taizé is also associated with young people and a strong sense of ecumenism. Indeed, Brother Roger Schütz, the founder of the community based in Taizé, France wrote: "In my youth I was astonished to see how Christians - who nevertheless live from a God of love - use so much energy to justify their separations. So, I said to myself that it was essential to create a community where people search to understand one another and to be reconciled with one another always, and through this, to render visible a little parable of communion."



Brother Roger 1915 -2005

What followed is well known: attracted by the simplicity of the prayer and the life of the community, touched by the trust of the Brothers, tens of thousands of young adults come to Taizé every year, to ask their questions, to cry out their suffering, share their hopes, discover that Christ loves them, learn to live in the communion of the Church and to become makers of peace.

Thus, the community and the young people seek to manifest the reconciliation to which Christ calls us, between Christians and with all our fellow human beings. The Brothers are not unaware of the laborious theological dialogues or of the meetings - official and often significant - between Church leaders, but they have first of all to propose the Good News to the young people and means for them to experience it.

In a Jubilee year with the theme Pilgrims of Hope, Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Exmouth thought Taizé would be a good place to start. With the support of the Coastal Churches of Exmouth, a loose collective of churches within Exmouth and its surrounding area, they hosted a candlelit Taizé service on March 18th. The focus of the service was underpinned by Brother Roger's vision and sought to build Christian Unity with a particular emphasis on building up a cohort of young Christians in the town. In keeping with

Taizé the service was aimed at those in the 15- to 35-year-old age bracket. Some 500 flyers were distributed that included a QR code that recipients were encouraged to look at and contained a short film about Taizé. This alone we hope sowed a few seeds!

Scan the QR code to watch the trailer about the community



The flyer also gave details about Brother Roger Schütz the founder of the Taizé Community who was sadly murdered in his church at the age of 90 in 2005. He nevertheless remains an inspiring figure, especially for the young, having started his community at the age of just 25 during the Second World War.

Despite significant publicity and a lot of hard work the number of young people attending was quite modest. Nevertheless some 85 people did attend with many of the young people taking leading roles in



Photo Courtesy of Tanya Trevena

organising and conducting the service. A live band led with a range of Taizé songs, interspersed with readings reflecting the passion and death of Jesus, short periods of silence and a short drama. The church was in subdued lighting enhanced by a kaleidoscope of candles in different coloured glass jars. Participants were also encouraged to place a lighted candle on the Taizé cross placed on the sanctuary in front of the altar.

The service concluded with three praise and worship songs, a blessing from our Parish Priest Father Philip, and a highly successful reception in the church hall. Perhaps the greatest legacy will be a real affirmation of ecumenism that was apparent in both the preparation and the conduct of the service, and despite the challenges, a growing determination to evangelise the young people of Exmouth.

Bill Morrell



CAFOD commissioned an icon for the Jubilee Year 2025



In order to celebrate and commemorate the Jubilee Year 2025, Pilgrims of Hope, CAFOD commissioned an icon from artist Mulugeta Araya in Ethiopia, for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Ethiopia was chosen because of the strong tradition of iconography within the country and to demonstrate that this is a global Jubilee - not just something that is happening in England and Wales.

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