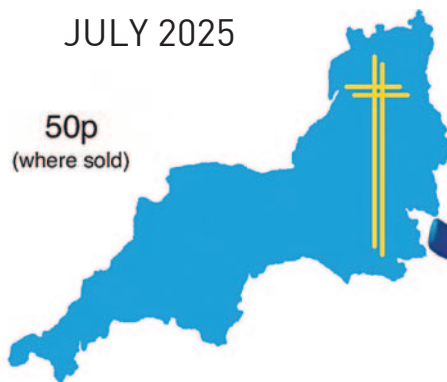


JULY 2025

50p  
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# Catholic South West

Serving the Church in the South West



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CONTACTS & DETAILS

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

AIMS

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

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Readers: If you can encourage other readers in your parish please do so.  
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A wonderful celebration Mass



A wonderful celebration of Mass recently took place to give thanks for the ministry of Fr Jonathan Stewart and Fr Anthony Onuoha over the last 25 years. In his homily, Canon Paul Cummins quoted Pope Leo who met Rome's Priests this week

"I thank you for your lives given in service to the Kingdom, for your daily labours, for so much generosity in the exercise of the ministry, for all that you live in silence, and that at times is accompanied by suffering or misunderstanding."

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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# Pilgrimage of Hope – Holy Door 2 St Mary & St Boniface Cathedral Plymouth



On Wednesday 14th May 2025, twenty-two people from Liskeard, Sclerder Abbey, and Saltash, visited St Mary & St Boniface Cathedral Plymouth, where we were very warmly received by the Legion of Mary. As part of our St Neot Group, Liskeard, who were doing our second open door – part of our Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year programme in the Diocese of Plymouth. We were given a detailed tour and talk on the history of the cathedral and then had the opportunity to have our passports stamped – Pilgrim Bear Francis had his passport stamped too!

We were able to see the Jubilee Icon by Ethiopian artist Mulugeta Araya – commissioned by CAFOD to celebrate and commemorate the Jubilee Year 2025, Pilgrims of Hope. Unfortunately, we were unable to see the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, a hand craved statue blessed by Pope John Paul II in 1982, which had left on Monday for the next tour destination St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Fortunately, 3 people from Liskeard visited the

cathedral on Saturday 10th May 2025 and were able to see the statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

We then said a prayer of thanks; a prayer for the new Pope Leo XIV; the Jubilee Prayer and a Prayer for Peace and we sang 'Make me a channel of thy peace. The Legion of Mary then led us in a decade of the 'Glorious Mysteries' Rosary.

We then retired to the parish room for refreshments, reflection and where we had a catch up with old acquaintances and the opportunity to make new ones.

Finally, we returned to the cathedral for the 'Divine Mercy' before saying our goodbyes and returning to Liskeard.

On Sunday 18th May 2025 we warmly welcomed at our 11 o'clock Mass in Liskeard the Mayor of Liskeard Christina Whitty and the Councilors of Liskeard.

On Saturday 31st May 2025 we began the



society of The Legion of Mary in our Parish, 3 of our four churches were represented to form a Praesidium on the Visitation of The Blessed Virgin Mary, two members of the Legion of Mary from the Plymouth Curia, along with Fr Cyriacus joined us for our first meeting. Weekly meetings will be held every Tuesday at 11:00am.

As part of the Diocese of Plymouth, Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year 2025, on Sunday 1st June 2025 Fr Cyriacus from Our Lady and St Neot, Liskeard exchanged pulpits with Fr Mark Skelton from Most Holy Trinity, Newquay. Both priests were warmly welcomed by both churches.



# Flores De Mayo 2025

"Flores de Mayo," which translates to "Flowers of May" in Spanish, is a month-long Catholic Marian devotion to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. It involves daily prayers, floral offerings, and processions, culminating in the Santacruzán, a religious-historical beauty pageant that reenacts the finding of the True Cross.







# Jubilee Year at Holy Trinity Church, Dorchester

## A Celebration of Faith and Community

The Jubilee Year at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Dorchester, has been a profound and joyous journey, embracing parishioners of all ages in faith, fellowship, and service. Under the spiritual leadership of Father Babu Francis, guided by the clergy, with the support of dedicated and diverse planning committee, this sacred year has embodied the spirit of unity, renewal, and inclusivity, ensuring that everyone regardless of background or experience, feels welcomed and valued.

## A Joyous Beginning

In preparation for our Jubilee Year, parishioners gathered for a Cleaning Drive on Saturday 22nd February 2025, ensuring Holy Trinity was a welcoming space for worship and celebration. The Jubilee Opening Mass on 23rd February 2025 marked the official commencement of celebrations. Presided over by Canon John Webb, the Mass was a moment of grace, joy, and reflection. The newly refurbished organ filled the church with uplifting music, led by the choir, while the Children's Liturgy and Catechism groups brought vibrant energy through singing and dancing. Symbolizing hope and renewal, a Jubilee rose was planted in the church garden, and parishioners received 'Seeds of Hope' to take home as reminders of spiritual growth. An illustrated map highlighted the global connections within our diverse congregation. The day concluded with blessed cake, tea, and warm fellowship, making it a truly memorable start to our Jubilee Year.

## Youth Engagement and Spiritual Growth

As part of our Jubilee celebrations, inspiring young people has remained central to our mission. On 1st March 2025, Holy Trinity welcomed the Youth Group from St Mary's Parish, Poole for a retreat led by Deacon Nick Johnson and catechists. Discussions, inspired by Youth Alpha, explored faith and history, while an interactive tour deepened their connection to our sacred space. To enrich their experience, Deacon Jonathan led a dynamic tour of the church, made even more engaging with a fun competition. Pilgrims honoured the Dorset Martyrs in prayer, concluding with reflection and fellowship, strengthening friendships and spiritual journeys.

## Honouring the Spirit of Service

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our parish and diocese, and their unwavering dedication was celebrated on 15th March 2025 at the Jubilee of the World of Volunteering. A special Mass was held to

honour those who serve, recognizing their invaluable contributions to our church and beyond. During the celebration, we paid tribute to Edgar Riches, a devoted CAFOD volunteer whose legacy of faith-filled service continues to inspire. The event brought together organizations such as CAFOD, CWL, Caritas, Stella Maris, SVP, Catenians, and Aid to the Church in Need, reaffirming the vital role of volunteerism in building a compassionate and faithful community. The efforts of the Jubilee Volunteers of Holy Trinity uplifted all who attended, filling the gathering with a profound sense of gratitude and unity.

## Pilgrimage of Hope

Pilgrimage holds deep spiritual significance, and on 14th April 2025, two pilgrims from Bridport Parish set out on a journey from Chideock to Dorchester, marking their pilgrimage with prayers and reflections. Upon arrival, they were welcomed with refreshments and had their pilgrim passports stamped, symbolizing their ongoing spiritual journey. Their pilgrimage will continue when they return for the Jubilee Mass for married couples.

## Celebrating Love and Commitment

On 11th May 2025, love and lifelong commitment were celebrated in a special Jubilee Mass for married couples, presided over by Father Babu Francis and clergy. With 80 couples in attendance, the liturgy was enriched by young readers, a moving homily, and a heartfelt renewal of marriage vows. Couples held their wedding rings in blessing before embracing in a profound moment of unity. Children sang joyfully for their parents, adding warmth to the celebration. Each couple received Seeds of Hope and chocolates, commemorating this sacred occasion. A special wedding anniversary was honoured with a cake-cutting ceremony, bringing smiles to all as we celebrated the beauty of love and commitment within our parish.

## A Sacred Invitation

Our Jubilee Year continues to celebrate faith, unity, and the strength of our parish community. We warmly invite you to visit Holy Trinity Catholic Church Dorchester, a sacred pilgrimage site where "God's love is reflected through our Action". Whether a long-standing member or a visitor seeking renewal, you are welcome to join our Jubilee celebrations. With many events still ahead, we look forward to gathering in faith, hope, and joy, continuing this sacred journey together. May Holy Trinity remain a beacon of light and grace for all.



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# Stella Maris – Sea Sunday 13 July 2025



## When seafarers need a Good Samaritan

When seafarers and fishers arrive in a port, they are strangers in a foreign land.

They do not know the locals and often don't know who to turn to when they need help. Port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors from Stella Maris (the Catholic Church's maritime agency and formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) are there for them. They are concerned for the welfare of seafarers and fishers.

This year's Gospel for Sea Sunday which falls on 13th July reminds us about the love and care that the Good Samaritan showed to the stranger that he found upon the road. For seafarers and fishers, Stella Maris is that Good Samaritan.

## A friend when one is needed

When seafarers and fishers on ships visiting UK ports end up in hospital, often it's only Stella Maris port chaplains who provide support and friendship.

"Whenever I visit a seafarer in hospital, we might never exchange a word, because of someone's condition or language differences. The important thing for me is that I'm there," said Wojciech Holub, Stella Maris Regional Port Chaplain to Tilbury and London Gateway.

Being in hospital for any length of time is not easy for any of us. When seafarers are admitted to hospital, they are likely to be thousands of miles away from home. Not having friends or family able to visit only adds to anxiety and isolation.

After a seafarer named Jurek was involved in an accident on his ship in Tilbury, Essex, and was admitted to the

Royal London Hospital, Wojciech visited him the following day.

"I had known Jurek for seven years," said Wojciech. "As a result of the accident on his ship, he suffered a damaged liver and 14 broken ribs. When he saw me entering the ward, he smiled and said, 'I knew you would come to visit me.'"

Jurek was eventually discharged and is recuperating at home in Poland. He is very thankful for Wojciech's support, and the shipping company Jurek worked for presented Wojciech with a specially made plaque thanking him for the kindness and care provided to Jurek.

## Hope to the 'stranger'

When a fisher fled his boat after allegedly being abused by the captain, he ended up stranded at Buchanan Street bus station in Glasgow.

Robert King, Stella Maris Regional Port Chaplain to Greenock, Grangemouth, Glasgow, and Leith, was informed of his plight and went to find him.

"I quickly identified the fisher, who was from Ghana, sitting on a bench looking scared and lost. He had no money and was so grateful to see a friendly face," said Robert.

"By now it was after 6 p.m. and a storm was raging. Stella Maris paid for a hotel room for the fisher to spend the night. He was glad to be away from the bus station and in the comfort of the hotel. I made sure he had a phone charger so he could keep in touch with his family and myself, and I gave him some money for essentials."

"Because of the storm, he had to spend a second night in the hotel. Acting on advice from the International Transport Workers Federation, I persuaded the fisher to return to Campbeltown, where his boat was anchored, to report the alleged abuse by the captain to the local police station, which he did."

A resolution was reached, and the fisher has now started working on a different vessel in Scotland. "He was very grateful for the assistance that I gave him," said Robert.

## Acts of kindness

Steve Willows, Stella Maris Regional Port Chaplain to Northumberland, North and South Tyneside was contacted by the captain of a vessel in Sunderland. One of their cooks, Carlo (name changed to protect his identity) had fallen seriously ill. He had been meant to fly home to the Philippines but instead was admitted to hospital. The ship had to leave, and Carlo faced being left completely alone in a foreign country.

During Carlo's three weeks in hospital, he was visited by Steve and Stella Maris volunteer ship visitor Sister Scholastica.

"On the days I would visit Carlo, he would update me on any procedures or results he had received that day. His hearing had drastically worsened due to the infection he had. During early conversations, when Carlo would speak, I would reply via typing answers on my phone and show him as he struggled to hear my voice.

Over time as his hearing slowly improved, the need to type out my side of our conversations lessened until we were able to chat normally which was a relief to Carlo," said Steve.

Steve brought clean clothes, food and a mobile phone SIM card so that Carlo could contact his family back home. After learning Carlo was a collector of FunkoPops, he bought him one for his birthday.

"When a seafarer like Carlo is in hospital in a country where he doesn't know anyone, we will likely be the only ones to visit him with consistency. Then a seafarer will know who to contact if there is anything they need bringing in or want someone to talk to. We can be with them for the high and lows," explained Steve.

After Carlo returned to the Philippines for treatment for a cancer that had been discovered, Steve kept in touch with him, checking in on how his treatments were going, and keeping him and his family in his prayers.

These simple acts of kindness by Stella Maris port chaplains and ship visitors mean so much to seafarers who are far from home and feeling isolated.

On Sea Sunday, which falls on 13th July this year, let us pray for seafarers, fishers, and the work of Stella Maris. Readers wishing to donate toward the work of Stella Maris can use this link <https://stellamaris.org.uk/donate/>

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# A Call to Social Action

On Saturday 31 May, people from across the Diocese attended a joint CAFOD/Caritas Plymouth event to reflect on the Jubilee social action themes. Deborah Fisher (Caritas) talked about the six social action themes of the Jubilee (forgiveness, rest, debt, modern slavery, food poverty and care for creation) and how they impact on our local communities. The meeting discussed how we can take action to address these challenges. You can find more information on our Jubilee webpages.

We also heard (online) from Fr Chilufya, a Kenyan Priest about how the issue of debt is affecting our brothers and sisters globally. Many of the world's poorest countries have been plunged into a new debt crisis. Despite facing significant poverty burdens, countries are having to make huge repayments on high-interest loans to wealthy banks, institutions and governments, leaving them unable to properly fund essential services. In Africa, 34 countries spend more on external debt payments than on health or education, when hospitals and schools are already



desperately underfunded. Debts are being paid at the expense of hiring doctors and teachers, building schools, hospitals and sewage systems, preparing for floods, or coping with droughts.

There are actions we can all take to address this injustice: Involve your parish go to [cafod.org.uk/campaign/campaign-with-us/involve-your-parish-in-our-debt-campaign-this-summer](https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/campaign-with-us/involve-your-parish-in-our-debt-campaign-this-summer)

You can hear a recording of Fr Chilufya by scanning the QR code right.



## *A prayer for Day for Life 2025, based on the words of Carlos Acutis and Pope Francis*

Jesus, You wait for new.  
You let yourself be found when I think there is no hope.

No matter how burdensome, how complicated, how terrible,  
it is always possible for me to consign it all to you,  
my loving and merciful God, and set out anew of life's journey.

You show me the sick bed can be a holy place,  
Where charity and love turn away indifference,  
and gratitude nourishes hope.

Suffering can make me feel exiled, cut off, but with You it is a  
place of encounter, a school in which I learn to love and  
be loved, with humility and grace.

Give me your hope so that I may not fear,  
because with Your death and suffering comes life -  
external life; something extraordinary awaits us.





# Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



## Hospitality and Prayer

Abraham is a figure who unites the world's three great monotheistic religions. For the Jewish people, Abraham is their common ancestor. For Christians, he is our father in faith, as one of the eucharistic prayers calls him. For Muslims, Ibrahim is the friend of God.

He appears in the Book of Genesis rather suddenly, when God calls him to leave familiar surroundings and become a pilgrim: "Go from your country and relatives and father's house, to the land that I will show you" (Gen 12:1). God offers him no explanation why he must leave, but anyway Abraham departs as he has been instructed.

For us Abraham is a model of a pilgrim. In life nothing stands still, and we need to move forward. As Christians, we know that we have no permanent dwelling on earth, because we are called to the eternal life of heaven. Yet sometimes we can be tempted to cling on to what is

familiar, and be slow to move forward when God calls us.

As someone who has come from his original homeland to a different country, the nomadic Abraham appreciates the value of hospitality and hence is willing to welcome others. We see this characteristic in the first reading for the 16th Sunday of the Year (20th July)

Three travellers arrive where he is encamped at Mamre near Hebron, in the southern part of the Holy Land. Instead of ignoring them, Abraham offers them generous hospitality. His wife Sarah bakes some loaves, while Abraham slaughters the fatted calf, to prepare a fine meal for the unexpected visitors. We are reminded of the similar welcome shown by the father when the Prodigal Son returns home in the gospel parable.

The three visitors are more than merely human. They have a prediction for Sarah, who has been childless for many years. One of the three is in fact the Lord God himself, who promises to Abraham: "I

shall visit you next year, and your wife Sarah will have a son." God has finally responded to her longing for a child, and her son Isaac will play a key role in the biblical story.

Christian interpreters have understood this episode as an early revelation of the three persons of the Divine Trinity. We see this most clearly in a famous icon by the Russian artist Andrei Rublev, depicting three figures sitting round a table. God the Father is portrayed with a blue undercoat and a translucent mantle, God the Son with a red undercoat and a blue mantle, and the Holy Spirit with a blue undercoat and a green mantle.

As a contrast to Abraham's hospitable welcoming of the strangers at Mamre, we hear of the inhospitality of the people of Sodom in the first reading on the 17th Sunday of the Year (27th July). According to the prophet Ezekiel (16:49), the guilt of Sodom included pride, overindulgence in food, and prosperous ease, combined with a refusal to help the needy.

Yet rather than condemning the inhabitants of the sinful city, Abraham intercedes for them. When he hears that the city is doomed, Abraham bargains with God for their lives, as if he is more merciful than God: "Will you destroy the righteous with the wicked? Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Abraham gets a promise that God will not destroy the city if he finds ten righteous persons in it. But sadly this is not so, and the city is finally destroyed.

Although Abraham lived long ago, his example still challenges us today. As a pilgrim, he was willing to move out from familiar surroundings in response to God's call. As a hospitable person, he was willing to welcome unknown strangers. And as a person of prayer, he interceded for those facing doom.

As Christian pilgrims, we are called to be people of hospitality and prayer. May the example of Abraham inspire us in our lives today.

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# View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



## Priest on a Mission

Legend has it that the two brothers, Tupí and Guaraní, migrated southwards across Amazonia following the established north-south migratory pattern adopted by the indigenous peoples of the Americas. The two brothers finally decided to go their separate ways: Guaraní staying in central, southern Amazonia, the area now identified as Paraguay and the immediate vicinity, where Guaraní's 'name' is applied to the native language most extensively spoken; Tupí moving eastwards into what we now recognise as Brazil. They had reputedly migrated from the region far to the north which was under the control of the 'Big Chief', whose title in the native tongue (Karaí-ve) then became identifiable as 'Carib', ergo 'Caribbean' and 'cannibal'.

Cannibalism, humankind eating of its fellows, is as interesting as it is repugnant to many. A notable fact in this regard is that Amerindians were never considered to have practised cannibalism to survive, just to eat – such as has been recorded among Europeans. It was practised under two kinds: exo-cannibalism, whereby the sacrifice was chosen from beyond one's own community; endo-cannibalism whereby the target was selected from within one's own unit. The point of either practice was to instil in the practitioners the qualities they admired in the person being sacrificed. So it is easy at this point to understand how readily Amerindians, being tutored by the Jesuit missionaries from Spain, could understand and even embrace the Christian message of communion.

Even today we have the tradition of recognising an individual's qualities, that individual perhaps even being a family member, and then calling children by that person's given name in order to instil the qualities admired: Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John ... But this practice of 'naming after' is not limited purely to the Christian tradition, not limited purely to the other Abrahamic faiths and not just limited to people:

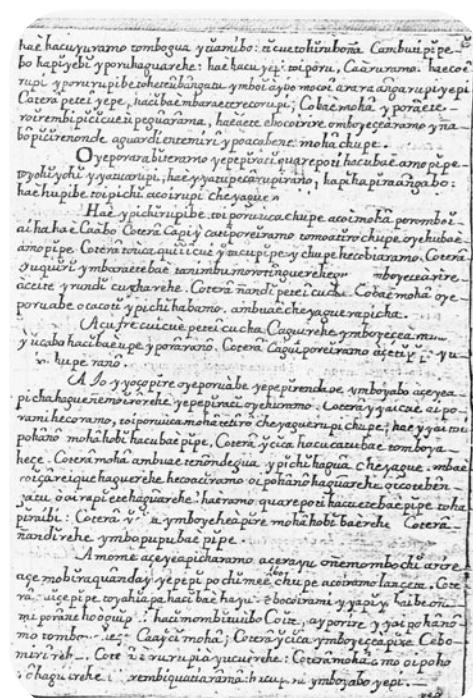
Cosmo, Sitting Bull, Paris, Azalea, Heather, Black Hawk, Crazy Horse, Rose...

That practice of remembrance - 'in the memory of', 'in the name of' and then 'handing on' - is a rich vein of proselytisation running throughout our Christian faith.

The Jesuit missionaries rank foremost among the Europeans most immediately and extensively in contact with and working face to face with the Amerindians. The priest Marcos Villodas S.J. is a particular case in point.

The Jesuit missions among the Guaraní were like settlements-cum-reservations, mission stations where the native populations were gathered into communities called 'Indian reductions' (Spanish: reducciones de indios). These missions, covering an area touching on Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, had been established by the Jesuit Order early in the 17th century and ended in the late 18th century with the expulsion of the Jesuit order from the Americas. The debate is ever ongoing as to whether those missions were an experiment in socialist theocracy, perhaps a rare example of benign colonialism, or a denial of the Indians' freedom, of their lifestyle, while subjecting them to physical abuse and exposing them to disease.

Fr Marcos - b. 1695 in Nanclares de Gamboa, Álava, Spain; d. 1739 or 1741 (reports vary) in Santa Fé, Argentina - had left his Basque homeland to help spread the Christian message. It took him to where the language of Guaraní is extensively recognised and practised to this day. Exactly three hundred years ago, in 1725, Fr Marcos published his 319-page manuscript, POJHA ÑAÑA, Materia Médica Misionera o Herbario de las Reducciones Guaranies, a compilation in Guaraní (see extract) of the medicinal properties, as known to the indigenous people at the time, of herbs and plants native to the flora of the area. So



### POJHA ÑAÑA Manuscript

extensive is such nomenclature in Guaraní that it reputedly exceeds those in Latin and Greek combined.

Fr Marcos presumably acknowledged that for thousands of years herbs and plants would have been used by the Amerindians in various combinations to prevent and treat illness. We have probably only touched the tip of that iceberg. Cross-cultural awareness - the comparative and contrastive study of others' cultures - is a 2-way street not only by which we can teach but by which we can also learn.

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

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# Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimages

## St Cuthbert Mayne Launceston

St Cuthbert Mayne Church in Launceston Cornwall is a place of prayer, pilgrimage, and community. It is dedicated to the first seminary priest martyred in England after the Reformation. The church invites all who visit to encounter the courageous faith of a saint who gave his life for Christ. The holy relic of St Cuthbert Mayne's skull is a true treasure of the church, which makes Cuthbert Mayne's story vivid and real to parishioners and pilgrims alike. The church offers a peaceful, prayerful space with a special chapel in Cuthbert Mayne's honour. Pilgrims often visit to reflect on his life and seek his intercession for strength in their own faith journeys.

Born in 1544, Cuthbert Mayne was ordained a Catholic priest in Douai and returned to England to minister in secret. Arrested and condemned under anti-Catholic laws, he was executed in 1577. Canonised in 1970 as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, his witness speaks powerfully to today's faithful.

As well as visiting the church and venerating the relic, many pilgrims follow a trail around the town to places associated with Cuthbert Mayne and other historical sites of interest, including:

- Launceston Priory. The Priory ruins we see today are all that remain of the original Priory. The Priory was founded in 1127 as a house of Augustinian canons, dedicated to St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr and consecrated in 1155. In the mid 1500's, Launceston Priory was the wealthiest and largest religious house in Cornwall.
- Launceston Castle dungeon on the Castle Green where St Cuthbert was imprisoned for three months.
- Launceston town square and place of



St Cuthbert Mayne Church, Launceston by Chris Robinson

execution. In 2008 a memorial plaque was unveiled in the town square at the spot where he was executed.

- The Castle Exhibition which traces the Castle's 1000-year history, is situated at the entrance to the English Heritage site of the castle on the Green. The exhibition includes a display and information about St Cuthbert. The Castle is where Cuthbert Mayne was tried.

More than a historical site, St Cuthbert Mayne Church is a vibrant parish, alive with prayer, welcome, community and outreach. Whether you come to pray, reflect, or walk in the footsteps of a martyr, this church offers a sacred space to find inspiration and to deepen your faith.

St Cuthbert Mayne, pray for us.  
Please contact the parish to check opening times before visiting  
<http://www.stcuthbertmayne.org.uk/>



St Cuthbert Mayne Church, Launceston by Chris Robinson

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## The end of a 75 year era

It is with great sadness that I must report the closure of the Plymouth Catholic Choir.

Our efforts to find a new musical director have proved fruitless. Over the years many people have enjoyed the singing and fellowship of belonging to this very special choir.

Our thanks must go to Simon Blades for taking over the roles of accompanist and director in recent times, not an easy task. Thanks also

go to our past musical director Shaun Brady who steered us through many stormy seas and developed our skills of harmonising.

Most of us sing in our church choirs and enjoy doing so, which, for the moment will have to satisfy our love of singing.

Rita Joesbury  
Last Publicity Officer



# 'Called & Gifted'



Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish in Exeter have recently run the Called and Gifted Course with over 25 parishioners taking part. The process has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly the small group meetings. As a parish, we are already tasting the fruits of the charisms discovered, recognised and acknowledged and are looking forward to the different ways these charisms will be developed to serve our parish community, the wider Church and our world.

## The Charism of Writing

I have discovered that the charism of writing opens up different conversations: between writer and reader; reader and reader; reader and wider friends/family/strangers ; reader and God. Sometimes the writer is aware of these conversations, oftentimes not. The writer's role is simply to offer the writing and trust in the Spirit.

## About Called & Gifted

Each of us is created uniquely by God, in our time and place, for a purpose. When we understand and allow ourselves to be aligned with that purpose we are energised and fulfilled; and God's love and provision is able to flow more freely exactly where it is needed, through our spiritual gifts (charisms). Called and Gifted is the discernment process that helps us unlock our story, understand our gifts (charisms) and discover our unique mission. Called and Gifted has a rich history stemming from the Catherine of Siena Institute and the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.

The programme is now available nationally either in person or online. For parishes or groups, in person teaching days can be booked by contacting [calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

A member of the team will respond to discuss your requirements and work with you to plan the day, making it relevant to your local mission and plans. Full guidance notes for parishes and groups are available.

For individuals, Called and Gifted Teaching is available online, enabling you to work at your own pace through the professionally produced videos

## I SAW CHRIST LAST NIGHT

I wonder if you have ever seen Christ unexpectedly?...  
I have.

I saw Christ last night.  
He was dining at a busy Italian restaurant  
with a family of three.  
And what I saw, who I saw, was Love.

Love in the guise of a young daughter,  
chattering away and helping her mother  
sip a drink:  
supporting her head carefully  
and allowing the liquid  
to slowly slip through her open lips.  
Beauty in Brokenness.

And then I saw him again, Love,  
in the eyes of the husband;  
beautiful eyes,  
relaxed and full of mirth,  
eyes that smiled as he peacefully and easily  
took in the restaurant busy in full swing,  
proud of his family there in its midst:  
a birthday card and present on the table.

Love's hands were tender as they  
rested on her shoulder,  
gently pushing a tendril of hair  
behind her ear,  
leaning in to listen,  
laughing and sharing a joke.

Christ moved around that table smoothly and effortlessly,  
seamlessly accommodating needs of wife and  
mother  
through the lives  
of husband and the daughter: sharing the caring.

I was enjoying my own meal  
and the love and companionship at our own table  
when I noticed Selfless Love again-  
this time preparing to depart:  
gently lifting her head forward

to secure a fluffy headband;  
thoughtfully tucking the blanket more firmly  
around her torso and the frame of her chair:  
a smile always playing on his lips,  
eyes alight with love.

I didn't expect to see Christ last night.  
He was so profound he took my breath away  
and brought tears to my eyes.

Sometimes Love surprises us  
and catches us unawares:  
the awe and wonder of recognising and naming  
Love is both startling and sweet.

I do not know this family-  
the joys, the blessings,  
the struggles, the challenges  
and dare I say the tragedy  
that brought them to this moment.

But I do know I saw the  
Light of Christ shining in them.  
And I was changed by their witness.

I will hold this family,  
whom I have simply named 'Love,'  
in my prayers.

They know not the impression  
they left on me,  
but Christ does, and he winks at me,  
nods his head and gives me a knowing look.

He fills my heart with words:  
'God is love  
and all who live in love , live in God  
and God lives in them.'

Yes, I saw Christ last night dining in an Italian Restaurant  
and I thank God that he revealed his presence to me.  
Amen.

By a Called and Gifted Blessed  
Sacrament Parishioner

## Online Information Evening, Monday 7 July 2025

from the Catherine of Siena Institute. This is intended for anyone who may be interested in hearing more about discerning charisms and the spiritual and practical benefits this can bring for individuals and communities. Perhaps your parish has already had Called and Gifted but there are some people who missed out for various reasons. Or maybe your parish has not yet had Called and Gifted and you'd love to encourage your clergy and laity to hear more and consider it as part of the plan for your parish. Either way, please do share news of this event in your parish

and with your friends and family.

There will be an introduction and overview to charisms, testimonies on the fruit of discerning and using charisms, a brief description of the Called and Gifted process and a time for Q&A.

If you sense that your experience of discerning and using your charisms could inspire others, do let me know as I would love to invite you to the evening to share how your charisms have made a difference to your life and the lives of others.

Finally, please pray that those who most need to discern their charisms will be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and will register for the 7th July. Everyone is welcome so please do advertise in your parish, forward to friends and family.

Registration details  
can be found by  
scanning the





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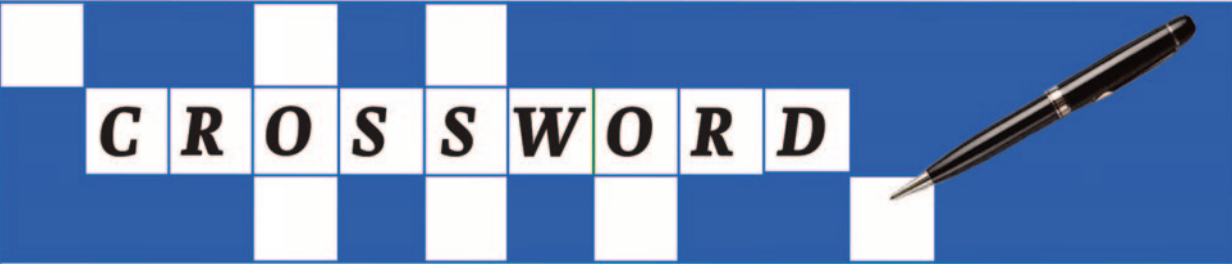


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You can use both sets of clues to solve the puzzle: the solutions are the same.

CRYPTIC Across

- 1 Samuel's crafty man, cursed sailor almost catches fish (7)

5 When in Paris I discover Ecclesiasticus' Ben Sira (5)

8 Paul's detailed letter describing the Empire (5)

9 'Papae Sixti nisi est' is translated in chapel (7)

10 Move against female martyr (7)

11 One of two helping David find themselves amongst rabbit tails (5)

13 American girl's written first 18 for the 8 Church (6)

15 Abram's Amorite ally, Chloe's opposite (6)

18 Microphone, small American contribution to St Cecilia's art (5)

20 Abram's servant high priest announced 'easy', being first to Rebekah (7)

22 Girl, old golfing type, attends Baptist chapels (7)

23 Savings account he's almost sacrificed (5)

24 Chaplain of Artillery's name is forgotten (5)

25 Morning, is he wrong in thinking there are no Gods? (7)
- CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Parry's hymn from John's first letter includes line in dubious measure (9)

2 Some Old Testament volumes (7)

3 Had Ulster divided, all over Jacob's daughter (5)

4 Vehicle to get to old Number One: was it Ave Maria for him? (6)

5 Society of 5 business types follow the first person in speaking French (7)

6 Being second in the East End isn't one of the blessed dead (5)

7 View bishop's domain (3)

12 Sick with icy rum, plying, 8s said, this part Aegean coast (9)

14 One relative, the first maybe to describe lepers in the Bible (7)

16 Old footballer swapping cap? It's over for one writing 18 for the 8 Church (7)

17 Biblical country, to scupper Siamese, partly invaded (6) 19

Angel is originally sadistic, and threatening and nasty (5)

- 21 One quiet small US state imbibed whiskey (5)

22 Tooting, when passing over an abbey in France? (3)
- QUICK Across

- 1 Friend of Amnon, 'a very shrewd man' (7)

5 Another name for Elymas: Bar ----- (5)

8 Empire which ruled Palestine and Asia Minor in NT times (5)

9 Chapel of the Vatican whose ceiling was famously painted by Michelangelo (7)

10 First Christian martyr (7)

11 Leader of the Gittites (5)

13 Orlande de -----, with Palestrina and Victoria, the three giants of late medieval Church 18 (6)

15 Vale where the Israelites cut a cluster of grapes as proof of the Promised Land's bounty (6)

18 Integral aspect of many church services (5)

20 Son of Moses and Zipporah (7)

22 Name applied for a group of 19th century nonconformist chapels (7)

23 The second patriarch; son of Abraham and Sarah (5)

24 Priest who is a member of a cathedral chapter (5)

25 Lack of belief in the existence of God or gods (7)
- QUICK Down

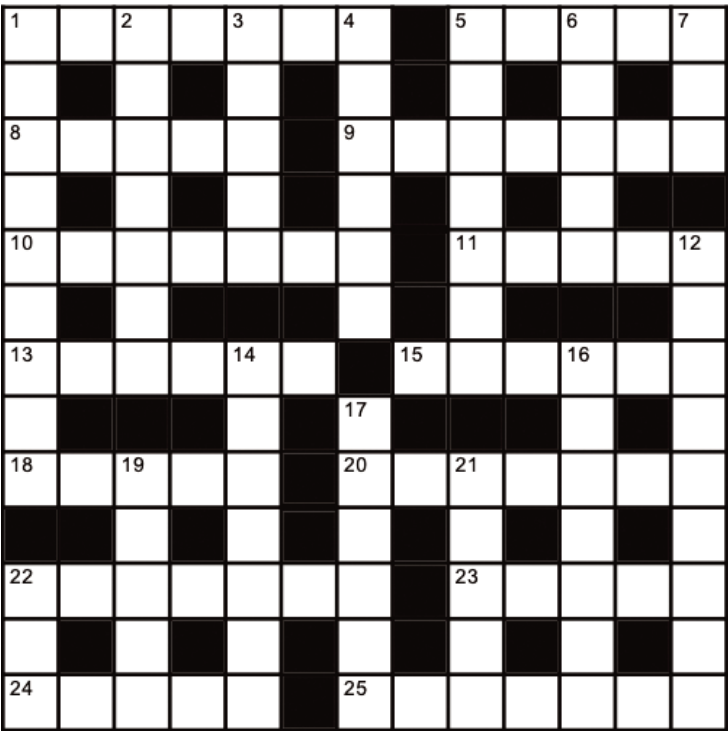
- 1 Holy city for Jews and Christians and Muslims (9) 2 Fourth book of the Pentateuch (7)

3 Daughter of Leah and Jacob (5) 4 Ferruccio -----, one of many to have composed a version of Ave Maria (1877) (6)

5 Followers of Ignatius of Loyola (7)

6 Holy person deemed worthy of canonization (5)

7 Bishopric (3) 12 8 province from 27 AD, covering much of the eastern Adriatic and Balkan interior (9)



- 14 Having a physical or moral blemish so as to make impure (7)

16 Maurizio -----, important early 17th century composer and maestro di cappella at Bologna (7)

17 OT empire created by Cyrus the Great and destroyed by Alexander the Great (6)

19 Adversary of God; tempter of mankind; master of Hell (5)

21 Scots Gaelic (5)

22 Influential Benedictine abbey of Normandy at the time of the Conqueror (3)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Jonadab, 5 Jesus, 8 Roman, 9 Sistine, 10 Stephen, 11 Ittai, 13 Lassus, 15 Eschol, 18 Music, 20 Eliezer, 22 Bethels, 23 Isaac, 24 Canon, 25 Athelst. Down: 1 Jerusalem, 2 Numbers, 3 Dinah, 4 Busoni, 5 Jesuits, 6 Saint, 7 See, 12 Lillyricum, 14 Unclean, 16 Cazzati, 17 Persia, 19 Satan, 21 Irish, 22 Bec.