



Gus goes to Jordan Page 5

HCPT Summer
Pilgrimage -
Page 3

Fr David Mead Golden
Jubilee -
Page 6

Summer
Camps -
Page 12

'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: To be appointed

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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

Step into the GAP: Why partnership is the key to building change in rural communities in Cambodia

James Ronan from Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Tavistock and who took part in CAFOD's Step into the Gap, reports about his time in Cambodia earlier this year. He tells us why partnership is the key driver for change and how this CAFOD value is put into practice in rural communities in Cambodia. James continues the story: *"CAFOD has seven values that inspires the work that they carry out across the world these are compassion, hope, dignity, solidarity, partnership, sustainability and stewardship. During our two and half weeks in Cambodia one of the things that particularly struck me was the sense of community and partnership in every village community we spent time with."*

For me partnership was a key CAFOD value that we all saw in practice over the few weeks we spent in Cambodia. Partnership comes from the call of our Christian faith to work together building the links between the communities CAFOD works with across the world, with the Catholic community here in England and Wales working together to help build God's kingdom here on earth.
In our first week of our visit we spent time with CAFOD partner Village Support Group (VSG) working in the village of Ou Breus in Battambang. We saw the community linkages and partnerships that had already been established and took part in a committee meeting listening to the community who were putting the support of CAFOD into practice.

We heard how the community committee was very thankful for CAFOD's support in their three year project "Water Saves Lives" helping to support in providing access to clean water and education in hygiene to avoid disease. Tuc Nang the community leader said to us: "I am happy and hopeful for the future livelihoods of people in the village, and the community was very happy to have learnt water management skills and water resource management." He ended our time spent with the committee by saying: "the community liked CAFOD's grass roots local level approach of partnership in supporting the community over the next three years." It was such a thankful statement, a testament about the way CAFOD works as an organisation and all the committees we met during our visit in Cambodia all said the same thing.

In the second week we witnessed the community partnerships between CAFOD's partner Srer Khmer and village communities. The project in these communities is socio-economic empowerment enabling women, men and children to make changes in their villages. We saw a woman's cooking demonstration in Tipadey village supported by CAFOD, these

demonstrations occur once a month in the community. The sharing of advice on using more vegetables in meals (in Cambodia many rural families do not eat the daily recommended amount of fruit and vegetables) have really helped families eat healthier. Alongside this there was also a focus on hygiene education the washing of hands before and after meals.

In Tipadey village I also had the privilege of meeting one of the members of CAFOD's partnership programme Connect 2, Dos la and his family. Connect 2 in Cambodia is a fairly recent expansion of CAFOD's parish partnership programme. This programme is about sharing. Sharing the monumental fundraising work conducted by parishioners in England and Wales with village communities in Cambodia and Cambodian communities sharing their stories and the impact of CAFOD's work back with those in the UK.

The programme of Connect 2 for me encompasses all of CAFOD's values. Compassion (through wanting to help our global brothers and sisters), hope (sharing hope for



James Ronan

entrusted to us). The people of Tipadey are very thankful for CAFOD's support and look forward to the continuing partnerships of the future.

James Ronan
Tavistock



The village committee in Ou Breus village

change), dignity (that we are all equal in the eyes of God), solidarity (sharing each other's struggles), partnership (working together for change), sustainability and stewardship (remembering that the cry of the Earth is inherently linked with the cry of the poor and that we should look after the global resources

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



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

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 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



AoS supports crew of holed ship



Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) visited the crew of a ship after the vessel sustained a hole in its side. The incident occurred on March 25 while the ship was leaving its berth in Southampton port in Hampshire. Fortunately no one was injured.

AoS Southampton assistant port chaplain Peter Morgan had visited the ship's crew several times while the vessel was working in port. He went on board the ship again to find out how the crew were after hearing about the incident, he said: *"The crew are upbeat and I am in regular contact with a few of them via Facebook. We are ensuring that the crew can communicate with their families while they wait for repair work to be completed."* Peter added that AoS will continue to visit the ship whilst it is still in port to support the crew.

Last year AoS port chaplains in the South Coast of England visited 1,211 ships and provided seafarers with faith, pastoral and practical support. This included celebrating Mass on board 13 ships and providing seafarers with faith needs on 540 ships.

Nathaniel Xavier
AoS Digital Communications

A date for your diaries: Sea Sunday 2017 will be celebrated on Sunday 9th July

On Sea Sunday the Catholic Church, along with other churches, remembers seafarers and prays for them, their families and those who support them. It is our principal fundraising and awareness raising event of the year.

For more information about how you can help celebrate Sea Sunday and for details of the wide range of resources available to parishes and schools email: info@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk or visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

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*).



A Summer Pilgrimage to Lourdes with HCPT

HCPT is a charity offering pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes in the south of France, for helpers and disabled and disadvantaged people from around the UK and further afield. The trust was formed in 1956 after a young doctor, Michael Strode, first took four disabled children on a pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes where the Virgin Mary appeared to a young peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous, on a total of eighteen occasions in 1858. Subsequently Lourdes has become a major place of Roman Catholic pilgrimage and miraculous healings. Now every year, over 2,000 special needs children enjoy the Trust's Easter pilgrimage staying in hotels with their volunteer helpers. Each summer over 1,500 adults, many of whom are disabled or with health problems, enjoy a week at HCPT's Hosanna House, which is in a stunning location overlooking the foothills of the beautiful Pyrenees, close to the village of Bartres just outside Lourdes.

In the Westcountry Region, which coincides with the diocese of Plymouth, there are 2 Summer HCPT Lourdes Groups known as Group 539 based in Torbay and 579 in the South Hams. Group 539 was founded by the late Dr Michael Everitt in 1980 and has over a period of 37 years taken approximately 1,500 Summer Pilgrims to Lourdes. Next September, Liz Bettesworth, for the 7th year running, will be leading the 539 Group of about 40 on their Annual Pilgrimage. The members will include Fr Louis Rieunier, as Spiritual Leader, together with a Doctor, a nurse and an array of young (18 upwards) and not so young Helpers and Guests. The trip, labelled "a holiday with Our Lady," will be a balance of spirituality and fun. Visits to the Grotto, attending the International Mass and the Torchlight Processions are always favourite events as is the Blessed Sacrament Procession. There are other trips too into town and the day excursion to Gavarnie high in the Pyrenean

Mountains is awe inspiring.

During the week of the pilgrimage Hosanna House becomes a home away from home with intimate Masses and prayers in the lovely chapel. The House has been adapted for those with special needs; the accommodation is excellent and the food delicious. There is plenty of time to relax and enjoy the company and the scenery. The themed party on the final night is always great fun with some superb fancy dress costumes on show as well as some talented entertainers. Anyone interested in more information, please contact Liz or Barney Bettesworth **Tel:** 01803 606807 **email:** barney@bettesworths.co.uk

Group 579 was formed at a later date in 2006 and is led by Frances Raymond who lives near Kingsbridge. Frances has been going to Lourdes for many years with HCPT originally with Group 515 from Liverpool and subsequently Group 539 before Group 579 was born. Group 579 also enjoys all the customary spiritual exercises, as well as various excursions and visits to places of interest in and near Lourdes. The Group includes a priest, Fr. Roy Davis, and two nurses, and will probably number about 30. There are vacancies for Helpers and Guests for this year's Pilgrimage flying from Bristol on Friday 29th September. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Frances **Tel:** 01548 531214 **email:** franraymond24@gmail.com.

Anyone who applies to join either of these Groups will find that they will immediately be made to feel very welcome and will, whether able or less able, become part of the loving, supportive HCPT family.

Hannah Hewson
HCPT Westcountry



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Celebrations at the Cathedral

On the eve of the feast of the Annunciation, the Cathedral Chapter welcomed Canon **Tim Lewis**, Parish Priest of Holy Trinity parish, Plymouth, as a member of the Cathedral Chapter. He was installed by **Bishop Mark** at a celebration of First Vespers of the feast. At the same ceremony, Canons **David Annear**, Parish Priest of Launceston, and **Richard Meyer**, Parish Priest of Bridport, were welcomed as new Honorary Canons of the Cathedral.

A Mass concelebrated by the Bishop and Cathedral Chapter together with other priests of the Diocese, followed. It was lovely to see so many people from the new Canons' parishes, together with their families and friends, celebrate this happy occasion. Our thanks are due to the augmented Cathedral choir and altar servers for their generous presence. The celebrations continued over refreshments in the Cathedral School served by members of the Cathedral Parish.

Canon Keith Mitchell
Provost of the Cathedral Chapter
& College of Consultors



(L to R) Canons Tim Lewis, Richard Meyer & David Annear

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Rainbows – a Great Success

Members of the 'Rainbows Family' from all over Great Britain gathered in the Convent of Mercy in Oldham on March 21st to mark our twenty fifth year of service to children and young people grieving a significant and often devastating loss in their lives. From its initial beginnings in 1992, Rainbows has become a greatly respected national charity, supporting children and young people in over 1,260 schools in addition to offering high quality training in bereavement and loss to schools throughout the country.

This particular celebration focussed on the support our charity has received for all of our 25 years from so many individual people, religious communities and charity funding bodies. In thanking so many, many people for their support and generous donations over the years, Frank McDermott, our current Chair of Trustees, acknowledged the unique contribution made by members of The Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, better known as the Mercy Sisters. Part of the day of celebration included a sung Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Ralph Heskett, Bishop of Hallam. Many words and cards of congratulation, thanks, support and donations from all over the country helped mark the occasion along with a statement from Cardinal Vincent Nichols, leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales: "It is a huge achievement to have completed twenty five years' service to grieving children and young people. The support you offer matters so much and makes a real difference. As you gather today, I offer you my sincere congratulations, good wishes and prayers."

I thank all those who have contributed to the ministry of Rainbows over the years: trustees, managers, staff and volunteers all over the country. Without them, and without others who have worked behind the scenes, especially members of 'The Institute of Our Lady of Mercy', it is unlikely that this silver jubilee would have been reached.

May God bless you all and may the ministry of



Rainbows continue to thrive, bringing those who grieve to a deeper awareness of the merciful, gentle compassion of God."

The collage of photos was taken by Paul Cronin, Vice Chair of Trustees and our photographer for the day. Great pictures and a great day!

Andrea Rodgers
Rainbows National Co-Director, South

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela 2018

Organised by the Parish of the Holy Family, Exmouth, this unique pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in the spring of 2018 promises to be a wonderful event. Fr Philip Austen, Parish Priest says: "We are delighted that Bishop Mark will be leading the pilgrimage in Santiago and we are hoping that there will be representatives from parishes across the Diocese."



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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 shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe."
Pope Francis, Krakow Aug. 2015

On behalf of Bishop Mark, I am inviting you to follow The Way of St James 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 stays at León, Ponferrada, Santiago de Compostela (four nights), where Bishop Mark will join us, Orieo 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
Bishop Mark O'Toole

El Camino de Santiago

Fr Philip Austen
Bishop Mark O'Toole

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Della Shenton
Trustee

PARISHES FOR PEACE

Enabling UK parishes to support Christian refugees in Jordan
CIO registered charity 1166739

This Holy Week, a young man about to enter Womersley seminary in September, flew out to Jordan carrying £10,000 in dinars and sterling for the Iraqi Christian refugees. He was travelling for Parishes for Peace to distribute the Easter donations directly to the parishes in Jordan where they are being supported and cared for.



Gus Campanello

Gustavo Campanello, Gus, will train for the priesthood for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. He is an experienced Teacher of English as a Second Language (TESOL) and when he heard what Parishes for Peace are doing to link parishes in the UK with those in Jordan he asked if he could help. Gus was particularly interested in the 'English for Life' programme Parishes for Peace has set up in Jordan and he will spend the next three months consolidating the programme.

The refugees supported by Parishes for Peace are in four main parishes - two in Amman, one in Madaba and one in Zarqa. Altogether we sent money from Plymouth Diocese and Arundel & Brighton for 224 persons in 66 families. Everything was in named envelopes including an Easter card from the linked English parishes. In addition to money for food, money was given separately for the Beautiful Woman scheme (for women for their

personal needs), money for the priests for their own funds to help the refugees, for transport, for help towards an operation, the English teacher's salary and a printer for the English school.

At the English end parishes choose to support refugees in different areas, so they can build a relationship with them and make it as personal as possible. After Gus' visit in Holy Week Fr Hanna Kildani wrote to us, he said: "I got many envelopes, to me, Sister Sara and Iraqis in Ashrafieh, and more I came to know this wonderful man Gustavo... Sure in these envelopes there are donations, gift, money, thank you, but there is more; faith, love and Christian families and Parishes for Peace engaged to help needy people who are our brothers and sisters from Iraq. Thank you on behalf of them... I started a new project to let Iraqi families make rosaries (using a part of your



One of our Iraqi families

donation and other donations), and I buy the rosaries to generate income for these families.... Iraqis are happy to do these rosaries, they feel useful and partners with my parish

This time from Plymouth Diocese, the money raised by private donations and concerts given by the Cornwall Choir in Camborne and St Austell, supported the refugees in Amman at Marj al Hamam. The funds raised by Sclerder, Liskeard and private donations looked after the refugees in Ashrafieh. From Arundel & Brighton Diocese, Weybridge parish supported Zarqa, and Caterham parish supported Madaba.

About 15% of families each year in the last two years have been granted visas for Australia. More Iraqis are however still arriving because the conditions in Erbil in Iraq are so terrible. They have hope that one day they too will get to Australia.

Those who remain in Jordan have been there for up to two and a half years - living in uncertainty, not knowing when and if Australia will take them. These are the ones we are helping to care for and keep up their morale.

Parishes for Peace tries to send someone every month or two to see the refugees and keep up the contact and friendship. There is a constant stream of messages flowing back and forth via Messenger and WhatsApp as well as emails with the priests. If your parish would like to know more about directly helping the Iraqi Christian refugees please get in touch either via CSW or direct to Della Shenton, email admin@parishesforpeace.com tel 01803 314868.

Some background information: A decade ago 35,000 Christians lived in Mosul in Iraq, opposite the ruins of Nineveh beside the river Tigris. In 2013 there were 3,000. The day ISIL took over in August 2014 all were either killed or fled.



'Beautiful Women'

Less is known internationally of the 50,000 Iraqi refugees in Jordan who fled in recent years many of whom are Christian. The targeted persecution of the Christians in 2014 by ISIS was primarily against the Latin Catholic and Chaldean community - the oldest, earliest churches in Christendom.

Della Shenton
Trustee, Parishes for Peace

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5:15pm	Start of the procession leading to the Church
5:45pm	Flower offering to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church
6:15pm	Celebration of the Holy Mass
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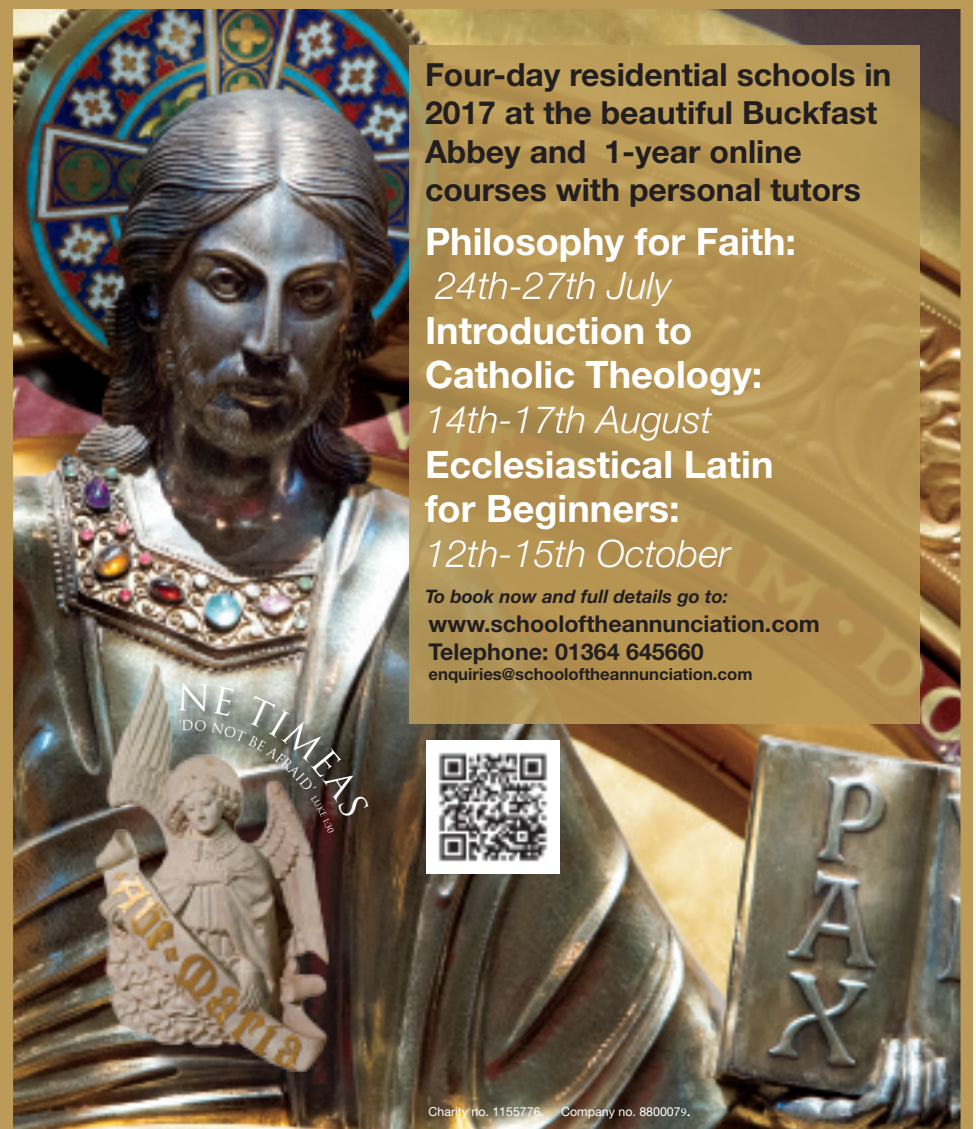
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News from around the diocese ...

Cornwall Deanery

Fr David Mead: Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination

Fr David's Anniversary Mass was celebrated on 18th March at the church of St Augustine of Hippo, St Austell. Seven priests and two deacons were at the altar. The full church was a tribute to the ministry of Fr David, especially in Cornwall Deanery.

After the Mass there was an excellent buffet lunch awaiting us, organised by the very efficient hospitality team. Our thanks go to Parish Priest Fr Peter Morgan for letting us use his church as a venue. It is in mid-Cornwall and not too far from Higher Menadue where Fr. David has a Retreat Centre.

*Canon David Annear
Parish Priest, Launceston*



Chemin Neuf Community, Sclerder Abbey

Since August 2014, the Chemin Neuf Community has established itself within Sclerder Abbey which was steeped in prayers for more than a century by Poor Clare and Carmelite Sisters. The Chemin Neuf Community, born in France in 1973 and founded by Father Laurent Fabre SJ, was called to Cornwall by the former Bishop of Plymouth, the Rt Rev Christopher Budd, Bishop Emeritus. Chemin Neuf is a Catholic Community composed of members from many different walks of life including couples, singles, priests, consecrated brothers and sisters of different Christian denominations - Catholics, Protestants, Orthodoxes.

Nowadays, whilst respecting the vocation of this 'Thin place', Chemin Neuf has undertaken improvements to the buildings in order to welcome guests for an authentic Christian experience of prayer and Community life. The grounds and gardens of the Abbey provide a peaceful atmosphere where everybody feels safe and at home. The simplicity and natural way of life brings a sense of belonging to the universal family under one God, Our Father. Our calendar of spiritual activities can be found on our website: <http://www.chemin-neuf.org.uk/>

This year, for the first time, Chemin Neuf will welcome a **FAMILY FESTIVAL** on the theme of 'Home - Home is a place where the heart is' on **Saturday the 19th of August from 10am to 10pm**. This day is organised in collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Plymouth, The Anglican Diocese of Truro and Churches Together Cornwall. All of this will be possible with the help of volunteers coming from different



Churches, who are already working together for this day.

During the day families will have the opportunity to spend time in the grounds of the Abbey and enjoy the numerous activities which will be available for all ages throughout the day: Historical tour of the Abbey, Arts and Craft, Indoor and outdoor activities, sports, a spiritual Journey for the family, etc. In the evening there will be a Barbecue and the day will end with a Worship concert and a live band. **Everybody will be most welcome!**

Some practical information for the Sclerder Family Festival 19th August 2017: we are situated 1.5 miles from Looe (PL13 2JD) or 12 miles from Liskeard. A nominal entrance fee of £10 for adults

and £20 for families (Parents + 3 children) will give you access to the Abbey grounds + a packed lunch. Everybody is most welcome; even those having financial difficulties. Food and drinks will be available all day, tea and coffee, cakes all day - donations gratefully received. Evening Barbecue optional at £2.50 per person.

If you wish to come there will soon be a registration form on our website or alternatively pick up one of the flyers in your Church and register by post. Free parking on the Abbey fields.

John Pierre Carosin
Chemin Neuf Community
Sclerder Abbey
Tel: 01503 272238 Mob: 07970003511
email: jphcarosin@gmail.com

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 May and June include:

**Friday 5th—Sunday 7th May -
Labyrinth Building Weekend**

Join us for a practical weekend outdoors, building a labyrinth in our beautiful grounds. Activities will be suitable for all levels of fitness.

**Friday 12th May -
Benedictine Life**

Led by Rev Canon Malcolm Bowers
There will be a short talk, quiet space for personal reflection and a cream tea.

**Monday 15th—Friday 19th May -
Painting and Prayer Retreat**

Led by Maureen Edwards and Revd. Derek Collins.
Explore spirituality expressed through painting, light and colour. Suitable for all levels of ability from beginner to more experienced artists. One-to-one painting tuition, spiritual accompaniment and plenty of free time for painting and relaxation.



**Wednesday 14th June -
Clouds**

Led by Rev Bryan West
A Quiet Day on clouds as metaphors of spiritual reality.

**Friday 23rd June -
Franciscan Life**

Led by Peter Bonsey
There will be a short talk, quiet space for personal reflection and a cream tea.

For more information about charges for all these events and how to book, contact Lizzie Pridmore **Tel: 01872 272249**
email: info@epiphanyhouse.co.uk

News from around the diocese ...

Dorset Deanery

Holy Family Parish, Bournemouth
(Christ the King, Kinson and Our Lady of Victories & St Bernadette, Ensbur Park)

Come with us to Walsingham in 2017

Fr Chacko Panathara CM, Parish Priest at Holy Family parish in Bournemouth will be leading another pilgrimage to Walsingham in 2017 from Monday 10th and Thursday 13th July. Travel is by full sized coach with departures from Blandford and Bournemouth and we will enjoy half-board accommodation at Elmham House in the village.

Following a joyful pilgrimage from Fr Chacko's parish in Blandford in 2016, a Dorset group of The Walsingham Association has been set up to support the work of the National Shrine of Our Lady and its formal inauguration will take place on Monday 1st May at Our Lady of Victories & St Bernadette Church, 46 Draycott Road, Ensbur Park, Bournemouth, BH10 5AR. The celebrations will begin with Mass at 6.30 pm, followed by refreshments and discussion.



Fr. Chacko with his 2016 pilgrims in Walsingham

For more information about the Holy Family Parish Pilgrimage or the Walsingham Association please contact **Madeline Hemsley Tel: 01258 480778**.

A Taste of Walsingham



The Slipper Chapel was built in the mid-14th century, and dedicated to Saint Catherine of Alexandria, this chapel served pilgrims on their way to England's Nazareth. Saint Catherine was the patron saint of pilgrims to the Holy Land and her knights kept open the road to Nazareth during the Crusades. Her tomb lies in the Monastery on Mount Sinai, within the Basilica of the Annunciation. Just as on Mount Sinai, Moses took off his shoes because he was on holy ground, so the pilgrims to England's Holy Land used to remove their shoes and walk the Holy Mile into Walsingham.

Council of Christians & Jews, Bournemouth 'My Dear Ones'

Author, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism in the UK

On Thursday 18th May at 7:30pm at the Bournemouth Reform Synagogue, 53 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg will give a talk about his book 'My Dear Ones'.

In his book Jonathan weaves together the strands of an ancient rabbinical family with the history of Europe during the Second World War. 'My Dear Ones' takes us on a tumultuous journey throughout Europe and the United States and tells the moving story of a family whose lives hang by a silken thread but whose faith in God remains unshakeable throughout.



Jonathan Wittenberg, born in Glasgow in 1957 to a family of German Jewish origin with rabbinic ancestors, read English at King's College Cambridge (1976-9). After two years teaching and social work in Israel and England he took a PGCE at Goldsmith's College, London, trained for the rabbinate at Leo Baeck College London, receiving ordination in 1987, and continued his studies to gain a further rabbinic qualification from his teacher Dr Aryeh Strikovsky in Israel. He is rabbi of the New North London Synagogue and has taken a leading role in the development of the Masorti Movement for traditional non-fundamentalist Judaism in England.

Plymouth Deanery

Plymouth Circle news

Two new members for the Plymouth Circle

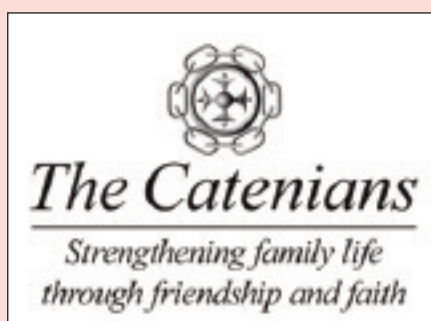


(L to R) Trevor Jackson, Jim Murphy and Dan Sobey

Plymouth President Jim Murphy's last task at the end of his splendid Presidential year was to enrol two new members during the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations - Dan Sobey and Trevor Jackson. Dan is a personal trainer and life coach and with his wife, Lisa, teaches martial arts, fitness and wellbeing. Trevor is a nuclear engineer and chairman of a company developing high energy batteries for cars. He is a keen sailor, guitarist and historian. Kate, Trevor's wife is keen on Politics and loves cooking.

We wish both Dan and Trevor many happy years in The Catenian Association.

John Luscombe
Plymouth Catenians



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Exeter Deanery

Parish of the Holy Family, Exmouth

Holy Week began for the people of Holy Family Parish, Exmouth, with arrival of Apple Crumble and Custard! The two young donkeys led the procession from the Convent of the Holy Family to Holy Ghost Church and our young children and parishioners sensed the reality and joy of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and our call to follow him through to the greater joy of the Resurrection on Easter Day.

Many thanks to the Donkey Sanctuary at Sidmouth for giving us this lead.

Jane Cheyne
Parish Office Manager



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A Call to Action (ACTA) 2017 Programme



The local group promoting dialogue in the church is in the process of finalising its programme for the rest of the year. Regular quarterly meetings will also be popping up around the Diocese: Saturday 20th May 11:30 to 14:30, Sacred Heart Church, South Street, Exeter; Saturday 12th August 11:00 to 13:00, Christ Church, Plymouth and Saturday 11th November 11:00 to 14:30, Our Lady & St Neot's, Liskeard. If you would be interested in attending any of these you would be made very welcome; for more information please contact Peter Farrell.

The group also hopes to finalise two events following up its days on the Year of Mercy and "After the Synods. Joy of Love" which took place in 2016. This year it is likely to be focusing on Pope Francis' apostolic letter, 'Misericordia et misera', the upcoming Synod in 2018, and also looking at how the parish community may be evolving over the next few years.

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

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

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Knights of St Columba welcome new Papal Nuncio

The Knights of Saint Columba (KSC) is a Catholic fraternal service organisation and the largest of its kind in Britain. Founded in Glasgow in 1919, it is named in honour of Saint Columba, a Christian missionary from Ireland who helped to introduce Christianity to people in Northern Britain.

Members of the KSC are dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity and have more than 4,000 members in over 300 Councils across England, Scotland and Wales. Membership is open to practising Catholic men aged 16 or older. The organisation exists to support the mission and doctrine of the Catholic Church and at the same time to work for the 'spiritual and material good of its members and their families'. Members follow the social teachings of the Catholic Church and

work for the moral and social welfare of their communities and in particular to help the development of young people.

KSC is a founder member of the International Alliance of Catholic Knights.

Statement by Supreme Knight Charlie McCluskey on the appointment of the new Papal Nuncio.

Supreme Knight, Charlie McCluskey: On behalf of the Knights of St Columba I welcome the appointment of His Excellency, Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams as the new Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain. We assure him of our loyalty, support and prayers as he assumes his position here in our country.

Catenians South West Regional Public Speaking Contest for Catholic Secondary Schools



This year's contest was hosted by St Peter's School, Bournemouth with a total of eight Schools taking part: Bishop Challoner School, Basingstoke; Christ the King College, Isle of Wight; Leweston School, Sherborne; Oaklands Sixth Form College, Waterlooville; St Edmund's School, Portsmouth; St Edward's RC/C of E School, Poole; St Joseph's Secondary School, Salisbury and St Peter's School, Bournemouth.

Contestants had four minutes to speak on a subject of their choice; timing was key with penalty points awarded for those running either over or under the allowed time. Students spoke on subjects ranging from Democracy in a post-truth political world, Media - a terrorist in our Society, Lowering the voting age at 16, to the sexual harassment suffered by young girls in the bravely entitled Asking for it? All those taking part had prepared well through extensive research and most spoke without notes.

The winner was **Emily Charalambous** from St Peter's, her chosen topic being: 'The immigrant within us' and she will represent the South West Region and her school at the National Final in Manchester on 10th September 2017.

There were two runners up: **Aimee Cupper** of St Edward's whose topic was 'Asking for it' and **Rachael Hartnell** of Christ the King whose topic was 'For Lowering the Voting age to 16'.

The Adjudicators, headed by Dame Annette Brooke DBE, Garry Hill and David Cawdery, had a very difficult task in selecting the winners. Dame Annette paid tribute to the speakers and their teachers. Drawing from her own academic experience she said she was very impressed by both the scope and depth of the speech content; she also offered some tips and hints about the importance of presentation. And, paid tribute to the Catenian Association as event organisers complimenting them on recognising that public speaking is a vital life skill.

In summarising the event, Bob Bannister for the Catenians said: "This Public Speaking Contest is a good example of the type of work in which the Association gets involved. Our Association has as its core values Catholic Faith, Family, Friendship and Fun; we adopt and launch ideas that enhance these values. We are told that speaking in public is a pet fear, so the Catenian Association launched this public speaking contest and targeted it specifically at young people. The ability to communicate is vital and being able to speak coherently will help this process. We encourage young people to argue and challenge the customs that my generation has established. Events like today's gives young people the skill-set to argue their case effectively".

For more information about the Catenian National Public Speaking Contest please contact Bob Bannister, Axminster Circle, Tel: 01460 221081 email: robertbannister5@gmail.com



'In loving memory...'

Launch of St Bridget's Friends on Facebook

Wouldn't it be great if saints were on Facebook? Just a bit tricky though when they're no longer alive... But Saint Bridget of Sweden, who died on 23rd July 1373, is about to join this popular social medium. Members of a new group – **St Bridget's Friends** – will be able to offer prayers for those who have died and invite others to do so as well.

St Bridget founded her religious Order of The Most Holy Saviour – the Bridgettines – in the fourteenth century. Yet she remains a model of sanctity and an example for men and women to follow even today.

The original English community of Bridgettines was founded by King Henry V at Syon Abbey, near London in 1415. A principal task of the Sisters of Syon – as set out in King Henry's original Charter – was to pray in perpetuity for the Holy Souls in

Purgatory – an opportunity now for the laity instead.

St Bridget's Friends follows somewhat in the footsteps of Syon Abbey's magazine, *The Poor Souls' Friend*, founded in 1893. It ceased publication in 1969.

Appropriately, on 5th May, the feast of Saint Richard Reynolds – a Bridgettine martyr – the new, closed **Facebook** group will be launched.

This is not just for those in religious communities but for Christians of any tradition, world-wide, men and women alike, to become the living friends of the poor souls who have died. The **Facebook** group, which is free to use and join, will also serve the growing international interest in Saint Bridget and encourage the use of the beautiful Syon Breviary. It is hoped that this group will become an

online international Bridgettine community in the manner of a lay apostolate.

And for their daily prayers there is now **The Syon Breviary** – *the Daily Office of Our Lady* – which has been translated from the original Latin and commemorates 600 years of the English Bridgettine community of Syon Abbey.

Saint Richard Reynolds, a Bridgettine monk of Syon Abbey, is believed to have been from Pinhoe, near Exeter. His feast day will be celebrated on Friday, 5th May, 2017 at Blessed Sacrament Church, Heavitree, Exeter with Mass at 9:30am followed by refreshments in the Richard Reynolds Centre next to the church. All are welcome.

To apply to join the new **Facebook** group just e-mail arwardle@syonbreviary.co.uk



Fatima Centenary Celebrations - Pilgrim Virgin statue coming to Plymouth Cathedral from 24-25 June 2017

The programme for the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) National Pilgrim Virgin statue's Visitations to the Cathedrals of England and Wales began on Saturday 18 February, when Cardinal Nichols received, blessed and crowned the Statue in Westminster Cathedral. It was a wonderful day, and although the Cathedral was filled to capacity with many people left outside in the plaza, everyone was kind and gracious, and there was a palpable sense of joy.

The National Pilgrim Virgin statue and relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco Marto, will be visiting Plymouth Cathedral from 24-25 June 2017. Please note those dates in your diary.

This is the Centenary year of the Fatima apparitions which took place between May and October 1917, when Our Lady appeared to Jacinta and Francisco Marto, who were beatified in May 2000, and Lucia dos Santos, who died in 2005. For more details see: www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk

At Westminster, the Cardinal said Mass, and consecrated England and Wales to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in an act which included these words: "To you and your Immaculate Heart, in this centenary year of the apparitions at Fatima, we re-consecrate ourselves in union not only with the Church, the Mystical Body of your Son, but also with the entire world."

In his excellent homily, primarily on the importance of devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart and the Rosary, Cardinal Nichols said: "*Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a way for us to say... 'yes' from the depths of our hearts ... That is why today we consecrate afresh ourselves, our lives, our country, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that we can always be saying 'Yes' to the Lord, with all our heart, with all our will, from the centre of our being. And only Mary can teach us how to do this.*"

He also said: "*I pray that the pilgrimage of this statue of Our Lady of Fatima, on its journey round the cathedrals of England and Wales, will be a time of grace for many, as they honour Our Lady of Fatima in*

this centenary year."

The Cardinal emphasised, too, the importance of the Rosary and praying it in the family, which he recalled doing as a child.

After Mass, crowds of people waited to venerate the relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco Marto and pray before the Statue of Our Lady, where she received over 2500 petitions that will be placed under her statue in the Capelinha at Fatima.

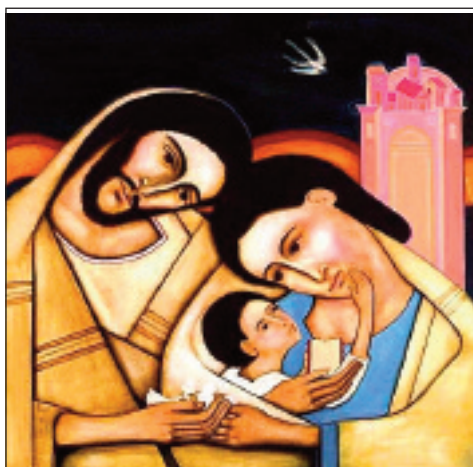
Then from 4 pm onwards there was a Symposium in Westminster Cathedral Hall covering various topics that was videoed by EWTN UK. Speakers included Nuno Prazeres, the Director of the WAF International Secretariat, and Jorge Leitao, the Portuguese jeweller who created the beautiful new silver gilt Centenary crown with which the statue will be crowned in their cathedrals by our bishops.

For details of the Cathedrals, Abbeys and shrines to be visited go to <http://bit.ly/2m3ijj0> If you help with the Visitation programme locally, please email: info@worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk or tel: 07817 839 415.

Donal Anthony Foley
Secretary of WAF England and Wales

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

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 led 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



St. Rita's Centre, Honiton

St. Rita's Retreat & Conference Centre,
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So what's inside *The Tablet*? Popular features include The

Church in the World, reporting on events within the Church internationally; Notebook, giving a light-hearted round-up of recent events; the Letters section, where readers worldwide share their views; Books, covering subjects from theology to biography and fiction; and the Arts section, with reviews of exhibitions, theatre, cinema, TV, music and opera.

It all adds up to an enjoyable blend of news, ideas and intellectual nourishment, giving you a deeper understanding of what's really shaping the Church and the world. As a subscriber, you can also browse the whole *Tablet* website. Its 176-year old archive gives you a fascinating window onto history – such as the awed response to the photos of the Turin Shroud in 1898.

So if you enjoy great writing and original thinking, it could be time to take *The Tablet*. You can save up to 49% off the cover price at www.thetablet.co.uk or call 01795 414855.

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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;

Youth Pilgrimage: Fr Anthony O'Gorman **Tel:** 01637 851697 **email:** anthony.ogorman@pcdtr.org.uk

Special Assisted Section: Society of Our Lady of Lourdes **Tel:** 0208 848 9833

Annual Novena in honour of St. Rita of Cascia Patron of the Helpless



The Novena begins on 14th May and finishes with Mass at 12 noon followed by the Blessing of the roses on her feast day 22nd May.

Mass will be celebrated by Rt. Rev. Mark O'Toole, Bishop of Plymouth at St. Rita's Centre, Honiton, Devon

Follow the Mass from 12 noon on Monday 22nd May 2017 on YouTube.
<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgle32stcKkZRYQoh0MDNA/live>

After the feast day, blessed rose petals will be sent out to those who request them.

To join in the Novena please write to: St Rita's Promotions, St Rita's Retreat & Conference Centre, Ottery Moor Lane, Honiton, Devon EX14 1AP

For more information: **Tel:** 01404 42635. **Email:** stritas@btinternet.com.

Visit our Web Site and see our video: www.stritascentre.org.uk

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 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 Burrige, head of MCSW centre Tel: 01395 272799 Mob: 07875 161 595 email: sue@marriagecare.org.uk.

Marriage Preparation Facilitators needed

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

Retrouville (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 Retrouville or to register for the next programme visit www.retrouville.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@talk-talk.net

PILGRIMAGES

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Saturday 27th May to Friday 2nd June: for full details of the pilgrimage, who to contact and how to book a place please see Diocesan News on page 10 of this edition of CSW.

Dorset Pilgrimage to Walsingham Monday 10th to Thursday 13th July: Travel is by full sized coach with departures from Blandford and Bournemouth with half-board accommodation at Elmham House in the village. For more information please contact Madeleine Hemsley Tel: 01258 480778.

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

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela May 6th to 17th 2018: for full details of the pilgrimage, who to contact and how to book a place please see Diocesan News on page 4 of this edition of CSW.

**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:

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:

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: **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@btinternet.com

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.

Plymouth Diocese Catechetical Camps 2017

As a year 1952 stands out for many things: Princess Elizabeth had just ascended to the throne, after the death of her father; Britain was continuing to rebuild after the end of the Second World War, and in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth the Catholic Women's League (CWL) across the diocese came together to organize their first year of Catechetical Summer Camps. The CWL was conscious that the Plymouth Diocese, being such a very rural area, had many children of catholic families unable to attend Catholic Schools. Their solution was to offer a range of 'Camps' during the summer, to bring together young people of school age to live and share their faith, allowing sound catholic instruction for those young people who may be lacking in Catholic instruction in a state school environment.

The first camps were 'under canvas' and as the years went on, they became centred on Catholic schools around the diocese, with the groups sleeping in classrooms or dormitories. There were Junior Camps for children of primary age and Senior Camps for those of secondary age. Adults and children came together with catechists to share their faith through living and growing together.

Although the CWL relinquished the organisation of the camps to a Diocesan Committee, members of the local CWL groups still help with the camps by assisting the camp chefs in preparing the lunchtime sandwiches and baguettes to feed the hungry young people. The CWL have also offered financial support which has allowed the camp committee to purchase a large marquee – used as a prayer tent during the camps, and, more recently help to provide solid flooring in the marquee.

In 2002, Bishop-emeritus Christopher, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Camps with a 'mass' celebration Mass at Plymouth Cathedral. All the Summer Camps took place during the same week across the diocese and, on the Wednesday, all the campers and helpers came together at Plymouth Cathedral, attending Mass, enjoying lunch,

followed by an afternoon of activities, before return to continue the camps.

Ten years later the organisation of the camps passed from the CWL to the diocese and, thanks to the generosity of Buckfast Abbey, the location of the camps is now centred on Grangehurst House. In 2012 the 60th anniversary was celebrated with partying at each of the camps.

Applications are now open for this year's Summer Camps, all held at Grangehurst House at Buckfast Abbey. The **Senior Camp** (for Years 6 – 10) and the **St Petroc's Camp** (Years 11-12) take place from **Sunday 30th July to Friday 4th August** and the **Junior Camp** from **Sunday 6th to Friday, 11th August**. For further information and application visit: www.pdsommerncamps.org.uk.

To celebrate the 65th Year of Camps this summer, the team have decided to have an open-house 'afternoon tea' at each event. This is to give everyone who has been involved with the camps in the past the opportunity to experience what today's camps are like and to share memories. The 'afternoon teas' will take place from 3pm to 5pm on Tuesday 1st August (Seniors and St Petroc's) and Tuesday 8th August (Juniors).

If you have helped with the organisation of the camps in the past, and would like to visit the Summer Camps for tea on either of those 2 dates please email Deacon Michael Turnbull at michael.turnbull@prcdtr.org.uk saying which of the 2 dates you would like to attend.

We hope that through the support of many families and helpers, together with the support of Buckfast Abbey and the diocese that the Catechetical Summer Camps will continue to provide a fun event for young people to share and grow in their Catholic faith for many years to come.

Rev Deacon Michael Turnbull
Chair, Plymouth Diocese
Catechetical Camps Committee



Tel: 01579 351231

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