

LONDON CALLING

Full story Page 5

Apprenticeship in Discipleship
from Programme to Proclamation
based on Sherry Weddell's Forming Intentional Disciples

Two separate day events presented by the Diocese
of Plymouth Evangelisation team

Friday, 20 January at St. Patrick's Church, Soho
Square, W1D 4NR

Saturday, 21 January at Ealing Abbey, W5 2DZ



Guild of Our Lady
and Saint Joseph

DIocese of PLYMOUTH

‘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
felicitys@cathcom.org

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

ADVERTISING

Sales Manager: Janet Took
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PUBLISHER & DISTRIBUTOR

Published by: CathCom Limited, N2 Blois
Meadow Business Centre
Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, CB9 7BN
Tel. 020 7112 6710
Website: www.cathcom.org

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MANAGEMENT**

Deanery Contacts

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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

COPY DEADLINE:

Wednesday 1 March, April Edition

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

www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk



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

Tavistock ‘gap year’ volunteer embarks on a journey of a lifetime

A young Tavistock volunteer is preparing to travel thousands of miles with aid agency CAFOD to meet some of the people the agency is working with in Cambodia. James Ronan, 23, who grew up in Tavistock and studied at Plymouth University, will go to Cambodia for nearly three weeks at the end of January. Whilst there, he will meet local communities who have been helped by the fundraising and campaigning of CAFOD’s supporters in England and Wales.

James, who is currently participating in the CAFOD gap year scheme, has been volunteering in St Mary’s Academy, Blackpool, since September. Through working with the chaplaincy team, he has been supporting students, sharing CAFOD’s work and helping with fundraising activities. He will now travel with other gap year volunteers to meet some of the local organisations that CAFOD works within the country to deliver its development, conservation, and education projects. James tells us: “I am eager to experience Cambodian culture, meet different people, taste traditional Cambodian

food, and see amazing landscapes and wildlife. Most of all I am excited to be visiting CAFOD partners and witness the impact they have made in the country. I will be visiting a variety of projects, including water and sanitation projects, and Sre Khmer, a Cambodian agricultural NGO, as well as a Village Support Group. This trip has also inspired me to learn Khmer, a dialect spoken in the areas of Cambodia that I will be visiting. I have started watching YouTube videos to try and learn phrases, to connect with the people I will be visiting, which I think is important.”

CAFOD has been working in Cambodia since 1980 and continues to support vulnerable groups by enabling indigenous people to access land titles, protect their forests and to increase their food supply and income through organic farming. The charity also works with local organisations to support women to influence, and become involved in, local government.

James will visit various projects in the country,



before returning to the UK to finish his placement, where he will be able to share his experience with his local communities in England and Wales. CAFOD representative in Plymouth, Simon Giarchi, said: “It’s great that James will get to experience first-hand CAFOD partner’s work and learn so much about communities so far away. When he returns to the UK, he will have the opportunity to continue to support the people he has met in Cambodia through volunteering with CAFOD and sharing his experiences.”

CAFOD Lent Fast Day 2017

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and works in countries and communities around the world – wherever the need is greatest. As part of our preparation for Lent Fast Day 2017 we are encouraged to reflect on this story about something truly amazing... Something huge... a fish the size of your thumb...yet to Florence in Zambia, Southern Africa, it might be the biggest fish in the world.

Florence, 41, is a hard-working mother who is devoted to her family. She wants to make sure there is food on the table and to send her younger children to school. A few years ago, she was only just making enough to feed her family. She told CAFOD: “I had challenges. I couldn’t get enough money to buy farming equipment. I wanted to grow corn, but struggled and I grew just enough to survive.” Each day, Florence would wake at around six to plant, sow, water and care for her crops. And late at night, when her children had a simple meal and were in bed, she would go to sleep with sore hands and an aching back.

Change came in the form of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, a partner supported by CAFOD, and their brilliant plan involving tiny fish. The Sisters have been working in the community for over 20-years and they recognised how determined Florence was to stand on her own two feet and so they gave her 500 tiny fish as well as the tools and training to build a pond to farm them. With continued love and support from the sisters, as well as Florence’s commitment and determination, the fish grew and grew... By selling some of the fish at the market, Florence was able to give her children a future – she was able to send them to school. And Florence is already giving back, sharing what she has with the most vulnerable

in her community; ensuring the impact of those few small fish continues to spread.

In the first reading on Sunday 5th March we hear an account of how all human beings are created by God, giving each person an inherent dignity. When Florence was trained by the Sisters and given just a few small fish, her life was transformed. Thanks to your support, her God-given dignity was respected as she was able to provide for her family. And, a week later, in the Gospel on Sunday 12 March we hear how Jesus, in front of Peter, James and John, is transfigured: he is transformed. The disciples catch a glimpse of who Jesus really is, and their understanding of their friend changes. Lent is a time for us to have our eyes opened to who we are called to be as children of God, and to be open to our own transformation. It is also a time when we can help others, like Florence, to change their own lives. A few small fish do not sound like much, but through her fish farming, and the stability it gives, Florence is able to provide for her family and plan for the future. So something as small as a pond of tiny fish has had a big impact on Florence’s and her children’s lives.

Friday 10th March is Lent Fast Day when we come together to make sacrifices - such as eating a simple lunch or supper - so that our poorest sisters and brothers can live lives free of poverty. So – on Lent Fast Day 2017 please consider your sacrifice and make a donation to support other families so they too can change their lives. Just £4 will buy 100 tiny fish, while £20 will provide the materials to build a pond.

Without your generosity and prayers, the work that CAFOD does to change the lives of thousands of people worldwide, would not be possible.



CAFOD Lent Prayer

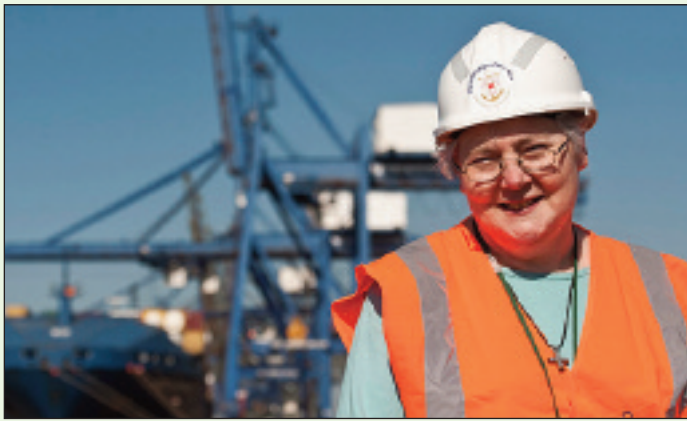
God of Love,
Maker of all,
transform my heart
through my Lenten journey
of prayer, fasting
and almsgiving.

Help me to see the dignity
in all my sisters and brothers,
made in your image and likeness.

Inspire me to share
the fruits of your creation
so that all your people
can become artisans
of their own destiny.

Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

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.org.uk website: www.cafodplymouth.org.uk



Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) Felixstowe port chaplain Sister Marian Davey has spoken about her admiration for the faith and dignity of a group of seafarers who lost their colleague after an explosion on board their ship. The Manhattan Bridge ship was berthing at Felixstowe port one Thursday night when the incident occurred, killing a crew member and injuring the second engineer. Sister Marian continues the story: "They're a crew who have a strong bond of relationship and respect for each other. Strong leadership on board was very evident from the captain and his officers - all the crew were trying to help each other to come to terms with all that's happened."

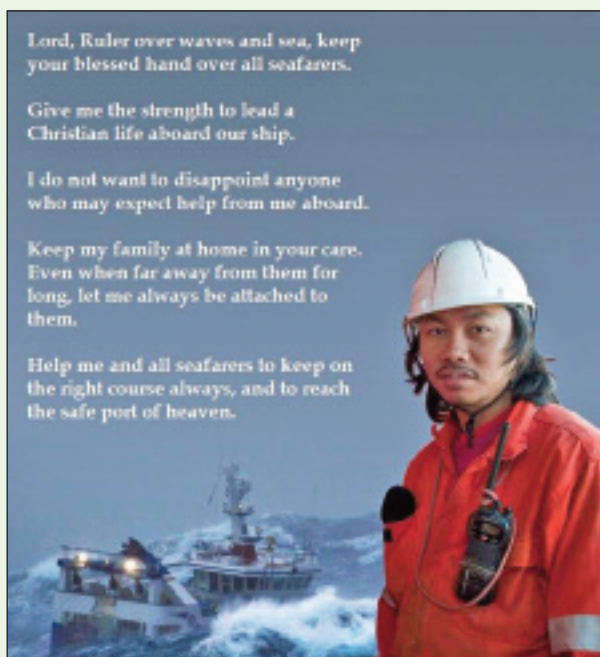
Sister Marian was informed of the incident in the early hours of the morning by the Harbour Master and Port Health and Safety Manager. On hearing the news she travelled immediately from her short break in Manchester to offer assistance to the Filipino crew. She tells us: "They wanted to make sure that the remaining crew got as much support as possible as they all had to cope with a very lengthy process of investigation procedures by both the police and the Marine Accident Investigation Branch throughout the 48 hours the ship was berthed. This meant that I had to snatch slots of time in between to give both one-to-one and collective moments of support. The faith and dignity of the crew was inspirational. I provided moments where they could openly express their grief and shock through tears and words and prayer and silence."

Sister Marian also arranged for Fr John Barnes, Parish Priest of nearby St Felix Church to celebrate Mass on board; it was a great help to the crew who were able to attend and was followed by a blessing of various parts of the ship, including the cabin of the deceased seafarer. "The captain was extremely grateful for the support offered by AoS and to Fr John for celebrating Mass," said Sister Marian, who is still in touch with the crew of the Manhattan Bridge on social media; she added: "I am now focusing the energies of the AoS chaplaincy team on supporting the injured seafarer who is in the Burns Unit at Chelmsford Hospital. He is making good progress and we will continue visiting and supporting him until his repatriation."

On arrival in Hamburg AoS port chaplain Ute Grosse-Harmann and seamen's priest Fr Martin Löwenstein supported the crew. Fr Martin celebrated Mass with them and once again blessed the ship and said a prayer at the spot where the seafarer had died. Counseling was also available to crew members who wanted it.

*Nathaniel Xavier
AoS Digital Communications*

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



HCPT Easter Pilgrimage

The 2017 HCPT pilgrimage theme is being coordinated by HCPT's Westcountry Region and is "Come to the Water". From the beginning of the Creation story, throughout the Bible and particularly in the Gospels, the theme of water is very strong; it is no surprise, as water is essential to life on Earth. There are hundreds of references to water in the bible: water in Creation; water in the Flood; water, or lack of it, in the desert Exodus, and the parting of the Red Sea; the restful waters of the psalms; the waters of baptism in the Jordan; the tempestuous waters of the Sea of Galilee calmed by Jesus; and the 'water of life' revealed to the Samaritan woman by Christ at Jacob's well. Christ, the 'water of life', the 'living water', is essential for our earthly life, and the heavenly life to come.

The story of the Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St Bernadette is strongly influenced by the theme of water and this continues to our days of Pilgrimage in Lourdes where we will taste and feel the waters that still gush forth from the spring revealed to Bernadette by Our Lady on 25th February 1858. Our Lady asked Bernadette to tell people 'to come to the water to drink and wash'. We come to Lourdes 'to drink and wash'.

Great miracles of healing have been attributed to the waters of Lourdes but the greatest miracle is for everyone to experience – the love of God found in pilgrimage at this holy place. Once again in 2017 the HCPT pilgrimage offers the opportunity to celebrate the joy of 'the Risen Lord' as we come together on Easter Day; once again we have the opportunity to encounter God through the life, prayer and liturgies of our days in Lourdes; once again we shall experience the love and joy of God in our fellowship in the presence of the Lord.

The prophet Isaiah tells us: 'Everyone who is thirsty, come to the water' (Isaiah 55:1). We come to Lourdes in answer to that call. The theme of water also plays a huge part in

the life of the Westcountry. Being a peninsula, every part of life is connected to water. Indeed it is life itself.

The Trust Mass which takes place on Thursday 20th April at 9am BST will be live streamed; to join the HCPT Pilgrims at the Mass – wherever you may be – visit:

www.hcpt.org.uk/trustmass. And, to give you a taste of just how wonderful the celebrations are take a look at last year's Trust Mass at <http://www.hcpt.org.uk/hcpt-trust-mass-2016/>



HCPT Lourdes Pilgrimage Prayer – Easter 2017

Lord Jesus,
thank you for bringing us
on pilgrimage to Lourdes.
Our Lady invites us
to 'come to the water, to drink and to wash'.
May the water of the Grotto
and the 'living water' of your Word
help us to be better people.
May we love and care for each other
just as you love and care for each one of us.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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Group 539

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CribFest across the Diocese – Epiphany 2017

A number of parishes held CribFests to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany including St Joseph's Poole; Holy Trinity, Dorchester; The Assumption of Our Lady, Torquay; Holy Angels, Torquay and All Saints Teignmouth. Nativity scenes representing many different communities throughout the world were displayed to help people celebrate the Epiphany.



In Poole, 64 cribs from 13 different countries were displayed and, at The Assumption of Our Lady, (pictured above) Torquay a large number of cribs were also on display (picture right). It was amazing to see the diversity of the cribs, old and new, made from a variety of materials - plaster, wood, wool and paper, there were even cribs made from clothes pegs, paper clips and buttons!

The Diocesan CribFest captured the imagination of the parishioners with many parishes saying they want to hold another in 2018. Fr Chris Findlay described the display at Poole as 'inspirational' and in Dorchester one person claimed it to be 'the best Epiphany ever'! Such lovely comments to hear for a feast that is so often 'lost' in the return to work and school after the Christmas holidays. Anita Finnigan from Dorchester added: "We celebrated the Epiphany this year joining in with the Children's Society CribFest. A group of us took our cribs into the church - sixteen in all - and they were all so different: there was a colourful porcelain one; a beautiful home-made one, the Kings particularly looked splendid with their crowns and gifts (picture below); another 'joyful' set of



small round colourful clay figures arranged in a round basket; a Russian doll type where all the nativity figures fitted into the large Kings (three in one). Fr Barry blessed all the cribs after Mass and everyone agreed that it had been a lovely way of bringing everyone together and rounding off the Christmas season."

In our schools, Epiphany celebrations included children and staff dressing up as Kings to raise money for the Catholic Children's Society including those at Priory School, Torquay (picture below).



Peter Smith presents a cheque to trustee director Andrea Rogers.



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



And, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Exmouth held a 'Crib Trail' before Christmas where parents and parishioners moved from class to class seeing nativities made by the pupils. And, all Three Kings are pictured with Fr Philip Austen during Mass at Holy Family Parish, Exmouth (picture right).



Thank you to everyone who have donated to the diocesan Children's Society through their Parish Crib Collection, Crib Fest or Epiphany celebrations. Your support is very much appreciated and will go a long way to helping families in our midst who struggle to meet the essential needs of their children.

For more information about the Society and to see pictures and a short video from our events, please see our website www.ccsplymouth.org.uk

Catholic Children's Society Grants

When children live in poverty it affects them deeply; they are often bullied for being poor and as a consequence can dread going to school, struggle to make friends and fall back in their education. In the last two months, sixteen families have received assistance from the Catholic Children's Society: beds, cookers and school uniform were just some of the items funded, items that parents and carers couldn't otherwise afford for their children. Some families were refugees, or fleeing abuse; some had health issues and some were working families struggling and unable to survive on a low income. Each case was different but each involved a child suffering through no fault of their own.

The Society aims to alleviate some of the hardships families are experiencing to enable parents to provide their children with security, warmth and a hot meal everyday so that their children can thrive, develop at school and have a better start in life. If you know of a child or family that could benefit from a grant from the CCSP, please get in touch with the society.

Claire Warren, Fundraising Officer
Mob: 07734503363 email: Claire.Warren@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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Plymouth Evangelisation Team present work in capital



Members of the Diocesan Evangelisation team Fr Jon Bielawski, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation, Catechesis and Schools and team member Michele Thompson were recently invited to London to present an outline of the work they have been doing in setting up Parish Evangelisation Teams using a particular method which has borne much fruit. Hosted by The Guild of Our Lady and St Joseph, the seminars entitled 'An Apprenticeship in Discipleship from Programme to Proclamation' were held over two days and took place at St Patrick's Church in Soho and at Ealing Abbey. The seminars were a follow up to a recent visit and presentations by Sherry Weddell author of the book 'Forming Intentional Disciples' which has been used in the Plymouth Diocese. The diocesan team have, for the past 16 months, been using the book as a launch pad in an ongoing process of forming parish evangelisation teams and it seemed to be a natural follow on as Fr Jon and Michele were able to offer a way of narrowing the gap between theory and practice which is a sticking point for many.

More than 100 people attended from all over the country and included a mix of Clergy, Religious, Diocesan representatives and lay people. Fr Jon and Michele were delighted to share the comprehensive programme that has evolved through their experience over the past 16 months of encouraging people to grow in a sense of discipleship and be part of practical and proactive evangelisation teamwork. In that short time 38 teams have been formed and more than 470 people have gone through the disciple making programme.

The aims of the initiative are to encourage every person to a personal encounter with Jesus so that discipleship and witnessing to the faith becomes a natural way of life. Whilst this initiative is still very much in its infancy, parishioners who have been involved are, with growing confidence, witnessing to their faith as a normal part of their daily lives; as part of an evangelisation team they are inspired and motivated to maximise opportunities within the parish as well as proactively reaching out to the lapsed and unchurched.

The seminars were broken down into seven 30 minute sections and Fr Jon and Michele were keen to provide a simple and concise format that others would find easy to pick up and follow within their own parish settings: they produced a 40 page manual entitled 'Programme to Proclamation' which delegates were able to take away with them and which offers;

- Detailed set up and training advice including prayer preparation
- A clear model of how to form and sustain a Parish Evangelisation Team.
- A practical process to enable people to grow in discipleship.
- A whole host of ideas that can be implemented with little resource or preparation other than prayer.

"We spent a lot of time in prayer for these events as we knew we needed the power of the Holy Spirit to help us to convey our message in an inspiring and relatable way," said Michele "We wanted the delegates to leave feeling empowered to get started and entirely confident that this work can begin without delay. Being invited to present the

work we have been doing enabled us to talk through some of the intricacies and subtleties of our programme which is above all a spiritual journey that, with the right level of openness and engagement leads to a new found or rediscovered path of discipleship.

"Just like the original disciples, the natural uncomplicated fruits are the desire to evangelise in a way that feels entirely right for each individual and a new or renewed hunger to know more about Jesus through scripture, and our Catholic teachings through catechists and church leaders. We particularly wanted to convey that our work has been borne out of prayer and action and that prayer must saturate our lives and parishes if this work in spreading the Catholic faith is to take root and become natural and accepted for the generations to come. Once we hand over to God and through prayer ask and allow Him, He shows us the way and provides a living apprenticeship where we learn and grow by recognising and responding to the opportunities He puts our way. Through prayer we learn to trust, and in the asking is our commitment to act."

Feedback from the two days has been very encouraging and a number of parishes have already confirmed that they are beginning the programme immediately. Margaret Wickware, President of the Guild of Our Lady and St Joseph, recently remarked: "We were truly delighted to have Fr Jon and Michele with us in London to present the work they have been doing in Plymouth diocese. Over 100 people are now benefitting from their experience and ground work and I am sure that it will be multiples of that number in the weeks and months ahead as evangelisation teams are put in place in parishes in the dioceses of Westminster, Southwark, Brentwood, Northampton, East Anglia and even further afield in Salford and Leeds. As well, we have received a request for a similar presentation from a Guild member in Shrewsbury Diocese. It was a great blessing, indeed."

FUTURE PLANS

Michele tells us: "In our own diocese the work continues. We still have parishes that for one reason or another have not yet engaged in the programme and we continue to pray that in future months more will take up the opportunity as parish leaders recognise the value of this work. We want to expand and consolidate existing teams and to begin to link parishes through team leaders so that they can share ideas and inspirations, pray together and work through some of the challenges. As our teams grow more confident and become more and more innovative we are receiving requests for training in more practical ways and we are working 1:1 with individuals who request it, to develop the interpersonal and relationship building skills that are so vital to engaging others effectively."

RUN TO THE SON

The team are also currently organising a weekend retreat of inspiration and prayer for Mission at Buckfast Abbey. Hosted by the Brothers of the Franciscan of Renewal, 'Run to the Son' will be held over the weekend of 23rd to 25th June. Fr Jon said: "I am delighted that Brother John Bosco



has agreed to lead the input on the weekend as he is completely given to mission and his energy and passion for evangelisation is truly inspiring." He continued: "The weekend will culminate in an all-night vigil of prayer from sunset to sunrise in the Blessed Sacrament chapel, during which there will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the woodlands of the Abbey grounds and Benediction in the especially erected marquee. People will be able to share the experience of watching the iconic stained glass window of Jesus at the last supper come alive as the dawn breaks and the sun begins to rise. Bishop Mark will conclude the weekend with a dawn Mass on Sunday morning. We hope that everyone with a heart for mission from across our diocese and

beyond will come together at this event and through prayer and fellowship, enkindle in each other a fire and zeal that will inspire them to step out confidently in Jesus' name."

More information and booking details for 'Run to the Son' will be available in parishes and newsletters very soon. The event will be advertised nationwide and numbers are limited so please make your booking early.

If you would like to discuss evangelisation or any element of this article please contact Fr Jon Tel: 01752 701660 email: Jonathan.bielawski@prcdtr.org.uk or Michele mob: 07940453607 Michele.thompson@prcdtr.org.uk

The Guild of Our Lady and Saint Joseph

The Guild of Our Lady and Saint Joseph is open to all interested in fellowship and formation in the fullness of the faith of the Holy Catholic Church. Our overarching mission is to pray for and support the work of the School of the Annunciation at Buckfast Abbey. With members living across the UK and beyond, the Guild has a monthly newsletter and an active Facebook group to announce upcoming events and/or articles of interest on the new evangelisation.



From time to time, the Guild holds 'Guild days' to bring together like-minded individuals for prayer and fellowship. Noted speakers have included Sherry Weddell, Bishop Philip Egan, Father Alexander Sherbrooke and Dr Caroline Farey amongst others. While Guild days have taken place in London and York, the Guild Executive Committee would be happy to host one in Devon! Please register your interest!

Membership in the Guild (£20 per annum) offers special access to lectures and Sacred Art studies on the SotA website. The Guild has also organised a discounted subscription rate to the Catechetical Review, an excellent resource for catechists and all those working in the church today.

For more information: email guildofourladyandstjoseph@gmail.com

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3rd Sundays at 3pm
St Cyprian's Chapel, Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh TQ13 0AD
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Parish of St Mary, Falmouth (with Helston, Mullion and Mawnan Smith)

Ben Davis RIP

Ben Davis died in January 2017 aged 87; he was a well-known and much loved and respected parishioner of St Mary's, Falmouth and will be greatly missed. Ben was the brother of Canon A Bede Davis, former Parish Priest at Falmouth, who died in June 2006. Ben and his family moved from London to Falmouth in the 1950s and entered the building trade. He was a very devout man and his life revolved around his family, his church and music – he was well known in the Cornwall Deanery for his musical skills. Every year Ben attended the music school of the Society of St Gregory of which his father was a founder member. Both Canon Bede and Ben were members of the Putney Boys' Choir and, when his father



died, Ben took over as Choirmaster at St Mary's with his wife Jenny as organist accompanying the choir and the congregation for many years.

He was also involved in a number of societies within the parish. Simon Giarchi, CAFOD representative for Plymouth Diocese said of Ben: "he was a truly inspirational man who made a difference in his parish community and to people in many parts of the world; CAFOD is grateful for his contribution to and involvement with our organisation. Ben was also active in the Society of St Vincent de Paul including supervising the distribution of food from the 'Lord's Pantry' every Sunday to the local food bank; working with: the Men's Hostel; the project for those with mental health difficulties; and with St Petroc's. His faith was the cornerstone of his life and one of the ways he shared his faith with

others was by meticulously keeping the CTS Display up-to-date.

Being in the building trade meant that he was knowledgeable about any problems with the fabric of the church and, if anything went wrong, the immediate solution was to ask him for advice.

In the last months of his illness Ben was cared for most lovingly by his wife Jenny and by the local NHS. He would say to the NHS staff: "I give you 100% for your care – and 110% to Jenny for her care!!"

Our sympathy and love are extended to his wife Jenny, their children and grandchildren and to his sister Barbara.

May he rest in peace.

**Mary Bradley
Falmouth**

Parish of St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston (With St Peter's, Bude and Our Lady of Victories, Callington)

The Religious Heritage of North and East Cornwall
Author: Rev Fr David Annear
Fr David writes: "This latest slim volume of mine is rather more general in scope than my previous efforts. In just over seventy pages it describes the religious landscape and heritage of North and East Cornwall, from quoits and menhirs to converted Methodist chapels. There are brief background



descriptions of, among other things, the Celtic Church, the Reformation in Cornwall and the various Christian revivals which have left their visible presence today. The text is illustrated with more than a hundred photos and drawings.

My main aim is to explain our religious heritage to my parishioners, but anyone who loves Cornwall will, I hope, find this little book a helpful guide."

Copies are £5 plus £1.50 p&p. For more information, please contact Alison Moore, Parish Secretary Tel: 01566 773166 email: office@stcuthbertmayne.org.uk website: www.stcuthbertmayne.org.uk

Our Lady & St Neot, Liskeard (with Sclerder Abbey) Concert at Sclerder Abbey



Although the night was extremely foggy, the concert at Sclerder one Sunday in December, was a great success. The Valley Voices choir opened the concert with a medley of songs which delighted the audience, followed by Liz Smith reciting two of her Christmas poems. The evening was

further enhanced by a String Ensemble and the Sclerder Choir joining the Valley Voices in a beautiful rendition of Unto Us a Child is Born. Henry added the humour with his recitation of the story about the legend attached to St Keyne Well - for those who were not there, he displayed an interesting Cornish accent.

Valley Voices were in good voice for their final medley and Len and Ruth brought the evening entertainment to a close with deep pathos by enacting a sad tale of one man's fall into addiction and his recovery by the kindness of an angel, told against the carol, In the

Bleak mid-Winter. Fr Gilmour opened and closed the evening with prayers and all adjourned to the Refectory for mulled wine and refreshments.

The Parish is extremely grateful to Petra and Paul Stephenson for organising such an entertaining evening and to John Greenhouse for being compere. The proceeds of the concert were donated to the RNLI (£100) and to the Chemin Neuf Community (£223).

**Liz Crew
Sclerder**

Epiphany House

On the outskirts of Truro, Epiphany House was formerly the Bishop's Palace and home of the Sisters of the Community of the Epiphany. Events at Epiphany House in March include:

Saturday 11th March: A reflective service of Taizé chants and poetry readings with a Lenten theme. 7pm in the chapel at Epiphany House, Truro, TR1 3DR. No need to book.

Friday 17th March 4pm to Sunday 19th March 4pm, led by Rev Bryan West and Janet Mullett: Individually Guided Retreat Weekend
Come as you are and set aside time to meet God, led by an experienced prayer guide. An IGR offers the opportunity to take time away from the rush of everyday life, to pause and reflect. You will meet daily with an experienced prayer guide, and apart from these meetings and the daily service the retreat will be in silence with opportunities for your individual reflection, times of prayer and walking or other relaxation.

For more information about charges and how to book contact Lizzie Pridmore Tel: 01872 272249 email: info@epiphanyhouse.co.uk

Plymouth Deanery

The Catenians
Strengthening family life through friendship and faith

Plymouth Circle held its popular Annual Skittles evening recently at the Westward Inn at Lee Mill, Plymouth. Thirty players in nine teams took part in a close fought competition with Bob Butler as the Referee and scorer. The eventual winning team was Kathy Butler, John Modley and David Rose. David Rose rounded off a splendid evening by winning the 'killer competition.'

Plymouth Ladies celebrated with an excellent night out at the City College where they enjoyed a dinner served and prepared by the Students. They also spent a day preparing for Christmas by Craft Day to make cards and jewellery. It was a great day full of fun and laughter although some achieved better results than others!!

**John Luscombe
Plymouth Catenians**

**Plymouth
Circle
news**

News from around the diocese ...

Dorset Deanery

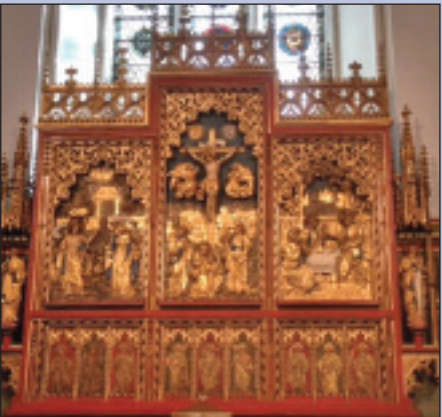
St Catherine's, Wimborne Gifts of the Holy Spirit



Our candidates for Confirmation raised £320 for Mary's Meals with a social evening including a film about the work of the charity. Mary's Meals provides hundreds of thousands of children with a daily meal of maize porridge at school. Apart from this, they would go hungry and probably would not be able to go to school. The work is centred in Malawi, a country affected by severe drought, Kenya and India.

*Canon Kenneth Noakes
Parish Priest*

Holy Trinity, Dorchester The Reredos, Holy Trinity



Fr Barry Hallett gave an interesting talk to parishioners recently on the beautiful Reredos, a dominant feature at the front of our church. It was something he remembered, together with the onyx marble altar, from his time as a deacon many years ago. The parish inherited the Reredos when the building was acquired from the Church of England in May 1976. The Reredos was carved at Oberammergau and installed in the church in 1897. Depicted in the centre panel is the Crucifixion. On the left is a panel showing the appearance of Christ to Mary Magdalene in the garden, Our Lord holding the flag as the symbol of his triumph over death. In the right-hand panel is the appearance of the risen Lord at Emmaus as he reveals his identity in the breaking of bread.

Figures of St Peter and St Paul stand on either side of the Reredos, Peter bearing the keys of the Kingdom and Paul the sword of his martyrdom and the scroll of his Epistles. Below are painted representations of nine saints many of them local saints.



All Souls' Day at Holy Trinity

Cards had been distributed inviting people to drop into the church to remember loved ones who had died, by lighting a candle for them and writing their name in a Book of Remembrance. Doors were open, night lights and a flower had been placed at the end of each pew, soft music was playing and the church was warm. Our lovely church was very welcoming, warm and prayerful. And it was good to see so many people coming in. One couple on holiday from Devon said the church looked so beautiful that they could not help but come in.

Anita Finnigan

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Joseph, Wool

*(with St Edward's, Wareham and
St Mary's, Lulworth)*

Catholic Women's League



CWL members and friends gathered for an Advent service at St Edwards Church, Wareham devised and led by the members of the Wareham, Wool and Lulworth section. The theme was Peace and all joined in singing the hymns and carols. Fr Paul Keys blessed the congregation and after the service everyone was invited to write a prayer to add to the Prayer tree. Kathleen Doyle and Stephanie Tully are pictured adding their prayers to the tree.

*Carol Gregory
Catholic Women's League*

Walk at Blue Pool – and cream tea



Parishioners Wool, Wareham and Lulworth are working towards CAFOD's Livesimply award, by undertaking activities connected with living simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with poor people. One of the activities chosen by parishioners is to take part in walks to observe and appreciate God's creation personally. Last autumn about 30 parishioners walked around the beautiful Blue Pool at Furzebrook, just outside Stoborough in Dorset, with readings, time for reflection and singing, all finished off with a delicious cream tea at the Blue Pool tea rooms.

The walkers were able to enjoy Blue Pool's sometimes green, sometimes turquoise colour produced by very fine clay in suspension in the water diffracting light in different ways. The Pool is surrounded by 25 acres of heath, woodland and gorse interlaced with sandy paths that 'seem to take you to another world.'

Parishioner, Bernard White, said: "We came to this beautiful place to thank God for the glorious gift of creation, and we ask for his help to care for our world. As Pope Francis told us in 2014, we must protect creation for it is a gift which the Lord has given us. It is God's present to us; we are the guardians of creation. When we exploit creation, we destroy that sign of God's love."

*David Willey
Wool*



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Torbay Deanery

St Cuthbert Mayne School, Torquay

At the end of November 2016 St Cuthbert Mayne School had two inspections, one by OFSTED and the other a Church inspection called SIAMS which happens every five years. Both reports are available on the school's website. Peter Brown, Headteacher said: "We are delighted with the deserved recognition and acknowledgement of all the hard work that students and staff in partnership with parents have put into the last 2 years. I am very proud of our excellent students, as well as our talented and committed staff at the school. This is a great review of our progress so far towards our aim to be a Centre of Excellence in teaching and learning, where students are prepared for a future in which they can thrive. A school where all students are happy and flourish built on values underpinned by God's love."

Hairspray opens to rave reviews!



St Cuthbert Mayne School's production of Hairspray started with a bang on 1st February with the first performance being for local primary schools! The children all thoroughly enjoyed the performance and pupils were able to meet the cast afterwards. One pupil commented: "It was the best show I've ever seen!" And one teacher from a primary school commented: "She sounded just like Adele, I have goose pimples!"

VOCES Concert



In the Christian calendar, March sees the beginning of Lent – and the first concert of 2017 by the choir VOCES and its Director Martyn Warren, specialists in early choral music. The concert, which takes place at Buckfast Abbey on the evening of Saturday 11th March, will focus on settings of the seven so-called 'penitential psalms', which inspired some of the most beautiful and soulful music of the 16th and 17th centuries. In each, the psalmist laments his own sins of thought, word and deed, before expressing hope in God's help and forgiveness. This makes the psalms particularly appropriate for personal meditation during times of penitence, and for centuries they have been strongly identified with the season of Lent.

The centrepiece of the evening is a superb setting for five voices by Orlando Lassus of the seventh psalm, Domine Exaudi Orationem Meam (Hear my prayer, O Lord). The concert will also include the first part of a Miserere (Have mercy on me, O God) by the Flemish master Josquin des Pres, a version of Domine, ne in furore tuo (O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger) by Monteverdi, and other works by Byrd, Grandi and Giovanni Gabrieli. From the 20th century, but complementary to the earlier works, is a setting for seven voices of De profundis (Out of the depths I have called to you, O Lord) by the Italian composer Pizzetti.

Domenico Gioffré, Deputy Master of the Music at the Abbey, will play organ works based on the penitential psalms.

The concert starts at 7.30pm; entry is free, with a retiring collection. The Grange Restaurant at Buckfast Abbey will be open from 6pm, and a pre-concert two-course fine-dining menu can be booked for £19.75, including a glass of wine. For more information Tel: 01364 645504 or visit: www.buckfast.org.uk/concertdinners

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Centenary Celebrations for Our Lady of Fatima

By Donal Anthony Foley

One hundred years ago, from May to October 1917, Our Lady appeared to three young shepherd children, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, and Lucia dos Santos, at Fatima in Portugal. In the centenary year the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) in England and Wales will be promoting the Centenary of the Fatima apparitions through a programme of visitations to Cathedrals by the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and Relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco. The programme began with a visitation of the statue and relics to Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 18th February 2017, when Cardinal Vincent Nichols crowned the statue, presided at Mass and re-consecrated England to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The programme continues through to October with visits to 18 of the Cathedrals in England and Wales, including Plymouth Cathedral from 24th to 25th June.

The work of the WAF involves promoting the message that Our Lady gave at Fatima, when she spoke of the necessity of personal conversion, penance, and prayer, and particularly the importance of praying the Rosary for peace. She also asked for the Five First Saturdays devotion of reparation and the consecration of Russia, and promised that in the end her Immaculate Heart would triumph and a period of peace would be given to the world. The international WAF was officially approved by the Church as a 'Public Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right' in October 2010.

The Fatima message is more relevant than ever today, especially for the family. Pope St John Paul II said that the Church accepted the message of Fatima because it repeats Our Lord's call: "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1: 15); and, after the beatification of Francisco and Jacinta on 13 May 2000, he said: "it is a message of conversion and hope which is the true Gospel of Christ".

In 2006, Pope Benedict XVI expressed the hope: "that the message of Fatima will be increasingly accepted, understood and lived in every community." And Pope Francis too, has been very supportive of Fatima, and is due to visit the Shrine in May 2017.

A special Centenary Crown is being made in Portugal for the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and will accompany the statue as it journeys around England and Wales being used to crown it during the visitations.

Pope Francis has granted a special Fatima Centenary Plenary Indulgence, under the usual conditions, from 27 November 2016 to 26 November 2017, for those who go on Pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Fatima, or visit an image of Our Lady of Fatima which is being publicly venerated on the 13th of each month from May to October 2017. Those who cannot travel can fulfil the conditions in front of a small image of Our Lady of Fatima.

The Pope's initiative prompts the question: do I know what Our Lady asked of me at Fatima, and am I complying with her requests? The new CTS booklet, Message and Prayers of Fatima and also Sister Lucia's Memoirs: Fatima in Lucia's own words, vol. 1 (also available from the CTS) will help us to respond to these questions.

The centenary year is important since it offers the Church a chance to look again at the message of Fatima, which is really a compendium of the Gospel for our times, and realise that the Fatima message and the Rosary are powerful weapons against modern secularism. The most important thing is not to let the centenary go by without doing something to deepen one's knowledge of Fatima. More information about the World Apostolate of Fatima and the Message of Fatima can be found on the website of the WAF International Secretariat, at: www.worldfatima.com. For WAF England and Wales visit: www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

Donal Anthony Foley is secretary of the World Apostolate of Fatima in England and Wales (WAF), and the author of a number of books on Marian apparitions.



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Nazareth Retirement Village, Plymouth

Residents of the new Edgcumbe Court retirement apartments in Plymouth recently celebrated their first year of living at Nazareth Retirement Village with a fabulous evening dinner including toastmaster, music and champagne! One couple who were among the first to occupy an apartment at this beautiful seaside location have been speaking about life at Edgcumbe Court: Joan and Ron are in their late 70's; they came regularly to the adjacent Nazareth House care home to visit their former Parish Priest and when Joan also came to Mass, Ron would have a coffee and a walk along the promenade.

They first saw plans for Edgcumbe Court almost 10 years ago, and when a friend's life was turned upside down by a stroke they knew they wanted to make the decision to move while they still had their mental faculties, rather than having the choice made for them. The Superior at the time, Sister Elizabeth, arranged a meeting and a tour of the building site.

They are now very happy living at Edgcumbe Court. Ron has had a major operation since moving here and both felt secure and better able to deal with it having made the move to their new apartment. They still have a car but make use of the regular direct bus service to Derriford Hospital and the good transport links in general. While Ron was in hospital Joan took comfort from the knowledge that people were around, new friends, support staff, and the Sisters. They say the staff at Edgcumbe Court are wonderful and enjoy socialising with other residents. Stonehouse is also a very friendly area, with lovely recuperative walks and scenery. Joan comes from Lancashire and was a nurse in her early days. She has been a proud member of the Catholic Women's League for 40 years, it is part of her faith and she values the comradery and friendships.

Fundraising, trips and retreats keep her active and involved. Ron and Joan moved to Devon for Ron's job with a silicon chip company but he is a



Cornishman, and proud of it. From their apartment they can see the River Tamar as it enters Plymouth Sound - the best of both worlds, living in Devon and looking at Cornwall!

Ron is looking forward to harnessing the inspiration from the sea. He used to play Rugby but took up painting after health problems. He watched a local artist on TV, then went to classes before joining a local painting group. He is now an accomplished artist and contributed to the Summer House Exhibition at Edgcumbe Court's first summer fair. His delicately detailed warm style adorns the walls of their apartment.


They have three children all busy with their lives, with daughter Kate recently a finalist in the 2016 Devon's Inspirational Woman in Technology Awards for her role as CEO of Cosmic, a green business in Technology and a social enterprise 'making a difference not just profit'. They also have 5 grandchildren, one, Tom, who is in his final year as a student at Plymouth University, visited on the day of our chat and said he was very happy that his grandparents were living at Edgcumbe Court. He was clearly enjoying the location and the view from their snug room window. Family do tend to

visit more when you live by the seaside! Ron and Joan have given up an old house with a long large garden, but not the desire to entertain family and friends. They often use the restaurant at Edgcumbe Court where a 3-course lunch is available every day, but with an extending dining table and their apartments fully fitted kitchen Joan regularly cooks a family Sunday lunch, she just can't get out of the habit she says with a smile. Tom says she makes the best Pavlova ever and books it in advance. They both agree that the support services and social and leisure facilities are invaluable but perhaps the security, at this stage in their lives, is the most useful. Joan says: "when you are away you just close the door and that's it, oh, and the cleaning is done when you get home! We have made the right decision, we appreciate the freedom our new life gives us and enjoy the support which makes our life easier. It's also lovely just to sit in the lounge or conservatory where the staff will bring you a cup of tea."

Morag Thomson Findlay continues: "We like to think that we provide a range of services for all stages of active, independent retirement living and if you want to find out more and 'test the water', we offer a 'trial in style' apartment for four nights, mid-week, with a welcome pack and lunch vouchers included in the price,


so you can live like a resident and perhaps go on to purchase your ideal apartment, to enjoy the freedom and security of living at Edgcumbe Court. We only have a few 1 and 2 bedroom apartments remaining so please call the sales office and visit us soon."

Parish of the Holy Family, Exmouth



The Way the Truth and the Life
Diocese of Plymouth Pilgrimage
to Santiago de Compostela
Sunday May 6th. 2018 to Thursday May 17th 2018

"To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has done with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe."




Pope Francis Krakow Aug. 2016

On behalf of Bishop Mark, I am inviting you to follow 'The Way of St James' on our first diocesan pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. We shall be flying from Bristol to Bilbao and will have coach transfers throughout. Our first two nights are planned for Santo Domingo de Calzada with the Cistercian Sisters. We then move westwards along the ancient pilgrim route to the Shrine of St. James. There are hotel stops at León, Ponferrada, Santiago de Compostela (four nights), where Bishop Mark will join us, Oviedo and Comillas (two nights)

Flights, coach transfers, all excursions and half-board accommodation for twelve days will be in the region of £899.00., based on exchange rates Jan. 2017. Single supplements will be additional.

Buen Camino!

Fr Philip



Fr Philip Jones
Author David Jones
Bishop Mark O'Leary

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MARRIAGE CARE SOUTH WEST (MCSW)

MCSW one-day 'Preparing Together' courses will be held in Plymouth from 09:30 to 16:30 on the following dates:

- Saturday 11th March
- Saturday 8th July
- Saturday 18th November

MCSW also offers FOCCUS, a guided questionnaire-based exploration and essential relationship know-how for individual couple with a trained facilitator. For more information about venues and to book a place on one of the 'Preparing Together' courses please 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 Care is a faith-based organisation which draws on its Catholic Christians tradition and contemporary research to help couples in both good times and bad. We provide marriage preparation and relationship counselling and are looking for volunteer facilitators to join our friendly local team. Marriage Preparation Course Facilitators present and facilitate preparation days for small groups of engaged couples, training for the role is provided.

MARRIAGE HELP

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.retrouvaille.org.uk.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING SOUTH WEST (NFPWS)

NFPWS offers a service to those Catholics wishing to conceive, space or limit their fertility. We teach the Billings Ovulation Method (www.billingslife.org). This method is morally acceptable to the Catholic Church and is fully in accord with the Church's definitive document on birth regulation: 'Humanae Vitae'. Women are taught to monitor their own individual fertility in whatever situation of their fertile life and apply the rules correspondingly. For further information contact Christine email: chrishud78@talktalk.net

PILGRIMAGES

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Saturday 27th May to Friday 2nd June: for full details and who to contact to book a place please see Diocesan News on page (tbc) of this edition of CSW.

Padre Pio Prayer Group Pilgrimage to Fatima, Friday 22nd to Thursday 28th September: Valerie Williams will be leading the pilgrimage with support from 5 Padre Pio Prayer Group Leaders. Spiritual Director will be Monsignor Bart Nannery assisted by Canon David Annear, both of whom are spiritual directors of St Pio of Pietrelcina Prayer Groups in the Diocese. The cost of the pilgrimage will be £599.38 (full-board) flying Birmingham with Monarch airlines. If you would like to join the pilgrimage please contact Valerie Williams Tel: 01579 384024 email: williamsvalerie897@gmail.com

RETREATS

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. Details for all 2017 Retreats, which will take place at Southgate Retreat House, Buckfast Abbey are:

Marriage Preparation Facilitators needed



- **Saturday 11th March:** Lenten Quiet Day
- **Friday 26th to Sunday 28th May:** Weekend Retreat
- **Friday 26th May to Friday 2nd June:** 6-day Retreat
- **Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June:** Midweek Retreat
- **Friday 6th to Sunday 8th October:** weekend Retreat
- **Friday 6th to Friday 13th October:** 6-day Retreat
- **Monday 9th to Friday 13th October:** Midweek Retreat
- **Friday 17th to Sunday 19th November:** A 'taster' Weekend Retreat

For more information and to book a place on any of the retreats please contact post: The Presbytery, 19 Fosse Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1NG Tel: 01548 852670 email: mjbutler@yahoo.com or adriantoffolo@yahoo.co.uk.

Have you visited Sclerder Abbey yet?

Nestling above the sea between Looe and Polperro is the beautiful Sclerder Abbey. Until recently, the Abbey was home to Carmelite sisters and is steeped in prayer over many years. Chemin Neuf love to welcome people from the Diocese either for private or group retreats, conferences, meetings – residential or non-residential. They also regularly organise and host events through the year; here are details of some of the retreats planned for 2017:

Quiet Days: a day long guided retreat, including spiritual input, personal prayer and common prayer **Wednesday 29th March** and **Wednesday 10th May**

Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius: seven days of guided retreat, to come to know Christ more intimately through His Word in order to love him, to serve better in our everyday life and to recognise God's call: **Saturday 4th to Saturday 11th March**

Inner Healing Retreat: four days in silence on healing and reconciliation, an opportunity to review our life's story in the light of the Lord: **Tuesday 18th to Saturday 22nd April** and **Sunday 28th May to Thursday 1st June**

For more information please contact: Sclerder Abbey, Sclerder Lane, Looe, Cornwall, PL13 2JD Tel: 01503 272 238 email: sclerder@chemin-neuf.org

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.

Getting it all off Pat...

by Julia Beacroft

NAMES are really important, in common with many other people, I'm always pleased when a little known acquaintance remembers mine. But on the other hand I really hate it when people get my name wrong and my husband is of like mind. I'm called Julia but intensely dislike being addressed as Julie and my husband can't abide his name Patrick being shortened to Pat or Paddy.

And the way that we say things – our tone of voice – is also important. My four adult children think it a great joke when my husband nods off in front of the TV and starts to snore. This is because if they instruct him: "Wake up, Dad!" he simply ignores them. However, if they shout "Patrick!" and use the same intonation of voice as mine, he opens his eyes and immediately stops snoring! In other words, it could be said that we're hard-wired to respond to the voice of a loved one in much the same way as we respond to the sound of our own names.

SAINT'S NAME

On March 17th we celebrate my husband's saint's name – St Patrick – the principal patron saint of Ireland. Although the details of this former missionary and bishop of Ireland are somewhat sketchy, we can rest assured that his fervent desire to bring Christianity to the Celtic pagans of Ireland was successful. He famously

used the three-leaf shamrock to explain the Trinity.

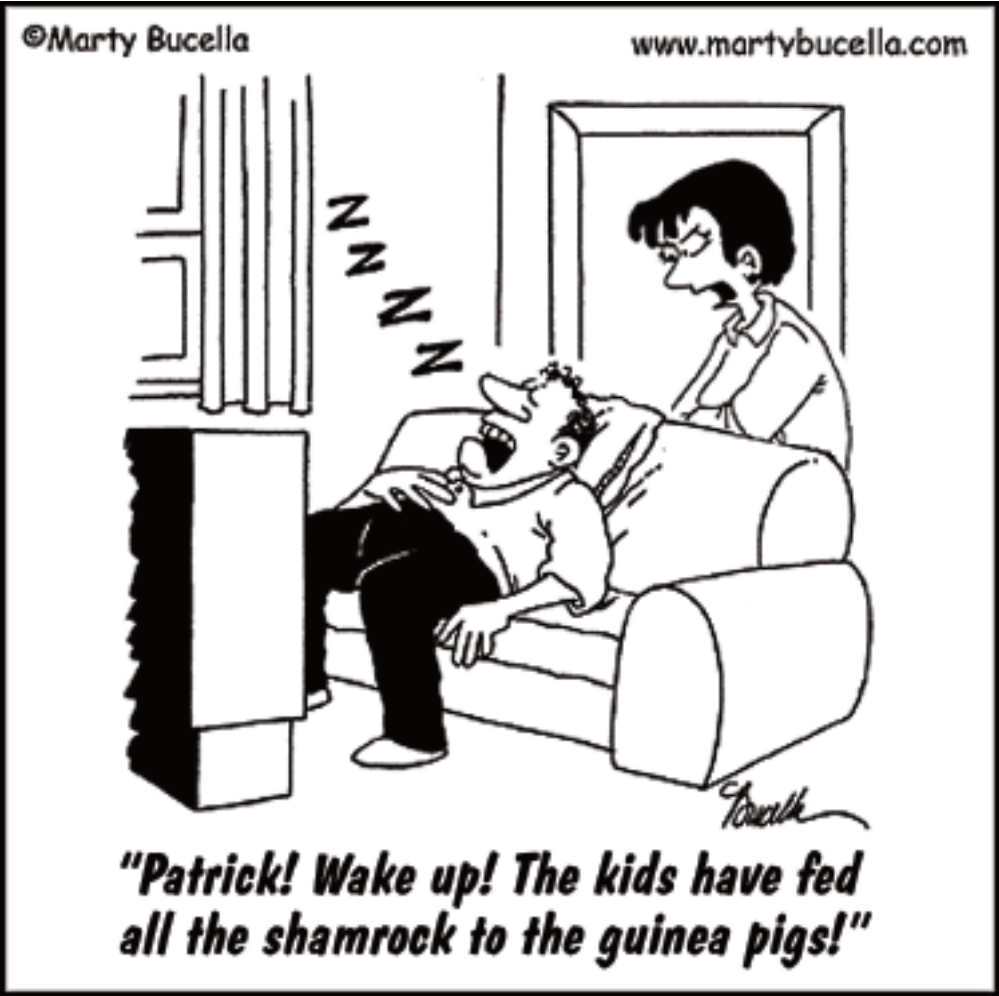
And in fact, although a massive celebration of everything remotely Irish usually takes place on March 17th the intended meaning of St Patrick's Day is for spiritual renewal and missionary prayer. A beautiful objective.

CALLED

God calls each and every one of us by name and we only have to tune in with our heads, minds and souls to hear his voice. We yearn to become ever closer to the Lord and we remain restless until we do so. St Patrick, like each of us, was called by name and responded to the voice of the Lord. In so doing, he carried out the special task for which the Lord had chosen him.

And so, like St Patrick, let us respond to being called by name and to the voices of those who we love. May we then, follow St Patrick's example and always listen, respond to and love the voice of God – for this is one voice that should never be ignored.

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.



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