

New Year - New Beginnings



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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.

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

Hundreds to walk in solidarity with refugees as Lampedusa Cross is delivered to Plymouth shore



The people of Plymouth have been presented with a cross, handmade from the wreckage of capsized refugee boats, as a memorial to those who have perished in the Mediterranean Sea. On 19th November, the people of the south west were presented with a Lampedusa cross and joined a Walk of Witness through Plymouth city centre from the Royal Parade Piazza to Plymouth Roman Catholic Cathedral, where a multi-faith service took place. Organisations including the aid agency CAFOD, the Catholic Diocese of Plymouth, the Anglican Diocese of Exeter and local charity 'Transforming Plymouth Together', helped organise the event, which was attended by hundreds of people showing their solidarity with refugees.

The crosses are named for the Italian island of Lampedusa, where over 300 refugees drowned when their boat capsized in 2013. Local carpenter Francesco Tuccio made the first crosses from the driftwood of the wrecked boats and offered them to the survivors of the disaster as a sign of hope. Pope Francis commissioned and carried his own Lampedusa Cross at a memorial service for those who had died and as part of a campaign led by the Catholic charities CAFOD, CSAN and the Jesuit Refugee Service, each Catholic cathedral in England and Wales has since been gifted a cross and invited to display it. The Lampedusa Crosses have become an international symbol of remembrance, hope and solidarity with refugees.



At the start of the day, representatives from the Royal Navy, who have been involved in European led rescue operations in the Mediterranean, symbolically delivered the Lampedusa cross, by boat landing at The Mayflower Steps, to +Mark O'Toole, RC Bishop of Plymouth and Ian Chandler, Anglican Archdeacon of Plymouth and other faith leaders.

Hundreds from Plymouth and across the south west attended the event. CAFOD's SW coordinator and co-organiser of the event, Simon Giarchi, said:

"Many of us feel the same sentiment that the carpenter Francesco Tuccio has spoken of, that feeling of 'what can I do to make a difference? The compassion shown by the people from across the south west for those suffering is extraordinary. This was a very real way of showing solidarity and letting those who have been forced from their homes know that we do care."

People in the South West and around the country were invited to share their messages with refugees and aid agency CAFOD received nearly 15,000 messages, which were dedicated at a special event in December.

To learn more visit: cafod.org.uk/yearofmercy

Ever wondered when was CAFOD founded or why Fast Days are an important part of our work?

How did CAFOD begin?

CAFOD was born when Jacquie Stuyt and Elspeth Orchard came together with other Catholic women to organise the first Family Fast Day in 1960. Due to the number of collections taking place across the dioceses, two years later, the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales registered CAFOD as an official charity.

What did the first Fast Day raise money for?

Jacquie and Elspeth were responding to a request from the people of the Caribbean island of Dominica to help raise funds for a mother-and-baby clinic.

As well as funding the new clinic, the project also helped people to survive and make a living for themselves, including providing water and teaching people how to plant vegetable gardens. This determination to tackle the root causes of poverty and help people fulfil their potential is still at the heart of everything we do.

What happened on the first Family Fast Day?

On Friday 11 March 1960 the group of Catholic women asked everyone in the family to make an act of self-denial. They asked children to give up their sweets and for their parents to make just one main meal for the family – the cheapest possible – and give the money they saved to feed people who were hungry. This remains at the heart of CAFOD Family Fast Days today.

How much did they raise?

The organisers expected to raise just a few hundred pounds, but the Catholic community responded with amazing generosity, donating more

than £6,000 - the equivalent of £96,000 today.

Was the first Fast Day just about giving money?

CAFOD Family Fast Day has always been as much about prayer as about giving. Elspeth Orchard, one of the first Fast Day organisers explained: "We were very keen that we should do it not just as a giving thing, but as a praying thing. We should really make an effort to remember people, not just by giving them food, but by doing what we could do to support them. "We weren't doing anything special, we were just doing what we thought we ought to do, remembering that we are all God's children."

Follow in the footsteps of our founders and get involved with CAFOD in 2017. So - 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





'Stranded Seafarers'

When I went on board the 'Helsinki' berthed at Fowey Docks, I met Alexander a cadet from Russia. Alexander had just started a six month contract and was very happy to receive 10 gift bags full of goodies donated by our wonderful supporters in Falmouth & Fowey, on behalf of his fellow crew members. I mentioned that his photo image was not showing the cheerful face that I was seeing. Alexander jokingly replied: "I don't want to look too happy in case my boss sees it and thinks I am not working hard enough."



John Pinhay
AoS Port Chaplain (Falmouth & Fowey)

'Seafarers rescued from sinking ship'



The Fluvius Tamar entering port on a previous voyage

Apostleship of the Sea Plymouth port chaplain Ann Donnelly has expressed relief after seven seafarers were rescued from their sinking ship, Fluvius Tamar, off Ramsgate on the Kent coast in mid-January. The Fluvius Tamar and its sister ship, Fluvius Axe, are regular visitors to ports in the South West of England and their crews are well known to Ann and her ship visitors.

The ship ran into difficulties 30 miles off the coast and sent out a distress call. UK Coastguard search and rescue helicopters rushed to the scene and rescued the men. Another ship also helped with rescue efforts. France's Préfet Maritime reported that the Barbados-flagged M/V Fluvius Tamar sank at about 1am in British waters north of Dunkirk. And the vessel lies at a depth of about 40 meters.

Ann said: "Thank God they were all rescued safely. Incidents like this highlight the dangers that seafarers constantly encounter while doing their jobs bringing us the goods and necessities we buy."

Nathaniel Xavier
AoS Digital Communications

AoS Prayer of the Month

We ask you to look after all those men and women who work hard on ships at sea to bring us many of the goods we enjoy in our everyday lives.

Grant them strength when times are hard,
when the weather at sea is rough,
when they miss their families and feel lonely.

May they remember your love for them,
and take comfort in the prayers we offer for them.
Keep them safe, always.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for us.

Please also 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, Poole and Portland).

More information about the work of AoS can be found at www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk



The Pilgrimage Trust

Parish visits

HCPT send their thanks to the Torbay Amateur Dramatic Society (TOADS) for their continuing support. TOADS dedicated a special performance of 'A Christmas Carol' to raise funds for HCPT Westcountry Groups and to those who attended the performance.

Running the 'Bicton Blister'

Jenny Bentley, Group Leader raised over £300 in sponsorship for HCPT Group 141 when she ran the Bicton Blister. Jenny said: "I completed the run in 1 hour and 57 minutes beating my time last year of 2 hours and 30 seconds – that's so much faster! I'm slowly achieving better times – perhaps because my new off-road running shoes are better than my old ones! And – a BIG thank you to everyone who supported me."



A market, a concert and some drama

Group 179 had a busy start to December with their Christmas Concert at Our Lady of the Assumption, Abbey Road. They send their thanks to Fr Kieran Kirby, Parish Priest for his hospitality, to Christiane for her hard work in organising the wonderful musicians and singers and to everyone who came and supported the concert. The Group also had a stall at the Newton Abbot Christmas Market selling homemade crafts. The two events raised a total of £460 – amazing!



Group 179 also send their thanks to Fr Mark O'Keefe, Parish Priest at Sacred Heart & St Therese of the Child Jesus, Paignton and Fr Pat Costello, Parish Priest at St Joseph's, Newton Abbot and all their parishioners. Group members visited both parishes to talk about HCPT and are very grateful for the warm welcome they received and for the support for the Group.

Hannah Hewson
HCPT
Westcountry



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

Patchwork Parenting



Patchwork Parenting programmes provide opportunities for parents and carers to support each other and, with the help of a trained facilitator, build on their own strengths to understand their children and confirm their parenting skills. Each programme consists of a series of meetings for parents or carers of children of all ages and which aim to help them:

- Enjoy parenthood;
- Understand respectful communication;
- Create a framework of encouragement and discipline;
- Reduce tension, for example, squabbling and tantrums.

Feedback from parents or carers who have taken part in one of the programmes has been very positive: "this course provided a real 'comfort blanket' of warmth for me and my family. The difference in my children – and consequently the whole family – is immeasurable."

How and where are programmes run?

The meetings are held each week for five to eight weeks during the school day or evenings and usually on school premises. Each meeting lasts about an hour and a half with between six and twelve people taking part.

What do participants do?

Everyone has a handbook to follow. Each session may involve a short video, discussion and a sharing of experience. The programme materials are produced by the Family Caring trust, Hartley Brewer Parenting and Positive Parenting. There is no charge for attending the any of the programmes.

Programmes planned for spring 2017 are:

• Pushchair and Primary:



Haytor View, Newton Abbot, Devon:

Tuesday mornings

Camborne Nursery, Cornwall:

Thursday mornings

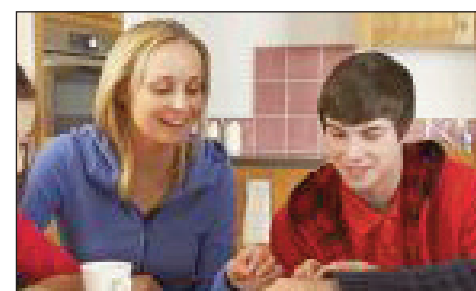
• Time for Parents:



St Mary's Catholic School, Penzance, Cornwall:

Thursday afternoons

• Hormones & Harmony:



Notre Dame School, Plymouth, Devon:

Tuesday mornings

King Edward VI Community College, Totnes, Devon:

Wednesday afternoon or evening (tbc)

The benefits of sharing ideas and experiences with other parents can last a lifetime. For more information about Patchwork Parenting please contact the Claire Warren, Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) Tel: 01364 645420 Mob: 07783 156 284 or visit: www.ccsplymouth.org.uk

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

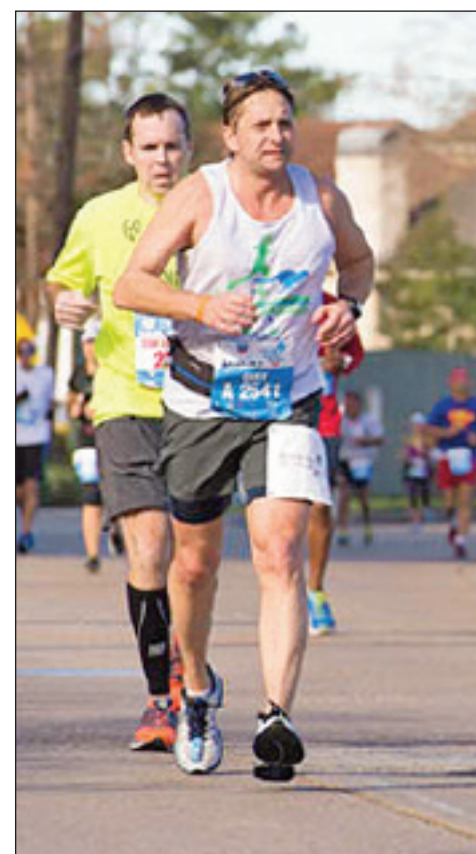
Every year people from across the Diocese join the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. As in previous years pilgrims who need 24 hour nursing care come with a 'Special Assisted Section' joining the Society of Our Lady Lourdes. And, young people from around the Diocese come together, under the direction of Fr Anthony O'Gorman, as the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage. Whilst undertaking their own pilgrimage offer support and help to the main group. This support takes many forms including helping less able pilgrims, some of whom are wheelchair users or just in need of a helping hand, to get to and from the Grotto and the other pilgrimage events that take place in the Domain and around the town of Lourdes itself.

If you would like to join this year's pilgrimage and make 2017 a 'special year' for you and for the people you will encounter please contact:

- Main Pilgrimage: Fr Kieran Kirby, Pilgrimage Director, Tel: 01803 294142.
- Special Assisted Section: Society of Our Lady of Lourdes Tel: 0208 848 9833 or, Youth Pilgrimage: Fr Anthony O'Gorman Tel: 01637 851697 email: anthony.ogorman@prcdtr.org.uk



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

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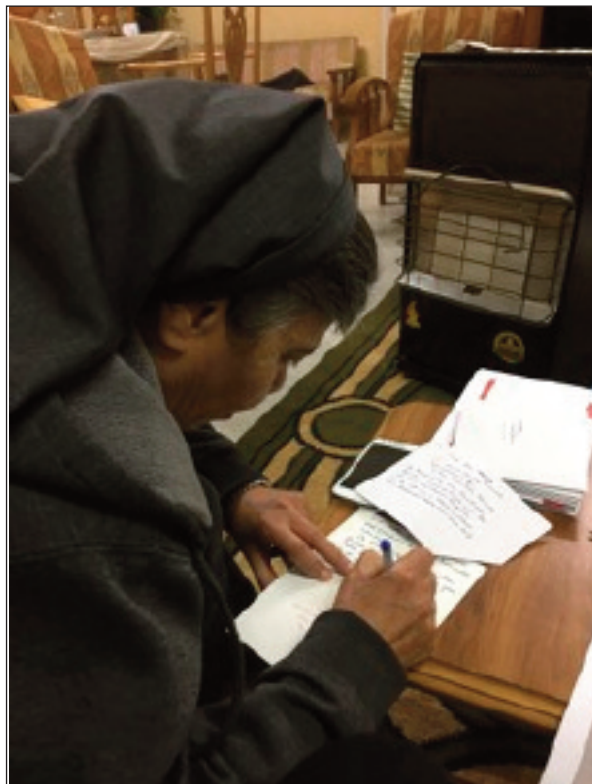


Parishes for Peace

Reg. Charity No: 1166739

Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together (FPCT)

In September 2016 FPCT Justice & Peace group welcomed Della Shenton, Trustee of the charity Parishes for Peace, to their meeting in St Mary's Church Hall, Falmouth. As a result of that meeting almost £800 was raised for the Iraqi families currently living in Jordan. And, on her visit to the families just before Christmas 2016, along with the funds raised Della took perhaps the best gift of all – personally written Christmas cards containing messages of hope, concern and prayer. Della sends this message to all at Falmouth and to CSW readers: "Dear Fr Brian, Sr Damian, Christine, Roger and Sue - and Mary of course - and all who made your spectacular cards and generous donation such a welcome Christmas gift to the Iraqis in Jordan.



I took the money and cards to Sister Sara Gheneim - a sister of St Joseph of the Apparition whose noviciate is in an area called Marj al Hamam in Amman. Well known to us through the Parish Priest Fr Hanna Kildani and the Martyrs of Jordan church. Sister Sara is originally Palestinian and hers was a refugee family in Jordan in 1948 at the creation of the Israeli State. She thus has a close personal understanding of what the Iraqis are going through. Although, as she points out - the Palestinian refugees came to Jordan for safety but also to begin a new life - whereas the Iraqis are refugees in transit - in limbo. Waiting to be given visas to start a new life in Australia, Canada or the US and meanwhile forced to hang around. In addition the Sisters' own new convent and school in Mosul was blown up and their Sisters had to run for their lives and are now in Jordan.

However, they are all safe. A new level of pain has been recently added as the army moves into the villages and houses around Mosul and some Iraqis who fled to Erbil in Kurdistan have visited to see the devastation and take photos. So now they are seeing what Daish has done - where their houses are still standing they have been wrecked and mostly burnt out. Their beloved churches desecrated and the statues and crucifixes thrown on the ground and destroyed. Threats painted on the walls. Those taking the photos have rung bells when they can find them, and lit candles and restored what they can, to show that Christians

have visited and prayed once more.

Sister Sara is a diminutive, warm presence among the Iraqi families living around the convent in flats and houses. They are parishioners of Fr Hanna Kildani's church of the Holy Martyrs of Jordan. Sara gave me the names of 15 families she helps to look after. Together we addressed your cards to 67 people and put in 10 JDs (just less than £10.00) for the parents for each person. We didn't have time to visit any of the families unfortunately as the traffic was horrendous that day and we just couldn't get there in time. We also had a Christmas party given for the Iraqis to attend - and many of the families were there. They are pictured along with the Dominican sisters and the Vatican's Nuncio and his deputy.

We went to Madaba the following day, where we gave more of your cards and divided 400 JDs between six families called in by the parish priest Fr Eyad, and we made a video of thanks for you and one of the amazing crib on the sanctuary. Also pictured is Sister Sara writing to you and me with Fr Eyad in Madaba."



A concert of music and poetry at Sclerder Abbey

In the summer of 2016 the Catholic Parish of Liskeard and Sclerder hosted a concert to raise funds for Iraqi Christians via Parishes for Peace. The concert raised £550 and inspired others to donate an additional £1,000. Della sends this message to all at Liskeard and Sclerder and to CSW readers:

"Dear Fr Gilmour and everyone who so generously support Parishes for Peace, I am sending you short report on my Christmas visit to the refugees on your behalf. The families you are principally supporting are the families in Ashrafiyeh in Amman. The Matti family is the family of 10 who are central to organising for us the 19 families we are supporting in Ashrafiyeh. They are Mama and Papa Matti (our names for them) Sons and daughters in law - Nour, Maram and little Luli; Warood, Nassr with little Kiku and Matti; and Raghad (single daughter).



Fr Gilmour helping Della sort the cards into envelopes for each family before leaving for Jordan

It had been pre-arranged that I would go to see the Matti family on Monday 12 Dec. I was unaware that Nour's father had suddenly died three days before. No-body told me - and it was not until I arrived and Nour, Raghad and Nassr were missing that after a while I asked where they were - and they told me what'd happened and that Nour was staying with her Mother. Raghad and Nassr were out but I saw them briefly before I left. They were in shock, but everyone is looking well - and Maram has even put on a little weight. The house is freezing - not comfortable, keep your coats on indoors and lots of layers.

Even with this shock in the background, they gave me a warm welcome and send special love and



The Matti family with their Christmas packages

thanks to you all. They are very dignified, but I know what a lifeline you have given them. They are limping along for rent and food and medicines and you have provided for two or even three months this winter. As we looked again at the photos of last May - they were cheered by memories of the day when they came to the Baptism site with Worthing parish pilgrimage. They are still very touched by the Mass we celebrated at the Baptism site. I hope that we now celebrate a Mass for Nour's father and for the well-being of the families going to Australia and their families and friends still waiting.

They showed me a video of the funeral, which had been the day following Mansa's death. Mansa had collapsed in the street on the way back from saying goodbye to his daughter, Nour's half-sister, who was leaving for Australia the next day. The mercy is that he died knowing that his two daughters had a future in Australia. Nour and Maram have their visa for Australia and left Jordan on 9 January. The best we can hope and pray for is that the Australians on compassionate grounds will allow Nour's mother, now alone in Jordan, to join them in Australia. However uncomfortable and uncertain life is for them, and despite their sorrow at the suffering of Aleppo, the fact is that they are now all safe.

Please keep in touch with them, they are so happy to have your cards and to know you are thinking of them. And so grateful for what you are doing for them."

Cornwall Catholic Choir supporting Parishes for Peace

In 2015 CSW published an article in celebration of the first anniversary of the formation of the Cornwall Catholic Choir. Since its formation in 2014 the choir has grown from strength to strength and in December 2016 the singers made the bold decision to hold a concert to raise funds for Parishes for Peace. Working with Christians Together in Camborne the concert was well attended and a combination of ticket sales, a raffle during the evening and some generous donations after the event, raised £1,000 for the Charity.

The next fundraising event for Parishes for Peace by the choir, in conjunction with the Cornish Gorsedh Choir will take place on Friday 24th February at 7.30pm at St Augustine of Hippo RC

Church, St Austell. The evening will consist of Choral singing, a number of solos and an organ recital. Tickets, costing £5 and including light refreshments, will be available on the door. Please come along and experience a truly Cornish Cultural evening whilst at the same time supporting our refugee sisters and brothers who have so little but who give us such a wonderful example of living our Christian faith.

For more information about Parishes for Peace or to donate please contact Della Shenton, Trustee
Tel: 01803 314868 email: admin@parishesforpeace.com website: www.parishesforpeace.com

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News from around the diocese ...

Foundations in the Faith for the New Evangelisation

A formation programme for all those desiring to know the faith better and be better equipped to tell others, rooted in prayer.

This is an online course of 18 months duration with 6 study days, *Lectio Divina* days and 12 study units. One of the four 'Centres of Delivery' will be the School of Evangelisation, Buckfast Abbey, Devon. The programme will take place at St Cuthbert's Conference Centre and begins on **Saturday 25th February 2017** at 9.30am.

Formation for the New Evangelisation

In forming adult catholics for the third millennium, the last three Popes have made it clear that the context is now the New Evangelisation, a context markedly different from the previous century and needing new methods and new vigour to deliver the Good News of Jesus Christ, Son of God and Saviour, a message 'forever ancient and forever new'.

This formation is for all adult catholics, especially those who support parish life in its richness and sacredness, its fellowship, prayer and charity. It is for parents, grandparents and catechists, for readers and those involved in Children's liturgy, for anyone keen to know and appreciate the faith of the Church more deeply and be better equipped to defend it and pass it on.

The School of the Annunciation, a centre for the New Evangelisation, is situated at Buckfast Abbey, Devon, with satellite centres at Ealing Abbey, Nelson in Lancashire, Southwark and other centres being developed around the UK. The context of the two Benedictine monastic communities has prompted the development of the programme within the Benedictine Tradition as a spiritual home that is already nourishing the new evangelisation by its hospitality and daily rhythm of prayer in the liturgy of the hours.

This programme is developed and lead by a strong catechetical team, steeped in the Church's catechetical documents especially the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and many priests will also be involved in lecturing.

For more information about the programme please contact:
Fr Guy de Gaynesford
Rector, School of the Annunciation
Tel: 01364 645660
Email: enquiries@schooloftheannunciation.com



Cornwall

Parish of St Mary, Falmouth
(with Helston, Mullion and Mawnan Smith)

Guild of St Stephen Celebrations



Fifteen of the twenty Altar Servers at St Mary's Falmouth were present at Mass on the Feast of St Stephen. Especially welcome were Eloise Lobban and Anna Middlewick who had started their University courses at Bristol and Exeter in September 2016. Anna was awarded a Silver Medal in recognition of her 10 years loyal service on the sanctuary. Fr Brian Kenrick thanked the servers for their support and faithful service in the past year. After the Mass the Servers enjoyed a buffet spread in the hall.

This Mass is such a joy to those who attend - both servers and congregation; the Altar Servers are pictured with Fr Brian; also pictured are three generations of the Middlewick family – including 4 Altar Servers.

John Pinhay
MC, Falmouth



News from around the diocese ...

Torbay

Our Lady Help of Christians & St Denis, St Marychurch

Guild of St Stephen Enrolments

At Mass on the Feast of St Stephen, 26th December 2016 two of our Altar Servers were enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen by Canon Michael Lock, Parish Priest and Diocesan Director of the Guild. Albert began serving in 2016 and Andrew in 2016 and both have proved themselves to be diligent and capable Altar Servers. After Mass the newly enrolled servers and their families joined Canon Michael and Richard Stead, Senior Server, together with a good number of parishioners, to celebrate the occasion with hot bacon butties in St Dominic's meeting room.

Felicity Stead
Editor



Holy Angels Parish, Chelston

Syro-Malabar Celebrations

Holy Angels Parish community welcomed Bishop Joseph (Benny Mathew) Srampickal on Saturday 17th December. Bishop Joseph's visit began with the Rosary and was followed by Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite concelebrated by Bishop Mathew, Fr Sunny Paul, Parish Priest at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Brixham and Fr John Smethurst, Parish Priest at Holy Angels.

Pope Francis erected the Eparchy of Great Britain of the Syro-Malabar Church in July 2016. He also appointed Dr Fr Joseph (Benny Mathew) Srampickal, a member of the clergy of the Eparchy of Palai, as the first bishop of the Eparchy. The See of the circumscription is in Preston, in the Diocese of Lancaster, where the Cathedral dedicated to St Alphonsa is located, along with the Registry and the Residence of the new Bishop.

Msgr Joseph (Benny Mathew) Srampickal was born on 30th May 1967 in Poovarany, in the Eparchy of Palai. He entered the minor seminary and he studied philosophy at St Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor, and theology at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome, where he obtained



a licentiate in biblical theology. He continued his studies at Oxford (England) and speaks Malayalam, English, Italian and German. Ordained a priest in August 2000 he has held the following positions: Professor at the minor seminary and Ephrem Formation Centre of Pala; Director of the Mar Sleeve Nursing College, Cherpunkal; Director of the Evangelization Programme; Secretary of the Bishop; Pastor at Urulikunnam. In 2013, he was appointed Vice Rector of the Pontifical Urbaniana College of the Propaganda Fide, Rome a post he held until his elevation to Bishop in July 2016.

Guild of St Stephen Celebrations



St Stephen's Day 2016 was another special occasion in the life of Holy Angels Parish. Fr John Smethurst, Parish Priest, awarded Silver Medals to Mobin and Alen who were enrolled into the Guild 10-years ago and have served faithfully in the parish ever since.

Felicity Stead
Editor

South Hams Catenians: Circle 368





On Monday the 21st November South Hams Circle hosted a round of the Province 13 Quiz, Plymouth v Torbay at Thurlstone Golf Club in the South Hams. There were two teams of three and the Question master, he who shall be obeyed, was Brother Trevor Davies, Vice President of South Hams Circle. Complete with gown and mortar board Trevor managed to keep everyone in order. Plymouth won 110 to 85 and great fun was had by all.


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Plymouth Diocesan Award Ceremony 2016



On Saturday 12th November twelve parishioners from across the Diocese, together with their family and friends, gathered at the cathedral where they were presented with a new Diocesan Award by Bishop Mark. The newly minted and beautiful St Boniface Medal was awarded to each of them for outstanding service to their parishes and to the Diocese and were made at the request of the communities in which they serve. The recipients of the award are pictured with Bishop Mark at the end of Mass. Parishes represented were: The Cathedral Parish; St Boniface, Okehampton; Holy Family,

Chagford; Sacred Heart & St Therese of the Child Jesus, Paignton; Our Lady Star of the Sea, Brixham; St Mary & St Petroc, Bodmin; The Holy Name & St Edward, Martyr, Shaftesbury.

After the celebration Mass, which their Parish Priests celebrated with Bishop Mark, everyone adjourned to the library at Bishop's House for a lively gathering over coffee. We hope that this will be an annual celebration in the Diocese in the years to come.



Jubilee for Prisoners

One of the corporal works of mercy is visiting "the sick and imprisoned" and as the Year of Mercy drew to a close, Dioceses throughout the country joined the Holy Father in celebrating a Jubilee for Prisoners. In our Diocese, some of our prison chaplains came to the Cathedral on Sunday 6th November for a special Jubilee Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark. Icons of Mercy were presented to the chaplains to be taken to the prisons where they minister. In the photograph, we see some of the chaplains with Bishop Mark outside the Cathedral after the Mass. Special celebrations and commemorative cards are being distributed within the prisons. Pope Francis has made a point of visiting prisons and other detention centres during the Year of Mercy as a sign that the mercy of God is available to all. Prison is a place where many men and women are confronted by truth, and with the help of chaplains and others, can begin to open their hearts up to God's mercy.



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Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM)

VMM is an international development and volunteering organisation which, since being founded in 1969, has sent more than 2,000 lay volunteers to nearly 40 countries. As a faith and values-based operation, it works to help grassroots partners in nine African countries take care of the needs that local people consider most important to them; its vision is to help build "a world where we live in the shelter of one another"; its mission "to share who we are and not just what we have".

VMM recruits, trains, sends out and supports skilled and committed volunteers to share their own unique skills with people in developing countries. One key outcome of these efforts is to promote the concept of 'mission' in a positive light in the UK and Ireland. The organisation has strong partnerships with universities, professional associations, mission orders and development NGOs that share a commitment to making real the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals 2016, for some of the poorest and most marginalised communities on our planet.

'Don't think about it, do it.' This was the advice followed by three young people, all of whom spent four weeks as short-term VMM volunteers in Uganda between July and August last summer. Here are their stories: **Joanne Mulligan** spent her month as an assistant teacher in two VMM partner primary schools in Nansana, central Uganda – St Joseph's and St Noa's – compelled her to work full-time in the development field, while also increasing her sense of wanderlust. "This first trip definitely stirred a desire within me to travel and explore more of Africa while working in development," said the 26-year-old Dubliner. "I jumped at the chance when the short-term volunteering opportunity arose as I had been eager to experience development in Africa first hand. Uganda is only the beginning!"

Louise Dobinson's stint as classroom assistant and PE teacher at the same two schools as Joanne has convinced her that her true vocation lies in education. "It's helped me decide what career path I'd like to go down: that I'd like to be a teacher and go into education," said the 19-year-old from Darlington, who is studying at Liverpool Hope University (coincidentally, where VMM has its UK office). "I'd always wanted to travel and this seemed like the perfect opportunity to learn about a new culture as well as changing the way children learn. I had never been to Africa but everyone was just so friendly and welcoming – the staff at the school, the children, the locals, our hosts. I couldn't have asked to meet better people."

Phoebe Pennington meanwhile, regards her Nansana summer – again at St Joseph's and St Noa's – as the perfect springboard for studying education and international development at university. "In one school we facilitated outdoor PE sessions and in the other helped with informal English sessions to boost the children's English," said the Liverpool student, also 19. "Education is key but it's easy to take for granted. Yet these children, with the most basic education available,



appreciated it so much. Education was taken super seriously."

The VMM methodology – fine-tuned since the organisation was founded in 1969 – is to place volunteers in capacity-building development work in order to offer skills that are unavailable locally and, ideally, train up a local counterpart. So far more than 3,000 volunteers have contributed their time and energies while embarking on their own remarkable learning curve. **Joanne** witnessed first-hand how giving of oneself and one's talents that can make a difference – so it is not necessarily all about giving money. "I believe that, in the long term, sharing our skills with these communities and providing them with the ability to continue the work themselves can help so much more than merely throwing money and resources at them," she said. Such exposure to new ideas can be pivotal. "Uganda, along with other developing countries, has such potential for growth and we have a responsibility to help make this happen," she added. "The experience was incredible and I'm actually annoyed with myself that I hadn't done something like this sooner, I'd thought about it a few times in college but I'd backed out because I was nervous or scared. Yes, there were some tough times but the whole experience was great. I had visions of not being able to eat, yet the food was amazing. I would honestly say to anybody who's thinking about doing it, 'definitely do it!'. It honestly was a life-changing experience – and I hope this experience will influence the rest of my life."

VMM is offering inspirational short-term volunteering opportunities in Africa among its

range of activities for 2017. The short-term volunteering programme is a chance to take part in projects in Malawi, Uganda and Ghana, as VMM responds to a clearly articulated need from partner organisations in Africa.

Successful applicants will spend three to six weeks working alongside local VMM volunteers and coordinators on a variety of schemes, including teaching assistance, community development and even construction. The main initiatives, and the countries involved, are:

- **Uganda:** teaching assistance work at local primary schools, including helping with lessons and after-school activities; also construction and admin positions
- **Malawi:** community development placements in youth work, teaching assistance and home care for those affected by HIV
- **Ghana:** volunteer possibilities in childcare, sports coaching, education and building projects

These opportunities are open to people of all ages and levels of experience; while some openings are aimed specifically at young people aged 18 to 25; there are other specialised projects for those with a lifetime of experience. Additionally, professional placements are possible. The hope is that volunteers will gain a deeper understanding of development issues while also, potentially, becoming equipped and experienced enough to be able to fill full-time positions in the future.

VMM has offices in Dublin, Liverpool and Kenya. For UK, contact Van Garber via: van@vmminternational.org or 0044 (0)151 291 3438.

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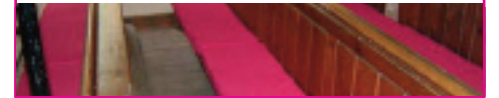
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A Call to Action (ACTA)

Where are we going with Pope Francis? *Notes from the recent ACTA National Conference*

Around 130 delegates attended the 4th ACTA National Conference held in Pimlico, London. The first speaker was **Werner Jeanrond**, a German Catholic theologian currently Master at St Benet's Hall, Oxford University, whose published books include 'A theology of love' (2010). He contrasted the image of the church as a triumphant, perfect institution, with the image of a field hospital, coined by Pope Francis, a pilgrim church on a journey with others of goodwill to respond as best we can to God's love and mercy. He referred to us as a 'dynamic community of love', and then spoke about Bill Simon's book, 'Great Catholic Parishes', which has resulted from research into hundreds of 'successful' parishes in the USA, where love relationships rather than pure activity alone appear to be delivering positive outcomes.



Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

A common theme in these parishes is that they are run on collaborative, delegating or consulting lines, rather than by a 'lone ranger'. Werner agreed with Simon that true discipleship needs strategic thinking and interdependent working. He suggested that Mass attendance does not guarantee a moving forward on a dynamic journey of faith, but that Simon identified practical ways to support such personal and community 'growth', for example, utilising volunteers, concern for needs of children, good/appropriate physical infrastructure, use of on-line communication, music in the liturgy and well prepared homilies; as all contributing to development.

He referred to the image of needing, as individuals and as a church, to look out the window rather than in a mirror, echoing Pope John XXIII and others. Werner identified us as in a period of transition which calls all lay people, not to passivity, but to a 'faithful resilience' and 'critical support' so that participating communities with their priests can move forward as a pilgrim church. Evangelisation defined as 'opening doors', to demonstrate to others that God's love is available to all.

Recognising the age of most of the attendees, Werner suggested that we retirees are the force for change as we have the time, are not so tied up with careers and raising a family as younger members of the church are, and that we share a vocation to 'make our living rooms part of the church.' He saw the health of the church being heavily tied to the appropriate training of priests, in order to deal with significant current levels of 'clericalism', and challenged us not to hide behind a 'leave it to Father' approach but to work with our clergy to achieve more.

Werner lays down a challenge to lay Catholics and clergy, by pulling strands together, calling us to participate and innovate within a culture of love

relationships, reflecting God's love for us. The word 'love' was his watchword.

Tina Beattie, Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Roehampton, was our second speaker. She suggested we were a hopeful rather than an optimistic group, portraying optimism as not quite being in the present, whereas the definition of hope is being in the here and now, not waiting until tomorrow. She referred to the See, Judge, Act formula, adding Celebrate, and suggested that we learn to 'be', rather than to be 'doing' all the time. She too, referred to the pilgrim church, the long term objective as well as short term goals, reflecting Pope Francis' patient approach in the face of significant opposition. She took the Magnificat as a call to live the transformation that has already happened, emphasising that we need to recognise God's call amid the cacophony that surrounds us, and take responsibility for transforming ourselves.

The National Conference also gave us the opportunity to consider issues with our neighbour and in small groups before coming together again for the final session when Werner and Tina picked up between them comments from the group discussions.

A powerful comment from a priest in one of the groups, and which has stayed with me, on the theme of evangelisation...we are not called to bring Christ to others he said, so much as to help people recognise that Christ is already there with them.

Peter Farrell
Local Co-ordinator on behalf of ACTA
Promoting dialogue within the church

If you would like to receive periodic information on future ACTA meetings, please contact Peter Farrell Tel: 01626 369478 Mob: 07730 439 194 e-mail: petane@outlook.com

Dr Ashley's Pleasure Yacht

by R W H Miller

This publication is an historical book looking at the life of The Rev John Ashley and the origins of the Mission to Seamen, and is the first book to explore the historical aspect of the mission. Dr Ashley's Pleasure Yacht reveals the true tale surrounding the founding of the Mission to Seamen written by R W H Miller, a social historian who has previously written two engaging works on maritime church history.

The Book: Institutional foundation stories have a tendency to change and develop with the passage of time and much repetition. Maritime social historian, R W H Miller, explores the life of The Rev John Ashley and his association with the foundation story of the Mission to Seafarers, the work of which society is much admired by its present Patron, HRH the Princess Royal. The traditional story is that Ashley's son, out walking by the Bristol Channel with his father, in the early 1830s, asked how the islanders could go to church. Ashley went to see, and from the islands of Flat Holm and Steep Holm seeing large fleets of wind bound ships, asked himself the same question. He used his own money (deriving mainly from the trade of sugar and slaves) to build a schooner, which he sailed in all weathers to provide an answer, in the process creating for himself a place in the ancestry of several Anglican and Catholic societies, of which the Mission to Seafarers, the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, and the Apostleship of the Sea, continue to provide seafarers with a valued and often heroic service.

The Author: R W H Miller has been a long-time student of Maritime Social History and member of the Society for Nautical Research and the International Maritime Economic

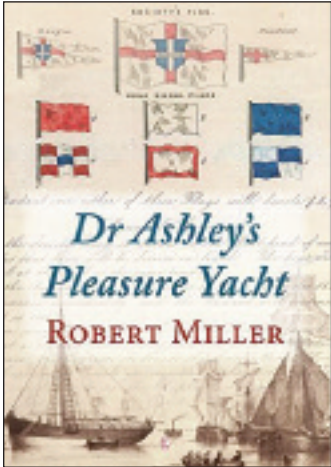
History Association. He has worked for both the Missions to Seamen and the Apostleship of the Sea. He is the author of Priest in Deep Water (2010) and One Firm Anchor (2013), also published by The Lutterworth Press.

Praise for the Book:

"I have been familiar for many years with Dr Miller's work on the history of the Church and the merchant seafarer. Dr Ashley's Pleasure Yacht uncovers the life of a nineteenth-century clergyman, John Ashley, a man with private means deriving from family sugar estates in Jamaica, makes some surprising discoveries. As Ashley is often claimed as the founder of the Mission to Seafarers, the story of his work visiting wind-bound ships in the Bristol Channel has been told often. Less well known is a major disagreement with his committee and what followed." Professor Séan McGrail, Emeritus, Professor of Maritime Archaeology, Oxford University

Published by the Lutterworth Press, the book will be launched at Sarum College Bookshop in Wiltshire.

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New fees announced at Leweston

Leweston is committed to offering a high quality affordable education to as many local families as possible. Following the success of the fee restructure in the Junior Department, the school has now reviewed its Senior School fee structure and is delighted to announce new competitive fees across both day and boarding from September 2017.

Across the whole Senior School and Sixth Form (Years 7-13), the new fee for day pupils will be £4,950 with effect from September 2017.

Kate Reynolds, Head of Leweston commented, "So many

parents have to make a choice about when, if at all, to invest in their child's education, which is why I am delighted that this new fee structure will mean that the exceptional education we offer is accessible to more local families; from their child's first days with us in the Junior Department, right through to the end of their exam years in the Senior School and Sixth Form. There couldn't be a better time to join us as we celebrate our outstanding academic achievements with 52% A* and A grades awarded at A Level."

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For all other enquiries about MCSW please contact Sue Burrridge, head of MCSW centre **Tel:** 01395 272799 **Mob:** 07875 161 595 **email:** sue@marriage-care.org.uk.

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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.

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Welcome to Sclerder Abbey: one place, many proposals

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 and 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.

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

REGULAR EVENTS INT THE DEANERIES

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 **Tel:** 07816 542 349.
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 **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.
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.

Finding God in the Vacuuming

... by Julia Beacroft

I've recently been to Cornwall to visit two dear friends, we had a great 'catch-up' over lunch, bringing each other up to speed about what had been going on in our lives since we had last met. And it wasn't long before I was asked about my 'parish activities'. Yes, I was still doing catechesis and yes I was still singing and reading, I replied when asked, and then volunteered the information that strangely I was still really enjoying doing the church 'care' or cleaning each week, which I shared with one or two other parishioners.

'It seems a bit odd actually', I mused, 'but pushing the vacuum around the sanctuary area of the church, while enjoying the tranquil atmosphere seems to really do it for me. I'm not sure why. But you can find God in doing the vacuuming, can't you?' 'Of course you can!' I was assured and then inevitably the conversation moved on to other topics. But later I was struck anew by my very own words. What actually happened each Thursday morning, I wondered, as I trundled the Vax over the thick carpet of the sanctuary area of my parish church?

Receptive: I guess there's probably a few things going on. First of all, I'm left to my own devices. I'm not in a hurry, the sound of the vacuum is soothing, the peace and tranquillity of the church is beautiful and I can be at one with my own thoughts. And I believe that at that point God enters into those

**This takes
'Finding God in all
things' to an
entirely
new level!**

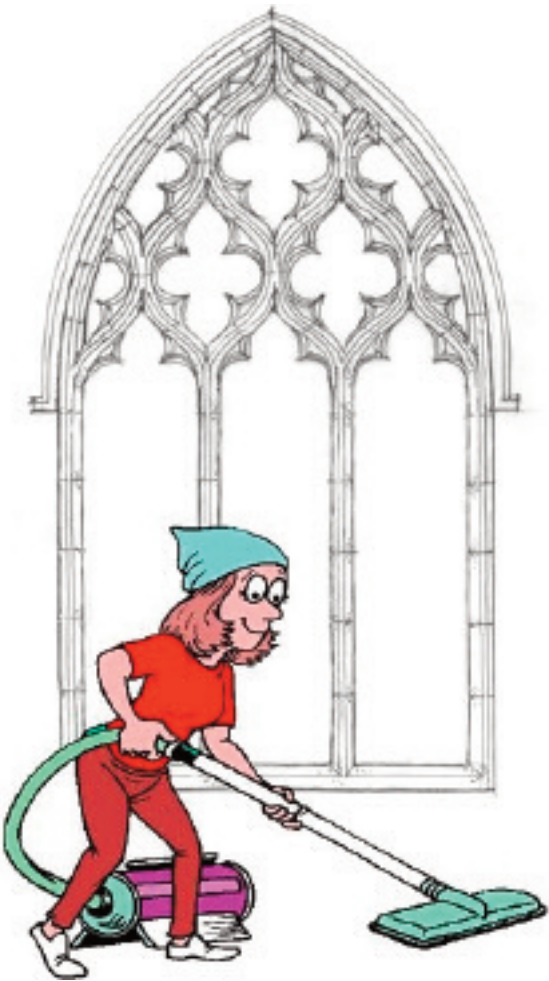
thoughts. You see, I think that I'm open and receptive to the Lord in that time and place and so in his goodness, he makes himself available to me.

And there's more... Because I'm also reminded of a wonderful vignette which I heard at a conference some time ago. The speaker – a priest – was talking to the delegates about the movement of the Holy Spirit in all our lives. To illustrate his point, he gave an account of his own personal encounter with the Spirit. One Saturday morning, he explained, he was vacuuming under his table, when he underwent one of the most uplifting and beautiful experiences he had ever had.

He felt surrounded by a glow and was overtaken by such intense love and happiness that he was in no doubt as to the cause of it. He had experienced the beauty of the Holy Spirit and he abandoned all thought of anything else but soaking up the sublime wonder of that moment.

Wow factor: As for myself, I can remember thinking: 'WOW!' when I heard this. I must admit that my story may not have the same 'Wow factor' as Father's had, but I believe nonetheless, that there are certainly parallels to be drawn. God comes to us in many different ways, shapes, voices and thoughts.

But unerringly he comes to us in the way that we can most appreciate him and be inexorably drawn towards him. This is because he is God and God works in the most mysterious of ways. Even in vacuuming...



Julia came closer to God whilst vacuuming in the peace and tranquillity of her parish church.

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.

The Latin Mass Society

www.lms.org.uk 020 7404 7284

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St. Edward the Confessor, Home Park Avenue,
Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG
Every Sunday 11.30am (Beginning 29th January continuing thereafter)
Blessed Sacrament, Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 2QJ.
3rd Sundays at 3pm
St Cyprian's Chapel, Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh TQ13 0AD
4th Sundays at 3pm
Lanherne Convent , St Mawgan, Newquay TR8 4ER
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Our Lady of Lourdes and St Cecilia,
White Cliff Mill Street, Blandford Forum DT11 7BN
12 noon all dates Saturday February 24th; Saturday March 25th;
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Our Lady, Old Mill Lane, Marnhull, Sturminster Newton DT10 1JX
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Any questions contact Maurice Quinn (LMS Rep, Devon) on either :
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