

The Diocese needs YOU!

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

EDITORIAL

Editor: To be appointed

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REGIONAL MANAGEMENT

Deanery Contacts

Cornwall Deanery

Rev Adrian Dyer, 01209 213698
adrian153@Live.com

Dorset Deanery

Bridport: Pat McEvoy, 01308 424358
pat.mcevoy@bluebottle.com

Poole: Brian Condon, 01202 687392
brian.condon@uwclub.net

Weymouth: Esmée Nicholls
01305 834098

Exeter Deanery

Exeter: Frances Canning,
01392 209542
francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk

Plymouth Deanery

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

Torbay Deanery

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

Editorial Panel

Panel Members: Rev Tony Irwin,
Susanne Kowal, Sue Walsh and
Adrian Wardle
Chairman to be appointed.

COPY DEADLINE:

1st August, September Edition

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



Famous 'Sclerder Abbey' Five climb Mount Snowdon for Birmingham Children's Hospital

On Tuesday 9th of May five parishioners, Malcolm and Liz Butler, Cathy and Charlotte Guest and Len Fletcher, whose ages range from 18 to 70 set off to climb Mount Snowdon (3,560 ft high - the highest mountain in Wales) to raise funds for the Birmingham Children's Hospital.



Liz and Malcolm Butler, Len Fletcher, Cathy and Charlotte Guest

Eighteen year old Charlotte and fellow parishioner Ruth Patt, aged 9, both owe their lives to the Birmingham Children's Hospital where they have undergone multiple lifesaving operations from their birth. Over £1,300 has been raised so far from parishioners and businesses and local residents from the surrounding area in Looe and throughout other parts of the UK. The final amount will be divided between the two departments at the hospital, under the direction of Professor Deirdre Kelly and Mr. Parikh, who cared for Charlotte and Ruth.

The story of their ascent of 3,500 ft high Mount Snowdon – the highest mountain in Wales, is recounted by Len Fletcher who retraces their footsteps over the tortuous boulders in his own inimitable way: "Under the friendly Spring warmth of a smiling sun, shining upon us from the Welsh skies... and after over three hours walking, climbing and occasionally scrambling up the 'Miners Track' passing the emerald lake and tarn, the top of the mountain was in sight. The summit of Snowdon was now within reach, just one last effort needed up along the craggy ridge by the side of the railway and we would be there, muscles aching, a few scrapes, bruises but thankfully no blisters, our faces burnished by that same sun.

We five, from the Sclerder Abbey community in Looe, Cornwall, raising funds to support the Birmingham Children's Hospital, encouraged one another to the top of the highest mountain in Wales. There was an immense sense of both joy and relief at having accomplished this challenging task and now, for at least a little while we could sit and rest, gazing out at the few low-hanging clouds and incoming swirling mists to look back at the steep, rocky valley floor and the seemingly endless range of hills and mountains stretching into the hazy distance. We could now savour this precious moment together and refresh ourselves before the descent - this time along the winding 'Pyg Track' and back to the base of the mountain. Throughout the climb there had, admittedly, been moments and times of apprehension, loss of balance and weariness when we were all, in our different ways, stretched and tested mentally and physically...but we pushed on and came through, experiencing the pleasure and delight of being on the slopes and eventually on top of that most beautiful of Welsh Mountains. Like the people that we met, Snowdonia seemed to open its generous heart to us... and for this we were so grateful. An enduring example of this generosity was revealed to us on our last day here, when Malcolm decided to revisit

the old farm house where as a boy 40 years ago he had enjoyed many a happy family holiday. Although he didn't know if the farm house would still be standing or even owned by the same family, we drove to the area and found that it was now a sheep farm run by the son of the Owen family, the same family that he had known as a child. When Malcolm introduced himself this Welsh-speaking family remembered the link from decades before and gave us the warmest of Welsh welcomes, immediately inviting us in for tea and barra-britt (Welsh cake) around their homely kitchen table. The generosity of the Owen family will never be forgotten by us and neither will the wonder



Charlotte and Malcolm stop for a rest and to take in the view before restarting their climb to the summit of Mount Snowdon

of climbing Snowdon for such a fine and important cause."

*Elizabeth Crew
Sclerder*

If you would like to add to the funds raised by the 'Famous Sclerder Five' please visit
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotteguestsnowdon>

HCPT and the Jurassic Coast 100km

It started at 10pm on a Friday walking along the fleet behind Chesil Beach - walking through the night was difficult and grim as you could not see any views or judge your progress. At around 4am the next morning we approached West Bay and we were able to turn off our head torches, the sunrise was fantastic and the views from the Golden Cap astonishing. Everywhere animals were just starting to wake and move around the only people around were Jurassic Coast competitors.

We arrived at the half way point at Lyme Regis at about 8.30am to be greeted by my husband Colin who had made us bacon sandwiches for breakfast – fabulous! We continued on through the under-cliffs to Seaton, then onto Branscombe and Sidmouth. The weather was good until we reached Sidmouth at 5.30pm and we all arrived pretty exhausted but glad to see Colin again – this time with some hot stew ready for us to eat. At this point my fellow walker Suzanne decided to call it a day as she was too exhausted and in too much pain to continue. Debbie and I continued to Budleigh Salterton via Ladram Bay, we had to get to Budleigh before the 8pm cut off time and although we were feeling pretty tired and our feet were sore Debbie convinced me to run the stretch from White Bridge car park to Budleigh arriving with just 5 minutes to spare.

With more food and water provided by Colin we set off for Exmouth and the finishing line at the Grove Pub. Debbie had to ride in the van from the GeoNeedle at Orcombe Point as she was exhausted but I managed to keep going although, with just the last mile and a half stretch down the entire length of Exmouth seafront it was very hard BUT – strangely - running slowly was easier than walking! I signed in at the finish point at 10.06pm, grabbed my medal, and went home for some well-earned sleep.

Of the 157 people who took part only 95 people completed the event so I'm very proud of my achievement and of the people who sponsored



me. Thank you all for your support and for helping me to raise funds for the HCPT Lourdes Pilgrimage.

*Jenny Bentley
HCPT Group Leader, Group 141*



The Diocese needs YOU!

Last month we published extracts from Bishop Mark's Pastoral Message "Go ... Make Disciples". In it he says that all Catholics are called to evangelise. Our parish and our diocese is made up of each one of us – and Bishop Mark's message calls us personally to respond. It calls us to pray, to learn, to love and to share our faith in what we say and what we do.

How do I respond?

Each of us is different. Our lives, the demands on our time, our relationship with God and our talents are unique to each one of us. Therefore, my response has to be one that fits my life and the person I am. It has to be realistic and sustainable, but we mustn't fall into the trap of thinking we are busier than everyone else, therefore this message is not for us. If we don't respond our relationship with God will not grow and our unique mix of skills will always be missing from the Diocese. The chances are it will also mean that more jobs will fall to people who are already contributing to their parish and are probably just as busy as we are.

The BIG step

I often think that one of the biggest steps, as a Church-goer, is when you step outside of being a one-hour-a-week Catholic – and no I'm not just talking about Holy Week! I'm talking about doing something outside of just going to Mass on Sunday...something extra. Going to Mass each week can become a routine that we do without thinking too much about it. But as soon as we decide to do something more (whether it is praying on our own, going to a prayer group or starting a prayer group) we are renewing our choice to follow Jesus.

Recently many young people in the Diocese have made their confirmation. They have confirmed their baptismal promises and they have confirmed that they want to follow Jesus. In making a commitment to do something extra, to respond to this call, we are confirming our own promises to God...to know Him...and to follow Him.

THE DIOCESE NEEDS YOU! HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

Around the South West

New Church Hall for Blandford Forum

After some 80 years our parish has a Parish Hall. The new hall was blessed and opened by Bishop Mark on 25th April, the feast of St Mark the Evangelist. Thanks to the amazing generosity of the Parishioners, over £10,000 was raised for the fitting out of the new facility.



Fr Thomas Regan said: "We can be proud of our new facility which will ensure that our Parish family continues to grow, be more inclusive and expand its activities."

Parish Secretary for 20 years

A smiling Christine Sexton was presented with a beautiful granite water feature for her garden and flowers after the 9 am Mass. Christine is pictured with Canon Kenneth and Deacon Michael who acknowledged her wonderful work as Parish Secretary of St Catherine's for almost 20 years. What amazing service to the Parish and the Church!



New President for Axminster Catenians

The current president of Axminster Catenians, David Gale was pleased to hand over the Presidency to Bruce Kahn. On accepting the Presidency Bruce said: "I am very much looking forward to my two years as President, and I hope to increase our range of events open to the members of local parishes; our membership comes from East Devon, West Dorset and South Somerset."



For more info please contact Bill Stead tel: 01297 678458 email: wtandmr.stead@eclipse.co.uk

WE NEED YOUR PARISH NEWS TO GO HERE!

No parish news?
Maybe you
should start
something!



Church Sleepover and breakfast on the beach!!

On a chilly Friday evening in May, after their SATS tests, Class 6 from St Joseph's School Exmouth 'slept over' in Holy Ghost Church. They thought about two occasions when the resurrected Jesus appeared to his disciples and took part in an evening Emmaus walk before spreading out their sleeping bags and pillows around the church. All the children wrote prayers on fish and scallop shell cards which were then tied onto a fishing net in the church.

Sleep came very late to many of them! The children were woken early on Saturday morning at 5.45 am to act out a short play reading of the Gospel reading before walking to the beach for breakfast. They enjoyed freshly cooked fish (and hotdogs!) and still

had plenty of energy to run around the deserted beach!


"We've enjoyed spending time with our friends"

"It was a good opportunity to relax and come together as a class. Breakfast on the beach was a brilliant experience. We won't forget it!"

This wonderful occasion will be remembered by all who took part and is becoming a tradition for class 6 leavers at St Josephs. We are very grateful to the staff and governors who supported the sleepover.

Fr Philip Austen, Parish Priest





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SECTION

Confirmations

Holy Trinity, Dorchester



Bishop Mark welcomed twenty-six of our young people from Purbeck, Weymouth, Bridport and Dorchester parishes for the Confirmation Mass at Holy Trinity, Dorchester. He extended a warm welcome to the family and friends of the Confirmandii who had come to celebrate with the young people.

Bishop Mark spoke of his own experience when he was a teenager at the time of the famine in Ethiopia and the questions that arose among his peers: "How could God allow that to happen? What can I do with my life? Am I worth anything?" He commented that what helped him at that time was doing voluntary work with families who had children with 'special needs'. The Bishop mentioned Claire, a young girl who did not speak much but she loved to dance. He saw her dancing with her mother and

said how touched he was by the love shown between mother and daughter. Jesus too showed his great love for us on the Cross.

Bishop Mark went on to say that the Spirit received at Confirmation was a great gift. He mentioned two other gifts in particular; the first was courage, because in order to remain true you will need courage to bear witness to Jesus. And the second gift is that of prayer. He counselled the young people to try and have a simple daily conversation with Jesus so that they grow day by day following Him. Whatever path you choose in life, ask Jesus. He has already chosen a path for you and the Spirit will enlighten and guide you in your choice.

Anita Finnigan
Holy Trinity, Dorchester

St Catherine's, Wimborne



A very special event in the life of our parish took place on Wednesday 24th May; Bishop Mark is pictured with 30 young people from the parish who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Wimborne Minster. For over 20 years the Confirmation of St Catherine's young people has taken place every 3 years at the Minster. Canon Ken-

neth Noakes, Parish Priest, and Deacon Michael Allen expressed their gratitude for the hospitality of Canon Vanessa Herrick and her congregation.

Isabelle Verver
Wimborne

Most Holy Trinity Parish, Newquay



There were happy smiling faces all round, reflecting the joy on receiving the Holy Spirit at their Confirmation Mass on 7th May 2017. Our Confirmandii are pictured with Bishop Mark and Fr Anthony O'Gorman, Parish Priest.

Jodie Roberts
Newquay

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St. Edward the Confessor, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth. 4PG PL3
Every Sunday morning at 11.30am (Sung). For special weekday Feasts, contact the LMS Rep (see below).
Blessed Sacrament, Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter. EX1 2QJ
Every 3rd Sunday of the month at 3pm (Sung).
St. Cyprian's Chapel, Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh. TQ13 0AD
4th Sunday of the month at 3pm (Sung).
Lanherne Convent, St. Mawgan, Newquay, Cornwall. TR8 4ER
Sundays and every day 7.30am inclusive.
Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Cecilia, White Cliff Mill Street, Blandford Forum. DT11 7BN
No Mass in July.
Our Lady, Old Mill Lane, Marnhull, Sturminster, Newton. DT10 1JX
12 noon Thursday 10th August (Low).

Any questions contact Maurice Quinn (LMS Rep, Devon and Dorset) on either : Email : mq018q1057@blueyonder.co.uk Mob. 07555536579

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'A step up the ladders of life...'

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (PLYMOUTH) ANNUAL APPEAL 2017

Hi This is Just a note to say one Big Thank-you! with the help you gave me it has put me one step up the ladders in life. Life is good. and it will only get better.

THANK YOU!!

Mum was struggling on a low income and 'Vinnie' was performing badly at a school due to poor sleep and nourishment. The Society helped by buying a new cooker and a bed and life is very different for them now. Life is good and they feel they can start again. Your support has given this little boy and his mum a new start in life but there are many more families like them who need help from the Catholic Children's Society.

The summer holiday are upon us, everyone is excited to finish school, have time off with friends and family, having treats and fun but is this does not ring true for everyone? Time off from school can be an expensive time for any mum, dad or carer, but for those living 'hand to mouth' there really isn't the money for 'extras', days out or even an ice cream on the beach. Child care has to be paid when parents work and meals found where normally a child would receive free school meals. It is a difficult time and then there is the return to school. New uniforms, new shoes, new sports kits. Pens pencils and folders, yet another worry to the family barely getting by day to day.

Thanks to the generous donations of the Catholic community across Dorset, Devon and Cornwall though, the CCSP is able to help these challenged families. When a Syrian family arrived in Devon seeking asylum with only the clothes they were wearing the CCSP were able to step in and help with three complete uniforms and the three children were able to go to school and start their new life dressed like all the other boys and girls in school.

And similarly children progressing from primary school to secondary school are moving up the ladder. Most are excited and looking forward to the change but for some it is very worrying and they are anxious about making new friends and coping with their new environment. It is a very vulnerable time of their lives and stresses children and parents alike. To support parents through this challenging time, the CCSP offers the parenting programme 'Parenting through the Teenage Years', where parents can have time to consider how their teenager feels,



reflect on their parenting style and learn how to communicate better and manage conflict more effectively. Making the climb that bit easier.

On Bank Holiday weekend, 26/27 August, the Annual Appeal for the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) will be held across the Diocese. As can be seen in the financial 'snapshot' below the majority of our funding (36%) comes from the generous collections made by our

congregations across the Diocese and the kind donations of individuals (36%). We could not continue without this support and every single donation is valued enormously. Please support the appeal as much as you can but if this is difficult perhaps consider helping in other ways, we are always looking for help. Call 01364 645420 for more details or visit www.ccsplymouth.org.uk. Thank you so much.



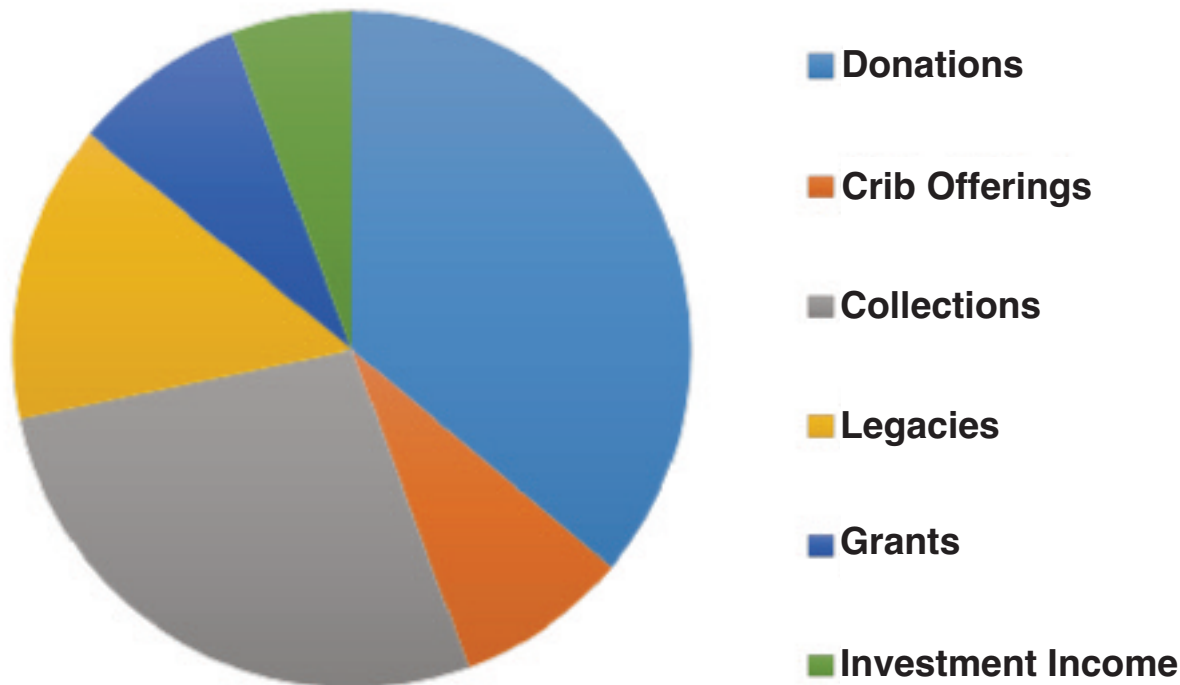
CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (PLYMOUTH) ANNUAL APPEAL 2017

On Bank Holiday weekend, 26/27 August, the Annual Appeal for the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) will be held across the Diocese. The Society strives to help vulnerable families across the Diocese and works to support parents and carers as they bring up their children. As you can see in the financial 'snapshot' below, the majority of the charity's funding (36%) comes from the generous collections made by our congregations across the Diocese and the kind donations of individuals (36%). We could not continue without this support and every single donation is valued enormously. Please support the appeal as much as you can on the weekend 26/27 August but if this is difficult perhaps consider helping in other ways, we are always looking for help! Call 01364 645420 for more details or visit www.ccsplymouth.org.uk. Thank you so much.

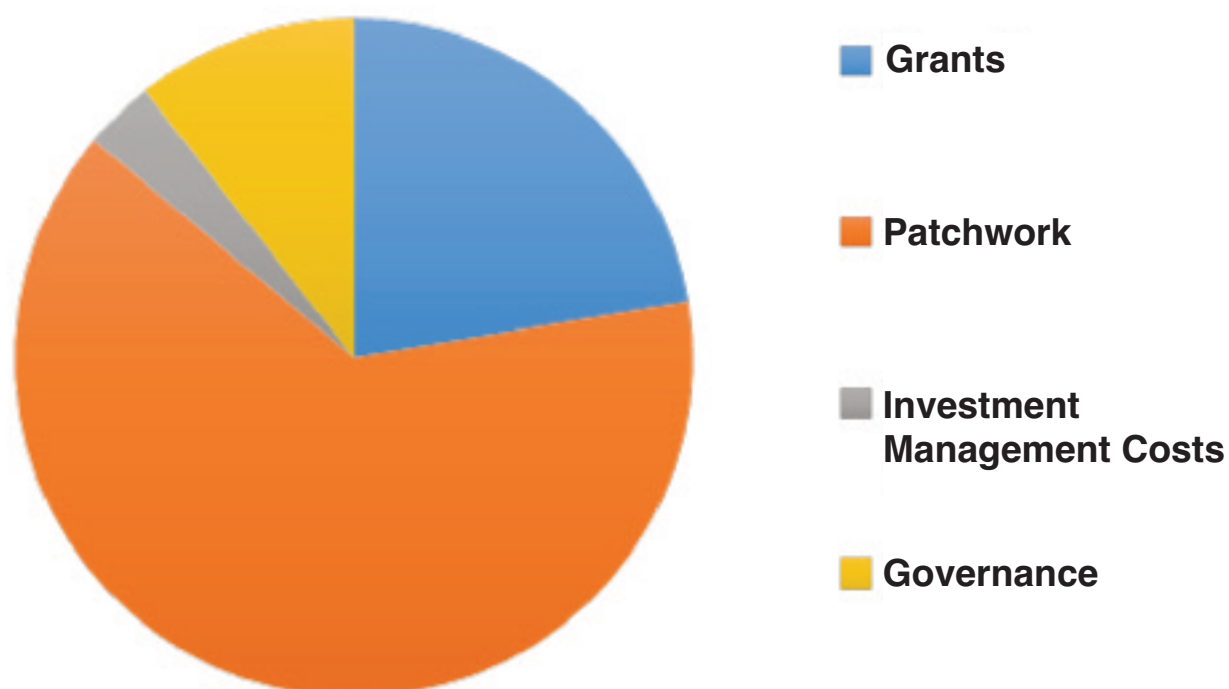
2016 Financial Highlights for the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

For every £1 donated to the CCSP, 68p goes towards helping vulnerable children across Dorset, Devon and Cornwall

Total Income £87,648 (2015: £96,770) - 9% decrease between 2015 and 2016



Total expenditure: £105,820 (2015: £114,364) - 7.5% decrease in expenditure between 2015 and 2016



101 grants were made to vulnerable families during 2016, helping 274 children

- 37 household items such as cookers, washing machines, fridges and freezers were provided
- 53 beds and mattresses supplied
- 27 applications granted for new school uniform and 4 families granted new baby equipment
- 3 grants given for young pilgrims to travel to Lourdes
- Economic changes are leading to increased requests for help as families struggle to cope on low incomes

In 2016 there was a 62% increase in the number of parents attending a PATCHWORK PARENTING PROGRAMME

- Provision was extended beyond the Catholic schools into the wider community
- The service was reviewed and managerial changes made to ensure the efficient delivery of the programme and the most appropriate use of donors' money
- Parents and carers of children with more challenging needs were helped sooner reducing the need for statutory help

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Run to the Son

Nearly 60 people came to Buckfast Abbey on the weekend of 23rd-25th June to pray together and be inspired and motivated for evangelisation and mission in our diocese.

Fr. Jon Bielawski said, "Our time together began with prayer and praise, then evening prayer for the Feast day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and an introductory talk on our desire and vision for evangelisation which flows from an inner sense of discipleship and relationship with Jesus."

On Saturday morning there was a scripture rosary with texts that focused on our individual calling and God's command to be a missionary church and proclaim the Good News. The main talk of the day was given by Brother John Bosco who is a Franciscan of the Renewal. He based his talks on excerpts from Pope Francis' 'The Joy of the Gospel', and how he and his community live out evangelisation as a daily part of their lives in Bradford, even sharing the gospel with Muslims.

In the afternoon there was a workshop on the helpful maxims that aid us in engaging more freely with those with whom we share our faith, like "dropping your pre-conceived ideas" and carrying within our hearts an "explicit intention" to actively share our faith. The weekend culminated in an all-night Vigil from sunset to sunrise in the Blessed Sacrament chapel in the Abbey. Fr. Jon

says, "At sunset (9.30pm) we began our vigil with prayer and praise and scripture readings. This format was repeated on the hour to help keep us focussed and "awake. It also included a night time Blessed Sacrament procession through the grounds of Buckfast and finished with a dawn Mass with Bishop Mark as a climax to the whole event. A particular feature of the Vigil was seeing the great mosaic stained glass window of Christ darken with night then coming alive again as the new day dawned, providing such a fitting symbol of our life with Christ and his death and resurrection.

At the end of the weekend, many who participated commented on the value of the event as a whole, which combined extensive time for quiet prayer and joyful praise, along with a heightened sense of how together we can build each other up in the privileged task of sharing a living faith in Jesus with others.

One attendee who is not, as yet, part of a parish evangelisation team, was 'struck by the joy, passion and commitment of those involved in the weekend. It was a truly inspiring experience and promises great hope for the future of our faith.'

Fr. Jon would like to thank the dedicated and hard-working team of planners and helpers, without whom this event would not have taken place.



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HCPT EASTER PILGRIMAGE – LOURDES 2017

The theme of this year's pilgrimage was 'Come to the Water' and that's what we did-literally and spiritually!

This was the second pilgrimage I experienced as a helper and again I was blessed by the experience. Trying to describe that experience to those who haven't been in Lourdes during the HCPT Pilgrimage, is almost impossible, but I have tried many times since returning home... I think it's like living in God's kingdom as it should be-with all the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in abundance-with JOY being the most evident! I read somewhere during the week that, gathered around Mary's Grotto, we are reassured of the totality of the love of Jesus as gently revealed by Mary-and that happens-you can feel it!

Our Westcountry Region was privileged to lead the Liturgies for the week-a huge responsibility (each year a different region is chosen, next year 'America'!) After many practises throughout the year, our little band of musicians and singers, aided brilliantly by the HCPT Band and the choir and dancers from the Salesian College, Farnborough, and Alton College, produced beautiful liturgies which gave joyful and prayerful worship throughout the week-they included the Torchlight Procession, Blessed Sacrament Procession and The Trust Mass- the highlight of the week-and you can get a taste of it on-line (I just typed in 'hcpt trust mass 2017' and there it was! It's great-but it was even better there!!) Happily, Bishop Mark was with us during the week and he was the main Celebrant at the Trust Mass, concelebrating were 6 other Bishops and 3 Archbishops and priests from every group attending the pilgrimage, including our own Fr.Michael Cole and Fr.Robbie Low. The congregation of children, young people and adults numbered 5,000+ it was wonderful!



Our Regional Groups met together for Mass in the beautiful hilltop Chapelle Mont Carmel, during which Dr.Michael Everitt was remembered and prayed for especially. His widow, Therese and one his daughters were with us to celebrate his wonderful work, establishing the Westcountry groups. Group 45, of which I am part, spent the last day of the week on the beautiful beach at St.Jean du Luz, where, after Mass celebrated by Fr.Michael and assisted dramatically by Deacon Tim! we ate our picnic lunch in the sun and some ventured into the sea. Our week was surrounded by water-and all the life it brings-we drank and washed in the spring water revealed to St. Bernadette by Our Lady, and I'm sure we were all filled with 'living water' from the Lord. All of us, children of the Lord, 'give God the glory, glory!'

Katie Jarvis



"May you follow the leading of the Spirit in being the face of God's mercy."

Reflections on Mercy, by exploring the Apostolic Letter "Misericordia et Misera", by Pope Francis

Sister Anne McDowell gave a thoughtful and challenging lead to us recently as she explored the theme, and demonstrated I think, that the exercise of mercy trumps other considerations. Highlights for me included:

- Identifying mercy as a relationship each of us has with God and with each other
- Mercy as loving kindness
- Mercy impels us to roll up our sleeves and set about restoring dignity to millions of people: they are our brothers and sisters
- And to devise specific and responsible ways of practising charity and works of mercy
- We are called to develop and promote a culture of mercy in our own time and place

We were invited to write short phrases that came to mind following her presentation, these included:

...do as you would be done by !
 ...care for those isolated and lonely, especially the elderly
 ...love conquers all
 ...giving of time, as much as needed
 ...respect for all, listening to all
 ...volunteering
 ...listening and giving time
 ...voicing the positive beliefs of peace, love, joy and hope; in a sensitive way; we gain in our faith

We then had some informal time together over a cup of tea before finishing with a short prayer service on the theme.

For details of our next quarterly meetings, please contact me, Peter Farrell on tel 01626 369478 or e mail: petane@outlook.com

Pope Francis' letter Misericordia et Misera A Summary of the Apostolic Letter

As the Year of Mercy ended, Pope Francis signed an apostolic letter imploring us to continue being merciful called *Misericordia et Misera*. This letter continues key themes of Francis. The title refers to the mercy with misery Jesus grants the woman caught in adultery. I intend to provide the key lines here with minimal commentary where needed.

He gets to his thesis fast: "Mercy cannot become a mere parenthesis in the life of the Church; it constitutes her very existence, through which the profound truths of the Gospel are made manifest and tangible. Everything is revealed in mercy; everything is resolved in the merciful love of the Father." (1*)

"Forgiveness is the most visible sign of the Father's love, which Jesus sought to reveal by his entire life. Every page of the Gospel is marked by this imperative of a love that loves to the point of forgiveness." (2)

From this Francis draws the fact that "None of us has the right to make forgiveness conditional." For this to be understood well, 2 distinctions are helpful: first, God puts some limits on forgiveness which we must respect as absolution is not given if someone firmly intends to commit the sin they're confessing; second, forgiving does not imply giving free reign as an abused woman might forgive her ex-husband yet file a restraining order against him.

"Mercy gives rise to joy, because our hearts are opened to the hope of a new life." To a technological and sad culture, the Pope offers an antidote: "All who put aside sadness and put on joy will live in God." (3)

Pope Francis suggests "pastoral conversion" which is "shaped daily by the renewing force of mercy" (5) as part of the new evangelization. The footnote explains that "pastoral conversion" is a conversion of the Church's ministry to more openness and outreach.

Pope Francis says, "We are called to celebrate mercy," and follows with four ways to do this.

First, "From the beginning to the end of the Eucharistic celebration, mercy constantly appears in the dialogue between the assembly at prayer and the heart of the Father." (5)

Second, "Hearing the word of God" celebrates mercy because, "In the biblical readings, we retrace the history of our salvation through the proclamation of God's tireless work of mercy." (6)

Third, "The Bible is the great story of the marvels of God's mercy." (7) In this context he suggests a "Bible Sunday" every year without further details.

Fourth, "The celebration of mercy takes place in a very particular way in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation." Here, "God shows us the way to turn back to him and invites us to experience his closeness anew." (8)

Francis lists the attributes a priest should have in hearing

confessions: "I ask you to be welcoming to all, witnesses of fatherly love whatever the gravity of the sin involved, attentive in helping penitents to reflect on the evil they have done, clear in presenting moral principles, willing to walk patiently beside the faithful on their penitential journey, far-sighted in discerning individual cases and generous in dispensing God's forgiveness." (10) Wanting moral principles clearly presented and wanting people helped reflect on the evil they did reaffirms that mercy is applied within the structure of Christian morality.

"No law or precept can prevent God from once more embracing the son who returns to him, admitting that he has done wrong but intending to start his life anew." (11)

Paragraph 12 extends two dispensations. First, all priests can forgive the sin of abortion. All sin separates us from God, but some sins are also crimes; and the removal of crimes is reserved to bishops or the Pope, and those they delegate, rather than being removable in every confession. The crime associated with abortion has been delegated to all priests in most US and Canadian dioceses for years, and now the pope makes this permanent and worldwide.

The second disposition is extended faculties for confession to the priests of the Society of St. Pius X "until further provisions are made."

Pope Francis encourages the mercy of consolation where words of hope reach those in pain. We might suffer pain, "Yet God is never far from us at these moments of sadness and trouble." (13)

Contemporary culture "Often tends to trivialize death" but Francis points out mercy in how "The Church has always experienced this dramatic passage in the light of Christ's resurrection, which opened the way to the certainty of the life to come." (15)

Mercy is interpersonal: "It is an encounter between two hearts: the heart of God who comes to meet us and a human heart. The latter is warmed and healed by the former." (16)

He wants new ways of practicing "the corporal and spiritual works of mercy [which] continue in our own day to be proof of mercy's immense positive influence as a social value." (18)

"The social character of mercy demands that we not simply stand by and do nothing. It requires us to banish indifference and hypocrisy." (19)

Francis calls for "a culture of mercy" - like John Paul II called for "a culture of life" - which is "based on the rediscovery of encounter with others, a culture in which no one looks at another with indifference or turns away from the suffering of our brothers and sisters. The works of mercy are 'handcrafted', in

the sense that none of them is alike." (20)

Francis concludes with a concrete suggestion that, "The entire Church might celebrate, on the Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, the World Day of the Poor." (21) This is the Sunday two weeks before Advent begins in mid-November.

As a conclusion to the Year of Mercy, Francis tells us, "The Jubilee now ends and the Holy Door is closed. But the door of mercy of our heart continues to remain wide open." (16)

*** numbers in brackets refer to paragraphs in the document**



Foundation in the Faith for the New Evangelisation

One volunteer is worth ten pressed men, they say! As a young man I was 'pressed' parrot fashion to learn the 'penny catechism', now in later life I am that volunteer – both studying and cherishing the post Vatican 2 Catechism as a student on the School of the Annunciation's foundation course at Buckfast Abbey. The course is a labour of love and St Thomas Aquinas's word echo in my ears 'Love takes up where knowledge leaves off'. That is because as a Eucharistic Minister at my Holy Family Parish I love to share and promote my faith but in truth sometimes lack confidence to do so – Redemption, Incarnation, Ascension etc. – what do they all mean? The course is helping me greatly with this – based upon four pillars of our faith: The Creed, Sacraments, Commandments and Prayer – it is slowly but surely enriching my knowledge, my faith and my confidence to evangelise.

The structure of the course suits my learning style perfectly. Over two years it is a mix of six learning days at Buckfast with my 16 or so fellow students, alongside excellent study handbooks to support distance learning and the electronic submission of tasks on which I receive positive encouragement and critical friend feedback from the wonderful tutors. All of this is knowledge and guidance is helping challenge and inspire my faith.

It is early days and I am just coming to the end of the first of the four units and completing a task which asks me to summarise in 300 words how I would respond to the following 'Imagine someone saw you wearing a crucifix and asked you: "Why is there a little man on your cross?"' Fortunately I wrote my response whilst being on a Reading Week in Assisi with my parish staying at the convent of the most humble, welcoming and spiritually beautiful Franciscan Sisters at the Suore Francescane Alcantarine convent. Whilst there what at an honour it was to have our shepherd, Fr Philip Austin, co-celebrate mass at the 10th century, Santa Maria Maggiore with 20 plus priests to mark the inauguration of a shrine at the place where St Francis of Assisi threw off all his worldly possessions. This gave me the inspiration to theme my assignment response with a powerful and simple message about why I wear my crucifix: it is in my own little way to follow St Francis and our Pope's example and message 're-clothe ourselves in Christ'.

The world can be a complex place and studying 2,000 years of the Church's 'Deposit of Faith' can likewise be taxing and challenging. When I struggle with the learning, which anyone on a course inevitably will, I remind myself of the simplicity that sits beneath all of my study and my faith and what can be achieved when each of us evangelises. That message was beautifully and plainly summarised in Bishop Mark's recent letter to us all 'Remember that Jesus is your friend, make a new friend, introduce your friend to Jesus'.

Jane Cheyne, Exmouth



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Slipping into God

by Julia Beacroft

SOME TIME AGO, in a previous article, I mentioned my involvement in church care or cleaning, at my local parish church for one morning per week. In fact my main task is vacuuming and I find it strangely soothing, relaxing and even spiritual, as it gives me a much needed opportunity for prayer and reflection. Yet the other week I was jolted out of my reverie by one of my co-volunteers. As she approached me, duster and polish in hand, I couldn't help but notice that she was giggling. As I raised my eyebrows, she began to explain:

"We're not supposed to polish the actual seats of the pews," she said, "For health and safety reasons. It makes them too slippery. But I was just thinking that perhaps it might not be such a bad idea after all."

"Really?" I queried, trying to work out where the conversation was going.

"Yes!" she continued. "The parishioners can slip straight off their seats and onto their knees to pray, without having to make any effort at all!"

PERSONAL

It was hardly surprising that we both laughed at the silliness of the suggestion but I also made a mental note to repeat the joke to another friend later that day. Yet after this re-telling, I found myself seriously contemplating the ways in which we pray and the significance – if any – of these.

Prayer is extremely personal to each one of us as

it is at the heart of our own relationship with Jesus Christ. Yet in the main we are able to recognise when others are praying by their actions and body language. Sitting or kneeling, hands pressed together palm to palm, clasped or held out palms uppermost, are the classically recognised positions for prayer. And in fact, these physical positions are so accepted as the norm, that I've even seen a few people become upset, when they're unable to kneel to pray for medical reasons.

HEARTS

When we pray we use our minds and sometimes our lips but using our bodies in this way is also perfectly acceptable. Yet, of much greater import is the prayer which emanates from our hearts. God knows our innermost thoughts and desires anyway, regardless of what we choose to share with him in prayer. Yet prayer is truly vital to build and maintain a loving, lasting relationship with the Lord.

Falling to our knees when we pray is a sign of reverence to the Lord – and rightly so – because he is Lord. Yet it is the reverence of our hearts and minds which we can gladly offer to God in our prayer life. In short, slipping to our knees to worship is good. Slipping into God in our hearts is sublime.

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"A Church for the Poor" new Radio Series *Tell us about your project*



One of the first things Pope Francis said was that he wanted a Poor Church for the Poor and he has introduced an annual World Day of the Poor every November. Heaven's Road Catholic Radio is producing a new series of programmes to highlight the projects that various Catholic people, charities, and parishes are running to help those in poverty both in the UK and overseas. Hopefully, these programmes will inspire others either to get involved in helping established organisations, large and small, or even start their own project.

The programmes cover a diversity of "poverty" and how the Church is helping the Hungry; Homeless; Lonely; Sick and Dying; Prisoners; Refugees; Lost and Parentless Children; Slavery; no religious freedom; lack of education; trapped in War zones; those trapped in Debt; those in Sin, etc.

The programmes will be broadcast on the Radio <http://www.heavensroadfm.com/listen-now/> from September. There will also be a weekend of TV programmes, on 17th-19th November for the World Day of the Poor 2017. The Saturday will be an all-day music and entertainment extravaganza, broadcast live from churches in England, Eire, Canada, USA and Australia, in conjunction with Church Services.tv.

If you've a story to tell about a project helping the poor, or would like to help us, please email gerrycoates@blueyonder.co.uk or phone Gerry on 07906 073376. The Radio is especially keen to hear from people who can help on the TV weekend – and from musicians, singers, dancers, mime artists etc who can perform on 18th November.

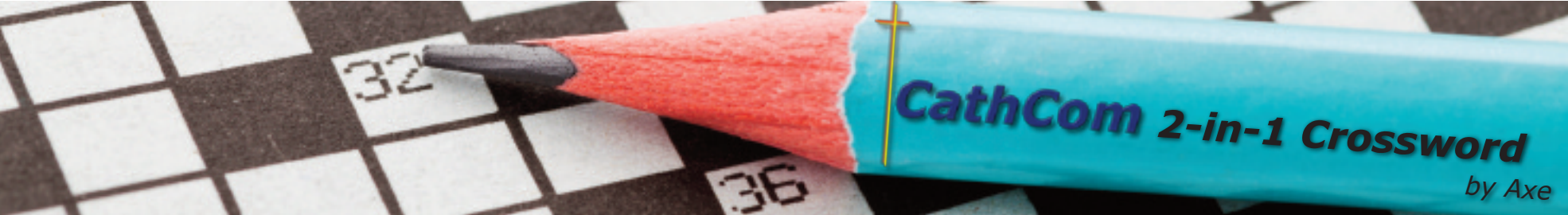
God's Kaleidoscope

In my youth, and I suppose I am going back half a century to be there, I seem to remember having a kaleidoscope for Christmas. And, as I was thinking the other day about the impact of a 'church' meeting on me, I thought about that kaleidoscope - are they still made and looked at, I wonder? I imagined God looking through its eye piece, and smiling, God looking at the colourful, ever-changing pattern which we all make, as if each of us was one of those little pieces of plastic, seemingly insignificant as a single piece, but part, largely unbeknown to us, of a beautiful picture, combining, to create the kingdom of God.

Of course, not everything in the world is a "pretty picture", world events and our own imperfections testify to that on a regular basis, but the kingdom of God does not yet exist for me as a material entity, I like to think of it as being made up of the best of each one of us, when we say the right thing or do a kind deed, or even just smile.

It is easy to get downhearted sometimes, about ourselves, the 'church', the world at large, or any number of things, but maybe the image of a smiling God can give us the lift we need to recognise that we all have the capability to make a contribution, and are all loved.

Peter Farrell
Local Co-ordinator on behalf of A Call to Action (ACTA)



You can use both sets of clues to solve the puzzle: the solutions are the same. So, if you want to try the CRYPTIC puzzle, for instance, but are unsure, use the QUICK clues to help you work out the solution. Similarly, if you try the QUICK clues, use the CRYPTIC clues to help you prove the solution

CRYPTIC Across

- 7 Coax old king to embrace a knave (6)
- 8 Feral feline spotted wildcat (6)
- 9 Army lost much artillery in the initial stages of Crimea battle (4)
- 10 As rich – as poor – as a tribal leader (8)
- 11 Act badly to rib one that may need rocking to sleep (7)
- 13 Kick out at alien snatching little boy (5)
- 15 Cheat out of demesne, a knight (5)
- 17 Quietly report to Bishop, perhaps (7)
- 20 Religion that's active, serious-minded, but has no see, which is strange (8)
- 21 'Blow up French capital', you texted with extreme menace (4)
- 22 Hardly make it from pub to cathedral (6)
- 23 Bait regular teachers to infiltrate island, the western end (6)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 The best student secured backing to flower (6)
- 2 River falls are a stellar phenomenon (4)
- 3 Entrance to internet being down's a cause of some irritation (7)
- 4 Western group exercises involved US intelligence in the old days (5)
- 5 One on a quest, English vicar's poor record's about to be overturned (8)
- 6 Ancient law for marbles, put together by Greeks? (6)
- 12 Ruth's people are dead: bird attacks linked (8)
- 14 One Catholic's taken about a month in the Sorbonne to learn an ancient language (7)
- 16 Usual article by one coming from France (6)
- 18 Barrow's American emigrated with tenor

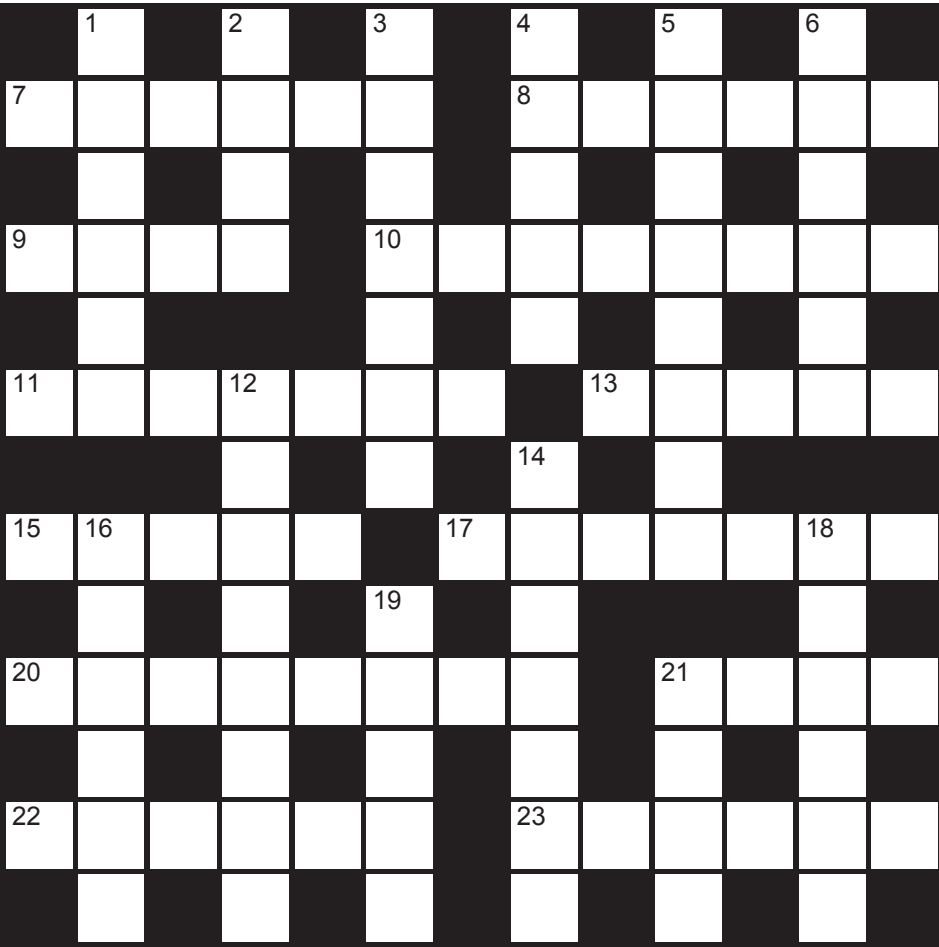
- in brouhaha (6)
- 19 Turned up in company of lowly bishop: bit of a 'seer', this one (5)
- 21 Tizzy over terribly subfusc cub's riotous coming out (4)

QUICK Across

- 7 Persuade (6)
- 8 South American wild cat (6)
- 9 ---- River, battle in the Crimean War, 1854 (4)
- 10 Patriarch son of Jacob and Leah (8)
- 11 Hanging bed of canvas or rope netting (7)
- 13 Dispossess (of property) (5)
- 15 Move quietly trying not to be seen (5)
- 17 Senior clergyman and dignitary (7)
- 20 Ancient Celtic religion (8)
- 21 Be mad or angry (4)
- 22 Just (6)
- 23 Malign (6)

QUICK Down

- 1 Showy bloom: any plant of this particular Mexican genus (6)
- 2 Exploding star (4)
- 3 Possess (7)
- 4 Search party (5)
- 5 Knight of the Round Table (8)
- 6 Law of the Jews from Mt Sinai (6)
- 12 Descendants of Lot's son (8)
- 14 Semitic language, dialects of which are still used by some Christian sects (7)
- 16 Medieval style of architecture (6)
- 18 Ferment (6)
- 19 One of several prophetesses of Babylonia, Egypt, Greece and Rome (5)
- 21 Palaver (4)



SOLUTION

Across: 7 Cajole, 8 Ocelot, 9 Alma, 10 Issachar, 11 Hammock, 13 Evict, 15 Sneak, 17 Prelate, 20 Druidism, 21 Fume, 22 Barely, 23 Insult. Down: 1 Dahlia, 2 Nova, 3 Bewitch, 4 Posse, 5 Percival, 6 Mosaic, 12 Moabites, 14 Aramaic, 16 Norman, 18 Turnit, 19 Sibyl, 21 Fuss.

EXPLANATIONS Across: 7 C(a)+l(o)e, 8 double def, 9 initial letters, 10 anag, 11 ham+mock, 13 E(vic)+t, 15 hidden word in 'demesNE A king', 17 p+relate, 20 anag of 'serious-minded' minus anag of 'no+see', 21 F+u+m(-enac), 22 bar+Elv, 23 (N)(s)(U)(T)(-and). Down: 1 A+1+had [all rev], 2 Avon [rev], 3 web[rev]+hitch, 4 P(OSS)E, 5 E+anag of 'vicar' in 'LP' [rev], 6 double def & pun, 12 Moa+bites, 14 A+R(a+m+i)C, 16 Norm+an, 18 Turnit(-US+), 19 Reversed, hidden word in 'lowLY Bishop', 21 anag of 'subfusc' minus anag of 'cub'.

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