



GO... MAKE DISCIPLES

A Pastoral Message from Bishop Mark O'Toole
May 2017

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

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“GO... MAKE DISCIPLES” – Evangelising Parishes

A Pastoral Message to the Priests, Deacons, Religious and Lay faithful of the Diocese of Plymouth.

Two years ago Bishop Mark shared a pastoral vision for the Diocese in the Letter, It is the Lord. He has now written a pastoral letter on the progress that has been made and where to go next. Below is just some excerpts from the pastoral letter. We have reluctantly had to leave out some of the excellent content so we could fit it into the paper. It is well worth reading Bishop Mark's full letter on the diocesan website: www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk

From my experience of travelling around this lovely diocese, in meeting so many wonderful people and clergy, and in reflecting on our call to be disciple-making disciples, I would like to share with you eight traits of an Evangelising Parish. The traits I have identified are: Prayer, Vision, an Evangelising Team, the Eucharist, Loving Service, Rigorous Adult Formation, Small Groups, and Missionary Zeal.

PRAYER

WE ARE NOT COMMUNICATING a message but a person. We cannot give what we have not got. We must remember that prayer is not something to be done at the beginning and left behind, as we sometimes do at meetings. We must have sustained prayer, for each initiative in the parish.

- some people can identify themselves as the 'prayers' in a community, for particular initiatives
- all of us are called to deepen our encounter with Jesus, and to draw close to Him in prayer
- increasing prayer opportunities in the parish: rosary, pilgrimages, intercessory prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and especially prayer offered by the sick and housebound whose prayer is particularly efficacious
- encourage prayer in the home, in families and from children who unself-consciously articulate their love for Jesus and Mary

Prayer is ultimately not our work, but God's.

VISION

WE KNOW WHAT THE VISION IS. It is primary proclamation. I come back again and again to what Pope Francis says in Evangelii Gaudium 164: "the first proclamation must ring out over and over: 'Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.'" This first proclamation is called "first" not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things. It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another".

I believe small aims, well carried out, are more effective than huge plans. Be concrete, be real. Focus on the person in front of you, and on bringing this person to a deeper friendship and love of Jesus.



EVANGELISATION TEAMS



IN MANY WAYS THIS IS A DIFFICULT ONE, as it could give the impression that 'sharing faith – evangelisation' is the task of only a few in the parish. The reality, of course, is that every Catholic is called to do this. It is a crucial part of the vocation of being a disciple. It is part and parcel of the gift of faith; the Holy Spirit has been "poured into our hearts" (Romans 5:5).

At the same time, for a parish to truly become a community of disciple-making disciples, there needs to be a group who stimulate evangelising efforts, who meet regularly to reflect on experiences of evangelisation and who regularly look at the parish diary and life, to see what opportunities for 'going out' there are on the horizon.

I am delighted to see that at present, we have 38 Parish Evangelisation Teams across the diocese, with several more in progress. Something like 500 people have engaged with the first phase of building teams in the diocese, and about two-thirds of these have established themselves in teams.

The parish priest cannot do everything by himself, neither should he. Working alone, it is hard to remain motivated. We run out of energy or focus. Different people bring different gifts. But together we can support and move things forward.

THE EUCHARIST

WE KNOW THAT THE EUCHARIST is a vital path for making disciples and sharing faith. It is itself evangelising. It is there that we breathe the fresh air of the divine presence and are healed of our wounds. The Sacraments, the Church's liturgy, Eucharistic adoration, sacred music, the beauty of the Church building, are all important in discovering the numinous, a sense of the transcendent, the reality that we are created to worship God.

It is in the Eucharist especially that we meet and encounter Jesus. Ultimately we want more and more people to come to know Jesus in this way. Jesus' Eucharistic presence is not only experienced at Mass. It has been beautiful to see how important Eucharistic adoration has been in evangelisation efforts in parishes. Many have experienced the Catholic Church in a new way through the experience of Adoration through 'Night Fever' initiatives, and through '24 hours for the Lord'. It has been lovely, too, to see how parishes have taken up 'The Light is on for you.' initiative, where parish churches have been kept open on set evenings for Eucharistic Adoration and Sacramental Confession. I encourage you to continue with these opportunities.



LOVING SERVICE



WE OFTEN THINK THAT OUR 'active' life of service is somehow opposed to our life of contemplation and prayer. But in both dimensions of our life, we are seeking to encounter Jesus and to serve Him. Matthew 25 makes this very clear. The Lord that we worship and adore in the Blessed Sacrament we also encounter in the least of His brothers and sisters.

This is always clear to us whenever we embark on some concrete action with and for those who are poor. It has been good these past three years to discover the variety of ways in which Catholics in the Diocese are engaged in projects of loving service of neighbour - food banks, homeless projects, street pastors, outreach to those with special needs, support of CAFOD, Aid to the Church in Need, Missio and Apostleship of the Sea. Recently I had the chance to go once more on pilgrimage with HCPT, the Pilgrimage Trust, which takes special needs children to Lourdes in Easter tide. I was struck once more by the fact that we experience the Lord on the Cross in these, some of the least of His children. In their love and suffering, and their great joy, they teach us how to live our faith in simple and practical ways. They show us the living body of Jesus present in His Resurrected wounds in which he manifests the depth of his love and his suffering. The reality is that our personal encounter with Jesus in prayer, helps us to see Him in those who are least, and when we meet Him in them we also want to seek Him in prayer, in the Blessed Sacrament, at Mass, and in our prayerful reading of the Scriptures.

RIGOROUS ADULT FORMATION

HISTORICALLY, CATHOLICS BELONGED to a variety of sodalities and groups. In each there was a sharing and a formation in faith. Nowadays, life is more fragmented and disparate. People are at different levels and at different points on the journey. As I have travelled around the diocese and listened to people's stories of their faith and life, again and again, I have been aware of the silent struggles that many experience.

Alongside this, is an awareness of 'sitting' with many of the questions shared by our contemporaries: "Does life really have any meaning? How do I bring science and religion together? Surely it is science that gives us the Truth, whereas faith, is it not just private opinion? You believe what you want and I believe what I want; it doesn't really matter, does it? What happens after death? Why do such good people suffer? Surely a good God would not allow this? Are human beings worth anything? Am I?"

These are some of the questions that many in our society ask, often implicitly. We know it is only ultimately in Jesus that each of these questions finds its proper place.

So we need to provide contexts where people can properly explore the questions that are at the heart of modern living, and where they can receive accompaniment and guidance from the richness of the Church's tradition. I would hope that some of the initiatives offered through our Vicariate for Evangelisation and Catechesis will continue to give opportunities to grow in confidence in sharing our faith with others, as we all grapple with these questions, and find our meaning in Jesus Christ.

It has been wonderful, as I have travelled around the Diocese, to experience something of the faith of good people giving so generously of their time in so many Catechetical programmes – First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA, Baptism and Marriage. So many people work so hard, and so faithfully, to 'pass on' the faith in these contexts. A key reflection for a parish, is 'what do we commit in the parish's resources to assist them, and to help form them, so that they have confidence in what they are doing, and are using the best possible methods and resources?'



SMALL GROUP ENCOUNTER

I FIRST LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE of small groups or small communities whilst on parish placements in various places, both as a young man and as a priest. I have seen their value, too, since I became bishop. There is, for all of us, the reality of Sunday Mass and participation in Christ's Sacrifice. For many, alongside this, and complementing the regular Sunday experience, is

engagement in a small group or small community. In such a group I am able to be myself and share my faith openly. I can speak of my struggles and joys, explore how I can grow in faith, and be challenged.

In such groups, the prayerful reading of Scripture – lectio divina – has a particular place. We can be amazed what happens when people are given the opportunity in such settings to look at their life alongside the Scriptures, to simply place a page of my life alongside a page of the Bible.



MISSIONARY ZEAL



MISSION DESCRIBES THE VERY HEART OF GOD. The Father sends the Son in order to bring His love into our world and into every human heart. The Son willingly accepts the Father's Mission. Out of love for the Father he comes into our world. Not only is Jesus the human face of God, but He is humbler yet, even to accepting death on a Cross (Philippians 2). The Spirit accompanies the Son in His Mission, and continues to animate Jesus' followers so that they may participate in the Son's mission and come to the Father's house. We have come to know God because He has gone outside of Himself.

Our zeal for Mission is a participation in this going forth from, and return to, God. We have a heart 'for the other', to bring them to Jesus, that He might bring them to the Father and that they might be 'at home' with Him. We do not seek to bring others to ourselves.

We must ask ourselves, are the different initiatives of the parish, 'open' to those who do not yet believe, or are we a circle of friends closed in on ourselves? Do we focus on maintaining the status quo in parish life, or are we capable of new initiatives which 'reach out' to those who do not know Jesus, so that they might have the opportunities for real encounters with Him?

CONCLUSION

These thoughts are offered on the basis of my experience of the Diocese these past three years. If you have any of your own reflections on the traits I have shared, or any other thoughts that you would like to add, then I would be delighted to hear from you.

I hope that we can each deepen our love of Jesus and our desire to bring others to Him, in response to His wonderful command,

"Go... make disciples" (Matthew 28:19).

SO, WITH HIM, LET'S DO IT!

Mark O'Toole
Bishop of Plymouth
Easter tide 2017



*Go... make disciples of all the nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 28:19

Around the South West

Prayer in St Marychurch

All are welcome to join parishioners at 9.40am to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life at Our Lady Help of Christians & St Denis Church followed by Mass at 10.00am



Eucharistic Adoration in Exeter

Tuesday evenings at 8.00-9.00pm at Mount St Mary Convent, Wonford Road.



Loving Service in Weymouth

Sewing group of Our Lady Star of the Sea made dresses which have been sent to the Sisters of Mercy mission in Africa.



Small Group Encounter

The Meditation Group meets at 7.30pm on Monday evening at the Richard Reynolds Centre, Heavitree Road, Exeter.



WE NEED YOUR PARISH NEWS TO GO HERE!

No parish news? Maybe you should start something!

Mega Youth Poll

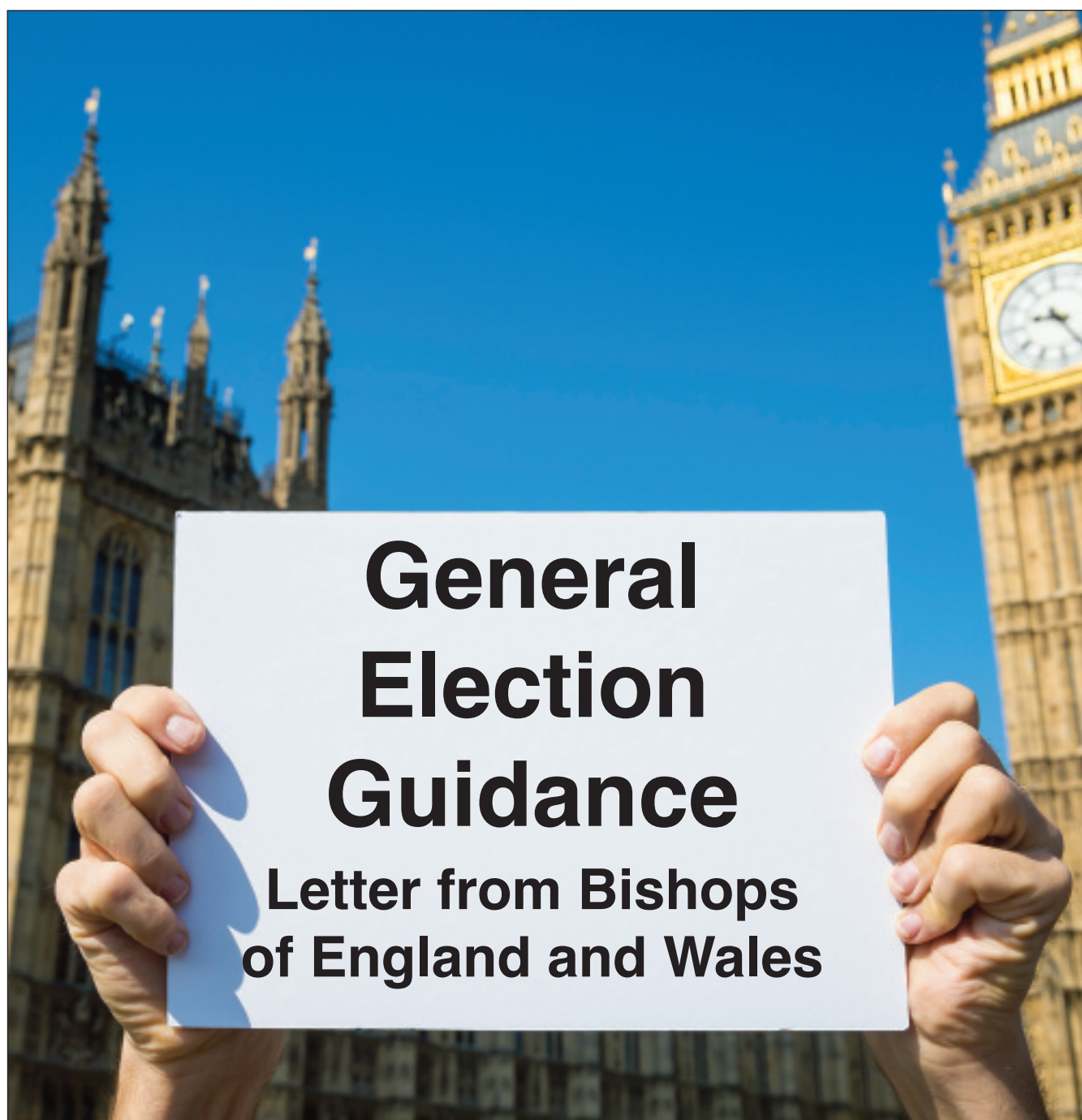


Young Catholics (13-29) are being asked to share what they feel about their lives, faith and vocational discernment in an online poll, prior to a Synod in Rome in 2018. Pope Francis has said that he "wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls."

The online survey will be open until Monday 5th June 2017 and should take around 20 minutes to complete, and states: "Whatever your religious belief, feelings about the Catholic Church or circumstances we want to hear from you because you are important to us".

If you are in the age group PLEASE try to find the time to complete it, and if you know anyone in the age range, PLEASE ask them. Just type Mega Youth Poll into your search engine and follow the instructions. There will be a different poll seeking the views of anyone who is a parent, teacher, chaplain, youth worker or a priest who regularly engages with young people.

Fiona Hutchings
Plymouth Diocese



The Bishops of England and Wales have issued a letter to Catholics on the forthcoming general election.

The letter is an encouragement to all Catholics to play an active part in the election. While voting for any particular political party is a matter of conscience, the bishops encourage people to use their vote at this pivotal time for our nations, as we prepare to leave the European Union.

The letter lays out broad principles to guide our thinking in the run-up to the election, taken from Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*.

"To a great extent the outcome of this election will determine the approach taken on how this (leaving the European Union) is achieved, the priorities we pursue and the values we wish to treasure as our own in the UK and as partners with countries around the world. It will determine how we can heal divisions in our society, care for the vulnerable, how our public services are run and whether we can

remain a united kingdom."

The letter then moves from these broad guiding principles to some more specific questions for consideration and to raise with candidates, including questions on how best to encourage and enable families to flourish, promote freedom of religion across the world and care for refugees and asylum seekers.

The letter concludes with a prayer:

"Lord grant us wisdom to act always with integrity, seeking the protection and flourishing of all, and building a society based on justice and peace."

To read the Bishops' letter in full go to www.catholicnews.org.uk/election17



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Staying in tune with God

by Julia Beacroft



THREE OUT OF four of my adult children are tone-deaf when it comes to singing. Not that this seems to have affected them in the slightest, as they have a multitude of gifts and talents between them that more than adequately compensate for this loss. However, it did take some time for one of them to come to terms with that fact... My elder daughter, who is exceptionally bright and unusually gifted at both English and Maths, can't hold a note if her life depended upon it, but this certainly didn't stop her from trying. In fact, as a teenager we surprised her in the act of singing along to one of her favourite female artists of the time, hairbrush in hand (for a microphone), at full volume, and tossing her long hair about diva-style! Thankfully, she now laughingly admits to her inability to sing and prefers

to let others exercise their vocal chords instead!

JOYFUL CLAMOUR

At my own parish church we have foregone the usual recessionary hymn during the season of Lent this year. When this was announced the week before Lent started, we were told that "The Church sometimes needs a time of silence". And of course, this is so true. However, I was struck by the fact that we can find God in the silence – something that can admittedly be difficult to achieve in our hectic, everyday lives – and in the joyful clamour of our songs of praise and love.

At a conference I attended at the very beginning of Lent we were spoiled by a liturgical extravaganza

of music in the liturgies and Sunday Mass. The musical accompaniment and singing were sublime and it was not difficult

She was singing along, hairbrush in hand ... at full volume...

to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit during such a glorious sound, nor to praise and worship the Father. I'm sure I speak for most of those there when I say that we were keeping our lives in tune with the Lord's and entering into his Song.

GENTLE VOICE

We have so much to be thankful for in our normal

everyday lives and not least of these is our ability to find God. He makes himself available to us whenever and wherever we need to find him. In his wonderful diversity, we can access him in the Word, the Eucharist, other people, nature and at many other times and in many other places. And furthermore we can be aware of the gentle voice of the Lord in the silence and manifestly aware of his beautiful presence in the lifting melody of our voices raised in song. And better still – no hairbrush required...!

Julia Beacroft is an author, editor and catechist who lives in Torquay, Devon. Her first book 'Sanctifying the Spirit' is now available to buy. Please visit: www.sanciobooks.com

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 51st WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

28th May 2017

"Fear not, for I am with you" (Is 43:5):
Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time

Access to the media – thanks to technological progress – makes it possible for countless people to share news instantly and spread it widely. That news may be good or bad, true or false. The early Christians compared the human mind to a constantly grinding millstone; it is up to the miller to determine what it will grind: good wheat or worthless weeds. Our minds are always "grinding", but it is up to us to choose what to feed them (cf. SAINT JOHN CASSIAN, Epistle to Leontius).

I wish to address this message to all those who, whether in their professional work or personal relationships, are like that mill, daily "grinding out" information with the aim of providing rich fare for those with whom they communicate. I would like to encourage everyone to engage in constructive forms of communication that reject prejudice towards others and foster a culture of encounter, helping all of us to view the world around us with realism and trust.

I am convinced that we have to break the vicious circle of anxiety and stem the spiral of fear resulting from a constant focus on "bad news" (wars, terrorism, scandals and all sorts of human failure). This has nothing to do with spreading misinformation that would ignore the tragedy of human suffering, nor is it about a naive optimism blind to the scandal of evil. Rather, I propose that all of us work at overcoming that feeling of growing discontent and resignation that can at times generate apathy, fear or the idea that evil has no limits. Moreover, in a communications industry which thinks that good news does not sell, and where the tragedy of human suffering and the mystery of evil easily turn into entertainment, there is always the temptation that our consciences can be dulled or slip into pessimism.

I would like, then, to contribute to the search for an open and creative style of communication that never seeks to glamourise evil but instead to concentrate on solutions and to inspire a positive and responsible approach on the part of its recipients. I ask everyone to offer the people of our time storylines that are at heart "good news".

Good news
Life is not simply a bare succession of events, but a history, a story waiting to be told through the

choice of an interpretative lens that can select and gather the most relevant data. In and of itself, reality has no one clear meaning. Everything depends on the way we look at things, on the lens we use to view them. If we change that lens, reality itself appears different. So how can we begin to "read" reality through the right lens?

For us Christians, that lens can only be the good news, beginning with the Good News par excellence: "the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Son of God" (Mk 1:1). With these words, Saint Mark opens his Gospel not by relating "good news" about Jesus, but rather the good news that is Jesus himself. Indeed, reading the pages of his Gospel, we learn that its title corresponds to its content and, above all else, this content is the very person of Jesus.

This good news – Jesus himself – is not good because it has nothing to do with suffering, but rather because suffering itself becomes part of a bigger picture. It is seen as an integral part of Jesus' love for the Father and for all mankind. In Christ, God has shown his solidarity with every human situation. He has told us that we are not alone, for we have a Father who is constantly mindful of his children. "Fear not, for I am with you" (Is 43:5): these are the comforting words of a God who is immersed in the history of his people. In his beloved Son, this divine promise – "I am with you" – embraces all our weakness, even to dying our death. In Christ, even darkness and death become a point of encounter with Light and Life. Hope is born, a hope accessible to everyone, at the very crossroads where life meets the bitterness of failure. That hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts (cf. Rom 5:5) and makes new life blossom, like a shoot that springs up from the fallen seed. Seen in this light, every new tragedy that occurs in the world's history can also become a setting for good news, inasmuch as love can find a way to draw near and to raise up sympathetic hearts, resolute faces and hands ready to build anew.

Confidence in the seed of the Kingdom

To introduce his disciples and the crowds to this Gospel mindset and to give them the right "lens" needed to see and embrace the love that dies and rises, Jesus uses parables. He frequently compares the Kingdom of God to a seed that releases its potential for life precisely when it falls to the earth and dies (cf. Mk 4:1-34). This use of

images and metaphors to convey the quiet power of the Kingdom does not detract from its importance and urgency; rather, it is a merciful way of making space for the listener to freely accept and appropriate that power. It is also a most effective way to express the immense dignity of the Paschal mystery, leaving it to images, rather than concepts, to communicate the paradoxical beauty of new life in Christ. In that life, hardship and the cross do not obstruct, but bring about God's salvation; weakness proves stronger than any human power; and failure can be the prelude to the fulfilment of all things in love. This is how hope in the Kingdom of God matures and deepens: it is "as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow" (Mk 4:26-27).

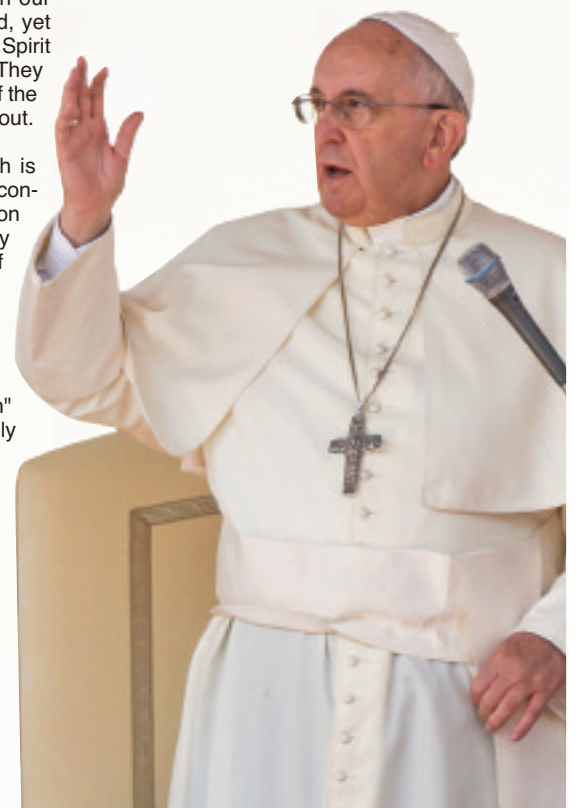
The Kingdom of God is already present in our midst, like a seed that is easily overlooked, yet silently takes root. Those to whom the Holy Spirit grants keen vision can see it blossoming. They do not let themselves be robbed of the joy of the Kingdom by the weeds that spring up all about. The horizons of the Spirit

Our hope based on the good news which is Jesus himself makes us lift up our eyes to contemplate the Lord in the liturgical celebration of the Ascension. Even though the Lord may now appear more distant, the horizons of hope expand all the more. In Christ, who brings our human nature to heaven, every man and woman can now freely "enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh" (Heb 10:19-20). By "the power of the Holy Spirit" we can be witnesses and "communicators" of a new and redeemed humanity "even to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:7-8). Confidence in the seed of God's Kingdom and in the mystery of Easter should also shape the way we communicate. This confidence enables us to carry out our work – in all the different ways that communication takes place nowadays – with the conviction that it is possible to recognise and highlight the good news present in every story and in the face of each person.

Those who, in faith, entrust themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit come to realise how God is present and at work in

every moment of our lives and history, patiently bringing to pass a history of salvation. Hope is the thread with which this sacred history is woven, and its weaver is none other than the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Hope is the humblest of virtues, for it remains hidden in the recesses of life; yet it is like the yeast that leavens all the dough. We nurture it by reading ever anew the Gospel, "reprinted" in so many editions in the lives of the saints who became icons of God's love in this world. Today too, the Spirit continues to sow in us a desire for the Kingdom, thanks to all those who, drawing inspiration from the Good News amid the dramatic events of our time, shine like beacons in the darkness of this world, shedding light along the way and opening ever new paths of confidence and hope.

Francis



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New President for South Hams

Trevor Davies was installed as President of South Hams Catenians on Monday the 24th April 2017, when the South Hams Circle met at Thurlestone Golf Club. Trevor's chosen charity for the year is the Brain Tumour Research Charity and his daughter, Sue Frost, together with Peter Jordan, Fund raising Manager for the charity gave an after dinner talk. Peter and Sue described how an incident four years ago inspired has inspired their fundraising: "my wife and I together with Sue and her husband and two children visited her brother who live in St Martins in the Caribbean. The first night we were there Sue had a massive fit and was rushed to hospital where, following a scan, she was diagnosed with having a brain tumour which had resulted in epilepsy. Although the tumour was non -malignant tumour it is of a type which will turn cancerous in due course. She was flown home but can no longer drive, which is difficult with two children. The tumour has now grown to the size of a golf ball and is pressing on the central part of the brain and, following a number of scans in the early autumn, will have to have surgery to remove it. Surgery which will be carried out whilst she is awake in an attempt to minimise the damage to her left side."



Trevor also related another story about Sue: "whilst walking

home from work when a van came around the bend in front of her, crossed the road and hit a car in front of the taxi head on. The young man driving the van had collapsed at the wheel from an undiagnosed heart condition; Sue got him out of the van and gave him CPR. She got a pulse and hand him over to the Paramedics who took him to hospital. He has survived and has invited Sue to his wedding. Her selfless actions, despite her own medical condition, were reported to the Chief Constable and Sue was awarded a Chief Superintendents commendation and been made one of the 50 most inspirational women in Plymouth. She is a very brave lady and I am extremely proud of her."

Sue is a Nurse tutor and six-months ago, with Peter - a former Paramedic - visited the Brain Tumour Research Laboratory in Plymouth. The laboratory needs 1 million pounds per year, or £2,744 per day to continue their work. Each person who raises £2,744 will have a tile with their name on it placed on the HOPE wall in the laboratory.

"Sue has now started to raise funds and, in the three-months following two fundraising events she has enough money for two tiles and is continuing her efforts. I will have this charity as my President's charity for the year ahead and, thanks to the generosity of the South Hams Circle we have raised another £302."

Trevor Davies
President

Children's Liturgy in Weymouth

The parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Weymouth is, like so many other parishes, brought to life by their active Children's Liturgy group that meet in the church. A large group of enthusiastic children take part in various activities that are enjoyable, educational and allows them to express and celebrate their faith.

On Easter Sunday the children presented a beautiful picture of Our Risen Lord along with a cross made of flowers. The cross was placed by the altar - during the Easter Celebration as an offering from the children.

**What is your children's liturgy doing?
Get in touch and let us know!!**

Contact details are on page 2



Golden Celebrations!

**Our Lady Star of the Sea, Brixham
(with St John the Baptist, Dartmouth)**



On Sunday, 12th March, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Brixham celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the church. Fr Sunny Paul MSFS, our Parish Priest, was joined by Principal Celebrant Bishop Mark O'Toole, 4 other priests and over 250 parishioners and guests for the concelebrated Jubilee Mass. During his homily, Bishop Mark's touched upon the Transfiguration of the Lord quoting the cry of St Peter 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here...' Bishop Mark reminded the people of the dedication and hard work that went into making the 'Building' a reality. He continued: "the church is not just a building but a community united in the Lord. As we recall all the Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Marriages and sadly the funerals, the ministry of the priests for the past 50 years, it is wonderful to be gathered today to give God thanks for His many blessings."

Guests at Mass included Mr Kevin Foster MP; Mrs Ann Brook, Vice Chair of Torbay Council; Mrs Rosemary Clarke, Chair Person of Brixham Town Council. Representatives from the local churches, the children from St Margaret Clitherow School, and many former parishioners came too, including Mr Mingo, one of the architects of the church.

About 70 photographs from the Consecration of the church were on exhibition in the Hall. Fr Sunny thanked all the Parishioners for their many months of



hard work and preparation that went into making the celebrations such a joyful occasion. Tony Key raised the toast followed by cutting of the cake by Bishop Mark. Everyone then went on to enjoy a wonderfully laid out buffet lunch.

**Roz Bates
Brixham**



A History of Brixham Parish

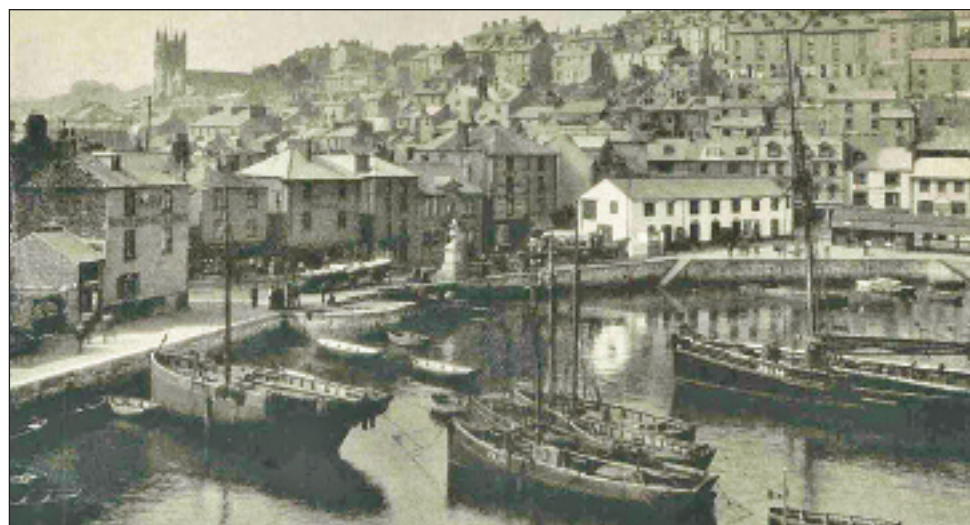
Bishop Graham's notes in the Diocesan records of 1921, state that Mass was celebrated in a private house in Brixham in 1884. From the archives of Paignton Monastery (1881), it appears that Mass was first said in 1883 in a house in Bolton Street. In 1885 a Mission was established at 3 Rockland Terrace where Mass was celebrated for eight adults and a few children. This Mission was closed in 1890 and people began to walk to Paignton for Mass.

In 1912 a retired schoolteacher from Boveys School settled in Brixham with his two daughters and it is recorded that Mass began to be said in their house, situated in Drew Street. In 1925 Fr Paul O'Brien, a Marist priest, purchased a building in Cavern Hill for £208 to be converted into a church named Our Lady, Star of the Sea. To support the church Bishop Keily sent a gift of £200; vestments were given by Canon Barrett of Liskeard, Altar Rails from Fr Gaynor of Keyham, the Altar from Totnes, Baptismal Font from Buckfast and cash donations from various benefactors helped the repairs and renovations. The Church was looked after by the Marist Priests from Paignton until Bishop Grimshaw appointed Fr Ronald Walker to Brixham in 1954 as the first Parish Priest.

In the course of years, Brixham had grown from a fishing village to a town and the old church became inadequate to serve the needs of the Parishioners who too had grown in numbers. Edwards James, a solicitor's Clerk came to know that the house at 43 New Road and the garden were up for sale. He informed Fr Walker about this. In consultation with the Diocese, the property was acquired for building the present Church.

Bishop Restieaux laid the foundation stone of the new Church on 26th May 1966 in the presence of sixteen priests from Torbay. With them were the Chairman of the Urban Council, the Town Clerk and eight members of the Council and very many parishioners.

The church was designed by Evans, Powell and Powell Associates from Paignton. The rooftop car park was so designed to compensate the lack of space for car parking. The tower was intended as a lift to bring people to the



body of the church but was not completed due to lack of funds. On 8th March, 1967 the Church was blessed by Bishop Restieaux, in the presence of Canon Boers, Canon O'Malley and over 60 priests of the diocese and nearly 300 people. During the Homily, bishop Restieaux recalled Fr Walker's initiative in buying the property and the Parishioners who worked tirelessly in making their dream come true. A meal followed the Mass during which Fr Robertson, the then Parish Priest, thanked all the Parishioners whose hard work and sacrifices made the present church a reality.

The stained glass window in the Lady Chapel is by Moira Forsyth A.R.I.B.A. The original altar and altar rails were a gift from Julia Bond, a Cornish lady. The Stations of the Cross were designed by Miss Agatha Walker and are cast in bronzed fiberglass. The Baptismal Font is a gift from the children of the Parish. The Church was completed for a little over £40,000. The suspended ceiling and the reordering of the old stone altar were done in 2004. The present altar and the reredos were a gift from the Daughters of the Cross. It was made for Cardinal Bernard Griffin while he stayed with the Sisters at Stoodley Knowle in the early 1950s.

(From the Diocesan archives and other documents kept with the Parish)

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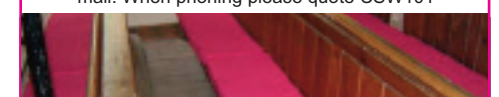
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Bishop Mark O'Toole led a service of blessing

When the school was built in 1964, the parents and Parish raised money to build a Chapel for the school. In those days, the school was run by the Sisters of Mercy, who lived at the Convent on Wyke Road, Weymouth. The Sisters cared for the Chapel



from that time until last year, when Sister Aquin, who was Head Teacher at the school for many years, sadly passed away.

Last year, the Governing Body decided the Chapel needed a complete refurbishment after many years of use. In order to make the Chapel a most spiritual and reflective space, a solid wall was built to separate it from the school hall. The original stone altar was turned around so that Mass could be said in the post Vatican II style for groups in the Chapel.

The original carved metal stations of the cross were positioned around the walls of the chapel and a new tabernacle, which had been donated by friends of the Sisters of Mercy, was installed in the wall. Finally, the Parish donated a beautifully carved portable wooden altar, so that the school could have Mass in the school hall when needed.

As a finishing touch, Father Stephen Geddes kindly gave permission for a stained glass window to be moved from the old St Augustine's Church on Dorchester Road, to the Chapel. This window had been donated to the Parish in the early 1900s by an Italian Family, called the 'Figgolinis'. To move such a delicate piece of work required great planning and skill and the whole procedure, was masterminded by Mr Dick Holton, who had been a pupil when the school opened in 1964.

On Friday, 19th May 2017, Bishop Mark O'Toole led a service of blessing to dedicate the refurbished Chapel. The Chapel monitors from each class accompanied the Bishop as he performed the ceremony. As the Chapel was not big enough for the whole school and visitors, a webcam link was set up, so the whole school could watch. Bishop Mark was delighted that the school benefits from a quiet, inspiring space where the whole community can pray on a daily basis.

The Chapel is dedicated to Saint Thomas Aquinas, the Patron Saint of Schools & Scholars. It is also fittingly, a tribute to Sister Aquin.



Diocesan Pilgrimage
to Launceston, PL15 8XQ
in honour of our secondary Patron
St Cuthbert Mayne
arrested on 8th June 1577, 440 years ago



Saturday 10th June 5pm: Mass and veneration of the relic at Bude
Sunday 11th June 10am: Solemn Mass and veneration of the relic at Launceston
2pm: Praying the Rosary in the Town Square, where the Saint was executed on 30th November 1577
3pm: Solemn Benediction in the presence of Bishop Mark
5pm: Mass and veneration of the relic at Callington.

Those of you unable to come to the main celebrations are invited to visit the shrine church and to pray urgently for priestly vocations in this Diocese.

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from Friday 9th June at 5pm to Sunday 11th June.
- Plenty of parking and toilet facilities.
- Refreshments in the hall, with kitchen and snacking facilities.
- Bookstall, prayer cards, maps of Launceston with prayer walk

It would be helpful if groups of pilgrims could telephone in advance so that they can be worthily welcomed. Tel: 01566 773166.

Canon David Annear
Parish Priest

The Origins of the Launceston Pilgrimage

The First Diocesan Pilgrimage to Launceston to honour the Blessed Cuthbert Mayne (now Saint) was established by Fr. Richard McElroy.

Born in Liverpool in 1877, Richard McElroy joined the Canons Regular at Bodmin in 1902, was ordained priest in 1908, and was Parish Priest at Launceston from 1920 - 1929.

During his time in the parish, Fr. McElroy established Launceston Church as the National Shrine of the Blessed Cuthbert Mayne. It was Fr. McElroy who established Launceston Church as the National Shrine of the Blessed Cuthbert Mayne, and Fr. McElroy who organised the first Diocesan Pilgrimage to Launceston to honour him.

The first Launceston Pilgrimage took place on 21st June 1921. At first it was an annual event but is now held every three years.



The first pilgrimage



Fr Richard McElroy

For Fr. David's book on the Launceston Pilgrimage please go to:
www.stcuthbertmayne.org.uk/books.html

Prayer and Reflection in Chagford



A group of parishioners from Holy Family, Chagford have been meeting in recent months to pray and reflect on how we might deepen the fellowship amongst ourselves and reach out to others in a spirit of evangelisation. We have tried to follow the steps suggested in Sherry Wedell's book, 'Intentional Disciples'. Whilst the very process of meeting and praying helped break down barriers between us and bore its own fruit, we were inevitably confronted with the question what next? One idea was the pilgrimage. We hoped it might act as a point of welcome and introduction to our parish for any who joined us to walk, whilst at the same time symbolise the unity of our parish with its two churches. We perhaps could have publicised it more effectively within and outside the parish but as a first initiative I think we decided to keep it relatively low key.

Led by our Parish Priest, Fr Darline Marianathan MSFS, the day started with Mass at Holy Family at 11am and ended – after around 11miles – at St Boniface at about 5pm. During the course of the day the group consisted of four non-parishioners and eight parishioners from St Boniface and Holy Family. A pilgrimage symbolises our spiritual journey as Christians through life with its highs and lows, joys and sorrows. There was a depth of companionship, conversation that would not otherwise have occurred, prayer both private and shared, food and laughter. There was also genuine challenge as we struggled through some tricky and slippery terrain to keep on track, particularly to make our pub lunch in Sticklepath! The countryside was, however, inspiring and the weather clement.

Arriving at St Boniface, Okehampton we may have been weary but we experienced an inner joy and gratitude for the experience. The organisation was a team effort and we were a harmonious group.

Adrian Aylward
Okehampton & Chagford Parish

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE 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.



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Buckfast Millennium Show Garden

Buckfast Abbey celebrates its millennium year in 2018, a thousand years of having a monastery on the site. It has opened up a host of creative opportunities for the Garden Department.

The Garden Department are planting bulbs, running courses for adults and children, planting new schemes and conducting garden tours. There are so many things going on here and this is just one of our ways to celebrate the 1,000 years of beauty and tranquillity here at Buckfast Abbey - our vision for a reflective and beautiful garden for all to enjoy.

The Millennium Show Garden

Designed to represent the view looking out from the monastery window, catching site of the magnificent stag through the silver birches. Featuring a central arched window framing the stag drinking from the pool - a representation of the Abbey's logo.

Naturalistic planting, sculptural stumps and the use of logs to create a rustic wall all reflect the lifecycle in our adjacent woodlands. The balance of life and death, creativity and growth are all represented by the interweaving of planting and deadwood structures. This is accentuated by the sinuous deadwood branches used to cap the log wall. We aim to show how the formality and beauty of religion live in harmony with the beautiful valley the monks have chosen to inhabit. The meandering silvery pathway is reminiscent of a river bed or holy walk. The log seating is for quiet reflection, meditation and prayer.


Clipped hornbeam hedges define the garden space. Our colour scheme is strictly green and white with touches of blue to enhance the tranquil ambience. The Buckfast Abbey Millennium Show Garden is about balance, space, peacefulness, rejuvenation and authenticity.

For more information see: <<https://www.buckfast.org.uk/whats-on>>www.buckfast.org.uk/whats-on



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The Medaille Trust was founded in 2006 by a number of religious congregations in response to the plight of thousands of people who are being trafficked into the UK each year. The Trust was established as a charity and opened its first safe house in January 2007. A major part of the Trust's work is to raise awareness of the plight of those who enslaved and exploited in the trafficking industry, and campaign on their behalf.



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We are now looking for Diocesan Representatives with good people skills, the ability to make presentations in schools and churches, plus sympathy with our charity:

We have vacancies in these Dioceses:
Northampton, Middlesbrough, Hexham & Newcastle, Arundel & Brighton, Southwark, Clifton

The post holders require a current clean driving licence and use of a car. Also the use of a telephone and a personal computer with internet access is essential.



Closing date: Friday 23 June 2017
Interviews: TBC

For an application pack please visit our website, www.medaille-trust.org.uk or email recruitment@medaille-trust.org.uk

Strictly NQ Agencies. Please note that CVs will not be accepted



For nearly thirty years Church leaders and other pilgrims have travelled from the south-west to the Benedictine Abbey of St Gwenole in Brittany. There is a close affinity between Bretons and Celts and this is both celebrated and renewed by these regular pilgrimages, as well as visits by Fr Abbot and some of the monks to Cornwall. St Gwenole (otherwise known as Winwaloe) was born of British parents who fled to Brittany to avoid the Saxon invaders. In 485 with some companions he founded a monastery

just below the site of the present Abbey, on the banks of the River Aulne. Over the week of 7th May Bishop Mark together with Bishop Tim Thornton of Truro, and Rev Steve Wild, Chairman of the Methodist Church in Cornwall, travelled with a group of pilgrims, from many denominations, to share in the worship and silence of the Abbey. It was a wonderful opportunity to enter into the beauty and simplicity of the liturgy of the monastery and to enjoy fellowship and laughter with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Benedictine – A Way of Life

The Rule of St. Benedict is still the most foundational piece of monastic spirituality in the Western world. The Rule (as it is usually called) is about community living—a day-to-day basic guide originally written for Christian men who wanted to be monks, telling them what to do, how to be Christ-followers in that unique way, and how to get along with each other. Today, people who are committed to monastic values of all kinds turn to the Rule—both lay people and members of vowed religious orders, Catholics as well as Protestants.

The Rule of St. Benedict is not only the basic guide for living for monks of various orders (Benedictine, Cistercian, et cetera), but is also the inspiration for today's neo-monastic movements in cities around the world. It establishes a way of life rooted in the Gospel and grounded in the scriptural principles of charity, humility, stability, and faithfulness. The Rule sets forth an outline for Christian discipleship drawn from the heart of Jesus' ministry—the call to follow Christ, to be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit, and to become living witnesses to the grace of God in the world. Every aspect of Benedictine spirituality flow from it.

Here are just a few spiritual practices that draw their wisdom from Benedict:

DISCIPLINE

"Arise without delay," Benedict writes in the Prologue to his Rule. "Let us open our eyes to the Divine light and attentively hear the Divine voice, calling and exhorting us daily."

HUMILITY

A monk is to be humble, and in his humility, he finds joy and even humor. As Benedict says, "by means of his very body [he] always shows his humility to all who see him: that is, in work, in the monastery, in the garden, on the road, in the field, or wherever he may be ... with head always bent down and eyes fixed on the earth, he always thinks of the guilt of his sins and imagines himself already present before the terrible judgment seat of God."

This may not seem like much to laugh at, or to find joy in, but it can be. Personal humility combined with God's judgment can seem at times like preparing for a typhoon by purchasing an umbrella. There's not much to do but laugh.

WORK

Before Benedict in the sixth century, work was done by people who had no choice but to do it. In the Roman Empire, slaves were acquired to do as much of the physical work as possible, and getting one's hands dirty with manual labor was seen as a curse one was born into. But with Benedict, work became prayer, not to be distinguished from other kinds of mental prayer. Your hands are praying while building a table. Your body is praying not only in kneeling before the altar but in sweating in the fields to produce daily bread. Work was made holy by St. Benedict.

TOOLS IN THE SPIRITUAL WORKSHOP

The fourth chapter in the Rule of St. Benedict is my favorite. In it, Benedict prioritises the good works of a monk and how to do them—in other words, what tools to use to accomplish the tasks. Many of the good works he lists are of the obvious sort—following the ten commandments, for example. But there are some surprises. Monks are asked, for instance, to "bury the dead" and "to dread hell," both of which have much to do with the medieval mindset. But there are others that uniquely aim a monk at virtue. For example, "not to cherish an opportunity for displaying one's anger" and "not to give the kiss of peace insincerely." A few of the injunctions reflect values that are still kept in monasteries, but in very few other places: "to revere the elders," "to pray for one's enemies in the love of Christ," and "after a quarrel to make peace with the other before sunset."

Benedict's language emphasises the unity of the human person in a way that was once commonly understood—that is, when a person was believed to respond to God with body/soul (without distinction) all at once. Benedict reminds the monks: "to fall often to prayer," as in, literally, to one's knees.

PLENTY MORE

Numerous other spiritual principles have their origins in Benedict's great Rule. Hospitality, for instance, was practiced more in the medieval monasteries than anywhere else at that time. There were times and places when and where the only safe place where a man could find refuge—and be treated kindly as a welcome stranger—was in the monasteries.

And then there is spiritual reading, or lectio divina. Visit almost any Benedictine monastery at meal time and you'll be treated to a form of this ancient tradition practiced out loud, when a designated monk reads while the others eat. In the refectory the reading is done by one of the brothers, while everyone else eats in silence. The Rule puts it this way: "There is to be complete silence, so that no whisper nor any voice other than that of the reader be heard there. Whatever is wanted for eating and drinking the brethren should pass to one another, so that no one need ask for anything. If, however, something is wanted, it should be asked for by some sign or sound rather than by speaking." Sometimes this takes place throughout the meal, other times only for part of the time. The books are usually selected by the abbot, and they are not necessarily spiritual. I once spent two lunches at a priory in Vermont listening to a new history of the Civil War.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

You may want to consider writing your own Rule of Life, incorporating the best of the Rule of St. Benedict as well as other

considerations that reflect what's most important to you in your spiritual life. Consider:

What are you living for?

What is most important in life?

How do you want to spend your time?

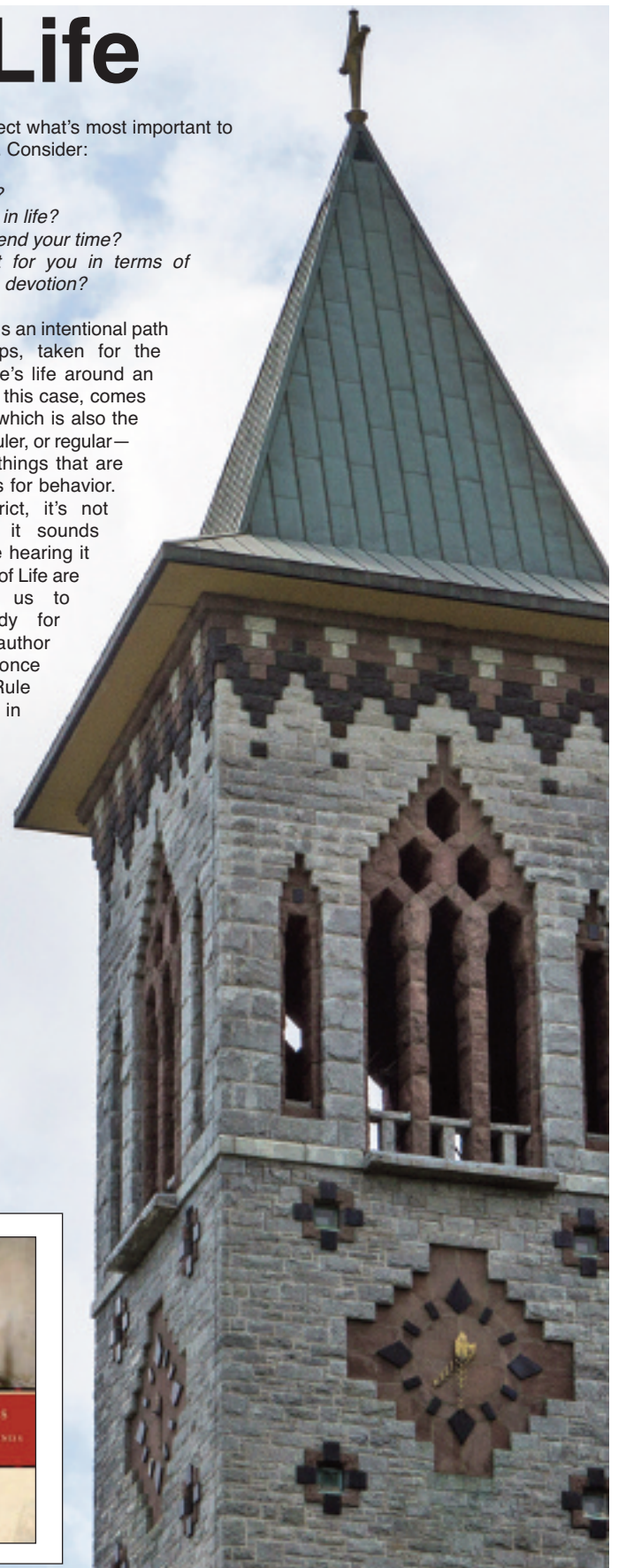
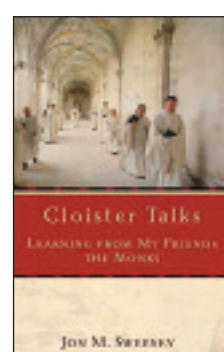
What does God want for you in terms of worship, study, service, devotion?

A personal Rule of Life is an intentional path of real, concrete steps, taken for the purpose of forming one's life around an ideal. The word rule, in this case, comes the Latin word regula, which is also the root for words such as ruler, or regular—in other words, those things that are supposed to be models for behavior. If a Rule sounds strict, it's not supposed to, but if it sounds disciplined, then you're hearing it correctly. Helpful Rules of Life are patterns that guide us to become people ready for heaven. Popular author Dallas Willard once compared a spiritual Rule to a "Curriculum in Christlikeness"—and that's just about right.

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Jon Sweeney.

Further Reading:

Cloister Talks
by
Jon M. Sweeney





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

- 5 A poem aims to desecrate an ancient civilization (11)
- 7 Jaguar engine sound? (4)
- 8 Teacher training familiar Egyptian English has almost finished a drink (8)
- 9 Mix small fish into Chinese dish (4,3)
- 10 Model hairpiece – a bit out on a limb, perhaps (4)
- 12 Principal guitarist featured in heavy metal (4)
- 14 Heavenly cathedral's Scottish name (7)
- 17 Time, after a Fourth of July drenched in alcohol, for a special glass (8)
- 18 Bear first left for archaeological site (4)
- 19 Invasion team prepared to drive out Eastern antipope's doctrine (11)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 One who takes great interest in money matters? (6)
- 2 Arrogant newcomer raises trenchant support (7)
- 3 Second gallery in Washington, for instance (5)
- 4 Charm a stubborn beast over time (6)
- 5 Sirion nun, Mother Superior, appears after a short time (5,6)
- 6 Manic signal coming from Canterbury? (11)
- 11 Refuse Aeroflot's American passengers (7)

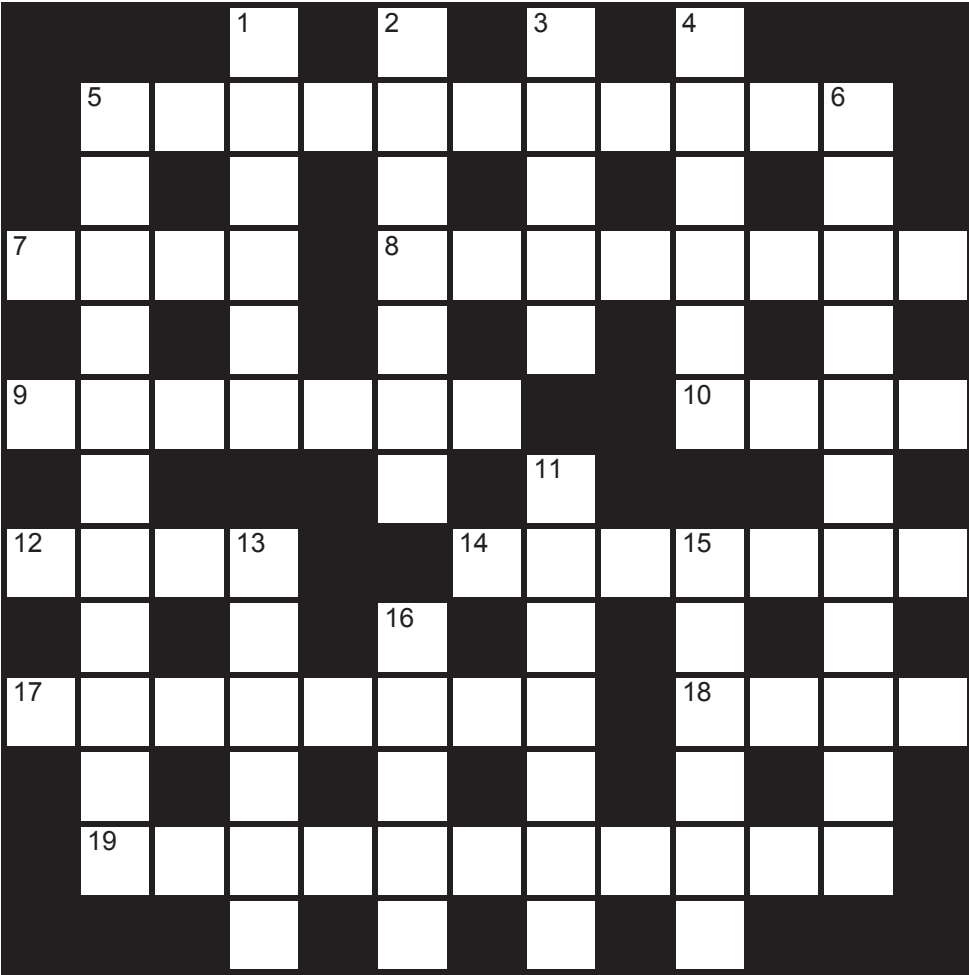
- 13 Kind of case meeting is set, about four (6)
- 15 Even the odd involvement with US tax returns is seedy (6)
- 16 Tokyo? No, somewhere else nearby (5)

QUICK Across

- 5 Biblical land, 'between the rivers' (11)
- 7 Sound of contentment made by a feline (4)
- 8 Guardianship; education (8)
- 9 Wok style of cooking (4,3)
- 10 Part of a tree branch (4)
- 12 Starring role (4)
- 14 Blissful (7)
- 17 Blue-purple gemstone (8)
- 18 Bankruptcy (4)
- 19 Relating to a third century antipope, or his party or sect, who favoured severity against the lapsed (11)

QUICK Down

- 1 Extortionate money lender (6)
- 2 Cheeky new kid on the block (7)
- 3 Express; affirm (5)
- 4 Trinket usually hung about the neck, thought to be a magical protection against evil or disease (6)
- 5 Possible site of the Transfiguration, aka Sirion (5,6)
- 6 Principles of the Church of England (11)
- 11 Floating wreckage of a ship (7)
- 13 In grammar, the case expressing an indirect object (6)
- 15 Dirty, squalid (6)
- 16 Japanese capital until 1868 (5)



SOLUTION

Across: 5 anag, 7 pun, 8 Tut+E+lage(-r), 9 stir+try, 10 T+wig, 12 double def, 14 Ely's+ian, 17 Novatianism. Down: 1 Usurer, 2 Upstart, 3 State, 4 Amulet, 5 Mount Hermon, 6 Anglicanism, 11 Flotsam, 13 Dative, 15 Sordid, 16 Kyoto.

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