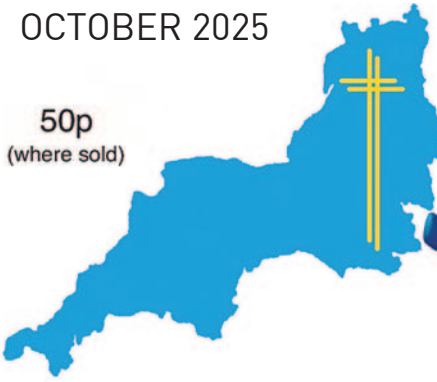


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Catholic **South West**

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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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.

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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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Jubilee World Day of Migrants & Refugees



"...I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

Each year the Church marks the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, drawing attention to one of the greatest challenges of our time. Pope Francis chose this Jubilee year's theme: "Migrants, missionaries of hope."

For millions of people, migration is not a choice but a necessity. War, persecution, political instability, and increasingly the effects of climate change force people to leave their homes in search of safety and stability. On their journeys they often face uncertainty, marginalisation and even hostility. And yet, Pope Francis and Pope Leo remind us, the very act of moving forward in hope is itself a witness of courage and faith. Migrants bring not only their struggles but also their gifts — enriching host communities and calling all of us to deeper solidarity.

As the Season of Creation drew to a close, all were warmly invited to join us and hear from speakers from Caritas, CAFOD, and the Ecological Conversion Group to reflect

on how we as the Catholic community can respond. Speakers shared powerful insights:

John Paul de Quay showed how our everyday lifestyles are linked to global environmental destruction and forced migration — and how small changes can have a positive impact.

Richard Sloman, CAFOD's Country Representative for Bangladesh, spoke about supporting migrants who faced abuse and exploitation as they sought work overseas due in part to climate-induced poverty. The work of CAFOD and OKUP brings hope through supported reintegration.

Alex Miranda, Caritas Diocese of Plymouth, reflected on Love the Stranger, the Catholic Bishops' Conference's call to a faith-based response of welcome and solidarity.

Their stories reminded us that migration is not an abstract issue, but about people

— brothers and sisters in Christ — whose hope can renew our own faith.

As parishes, schools, and communities of faith, we were invited to:

Pray for migrants and refugees, and for the understanding to welcome them.

Learn about the causes of forced migration, from climate change to conflict.

Act locally by supporting refugees and migrants in our communities, speaking out for justice, and working with organisations dedicated to protecting the vulnerable.

By welcoming the stranger, we were not only responding the Christian mandate to address need, but also taking concrete steps towards what Pope Francis calls the "universal brotherhood of man." Migrants truly are missionaries of hope — and through them, we are called to be missionaries of hope too.

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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A Summer Pilgrimage



Some of the members of the Legion of Mary at the shrine of St Boniface in Cridton, Devon.

Members of the Legion of Mary from parish groups (praesidia) in the Diocese of Plymouth made their summer outing this year as a pilgrimage to Cridton in Devon, the birthplace of Saint Boniface (c. 680 - 754 AD).

The town has a popular pilgrim walk for visitors which shows episodes in the saint's life in stained glass. He was born with the name of Winfrith and went on to bring Christianity to the Netherlands and Germany. In 716 the Holy Father gave him the name of Boniface and, in 722, Pope Gregory II made him Bishop of all Germany.

The Catholic Church in Cridton is the National Shrine to the saint who, together with St Cuthbert Mayne is also a Patron of the Plymouth Diocese in which the Legion is active, covering Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset.

St Boniface is famous for tackling pagan worshippers by chopping down their sacred oak tree dedicated to the god Thor. And, in 754, now an old man and an Archbishop, he was attacked by a band of heathen warriors and struck down by a sword which pierced the holy book he raised to protect himself.

The body of this 'Apostle to the Germans' rests in a shrine in Fulda Cathedral where St Boniface is venerated today throughout Germany.

Some traditions credit Boniface with the origin of the Christmas tree. A fir tree growing in the roots of Thor's oak was claimed by him as a new symbol, saying, "Its leaves remain evergreen in the darkest days; let Christ be your constant light..."



The logo of St Boniface of Cridton

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Mother Teresa: A Beacon of Compassion 5th September

Jubilee of Youth

Gavin Wiseman

I first stood at Tor Vergata in 2000. Returning for this Jubilee, I watched a new generation pray, sing, and be sent as witnesses of Christ's hope, joyful disciples for today's world.

For me, the location itself turned the days into a pilgrimage of memory. The last time I was in that field was World Youth Day 2000 with Saint John Paul II, packed in with 25 million young people, the largest gathering in the history of Europe. Coming back twenty-five years later was unexpectedly emotional. In 2000, I travelled with the Diocese of Westminster, backpack on my shoulders, utterly unprepared for sleeping overnight in a vast field and without a care in the world and little sense of how those days would mark me. We slept little, laughed, sang, and prayed much and friendships were forged that I never thought possible. Seeing a new generation at prayer where we once stood made one truth unmistakable: Christ's promise to be with His Church endures - always and for everyone.

Around one million pilgrims were estimated at this year's Youth Jubilee. Pope Leo XIV led a dialogue-style prayer vigil in which three young people from Mexico, Italy, and the United States asked about friendship, the courage to choose, and how to meet the risen Lord in daily life. The Holy Father's answers, rooted in Scripture and Saint Augustine formed a simple pathway.

On friendship "Our life begins with a bond," he reminded us. "We grow through relationships and the cultures that shape us, which must be rooted with discernment embracing what is noble, rejecting what harms. Friendship with Jesus is our 'guiding star,' the love that makes human friendships sincere, generous, and true. Hence the appeal: 'Dear young people, love one another in Christ!' Because 'friendship can truly change the world. Friendship is a path to peace.'"

On the courage to choose. Choosing is not merely selecting something it is deciding who to become ultimately, "choosing someone." We learn to choose by remembering we were first chosen. Life is a gift, born of Love. Anchored on that rock, choice "always leads to the greatest good." Courage flows from Christ's love: "It is Jesus you seek when you dream of happiness." The Pope pointed to radical, meaningful vocations - marriage, priesthood, consecrated life where self-gift makes us truly happy. His invitation was direct: "Find the courage to make difficult choices and say to Jesus: 'You are my life, Lord.'"

Image: Vatican Media

Pope Leo XIV arrives for a prayer vigil during the Jubilee of Youth at the Tor Vergata field in Rome

If you have been given the Catholic Post for free in your parish, PLEASE would you be able to donate £1 to your parish for it, or even £10 per year!

Building and Forging Friendships at St Boniface Parish Church, Southampton

“To have the ability to develop authentic friendships in life is beautiful. Without a doubt, friendship is one of the most wonderful gifts that God has given us.” — Pope Leo XIV

Building and forging friendships through religious activities has rather been the theme of our parish in the month of August.

The highlights of the month included the celebration of the Filipino Parish Day: a Jubilee Year Youth Pilgrimage to St James, Parish in Reading, and the celebration of the Vailankanni Feast or the Lady of Good Health. We also wish to feature Christ Café which utilizes the Parish Evangelization Cells (PECS).

FILIPINO PARISH DAY



St Boniface Parish is the spiritual home to a number of Filipinos who have lived in Southampton and they have now officially organized themselves as the Filipino Catholic Community in Southampton. Last August 24th, they celebrated the Filipino Parish Day which started off with a celebration of the Holy Mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Jufel Baldado, OMV and concelebrated by Asst Parish Priest Fr Godwin Kambai, OMV and Deacon Kim from the Filipino Chaplaincy. This was then followed by a festive fellowship headed by the Ilocano Group through the leadership of Joseph Paul Almazan. The highlight of the event was the veneration of our Filipino Patrons and Saints namely Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, Saint Pedro Calungsod, Saint Augustine ,Immaculate Conception, Santa Rosa de Lima, and Santa Prudeniziana. Sheriff Pat Evemy, representing the Office of the Mayor came

to grace the occasion. Vic Dagongdong is the named lead of the Filipino Catholic Community of Southampton (Filcath).



JUBILEE YEAR YOUTH PILGRIMAGE.

A total of 12 young pilgrims joined the Youth Pilgrimage to St James Parish in Reading last August 31st. Rev. Fr. Jufel Baldado, OMV, being our Youth Spiritual Director, joined the pilgrimage, where he engaged them with a talk about the role of the youth this Jubilee Year. After which, he heard them go to confession and then celebrated a Mass. In the picture we can see the young pilgrims smiling and beaming with pride as they hold their Pilgrim Passports. Fellow Youth formators Fatima Amedu and Sebastian Da Costa joined along to supervise the members of Youth Explore. Agustine Odukoya is our current lead for the Youth explore group.



VAILANKANNI FEAST

Our Lady of Vailankanni, also known as Our Lady of Good Health, is a title for the Virgin Mary revered at the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health in Vailankanni, Tamil Nadu, India. This veneration has been brought to Southampton by our Indian parishioners, particularly the Indian Catholic Community led by Joel George and has been a yearly celebration. The 9 day novena feast started last August 27th and culminated with a procession and a Holy Mass last Sept. 7th celebrated by Rev. Fr. Godwin Kambai, OMV and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Jufel Baldado. During the 9 day novena, parishioners joined together for a daily rosary prior to the daily masses.



CHRIST CAFÉ



It is a small group gathering of Adorers at St Boniface Church – who come together after Monday Adoration , 530 pm a MC Room St Boniface Church. It is open to all ages, background and ethnicity. It is an opportunity where everyone gets to share their life experiences of faith in and love of

Christ and also pray for each other and one another. The group focuses on devotions particularly to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin. The group utilizes the structure and culture of the Parish Evangelization Cells (PECS)

All these religious activities have been successful through the spiritual guidance and leadership of our Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV and Assistant Parish Priests Rev. Fr. Jufel Baldado, OMV, and Rev., Fr. Godwin Kambai, OMV alongside our Parish Pastoral Council led by Mike Wood and Core Leadership Team headed by Angela Braga.



Photo Credits to Monette Lopez.
Article by Mae Felongco

Fr. Jufel Baldado

About the Parish Correspondent: Mae Felongco is a Parish Pastoral Council and Core Leadership Team Member. She is an active member of the Filipino Catholic Community and actively leads Christ Café .

She is also a Youth Formator and a member of the music ministry. Her devotions include those of our Blessed Virgin and St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Augustine and St. Joseph.

Mae is a nurse and an educator by profession.



Jubilee of Catechists

26-28 September

Deborah van Kroonenburg shares a reflection on the role of the catechist in advance of the upcoming Jubilee in September:

Introduction

All baptised Christians, are involved in catechesis in some way. We know that bishops, priests, deacons and consecrated people have a particular responsibility but I reflect here from the perspective of a lay Christian, who may be called, for example, as parent or parish catechist to this role. I look at the roots of the word 'catechist,' at the call to bring people into intimacy with Jesus Christ and at how this is done through the catechist's own union with the Lord.

An Echo

The word, 'catechesis' is derived from the Greek, meaning instruction by word of mouth, and it is related to the idea of an echo. If I am to be an echo, re-sounding words into the ears of others, then whose were the original words? Who is the Word I echo?

Here is my key to the role. I am not just to transmit a teaching, I am also called to echo The Word. We know that the Word was God and was with God from the beginning. We know that 'the Word

Bringing others into union with Jesus Christ

So deeply does this Word enter us, that John Paul II states that catechesis puts people 'not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.' So, the catechist's role involves not

How can this be done? The context

The catechist does not act alone but as an expression of the Christian community in which those being catechised make their journey. Every member of the community is involved in some way, guided by the Holy Spirit, as St Paul tells us,

'... When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.'



How can this be done? The catechist

What can the catechist do to lead others into such intimacy with Christ?

A passage from the Gospel of John illustrates what is necessary. Jesus appears to His disciples after the resurrection and speaks to (Simon) Peter, giving him an opportunity to be restored to intimacy after his denial and also giving him his mission.

'When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He

said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.'

The mission is given to Peter as he reiterates his love for Jesus. Three times he fervently states 'you know that I love you,' and is given three directives to feed and tend the sheep and lambs, that is the people of God.

For You I long

Jesus brings together Peter's fervent love and his mission. In this way we can see that we bring others into intimacy with Jesus Christ out of our own loving

intimacy with Him. If we listen to His voice asking us ever more urgently, to return His love, if we allow His Holy Spirit to draw us into the love of Father, Son and Spirit, we will witness to Him and bring others into communion with Him. Let us increase our love for the One who loved us first:

**'Oh God you are my God,
for You I long;**

for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you

like a dry, weary land without water.

**So I gaze on You in the sanctuary
To see Your strength and glory (Ps 62)**

‘You Too Can Be a Saint’: Church Celebrates Canonization of Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati”



I will never forget 7 September, when I found myself on the Papal Altar, only nine rows from the Holy Father, at a momentous time in Catholic history. That morning the Church proclaimed its first millennial saint, Carlo Acutis. The Roman sun poured across St. Peter's Square as the great bells of the Basilica pealed. Pilgrims from every continent, shoulder to shoulder, had gathered to witness history: the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, two young men whose ordinary lives became extraordinary paths to holiness.

While most pilgrims streamed toward St. Peter's Basilica, I was guided in the opposite direction with a small VIP group; friends and fellow devotees of Blessed Carlo who have helped spread his message around the world. Familiar faces from the United States, England, Ireland, and Italy emerged, and we embraced like long-lost relatives. We passed the quiet façade of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Pope Francis' residence, and slipped through a special entrance into St. Peter's Square. From there we climbed the broad steps to our reserved seats on the right-hand side of the Papal Altar. The view across the square was breathtaking. We knew we had a designated section, but never imagined we would be placed in such a place of honour.

We were shoulder to shoulder with ambassadors and dignitaries including the President of Italy himself. Jonathan Roumie, the Catholic star of *The Chosen*, arrived in the VIP section and graciously stopped to chat, and happily posed for

selfies with anyone who asked, including me! One of the founders of the *Hallow* app, the number 1 Catholic prayer app, Bryan Enriquez, was also present. Their attendance felt fitting. Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati both show that holiness belongs fully in the modern world, and Carlo, patron of the internet, especially calls Catholics to evangelize through digital media. Seeing artists, and influencers alike gathered alongside Church and political leaders underscored how the Gospel continues to reach people through the internet and today's digital platforms. On this historic morning, the Church's newest saints were already inspiring a new generation to bring faith to every corner of the digital age. The

canonization Mass began with quiet grandeur, a graceful procession of Bishops and Cardinals. Then came the moment we had all awaited. Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, together with the postulators, read brief but stirring biographies of the two blessed. The choir intoned the ancient Litany of the Saints, and when the final invocation faded, Pope Leo XIV solemnly declared Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati saints of the universal Church, decreeing that they are to be venerated by the faithful everywhere. The choir responded with a soaring Great Amen and a cascade of Alleluias, and the square erupted in jubilation. We embraced one

another and cheered; I found myself elated with tears of pure joy streaming down my face.

I first heard Carlo's name only six years ago, in 2019, when he was declared Venerable, and I rejoiced as he was beatified the following year in Assisi. At the time, Carlo's story was scarcely known outside Italy. Yet in just a few short years I have watched the Church acknowledge his holiness step by step; first as Venerable, then Blessed, and now Saint. I have had the privilege of witnessing countless pilgrims fall to their knees in fervent prayer before his tomb in the Sanctuary of the Renunciation (Santuario della Spogliazione) in Assisi. I have spoken with hundreds of faithful who





have venerated his relics during mission tours across the United Kingdom and Ireland. Inspired by his witness, I have compiled devotional books of his profound sayings and have been invited to give countless talks on the life and miracles of this remarkable teenage saint.

To witness such a swift and grace-filled journey into the communion of saints is nothing short of astonishing. I have marvelled at how quickly Catholics everywhere have taken Carlo into their hearts, watching his story quite literally "go viral" across the globe. In my talks I often remind people that, because of his modernity, Carlo could be your grandson, son, brother, nephew, cousin, or friend. That simple truth always makes audiences pause and reflect on the closeness of holiness to everyday life. I am deeply humbled to think that, in some small way, I have been allowed to accompany him on his road to sainthood.

Together, Carlo and Pier Giorgio show that holiness can be lived in Nike trainers and hiking boots, in classrooms and on mountain trails. Their witness reminds us that sainthood is not the privilege of a few but the vocation of all, not only cloistered sisters, friars, or martyrs who give the ultimate sacrifice, but every one of us. They even make it "cool to be Catholic." Indeed, Catholicism has been making headlines. This year, following the death of Pope Francis and the election of his successor, Pope Leo XIV, the first American-born pontiff who has urged global peace, Catholicism has captured worldwide attention. A recent Reuters report notes that Catholic practice is rising sharply among young Britons, now surpassing Anglican church attendance for the first time since the Reformation. And in June, Google recorded a 373 percent spike in searches for "How to become Catholic." This revival, especially among Gen Z and millennials, is widely

attributed to a generation seeking community, conviction, and a deeper sense of meaning in an increasingly secular society.

In his homily, Pope Leo reminded the faithful that the great saints like Francis of Assisi and Augustine are not distant heroes but ordinary people who, while still young, gave an unreserved "yes" to God. He urged especially the youth not to waste their lives but to aim high and make them "masterpieces," highlighting Carlo's motto, "Not I, but God," and Pier Giorgio's conviction "If you have God at the center of all your actions, then you will reach the end". He called these words "a simple but winning formula of their holiness".

This canonization is not the close of their story but the opening of a new chapter for the Church and for each of us. It is a call for each of us to seek their intercession, and to carry the Gospel boldly into our

own families, workplaces, and the digital world. Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati remind us that holiness is possible today; in classrooms, on mountain trails, and even online, and that now it is our turn to answer God's invitation to become saints where we are.

Saint Carlo Acutis, Patron of the Young, Patron of the Internet, Apostle of the Eucharist – pray for us

Saint Pier Giorgio, Patron of World Youth Day, Students and Mountain climbers – pray for us

Gwen is a Catholic writer and speaker who has authored devotional books on Saint Carlo Acutis and regularly presents talks on his life and miracles. She resides in Assisi, Italy, where she conducts retreats and leads pilgrimages that share the witness of Saints Francis, Clare, and Carlo. Contact: gwen@viaassisi.com



Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



Brought Back into the Community

When we think back to our experience of the Covid lockdown, one of the most difficult things was the experience of isolation, felt by so many. We were not allowed to shake hands with our friends or hug our relatives. Especially for those living alone, the isolation was often very painful.

Thank God, the Covid isolation lasted only for a matter of months, though it seemed a long time. But imagine the feeling of isolation experienced by someone with a long-term infectious disease like leprosy, living separately from their loved ones.

The gospel for 11th October (28th Sunday of the Year) tells of Jesus healing ten lepers, though only one of them returned to give thanks. The cure meant that the sufferers had their skin made whole again. As a result, they were brought out of their isolation and back into the public life

of the community. As a first step, the cured leper in the Holy Land would make a thanksgiving offering to mark his cleansing (Leviticus 14:21).

Rather than denoting modern leprosy (Hansen’s disease), the term leprosy may in fact refer to another kind of serious skin disease. Even so, the experience of isolation would have been similar.

Jesus was not the first to have cured a “leper.” The first reading from the Second Book of Kings tells of the prophet Elisha curing a man with “leprosy” or a serious skin disease. Surprisingly, this man (Naaman) was not a member of the people of Israel, but a foreigner from Syria. At that time, the Syrians had often been hostile to the Israelites (2 Kings 6:8). In fact, the man was a commander in the Syrian army.

But long before Jesus commanded us to love our enemies, Elisha cured the man of his disease, even though he was a Syrian

military commander. Moreover, Naaman came to Elisha after hearing about the prophet from an Israelite slave girl at his court.

At first, Naaman was reluctant to accept the means for the cure proposed by Elisha— washing in the River Jordan. He thought of the great rivers in Damascus and despised the insignificant Jordan. But again, his servants persuaded him to try this cure. Lo and behold, he was healed.

The prophet would not take any payment for the cure. He realised that the healing was a gift from God. It was enough that Naaman came to believe in Israel’s God: “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”

To express his new-found faith, Naaman took some soil from the land of Israel to create a sacred spot near his Syrian home. Naaman declared to Elisha: “Henceforth your servant will not offer

burnt offering or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.”

After his cure Naaman was now reintegrated into society with his own people. But more than that, he was now united in faith with his former enemies in the people of Israel. The healing of his serious skin disease brought him out of isolation and also introduced him into the community of Israel’s faith.

The biblical mention of leprosy is often seen as a symbol of sin, which disfigures us spiritually and isolates us from proper dealings with one another, but the Lord can make us whole again when we confess our sins. Hence we are invited to pray with the psalmist: “Wash me more and more from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.”



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View from the Pew

By Dr Jay Kettle-Williams



Words, Weapons and Wit

We are now in the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', so identified in the poem To Autumn by English Romantic poet John Keats (31 October 1795 - 23 February 1821), inspired after having taken a walk near Winchester one autumnal evening. The autumn months (1 September - 30 November) - straddle where we are now, in October, the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

By this time in 1605, Guy Fawkes (13 April 1570 - 31 January 1606) and his fellow conspirators - among whom he did not hold the highest rank - had their plans to blow up parliament in an advanced state of readiness. Fawkes had previously converted to Catholicism. He left for mainland Europe, where he fought for Catholic Spain in the Eighty Years' War against Protestant Dutch reformers in the Low Countries. He then travelled to Spain to seek support for a Catholic rebellion in England but without success. Fawkes, also known as Guido Fawkes while fighting for the Spanish, had then enrolled as a member of the group of provincial English Catholics involved in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 to overthrow the Protestant legacy of Henry VIII, King of England from 22 April 1509 until his death in 1547.

Following the failure of the plot, Fawkes was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. However, at the moment of his execution on 31 January 1606 he died of a broken neck: he was about to be hanged when, according to some sources, he deliberately jumped from the scaffold in

order to avoid the agonies of summary execution.

A contemporary of Guy Fawkes, notable not so much for his ability with the sword but rather for his ability with a quill, was William Shakespeare (April 1564 - 23 April 1616). Much debate, ever inconclusive, has ranged over time as to whether Shakespeare was a recusant Catholic, a fifth-columnist, closeted/cupboard Catholic, not a Catholic at all, a lip-serving Protestant or of no faith whatsoever. Take your choice. However, references in his works and life - which I leave to scholars better positioned than I to expound upon - do point to a Christian faith which Shakespeare perhaps hid from public view. So that would point to him being definitely Catholic.

Shakespeare's profusive quill and worldwide recognition sustained over time, arguably outstripping Fawkes' renown, bring to mind the quotation 'The pen is mightier than the sword', first written by novelist and playwright Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839 in his historical play about the Frenchman Cardinal Richelieu.

Another Frenchman, François-Marie Arouet (1694 - 1778) born some fifty years after Fr. Richelieu (1585 - 1642), stood on the opposite side of the fence from Guy Fawkes, from the Cardinal and even presumably from William Shakespeare. Monsieur Arouet, known by his nom de plume Voltaire, was a French

Enlightenment writer, philosopher, satirist and historian. Famous for his wit and his criticism of Christianity and of slavery, Voltaire was an advocate of freedom of speech, freedom of religion and separation of church and state. There has always been the question of Voltaire's belief in or lack of belief in God. Was he a deist, believing in the existence of a supreme, non-interventionist being, or was he a follower of Spinozism, which deems that God and nature are one?

I once saw that dilemma scrawled, with humour, on the wall of the gentlemen's toilet in the Reading Room of the British Museum. It read:

'God is dead'. It was signed
'Voltaire 1694 - 1778'.

Underneath was added in a different yet firmer hand:

'Voltaire is dead. God, 1779'.

As we recognise from Shakespeare's comedies, the bard himself was well endowed with what some would consider that God-given gift of a sense of humour, often ably employed as a caustic weapon.

That said, let's all now enjoy the mists and mellow fruitfulness of the season.



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

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Our 2025 CCSP Annual Appeal was held on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th August 2025. Many parishes and individual parishioners have already supported this year's appeal but it's not too late to show your support if you haven't yet donated.

You will find an appeal envelope inside this month's edition which you can complete and return to St Boniface House, Ashburton, TQ13 7JL or alternatively you can scan the QR code below and donate through our Give a Little page.

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A connection between your ancestor and the Blessed Bartolo Longo

It's not every day that you realise that there is a connection between your ancestor and a Blessed who is about to be canonized. That's what I realised a couple of weeks ago when I read in Catholic South West the list of candidates to be canonized in the next few weeks.

It all starts with my grandmother's uncle: Padre Alberto Radente (1817 – 1885) was a Dominican priest and preacher working among the poor of Naples. At some stage he bought a painting of Our Lady of the Rosary with Saint Dominic and St Catherine of Siena; the family story is that he rescued it from a rag-and-bone man's cart; the 'official' story is that he bought it from a second-hand shop. Whichever was the case, he entrusted the painting to his friend Suor (Sister) Maria Concetta at the Monastery of the Rosary.



Padre Alberto Radente



Bartolo Longo

The next significant event – according to our family story – is that, concerned at the fear and superstition surrounding the early excavations of the Roman city of Pompei, the bishop of Naples decided to establish a religious shrine in the modern city of Pompei. He asked a lawyer, Bartolo Longo, who was an atheist and one-time satanist priest, to do this, but they needed a focus for devotion.



Madonna di Pompei



Santuario di Pompei

There was no money to commission a statue or painting, so someone suggested Fr Radente's painting. Unfortunately, it was in quite a shabby state, but they managed to get it restored with some slight alterations. This painting became the focal point, above the high altar, of the beautiful basilica of Our Lady of Pompei, which attracts more pilgrims than any other Marian shrine in Europe other than Lourdes. Padre Radente was its first rector, and the principal of the orphanage built alongside it. However, Padre Radente had played a major role as teacher and confessor to Bartolo Longo, not just converting him back to Catholicism, but leading him to become a Dominican tertiary – a lay member of the Dominican Order, dedicated to Our Lady and the Rosary. In other words, Fr Radente – my grandmother's uncle – helped to create a future saint!

During previous visits to the beautiful Basilica of La Beata Vergine del Rosario di Pompei, when allowed down into the crypt, we found three tombs in a row: that of Bartolo Longo in the centre, with Alberto Radente on one side and Suor Concetta on the other. However, when we visited in 2023, we found that the tomb of Blessed Bartolo Longo was now in a modern chapel to one side of the Basilica, whilst the other two are still in the crypt. We attended Mass in the new chapel, after which the priest showed us down to the crypt to Padre Radente's tomb; we felt privileged!

Blessed Bartolo Longo will be canonised on October 19th... I think I may justifiably celebrate this event with a glass of prosecco!

Mike Zollo



Longo Tomb

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Radente Tomb

Remember the hidden heroes of the sea who bring us 90% of everything

Seafarers and fishers live and work at the periphery of society, spending days or months at sea.

Their lives are hidden and yet they play a crucial role in bringing us so much of the food, fuel and goods we consume. From clothing to digital devices, to bananas and tea, almost 90% of goods are transported on cargo ships crewed by thousands of seafarers from all over the world.

Seafarers and fishers make enormous sacrifices just to bring us the basic things in life that we enjoy. Their work is tough, and the shifts can be gruelling - six hours on, six hours off, day after day. They have to eat, sleep, wash and speak with loved ones in a six-hour window before they're back on shift.

Most shipping companies provide for crew welfare, but working at sea has its own unique challenges. Life on board can be lonely and isolating, shore leave is becoming less frequent, and sailing in dangerous shipping routes is part and parcel of the job.

Seafarers and fishers also miss their family back home. They miss out on important moments that many of us take for granted - births, graduations, celebrations, funerals...

Not forgotten

But their sacrifices and hardships don't go unrecognised, and seafarers and fishers are not forgotten. Stella Maris' chaplains and volunteer ship visitors are present in ports around the UK to provide friendship, care, practical and spiritual support.

Ann Donnelly, Stella Maris Regional Port Chaplain in Plymouth visited a ship in port and spoke to a Russian seafarer. During their conversation he asked if she could find a carpet for his cabin, so Ann and her team went to the shops and managed to find one just before his ship sailed. The seafarer was delighted and thanked Ann. He said that having a carpet had made his cabin feel a bit more homely. The care shown by Ann towards the seafarer may be only small gesture, but it meant a lot to him. The small act of kindness gave him some comfort and showed him that he is not forgotten and that his sacrifices are recognised. It made him feel visible.

As we celebrate the season of harvest, of abundance, please remember the hidden heroes of the sea and say a prayer for them. Your kindness and support mean a lot to them.

More information about Stella Maris' work can be found at www.stellamaris.org.uk



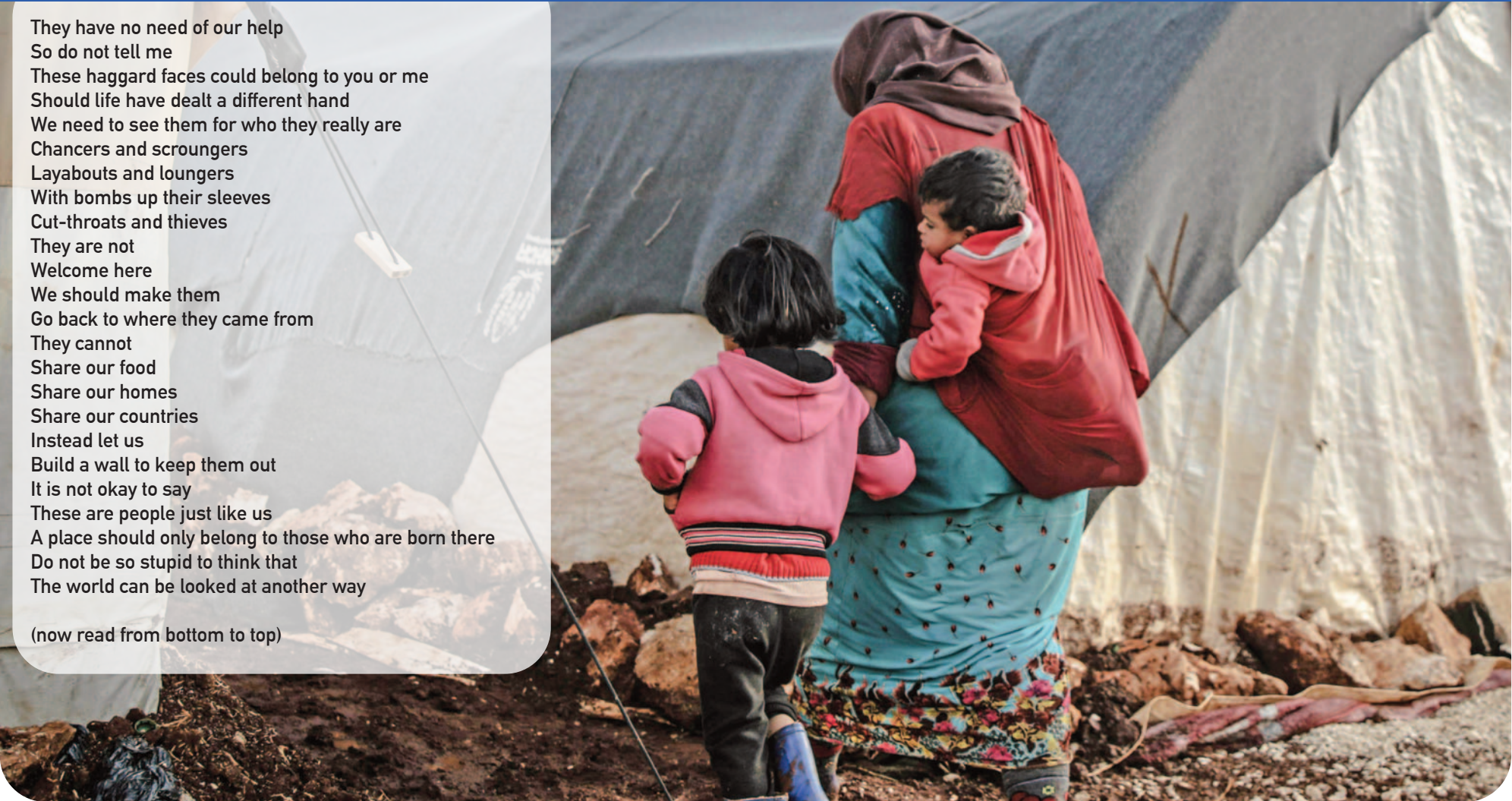
Joy filled celebration for Father Jonathan's jubilee

What a joy filled celebration for Fr Jonathan's jubilee (25 years since ordination)... a stupendous turn out, delicious food reflecting the diverse cultures of our community, music, speeches, bubbles, laughter. Thank you Father Jonathan for your authentic, spirit-led, unwavering service to our parish, we are so lucky to have you



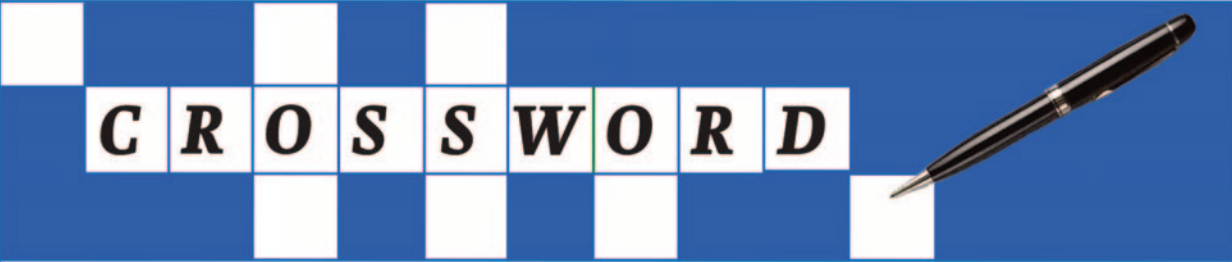
REFUGEES

Brian Bilston



They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 1 Enemy of Gideon's defeated during the witching hour, said one (9)
- 6 Musical about a High Priest (7)
- 7 Riddle to penetrate? (5)
- 9 Change in a little while going back to protect the testament (5)
- 10 Fielder's body parts used to take wickets in the end (3,4)
- 11 Foot part's essential to dancing, they say (6)
- 13 Grand aura about directions for the Holy Roman Emperor (6) 16 Hymn book each sailor kept (7)
- 18 One has a habit of getting into minicab bother (5)
- 20 Harsh being back at sea (5)
- 21 Bigbrewersarenuts,ridiculous(3-4)
- 22 Tyre here company backs after one phone order (9)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Recommendation when weather's bad in French wine area? (5)
- 2 Poles follow east Maine river banks to estate (7)
- 3 Saint Poles back from 2, and the Spanish, see in the morning (6)
- 4 One's no good in charge at first, but is very sweet (5)
- 5 Christian Roman's spreading mostly rubbish between Europe and America (7)
- 6 Paul's fellow soldier damaged pup's chair (9)
- 8 It runs in Iraq on Brussels tariffs top two phones supported (9)
- 12 Disturbance with fish supper only half wolfed down (5-2)
- 14 Spooks wreck a comeback, totally, for ancient language (7)

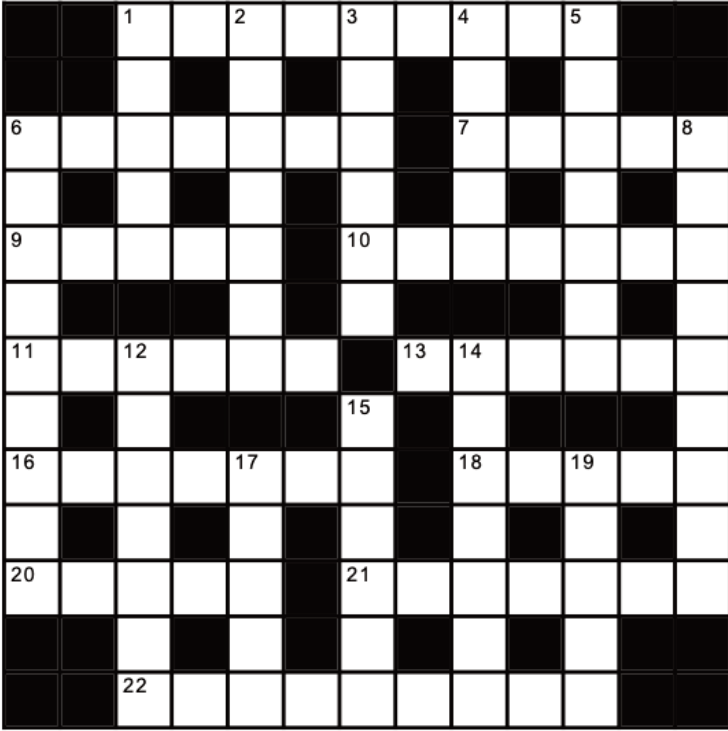
- 15 Frenchman's to the fore in Brexit – real European traditionalist on nationality (6)
- 17 'Beat retreat' code-word (5)
- 19 Gunners in the ascendant during support for Hebridean island (5)

QUICK Across

- 1 One of a tribe from whom Moses took a wife (9)
- 6 High Priest who opposed the Maccabees (7)
- 7 Soak;suffuse(5)
- 9 Eurofractions?(5)
- 10 Close fielding position in cricket (3,4)
- 11 Arch area of the foot (6)
- 13 The -----'s War: alternative, now dated, name for World War I (6) 16 Book of hymns or poems associated with the Old Testament (7)
- 18 Archimandrite;prelate(5)
- 20 Demanding;forbidding(5)
- 21 Large vats for steeping and serving beverages (3-4)
- 22 Ancient Levant maritime country with ports at Tyre and Sidon (9)

QUICK Down

- 1 Town noted for its Chardonnay and Pinot Noir/Gamay Burgundies (5)
- 2 Manorhouse;estate(7)
- 3 Abbot of Bec who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1093 (6)
- 4 Cupcake topper (5)
- 5 Roman Christian who sent greetings to Timothy via Paul... (7)



- 6 ...and Christian at Colossae cited by Paul (9)
- 8 Western river boundary of Mesopotamia (9)
- 12 Organize a new restructure(5-2)
- 14 Language probably spoken by Christ (7)
- 15 French, previously Armorican (6)
- 17 Staccato, energetic, South American dance (5)
- 19 Outer Hebridean island home of Dad's Army's Private Frazer (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Midianite, 6 Alcinus, 7 Imbue, 9 Cents, 10 Leg slip, 11 Instep, 13 Kaiser, 16 Psalter, 18 Abbot, 20 Stern, 21 Tea-urns, 22 Phoenicia. Down: 1 Macon, 2 Demesne, 3 Anselm, 4 Icing, 5 Eubulus, 6 Archippus, 8 Euphrates, 12 Shake-up, 14 Aramaic, 15 Breton, 17 Tango, 19 Barra.