

# 100 YEARS OF FATIMA

*See pages 6 & 7*



**“A Church for the Poor”**  
- Heaven’s Road FM  
broadcast schedule -  
*Page 2*

**Reaching Out to Africa -  
Clothes for the Children -**  
*Page 8*

**Tuned in to the  
Lord? -**  
*Page 10*

**Cardinal Cormac  
Murphy O’Connor -  
Bp Mark’s Homily -**  
*Page 11*



*'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: Ruari McCallion

Your articles are most welcome. Please send by email to [csw@cathcom.org](mailto:csw@cathcom.org) or post to CathCom Ltd, N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, CB9 7BN. Please note the previous email address was wrong

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Susanne Kowal, Sue Walsh and  
Adrian Wardle  
Chairman to be appointed.

**COPY DEADLINE:**

9th October, November Edition

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



# Editor's Thoughts.....

**Fatima: the First 100 Years**

October 13 2017 – just a few weeks away – will mark the Centenary of the final Apparition at Fatima, Portugal. A series of appearances by Our Lady to three simple Portuguese children concluded with what came to be known as the “Miracle of the Sun”. See our special feature for more details.

Back then, the world was embroiled in what was called – for a while – the “War to End all Wars”; how hollow that phrase sounds now. It was known as “The Great War” until we turned to simply numbering these catastrophic conflicts. As Our Lady appeared to Lucia Santos and her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, men were dying in their hundreds of thousands in the mud and slaughter of Passchendaele, in Belgium, more than a thousand miles from Fatima. She warned that there would be worse if the world did not turn to Her and to Her Beloved Son. Who can argue that this prophecy was incorrect?

A full century after the Apparitions, we seem to be in more need of Our Lady's Grace than ever before. There are wars, rumours of wars, natural disasters, barbarism and cruelty on display on rolling news services, round the clock. We have never before had the opportunity to witness the baser aspects of humanity more clearly, or from so far afield.

But the Message of Fatima is not a verdict of guilt, nor a condemnation of everyone on Earth. It is a warning, and warnings are delivered in order to encourage people to change direction, to rethink

what they are doing before it goes too far. We must fall into despair; we must do what Our Lady asked. Pray the Rosary, make sacrifices.

The question is often asked: what can I do? I am only one person. What difference can I make?

Anyone who thinks that something small can have no influence on something big has never shared a room with a mosquito!

As well as the carnage of the First World War, 1917 saw the Russian Revolution and the overthrow of a ruling regime that had seemed as permanent as the landscape itself. Its replacement, the Soviet Union, was responsible for the deaths of over 40 million people – not including those who died during World War 2. It seemed intractable and, for a time, as if the tide of history was running in favour of the Communist ideology. And then, almost as suddenly as it had arrived – it was over. The Soviet regime proved impossible to reform and collapsed in a few days in Summer 1991.

Sister Lucia of Fatima replied to a request for prayers from Cardinal Caffarra, founding President of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, with a long letter in which she said that the final battle between the Lord and the reign of Satan will be about marriage and the family.

It seems we are right in the middle of that battle.

Don't be afraid, Sister Lucia added, because anyone who works for the sanctity of marriage and



the family will always be fought and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue. However, Our Lady has already crushed the serpent's head. That should give us encouragement to implement her requests with renewed vigour: pray the Rosary, make sacrifices.

We have a bit of a roundup of parish activity so far this year, and some diary dates for October. In the next edition we hope to report on what people have done to mark the Centenary of Fatima. Please get your reports to me soon! Send emails to [csw@cathcom.org](mailto:csw@cathcom.org).

**Confused? No need to be!**

Some of you living or visiting Exeter around September 22 may have seen publicity about – or maybe even partaken in – a debate at the University on the motion: “This House Believes that Prostitution Should Be legalised”. You may have seen a name very like my own as one of the speakers, along with prominent Catholic blogger and journalist, Caroline Farrow, and wondered if it really was me. Yes, it was.

Just to reassure you: we opposed the motion!

# A CHURCH FOR THE POOR

**Heaven's Road Catholic Radio launches a new Radio Series, starting 1st October**



Heaven's Road FM writes: One of the first things Pope Francis said was that he wanted a Poor Church for the Poor. As part of this drive he has introduced a **World Day of the Poor**, to be observed 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 the disadvantaged, both in the UK and overseas. Hopefully, these programmes will inspire others either to get involved in helping organisations already active, or even to start their own project.

The programmes cover a diversity of “poverty” and how the Church is helping the Hungry; Homeless; Sick and Dying; Refugees and those in war zones; in Slavery; denial of religious freedom; those trapped in Debt; etc.

The programmes will be broadcast, starting Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, online at [www.heavensroadfm/listennow](http://www.heavensroadfm/listennow). See the weekly schedule for more information; you can find it online, at the website.

It's not too late to be included, if you've a story to tell about a project helping the disadvantaged, please email [admin@heavensroadfm.com](mailto:admin@heavensroadfm.com). Heaven's Road broadcasts features, prayers and music tailored for Catholic tastes online. Many of its programmes are available to 'catch up'; if you want to sample what the station has already broadcast or maybe catch something you missed, try [www.heavensroadfm.com/listenagain](http://www.heavensroadfm.com/listenagain).

It broadcasts loads of live Masses every day – something in excess of 30, from parishes across England, Wales and Ireland. You can follow at home at [www.heavensroadfm.com/live-masses](http://www.heavensroadfm.com/live-masses). If you would like to provide practical support, go to [www.heavensroadfm.com/donate](http://www.heavensroadfm.com/donate) and find out how to do so.



# Fr Kristian's Jubilee

September 8th, the feast day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, saw Fr Kristian Paver celebrate his Silver Jubilee with the congregation of St Mary's and St George, Totnes. He was pleased to be presented with his Jubilee certificate; a papal blessing from the Holy Father Pope Francis. A parishioner spoke about the lifetime dedication required to be a priest, and the gratitude of the parishioners for his wonderful ministry over his many years in Totnes.



# REJUVENATION OF HOLY FAMILY PARISH, PENZANCE

*An effective Revival needs somewhere safe and dry, as well as the embrace of hearts and minds!*

## Hayle – replacement facilities building

St Joseph the Worker Church in Hayle began life as a Baptist Chapel built in the 1870's. The Baptists vacated the premises in the 1930's and the building lay derelict for some time. After the end of the War (WW2), it was bought and fitted out as a Catholic Church, being dedicated by Bishop Restieaux in October 1958. Attached to the liturgical east wall of the church was a building that accommodated a large hall, a very small sacristy, and a kitchen. A rather dismal toilet and a store were located outside. Internal access was down two very deep, narrow steps, which made disabled access difficult and undignified, where it wasn't impossible. The beautiful Hayle estuary runs close to this building, to the rear of the church – but beauty can be only skin deep! The effect on this single skin, semi-timber construction building of the tide rising and falling twice a day was to make the whole building feel constantly damp; that feeling that wasn't helped by the poor design of a valley gutter attaching the hall/sacristy/kitchen building to the church.

Over the years, the external wall facing the Estuary began leaning very noticeably towards the water; it was found that the weight of the roof was pushing it outwards. Before it actually collapsed, we knew this part of the parish buildings had to be replaced by something that better served our needs now, and in the future. With this in mind, we decided on a 'build to budget' approach to a reconstruction project, funding it from a Legacy, parish CIF, and generous donations from some parishioners.

For the past twelve months we have managed with no sacristy, hall or toilet, while the old hall and outbuildings were demolished, and a replacement built. The new building was completed in August this year and now provides us with a larger and properly equipped sacristy; a small meeting room with kitchen facilities along one wall; and a toilet that is now, mercifully, accessible from indoors. The floor of the new building was raised to the same level as the church, and the doors were widened to allow wheelchair access.

We are all very pleased with the outcome! From the outside, it looks like a chancel has been added to the church. Although new, the addition is, in every aspect, totally in keeping with the existing church and the wider locality. A vital transformation into the 21st century for our parish life in Hayle.

The beautiful Rose East Window at St Ives Church, depicting Our Lady, in this fine church by A.J.C. Scholes, dates from about 1916. Over the years some minor repairs had been carried out which, unfortunately, had contributed to its poor condition – something that was highlighted in the quinquennial reports. We knew the window needed proper restoration, by stained glass craftsmen who understood the age and the style design of the window. A quote for the work was accepted, and work started in early Lent 2017.



*Out with the old...*



*and in with the new building, facing the Estuary*

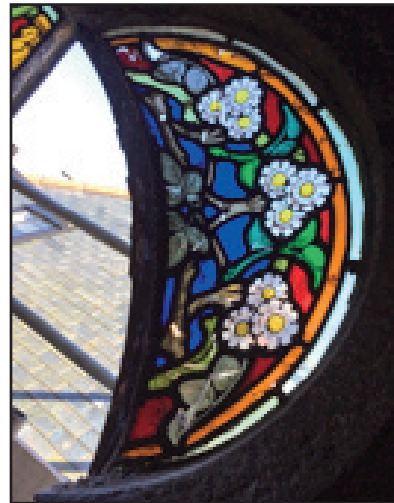
Once the glaziers were up on the scaffolding and began to remove the panels, it became clear that this would be a far bigger job than was originally thought. The central steel frame was badly decayed and rusted after a century of Cornish sea air, and much of the stained glass, which seemed to be bulging far worse than could be seen from below, was actually missing. The result was that an entirely new frame had to be made and far more of the glass than originally anticipated had to be replaced with matching painted and fired glass. A stainless steel wire protection guard has been fitted externally to protect the window from seagull damage! This had to be done at great speed by the

various contractors; St Ives is a very popular wedding location and quite a few were booked for just after Easter – we were on a tight time schedule. As the sanctuary had to be scaffolded for internal access, we only had the Lenten season to complete the restoration work.

The window was magnificently revealed in time for Palm Sunday. Quite a Lenten exercise this year.

*Right: The damaged glass before.*

*Below: The restored window after*



## Penzance:

We are now in the process of clearing the crypt and former old school kitchen and dining room, which was vacated in 1979 when the school moved to its new site in Peverell Road. This is now ready for the commencement of Phase 1 of the 2 Phase renovation of the church, and will include much needed parish facilities. Phase One of the major work is due to be completed in time for the church's 175th Anniversary, 26th October 2018.

## Cornwall Deanery

*Parish of St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston  
(With St Peter's, Bude and Our Lady of Victories, Callington)  
Article submitted by Canon David Annear, Parish Priest*

## Diocesan Pilgrimage to Launceston 2017



*Filipino family fun day at St Cuthbert Mayne Launceston*

This Family Day was organised by Merlin McGuire, helped by members of the Catholic parish of St Cuthbert Mayne, which covers most of north and east Cornwall.

The event took place on Saturday 26th August in Coronation Park, Launceston in brilliant sunshine. There were team games – red, white and blue – in tug of war and other gentler sports. Filipino food was supplied in abundance.

About one hundred people were there. Most were from families who live and work locally, but some who had moved away to Plymouth, Bristol and London returned for the day. This was a wonderful chance to renew friendships and celebrate the Filipino way of life.



*The red team celebrate their achievements at the Filipino family fun day*

## Around the South West

### South-West Celebrate Weekend

14/15 October Notre Dame School, Looseleigh, Lane Plymouth PL6 5HN. Main speakers: Rev Olly Ryder, Pippa Baker, David Wells. More details: [www.celebrateconference.org](http://www.celebrateconference.org)

### Holy Family Parish Penzance/St Ives/Hayle/Isles of Scilly

Pilgrimage to Walsingham 1-7 October

### Our Lady of All Nations, Camborne and Redruth

The Rosary Group meets at the Convent, Redruth, every Wednesday at 3pm. St Vincent de Paul society meets every other Friday in the Church Hall at 7.45pm.

### Focus on your Marriage - Catholic Marriage Enrichment

Saturday, 21st October 2017, 10.00 am - 4 pm, St Peter's Church, Crownhill, 15 Boniface Lane, Plymouth, PL5 3AX. Films, inspiration, activities (but no group work). Drinks provided but please bring a packed lunch. To book a place contact Deborah van Kroonenburg: [deborahvankroo@gmail.com](mailto:deborahvankroo@gmail.com) or text 07961099173.

### St Mary's Poole

DANCE PARTY 7 October from 7.00pm to 11.00pm in St Mary's Church Hall. Music by B Town Soul Cats. Tickets available after morning Mass at St Mary's or from St Mary's Parish Office: £10 for adults, children free. Buffet, refreshments and drinks available. CONFIRMATION programme information meeting for parents and candidates on Sunday 15th October at 4.00pm in St Mary's Church hall, followed by 5.30pm Mass.

### St Joseph & St Walburga, and Our Lady of Fatima, Poole

FIRST COMMUNIONS 2018 Information session for parents of children in Year 3 and above: Sat 14th October in St. Joseph's Hall 11am-12 Noon and at Our Lady of Fatima on Thurs 28th September 7pm. Applications cannot be accepted after 31st October. St. Joseph's would very much appreciate help from new catechists.

### St Catherine's Wimborne Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

18-125 February 2018. Presentation and Facts at Holy Trinity Centre, Culliford Rd North, Dorchester DT1 1QG, 7.00pm Tuesday 3 October

### St Peter's 6th Form

Open evening St Catherine's Road BH6 4AH: Thursday 12 October, 5.30-8.30pm (welcome talks 6pm & 7pm).

## WE NEED YOUR PARISH NEWS TO GO HERE!

**No parish news? Maybe you should start something!**



# HELP NEEDED

**We are publishing here an appeal for financial help for a young man in a country in Africa, to complete his studies in the Law. His country is not known for fairness or equity in the application of the Law; it really needs as many incorruptible and fair legal officers as it can get. If you can help then please get in touch with Frances Ann Vacas – address at the foot of the article.**

**Names have been changed to protect the innocent.**

John was born in a poor African country, the 9th child of his parents. His mother died in giving birth to him; his father, unable to cope, left the home. John was picked up off the street by a caring family who tried to bring him up as their own child. John later attended a secondary school and was a promising pupil. However, senior level education is not free in that country and his parents could not pay for him. He was fortunate to be assisted by the Missionaries to get through school. He was elected to be the captain of a school team, which had been funded to travel for sports matches. Sadly and frustratingly, it was found that the school's staff had embezzled the funds so the students could not play. This was especially sad as the team was reckoned to be among the best in the county. The Missionaries advised John to try for help from the CJP (the local legal authority/prosecution office). The CJP was most helpful and managed to recover the funding and went further: they praised John for his courage and uprightness and encouraged him to take up law, as he showed an aptitude in that subject.



qualifications, he could become a High Court Judge in his country and hopefully re-energise the CJP, as well as working with others to overcome the unjust practices that seem, if anything, to have grown and developed in his absence.

As John does not really have any family he would be most grateful if anyone could assist him to find the money needed to complete his studies and start new beginnings in his own beloved country. His need is not insignificant: it is for about £10,000 pounds (ten thousand pounds).

Editor's note: The Well of Need is never dry and there are always going to be calls on your charity and generosity. This particular case stands out, I believe, because it could be one of those 'buy a man a fish and you feed him for a day – teach a man to fish and you feed him for life' cases. If John – not his real name – succeeds in his ambition to become a High Court Judge in his country, committed to justice and fairness for all – regardless of wealth, resources or connections – then he could help to change the culture of corruption and cronyism.

If you are able to or would like to help somehow, please get in touch with. Any people wishing to donate or who could suggest a body or organisation that could help should contact Mrs. Pip Pedlingham (bobpedlingham@ntlworld.com) or Frances Ann Vacas (favacas@hotmail.co.uk)

John continued to speak up for justice, especially when a poor or sick person was being harassed. In a corrupt system and country, such courage is very unpopular and led to him having to leave his country, in fear of his life. John managed to get into England and eventually he got to University to study law. He worked extremely hard, trying to earn part of his fees as well as living in poor accommodation, where study was difficult. He was thrilled to pass his law exams with a 2:1 pass; he was accepted into one of the four Inns of Court in London, and was on the way to become a barrister.

On returning to his home, John saw the very great need for him to continue his studies and to help to upgrade his country. Lawyers do not get such an excellent training as John had received and they often went to him for advice in preparing their cases. The local Bishop also sought his advice because, as well as being just, John was also merciful. John felt that, if he upgraded his

# Goodbye to Margaret

In 1959, Margaret Tanner, Sacristan at St Joseph the Worker Church in Hayle, Cornwall, arrived from her native Ireland to Cheam, South London, to the Mother House of the Daughters of the Cross, to train as a nurse. In 1963, she came to St Michael's Hospital in Hayle, which was founded by the Order, and has been in the town ever since!

Margaret met and married Robert Tanner, a widower with three children, and added three more to their family. She raised the three younger children alone for some years, following the sad and early death of her husband. She was married in St Joseph's, her children were all baptised, made First Holy Communion and were confirmed there, too; one of them was an altar server from age 6. The children have all done well in life and are a credit to their Mum. As well as running a well known shoe-shop in the town for a number of years, Margaret became involved with many of

the organisations in Hayle, including the Food Bank, Churches Together, Hayle in Bloom, and the Christmas lights committee. She also organised an annual Celebration on the town's beautiful King George V Memorial Walk, which attracted large crowds. Sadly for us all, Margaret is returning to Ireland. Following a family death recently, she will go back to help run the family farm with her brother. She cheerfully tells us, in the Irish brogue which she has never lost, that she is going back to be a farm labourer!

Margaret has served well as Sacristan at our lovely Church for many years, meeting and greeting everyone who walked through its doors. She surely contributed in no small way to the feeling of "family" that prevails there. It will be hard for anyone to follow in the footsteps of this good and capable lady. She leaves our Church and our town with our love, blessings and thanks.

# St Vincent de Paul society launches Teas with the R.Cs.

**- and you don't have to be a Catholic!  
Come and enjoy tea & company**

I first encountered the St. Vincent de Paul organisation in strongly Catholic Malta during my visits in connection with my Directorship of Friends of Albania. They had a high profile and were doing much good.

In Truro, Cornwall, a SVP branch has recently been revived attached to St. Piran's Church, following a change of clergy, and the retirement of a former organisers. I attended a meeting and was made welcome, and have subsequently joined in as far as is possible for the elderly, sick person I have become! Recently this group has commenced holding monthly tea-parties, aimed specifically for the older and/or disabled people. Attendance is growing, there are cucumber sandwiches, cake and hot drinks. There is no entry charge but a bowl for donations. Anyone can join in but Catholics predominate; it is a parish event, after all!


There is a variety of options for older people seeking company in the area – some more suitable than others, particularly regarding access and content. At St. Piran's, there is parking, disabled access, toilets and chairs with

arms! But the outstanding feature is kindness! The leader and her helpers greet all arrivals, take time to make sure they are comfortable, learn their names and make introductions.

The attendees are also generally kind to each other, generous in helping disabled persons and will chat interestingly. There is no muzak, noise or compulsory Bingo! We sit round one large table in the Church Hall. Attendance is growing and the teas are now set to replace soup lunches in Winter.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September there were several new (to me) faces but one elderly couple really stood out. They arrived with carer help. I was advised that the lady in a wheelchair had severe dementia. Her husband ignored this and spent most of his time caressing her as she cuddled against his shoulder. I was too far away to speak but I gained the impression that to him she was the same, lovely young girl he had married many years ago. Love had not faded.

**Primrose Peacock,  
Truro**



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# Sclerder Chemin Neuf Family Festival 2017



*Bishop Mark addresses the Chemin Neuf family festival*

On Saturday 19th August, Sclerder Abbey hosted around 250 visitors from near and far at the Sclerder Family Festival 2017, under blessedly warm and sunny skies! The event was organised by the Chemin Neuf Community in collaboration with the Anglican and Catholic communities: Churches Together and Celebrate Plymouth. After Welcoming and Registration, the official opening in the big marquee was addressed by Bishop Mark O'Toole (Roman Catholic), Bishop Chris Goldsmith (Anglican), the Reverend Mark Pengelly (Methodist Superintendent Minister, Liskeard and Looe Circuit) and Helen Priestley (CofE). The Festival was the first of its kind to be held in the grounds of Sclerder Abbey. It was an ecumenical event for all ages on the theme "HOME is where the heart is". It featured family activities based around a series of tours of the historic Abbey, Building our Dream House, the Family Journey, Conflict Resolution; and other workshops, ranging from cookie making to stained glass window decoration. There were indoor and outdoor games and plentiful food, tea & cakes, with a picnic lunch and an excellent barbecue in the evening. There were lively acts of worship in the Worship Tent at intervals throughout the day; the concluding Service was enlivened by a live worship band.

In her welcoming speech Sister Jacqueline, who has led the Sclerder Community since it was handed over to them by the Carmelite Sisters in August 2014, said that many families had formed Sclerder Abbey over the centuries.

"First and most important was Sir Harry Trelawney's family, who founded it. Since then other families had come to develop and deepen the prayer life, like the Poor Clare Sisters and the Carmelite Sisters," she said. The Chemin Neuf Community was founded in 1973 in Lyon, France. It is composed of consecrated celibates (Brothers, Sisters and Priests) and Couples. It is a Roman Catholic Community that welcomes Christians from other denominations and works to strengthen the bonds between our churches. Chemin Neuf is today present in 24 countries; it has six Community Houses in the UK. Further information about the Community and its world-wide activities can be obtained from their Website [www.chemin-neuf.org.uk](http://www.chemin-neuf.org.uk).

Building on the success of this first Family Festival, Chemin Neuf have announced that they will hold a second event next year, on Saturday 18th of August 2018.



*A Knitting Bee*



*Fun and games at Chemin Neuf*

## St Mary Immaculate Bids Farewell to Fr Steven



*Fr Steven Palumbo bids farewell to parishioners of St Mary Immaculate, Falmouth*





In August this year Fr Steven Bulambo, who is from Malawi, visited St Mary Immaculate Church, Falmouth, to bid us 'farewell' at the conclusion of a total of five years of study in Belgium. St Mary's had sponsored him through the Missio SPA (St Peter the Apostle) scheme for his four years' study of Theology, prior to his Ordination in Malawi in 2004. Canon Bede Davis (RIP), then the parish priest, along with three parishioners had gone out to Malawi for the Ordination and spent some time there, appreciating warmth of welcome; not for nothing is Malawi known as the "Warm heart of Africa"! After his ordination, Father Steven spent seven years as a parish priest in Mazuzu and Karonga, after which his Bishop asked him to undertake further theological studies.


Aid to the Church in Need sponsored Father Stephen to the University of Louvain, Belgium, where he obtained a Masters degree in Society, Law and Religion, followed by a Masters in Canon Law. He carried out research for his degree in Malawi. His home diocese had been split in two and his bishop then asked him to undertake a doctorate in Canon Law, for the new Diocese. This entailed another three arduous years of study at Louvain.

Father Steven visited St Mary's each year during his five years in Louvain, doing supply work on occasion. He endeared himself to the people of the Parish and made many friends and so, in August this year, he came to say a final farewell

at our weekend Masses. He thanked the congregation and everyone for their support and prayers during his studies and concluded with a Malawian song and dance of praise and thanks to God, clapping and dancing as well. Not surprisingly, he received a loud round of applause!

When he returns home, Father Steven will be assigned to pastoral duties in a parish. The new Diocese is about the same size as Plymouth's but it has just 16 priests for 65,000 Catholics. Some parishes have 30 outstations and not all of them can have a priest for Mass every weekend – as we are so privileged to have, here. Vocations are plentiful, however; the Diocese itself has its own seminary. We wish Father Steven God's blessings in the years ahead, and his parishes, his teaching at the national seminary, and in his work with the marriage tribunal. About 12 parishes in the Plymouth diocese currently sponsor a seminarian. They may be found in Sri Lanka, Malawi, India, Kenya or Nigeria. St Mary Immaculate Parish is currently sponsoring Brother Joseph Kapalasa, who is now in his final year studying Theology at St Peter's Major Seminary, Zomba, Malawi. Sponsoring a seminarian in a poor country is twice blessed! It blesses the seminarian himself, who is aware of our support and prayers, and it also enriches the sponsoring parish, in many ways. Details of the Missio's St Peter the Apostle sponsorship scheme can be found at [www.missio.org.uk/SPA](http://www.missio.org.uk/SPA).



# Daniel O'Donnell

FRIDAY  
**15<sup>TH</sup>**  
DEC 2017

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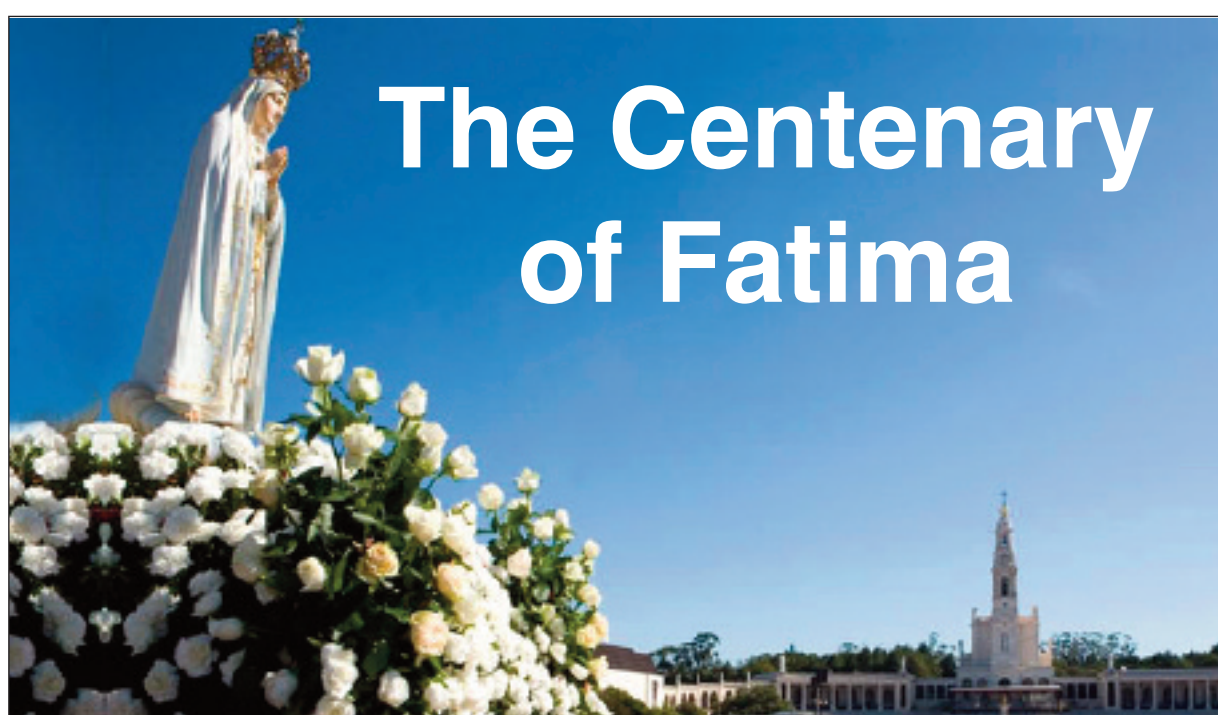
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## October 13 2017: the "Miracle of the Sun"

Word had spread about the Apparitions at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. Even in the midst of the Great War that was convulsing the world, the supernatural events in this humble Portuguese village was rising. Our Lady had said she would perform a miracle and reveal who she was on October 13 that year; a huge crowd – estimated at around 70,000 people – had gathered on the bare hillside above the village to see what might transpire.

The weather and conditions were very poor. It had rained all night and the tracks were as muddy as the slopes were slippery. A trestle had been erected over the little holm oak of the apparitions. As the children made their way to the Cova, one can easily imagine the murmuring

and tumult that ebbed and flowed around them, including both adulation and scepticism. As well as faithful believers they encountered critics who questioned their honesty and reliability. They also questioned the timekeeping of the Lady; she had promised to arrive at noon but the clocks were well past that hour. The sun, however, had yet to reach its zenith; when it did, the Lady appeared – as she had said she would. She answered the children's three questions and confirmed that she was the Lady of the Rosary.

She then turned towards the East and raised the palms of her hands to the dark, overcast sky. While the rain had stopped, dark clouds continued to obscure the Sun. Suddenly, it burst through and was seen by thousands who were there as a soft,

spinning, disk of silver. It could be looked at without any discomfort or danger to the eyes.

The Sun then trembled and made sudden, impossible movements: it 'danced across the sky', according to eye witnesses. Some said they had seen the face of the Blessed Virgin; others said that it had whirled like a giant Catherine Wheel. Some said they saw it change colour. Even O Seculo, a well-known anti-clerical newspaper of the time, published eyewitness accounts of the Miracle of the Sun.

If you want to find out more and have access to the Internet, google "Fatima apparitions" or "Miracle of the Sun".

## Around the Parishes

### *Parish of the Immaculate Conception, North Devon*

Fr. Paul Andrew, Parish Priest, has had a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima for many years. He has celebrated Masses here on all the main Feast Days since his arrival.

Fr. Paul and his Parish Pastoral Assistant, Mr Chris Eastaugh, joined a Pilgrimage organised by the Ecumenical Friends of Fatima Association (of which Fr. Paul is a Member) and were privileged to be in Fatima on 13th May, for the opening of the Celebrations and the visit of the Holy Father Pope Francis to Canonise the two children, St Jacinta and St Francisco. Visits were made to the usual sites associated with the Apparitions. Fr. Paul had the honour of reading the Gospel in English at the Sunday morning Mass.

Fr. Paul made a further visit to Fatima in July on a Pilgrimage organised by The World Apostolate of Fatima, with Bishop Mark, and will be leading a Pilgrimage in October to coincide with the anniversary of Our Lady's final apparition and Miracle of the Sun.

At the Parish of St Mary's, Barnstaple, we have made the Fatima devotions on 13th of each month; commenced the "Five First Saturday" devotions and the Rosary is now said before morning prayer each weekday.

### *Stella Maris, Weymouth*

The miracle of Fatima and the apparitions of our Blessed Lady and the prophecies she gave have been the defining marks of the last 100 years. What is next? We must pray for God's mercy and grace, that what is to come will be good for us, for the Church and for our salvation.

To mark this centenary, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the church at 10.am on Friday 13th October and the Rosary will be said for peace. Holy Mass will be offered in honour of our Blessed Lady and the three children of Fatima. This will be followed by a light lunch in the Parish Hall followed by a DVD on the apparitions of Fatima and what they mean for all of us.

Please try and come along and help us to make a fitting tribute to God and his Holy Mother and a thanksgiving for his continued love for us and our families.

### *St Paul the Apostle, Tintagel*

Fr Brian Storey says that the Rosary is said each day in church, along with the Fatima prayers.



The Parish of Our Lady of Fatima, Poole, could be expected to have a particular commitment to marking the Centenary of Fatima – and this has proved to be the case!

Parishioners decided to raise funds for commemorative stained glass windows in the Lady Chapel and a Shrine in the Church Grounds and they have been marking the Anniversary each month as follows:

### MAY

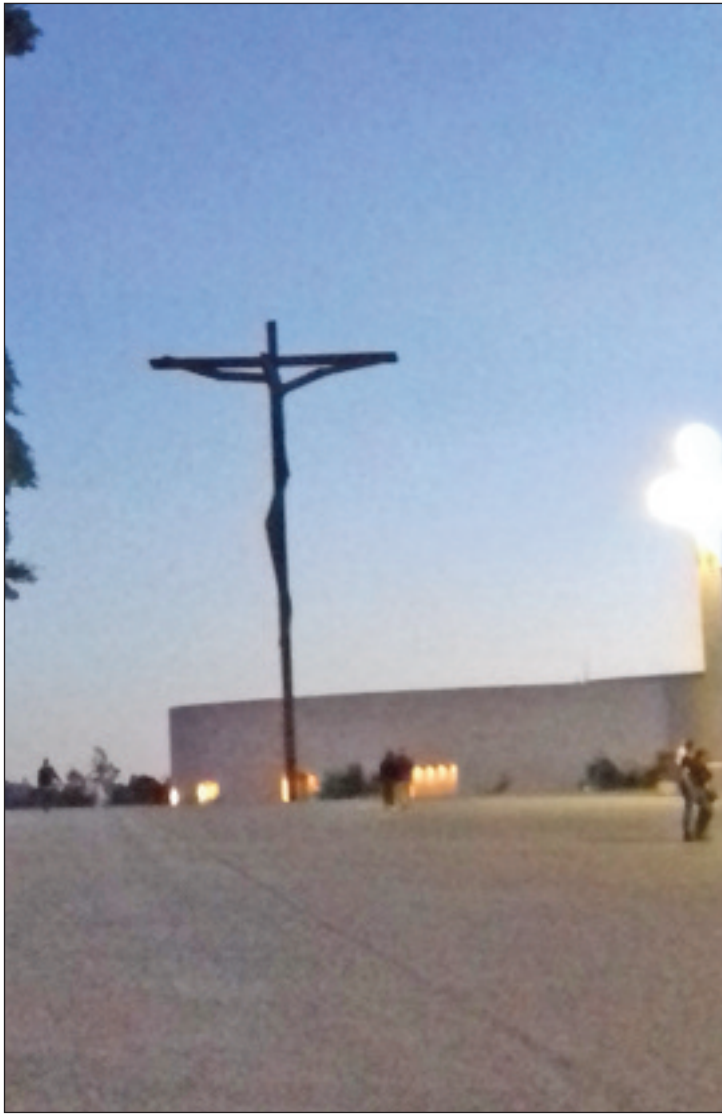
**May 13th** A group of 24 children made their First Holy Communion. All were given a beautiful commemorative plaque of Fatima.

**May 14th** The children again wore their Communion outfits and the decorated Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was processed around the Church and Hall after Mass, to the Fatima Hymn

**May 17th** Tim Tindall Robertson of the World Apostolate of Fatima gave a talk and film show about the Message of Fatima, and provided much literature and prayer books.

**May 27th – June 2nd** Visit of Legion of Mary to the Parish who visited over 1000 homes.





## JUNE

**June 10th** Fr Chris led a pilgrimage to Fatima, which included Mass in the Santuario on 13th; candle lit processions each evening; International Rosary in the Capelino; visits to Nazare and Aljustrel; and Mass in St Anthony's Church in Lisbon.

**June 13th** Parishioners held a Liturgy with Rosary and Litany of Our Lady of Fatima.

**June 24th** Fundraising event at St Joseph's School with Indian food and entertainment.



## JULY

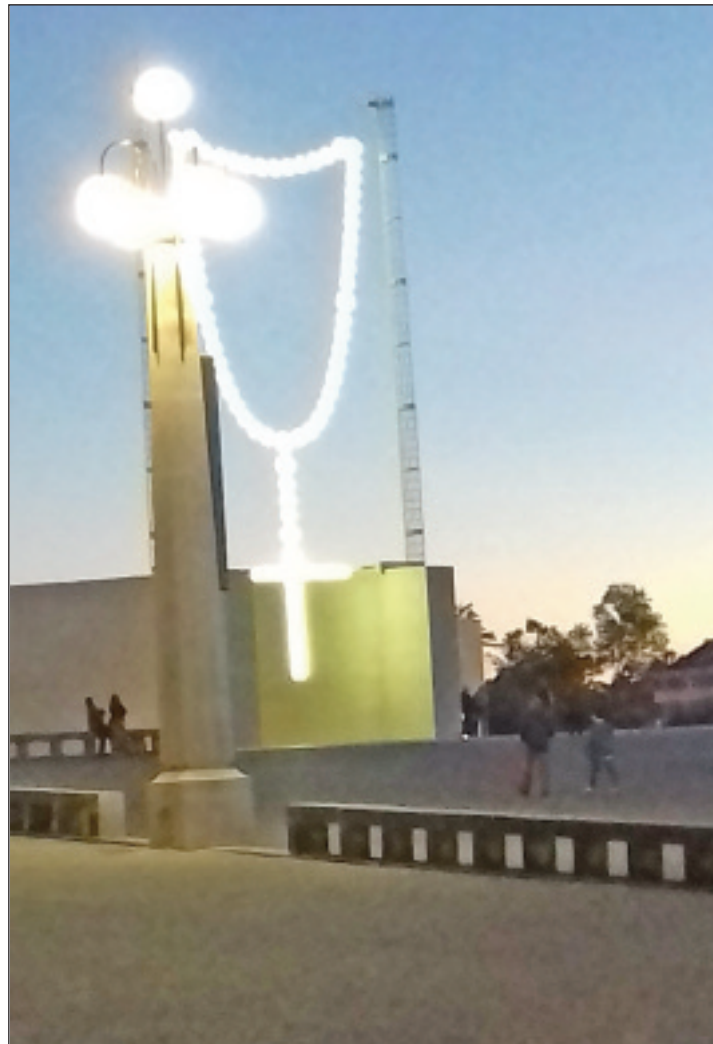
**July 13th** Special Fatima Liturgy led by the Knights of St Columba.

**July 15th** Beetle Drive Fundraising event hosted by CWL

## AUGUST

**August 13th** Our Lady of Fatima Novena for Peace was prayed every day for 9 days in the church, ending on 13th with Rosary and Litany to Our Lady of Fatima.

**August 19th** Fundraising Garden Party with Afternoon Tea hosted by a parishioner.



## SEPTEMBER

**September 13th** Mass at 7.00pm followed by the film "The Thirteenth Day".

**September 16th** Fundraising event "A Night at the Races" at St Joseph's Church.

## OCTOBER

**October 13th** Mass at 7.00pm concelebrated by Fr Chris and past parish priests, followed by buffet supper with designs for stained glass windows and Fatima Shrine on display.

**October 28th** Fundraising event Barn Dance.

Fundraising is ongoing for the windows and the shrine. So far, we have raised £4000 of our £15,000 target.



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# The Ordinariate Celebrates BI John Henry Newman

The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham will be celebrating its anniversary on Sunday 8 October, in anticipation of the Feast of Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman, its patron. The celebration will consist of Solemn Evensong and Benediction. Fr Julian Large, CO, Provost of the London Oratory, will preach and the and the music will include Herbert Howells' "wonderful setting" of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis for St Paul's. The celebration will be held at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory in Warwick Street, London, at 3.30pm.

Before that, however, is the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, September 24<sup>th</sup>. A Novena prayer booklet, in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham, which marks the start of a national mobilisation of prayer for the Church and for the nations of England (Mary's Dowry) and Wales, has been republished by the National Catholic Shrine in Walsingham.

The guide has been updated by Shrine Rector Mgr John Armitage and others and the hope is that, through it, a truly nationally-led Novena will emerge across the dioceses of England and Wales.

“It is hoped that through this Novena every part of the Church in England and Wales will deeply embrace Our Lady of Walsingham as the powerful intercessor for these lands,” said Mgr Armitage. “This Novena in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham is the beginning of a National Novena of Prayer for our country which will help us prepare spiritually for the re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary in 2020 on the Solemnity of the Annunciation.”

The Novena may be prayed at any time but especially in preparation for, and celebration of, the Feast of Our Lady Of Walsingham on September 24 (so starting on Sept 15); before a pilgrimage to Walsingham; and to prepare for the Feast of the Annunciation. You can download a copy of the Novena booklet at [www.walsingham.org.uk/novena/novena-booklet-2017.pdf](http://www.walsingham.org.uk/novena/novena-booklet-2017.pdf)

### What is the Ordinarariate?

In November 2009, Pope Benedict XVI issued the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus*, stating: “In recent times the Holy Spirit has moved

groups of Anglicans to petition repeatedly and insistently to be received into full Catholic communion individually as well as corporately. The Apostolic See has responded favourably to such petitions. Indeed, the successor of Peter, mandated by the Lord Jesus to guarantee the unity of the episcopate and to preside over and safeguard the universal communion of all the Churches, could not fail to make available the means necessary to bring this holy desire to realisation”.

As a direct result of this offer, three serving bishops of the Church of England – the Right Reverend John Broadhurst, Bishop of Fulham; the Right Reverend Andrew Burnham, Bishop of Ebbsfleet; the Right Reverend Keith Newton, Bishop of Richborough – made public their intention to join the Personal Ordinariate when it was established. On 1 January 2011 these three men, together with two of their wives and three former sisters of the Society of St Margaret in Walsingham, were received into the full communion of the Catholic Church by the Right Reverend Alan Hopes, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, in Westminster Cathedral.

On 13 January 2011, the three former Anglican bishops were ordained to the diaconate in the chapel of Allen Hall Seminary, Chelsea, by Bishop Hopes, and to the sacred priesthood by Archbishop Vincent Nichols on Saturday 15 January 2011.

The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham was erected by decree of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on the same day, and the then Fr Keith Newton was appointed by the Holy Father as its first Ordinary. On Ash Wednesday 2011, about 900 laity and clergy of the Church of England ceased public ministry in the Anglican Communion and began a 40 day period of preparation to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

During Holy Week 2011, almost 1000 men, women and young people were received into the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. After Easter the former Anglican clergy were ordained to the diaconate and then, around Pentecost 2011, they were ordained to the sacred priesthood.

More than 80 former Anglican clergymen have joined the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham since it was erected, with most being ordained as Catholic deacons and priests.

Members of some 40 Anglican parishes have also corporally joined the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, forming stable ordinariate 'groups' within the Roman Catholic Church. For the first time in its history, Anglican services, such as Evensong, are now being celebrated in the Catholic Church by canonically recognised groups of former Anglicans.

The Holy Father, speaking at St Mary's College, Oscott, at the end of his 2010 State Visit to the United Kingdom, said the Ordinariate “should be seen as a prophetic gesture that can contribute positively to the developing relations between Anglicans and Catholics. It helps us to set our sights on the ultimate goal of all ecumenical activity: the restoration of full ecclesial communion in the context of which the mutual exchange of gifts from our respective spiritual patrimonies serves as an enrichment to us all”

The former Anglicans who now comprise the Ordinariate have made a tremendous journey and a great leap of faith. They have sacrificed a great deal; in the case of the priests and religious, their living and even their social networks. They have set a great example of courage.

### Where is the Ordinariate?

There are no less than four Ordinatee centres geographically located within the boundaries of the Plymouth Diocese. The South-West Ordinatee even has its own blog, at [swordinatee.blogspot.uk](http://swordinatee.blogspot.uk); it includes the Ordinatee Groups at St Austell, Torbay and Buckfast

The Cornish Group meets at the Catholic Church of St. Augustine of Hippo, St Austell, for Mass on Sundays at 5.30pm and on Wednesdays at 7pm. Members of the group meet regularly for study and are presently embarked on a program of study for the Year of Faith based on the Creed and Catechism of the Catholic Church. It proudly describes itself as the 'most southerly Ordinariate Group in the UK'.

The Torbay Ordinarie Mission Group has bought a redundant Methodist church in Torquay, Devon. This is the first building that the Ordinarie has bought for itself since the structure was established in 2011. It is now known as The Catholic Church

of Our Lady of Walsingham with St Cuthbert  
Mayne: Parish Priest is Fr David Lashbrooke.

The Buckfast Ordinariate meets each Sunday at 3.00pm for Mass at the Benedictine Abbey at Buckfast, by kind permission of the Abbott and Community. Fr Ian Hellyer is reported to be taking enquiries from Plymouth and providing catechesis there. He can be contacted at Our Lady's, 71 Stott Close, Plymouth. PL3 6HA.

The Exeter Exploration group meets for Mass at 11am on the 1st Saturday of the month at the Church of The Holy Cross, Topsham, by kind invitation of Monsignor Harry Doyle. The Mass is in the Divine Worship Rite. The group meets regularly to discuss the Ordinariate and related issues, and welcomes all interested parties: current Ordinariate members, CoFE people, Diocesan Catholics and others who are interested in the project. The meetings begin with Catholic Mass and then a time to talk over coffee and light refreshments. The group is looked after by Fr David Lashbrooke of the Our Lady of Walsingham with St Cuthbert Mayne Ordinariate parish in Torbay.

Just outside the Plymouth Diocese boundaries are the Bournemouth Ordinariate, which celebrates Holy Mass each Sunday at 11.15am and Wednesday at 10.30am at the Church of St Thomas More, Bournemouth. Group Pastor is Fr Darryl Jordan BSc, MDiv, who was ordained in December 2013. The Bournemouth website has a lovely photo of him with Bp Egan of Portsmouth Diocese, Mgr Keith Newton, the ever-cheerful Ordinary of the Ordinariate, and Fr Darryl's two daughters, Catherine and Lisa, at his ordination in December 2013.

The Sarum Ordinariate celebrates Mass at the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, Bishopdown, Salisbury, every Sunday at 11.00am and on Wednesday's at St Osmund's (the lovely Pugin church), across the road from the Cathedral in Exeter Street, Salisbury. Fr Keith Robinson led one of the first Ordinariate groups to form, in June 2011. He prepared a talk entitled "What on Earth is this Ordinariate?", which can be read at [www.ordinariate.org.uk/cmsAdmin/uploads/the-ordinariate-\(talk\)\\_001.pdf](http://www.ordinariate.org.uk/cmsAdmin/uploads/the-ordinariate-(talk)_001.pdf). It is well worth taking the time

# Reaching Out to Africa



Our Lady Star of the Sea (Stella Maris) in Weymouth's sewing group has a very special mission: to provide clothes for needy children being helped and cared for by the Mercy Mission in Addo, South Africa, which was founded in 2006 by three sisters from the Sisters of Mercy of the Union of Great Britain, and is still run by the Order today. The Sisters support the people who face the consequences of HIV/AIDS; seasonal workers who live with a high level of unemployment; and children and parents in the local areas.

The sewing group of Stella Maris – specifically, Ann Ducie, Esmee Nicholls, Chris Shearing and Nan Collins – made 13 Summer dresses for children 3-7 years of age.

The group was quite overwhelmed to receive a 'thank you' from the Mission but, rather than sit on their laurels, they looked closely at the number of children in the photographs they received and decided that they had to redouble their efforts.

"We couldn't believe how many children there are at the orphanage," Esmee Nicholls explained. "They walk miles daily, in order to be educated at the Convent Mission." The enthusiasm of the people of emerging economies for the sort of education that we in the West take for granted is a sobering sight. Their needs – whether for the meal they receive at the school or for clothing to call their own – is also sobering. But their gratitude is a delight.

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# Action for the Church in Need – Monthly Update

Reporting by John Pontifex; Murcadha O'Flaherty; Maria Lozano; and John Newton

## CUBA

### Rebuilding after Irma

Archbishop Wilfredo Pino Estevez of Camagüey told charity Aid to the Church in Need how he visited the town of Esmeralda in the eastern province of Camaguey, the day after it was struck by Hurricane Irma, which hit Cuba on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> September. Local emergency services say it battered Esmeralda for nine hours, with winds in excess of 155mph (250 kmh). Over 7000 people had to be evacuated.



**The destroyed chapel in Jaquí, Cuba**

"When we arrived in Esmeralda, we celebrated Mass there with the handful of people who were able to attend," Archbishop Estevez said. "We saw many damaged homes, partially or totally demolished, roofless, etc. Some of the people were still visibly scared. 'What a long night that was!' was the most common thing I heard from the people I talked to."

The chapel in the small town of Jiqui was destroyed. While he was there and despite a fierce downpour, he met with Ismaela and Alberto, a local married couple. He was deeply impressed by the first words Ismaela said to him:

"Archbishop, the chapel may have collapsed, but not the Church." The response of most of the priests and religious he contacted was that they were going out with food and other practical items, in order to help anyone in need.

Ulrich Kny, ACN's project coordinator in Cuba, said that the priorities for aid will probably be the rebuilding of the ruined churches in Jaronú and Jiqui.

If the local bishops request help, ACN would provide aid "so that the Church can act as an instrument of God's mercy and help remedy some of the damage caused by the hurricane, which also did not spare other dioceses, such as Ciego de Ávila, Santa Clara, Matanzas and Havana".

## IRAQ

### Sisters look forward to coming home

Sister Clara Nas, Dominican Sister of St Catherine of Siena and Prioress General of the badly damaged Immaculate Mary (Al-Um Al-Tahira) Convent in Qaraqosh, a large Christian town in Nineveh, spoke to Aid to the Church in Need about the importance of maintaining the Christian community in Iraq.



**Displaced Christian family**

"We have decided to return to our towns. We trust that our presence in the area would encourage the Christians to return to their land and nourish the Christian presence in Iraq," she said.

Despite 30% of Qaraqosh being destroyed by Daesh/IS, the Sisters estimate that about 1,050 families returned to the town last month (August). In total, nearly 13,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by Daesh during their 27-month

occupation. ACN is repairing many such homes and has also given funds to help the Sisters to rebuild their convent in Qaraqosh.



**A Dominican Sister with school children**

"We have chosen this convent because of its location – it is close to the church, the priests' house, the policemen's residency and the primary school that belongs to our congregation." The Sister explained, and said that she intends to send members of her congregation to the rebuilt convent as and when security and basic living needs are met. She thanked ACN for helping religious Sisters in Iraq, its emergency relief for displaced communities and its repair of Christian homes. The charity is assisting the Nineveh Reconstruction Committee (NRC) with the return of up to 15,000 Christians to Qaraqosh. The NRC has so far restored 986 family homes in the area. ACN UK recently provided £830,000 (€900,000) emergency shelter (rent) for up to 12,000 displaced Christian families (60,000 people) still in Erbil, Kurdish northern Iraq. It is also helping with repairs to St George's Church in Telskuf.

In an interview with ACN, Latin Archbishop Jean Sleiman of Baghdad highlighted the importance of the continuing Christian presence in Iraq. He said the Christian community should not "act like a minority anxiously clinging to a past history, [but] they must rebuild their homeland, with a citizenship and a charter of human rights, for the common good and proper organisation. The Christians of Iraq are citizens of a great nation, and not a minority imprisoned by their own helplessness."

### Return to Nineveh: Iraqi Christians Celebrate

ABOUT 500 Christian families – up to 2,500 people – celebrated their long-awaited homecoming with ceremonies marking a fresh start in their old towns and villages. In Qaraqosh (Baghdada), priests and people holding olive branches processed through the streets chanting hymns in Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ. The procession was headed by priests holding crucifixes aloft, and was protected by security personnel in armoured vehicles. A service was held at the Immaculate Conception Syriac Catholic Church in the town centre, a building desecrated and burnt by Daesh (ISIS) militants. During the ceremony, ACN Middle East projects' coordinator, Father Andrzej Halemba, called on people to forgive those who had forced them out of their homes and attacked their towns and villages.



**Aid to the Church in Need Middle East projects' coordinator Father Andrzej Halemba distributes olive tree to a Christian family at St George's Church, Bartela**

"Of course we cry when we see the violence that has been carried out but we should remove the anger in our hearts," he said. "There should be no hatred in our hearts. We should reconcile with our neighbour."



**Aid to the Church in Need Middle East projects' coordinator Father Andrzej Halemba distributes olive tree to a Christian woman. Bishop Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Timotheos Moussa Al Shamany looks on**



**Families with olive trees outside St George's Church, Bartela**

An olive tree distribution ceremony took place after the ceremonies, as well as earlier on 10th September at the Virgin Mary Syriac Orthodox Church, Bartella, near Qaraqosh. At least 10,000 people are reported to have returned there, with at least another 500 families expected by the end of September.



**Priests holding crucifixes lead Christians waving olive branches through the streets of Qaraqosh (Baghdada)**

ACN is repairing hundreds of homes in a number of Nineveh's Christian-majority towns and villages, where widespread destruction was carried out during and after the Daesh (ISIS) occupation of the region from August 2014 to October 2016.



**Aid to the Church in Need Middle East projects' coordinator Father Andrzej Halemba distributes an olive tree to a Christian woman at the Immaculate Conception Church, Qaraqosh (Baghdada)**

## BANGLADESH

### Faith flourishing despite government discrimination

EXPLOITATION, discrimination and violent outbursts against Bangladesh's small Christian community are being encouraged by the authorities' indifference, according to Archbishop Moses Costa of Chittagong. He told Aid to the Church in Need that authorities were exploiting Christians and other minorities working in dangerous conditions dismantling old ships in Chittagong's shipbreaking yards on the coast of southern Bangladesh.

"This work is carried out in very hazardous conditions and claims innumerable human lives,"

he said, but claims that officials are preventing him from helping the workers. "The authorities have refused me permission."



**Archbishop Moses Costa of Chittagong Archdiocese with religious Sisters, Bangladesh**

Highlighting the Church's concern about the increase in violence against parishioners, he described the situation in his archdiocese as "difficult and dangerous". Catholics number only 270,000 (0.2%) of the country's 156 million population and are often attacked and scapegoated. Last year, a parish in Chittagong was attacked in retaliation for the death of two businessmen, which occurred many miles away. The archbishop criticised the state for not fulfilling its constitutional obligation to ensure "equal status and equal right in the practice of the Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and other religions".

Despite intolerance, the Church is working in education and medical care. ACN is helping local Church leaders to stand up for people's rights by providing support at the Inter-Religious Dialogue Centre in Khulna. The charity is also assisting in the spiritual development of young people in Dhaka Diocese.

## SUDAN

### Churches are being torn down each month

CHRISTIAN children in Sudan's refugee camps are not receiving food unless they say Islamic prayers, according to reports received by sources close to Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need. A contact, who asked to remain anonymous for security reasons, estimates that 700,000 South Sudanese Christians are refugees in Sudan, added: "The majority are left in camps, some in a very terrible situation. They are confined in those places. They are not allowed to go further north to the cities."



**Refugees in Sudan**

ACN also received reports that it is hard for refugee families to survive on food provided by the government. A monthly food parcel for a family lasts little more than two weeks – leading parents to seek provisions in the local market.

ACN was told items provided by the UN are sold in the market – many still in wrappers marked with UNICEF or UNHCR logos. The charity's source went on to say that the Khartoum government has hampered charities seeking to provide urgent assistance to the camps, preventing them from overseeing emergency help.

In May 2017 a source who also requested anonymity for security reasons, told ACN: "Churches [in Sudan] are destroyed but it's claimed to be just town planning. The Church is not allowed to buy property."

At about the same time, a Sudan Church source told ACN: "Churches are being torn down each month – you never hear that about mosques."

Reports also note that Church leaders are increasingly concerned about Sudan's intolerance aimed at Christian women. In June 2015, 12 Christian women were arrested as they left a church for wearing trousers or skirts which were seen as "indecent or immoral dress".

**All images © Aid to the Church in Need**



# REALITY CHECK ...

by Julia Beacroft

# How do you tune in to the Lord?

“JERRY! JERRY! JERRY!” my then seventeen year old son chanted, along with the TV studio audience. “JERRY!” He was, of course, watching the Jerry Springer show. Television presenter, former lawyer, Democratic mayor of Cincinnati, news presenter, actor, and musician Jerry Springer remains well known for hosting his own chat show, which continues to be ever popular.

In fact, the current trend of reality TV, docu-soaps and chat shows, command a huge proportion of air time on our televisions with soaring viewing figures. And there are so many of them.

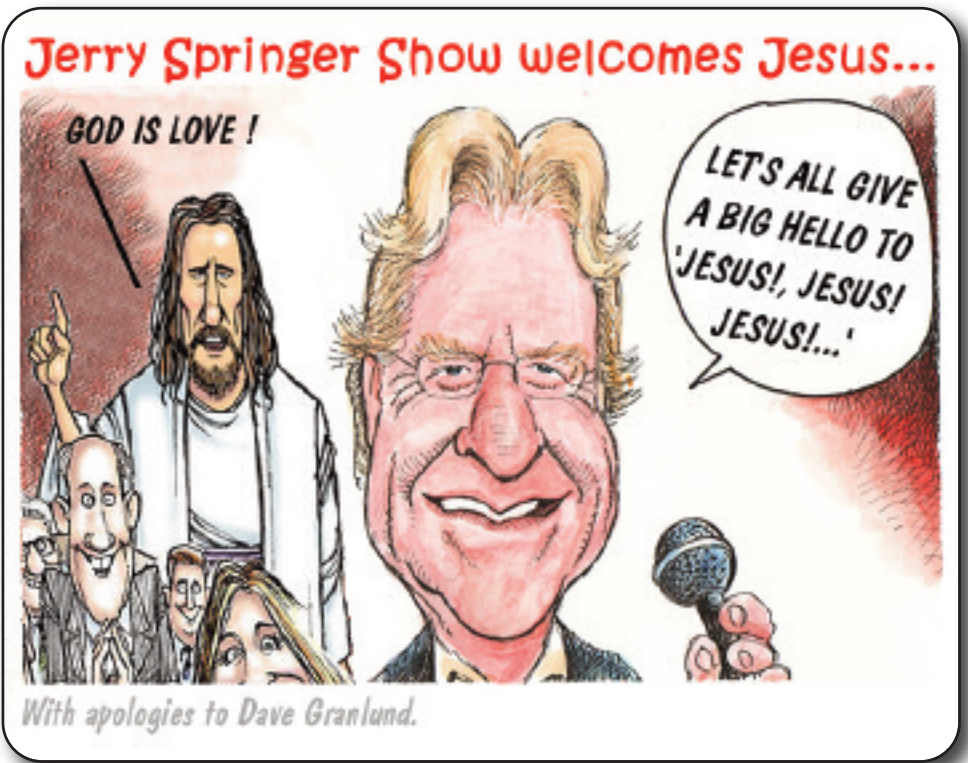
You name it – and there’s been a programme about it, whether it’s the Armed Forces, cookery, hairdressing, MI5, sugar or survival, or the really well-known ‘big guns’ such as ‘Big Brother’ or ‘Keeping up with the Kardashians’. These days our screens seem to feature them all.

### HUMAN EMOTIONS

Yet what does ‘Reality TV’ really mean? The Internet, as ever, provides us with the answer. It says: ‘Reality television is a genre of television programming that documents supposedly unscripted real-life situations, and often features an otherwise unknown cast of individuals who are typically not professional actors.’

These types of television programmes usually feature a whole range of human emotions. And in our own daily living, these so-called ‘real-life situations’ are also funny, emotional, humdrum, upsetting or angry, but more importantly they can also involve love.

And without doubt, love makes the world go round. In fact a child first learns about love in the home.



And where there is love, there is God – I’m sure most of us are familiar with the expression ‘God is love’.

Our own personal realities involve our relationships with each other and with the Lord. And in these relationships our emotions are always engaged. But of course, the primary focus of Jesus’ reality was his Law of Love.

There are many distractions in our world today but there are two things which will endure forever – love and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### SUPEME REALITY

Reality TV is cult entertainment for our time which we can tune into if we are so inclined. But we can be certain that Jesus Christ is the supreme reality for all time and he is readily available for us to ‘tune into’ whenever we want to.

If Jesus were to appear on our screens today as a chat show guest, would you follow my son’s example, but instead enthusiastically shout: “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!”?

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## Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor: brief biography

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor’s death on 1 September 2017 saw the final curtain drop on a life that witnessed the Second World War; the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II); the ‘new Mass’ (now better-known as the Ordinary Form) and a transformation of society few – if any – of his predecessors as Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster could have envisaged. We publish on the opposite page Bishop Mark’s Homily, delivered at the Vigil Mass before the Cardinal’s burial. Here is a summary of his life:

**Born:** 24 August 1932, Reading, Berks, to George & Eileen Murphy-O’Connor.

**Ordained priest:** 28 October 1956, Cardinal Valerio Valeri

**Consecrated Bishop:** 21 December 1977, Archbishop Michael Bowen

Appointed Bishop of Arundel & Brighton, November 1977, Pope Paul VI

Appointed Archbishop of Westminster, 15 February 2000, ++St John Paul II

Created Cardinal: 21 February 2001, ++St John Paul II

**Offices held:** Private Secretary to Bishop Worlock of Portsmouth, 1966-70; Parish Priest, Church of the Immaculate Conception, Portwood, Southampton, 1970-71; Rector of the Venerable English College, Rome, 1971-77; Bishop of Arundel & Brighton, 1977-2000; 10th Archbishop of Westminster and Primate of England & Wales, 15 February 2000-April 2009; first-ever Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster (all his predecessors died in office).

**Other highlights:** hosted Archbishop of Canterbury Coggan’s visit to Pope Paul VI in 1977; Co-Chairman, Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) 1982-2000; appointed Cardinal-Priest of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva 2001 by ++ St John Paul II; Freeman of the City of London 2001; in January 2002 he became the first Catholic prelate to deliver a sermon to a serving English monarch since 1680. Appointed to four Curial organisations: the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments; the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See; the Pontifical Council for the Study of Organisational and Economic Problems of the Holy See; and the Pontifical Council for the Family. He also served on the Pontifical Councils for Culture and for Laity, and was secretary of the Vox Clara commission.

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# Homily – Vigil Mass in Chiswick for Cardinal Murphy- O'Connor

You will not be surprised to know that Cardinal Cormac made careful arrangements for this mass and for the funeral rites which will follow in these days. Among others, I had the great privilege of accompanying him through some of those discussions and he was keen that a mass be said here in Chiswick. He lived very happily here in the parish for nine years, and was grateful to be able to be a pastor in this setting in his retirement years. It was part of the great humanity of those conversations, that we were able to joke with one another, that he would even write this homily for me if he could. I had the great privilege of working closely with Cardinal Cormac for six years. They are some of the most happy ones I had in the priesthood. He was not only my bishop but became a good friend and an inspiring mentor. He had the capacity to see the potential in another and to draw that out. I know that a number here, friends and family, experienced him in his last weeks. Even in those last conversations he was keen to be generous and impart to each of us, some wisdom, some concrete piece of advice of how to live life well, how to make the most of our vocations. As for himself, he was thoroughly focused on making the last act of his dying, a culmination of how he'd lived his life, with great openness of heart, with humility, and with a very deep, rock-like faith. In one of the last conversations I had with him, in the hospital before he died, he repeated again what he had said so often to me before. He did not want me to eulogise about him but to concentrate on preaching on the faith of the Church, her belief in her Risen Lord and upon God's mercy.

Cardinal Cormac wanted this mass, and his funeral rites at Westminster Cathedral, not to be a celebration of his life or an a record of his personal history, but an expression of his faith, a faith which did not fear the reality of death but saw in it the opportunity to be finally united with his Lord. As we heard on the day of death itself, he said, "I am at peace and have no fear of what is to come."

He believed he was embarking upon another journey. He wanted to die in the way he had lived, and with God's great goodness he was given what he desired. Death is for him the culmination of the whole of his life, because it means an eternal face to face with Christ, an encounter which would go on forever. In that reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses gazes with undimmed eye as he stands on the verge of the Promised land. He gazes across a new horizon, on a new land, and with new possibilities. We believe this is what is now taking place for Cardinal Cormac as he gazes, with undimmed eye, upon a new landscape, and sets out on that final Pilgrimage which will lead him home.

An undimmed eye and looking for new possibilities; these were characteristic of Cormac's whole life. It was this which sent him forth from Reading, to study for the priesthood in Rome, which brought him into priestly ministry in the Diocese of Portsmouth, back to the English College again as Rector, where his skills as mentor and wise counsellor assisted many in discovering and deepening their vocation. It was this capacity for new possibilities which gave him the confidence to set out to Arundel as a young bishop, and then to Westminster as Archbishop 22 years later. It was what made him such an outstanding Ecumenist and interlocutor in Inter-religious dialogue.

An undimmed eye - but with a certain twinkle in it, it has to be said. I remember when we would go to a parish function or celebration. Before leaving the car he would comb his hair in the mirror, and brush down his cassock. He'd give me a nudge on the arm, and with that twinkle in his eye, he'd say, "Now remember your task is to get me out of here as quickly as possible!" That humanity and lightness of touch was acknowledged by Pope Francis in their last telephone conversation together. From his hospital bed, Cardinal Cormac expressed his gratitude and encouragement to his friend, now Pope, and Pope Francis, assured Cormac of his prayer and blessing, thanked him for his accompaniment and his friendship, and then added, "Especially, I thank you for your good humour."

It is no surprise to us that his episcopal motto was, "Joy and Hope" for this was the manner of his being, and the very bedrock of his life and of his faith. It was firstly within his own family that Cormac learned to live these realities. Pat, Julie, Chris, Leigh, James and Kieran, through you we give thanks to the Murphy-O'Connor and Cuddigan families for giving such a generous, gentle and humble pastor to the Church. We know he remained close to you, his family always, and desired that you and all his family come to know more deeply something of the beauty of friendship with Jesus which he experienced in the family of the Church.

It is this sense of the Church as a family which was so central to Cardinal Cormac's life. Rather than being an institution, the Church was, for him, that community of believers where each person could find a real home and a path to follow her Lord. In her, Jesus fulfilled that promise made to his disciples, "I do not leave you orphans". Cardinal Cormac believed that none of us our spiritual orphans. We all have a Father in heaven, Jesus as our brother, and Mary as our mother. The loving heart of our mother Mary, we discover in our mother the Church.

These were truths, Cardinal Cormac learned in the midst of his own loving family, and they were deepened by his experiences within the family of the Church. How often in these past months he would quote words from the final audience of the Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI. They had clearly become his own, and I quote:

"I can say that the Lord has truly led me, he has been close to me, I have been able to perceive his presence daily.....a.....journey which has had its moments of joy and light, but also moments which were not easy; I have felt like Saint Peter with the Apostles in the boat on the Sea of Galilee: the Lord has given us so many days of sun and of light winds, days when the catch was abundant; there were also moments when the waters were rough and the winds against us, as throughout the Church's history, and the Lord seemed to be sleeping. But I have always known that the Lord is in that boat, and I have always known that the barque of the Church is not mine but his. Nor does the Lord let it sink; it is he who guides it, surely also through those whom he has chosen, because he so wished. This has been, and is, a certainty which nothing can shake. For this reason my heart .....overflows with gratitude to God, for he has never let his Church, or me personally, lack his consolation, his light, his love."



Cardinal Cormac's belief in the presence of His Lord in the Church, does not mean, in a rather glib fashion that things are simply made right at the end. That is why he wanted to be buried at the tenth station in Westminster Cathedral, so that people would pray for him as they passed by on the way to the Lady Chapel, to the sacristy, or to the confessional. Cardinal Cormac knew he was dependent on God's mercy, in death as in life. This awareness wasn't primarily because of his faults or failings as a bishop, of which he was well aware. We know he was honest in facing his limits, particularly in the area of child protection. He recognised his mistake and sought to put in place, ways of working and responding which would make it easier for victim survivors, and hopefully, bring healing to those most vulnerable who had been hurt.

His humble awareness of his own vulnerabilities was deeper than anything he experienced in the spotlight of the media. It was because he knew that death would bring him before God. Before the face of the living God I recognise my own unworthiness and the need to shed illusion and untruth. This shedding of the old self is of course the work of every human life; what St Edith Stein calls the "breaking of the chains of personality". The breaking of the chains for most of us is a work that is not complete by the time of our own death. Cardinal Cormac knew this, but he also knew that in the loving mercy of God, this process of change is continued in the journey we make to God following death. In these last weeks he was deeply consoled by this awareness, and regularly described it in Pilgrimage terms, as 'being on the way'.

For Him, this was the Church's deeply consoling belief in purgatory. For the believer time does not run out. If there is any unfinished business to prepare the soul for an eternal face to face with God, then God in His Providence allows for this.

At the same time, the person on their way through purgatory, knows that what is longed for, what is desired - eternal beatitude - will eventually be granted. So tinged with any sense of regret is the joy that such a soul will ultimately see God. It is this which gave Cardinal Cormac's death such peace and such a gift to those who witnessed him.

For us, too, there is consolation in the knowledge that we are still united with the one we have lost. We can help them with our prayers and their suffering which is but the pain of deep longing and deep desire to be with God forever, this longing and this desire can be offered to God out of love for all those who are still on the way. It is such longing and desire which acts as a flame to purge away any lack of love or truth and which expands the soul fully so that we can be prepared to receive God in His fullness.

It is our fundamental belief and our hope that this process of transformation begins in our earthly life, as it clearly did for Cardinal Cormac. This is not only through those things which he endured in his life, but also in these last weeks when we accompanied him through his final suffering, as he day by day came to terms with embracing a whole new possibility. It is an immense consolation to us, to know that all has been taken up in and through His participation in Christ's embrace of suffering and death.

There is one last word. We are between two jubilees in Cardinal Cormac's life. Last October he celebrated sixty years as a priest, and in December he would have been forty years as a bishop. He was looking forward to another party! Yet in these final weeks he knew that celebration would have to take place in another way. He was, to his very bones, a priest. The final goodbyes are a blessing which we shall forever treasure. In one of our last meetings, he suddenly stopped talking and after a few moments of quiet, he said to me, "Mark, for all the words that you and I might say to one another at this point, it is the words of the Mass and the Liturgy which above all give me comfort....let us say mass together." And so we did, with a fellow bishop and the hospital Chaplain. Life had become very simple....the praying of his daily Office, the Rosary, and Mass. These were the things which had sustained him all his life and these sustained him as he embarked on the final journey.

I suspect that as he is now accompanied by his Guardian angel through purgatory, he's got that twinkle in his eye, and is giving them a nudge, and saying, 'Remember, your job is to get me out of here as quickly as possible.'

Dear Cardinal Cormac, dear Father, my very dear brother, go in peace and may you soon gaze forever on the One for whom you worked so faithfully, with such humility, and for whom you long so ardently.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

**Bishop Mark O'Toole**  
11th September, 2017  
[www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

## Pope gives thanks for Cardinal Cormac's "distinguished service to the Church"

Pope Francis has written to Cardinal Nichols to offer his "heartfelt condolences" after the death of Archbishop emeritus of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor who passed away on 1st September 2017.

In praising Cardinal Cormac's service to the Church in England and Wales, the Pope lauds the late cardinal's "unwavering devotion to the preaching of the Gospel and the care of the poor, and his far-sighted commitment to the advancement of ecumenical and interreligious understanding."

Pope Francis concludes by commending his soul to the mercy of God and imparting his Apostolic Blessing.

The two men were elevated to the rank of Cardinal at the same Consistory in February 2001.







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

- 1 Hard following maths class for Adam's boy (4)
- 3 I love Roman customs, one's we can find in the Bible (8)
- 9 Find here Edam 'maarkt', translated no time after the Spanish retreat (7)
- 10 Fantasy he created in Inverness (5)
- 11 Prepare favourite, but take only second place with Ruby riding, close to Derby (5)
- 12 Untold murky connection between Di and Mary (6)
- 14 Masses other churches would like? (13)
- 17 Italian island's church is ahead, taking a back road (6)
- 19 Dress for a Muslim bachelor to go about the old city, the Kalif's capital (5)
- 22 Running last in league, Villa, after awful May, anticipate new season (5)
- 23 He painted sports ground with Lego-shaped terracing (2,5)
- 24 'I am', as blue-collar type announced, 'the Messiah'! (8)
- 25 State the tipping of headgear is obligatory after you textured (4)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 One of Dan's mate made dash with compass, but lost direction (8)
- 2 Note US pilot's affirmative, returning to where Amos lived (5)
- 4 Jesus healed her two girls and little boy with drugs (4,9)
- 5 Drifter cowboy tipped off (5)
- 6 Navy commercial's also about violent air-to-land action (7)
- 7 In US large number, some British (almost all), get rejected (4)
- 8 Point to year in fear, primarily, resulting in one cutting up (6)
- 13 Arcane stuff boxed in wood featuring one of the evil trinity (8)
- 15 Remedy negative way to play the guitar (7)
- 16 Caribbean island's the place to shoot duck (6)

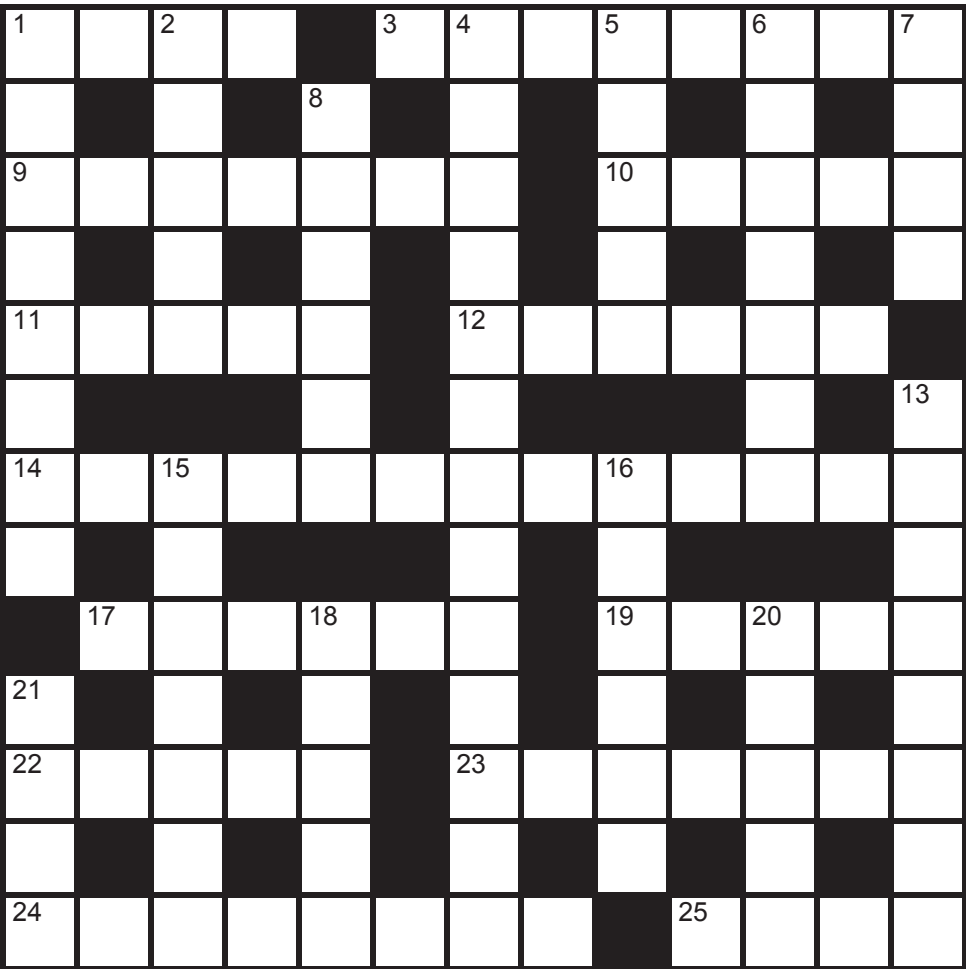
- 18 Masses he wrote, marginally down after book fair (5)
- 20 Butler's right man to be retained over time (5)
- 21 Noisome in the end in move to become the top patriarch (4)

QUICK Across

- 1 Brother of Cain and Abel (4)
- 3 Early biblical people living west of the Euphrates River (8)
- 9 Dutch city famous for its Edam market (7)
- 10 Jules ----- author of 20000 Leagues Under the Sea (1870) (5)
- 11 Poised for action (5)
- 12 Immeasurable (6)
- 14 Groups of people who adhere to a common faith and habitually attend a given church (13)
- 17 Italian volcanic island in the Tyrrhenian Sea (6)
- 19 Loose garment as worn by Muslim women, with veiled holes for the eyes (5)
- 22 Premature (5)
- 23 Spanish painter, nicknamed for his place of birth (2,5)
- 24 Christ or the Messiah, as named in Matthew from a reference in Isaiah (8)
- 25 In the US, the Beehive State, the 45th of the Union (4)

QUICK Down

- 1 Companion of Daniel, Hananiah before his named was changed (8)
- 2 Town south of Bethlehem, home of Amos (5)
- 4 First person to see Jesus after his resurrection (KJV spelling) (4,9)
- 5 Vagabond (5)
- 6 Twister (7)



- 7 Killed, as per the KJV (4)
- 8 The Adventures of Tom -----, novel by Mark Twain (1876) (6)
- 13 Along with Beelzebub and Lucifer, one of the Evil Trinity (8)
- 15 Quack medicine (7)
- 16 Trinidad and -----, Caribbean nation (6)
- 18 Classical German composer whose Masses include the 'St Cecilia' and 'Nelson' (5)
- 20 ----- Butler, most prominent male character in Gone With the Wind (5)
- 21 Son of Jacob and Leah (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 1 Seth, 3 Amorties, 9 Alkmaar, 10 Verne, 11 Ready, 12 Myriad, 14 Congregations, 17 Ischia, 19 Burka, 22 Early, 23 El Greco, 24 Immanuel, 25 Utah. Down: 1 Shadrach, 2 Tekoa, 4 Mary Magdalene, 5 Rover, 6 Tornado, 7 Slew, 8 Sawyer, 13 As-taroth, 15 Nostrum, 16 Tobago, 18 Haydn, 20 Rhett, 21 Levi.

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