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Clear Voices

a festival of theology



There is something hard to describe about what Clear Voices achieves. It is something to do with the whole being greater than the sum of the parts. Imagine approximately 50 seminars taking place over three days. In between the seminars people gather for refreshments in a large marquee. The place is literally buzzing with the sound of enthusiastic zealous Christianity. People awakened, curious, discovering, opening themselves up to new horizons. It is a marquee filled with energy and of people discussing "The things of God." Wander around it, and you'll over hear people speaking about Brother Guy's exploration of astronomy, or Dr Downey's reflections upon the virtue of hope, or Dana talking about faith and her life as a celebrity. Margaret and Barry Mizen share their quest for forgiveness after the murder of their son, whilst Fr Robert Draper enthuses about the book of revelation. The event isn't about something, it is about everything. It is big church, big horizons, big thoughts.

We are also in the home of a Benedictine Community, who have prayed here for almost a thousand years. So the energy of the event sits inside a wider serenity and in the shadow of the imposing abbey. Clear Voices is all about words but you will also find people who have taken themselves to a quiet space to ponder and digest what they have heard. Peace and energy seem like unlikely friends but here in these few days they comfortably sit together, side by side.

This year we gathered young people from our sixth-form colleges to act as volunteers. Perhaps my abiding memory will be of a relay of young people



sporting umbrellas to shelter our guests in the heavy rain. As Fr Christopher Jamison reached the marquee dry he admitted, "These young people are making this extraordinary" and then he added "Every event should find some people like these."

Whenever we gather like this the goodness of people surfaces. There is the sound of laughter and of prayer. We are indeed a blessed and gifted Church, all Clear Voices really does is remind us.

David Wells
Director of the Vicariate for
Formation

Editor: The inclement weather of late June did nothing to dampen the spirits of delegates during Clear Voices 2014. I missed the first Clear Voices in 2012 so was delighted to be able to attend this year's festival. I attended a number of seminars but the two that stood out for me were those given by Bill Huebsch 'What does Pope Francis want from us? Learning to be the Church in the modern world' and 'Raising spiritual awareness in healthcare' by Dr Karen Groves.

Bill Huebsch used humour, anecdote and story to help us understand this moment in our history and how to respond to it with great faith; visit http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL25ibNentXymR8cL_OdMriCtU6dg9zD5A to view the video recording of Bill Huebsch's seminar. Dr Karen Groves talked to us about those responsible for addressing the spiritual health of patients and their families in healthcare settings, why that matters and how we can develop appropriate skills. If you're a Health Care professional, a member of a Hospital Chaplaincy teams or simply a carer for a family member or friend, visit the Diocesan website <http://formation.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/content/dr-karen-groves> where you will find more information about the her seminar.

Jonathan Henderson, a member of the Department for Formation team and advisor for Adult Formation and New Technologies said: "In the evaluations we received from delegates one person described the event as "just wonderful, faith filled, joyous and happy amidst lovely friendly people! Very well organised! And definitely 'food for the



soul'." Another delegate simply wrote: "the best thing I have been to in years." Jonathan continued: "The festival was enjoyed not just by delegates but by our speakers as well, with Fr Christopher Jamison describing it as a "wonderful event" that "is now building a great reputation", John Burland describing the liturgies as "some of the best I have ever participated in", and the Vatican astronomer Br Guy Consolmagno saying how "delighted" he will be to return again for the next Clear Voices."

The theme of the closing Liturgy on our first day was 'Peace and reconciliation for the world'. After hymns, readings and silent prayer we were asked to hold in our hands a ribbon that we had been given on arrival at the Abbey Church and

encouraged to reflect on our non-peaceful behaviours and actions; did we want to walk away with the ribbon in our pocket or did we want to stay with Jesus, facing him with our pain, our fear and our anger and seek from him the strength to grow and be reconciled? If we chose to stay we were invited to walk forward and place our ribbon on the cross – a powerful and moving end to our first day.

I am grateful to the Vicariate for Formation team for giving me the opportunity to attend Clear Voices and for the hospitality of the amazing volunteers from the sixth-form colleges of Notre Dame (Plymouth), St Edward's (Poole), St Cuthbert Mayne and Stoodley Knowle (Torquay).



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Please note that opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Publishers, Editor, The Diocese of Plymouth or the Roman Catholic Church.

www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk**Diocesan News**

The World Apostolate of Fatima pilgrimage

The Diocese of Plymouth was well represented on this year's national pilgrimage of the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) which took place in July. The Vigil Mass on the Saturday 12th July began with the recitation of the rosary in the Capelinha, at the exact spot where Our Lady appeared, and on Sunday 13th was followed by a great procession to the altar in front of the Basilica by representatives

carrying their national flags, behind those of the Pope and Portugal. Then came a multitude of banners from parishes and organisations including our own WAF banner, followed by the bishops, priests and deacons, all carrying candles at the vigil mass, and at the end was a litter covered in flowers bearing the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The whole route was lined by pilgrims singing and, at the vigil mass, carrying candles – an awe-inspiring manifestation of faith and devotion. As the statue was processed back the pilgrims sang a beautiful hymn to our Lady and waved white handkerchiefs in farewell.



church, as well as Coimbra Carmel (where Lucia had been a nun), Batalha Abbey and Nazare.

If you have never been to Fatima – you really must go sometime soon! The most wonderful combination of the two days of great celebration with thousands of other Catholics and then the opportunity for quiet prayer and contemplation in Our Lady's company will send you back to your parish with spiritual batteries re-charged and ready to face the daily struggles of our secularised world.

Fr Paul Andrew
St Mary's, Barnstaple

ORDINATIONS

Ordination of Fr. Anthony Cockram

Fr. Tony, as he likes to be called, was ordained priest on a lovely warm day in June at the Church of Christ the King in Plymouth by Rt. Rev. Mark O'Toole, our Bishop. He was supported by seven priests from the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, and some diocesan priests and parishioners from Sidmouth, Torquay and the Cathedral parish. The Ordinary of the Ordinariate, Mgr. Keith Newton, was unable to be present owing to a family bereavement.

Fr. Tony has offered this brief account of his journey in faith.

"You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church"

Quite a few years ago I was ordained as a priest in the Church of England; however a long time passed before the significance of the words of Jesus to Peter at Caesarea Philippi began to trouble me. I loved the Church in which I had been formed, and I believed that my ministry was full and complete; but of course, it wasn't. I came to see the tremendous importance of Apostolic Succession and I glimpsed the grace which full communion with the See of Peter would provide.

The Anglican Communion is hampered by synodical government, but for all that, she contains much that is good. She has a wonderful musical heritage and a willingness to minister widely. Parts of the Church use beautiful liturgy and her priests are expected to root their homilies in a strong biblical tradition. I believed that full communion with Rome would mean leaving all of this behind, but Pope Benedict came to the rescue. The Apostolic Constitution Anglicanorum Coetibus enabled Anglicans to enter into full communion with the Pope, and in September 2013 Archbishop, now Cardinal, Vincent Nichols explained that through the Canonical Structures of the Ordinariate "Anglicans could enter the full communion of the Catholic Church, bringing with them some of the traditions and beauty of the Anglican heritage in which they were nurtured."

I was received, with my wife, into full communion with Rome on Holy Cross Day 2012. I came with hope of Ordination not expectation, but I was asked if I wanted to have my vocation to priesthood tested by the Catholic Church. Pope Francis granted me dispensation from the vow of celibacy, and two years of part time formation at Allen Hall started, during which time Bishop Mark ordained me as Deacon on 2nd March and Priest on 21st June 2014.

My incardination was through the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham,

but my nearest Ordinariate Community is in Torquay. Geography therefore limits my work for the Ordinariate to two or three days a week, but as a catholic priest my Faculties allow me to work within the Diocese with the appropriate permissions. Fr Michael Koppel has been generous in this respect and I have been able to work as a priest within the parish of Seaton. Seaton knows me reasonably well now, and my hope is that I will soon be able to serve in Lyme and Axminster too.

Please pray for me.

Anthony Cockram

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OF WAR,
NETBALL
FOOTBALL
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YO O T H

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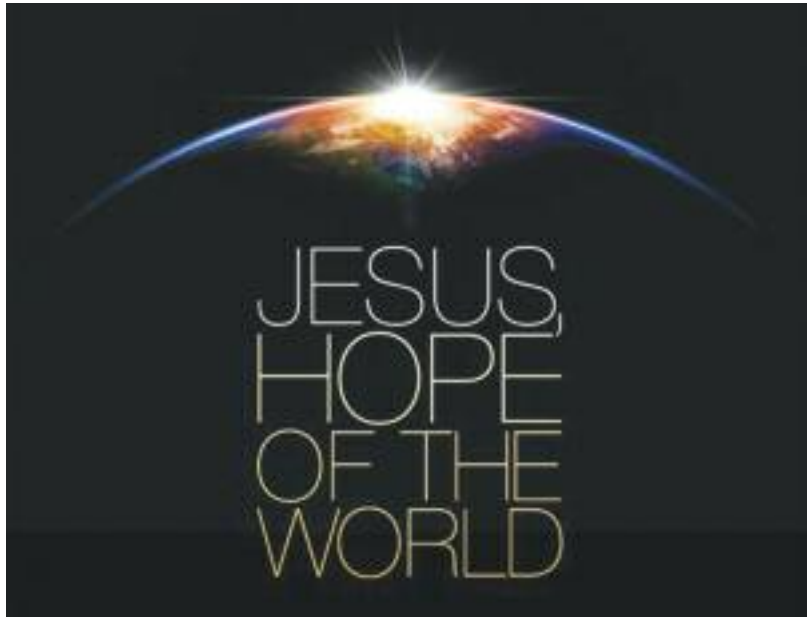
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For further details of local contacts, transport and coming from your part of the
Diocese

Please contact Jackie T: 01803 328916 or Patrick T: 01637 851438

A glimpse at some of the fun from 2013

This occasion annually commemorates the voluntary youth work that the late John Woolcott tirelessly encouraged, that young people can encounter "The Joy of the Gospel" lived in the ordinary made and extra ordinary in spending time together. An opportunity to discover faith in action, building a kingdom of new friends, creating teams, having fun and food, sharing memorable times that are celebrated together.

Diocesan News



Jesus – the hope of all the world

speakers, workshops, a bookshop, drama from RISEtheatre, lively praise and worship, Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark with Fr Kieran Kirby and other priests from across the Diocese, opportunities for confession and prayer ministry.

Children and young people will have their own programme of activities with a crèche available for under 3s and their parents (+ live audio feed).

Speakers for this year's Celebrate Weekend are Sister Marie Natella, Kristina Cooper and David Wells. Prior booking is essential and early booking recommended as spaces are limited. For more information go to: www.celebrateconference.org, email: torquay@celebrateconference.org or speak to Janet Phare tel: 01803 405557.



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Blessed John Henry Newman

When?

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Where?

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How long?

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What is it about?

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Who accredits the Certificate?

The course is accredited and moderated by the *National Board of Studies*, which works on behalf of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales.

How much will it cost?

£40 per module (£160 in total)

Do I have to write essays?

The course welcomes those who want to attend purely out of interest. Those who wish to achieve the Certificate Award will have to complete a portfolio consisting of four pieces of work.

Whose leading it?

We are fortunate to have a wonderful team of tutors including: Mgr Adrian Toffolo, Canon John Deeny, Fr Kristian Paver, Fr Peter Cox, Becky Barber, Fr Tim Lewis, Sarah Adams, Canon Michael Lock, John Mannix, Canon Keith Mitchell, Sr Anne McDowell, David Wells and Jillian Wilce.

What do I do next?

Visit the website plymouth-diocese.org.uk/ccrs

Contact Debbie for more information on 01394 645390

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Diocesan News



WEST COUNTRY

HCPT Group 579 Pilgrimage

On the last Friday of June 30 Pilgrims led by Group Leader Cavan Wilce, travelled to Bristol Airport from across the Diocese (and beyond) to fly to Toulouse and onwards by coach to Hosanna House. We enjoyed good weather throughout our stay, taking part in Blessed Sacrament and Torchlight processions, visiting the baths and the Grotto and spending a relaxing day at Lac de Lourdes. Some of our group also visited St Jean de Luz, a pretty coastal town on the Bay of Biscay in south west France, close to the Spanish boarder. Everyone in the group, whether 'first-timers' or 'old hands', were glad to have experienced how life should be lived by sharing in the love and peace that Lourdes offers to all who visit.



HCPT Group 179 Barn Dance and Hog Roast

Saturday 13th September from 7pm to 11pm at Manor Farm, Dacombe, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4ST. Tickets, Adults £10, children under 14 years £5 (to include food and dancing to a live band) available from hcpt179@gmail.com or call 07971 368 349. All proceeds to Group 179's Easter Children's Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

HCPT Youth Development Programme

Are you aged between 18 and 30? Have you been a helper at Easter with HCPT, but never been on a summer pilgrimage with us? Are you interested in developing your leadership skills with HCPT? Then why not apply to take part in our Summer Youth Development Programme? This year we are asking young people like you to apply for the role of Group Support Assistant within a summer group. You'll develop your skills by taking up roles of responsibility within summer groups, under the guidance of the Group Leader; you'll get to undertake a wide range of tasks including, for example, liaison between the group and the Hosanna House staff, coordination of logistical arrangements, and liturgical

coordination in support of the group chaplain. Participation in the programme will give you an extremely enjoyable, fulfilling and rewarding experience, working among wonderful people in the breathtaking surroundings of Hosanna House. If you are selected you'll be asked to make a personal contribution of at least £200 to cover some of the costs which you can of course cover by personal fundraising. You'll also need a valid Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Disclosure. Jennie Hale from Weybridge successfully applied for a place on the Youth Development Programme in 2012 and spent a week with a Summer HCPT group at Hosanna House. Jenny says: "The group was full of truly lovely people. I learnt a huge amount from observing the pace of the group, and it gave me many inspiring ideas for liturgies. Overall it was a wonderful experience that allowed me to learn a lot and pick up fresh ideas which I don't think I could have seen in groups during Easter. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to see a different side of HCPT. Thank you for allowing me the chance to go this summer - it was an invaluable experience. If you'd like to apply for the programme, please send the items listed below to debra.olivertyson@hcpt.org.uk:

- A letter of motivation indicating why you want to be involved in the programme and what you would hope to get out of it
- A CV
- Two references (including one from the Group Leader of the group with which you have previously travelled)
- Preferred dates of travel between May and October 2015 (please give a selection of weeks you would be available).



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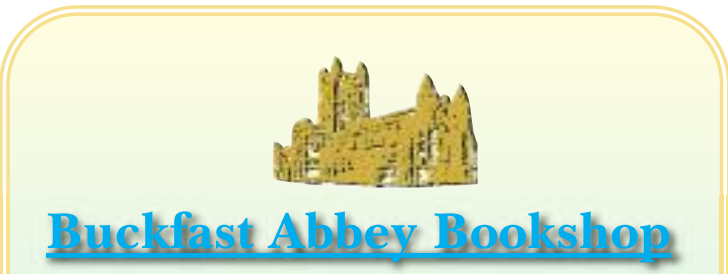
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Diocesan News



September Update

The Islamic State (IS) – formerly the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – has made sweeping advances across Iraq, targeting civilians.

According to the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) by mid-August an estimated 200,000 people had fled the advance of IS, and at least 180,000 had crossed into the Dohuk district of the Kurdistan Region.



CAFOD supports the recent statement by Cardinal Vincent Nichols calling for the "protection of all communities", "long-term security", and prayers for peace:

"It is imperative that the international community ensure the physical protection of all communities in Iraq, their human rights, including the right to religious freedom. I urge Her Majesty's Government to lead the efforts in the face of such a human calamity to help restore these shattered communities, provide them with urgent humanitarian aid and work with others to ensure their long-term security in the land of their birth.

"I encourage our own Catholic community to continue to give generously to our agencies working to support the people of Iraq. Above all, I invite all people of faith to turn to God in prayer this weekend and seek for our world the change of heart and the gift of grace that alone can bring us peace."

Over the last few months CAFOD has worked to support Syrian refugees in northern Iraq. CAFOD's Church partners in Lebanon are doing everything they can do to support Iraqi Christians as they flee the country and will continue to stay in close contact with their partners in Iraq and across the region, assessing the changing situation and taking their advice on where they can best provide support.

The solidarity of prayers and donations of Catholics across England and Wales are a source of genuine hope for our brothers and sisters in need.

Ffion Dean (fdean@cafod.org.uk)

Prayer for peace in Iraq

Lord, the plight of our country is deep and the suffering of the Christians is heavy and frightening us, therefore we ask you Lord to assign our lives, grant us patience and courage to continue to witness our Christian values with trust and hope.

Lord, peace is the base of any life; give us peace and stability to live with each other without fear, anxiety, with dignity and joy, glory to you forever.

Archbishop Louis Raphael I Sako, Chaldean Catholic Patriarch

For more information about CAFOD in the Plymouth Diocese contact Simon Giarchi or Conchita Dunn email: plymouth@cafod@cafod.org.uk Tel: 01364 645440 Website: www.cafodplymouth.org.uk

Wider News

Matrimony Matters

Brian and Maureen Devine are members of a small group of 5 couples and a priest whose aim is to support couples interested in deepening their understanding of the spirituality and sanctity of marriage. The group: have received tremendous encouragement and support from the hierarchy including, for example, Cardinals Vincent Nichols, Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Bishops Brian Noble and John Hine; all of whom have provided 'forewords' for their publications in support of marriage.

The article published below is another in the series of reflections which, in the lead-up to the October 2014 Synod, aim to enhance people's appreciation of the value of marriage to our Church and to society as a whole. For more information about the group and to read more of the 'reflections' visit:

WWW.twoinoneflesh.org.uk.

We need 'power from on high'

Was Jesus full of fear when He began the work of spreading the Good News of God's love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness, knowing it would bring him many enemies and result in his death? At his Baptism, when he heard the Father's

voice saying he was "well pleased" with his Son, he must have felt great encouragement to receive such power from on high.

It's that same 'power from on high' that we need at times, especially when worried about the future. You may be experiencing fears about job security, concerns about money, about the future for your children, about health matters, or about ageing parents. Whatever it is, sadly, couples don't always share their fears and concerns, because sometimes we think that sharing the truth about particular issues might be too great a burden for our spouse. Yet, we all have experienced the closeness when we have been open and honest with each other. To lovingly 'risk', all of us need the help of the Holy Spirit, that 'power from on high', in order to deal with, and overcome, our fears.

PRAYER

Lord, help us always to remember that you are our loving Father. May we place our fears and concerns before you, confident that your Holy Spirit will provide us with the help and support we need.

Amen.

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Penzance Festival of Art & Music

The church at Penzance has a long tradition of supporting music for the liturgy and since 1998 has also hosted a week long celebration of music and the arts, held in the merry month of May. Originally an annual event the Festival is now biennial and in recent years has worked with students and staff at Humphry Davy Music College. Festival Week starts with Mass and closes with Choral Evening Prayer & Benediction, followed by wine and cheese.

The church has been beautifully restored in recent years and the organ gallery is particularly splendid, as is the magnificent stained glass east window including 2 of the Cornish Saints. The interior was resplendent with magnificent flower displays as well as art and craft works by local artists, St. Mary's RC School and Humphry Davy Music College students.

The concert programme featured national, international and local performers including organist William Whitehead, pianist Stella Pendrous and the Mousehole Male Voice Choir. The latter impressed with an entirely new repertoire and all performed entirely from memory. Our Parish is especially fortunate in its Director of Music, David Gridley, whose vision and drive created and maintains this biennial festival and who has also guided much of the art and design in the renovation of the church interior. Along with improvements to the acoustic, mainly by removing most of the carpets, this has created a wonderful space in which to hear concerts and fine church music.

Mary Jones, Penzance

Launceston Pilgrimage 2014

I have recently produced a short, lavishly illustrated History of the Launceston Pilgrimage (copies available from office@stcuthbertmayne.org.uk). Begun in 1921, the pilgrimage drew thousands of Catholics from all over the Diocese to honour and remember St Cuthbert Mayne, priest and martyr, who was executed in Launceston Town Square on 30th November 1577. The glory days from the 1950s to the 1970s have vanished, but the pilgrimage, now every three years, survives.

Cuthbert Mayne's canonisation has been achieved, but at a time when it is becoming increasingly difficult to be a true disciple of the risen Jesus, the pilgrimage still offers a chance to witness peacefully and gently to what we believe. The next pilgrimage will be on Sunday 5th October at 3pm; more details will follow in the next edition of Catholic South West.



Plymouth Diocesan Year Book 2015

Whenever I look at the current edition of the Year Book I wince at the amount of out of date information it contains. The next edition is on its way, and I remind readers as gently as I can that the deadline for up to date information and articles – yes please, keep them coming in – is Saturday 6th September 2014. And it will still be an inexpensive and edifying read.

Fr David Annear
Diocesan Year Book Editor

The Major Relic of St. Cuthbert Mayne returns to the National Shrine at Launceston

Cuthbert Mayne was executed at Launceston in November 1577 for being a Catholic priest. Canonised in 1970, he is our Diocese's Secondary Patron. His head was exhibited on a pike over the Castle gateway; retrieved by a Catholic, it was taken first to

Lanherne and then to Trevithick to avoid detection. In 1807 the crown of the martyr's skull, all that remains except for a few small pieces of bone, was given to some Carmelite nuns who had fled from the terrors of the French Revolution and founded a Carmel at Lanherne in 1794. When the Carmel closed in 2001, the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate moved into the historic buildings, and continued to foster devotion to the Saint.

In October 2013 Bishop Christopher asked me whether I should like to have the major relic at Launceston. Just imagine my astonishment! Then months of negotiations ensued, including permissions from Rome and from the former Carmelite prioress at Lanherne. On 31st July 2014 I drove over to Lanherne and brought the major relic to the



National Shrine after its stop-over of 207 years at Lanherne.

I am grateful to Bishop Christopher for beginning this process and to Bishop Mark, Fr. Kristian Paver JV, Richard King and Sr. Margaret Mary ODC for their vital support.

Fr. David Annear
Parish Priest of Launceston

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Plymouth Diocesan Year Book – back issues

With the help of Emma King, Bishop Mark's PA, I have been able to acquire a large number of back issues of the Diocesan Year Book, some going back to the 50s and 60s. If anyone is interested in having some of these free, please contact me: Fr David Annear tel: 01566 773166 or email: office@stcuthbertmayne.org.uk



Diocesan News

Apostleship of the Sea (AoS)

"Each day on board the ship not sailing anywhere sapped their spirits". When the crew of the FB Glory set sail for southwest England in early June, they would probably never have predicted what was to about happen to them and their ship. When their vessel docked at Fowey, two of their number, the cook and a cadet apparently left the ship, claiming that they had not been paid their wages. Down to just six men, the vessel made its way to Plymouth but was subsequently detained by the authorities because of safety-related issues on board that had become a cause for concern.

A week later, the ship was still stranded, anchored off the Plymouth coast, and the crew left to fend for themselves with whatever food and drink there was on

board. AoS was able to provide some comfort and practical help to the crew, who were from Turkey, Syria and India. Ann Donnelly, AoS port chaplain in Plymouth said: "Whilst in port on June 4, our ship visitor Jayne O'Connor went on board to talk with the crew; they appeared relaxed but were worried about what would happen to the vessel. Jayne gave them some newspapers and phone top up cards so they could contact their families back home." Working with the International Transport Workers Federation, AoS continued to monitor the situation, keeping a close eye on the men's welfare. "This was a stressful time for the crew and each day on board the vessel that was not sailing anywhere sapped their spirits," said Ann. The ship finally sailed at the end of June. In 2013, across Britain, AoS assisted more than 200,000 seafarers visiting more than

10,000 ships.

Pope Francis affirms AoS ministry: In his Angelus address on July 13 in St Peter's Square the Holy Father said: "Today we celebrate Sea Sunday. I turn my thoughts to seafarers, fishermen and their families. I urge Christian communities, particularly the coastal ones, to be attentive and sensitive towards them. I call on the chaplains and volunteers of the Apostleship of the Sea to continue with their commitment to the pastoral care of these brothers and sisters. I entrust all, especially those who are in trouble and away from home, to the maternal protection of Mary, Star of the Sea." 25th September 2014, Feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea: AoS will be marking World Maritime Day with the celebration



of Mass in London, Glasgow and, for the first time, at our own Cathedral of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth. Bishop Mark will preside at the Mass which begins at 5pm and will be attended by port chaplains, volunteer ship visitors and supporters from across the diocese. All are welcome to the mass, for more information contact John Green johngreen@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk 07505 653 801.

AoS Chaplains in our Diocese are: John Pinhay (Falmouth and Fowey), Ann Donnelly (Plymouth and Teignmouth) and Rev Roger Stone (Weymouth and Portland).

Dorset Deanery

A banner for Bridport Catholic Women's League



Bridport Parish CWL with their new banner. Mrs Mary Cattell left of banner, Mrs Maureen Reynolds on the right.

Bridport CWL, which covers Bridport, Beaminster and Chideock, was inaugurated on 24th May 2013 by their (now) President, Mrs Mary Cattell. The league presently has a membership of seventeen and meet once a month in St Mary and St Catherine Church, Bridport. They are a friendly, convivial and busy group of women who, on a warm and sunny evening in May, were presented with their very own banner, made especially for them by Mrs Maureen Reynolds and blessed by Fr Richard Meyer after Sunday Mass on the 18th May.

After presenting the banner Maureen gave a short talk on the craft of banner making. She began some years ago in a small village in Cumbria and over the past six years has made thirty banners for different church organisations. She stressed that it was important for people working on banners to be in accord with each other, they would have to spend long hours in each other's company - all the work being done by hand. Maureen has made banners in Cyrillic script and for countries as far away as Ukraine, Russia and Ecuador.

Pat McEvoy
Bridport

Celebrating the music and life of Mike Stanley

On Saturday 7th June people from across the Dorset Deanery gathered at St. Mary's Poole for an anniversary memorial Mass for singer and hymn writer Mike Stanley who died in June 2013. Mike the other half of the Boyce and Stanley duo, contributed to and enhanced liturgy so much nationally with his writing and singing. Mike was a man of deep faith and imparted that enthusiasm in his music. He contributed enormously and was an inspiration to the catechetical programmes in the Plymouth Diocese.

Throughout the memorial Mass at St. Mary's the choir led the congregation in music and hymns written by Mike. Although gone to his eternal rest, Mike is immortalised by his contribution to liturgical music and his enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel through music lives on. May he rest in peace.

Rev Declan McConville
Poole



We practise and teach Christian contemplative meditation at residential and day courses at our centre in Dorchester and at other retreat centres in the UK.

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Regular Traditional Latin Masses in Plymouth Diocese:
Plymouth Cathedral: 1st Sundays at 3.00pm
Blessed Sacrament, Fore Street, Haverhill, Exeter EX1 2QJ:
3rd Sundays at 3.00pm
St Cyprian's Chapel, Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh TQ13 0AD:
4th Sundays at 3.00pm
Exeter University Catholic Chaplaincy: Fridays (term time) at 7.30pm
Lanherne Convent, St Mawgan, nr, Newquay TR8 4ER: Sundays and Holydays at 10.00am, Mondays to Saturdays inclusive at 7.30am
Sacred Heart, 25 South Street, Exeter EX1 1EB: Wednesdays at 5.30pm

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Dorset Deanery Sherborne Parish Lunch Club



When the parish hall at The Church of The Sacred Heart & St. Aldhelm, Sherborne was built in 1998 to become the venue for a wide variety of activities it prompted the beginning of a parish monthly lunch club.

Initially established to provide a meeting place for those parishioners who live alone, it has grown in strength and with a devoted team of helpers lead by Mrs. Anne O'Callaghan now extends invitations to non-parishioners in Sherborne.

The tempting lunch menus are expertly prepared in the kitchen of Eastbury House Care Home. When I dropped by members and their guests were enjoying generous portions of moussaka followed by almond and apricot cake with cream, accompanied by a fine choice of beverages – I was told that I'd do better to visit on feast days!

Len Horsley
Sherborne

Our Lady & St Ignatius, Chideock

On Thursday 3rd July a special Mass was held in the Church of Our Lady & St Ignatius, Chideock, to celebrate the completion of the project to reinstate a replica of the original Victorian dome that had been replaced in the early 1960s with a mansard roof.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Mark who officiated with Fr Richard Meyer, our parish priest. The church was full, and the congregation was able to see the newly restored dome interior, painted with gold-leaf stars on a blue background by Adrian Everitt. Also on display were the Martyrs' Relics and the 15th Century brass thurible which is usually on loan to the V & A in London. A reception was held afterwards in the Manor gardens by kind permission of Howard and Deirdre Coates, from where the view of the new dome was spectacularly lit up by the setting sun.

The next day an 'Open Afternoon' was held in the church with tea and cakes served by the Friends Committee, and featured a fascinating talk by the dome's architect Andrew Stone who explained the intricacies of the work and how it was achieved. Also present was Nigel Jaggard of Magenta Building Repair who had done the work, and Nigel Dyer of Sandtoft Tiles who had come all the way from Doncaster to see the results of his special tile manufacture. A display of photographs of the original dome, the 1960's mansard roof, and the progress of



the work with details of the special tiles was set up in the porch, along with pictures of the Duomo in Florence, which had inspired the church's creator, Charles Weld, in 1874, exactly 140 years ago.

Gaby Martelli
Chideock

Torbay Deanery Celebrations at St Joseph's, Newton Abbot

The Confirmation of fourteen of our young people took place in May, celebrated by Bishop Mark O'Toole. Although a little nervous at first, our candidates were soon put at ease when Bishop Mark met them before the Mass.

After introductions and a brief talk the conversation soon turned to computer games, mobile phones and the demands of a typical day in Bishop Mark's life.

The service was beautiful and very joyful and celebrations continued in the parish hall afterwards where some of the teenagers persuaded Bishop Mark to pose for selfies with them! June was also a busy month with a group of parishioners travelling to Glastonbury to watch the production of The Life of Christ in the abbey grounds and fours of our children making their First Holy Communion on the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The play at Glastonbury, in three acts, was performed by The Wintershall company of players mainly made up of members of the community near the estate in Surrey. It was the first time that the play had been brought to Glastonbury Abbey; the setting was beautiful, the weather perfect and those who took part in the trip were moved and inspired by the power of the performances.



The following day the sun shone once again on our First Holy Communicants as they took the next step in their faith journey.

Rosemary Vasey
Newton Abbot



Exeter Deanery

Super Summer Fayre



On Saturday July 12th Exeter's MP Ben Bradshaw opened the Summer Fayre at Blessed Sacrament Church, Heavitree, Exeter; his presence and the perfect weather attracted a large crowd and he was warmly welcomed by Canon John Deeny, Parish Priest. Mr Bradshaw told us how appreciative he was of the role played by the churches in the local community, not just on account of their charitable and cultural work, but also

because they provided a vital forum for communication and the interchange of information and ideas on ethical and moral issues. He had always been impressed by the enthusiasm and diversity of the Blessed Sacrament congregation and would welcome any views on current matters of conscience including the forthcoming parliamentary debates on Assisted Dying. He said he had not yet made a decision but was inclined towards the view of Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury who, as we know, is opposed to the legislation.

As well as the usual fete attractions we had ferret racing, with very tame ferrets who after the racing were very happy to play with the children; as were meercats, a skunk, snakes and stick insects brought along by Steve from Exmoor Zoo. The Annual Promise Auction was great success with a number of enticing items donated by local businesses and individuals. The Ladies – v- Gentlemen Tug of War was keenly contested on the not too easy sloping grassy field. For those seeking a bit of indoors calm, the Exeter Male Voice Choir and St Nicholas School Choir gave short recitals in the church. Around £4,000 pounds was raised, principally for parish funds, with donations also being made to three local charities: Exeter Hospice, Exeter Shilhay which supports homeless people, and Nightstop Devon which helps provide emergency accommodation for young homeless people.

Frances Canning
Blessed Sacrament Parish



This year we decided to make a few changes to the Mass for St. Rita's Day- new hymns were introduced and a different route for the Offertory Procession were the major changes.

Andy, our Organist, was an inspiration to all of us as he led the singing making sure we had a 'run-through' before Mass began so that everyone could join in and enjoy the music. The Offertory Procession followed a longer route which gave the congregation an opportunity to see the gifts being carried to the altar; included with the bread and wine were our Book of Prayer,

St Rita's Day 2014

petitions written on the day together with those received from our benefactors throughout the Novena and a basket of roses - the symbol of St. Rita.

A story is told that near the end of her life, Rita was bedridden at the convent. A cousin visited her and asked her if she would like anything from her old home. Rita responded by asking for a rose from the garden. Despite it being January and so not the season for roses her cousin went to the house and found a single rose in bloom in the garden which was brought to Rita in the convent. St. Rita is often depicted holding roses or with roses nearby and, on her feast day churches and shrines of St Rita all over the world provide roses for the congregation that are blessed by the priest during Mass.

We receive many letters from our benefactors, telling us about the help and hope that St Rita has

given them as they try to cope with personal or family difficulties. From my own experience I know that St Rita is still interceding with the Holy Spirit for all of us and that knowledge gives comfort and peace of mind every day. If you would like us to enter your name or the name of a loved one in our Book of Prayer you only have to ask, blessed rose petals for the sick are available all year and again you only have to ask and we will post them to you. Masses can be offered for your special intentions on receipt of a small stipend; statues, rosaries, medals, greetings cards and Mass cards and a limited range of books are also available throughout the year. For more information please contact St Rita's Retreat & Conference Centre, Tel: 01404 42635 Email: stritas@btinternet.com

Patricia Gough
St Rita's, Honiton

Axminster Catenian celebrations



Axminster Catenians celebrated their 500th Meeting with their Ladies, Widows and Visitors, at Haselbury Mill, and were joined by the Association's international Grand President Bob Butler, and his wife Kathy, from Plymouth. Other Association members came from Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall

After the meeting over 100 of us sat down to a splendid celebratory dinner in the cathedral like Tithe Barn. During the Dinner, over £440 was raised for the President's Charity which, this year, is Shelter Box

Following a Sunday Mass in Lyme Regis in early July Axminster Catenians had their annual President's Sunday lunch at the home of Julian & Helen Shaw in Kilmington. The ladies prepared a splendid table, and the weather was very kind after a few spots of rain. President Peter Westoby proposed a vote of thanks to Helen Shaw and presented her with a bouquet

A unique part of the day was that Julian Shaw who takes most of the Catenian photographs eventually managed to be in one!

Bill Stead
Axminster

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Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe, OFM Conv.

Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish Conventual Franciscan friar, who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the Nazi German death camp of Auschwitz, located in German-occupied Poland during World War II.

He was Canonised on 10 October 1982 by Pope John Paul II, and declared a martyr of charity. He is the patron saint of drug addicts, political prisoners, families, journalists, prisoners, and the pro-life movement. John Paul II declared him "The Patron Saint of Our Difficult Century"

Born 'Raymund Kolbe' on 8 January 1894 in Zdúnska Wola, in the Kingdom of Poland, which was a part of the Russian Empire, he was the second son of Julius Kolbe and Maria Dabrowska. His father was an ethnic German and his mother was Polish. He had four brothers, Francis, Joseph, Walenty and Andrew. Raymund and his family moved to Pabianice, where his parents initially worked as

basket weavers. Later, his mother worked as a midwife (often donating her services), and operated a shop in part of their rented house, where she sold groceries and household goods. Julius Kolbe worked at the Krushe and Ender Mill and also worked on a parcel of rented land where he grew vegetables. In 1914, Julius joined Jozef Pilsudski's Polish Legions and was captured by the Russians and hanged for fighting for the independence of a partitioned Poland.

Kolbe's life was strongly influenced by a childhood vision of the Virgin Mary that he later described: "That night, I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me, a Child of Faith. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both."

JAN MEYER - Sept 14th 1947 - Feb 25th 2014

.. daughter, sister, wife and mother, grandmother, aunt and friend, nurse, teacher, keeper of horses, sheep and dogs, gardener, spinner and knitter, lover of moors and mountains, with a passion for the Bloomsbury Group and folk music and LIFE!

On Friday 7th March, 2014, a large group of us travelled by coach, and many others by car, from Bridport Parish to the Anglican church of St John the Evangelist in Millborne Port, Somerset. We were a quiet, preoccupied group of people for this was not a parish outing when everyone is in high spirits anticipating a day out. We were travelling to be with our priest, Fr Richard Meyer, because this was the day of Jan's funeral, his beloved wife of forty eight years. Some weeks earlier, on the day of our Parish Christmas lunch, Fr Richard was called to the hospital. We heard later that it was Jan who was unexpectedly and seriously ill.

Fr Richard has been our priest here in Bridport since 2010. He has achieved wonderful things for our parish, drawing us all together so that we have become a large, happy family under his guidance. Formerly, an Anglican minister who became a Catholic Priest, Fr Richard came to us having a wife and family - a son and daughter and several grandchildren. This was a wonderful thing to happen to our community. Jan, an Anglican was often present in his homilies and many little anecdotes would slip in here and there about his family, it was clear to all that he had a very happy marriage and family life. Jan sometimes came along to parish functions and joined in with us all. She was always generous in her support of him as a Catholic Priest. She was warm, friendly, talented, great fun and a pleasure to have known. And so this devastating, life changing blow hit Fr Richard and we all united in his support, enquiring and hoping for good news which was not to come. Her illness lasted just ten weeks.

The church of St John the Evangelist is large but even so, it was packed full with family, friends, parishioners, and clergy from different denominations - everyone who knew and loved Jan and Fr Richard. It was a wonderful, heartwarming ecumenical gathering. I reflected, how we, in the church, are more Christian these days, sharing in each other's services - a real loving, coming-together of us all. Jan's gift to us.

Jan had planned her funeral with Fr Richard and everyone was bidden to come dressed in bright colours, there would be no flowers, but a cardboard coffin on which we were all invited to write our last messages to her - more lasting than flowers. Their good friend of many years, Fr Peter Clarke (now also a Catholic Priest but formally an Anglican one) conducted the service and there were beautiful tributes to Jan. Fr Richard's which was read out by a friend, told us that they had met when she was seventeen and that the photograph of her on the Order of Service showed her on that day. True to Jan's wishes, he came dressed in a white shirt, red tie and the jazziest, most colourful waistcoat imaginable.

Pat McEvoy, Bridport Parish



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Wider News



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Cornwall Remembers

True Theological Society present

"Martyrs as really as St Stephen was a martyr?"

Commemorating the dead of World War One

A lecture given by
Professor John Wolff (Open University)

Thursday 25th September 7 for 7.30pm start

Prof. John Wolff is Professor of the History of the Christian Church and recently President of the Theological Society of the United Kingdom. He will explore the links between the Old and New Testaments and the role of the Church in the world.

14 SEP 18

"You cannot hate in the name of God"

During his Angelus Address on Sunday 10th August Pope Francis said: "Children dead from thirst and hunger during the escape; women who are abducted; people slaughtered; violence of every kind; destruction everywhere, destruction of homes, destruction of religious, historical and cultural patrimonies. All this greatly offends God and greatly offends humanity. You cannot bring hatred in the name of God! You cannot make war in the name of God!"

Iraqis have lived in fear from the hostile takeover by the terrorist group Islamic State (formerly known as ISIS). Christians have been forced to flee their homes to escape the sectarian violence that has erupted. Pope Francis asked those present in the square for a moment of silent prayer for those who are persecuted; he also asked for prayers for Gaza where the conflict has claimed the lives of almost 2,000 people saying: "Also in Gaza, after a ceasefire, war has started again, that kills innocent victims, children, and does nothing more than to worsen the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians."

Western Africa was another area of concern and the Holy Father remembered the victims of the Ebola epidemic that has spread throughout various countries; Pope Francis asked us to: "Pray as well for the victims of the Ebola virus and for those who are fighting to stop it."

<http://www.zenit.org>

Diary Dates

September 2014



If you would like an entry for your Parish or Deanery to be included in the Diary Dates section please email details to the Editor at felicitystead@btinternet.com by the last working day of each preceding month.

MARRIAGE CARE SOUTH WEST (MCSW)

Remaining MCSW preparation course dates for 2014:

Saturday 4th October 2014, Lymington Room, Upton Vale Baptist Church, Torquay: Marriage Preparation Day for couples intending to marry and living in the Torbay Deanery. Please contact Sue Burridge email: sue@marriagecare.org.uk

Saturday 18th October 2014, Cardinal Newman House, Wonford Road, Exeter, EX2 4PF: Marriage Preparation Day for couples intending to marry and living in the Torbay Deanery. Please contact Jenny Allen email: jenny.allen96@btopenworld.com

Saturday 8th November 2014, The Parish Rooms, St Peter's RC Church, Crownhill, Plymouth, PL5 3AX: Marriage Preparation Day for couples intending to marry and living in the Plymouth Deanery. Please contact Clare Danes email: claredanesuk@yahoo.co.uk

MCSW also offers FOCCUS, a guided questionnaire-based exploration and essential relationship know-how for individual couple with a trained facilitator. For more information contact mcsw.admin@marriagecare.org

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday 7th September from 2.30pm to 5.30pm: organised by the Friends of Our Lady & St Giles, Chideock a Sunday afternoon walk or short drive around the beautiful green lanes of North Chideock finishing at the Church of Our Lady, Chideock for tea and home-made cakes.

Saturday 13th September from 11 am to noon. Pro-life Prayer Vigil: outside Treliske Hospital praying for the upholding of the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

Saturday 13th September at 3.30 pm, St Mary's, Helston: Organ Recital by Fr John Gilbert; also an evening concert by a Graham Williams 'Little Choir' from Callington.

Sunday 14th September at St Rita's Centre, Honiton from 1pm to 6pm: Plymouth Diocese Youth Rally for 8-17 year olds. For more information contact Jackie tel: 01803 328916 or Patrick tel: 01837 851438.

Monday 14th September, Holy Ghost Church, Exmouth, 7.30pm: Centenary Celebrations - Fr Nick King SJ shares his thoughts, inspired by 'Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel'.

Thursday 25th September, Plymouth Cathedral at 5pm: Mass for World Maritime Day on the Feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea. For more information contact John Green tel: 07505 653 801 email: johngreen@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

Thursday 25th September, Truro Cathedral, 7pm for a 7.30pm start: Commemorating the dead of World War One, a lecture by Professor John Wolffe of the Open University. For more information please contact the Cathedral Office tel: 01872 276782

Sunday 27th September, Cheesewring Quarry, Liskeard: sponsored abseil for Christian Aid. For more information tel: 023 8070 6969.

OCTOBER 2014

Sunday 5th October, 3pm Launceston, St Cuthbert Mayne Diocesan Pilgrimage: please add the date of this significant event in the life of our Diocese to you calendars now.

Monday 6th October, Holy Ghost Church, Exmouth, 7.30pm: Centenary Celebrations - Sr Irena, Provincial of the Holy Family Sisters shares her thoughts, inspired by 'Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel'.

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October, St Cuthbert Mayne School, Torquay: Celebrate Weekend, a Catholic Charismatic Weekend Conference. For more information please visit: www.celebrateconference.org, email: torquay@celebrateconference.org or speak to Janet Phare tel: 01803 405557.

Monday 20th October, Holy Ghost Church, Exmouth, 7.30pm: Centenary Celebrations - Bishop Emeritus Christopher Budd shares his thoughts, inspired by 'Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel'.

NOVEMBER 2014

Saturday 1st November, 10am to 4pm, Heythrop College Kensington: 'Good Samaritans for the 21st Century? Faith in health and social care conference'. For more information contact Nicholas Johnson email: Nicholas.Johnson@CBCEW.org.uk.

Tuesday 18th November, Holy Ghost Church, Exmouth, 7.30pm: Centenary Celebrations - Bishop Richard North (Armed Forces) shares his thoughts, inspired by 'Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel'.

Saturday 22nd November, Holy Ghost Church, Exmouth, 7.30pm: Centenary Celebrations - 100 Hymns for St Cecelia

FEBRUARY 2015

Friday 6th (evening) to Sunday 8th February (lunch-time), Gather 2015, Toorak Hotel, Torquay: open to everyone, especially Teachers and Catechists. Note your diaries now and look for more details in the next edition of Catholic South West.

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th February, National Conference for Rural Catholics, Best Western Country Hotel, Garstang in Lancashire: Fracking, the forestry industry, the future of community hospitals, and 'What is Care Farming?' are just a few of the issues being addressed at the 2015 conference for Rural Catholics. The Bishops' Conference Home Mission desk will speak about its support for rural parishes and CaFE will introduce some of its resources for small rural groups wishing to grow in the faith.

For more information about the conference contact Fr Robert Miller Tel: 01747 870228 email: rwhm274@btinternet.com or go to www.ruralcatholics.org.uk.

Regular events

Cornwall Deanery

First & Third Tuesdays from 10.30am, Coffee morning: Charles Langdon Room, St Cuthbert Mayne Church, Launceston.

New life House Groups focusing on prayer, scripture and fellowship (Acts 2): contact Sheona 07790 413562 for more information and directions

Wednesdays 10am to 12noon 13a Pentire Rd, Newquay, TR7 1NX.

Wednesdays 7.30pm to 9.30pm (during term-time) 18A Ferris Town, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3JH or

New Life Praise and Worship Evenings: First Wednesday of each month 6.15pm to 7.15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by praise and Worship at 7.30pm: Our Lady of the Portal and St Piran Catholic Church, Truro. Contact Sheona 07790 413562 for more information or visit www.newlifecatholiccommunity.com

Wednesdays, 11.30am to 4pm, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - with Rosary at 12noon: Church of St Mary Immaculate, Falmouth.

Wednesdays, 3.30pm to 5.30pm, Table Tennis: Church Hall, Falmouth - parishioners of all ages welcome.

First & Third Fridays 7pm to 9pm, Prayer Group, Mary's Eucharistic Renewal: St Paul's Social Centre, Tintagel.

Saturdays, after the 10am Mass, Rosary: St Cuthbert Mayne Church, Launceston; all are warmly invited to join a small group of parishioners and pray the Rosary.

Saturdays at 11am, Legion of Mary: St Paul's Social Centre, Tintagel.

Alternate Sundays, 7 - 9pm, Catholic Society and 18+: St Mary's Presbytery, Killigrew Street, Falmouth.

Dorset Deanery

Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, Inspire 20s to 40s Church Friends Group and Home Group: St Mary's Church, Poole after the 7pm Mass.

Monday evenings at 8pm, Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation Adult Education: Murray Muscat Centre, Glen Fern Road, Bournemouth. Admission free and all are welcome. For details of the topic for each session please contact Spencer Nathan email: spencer.nathan@lineone.net

Exeter Deanery

Monday evenings at 7.30pm, Meditation Group: Richard Reynolds Centre, Heavitree Road, Exeter.

Tuesday evenings from 8pm to 9pm, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Mount St Mary Convent, Wonford Road.

Plymouth Deanery

Tuesday afternoons from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, Union of Catholic Mothers: Cathedral Centre.

Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, Discussion Group: Jeremiah Centre, Stott Close, Efford, Plymouth to reflect on the liturgical readings for the coming Sunday.

Thursday mornings at 10.30am (coffee from 10am) Bible Study Group: Cathedral Centre.

Thursday afternoons at 2pm, Rosary in Malayalam: Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the Cathedral.

Thursday evenings from 6pm to 8.30pm, Legion of Mary: Cathedral Centre.

Friday evenings at 6pm, Holy Hour: The Cathedral

Sunday evenings, after the 6pm Mass - CREDO: A forum for young adults wanting to deepen their faith and spiritual life in the Catholic Church through prayer, discussion and community. CREDO meets in Cathedral Centre.

Second Saturday of each month, 11am to 12noon - SPUC Anti-Abortion Prayers, Derriford: For more information contact Christine Hudson Tel: 01752 224018

Second Sunday of each month, Sunday Lunch Club, Efford: for individuals, couples or families who would like to come; to book please contact Deacon Simon Fletcher or Suzanne Tel: 01752 667433.

Second Monday of each month from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, Knights of St Columba: Cathedral Centre.

Third Monday of each month at 7pm, FOCOLARE - Word of Life Group: Cathedral Centre.

Second Tuesday of each month, Patricians - Legion of Mary discussion group: For more information please contact Raad Binham Tel: 07816 542 349.

First Friday of each month after the 7pm Mass - St Padre Pio Prayer Group: For more information contact Rev. Deacon Tony Irwin Tel: 01548 853413.

Torbay Deanery

Third Monday of every month, 7.15pm, South Hams Catenians: Seven Stars Public House, Kingsbridge. Please note new venue.

Wednesdays from 6pm, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (with Vespers at 6.30pm and Benediction at 6.50pm): Holy Angels, Chelston, Torquay.

First Saturday of every month (except January) 7.45am for an 8am start, Christians Together in Torquay: Prayer Breakfast at St Luke's Parish Church, St Luke's Road.

First Sunday of every month, Polish Mass: Church of the Assumption, Abbey Road, Torquay at 4pm with confessions from 3.30pm.

GUIDED RETREATS IN THE DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH - 2014

Individually guided retreats at Southgate, Buckfast Abbey, offering each person the opportunity for space, SILENCE and prayer with a spiritual companion to help you pray and reflect. For further information please telephone call 01548 852670

Sunday 5th to Saturday 11th October: 6-day retreat

Friday 24th to Sunday 26th October: Weekend retreat

Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd November: 'Taster' weekend for anyone who would like to 'try' a retreat for the first time.

Pilgrimages:

Cornish Pilgrimage to Walsingham Sunday 5th October to Saturday 11th October 2014: Cost £370, call Christine on 01736 362619 for more details and to book.

Pilgrimage to Fatima 7th to 14th October 2014: Organised by Holy Trinity Parish, Dorchester. For more information or booking forms please call the Parish Office Tel: 01305 251976 or email: fatherjohnrice@btinternet.com.

Dorset Deanery

Cycling across Costa Rica

Having prepared for the fundraising trip for ten months or so and training for it seriously since January it was wonderful moment when I and my eight cycling companions met up in San Jose the night before the trip began.

We cycled from the Pacific coast to the Caribbean along well tarmaced roads as well as off-road surfaces that resembled vicious building sites. The terrain meant that you couldn't always stand on the pedals as you usually would to go up steep hills so you ended up having to sit and strain your way up in low gears up and up and up ...oh and up again! But the views along the way were wonderful.

We crossed a number of bridges in varying states of repair; we were rowed across small streams, motored across a wide, deep river and we found ourselves carrying our bikes on our shoulders as we waded through a number of others.

As a nature lover, it was paradise: birds of many hues, butterflies of ridiculous gorgeousness, sloths, large lizards and one small snake. But, and for this I praise the Good Lord, he very kindly ensured that not once, in the whole eight days, was I aware of encountering a single spider! My travelling companions took keen delight in pointing out

to me (thankfully after the event) that I had often shared the always freezing showers with various arachnids. I never saw them, I was happy.

The whole experience was extraordinary; we were visiting right at the end of their dry season so the eastern part verged on the desert but, as we crossed the spine of Costa Rica, having camped at the foot of the Volcano Arenal we descended - I use the term loosely - into the lush tropics of the Caribbean. It was here that we encountered the beginnings of what would be their rainy season, amazing cloud bursts which disappeared almost as soon as they came on a couple of occasions.

The generosity of my own parish here in Poole and of so many people across the Diocese was incredible. The three of us raising money for Poole Hospital's Dignity in Dementia programme have just had the joy of crossing the £20,000 barrier; thank you. I genuinely cannot express how blown away I have been by people's kindness; our generous welcome in the wonderful country of Costa Rica was amazing and the generosity of people here in UK has matched that, so thank you so much. God bless you.

Fr Mark Skelton
Poole



Exeter Deanery

Holy Ghost Parish, Exmouth: Centenary Celebrations

A new stained glass window has been installed at Holy Ghost Church, Exmouth which will be illuminated all year round to mark the centenary of the consecration of the church on 6th May 1915 by John Kelly, Bishop of Plymouth.

Celebrations started on 6th June when pupils from St Joseph's Primary School performed songs and readings for the musical Scripture Fulfilled. The summer has seen a number of events including a picnic for 100 children baptised by Fr Philip over a number of years; a Parish Pilgrimage to Assisi and cream tea for 100 of Exmouth's Senior Citizens.

In the autumn, four guest speakers will share their thoughts inspired by Pope Francis' "Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel" (see Diary Dates) and an International Supper Evening to celebrate the diversity of the parish community. Other projects will include the compilation of an archive of photos and documents for which contributions will be welcomed. Fr Philip said: "We will report on events as they unfold and hope that anyone with an interest in Holy Ghost Parish will come along to share in the joy and fun of being 100-years young! I am so grateful to the benefactors who have contributed to the installation of the new stained glass window which will be illuminated at night and will be a beacon of hope shining over Exmouth, in the same way that the copper spire has been a navigational aid for the last 100 years".

Ian Stewart
Exmouth



CAFOD Diocesan Officer Plymouth

Fixed term contract (ending April 2015)

Do you have a strong interest in global justice and international development? Are you able to manage a busy office and help support a growing team of volunteers in the Catholic community working in partnership with CAFOD within parish and school communities and youth networks?

Job Profile and Role

CAFOD Diocesan Officer is responsible for managing and administering an efficient local office base in Ashburton, Devon for CAFOD's work in the Diocese of Plymouth. Working closely with the CAFOD Diocesan Manager for Plymouth, you will play an active role in developing our work with parish and school communities and supporting our fantastic volunteers working within parish and school communities across the diocese as well as coordinating the work of a our office based volunteer team.

Your profile

You will be actively involved in the Catholic community. You will be proficient in MS Office and be able to manage a demanding and diverse workload. You will have strong communication, organisational and interpersonal skills. Experience of working in partnership with volunteers is highly desirable. Experience with databases is an advantage. In accordance with our Child Protection Policy, you will be required to provide a DBS disclosure. The post involves some evening and weekend work.

This role is part-time, 21 hours a week, and will involve occasional out of hours work, the post also offers flexible working options.

Come and join us and help make a real difference in the lives of the world's poorest communities. The

Application deadline: 14th September 2014 For more information please go to <https://www.cafod.org.uk/Work-with-us/UK-Jobs/Diocesan-Officer-Plymouth>

CAFOD is an equal opportunities employer. Recruitment and selection procedures reflect our commitment to child protection.

CAFOD is the official development and relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation.

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For Information Guide & additional information

Contact: The Manager, Mrs Margaret Parsons

Margaret Clitherow House, Priory Road

St Marychurch, Torquay, TQ1 4NY

Telephone: 01803 326056

E-mail: mcha0@tiscali.co.uk