

South West 50p

of Plymouth

Issue 229 November 2016

The work of the Diocesan **Evangelisation Team**

Pages 6&7

Our Vision

1 Cor 12, 3: That everyone may know that Jesus Christ is Lord

Jn 14,6: He is the Way, the Truth and the Light

Mtt 16,18: We are called to do his will in the heart of the Catholic Church

Jn 10, 10: That we may have life in its fullness

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Bishop Mark installed as an **Honorary Canon of Exeter** Cathedral Page 5

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'Catholic South West' is the monthly newspaper which serves the communications needs of the clergy, organisations and people of the

Diocese of Plymouth.

EDITORIAL

Editor: Felicity Stead 07906 234 210 01803 326929 felicitystead@btinternet.com

Your letters, articles and photos are most welcome. Ideally please send by email, otherwise by CD or paper copies to the editor, c/o The Presbytery, Priory Road, St Marychurch, Torquay, TQ1 4NY

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REGIONAL **MANAGEMENT**

Deanery Contacts Cornwall Deanery

Rev Adrian Dyer, 01209 213698 adrian153@Live.com

Dorset Deanery

Bridport: Pat McEvoy, 01308 424358 pat.mcevoy@bluebottle.com Poole: Brian Condon, 01202 687392 brian.condon@uwclub.net Weymouth: Esmée Nicholls

01305 834098 **Exeter Deanery**

Exeter: Frances Canning,

01392 209542

francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk

Plymouth Deanery

Monica Evans, 01752 663388 monrobin@Hotmail.co.uk

Torbay Deanery

Richard Stead, 07952 670292 rfv.stead@btinternet.com

Editorial Panel

Canon Michael Lock (Chairman), Rev Tony Irwin, Susanne Kowal, Sue Walsh, Adrian Wardle

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CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 2016 CAFOD





November 2016

Nicanora faces unimaginable challenges on her small farm in the Bolivian highlands. This Harvest Fast Day will you join her on a two-year journey to transform her life and help her provide for her children? CAFOD's partners will be working with Nicanora and her community through our Hands On Altiplano

Nicanora is a 32-year-old mum of four, who lives on the Bolivian Altiplano - an area of arid plain high in the Andes Mountains where the burning sun can give way to heavy hailstorms in moments, destroying the crops she spends so long cultivating. But with your help, Nicanora is about to take an extraordinary journey that will transform her life and that of her community. Our experts are ready with their plans for the Hands On Altiplano project. They will help to install piping and a tap for irrigation; build a wormery,

which will produce compost to give crops all the nutrients they need; and build a vegetable garden and a greenhouse, to shelter her vegetables from the harsh environment. Nicanora wants to get to work. All that she needs now is your support and for you to be with her at every step of the way.

This is an ambitious project across the Altiplano and the transformation won't happen overnight if you can sign up to Hands On you will hear from the communities on the Altiplano for the entirety of their two-year project. We will keep you updated on the project as and when things happen, via post and email, so that you understand exactly where your money is going and how you have transformed the landscape

If you're not already a CAFOD supporter and would like to be involved please contact Simon Giarchi, CAFOD Plymouth Diocese Community Participation Officer Tel: 01364 645440 email: plymouth@cafod@cafod.org.uk website: www.cafodplymouth.org.uk

Proclaiming mercy retreats As this Year of Mercy draws to a close, these CAFOD retreats will explore how each of us can

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is oart of Caritas International, a worldwide network of Catholic relief and development

continue to live out Pope Francis' call to be "witnesses of mercy" in our families, communities and in our world.

Each retreat will be an opportunity to be refreshed and sustained and will allow you to take time out from everyday life to reflect on your own faith journey, in the company of other CAFOD supporters and in peaceful surroundings. Just for one day, take time to be still. Breathe. Be inspired to show mercy to your family, your parish, and our world.

During the day, we will explore the Scriptures and Church teaching together. We will also take time to learn from each other's experiences and to be inspired and enriched by stories from CAFOD's campaigning and work overseas.

The retreats are free of charge with those attending asked to bring food for a shared lunch. All are welcome, whether or not you are already involved with CAFOD's campaigns.

The retreat in our Diocese is on Saturday 3rd December from 10am to 4pm at Hillfield Friary, Dorchester, DT2 7BE. To book a place go to www.cafod.org.uk/cafod-autumn-retreats.

Stella Maris **Feast Day Mass Falmouth**



Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) held a Mass in St Mary Immaculate Church, Falmouth on Thursday 22nd September to pray for seafarers and mark the feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea 'Stella Maris'. In his homily, Fr Brian Kenwrick said: AoS shows the love of Jesus and Mary to seafarers who are far from their homes and separated from their loved ones. Even when seafarers have reached the safety of the shore, the security of harbour, they often need help, support and guidance. For them, there is the Apostleship of the Sea which witnesses to the Gospel by offering help, supporting seafarers, helping them in so many ways, spiritual, practical and material."The Mass was attended by AoS supporters, volunteers, parishioners, and four seafarers from the ship, Dan Swift, John Pinhay, AoS Falmouth & Fowey port chaplain and Ann Donnelly, AoS Plymouth port chaplain, were commissioned at the Mass, along with two volunteer ship welfare visitors. Fr Brian said AoS has shown great commitment to seafarers, and through its work, the Gospel of Christ is proclaimed to seafarers and the love of Mary, Stella Maris, shared: "On this feast we are reminded that all Christians, whether we be seafarers or not, can call on the help of our Blessed Lady. She will guide, support and direct us through our journey.Our Blessed Lady will help navigate us through the stormy waters of life until we reach the safety of her beloved son, Jesus."After Mass, a reception was held at the parish hall where refreshments were served, and those who attended got to hear more about AoS'work.

Nathaniel Xavier AoS Digital Marketing Officer

Prayer to Our Lady, Star of the Sea.

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, bring us the light of your Son, and show His path in our dark world, so that we may find our way to Him under your protective mantle. Protect seafarers and their families and bring them consolation when they are separated. Help us to show your maternal care for all those who are in need especially the poor and the suffering. Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for us.Please remember in your prayers the AoS Chaplains in our Diocese and those to whom they minister: John Pinhay (Falmouth and Fowey), Ann Donnelly (Plymouth and Teignmouth) and Rev Roger Stone (Weymouth and Portland).

HCPT The Pilgrimage Trust



Group 579:

A Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2016

There had been much anxiety and stress (for the organisers) about DBS certificates, medical forms and last-minute pilgrims wishing to join us but, at last, 20 members of Group 579 gathered at Bristol Airport for the start of their long-awaited trip to Lourdes.

The weather was extremely hot - 37' C at times - and there were more people in Lourdes than I have ever seen during our first weekend. Many found the heat quite exhausting, but most managed to enjoy all the major events: the Torchlight Procession, the International Mass in the underground Basilica, the Blessed Sacrament Procession, and Stations of the Cross by the river, as well as Mass in the beautiful parish church in Bartres and in the ancient church of St Savin; the temperature made it easy to respond to Our Lady's call for penance, penance, penance!

Some of us went up the Pic de Jer on the funicular railway to enjoy the magnificent view of Lourdes - including Hosanna House, and everyone visited the Grottes de Betharram, a fascinating series of caverns full of amazing rock formations. We also visited Cenaculo, a community founded by an Italian nun; here people recovering from various addictions explain to visitors how their lives have been changed by sharing in mutual support, prayer and love.

People often ask if we have ever experienced a miracle in Lourdes, and I am able to answer, "Yes, every day there are miracles. People's lives are changed, the sick are comforted and strengthened, and all enjoy a short time living in a truly Christian atmosphere of love in action. This is the real miracle of Lourdes."

All too soon our pilgrimage came to an end and we returned home promising ourselves that we would do our best to respond to Our Lady's invitation to come in procession to the site of her appearances to Bernadette. If any of you reading this paper would like an opportunity to enjoy the privilege of a pilgrimage to Lourdes with HCPT, either as a helper, which is a most rewarding experience, or as a lessable pilgrim, I would urge you to accept the chance. It could easily

Frances Raymond

Group 579 (serving Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, and further afield)

Augustinian Recollects: Mission on the Amazon

Doctor Antonia (Toni) López spends her life working with people suffering from a disease that most people consider to be almost eradicated. Hansen's disease or Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease that primarily affects the peripheral nerves, skin, upper respiratory tract, eyes and nasal mucosa.

The disease isn't limited to age or gender and is slow to develop with symptoms taking from 2 to 10-years to appear. Without treatment, leprosy can permanently damage the skin, nerves, arms, legs, feet, and eyes. Complications can include: blindness or glaucoma, disfiguration of the face, infertility in men, kidney failure and muscle weakness. It can also cause permanent damage to the nose and the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord, including those in the arms, legs, and

According to the World Health Organization, which provides free treatment for the disease, there are about 180,000 people worldwide who are infected

with leprosy. For long-term treatment, 2 or more antibiotics are recommended to be taken over a period of 6 to 12-months. In addition anti-inflammatory drugs such as steroids are used to control nerve pain and damage.

Today diagnosis and treatment is easy and in most countries it is not endemic; however, the Brazilian Government does not recognise that it has a leprosy problem and so does not provide funding for Dr Toni. Instead, her main source of funding is the Order of Augustinian Recollects who have several Missions in Brazil. Her clinic is in the heart of the Rain Forest of Brazil beside one of the tributaries of the Amazon, the River Purus. Since 1992 Dr Toni has lived on the hospital boat 'The Black Lagoon' which travels the length of the river searching out sick people. The main objectives for Dr Toni and her team of volunteers are to educate people on recognising symptoms and to teach methods that prevent the spread of the disease. In the jungle it is not easy to follow basic hygiene regimes as there is no running water and the heat

and the damp will damage towels and even the medication. The team works tirelessly to try and catch the disease before it gets too advanced which, in the worst cases, results in amputation of one or more limbs.

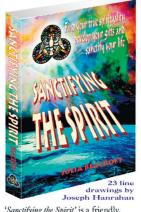
Dr Toni now treats 8,700 patients on her stretch of the river; at first, she was very fortunate to have many volunteers who travelled from Europe to help on her boat however none of them are left and so she decided to train volunteers from the villages. It was a huge undertaking as most had no training and verbal communication was extremely difficult. Leprosy is passed on through close and repeated contact with nose and mouth droplets from someone with untreated leprosy; it is impossible to work in the Amazon rain forest and avoid water or dampness so fighting the disease is very difficult. When asked if she was afraid of catching the disease herself Dr Toni said: "I could have it already as it can take ten years to incubate. My helpers and I routinely examine ourselves to look for any tell-tail signs of the early stages of the

disease. We wear sensible shoes and are very careful. I thank God that no one has been affected

Dr Toni has embraced the Leprosy sufferers following the example of Jesus in the gospels. She says that her goal in life is to one day tell people who she works with that Leprosy has been eradicated from Brazil just as it has been in Europe.

Written by Patricia Gough, St Rita's, Honiton (Adapted by Kathryn Poole)





'Sanctifying the Spirit' is a friendly, personal guide to catechesis and the New Evangelization in which the author draws upon some of her own personal encounters and experiences. 'Sanctifying the Spirit' examines everyday, familiar situations and how God is evident in them. No special theological knowledge is needed. Sanctifying the Spirit' offers a springboard for deep reflection upon God's guiding hand in everyday life.

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HCPT Group 179's Annual Barn Dance

A BIG thank you from Group 179 to all those who supported their September Barn Dance. It was a massive success raising a total of £2,159.90.



After the Synods.....A Call to Action (ACTA)

Local ACTA Steering Group meeting on Saturday 12th November at St Agatha's Church Hall, Dawlish from 11am to 2.30pm; again – all are all welcome. For more information please contact Peter Farrell Tel: 01626 369478.



Catholic Children's Society (Plymout)

2017 Marathons

Places on the 2017 Rome and Parish marathons and the Plymouth Half-Marathon are still available. If you would like to take part and help raise funds for the Children's Society please contact the Children's Society Office Tel: 01364 645420 email: claire.warren@prcdtr.org.uk. Claire Warren Fundraising Offer Mob: 07783 156 284 Website: www.ccsplymouth.org.uk

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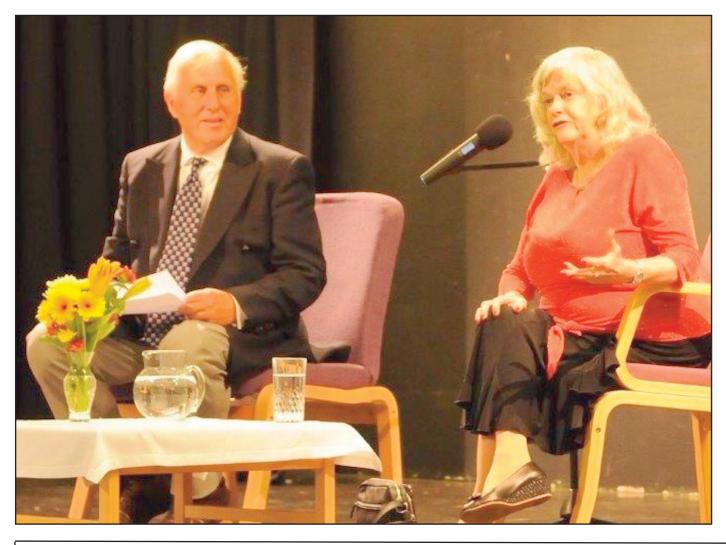
We supply in boxes of 18. A range of independent retailers, bookshops and cathedrals have stocks of the advent calendars. Traidcraft, TLM, Eden.co.uk and Embrace the Middle East also have stocks and some can send bulk and singles.

TESCO

Tesco is the only supermarket selling the calendar, but only in their larger stores.

See website for details of stockists: www.realadvent.co.uk

An Audience with Ann Widdecombe



Politics was very much the high on the agenda on Wednesday 5 October at St Boniface's Catholic College but the retired MP also faced questions about her books and of course, her appearance on Strictly Come Dancing!

Ann Widdecombe kept the audience's attention from start to finish; she shared witty anecdotes about life at Westminster, about being an author and a TV personality. The former Shadow Home Secretary was engaging and entertaining and, when faced with questions ranging from her views on Brexit and the US election to 'Strictly' and whether Anton du Beke would ever win it, nothing phased her. All in all it was a thoroughly good night, enjoyed by all even the 'remainers' in the crowd!

Thank you the Rt Hon Miss Widdecombe DSG for being so generous with her time and for her enthusiasm; to St Boniface's Catholic College for hosting the event on behalf of the Catholic Children's Society; to Mrs Ela Polson and her catering students who expertly prepared and served the pre-show drinks and canapés; to student Dan for professionally managing the sound and lighting and to assistant head Mr Rob Ramage who had to stand in at the last minute for lead co-ordinator Mr Paul Scott.

Nothing was too much trouble for the school and their warm welcome and hard work ensured that the evening was a HUGE success raising over £800 for the Society to help families in crisis across the Diocese.

Catholic Children's Society (Plymout)
Putting All Children First

The Great Big Diocesan Quiz





The second quiz of 2016 took place on Friday 7 October at six parishes: Poole, Wimborne, West Moors, Marnhull, Exeter (Heavitree) and Efford. Challenged with some difficult rounds the teams battled it out throughout the evening spurred on it seems by fish & chips, pudding and plenty of wine! The eventual winning team with 90 points was the Bamboozles from Poole with the Seven Samurai in Exeter a close second with 86. Thank you to every team the took part and to the quizmasters and organisers for making the whole event happen, together the quizzes raised over £1,300 for the diocesan Catholic Children's Society, an impressive total which will go towards helping a number of children and families in their hour of need. If your parish would like to take part in the next Great Big Diocesan Quiz in the spring, please contact the Children's Society Office Tel: 01364 645420 email: claire.warren@prcdtr.org.uk



Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)



Buckfast Abbey Bookshop and Monastic Shop

The Bookshop stocks a selection of religious books, Christian resources, Cards, Jewellery, CDs and DVDs.

We also sell Religious Items including gifts for Baptisms, First Holy Communions and Weddings.

The Monastic Produce Shop has now joined our premises on a permanent basis. We sell goods from Abbeys and Monasteries from Europe and beyond.

We have now increased our range of Trappist Beers from Belgium and wines from Austria.

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Ordinations to the **Permanent Diaconate**



It was with great joy that, on Saturday 1st October, Bishop Mark ordained Anthony Carey, Timothy van Kroonenburg, Kelvin Russell and Lester Yeo as Permanent Deacons for the Plymouth Diocese. Together with clergy from across the Diocese the 4 candidates processed into the cathedral to the strains of the 'Lord of all Hopefulness' before joining their families as Mass began. After the questioning the candidates, their Promise of Obedience and the Litany of the Saints each knelt before Bishop Mark as he laid his hands on their heads in silence - a solemn and profound moment. The newly ordained deacons were then invested with stole and dalmatic by their parish priests assisted by their wives Wendy, Deborah. Krystyna and Pat. Mass ended with the hymn 'Lift High the Cross' - a great day indeed.

The full recording of the Ordination Mass can be viewed on the Diocese' YouTube Chanel by following the link www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6vLK1wT4sM



Sarah's one meal a day for **Aleppo**



No one can have missed the terrible news coming out of Syria and in particular Aleppo over the past few months. Since 2011, 50,000 children have died. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced or are living in fear, with little food. Only 35 doctors are left in Aleppo. The hospital has been bombed on numerous occasions. For the 30 days of November my aim is to drink water and have one small meal a day. I have chosen November because it is a month when we try to remember those who have been lost to us. Many children in Syria have been lost or forgotten.

I am raising money for CAFOD because they are engaged with agencies in Syria and know where to direct their efforts, so that the money is used effectively and where it is most needed. Please support my fundraising if you can; it is a drop in the ocean but the way I can try and unite myself to their suffering.

Donating through JustGiving www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Sarah-Adams33 is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - thev'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, thev'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity. If you can gift-aid your donation it will mean even more money can be raised.

> Plymouth Diocese Vicariate for Evangelisation, Catechesis and Schools

November 2016

Bishop Mark installed as an **Honorary Canon of Exeter Cathedral**

Together with local Methodist leader, Rev Graham Thompson, Bishop Mark was delighted to be installed as an Honorary Canon of Exeter Cathedral on Sunday, 18th September and thrilled to be supported by local priests, religious and many from our local parishes in Exeter. The Installation took place within the context of Choral Evensong, beautifully sung by the Cathedral choir. As Evensong drew to a close, Bishop Mark and Rev Thompson were presented to Bishop Robert who read the 'Letter of Appointment' and commended them to the Dean for Installation as Ecumenical Canons of St Edward. Bishop Mark was installed in the stall of Pope St Leo the Great and Rev Graham in the stall of Martin Luther. Occasions like this are an important reminder of our ecumenical commitment and the long journey we have already made together.





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Intentional Discipleship Day of Inspiration

What does it mean to be fully human and yet fully divine? This was one of the questions posed when delegates from around the

Diocese met at St. Boniface House on Saturday 24th September. The day, hosted by Fr Jon Bielawski, the episcopal vicar for evangelisation, catechesis and schools, was designed to be a lively and inspirational bringing together of ideas under the central theme of evangelisation.

Lay people from across the diocese met to hear from Fr Jon, Michele Thompson who works to support parish evangelisation teams, and David Wells who works for Plymouth CAST.

The day began with prayer and group introductions followed by Fr Jon who gave a talk entitled "Jesus, who do you say I am" delegates were invited in small groups to discuss the implications that Jesus was fully human and fully divine and how the understanding of this is vital to professing our Catholic faith. Lively discussion ensued as delegates shared thoughts about God coming into the world, to live among us, yet also being God and with God.

Michele talked about discipleship, the challenges and opportunities and gave an update of progress the Diocese has made in its evangelisation efforts. Just one year in and a complete programme has been developed to mobilise, support and sustain parish teams. More than 30 parishes have engaged and there are to date 28 evangelisation teams and more than 400 disciples who with growing confidence are witnessing as Catholic Christians on a daily basis.

David Wells spoke about his work of evangelisation in schools working on various initiatives involving teachers and parents. He began by discussing how

schools, parishes and parents can work together to help those in need. He also talked about the way that Pope Francis has encouraged us all to become evangelisers by introducing the Year of Mercy: what better way to evangelise people than to be merciful!

After a plentiful lunch it was the turn of the delegates to talk about their individual efforts and successes. We heard first from Margaret Hawe, who is part of the evangelisation team from Plymouth Cathedral. We heard how Margaret and a prayer partner courageously visited homes in the Devonport area of the city, asking people about their faith through a specially created personal beliefs survey. Margaret told us of how they were made welcome by people and how those they met were made able to discuss their faith and other life events simply by having someone willing to listen to them. Margaret and her prayer partner were able to pray with a person on the doorstep which she said was amazing because this person upon opening the door had claimed he had been "born an atheist"!

Our second speakers were Theresa Cookson and Fiona Weekes, both of whom are part of Plymouth Cathedral's Children's Liturgy Team. Theresa and Fiona talked about how they have used the evangelisation experience to encourage children and their families back into the Church by arranging special services in the Cathedral, especially for children. This has led to two very successful children's services in the Cathedral so far, with more services planned for Advent this year. Members of the children's liturgy team delivered invitations to all the homes in the immediate vicinity of the Cathedral to invite families that didn't attend the Cathedral to the Christmas 2015 service, the results were astonishing!

Our final speakers were from the Crownhill parish in Plymouth and they talked about their experiences with the RCIA programme at the parish; this provoked great interest and discussion from the other delegates. Peter and Clare, who are both experienced with the RCIA course in Crownhill, told how they have been doing home visits to in order to re-establish connections with those who had been on the course

during the previous decade but no longer attend Mass. They offered a friendly smile, a parish newsletter, a Year of Mercy booklet, a prayer card and the promise of a warm welcome. They had received overwhelmingly positive responses to their visits, with many of those visited asking for the parish priest (Fr. Jon) to visit them, some people potentially returning to the Church and even some expressing surprise that Catholics were knocking on doors! This made the other delegates wonder whether the RCIA course might be the perfect way to evangelise, and whether we can all make more use of this valuable course.

The final item on the agenda was a sharing of ideas for new ways to evangelise and a look ahead at some of the conferences that are being planned for 2017 including: Gather in Torquay from 3rd to 5th March and a weekend prayer/evangelisation event 'Run to the Son' at Buckfast Abbey from 23rd to 25th June. As homework, Michele posed the question

Where do you see our greatest opportunities in the next 5 years? And asked us to email replies michele.thompson@prcdtr.org.uk

Before our departure, we spent time before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer and reflection on the day.

shoulding on the day.

Judging from the response to the meeting it certainly appears that evangelisation is not only alive and well within the Diocese of Plymouth, it is thriving!

Cathedral Parish







The work of Evangelisa

Fr Jon Bielawski, episcopal vicar for evangelisation, catechesis and schools; Michele Thompson (Plymouth and Cornwall) Terry Danes (Exeter, Torbay and Devon) and Maria Armitage (Poole and Dorset) have been working together for 12 months, since Bishop Mark announced the formation of a new evangelisation department at the "Gather" Conference in March last year. Founded in prayer and using the original disciple model of small groups, the team, led by Fr Jon have developed a comprehensive and continuing programme to develop, mobilise support and sustain parish evangelisation teams. Through the programme many individuals experience a deepening personal relationship with Jesus. This naturally leads to a hunger to know more about Jesus through scripture and Catholic teachings, and this is the core energy that fires the desire to evangelise

In the year that the programme has been running, thirty three parishes have engaged with over four hundred delegates who are growing confidence witness to their faith as a normal part of daily life. Parish teams are inspired and motivated to maximise opportunities within the parish as well as proactively reaching out to the lapsed and unchurched.

The fruits of these endeavours

Many churches have been holding special evening events centred around exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and 'Night Fever' with teams on the street inviting passers-by inside to light a candle and say a prayer. Hundreds of people have been encouraged to enter the church, some for the very first time. Members of the teams are inside to talk quietly and pray with those who ask. It is an emotional but rewarding experience for so many.

Other parishes have been visiting door to door in their local area with a personal belief survey in order to encourage faith conversations. For many it is the first time they have had the opportunity to explore their own thoughts about the existence of God. Teams are trained to listen and not to impose their own views and opinions. Many times during these encounters people share something of their situation. Through listening and silent prayer, team members are often able to sensitively and appropriately offer comfort through the Gospels and will offer hope by praying then and there with those they encounter.

Some parishes have been making home visits to people that have been through RCIA but have not been at Mass for some time. They have learned that there are many reasons why people lapse; one lady simply couldn't get a lift anymore and the team were easily able to remedy this.

Earlier this year Plymouth Cathedral parish organised a community litter picking event. They used the opportunity to encourage parishioners and non-church going local people to come together, forging relationships and to discuss what it is to have faith.

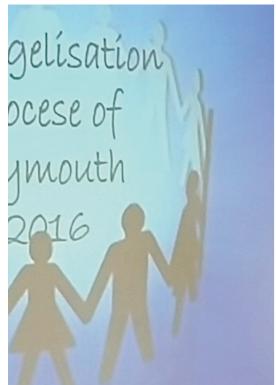
At Easter, team members from Falmouth and Plymouth went into the town and on the Hoe respectively, offering palm crosses. It was a great opportunity to explain the meaning of Easter and the gospel story. And, at Christmas in Falmouth,





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of the Diocesan sation Team

team members ran an outdoor Nativity scene offering an orange or a mince pie to passers-by, encouraging them to take a closer look, light a candle and discuss the scene. There were many opportunities to pray spontaneously as the scene often evokes memories of lost loved ones.

Many parishes now have Facebook pages and good working websites. Others are looking to produce or revisit their welcome packs, particularly aiming to provide them in the different languages spoken by members of the community. More than this though, every team member is extra vigilant when welcoming newcomers or making a point of speaking to someone after Mass whom they have never spoken before.

After the initial 6 week formation period, teams usually meet once a month. Time is always spent before the Blessed Sacrament either at the beginning or before everyone departs. A big part of the meeting is given over to testimony of personal encounter. Those present recount how they have stepped out in some small way to give witness to their faith since the last meeting. For example, a team member was asked at work why he always refuses meat on a Friday and he, with some trepidation, took courage and told his colleagues of many years that he is a Catholic Christian. Many questions ensued and he was able to explain some of our church teachings and Gospel messages. This team sharing helps members to grow in confidence as they listen without comment to each other's experiences. It is important to note that teams also share missed opportunities as these are equally important and serve to sharpen awareness in other ways

The rest of the meeting is usually spent brainstorming new ideas, as well as looking at the liturgical calendar and parish diary in order to maximise existing parish events with the explicit intention of optimising opportunities to evangelise.

This two-track approach of personal and team discipleship is vital in the work of evangelisation if we are to answer Jesus' call to spread the Gospel and build the Kingdom of God. With daily sustained prayer disciples are able to work spontaneously wherever they are, in the home, workplace, gym, supermarket or at the school gate, witnessing to whom they are as authentic Catholic Christians - naturally, without fear or embarrassment. This will gradually have an effect on society as a whole.

By working in a team, disciples grow together in faith. Relationships are strengthened and a vibrancy and new energy can be felt within the parish as events are planned and the warmth of welcome and inclusivity increases.

If you would like to take part in the Discipleship programme please ask in your parish or contact vour local diocesan rep

Terry Danes, Exeter and Devon terry.danes@prcdtr.org.uk Maria Armitage, Poole and Dorset maria.armitage@prcdtr.org.uk Michele Thompson, Plymouth and Cornwall michele.thompson@prcdtr.org.uk

Evangelisation 'happenings' in Devon and Dorset

November 2016



Dorset



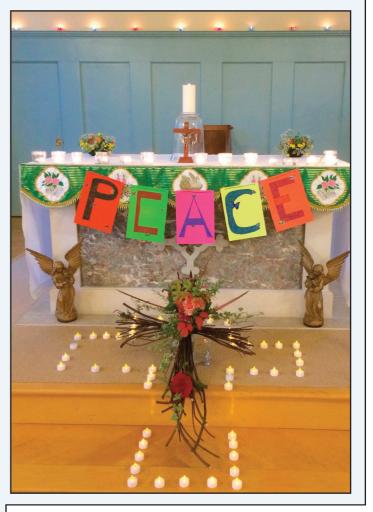
On a bright sunny September morning, a group from the Parish Evangelisation Team at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Cecilia's, gathered for the Community Expo at the Corn Exchange in Blandford Forum. The Expo is an annual event where groups and organisations showcase all the work and effort they put in to make their local community so active and vibrant. The team - formed through the 'Intentional Discipleship Programme' which has been running Diocese-wide over the last 12 months - aims to draw all those they meet to know the extraordinary mercy and love

Marie Fisher, team co-ordinator explained: "We felt Blandford's Annual Community Expo would offer us a great opportunity to introduce ourselves to the wider community; as joyful, welcoming people of faith. We chose the theme of 'Peace' for our stand, because restoring peace to our world is such a concern for so many. Our invitation to everyone we met that morning, was to join us the following evening for a short service; to pray together for World Peace, up at our beautiful church."

The stand itself was carefully designed to draw the eye of the milling (no pun intended) attendees. Its focal point was a beautiful flower arrangement made from slim, pliable branches formed into a cross and adorned with flowers and leaves. The creator of the piece was Margaret Holt, whose inspiration came from Matthew 11:28: 'Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.' The centre-piece attracted the attention of the local Towns Women's Guild representative and the ensuing conversation has led to an invitation to the parishioners from Our Lady of Lourdes and St Cecilia's, to come and speak to the Blandford TWG about

And, the fruitfulness of their endeavours did not end there. At the Sunday evening 'Prayer for Peace' service, 43 people from the local community gathered to lift their voices to heaven - in prayer and worship. Thanks be to

> Maria Armitage Our Lady of Lourdes and St Cecilia's, Blandford Forum







The Latin Mass Society www.lms.org.uk 020 7404 7284

Regular Masses in the **Extraordinary Form in Plymouth Diocese:**

Church of Christ the King, Armada Way, Plymouth PL1 2EN 1st Sundays at 3.00pm

Blessed Sacrament, Fore Street, Heavitree, 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, Newquay TR8 4ER Sundays and Holydays at 10.00am Mondays to Saturdays inclusive at 7.30am

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News from around the diocese ...

Holy Trinity, Dorchester Farewell to **Andrew Marlborough**

Parishioners at Holy Trinity bid farewell to Andrew after Mass one Sunday in early September. Andrew, a specialist in Asian art and antiques, is joining



the Allen Hall Seminary. We will miss you Andrew and wish you many blessings at Allen Hall – you take with you the love and prayers of this community.

Parish of St Mary, Poole **Angry God or God of Love?**

Exploring the Old Testament with Fr Nicholas King S.J. Friday 13th and Saturday 14th January 2017. Fr Nicholas is an internationally renowned scripture scholar and writer and will be leading us through two sessions at St Mary's RC Church, 211 Wimborne Road, Poole BH15

2EG. The introductory session takes place on Friday 13th January from 7pm to 8pm. On Saturday 14th January we will begin with Mass at 10am and two further sessions from 11am to 12noon and from 1pm to 2.30pm.

The cost of the event is £5 person. Tea and coffee will be provided and all attending are asked to bring a packed lunch to share on Saturday. For more information please contact Declan Tel: 01202 661869 email: mcconville@ntlworld.com. To find out more about Fr Nicholas visit www.nicholas-king.co.uk

Plymouth Circle News



Plymouth Circle Ladies held their annual Summer Supper at the beautiful home of Brother Keith Preston and his wife Sue. Everyone attending contributed a dish to provide an excellent buffet. Some Ladies took advantage of the

heated swimming pool while others enjoyed a lively catch - up in the glorious garden. A wonderful evening thoroughly enjoyed by all.

presented with a Bursary Award by Dr Jim Murphy, President of Plymouth Circle. lan, one of eight children, is going to India for 6 months to work in a Jesuit Mission School in North West India. He will teach English and Maths to children of the "untouchable" caste, lan's intention, following his Bursary Project, is to enter training to join th



Sunshine greeted fifteen golfers from Exeter, Duchy, Torbay and Plymouth at Stover Golf Club for the Province 13 Autumn Golf meeting. A great day's golf

followed by a lively, enjoyable dinner. Competition winners were Paul Murphy, Exeter Circle (first); Paul Blay, Exeter Circle (second) and Francis Drake, Plymouth Circle (third).



Fr. Roy Dunstan **CRL** 100 years young

Many of you, especially those from the Cornwall Deanery, will remember with affection Fr Roy's ministry among us. Born on 16th August 1916, he is now living in retirement at Christchurch Priory, Eltham, in South London, the home of

the Canons Regular of the Lateran. The Canons worked on the Cornish Mission from 1881 until the last Canon, Fr Roy, left in 2000. From their base at Bodmin they established and ran seventeen mission churches.

Fr Roy was in the Merchant Navy but joined the Royal Navy during the Second World War. He saw active combat in many parts of the world. After the war he studied for the priesthood at St Mary's Abbey, Bodmin and was ordained on 14th June 1953. For many years he served on the Cornish Mission. Then he was Parish Priest at Christchurch, Eltham from 1979 to 1988. From 1988 to 2000 he served at Bodmin and then as Priest-in-charge at Wadebridge and Padstow. From 2000 to 2004 he was chaplain to the Bridgettine nuns at Syon Abbey, near South Brent. He then retired to Eltham, but not for a rest. Until very recently he was active in the parish and a member of the chaplaincy team at the local hospital.



Fr Roy is not only a wonderful and popular priest, but also a gifted artist. Many of his paintings and drawings can be seen at Christchurch Priory. I have one of his line drawings (pictured) depicting Launceston seen from St Stephen's Hill. It is dated November 1963. It wasn't until Fr Roy told me who RMD was that I was able to identify the artist. Ad multos annos

Fr. David Annear St Cuthbert Mayne Parish, Launceston



The Plymouth **Catholic Choral** Society

Do you enjoy singing? Do you enjoy belonging to a group of like-minded people? Look no further, The Catholic Choral Society is your destination! We meet at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Plympton on Wednesdays from 7:30pm until 9:30pm.

We are part of the Diocesan Choir who assists with the singing in the Cathedral for the Rite of Election and Chrism Mass. Our repertoire also extends to Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms and we are known to partake in the odd meal out from time to time.

We are very lucky to have a great Musical Director in Shaun and an inspirational organist in Ancilla. Come along and give us a try. You will receive a very warm welcome. No auditions necessary just bring your voice and we will do the rest!

Our Advent programme, which we deliver in our own inimitable fashion, is underway and events will take place at:

Christ Church Estover on Sunday 27th November at 3pm St Austin's Priory Ivybridge on Sunday 4th December at 3pm Our Lady of Lourdes Plympton on Wednesday 7th December at

> Rita Joesbury **Plympton**

Maureen Trim RIP

Maureen Trim of Holy Trinity Parish passed away recently. Maureen had been a member of Holy Trinity all her life and received three Papal Certificates for her devotion to the Church. A member of the choir since she was twelve-years-old, she continued to sing until she was ninety, she had a beautiful strong soprano voice. Her middle name Cecilia- the patron saint of music - was very apt indeed. Maureen not only loved to sing but she loved to dance too and would spend many happy hours dancing in her golden shoes.

For many years Maureen was secretary to the CWL. No computers in those days! Her notes were typed up on a second-hand typewriter with lots of carbon paper too! She was also a volunteer for many years with the League of Friends at Dorchester Hospital. It took Maureen, the 'trolley lady', longer than most to get round the wards as she invariably she saw someone she knew and stopped for a chat.

Maureen will be greatly missed

Anita Finnigan **Holy Trinity, Dorchester**

South Hams Catenians: Circle 368



On Monday the 19th September we were pleased to enrol Martin Sullivan of Plymouth Circle as a joint member taking the South Hams Circle to 22 members. Martin has been a visitor to the South Hams Circle for some time and, as he feels comfortable and at home with our members, decided to become a joint member. Martin is a retired operations supervisor ABP ports at Millbay and Teignmouth and will be a great asset to our Circle. He is married to Rosemary and they live

> **Trevor Davies South Hams Catenians**

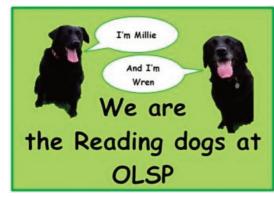






News from around the diocese ...

All Saints Parish, Teignmouth **Reading Dogs**



A new programme 'Reading Dogs' introduced by Head Teacher Sarah Barreto is in full swing at Our Lady of St Patrick's Roman Catholic Nursery and Primary School in Teignmouth. For pupils at Our Lady of St Patrick's term started with some lovely new additions to the classroom. Mrs Sarah Barreto, head teacher for the last 2 years, brought her two black Labradors Millie and Wren into school to meet the pupils. However, these dogs aren't just there for show, they play an important role in the teaching and learning of pupils at the school.

Most adults are apprehensive about speaking in public and the young people at Our Lady of St Patrick's are no different. The school's research shows that young people can become nervous and stressed when reading to others in a group. However, when a Reading Dog enters the group, they often become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident. Sarah said: "The research we looked at shows dogs can improve children's literacy, behaviour and self-esteem, as well as teaching them to respect and care for animals."

Inspired by The Kennel Club's Bark and Read programme, Sarah has introduced her two family dogs as Reading Dogs to help children struggling with reading. Instead of reading to their teacher or peers, children read to the dogs. It may sound odd at first, but it has proved to be a great help in many schools across the country, and Sarah hopes it will have the same positive effect at Our Lady of St Patrick's.

Research from the charity 'Dogs Helping Kids' suggests that dogs give unconditional acceptance, as they are nonjudgmental, which is especially crucial to struggling, emerging readers. The research continues: above all they make amazing listeners, providing the children with a sense of comfort and love.

The presence of dogs has proven to be very calming and this can then improve concentration and ability to learn. Sarah reassures us saying: "the dogs are incredibly calm, and have been socialised around children from a very early age so wouldn't do anything that could frighten the children. I am so delighted to see my friendly dogs snuggle up for a story with pupils, improving their reading skills by giving them extra motivation and confidence."

Sometimes, teachers have noticed that pupils start to confide in the dogs, telling them about worries they may have that they haven't told anyone else. This adds another aspect to the programme, encouraging them to get in touch with emotions. One teacher told us that the dogs are also on hand for children who might feel nervous or anxious during the school day and that a few minutes of cuddles can really help to cheer them up.

The Reading Dogs at Our Lady and St Patrick's provide comfort, encourage positive social behaviours, enhance self-esteem, motivate speech and inspire young people to have fun. The children are selected by their teachers as those who would benefit most from this intervention: normally young people who lack confidence, or have difficulty with reading or attention deficit. The teacher takes a baseline reading level as a means for measuring

> impact at the end of each term. The sessions are led by two teaching assistants and the sessions for each young person are normally no longer than 15 minutes and shorter for younger children. They always start with telling the dogs their news, too. At the end of the session the children have the opportunity to stroke the dog. This is a BIG Reward.

Sarah described how interaction with the dogs is encouraged and understood: "for example the teacher may say 'Millie can't hear you and would really like to hear this story, can you speak up so Millie can hear?' or 'Wren doesn't know that word, can you tell Wren what it means?'

and 'Why don't you explain what's in the picture to Wren?'. They also explain that if the dog falls asleep, she is just closing her eyes so she can concentrate on the story or if she becomes active, she is really enjoying you reading to her so she is a bit excited".

Having been teaching since 1989, Sarah is proud that she could start such a successful scheme in her own school, and is thrilled at the positive effect on the children's education





November 2016



















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St Mary's, Axminster

Macmillan **Coffee** Morning in Hawkchurch



Thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning at Hawkchurch Village Hall on Friday 30th September. I am very grateful to the many local businesses who donated raffle prizes; to friends and supporters who came to the Coffee Morning; and especially to my band of helpers who sold the delicious homemade cakes, crafts, fudge and flowers.

It was a lovely, lively, busy morning with friends meeting old friends and making lots of new ones. Bless them all! Together we realised over £900 and donations are still coming inanother record year!

> **Maggie Stead Axminster**

Holy Family Parish, Penzance (with St Ives, Hayle and the Isles of Scilly)

Walking for St Julia's **Hospice**



Pictured with Fr Philip Dyson and their mum are two Altar Servers from the church of the Sacred Heart and St Ia, St Ives. They al took part in the Mayor of Hayle's Sponsored walk in aid of St Julia's Hospice in Hayle and together raised the wonderful sum of £1,100 for the very necessary and caring work of the hospice. They send their thanks to everyone who sponsored them.

Holy Cross Parish, Ilfracombe Sacramental Celebrations





The summer of 2016 witnessed 2 especially joyful celebrations at Holy Cross, Ilfracombe. On Sunday 29th May, the Feast of Corpus Christi, 5 children made their First Holy Communion. The children, who were prepared for their special day by Catechists Pat Nott and Denise Carey, are pictured with Fr Andrzej Jablonski.

And, on Sunday 26th June Fr Andrzej was joined by Bishop Mark for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for 4 young people from the parish. They are pictured with Bishop Mark, Fr Andrzej and their Sponsors before all continued the celebrations at the Carlton Hotel,

> **Rosalind Bearman Parish Secretary**







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White Rabbit National Tour



RISE Theatre CIC is a professional Christian theatre company with a passion for delivering exciting, original, transformative theatre and is run as a not-for-profit Community Interest Company. They work at schools, churches, events and festivals across the UK with the aim of inspiring people of all ages to realise their full potential in life.

RISE Theatre is embarking on a second national tour of White Rabbit between 3rd November and 3rd December 2016; this original play is a beautifully crafted allegory brought to life by RISE Theatre's exciting, imaginative performance style. Be prepared to laugh and cry and engage in life's adventure in this unforcettable story:

Synopsis

Jenny is a busy advertising producer who dare not stop for fear of showing weakness. Tom is a failed artist, so haunted by his past that he dare not start again for fear of failure. One night Tom and Jenny receive an anonymous gift marked with the initials W.R., setting in motion a soul searching journey back to their childhood - a time of endless possibilities, before fear and doubt crept in.

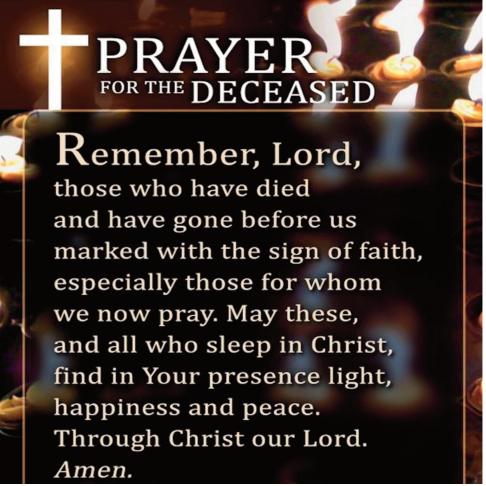
Reviews

"A stunningly beautiful & memorable play" Bristol Performance

"One of the most incredibly inspiring pieces of theatre I have ever seen..." Reading Performance

Don't miss this unique opportunity to see White Rabbit at the Assumption of Our Lady Parish, Abbey Road, Torquay, TQ2 5NJ on Wednesday 30th November at 7.30pm.

Visit www.risetheatre.co.uk to book your ticket.



November is the month of the Holy Souls when we remember and pray for all those who have gone before us to their eternal rest. We also think of those who have died in conflict, especially on Remembrance Sunday which this year falls on 13th November. This year we think of and pray for those who have perished in the more recent conflicts in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and the African Continent: in Syria, Iraq, Ukraine and South Sudan, where not only are the peoples of those countries dying in the conflict, but also the courageous men and women who have gone to their assistance – doctors, nurses, aid-workers.

We remember too the innocent people, included hundreds of children, who have lost their lives whilst seeking refuge from their war-torn homelands.

It is perhaps a reminder of our seeming inability to learn from the mistakes of the past that a stanza from "In Flanders Fields", one of the most moving poems written during the First World War, still resonates today

We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved

May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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THE DEANERIES

REGULAR EVENTS I

MARRIAGE CARE SOUTH WEST (MCSW)

MCSW remaining preparation course dates for 2016:

Plymouth

19th November

For further local information please contact Clare Danes email: claredanesuk@yahoo.co.uk

All courses are day courses and lunch is included. Cost of the courses for 2016 is £70. 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**

For all other enquiries about MCSW please contact Sue Burridge, head of MCSW centre Tel: 01395 272799 Mob: 07875 161 595 email: sue@marriagecare.org.uk.

MARRIAGE HELF

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This programme can help you too. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the next programme visit www.retrouville.org.uk.

DETDEATS

Silent and individually guided retreats by members of the Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Team: offering each person the opportunity for space, SILENCE and prayer with a spiritual companion to help you pray and reflect. All 2016 Retreats will take place at Southgate Retreat House, Buckfast Abbey. Contact details for bookings and general information post: The Presbytery,

19 Fosse Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1NG Tel: 01548 852670 email: mjbutler@yahoo.com or adriantoffolo@yahoo.co.uk.

Friday 18th to Sunday 20th November: A 'taster' weekend retreat (For anyone who would like to try and retreat for the first time)

Chemin Neuf Community, Sclerder Abbey, Looe, Cornwall: Formed in 1973 and established internationally in 27 countries the Chemin Neuf Community specialises in Marriage & Family days, youth work, evangelisation. For more information about events at Sclerder Tel: 01503 272238 or visit the website www.chemin-neuf.org.uk/annuaire/united-kingdom/sclerder-abbey.

Welcome to Scierder Abbey: one place, many proposals

The Chemin Neuf Community was founded in France (Lyon) in 1973; it is an apostolic Roman Catholic community with an ecumenical vocation. Its members are celibates, singles or married couples, lay and ordained, united by their faith in Jesus Christ and the desire to serve the Church, the Gospel and the world. One of the ideas coming out of the Chemin-Neuf Chapter in 2016 was to encourage all abbeys to be inspired by the monastic wisdom 'Ora et Labora'. To utilise all the gifts and land we have received, in many different ways we are involved in organic farming and agriculture, maintenance work and the development of sustainable energy projects.

Having spent two years in Sclerder Abbey, the Chemin Neuf Community would like to invite you to share this wonderful place that we have received from the Carmelite sisters. By sharing, working and praying together, we will live the monks' Latin saying 'Ora et Labora' which means 'Prayer and Work'. Come and join us on one of our 2017 Retreats from Saturday 10.00 am to Sunday 4.00 pm on: 1st – 2nd April 2017 and 17th – 18th June 2017. For more information and to book a place on one of these retreats please contact Sclerder Abbey **Tel:** 01503 272 238 **email:** sclerder@chemin-neuf.org

An opportunity to spend time with God in silence, led by an experienced prayer guide. Fully catered retreat from 4pm on Friday to 4pm on Sunday.

PLYMOUTH DEANERY

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

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

Second Tuesday of each month, Patricians - Legion of Mary discussion group: Cathedral Centre; for more information please contact Raad Binham

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

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

Normally First Friday evening of each month after the 7pm Mass – St

Padre Pio Prayer Group: Cathedral; for more information contact Rev.

Deacon Tony Irwin

Tel: 01548 853413.

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

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.

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.

DORSET DEANERY

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

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

First weekend of every month, after weekend Masses, Prayer Ministry for healing or any other need: Our Lady Star of the Sea, Weymouth. For more

information contact Mike Newbery email: miknewb@btinternet.com
First Thursday of each month from 10.45am to 11.45am, St Swithun's
Church Hall, Allington, Dorset: St Swithun's Church Community welcome
members of all churches to join their monthly community coffee mornings

CORNWALL DEANERY

Second Tuesdays from 2pm to 4pm, Justice and Peace/Poverty Meeting followed by prayers for persecuted Christians: St Mary's Church Hall, Killigrew Road, Falmouth.

Wednesdays, 10.30am to 1pm, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Church of St Mary Immaculate, Falmouth.

Wednesdays & Fridays Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, after Mass until 11am: St Paul the Apostle, Bossiney Road, 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.

Third Saturdays from 1.30pm to 4pm, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Penzance group: CHYMORGEN, Botallack, St. Just, TR19 For more information Tel: 01736/788438 email: brigittemorrigan@talktalk.net

TORBAY DEANERY

First Sunday of every month, 4pm, Torbay Hospital Chapel: Mass celebrated by Fr Kieran Kirby, Hospital Chaplain. All are welcome to join Fr Kieran and members of the Chaplaincy Team to pray for all patients and staff in the hospital

Third Monday evening of every month (except August), 7.15pm, South Hams Catenians: Thurlestone Golf Club. Please note new venue. Wednesday mornings, 9.40am, Our Lady Help of Christians & St Denis, St Marychurch: All are welcome to join parishioner before the 10am morning Mass to pray the rosary for vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life.

Wednesday evenings from 6pm, Holy Angels, Chelston, Torquay: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers at 6.30pm and Benediction at 6.50pm. Sunday evenings, 6pm, Church of the Assumption of Our Lady, Abbey Road, Torquay: Polish Mass with Confessions from 5.30pm.

EXETER DEANERY

Monday mornings, 10am to 12noon, Richard Reynolds Centre: Toddler Group, all welcome.

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.

Second and fourth Thursday evening of each month from 7.30pm to 9pm, a Joint Parish Prayer Group for both Exeter parishes: Richard Reynolds Centre, Heavitree Road, Exeter. For more information please ring Chris and Sue Lee on 01392 432929.

Third Saturday afternoon of each month, 4.30pm, Kerala Community Mass: Blessed Sacrament Church, Heavitree, Exeter.







12 - Catholic South West

November 2016

Covered in Glory ... by Julia Beacroft

Most toddlers and really young children develop a fondness for some object or another, whether it's a cuddly toy, comfort cloth or dummy. My four children were no exception to this. My eldest son was attached to his teddy bear and in my elder daughter's case, she loved her dummy. My twins were not immune to this either, but the objects of their affection were slightly unusual.

My son was passionate about sucking his thumb, a habit he developed from birth, but my daughter's favourite was – of all things – her duvet! She first fell in love with her cot duvet and cried when she progressed to a single bed and had to leave it behind. But not for long, as she then became passionate about her single duvet in its pretty pink and white cover.

STORIES

"It's Dooby-doo!" she would giggle. "She's my dubet." (Yes, I mean dubet, it's not a typo). Very quickly one thing led to another. "Make up stories about Dooby-doo," I was implored, and so allowing my imagination free-rein, I did just that... Dooby-doo was a princess who had a sister – the duvet on my other daughter's bed, and a father – the king-size duvet on our bed. Their Daddy was a king of course and he was called King Dubet, or 'King' for short. King reigned supreme and the cuddly

went...

OMarty Bucella www.martybucella.com

"What's so different about King Dubet covered in glory and my Dooby-doo covered in chocolate...?

KING OF PARADOXES

In reality, kings, queens and members of the royal family are given the respect due to their status and are endowed with all the rich trappings of their position. On the feast of Christ the King, we remember our Lord and Saviour who is truly king of the universe. Yet Jesus Christ was also the ultimate king of paradoxes.

toys, to say nothing of his duvet daughters, had to adhere to his rules. What King said,

The word 'king' is usually associated with power and majesty, yet Jesus avoided all shows of earthly power and authority. Naturally we would expect a king to receive important people and dignitaries, but instead Jesus received the lowly, the rejected, the poor, the sick and the suffering.

And most poignantly of all, kings wear crowns, yet our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified wearing a crown of thorns. Yet there can be little doubt that those of us who follow the Way, the Truth and the Life, love Jesus Christ in all his humility. In common with the 'King' of our imaginative storytelling, Jesus reigns supreme.

But his reign is one of gentleness, love and peace. And of course, he is no fantasy...

Julia Beacroft is a popular and experienced speaker and workshop leader. She will be happy to give a talk to your group or society. Please visit www.sanciobooks.com for more information.

