



Cardinal Nicols to visit Buckfast Abbey and Plymouth Cathedral – Page 5 National Youth Sunday – *Page 5*  CAFOD bucket saves lives – *Page 7*  Scandal in Yeovil – *Page 10* 



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

#### **COPY DEADLINE:**

5th December, January Edition

Please note that opinions expressed by

# Editor's Thoughts.....

# **Christ the King**

November is the Month of the Holy Souls but it also marks the end of the Liturgical Year –November 26th is the Feast of Christ the King.

The image of Christ the King is uplifting, triumphant, and a reminder that the greatest and worst of setbacks can be mere milestones on the path to Glory. After all – what could be worse than a despised criminal's death, a public execution by a brutal, occupying power?

At the end of the Year we are reminded of Our Lord's complete triumph over malign forces, worldly enemies and even death itself.

But there could have been no triumph without the Resurrection, no Resurrection without the Crucifixion, and no Crucifixion without the Incarnation, which we will celebrate in a few weeks' time. With Advent and Christmas, we start again – and remember where it ends: not with obscurity and death but with the greatest of acclamations: Viva Christo Rey! Hail Christ the King!

#### **Thank You**

My sincere thanks to all those who took the time to write to me after reading last month's editorial, and to those who remembered me in their prayers. It is kind of you and I appreciate it – and, what's more, I know it makes a difference. People have remarked on it.

I am now doing pretty well but I have these hormone jabs every three months. They are intended to ensure that the cancer is starved to death and doesn't return. Among the side effects are that I get hot flushes, which can be alarming to those who don't know me. New colleagues in the office where I am working for the next few weeks were quite surprised when I started shedding clothing in the middle of the coldest week this year!

The other side-effect is that I put on weight. It is the hormones – nothing at all to do with the delicious fruity bran loaf I make, nor the (equally scrumptious) syrup flapjacks. It can't be anything to do with them – I share them. A bit. And with as good grace as I can muster...

#### First Fridays -Falling at the First Fence

I said last month that I was observing the Nine First Fridays. Well, the best-laid plans of mice and men...

I was intending to attend Mass and Evening Office at a Parish where I am a not a 'regular', so I checked the website just to make sure that it would take place as scheduled. There was nothing to indicate otherwise so I turned up at the appointed time.

Church doors shut, locked, no sign of life. No-one in the Presbytery, either. I checked the website again. No indication of anything out of the ordinary.

Two more people arrived but they were less surprised. One of them had the appropriate newsletter; the one I had been looking at – on the Friday – was for the following week. This week, there was no evening Mass on the Friday. The one



shown as being scheduled for Friday evening was for the following Friday.

(We will put to one side why this gentleman had come out on a cool November evening, despite having the relevant information. Such metaphysical questions are for another time.)

One of them said, with all intent of kindness, "Well, at least you tried. Our Lord will know you tried."

I'm afraid that doesn't really do it for me. It's the 'everyone gets a prize at school sports day' approach. Yes, we try – and we fail. We pick ourselves up again, and we try again – if it matters. If it doesn't matter, well – shrug our shoulders and 'there you go, eh? At least you tried'.

It does matter, I believe, and I hope this was just an aberration by that parish, and that the facility for observance is available elsewhere. This is not a plea for things to be made easy – just to be made possible.

Having stumbled, I shall be restarting my observance of the Nine First Fridays on the 1st December. I shall have another intention to add; for the safe delivery of a new addition to the family. Something very definitely to look forward to in 2018!

# LISTENING – FREE WEBINAR – December 1

There is an open invitation to the online launch of Robin Daniel's latest book, Listening: Hearing the Heart, a review of which was published in last month's edition. The Webinar covers the theme of Attentive Listening and shares the ideas behind the book/ It takes pace on 1 December at 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

Teresa Onions (former Director of Pastoral Care UK) and Maureen Wilson (psychoanalytic psychotherapist, retired) will discuss key applications of the book to therapy and pastoral care. They will be followed by a talk by Clive Fowle (founder of Touch of Hope) on 'How Active Listening can help us learn to live in a more Reconciling Way'. This will be based on Clive's experience of peace and reconciliation work in the former Yugoslavia, with applications for us closer to home in the context of our challenging relationships.

There will live chat, Q&A and, in the opening sequence, some slides with quotes from the book about depth listening.

#### Who's it for?

This webinar is aimed at primarily therapists, counsellors, clergy, spiritual directors, chaplains, social workers, those in pastoral roles, and anyone who tries to listen attentively in a professional, personal or coaching context.



Catenian Association Province 13: Fourth Public Speaking Contest Saturday 24th February 2018

Following the success of the Catenian Association's Public Speaking Contest (PSC) over the last three years, we would now like to extend an invitation to all Catholic 6th Formers, in Years 11 to 14 (16 to 19 year olds) who attend Catholic/Church schools as well as those Catholic 6th formers attending state schools throughout Cornwall, Devon and West Somerset, to participate in our 4th PSC which is being held on Saturday, 24th February 2018. The event is taking place at St. Peters Church in Plymouth.

contributors are not necessarily those of the Publishers, Editor, any Diocese or the wide Roman Catholic Church.



With three schools already planning to put in a team and one other 16-yearold from West Somerset, the 4th contest is already looking to be a great event. The winner of the Provincial trophy and cash prize is entitled to enter the national competition in Manchester, held during September 2018. There is trophy for the runner-up in our Provincial competition, and a cash prize. All participants will receive a Certificate.

If you know any young person who would like to take part, please get in touch in the first instance with Peter Holman on 01626 438446 or email phadenraf@gmail.com

We really look forward to hearing from you!

Editor's note: See page 10 of this edition of the newspaper for a poster to cut out and put on your church noticeboard, if you have not already received one direct from the Catenians.

#### Christmas

Listening and other, complementary books are available from https://www.mindfulnessforchristians.com/shop/ Savings are available by buying direct.

#### Registering

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7100904863876831746 This will direct you to the Go to Webinar website and you just enter your email address. You will get a confirmation email and reminder before the day. To join the meeting itself you just follow the simple instructions in the reminder email.

The full text of Bishop Mark's recent lecture entitled "How to be a Disciple" is available on the Diocese's website. It was very well received and is well worth a read. www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/index.php/52-news/356-how-to-be-a-disciple-making-disciple.

# Padre Pio Prayer Group Pilgrimage September 2017

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September a coach left Plymouth for Birmingham Airport, taking some parishioners from St Cuthbert Mayne parish on the first stage of our pilgrimage to Fátima, in north Portugal. Other pilgrims joined us at Lisbon Airport. We got to Fátima at about noon on Friday, just in time for lunch at our hotel, the Domus Pacis (House of Peace), a few minutes walk from the Sanctuary.

The group, numbering 28, had Mass every day either at the Sanctuary or during excursions, celebrated by Spiritual Director Mgr. Bart Nannery and Canon David Annear. There were also Confessions and Anointing of the Sick. Every evening after a copious supper we had an opportunity to join the crowds for the Rosary Procession.

One of the highlights of our pilgrimage was the International Mass on Sunday, with crowds filling the huge main square. The celebrants included an Italian cardinal, six bishops and at least 120 priests. The organisation and the music were excellent.

There were excursions to Aljustrel, the nearby village where the three children who saw Our Lady lived, and the parish church where they were baptised. Other excursions were to the hilltop Shrine of Our Lady of Sameiro near Braga, the simple country shrine of Blessed Alexandrina Balasar, the church of the Miracle of the Most Holy Eucharist in the heart of historic Santarém, the Carmelite Monastery at Coimbra where one of the Seers, Sr. Lúcia lived and died in 2005 at the age of 98, and finally to Batalha Monastery which reminded me of the great mediaeval cathedrals of France.

We set off early for home on Thursday 28th



Padre Pio Prayer Group in Fatima, Portugal

September, arriving back just before it got dark. This was a pilgrimage that gave us many graces, both spiritual and material. We were blessed with warm sunshine – a marked contrast with our recent Cornish summer. I experienced much generosity. All my expenses were paid for by my parishioners, and even in Fátima itself I was never allowed to pay for my drinks. The Lord and his Guardian Angels looked after us. I almost lost my briefcase at Lisbon airport, we arrived in time for our return flight despite being held up in a horrendous traffic jam, and Monarch Airlines got us back to Birmingham Airport just a few days before going into liquidation.

A big thanks to Val Williams, Fr. Bart and their team of helpers. *Fr David Annear* 

# Our Lady Star of the Sea, Weymouth





Bishop Mark gets 'down with the kids' at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Weymouth.

During his recent visit to Our Lady Star of the Sea, Weymouth, Bishop Mark put protocol to one side and engaged directly with the children as they returned from their liturgy to rejoin their congregation. They let him know what they had been learning with all the enthusiasm that youngsters seem to possess!



## *Around the* South West

#### Kids on Old & New Testament

St Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage. (*Thank you, St Mary's Bodmin. That explains a lot – Ed*)

> St Mary's Bodmin, Advent Raffle

Donations of unwanted gifts, bottles, smellies etc. would be greatly appreciated. Tickets on sale 12th, 19th, 26th November. For further details please contact Maureen at the Parish office 01208 72833.

#### **Buckfast Abbey**

"Come and See" vocations weekend, 24th - 27th November.

#### Saturday 18th November

10.30am – 3.00pm at **St Austell Catholic Church**: Autumn Fayre. Crafts, Christmas presents, refreshments.

#### Sunday 19th November

Youth Mass at **Launceston**. After the Mass there will be a meeting of the First Holy Communion group.

## Wednesday 29th November at 12.30pm at Buckfast Abbey

Solemn Mass of our Patron Saint's Feast Day, and veneration of the relic, preceded by a talk to the diocesan clergy by Cardinal Vincent, who will also preside at the Mass. These events will replace St Cuthbert Mayne parish celebrations.

#### Weekday Masses in Penzance

Please note that until the middle of November the only access to the church will be from the main entrance in Rosevean Road. There may also be times that the car park will be closed. Saturday and Sunday Masses are as normal. First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. The first session will be as agreed in St Mary's Catholic School, Peverell Road, Penzance on Thursday 16th Nov 3.30 p.m.

#### Penzance parish: Mary's Meals

Wonderful news to share: every donation to Mary's Meals is currently being doubled thanks to the kindness of three amazing donors. Between now and the end of the year, every gift to our Double the Love appeal will be matched penny for penny – up to a total of  $\pounds1.9$  million. Their Christmas Cards will soon be on sale.

#### Penzance parish World Meeting of Families, Dublin, 21-26 August 2018

A global gathering celebrating Marriage and Family Life with Pope Francis. Please visit: for further information http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/ n. Approximate cost is £900 per couple for 5 nights (B & B) or £1,200 for a family with 2 children. A number of people will be going from our diocese. If you are interested in being part of this gathering, please contact Marian on 01752-701660 or plymouthcrownhill@prcdtr.org.uk Closing date for applications December 16th.

#### Nest of Hope Christmas Fundraiser

The 'Nest of Hope' in Sao Paolo, Brazil, has been established by Fr Eddy McGettrick to help children (and their mothers) who have been damaged, physically or intellectually. It is located in a Favela (slum community) and there is no State support. It provides physical, medical and emotional support, as well as lots of fun and joy! Christmas is always a great time for everyone there.

Ann and Frank Cameron work tirelessly throughout the year to raise funds and support Father Eddy, in Sao Paolo. The charity enjoys great support in the parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Weymouth. Every penny raised from events like the Christmas Fundraiser (see photo) goes to the Nest of Hope.

#### Sewing Group, Our Lady of the Sea, Weymouth

The Sewing Group is nothing if not prepared early! They have already made the lectern banners for Easter 2018

#### St Paul's School, Plymouth, celebrated its 80th birthday on All Saints' day

Bishop Mark celebrated Mass in St Paul's Church with present and past pupils, local head teachers and students from St Boniface College, after which everyone adjourned for the blessing of the new school garden, which has been created by governors, parishioners and others to celebrate this milestone in the life of the school. Each class has its own raised area where pupils will plant seeds; there is also a quiet area and a sensory garden. Bishop Mark planted a cherry tree to commemorate this special day. The morning concluded with a sumptuous 1937-style lunch served by dinner ladies in black dresses, white aprons and mob caps.



Fr Philip Dyson, David Gridley & Mayor Richard Cliffe with members of Voskrenije.

A busy and exciting time at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Penzance with phase 1 of the building and redevelopment works now underway.

For the many lovers of choral music. Father Philip Dyson and Musical Director David Gridley welcomed a large audience and Town Mayor Richard Cliffe to a concert by Voskresenije, the Russian choir from St Petersburg. A reflective and ethereal first half of mainly religious music was followed by a lively programme of Russian folk music that had the audience stomping in the aisles. The Voskresenije choir give more than 50 performances all over the UK and this was the only opportunity to hear them in Cornwall. The following day, more than 20 choristers enjoyed a singing workshop focussing on church music from Plainchant through to the present.

Workshops, along with events such as the biennial Music & Arts Festival, can function as outreach, attracting folks into the church from other walks of life. The singing workshop focussed on learning a new (for the choir) plainchant setting of the Mass and the more modern 4 part harmony Mass of the Resurrection by Randall DeBruyn. And as well as a time for members of the congregation to gain confidence and learn new music such events can also be an opportunity to recruit new members for the choir.

# The Plymouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2018, 2-8th August 2018

This will be led by Bishop Mark O'Toole. The pilgrimage party will fly from Exeter and stay at the Chappelle et Parc, which was once owned by the Soubirous family and is very close to the grotto. We would love you to join us for this time of Prayer and Relaxation. Price £779. Youth £495. (*No increase on 2017 prices*) Booking forms will be available very soon and for a discount of £10, you can book on line. www.joewalshtours.co.uk. Contact: Fr Kieran Kirby Pilgrimage Director, 01803 294142 or Fr Anthony O'Gorman Youth Chaplain, 01637 851176.

#### Gather 2018

19-21 January 2018 Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay. Join Bishop Mark O'Toole, Fr Denis McBride, David Wells, Canon Paul Cummins, catechists, teachers, clergy and friends of the Diocese of Plymouth for a weekend of friendship, faith and formation. Cost £150 residential, £40 non-residential day rate. To book your place use the flyer provided. Early booking is essential. We look forward to welcoming you to GATHER 2018.



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# CARDINAL NICHOLS TO VISIT PLYMOUTH CATHEDRAL & BUCKFAST ABBEY

The Primate of England and Wales will be commemorating the martyrdom of St Cuthbert Mayne on 28/29 November



St Cuthbert Mayne

CUTHBERT MAYNE was born in 1544 near Barnstaple which nowadays is in the Diocese of Plymouth. He was only 33 when he was executed on a tall scaffold in the town square of Launceston, in Cornwall. It was 30th November 1577 – making this year the 440thanniversary of his martyrdom. He became Saint Cuthbert Mayne when canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1970 and is the secondary patron saint of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Plymouth.

The Diocese is marking this anniversary by welcoming Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Cardinal will preach at Vespers, the Evening Prayer of the Church, at 6 pm in Plymouth Cathedral on the 28th November, the eve of St Cuthbert's feast day.

The following day, 29thNovember, the feast itself, the Cardinal will be principal celebrant at Mass at 12.30 pm at Buckfast Abbey. Bishop Mark O'Toole, Bishop of Plymouth, will preach. Before the Mass, the Cardinal will address the clergy of the diocese on the theme, 'Being a Missionary Priest today'.

Bishop Mark hopes that many people from the Diocese will come to Plymouth Cathedral and Buckfast Abbey for these services. The Lord Lieutenant of Devon and the Lord Mayor of Plymouth have indicated that they will be attending Vespers at the Cathedral.

"I want to extend a very warm welcome to Cardinal

Vincent and thank him for joining us on such a special occasion," Bishop Mark said. "St Cuthbert Mayne was the first of our seminary priests to be executed and so it is fitting that we honour him. Sadly, in the 440 years since his death on the scaffold, many men, women and children have been imprisoned, tortured, executed or murdered for professing their Christian faith. We are fortunate in this country to be able to profess our faith; may it ever be so. As we mark this important anniversary, let us remember in prayer most especially, those brothers and sisters of ours still persecuted for following Jesus Christ"

The national shrine of St Cuthbert Mayne is the Catholic church in Launceston which bears his name. Every three years there is a diocesan pilgrimage to the shrine and visits to the Town Square and the Castle dungeon where he was imprisoned.

Parish priest, Canon David Annear, is the custodian of a major relic of St Cuthbert (the top of his skull) which will be solemnly received into the Cathedral at Vespers. There will be an opportunity to venerate the relic afterwards.



Cardinal Vincent Nicolls, Archbishop of Westminster, Primate of England and Wales



The relic of St Cuthbert Mayne, kept at his national shrine: the Catholic Church in Launceston





Each year on the feast of Christ the King, the Church in England and Wales invites young people to be at the heart of the celebration of National Youth Sunday. This year's theme is 'Something to Say'.

National Youth Sunday (NYS) is a joint initiative of the National Office of Vocations and CYMFED (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation). The NYS ite explaine. In the lead up to the 2018 on Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment, Pope Francis has said, "Every young person has something to say...something to say to priests, sisters, bishops and even the Pope." He is encouraging young people to turn to the Church and share their thoughts, cares and concerns. The Church is hoping to take advantage of the opportunity provided by this synod, to encourage young people to 'say something' to their parish priests, 'say something' to their chaplains, 'say something to the local Church. To help the Church become better at accompanying them in their vocational discernment.'

The NYS team hope that priests, chaplains and catechists are encouraged to find simple ways for young people to reach out and have their say. It is hoped that parishes that are not currently engaging with their young people will do something as simple as having a meal together, which may well prepare the ground for youth ministry in the future.

The National Youth Sunday website explains that 'Young people and their priests gathering around a table for a meal is the perfect setting to share their thoughts, cares and concerns, a great way to forge friendships. A meal could happen in the presbytery, a parishioner's home or a local restaurant, the critical thing is to get together.'



# St Vincent de Paul Society

The members and supporters of the SVP take this opportunity to send you their



A Guided Retreat for Young Adults (18-40) at The Cherwell Centre, 14, Norham Gardens, Oxford OX2 6QB

> For more information and Booking Form contact Anne Stewart astewart@shcj.org Tel. 01253 318196 or aoconnor@shcj.org Tel: 01865 552106

On the National Youth Sunday website, there are two videos following a parish priest and young people dining together and sharing their experiences. The website is packed full of resources for priests and young people who might like to take part in this initiative. . www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk

#### Diocese Of Plymouth Pilgrimage To Santiago De Compostela

SUN 6TH MAY TO THURS 17TH MAY 2018. Bishop Mark O'Toole and Fr Philip Austen escorting the you along El Camino, the ancient Way of St James. Cost £899. Flights: Bristol—Bilbao. Further details: Parish Office in Exmouth tel. 01395 263384, email: holyghost1@btconnect.com

## Best Wishes for a HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS

Plymouth Central Council Exeter District Council Plymouth District Council Cornwall District Council







December 2017





## The Latin Mass Society www.lms.org.uk 020 7404 7284

**Masses in the Extraordinary Form in Plymouth Diocese :** Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0EE Wednesday December 13th 10.30am Mass (Low/Sung For January/February/March 2018 contact LMS Rep for dates (below). St. Edward the Confessor, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth. 4PG PL3 Every Sunday morning at 11.30am (Sung) For special weekday Feasts, contact the LMS Rep (see below) Blessed Sacrament, Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter. EX1 2QJ 2nd Sunday December 3pm (Sung) 3rd Sunday January/February/March 2018 3pm. (Sung) St. Cyprian's Chapel, Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh. TQ13 0AD No Mass in December. January/February/March 2018 4th Sundays 3pm (Sung) Lanherne Convent, St. Mawgan, Newquay, Cornwall. TR8 4ER Sundays and every day 7.30am Rosary and Homily, followed by Holy Mass at 8.00am Our Lady, Old Mill Lane, Marnhull, Sturminster, Newton. DT10 1JX Thursday December 14th at 12 noon (Low). For January, February, March 2018 contact LMS Rep (see below) Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Cecelia, White Cliff Mill Street, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7BN. No Mass in December. For January, February, March, 2018 contact LMS Rep (see below)

> Any questions contact Maurice Quinn (LMS Rep, Devon and Dorset) on either : Email : mq018q1057@blueyonder.co.uk Mob. 0555536579





# Geoffrey Preston Celebrated Sculptor of this Parish

On entering the Blessed Sacrament church in Heavitree, Exeter or the adjacent St Richard Reynolds' Centre, you will be greeted by a striking relief plaque of the saint.

He was a local man and renowned as being of 'angelic countenance', a priest and a martyr, he was hung, drawn and quartered for his faith in the age of great Catholic oppression.

The near three-dimensional nature of the plaques captures the spirit of the saint better than stained glass could, giving a sense of his presence and his influence. That influence has permeated the Blessed Sacrament parish for some years, with research into his life story being enthusiastically carried out leading to increasing devotion to his sanctity.

The plaques are with characteristic modesty unsigned and it wasn't until a recent meeting of the Exeter Gentlemen's Breakfast that their authorship became widely known. The plaques were commissioned to extend knowledge of a local saint, but it took the Gentlemen's Breakfast to make known to more than a small number of parishioners, that the sculptor, like the saint came from amongst us. These Breakfasts are an Exeter institution involving the parishes of the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Sacrament, and after the full English, a talk is given to the replete gentlemen on a topic in some way religious.

At the last Breakfast, Geoffrey Preston was invited to give the talk. He became revealed not only as the artist behind the plaques, but as one of the nation's leading practitioners in his field.

Geoffrey set up his workshop in Exeter about eighteen years ago, he specialises in 'ornamental plasterwork' ceilings, works almost exclusively to commission and has recently been responsible for major restoration projects. He gave details of some of these to the Gentlemen's Breakfast with illustrations and a wealth of technical detail including an account of what is involved in raising and fixing a large expanse of carefully restored plasterwork. This was a task whose intricacy and potential for disaster was reminiscent of the raising of the chandelier in a stately home as featured in a memorable episode of 'Only Fools and Horses'.

After art college Geoffrey trained as a stone mason, and was later involved in the restoration of the façade of Exeter Cathedral in the early 1980's.

Because of his record of achievements, clients have great confidence in Geoffrey and are happy to give him a free hand



going as far as to say, 'Do what you like so long as it isn't religious'. What they may not realise is that Geoffrey feels his Catholic faith permeates all his work, but the clients get the benefit of his faith.

For further information Google 'Geoffrey Preston Ltd'. Edward Canning

# Hundreds dead on Iran-Iraq Border



A sumptuous range of gowns and accessories to suit every budget. Gowns, baby suits, shoes, tights, socks, shawls, veils and headdresses.



As if the area had not seen enough suffering already, an earthquake in the Middle East on the weekend of 11/12 November has killed more than 300 and left over 4000 homeless.

> The 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck the border region between Iran and Iraq, with aftershocks felt in Pakistan, Lebanon, Kuwait and Turkey. CNN reported that most deaths were in Iran; the northern, Kurdish region of Iraq, which has seen fierce fighting between IS/Daesh and the Kurdish Peshmergar, sw at least seven deaths and hundreds of injuries. Rescue operations are underway in both countries; Iran has declared three days of mourning.

In a telegram signed by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin and sent

to leaders in both Iran and Iraq, Pope Francis said he was "deeply saddened" by news of the quake, and assured all those affected of his "prayerful solidarity."

Voicing sorrow to the families of the victims, the Pope offered prayer for the deceased and entrusted them to God's mercy. He also prayed for the injured and the emergency personnel and civil authorities engaged in rescue efforts.

He closed the telegram asking God for the "divine blessings of consolation and

#### strength."

The quake is the strongest to hit the region in recent years, though not the most deadly. Iran, which sits along a major fault line between the Arabian and Eurasian tectonic plates, has experienced a number of earthquakes, with the most deadly being a 6.6 quake in 2003 that struck the city of Bam and killed some 26,000 people.

A decade earlier, in June 1990, roughly 37,000 people were killed in a major quake that leveled the cities of Rudbar, Manjil and Lushan.

TRAVEL INSURANCE Arranged for Catholic South West Readers

# THIS BUCKET SAVES LIVES

Water is essential to life – but in some parts of the world it can kill. In countries without proper treatment facilities, water that has been trodden and splashed in by animals ranging from water buffalo to birds, from hippos to zebras – and just by human beings further upriver – carries diseases and poisons that can kill.

Water-related diseases are the most common cause of death for children under the age of five in remote areas, and poor families become even poorer because they have to spend so much on medicine. Women face a stark choice. If they drink water from the dirty river close to home, their children could die. But if they walk to find cleaner water, they could be attacked. A water filter makes the local river water safe to drink.

#### Looks can kill

The water in the streams of the Chabanda and Lubero regions in the Democratic Republic of Congo is contaminated with salmonella, worms and e-coli bacteria. It looks murky and foulsmelling. For years, drinking this water caused children to die from preventable diarrhoea.

Building the sort of water and sewage treatment plants that we in the developed West take for granted is not an option. The governments can't afford it, international utility companies aren't interested. The solution has to be small-scale, family-sized and, above all: cheap.

#### Clean clear, pure...

CAFOD – the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development – has launched a project to help families in such blighted regions to install water filters and train them how to use it.

The blueprint for the water filter is simple: a leaky bucket sits on top of a larger container, which has a lid with a hole. Inside the bigger unit is an inner pipe, which is filled with sand. The outer pipe is filled with charcoal. The filthiest water imaginable is poured into the bucket at the top and, less than an hour later, pure, clear water emerges from the pipe at the side, to be collected into a clean container.

The sand filters out dirt and harmful organisms. The charcoal removes odour and makes the water really clear. The filtered water has been sampled and tested and found to be free even of e-coli in it. It is drinkable and the germs, bacilli and infections that it had been carrying has been filtered out.

#### ...and cheap

In countries without National Health Services, medicines have to be paid for. Buying cures for their preventably sick children is a huge financial burden.

When the filters are installed and the families are

# WATER FILTER ASSEMBLY



taught to use them, children don't die – they don't even get sick, anything like as often. Vulnerable people don't die of preventable diseases. Diarrhoea becomes a thing of the past.

years.

As you might expect – it being that time of year! – CAFOD has launched an appeal to help fund the clean water project. You can find out more at cafodwater.org

Each unit costs just £28, and it will last a family for ca

## **Pope Francis: The World Relies on the Family** *The future of the Church and the world is dependent on the good of the*

family, said Pope Francis in a video message on November 11 (EWTN/CNA)

"The love between a man and woman is one of the most generative human experiences, it is the ferment of the culture of encounter and brings to the present world an injection of sociality. The family born of marriage creates fruitful bonds, which reveal themselves to be the most effective antidote against the individualism that currently runs rampant."

Quoting his 2016 apostolic exhortation, Amoris laetitia, Pope Francis emphasized, "Indeed the good of the family is decisive for the future of the world and of the Church." In the reality of the family and of marital love, there may come situations which require "arduous choices," he continued, and these should be made "with righteousness." Therefore, divine grace, "which illuminates and strengthens married love and parental mission," is absolutely necessary for spouses and the family.

Pope Francis' video message echoed his recent keynote address to a major conference on the future of the European Union, in which he spoke out against abortion and said the Christian understanding of the family can serve as a model on which the European continent can base its identity as it faces a changing







WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SCHOOL ON THIS PAGE FOR SUPPORTING THE PAPER



The Pope sent a video message to participants in the third international symposium on Amoris laetitia, organized by the Italian bishops' conference. Taking place in Rome Nov. 11, the theme of the meeting was: "The Gospel of love between conscience and norm."

Speaking about the role of the properly formed conscience, Francis warned against the temptation to turn to a sort of egoism or "cult of self."

"The contemporary world risks confusing the primacy of conscience, which is always to be respected, with the exclusive autonomy of the individual in relation to the relationships he lives," he said.

This is why, he said, there is a need to form consciences – not substitute them – and to accompany spouses and parents in learning to "apply the Gospel to the concreteness of life." and uncertain future.

In the family, "diversity is valued and at the same time brought into unity," Francis said Oct. 28, explaining that the family "is the harmonious union of the differences between man and woman, which becomes stronger and more authentic to the extent that it is fruitful, capable of opening itself to life and to others."



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# 50 years – 8,800,000 abortions **Children under even greater threat**

it has been 50 years since the UK's Parliament passed the Abortion Act was passed. Sicne then, an estimated 8.8 million babies have been killed in the womb. What persuaded the country's MPs at the time to assent to this unprecedented slaughter was misplaced compassion, doubtless, but also the apparently sincere reassurances of such as David Steel, the Liberal MP who brought forward the legislation as a Private Member's Bill. He said

"...it is not the intention of the promoters of the Bill to leave a wide open door for abortion on request," (Hansard 5th Series, Vol 732, col 1075, 22 July 1966) and

"Nobody is advocating abortion on demand in this Committee or anywhere else ... " (Standing Committee F, 15 February)

Lord Silkin, the Sponsor of the Bill in the House of Lords, said:

"it is certainly not a general licence to carry out an abortion on anybody who desires it." (speaking in the House of Lord, Hansard, 19 July 1967, co 263)

Those assurances have turned out to be as hollow as empty, cynical laughter.

#### They want more

Unfortunately, it gets worse. Not content with the present regime, under which over 180,000 abortions were carried out last year - the overwhelming majority for reasons other than for dangerous health conditions or even as a result of the reasons of rape and incest that are always cited - organisations such as BPAS (British Pregnancy Advisory Society) and even Marie Stopes International are pressing for the removal of all restrictions on abortion. That would be the 'Canadian situation' - abortion could take place, on demand, for any reason and for none, right up to birth even during labour.

It is worth mentioning at this point that Marie Stopes International (MSI) has been cite by Care Quality the Commission (CQC) and was required to stop performing surgical procedures at some of its locations for several months, because of practices that the CQC determined were dangerous.

Far from being safe for women, organisations like MSI put them in danger. For what reason? Well, they claim to be charities but they have multimillion Pound structures so they could be reasonably accused of having at least a potential financial interest in seeing their 'market' expand.

#### Who to trust?

There are precious few MPs and no political parties



that can be trusted to stand up for the unborn. When a group of even Conservative MPs took advantage of the government's

weakness to pressure changes in the Queen's Speech to allow women from Northern Ireland to travel to the UK to receive 'free' abortions - in defiance of the maiority in the Province it was clear that none of the Westminster parties could be relied upon to push a pro-Life position, any more.

SPUC, the Society for Protection the of Unborn Children, has been campaigning and lobbying against

abortion for decades - since the Act first came out. It is now fighting against the continual attempts to introduce 'assisted dying' - euthanasia - onto the statute book. It is working now with the 'Don't Screen Us Out" campaign against the introduction of a 'non-intrusive' test for 'foetal abnormaility' very specifically, Down Syndrome. The drive is to follow the Icleandic approach, which has 'eliminated' Down Syndrome from the population by aborting any unborn child that seems to be at risk of having it.

The Life organization specializes in providing help for mothers and their babies, in emergency pregnancies and in distress. Real help, not the culture of death promoted by BPAS, MSI and its allies. The news that it was to receive a grant of a few hundred thousand Pounds from the 'tampon tax' fund was greeted with howls of outrage from the 'pro-chocie' brigade, who revealed that they are not at all interested in choice - they want to shut down any and all choices they do not approve of. Especially those that would save even one child and mother from abortion. The latest ruse is to impose 'buffer zones' to prevent pro-Life organisations holding prayer vigils within sight of abortion clinics.

The pro-Life forces are under huge and sustained attack, and this has not been a great year for the pro-Life cause - but there is also good news: the majority of people in the UK do NOT believe that abortion should be completely decriminalised. And organisations like SPUC and Life are fighting back. There is a branch of SPUC in Plymouth; the Secretary is Christine Hudson, who can be reached at chrishud78@talktalknet and on 01752 224018. Campaigns such as writing to MPs, especially during periods of heightened activity, are co-ordinated by SPUC and others.

Other useful numbers:

ARCH - Post Abortion Crisis and Pregnancy hotline - 0845 603 8501

PFN - Patients First Network - for those at risk of euthanasia - 0800 169 1719

SAFE AT SCHOOL - Assisting parents to protect their children from anti-Life sex education - a particularly hot topic now. 0208 407 3463



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# Army shells Iraqi town: priest refuses to leave

#### By John Newton, ACN

A senior Iraqi priest refused to leave Teleskov, northern Iraq – even after military forces gathered there for battle.

Chaldean cleric Father Salar Kajo and nine Church workers remained in the Christian-majority town on the Nineveh Plains, around 19 miles north of Mosul, despite Iraqi and Peshmerga armies amassing there over 48 hours. All other inhabitants left Teleskov by Tuesday 24th October after mortar shells landed in the town, injuring three children.

Both Kurdish and Iraqi forces are aware of the presence of Father Kajo and his team.

Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need has received information from various sources, including Father Kajo – who was in the UK earlier in October to speak at the launch of the charity's Persecuted and Forgotten? report – and town elders who have fled to nearby Algosh.

Iraqi forces had moved in heavy weaponry, including armoured vehicles, up to the outskirts of Teleskov, and the Peshmerga had set up defensive positions inside numerous houses. Kurdish forces from Alqosh had been moved towards the town.

With most other Peshmerga militias having reportedly stood down, local Church leaders have questioned why Kurdish forces apparently made a stand at Teleskov, where the majority of the homes damaged during Daesh (ISIS) occupation have been restored. More than 70% of the families that were driven out by Daesh had returned to the town.

There are signs that further fighting could be averted following a statement issued by the Kurdistan Regional government, 25thOctober.

The message called for an immediate ceasefire and halt to all military operations in the region and promised to "[f]reeze the results of referendum conducted in the Iraqi Kurdistan" so that there could be dialogue between the Kurdistan Regional Government and Iraqi Federal Government.

"Attacks and confrontations between Iraqi and Peshmerga forces that started on October 16th, 2017... have caused damage to both sides and could lead to a continuous bloodshed, inflicting pain and social unrest among different components of Iraqi society. Certainly, continued fighting does not lead any side to victory, but it will drive the country towards disarray and chaos, affecting all aspects of life."

Aid to the Church in Need has been working with local churches to rebuild Christian towns and villages that were destroyed by extremist group Daesh after they seized the Nineveh Plains. Neville Kyrke-Smith, national director of Aid to the Church in Need (UK) called for prayer for peace in the Nineveh Plains.

"We have stood by our Iraqi brothers and sisters as they were forced out of their homes, supporting the marvellous work done by the local churches who



provided food, shelter and emergency aid for them in their time of crisis. With the defeat of Daesh, we have been helping Iraq's Christians to repair their damaged houses, so that they can at long last return to the places they call home.

"It would be a tragedy if a new round of armed fighting shattered their dreams of going home. We ask everyone to pray for those affected – and call on others to do all they can to enable a lasting and stable peace.

"But whatever happens we will stand by our Iraqi brothers and sisters in their hour of need," Mr Kyrke-Smith added.

# **RED WEDNESDAY!** Better Red than Dead? For Faith and Freedom!

#### John Pontifex, ACN

On #RedWednesday, 22 November, more than 30 cathedrals, churches and schools, from the West Coast of Scotland to the south coast of England, have so far pledged to take part in #RedWednesday as the UK prepares to stand up for faith and freedom.

With less than three weeks to go until #RedWednesday – 22nd November – Christian groups from across the UK have said they will take part in the initiative ,which aims to promote faith and tolerance in society, stand in solidarity with victims of persecution, and oppose violence and oppression carried out in the name of religion.

## STAND UP FOR FAITH AND FREEDOM ON #REDWEDNESDAY WEAR RED ON WEDNESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2017

Wrexham; St Mirin Cathedral, Paisley; St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich – and in Birmingham both St Chad's Catholic Cathedral and St Philip's Church of England Cathedral will be taking part.

Getting involved in #RedWednesday will be students from throughout the UK including Cumbria, North Ayrshire, Glasgow, Surrey and Cambridge, as well those from various institutes in London.

Meanwhile, a red bus emblazoned with the #RedWednesday slogan – "Stand Up for Faith and Freedom" – will tour central London. It is scheduled to stop at iconic venues, including St Paul's Cathedral, St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square and Lambeth Palace. freedom seriously so we are inviting parish and prayer groups, families and students to Westminster Cathedral Piazza on #RedWednesday, gathering at 6pm with music and film ahead of the prayer service.

"Please wear something red. Together let's make a stand for faith and freedom and help Christians and others – especially in the Middle East – who urgently need our support this Christmas."

Also floodlit in red will be England's National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham, Norfolk; Our Lady Immaculate Parish, Bournemouth; Cardinal Newman High School, Bellshill; St Columba's Church, Inverness; Farm Street Church, London; St Mary's University, Twickenham; Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe; Lancaster University Catholic Chaplaincy; Holy Name Church, Manchester; St Joseph's, Bromyard and St Joseph's, Pontefract.

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## The Parish of St Cuthbert Mayne

Sunday 24th December, Christmas Eve Vigil Mass of Christmas at 5pm at St Peter's, Bude Night Mass of Christmas at 9pm at St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day Mass of the Dawn at 7.45am at Our Lady of Victories, Callington Mass of the Day at IOam at Bude and Launceston

## Most Precious Blood Sidmouth

Christmas Vigil Mass 7pm on Sunday 24th December, Midnight Mass at Midnight, Christmas Day Mass at 10:30am, Vigil Mass Saturday 30th December at 5:30pm, Sunday Mass on Sunday 31st January at 10:30am



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES SUNDAY 24th Dec - CHRISTMAS EVE 8.30 am - Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Agnes. 10.30 am - Most Holy Trinity, Newquay. 12.00 Noon - Christ the King, Perranporth. Christmas Children's N (Most Holy Trinity) 8.30 pm - Christmas Eve Carols (Most Holy Trinity) 9.00 pm - Vigil Mass (Most Holy Trinity) MONDAY 25th Dec - CHRISTMAS DAY 8.30 am - Our Ladv Star of the Sea. St. Agnes 10.30 am - Most Holy Trinity, Newquay 12.00 Noon - Christ the King, Perranporth TUESDAY 26th Dec - ST. STEPHENS 9.30 am – Most Holy Trinity, Newquay SUNDAY 31ST DEC - NEW YEARS EVE 10.30 am – Most Holy Trinity, Newquay 4.00 pm – Christ the King, Perranporth 6.00 pm - Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Agnes MONDAY 1st JANUARY - NEW YEARS DAY 10.30 am - Most Holy Trinity, Newquay

Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), which is organising #RedWednesday with support from Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), is inviting people to wear an item of red clothing on the day.

#### Red: for suffering and martyrdom

#RedWednesday organisers – who chose red to symbolise martyrdom and suffering – are appealing for public buildings to be floodlit red on the day. They are also asking people to share images of their activities on social media using the hashtag. According to latest ACN reports, cathedrals will be going red across the UK – in Wales and Northern Ireland as well as England and Scotland.

Among those pledging to light up red on the 22nd November are St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh; St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr; St Mary's Cathedral, The bus's final destination will be a floodlit Westminster Cathedral.

There on the steps outside will be a service with Gospel music, persecution witness testimonies and speeches by Church leaders and politicians – as well as ACN (UK) National Director Neville Kyrke-Smith and CSW's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas.

Inviting people to get involved in #RedWednesday, the initiative's coordinator Patricia Hatton from ACN said: "#RedWednesday is a unique opportunity to stand up for faith and freedom in this country and around the world and to shine a light on the persecution of Christians and other faith groups today.

"We need people to take the issue of religious

## The annual National Conference

<sup>4</sup>A Call to Action' was held at the Quaker Meeting House, Birmingham, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Over 200 people, from dioceses across England and Wales, attended the event.

For other Masses and Service times during the week please see our website www.mostholytrinity.co.uk

#### December 2017

# **SHARE THE FARE...** by Julia Beacroft

THE TRADITIONAL TURKEY roast dinner seems to be synonymous with Christmas and I've certainly had my fair share of cooking them. Yet strangely many of us seem to be over-awed, worried or downright stressed at the prospect of tackling the festive big bird each year.

Questions over whether we have the right sized roasting tin, the correct width baking foil and even more importantly, how long the bird will take to cook in the oven, causes many cooks to scratch their heads and ponder each year. And problems so easily arise as well... A friend of mine invited some elderly guests who had no families of their own for the Christmas meal, but nearly had a heart attack himself when he dropped the roasting tin, complete with half-cooked turkey on to his kitchen floor

#### FOOL PROOF PLAN

On another occasion, my kitchen came close to resembling an abattoir, when I tried to implement what I believed to be a fool proof plan to make sure that the turkey was cooked to perfection. Or so I thought... As a family of six we were in possession of a large slow cooker. Therefore the perfect solution to the timing debacle was to put the turkey in to slow cook overnight on a low setting. Ideal! Unfortunately however, the slow cooker was large - but clearly not large enough.

Denuded of first it's wings and then its legs in a desperate bid to fit it in, my late father was heard to murmur sympathetically: "Poor little so-and-so! What have they done to you?!"

#### SHARING OUR LIVES

Of course, turkey dinners for Christmas are rooted

in history, originally being introduced into this country circa 1500s and with King Henry VIII being the first British monarch to enjoy the bird at Christmas. Yet this year I am planning a change of menu. On Christmas Day when my large and extended family gather together, we are having 'shared plate' buffet-

style Christmas fare. Why? Well, obviously if you're a roast turkey and vegetable fan this wouldn't necessarily appeal to you, but there are definitely some advantageous reasons. The idea of coming together, bringing and sharing, is fundamentally founded in Christianity.

Hospitality and sharing our food, which has been produced by man in co-operation with God, means that we are also sharing our lives. And it seems to me that sharing our lives with each other and with the Lord is the very essence of the season of Christmas.

#### THE ESSENTIAL HEART

The 'Bring and share' initiative is not necessarily synonymous with Christmas dinner, but it is synonymous with Christianity as we share the food and the workload!

And this unique and novel way of having the Christmas meal means that all those involved can go to Mass on Christmas morning without having to worry or get in a flap about over or undercooking the seasonal turkey. Christmas Day is the celebration of the Lord's birth. This is the essential heart of the celebration of Christmas. Without the Lord, there would be no Christmas. Without turkey, we can manage perfectly.



Snoopy was keen to share his Christmas fare ..!



## **Catenian Association Province 13 Public Speaking Contest**

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#### Saturday, 24th February 2018 at St Peter's Church Boniface Lane, Plymouth PL5 3AX

# And now it's Yeovil...

Catholic writer, blogger and broadcaster Caroline Farrow recently wrote a piece in Conservative Woman about an extremely disturbing case in Yeovil, which is only just outside the Diocesan border. It's published by kind permission of Conservative Woman.

You might have missed the recent publication of a Serious Case Review on the grooming, sexual abuse and exploitation of at least seven young girls by two Turkish men who ran a barber's shop in Yeovil. It was buried beneath the slew of allegations about MPs touching the knees of female journalists over boozy lunches several years ago.

Two of the young Yeovil victims described being pinned down and forcibly tattooed and pierced, being beaten and sexually assaulted, having multiple forced miscarriages and abortions under the age of 16, being force-fed a number of drugs and fearing for their lives - over a number of years.

#### The victim charged...

One of the girls reported her abuser to the police several times, only to find herself in court facing charges of verbal racist assault brought by the man. At this point she had already disclosed her under-age relationship with this married man, who was at least 12 years older than herself to the police, who ignored this fact and arrested her, instead

The police were apparently so blinded by concerns of hate crime that they couldn't identify that a man knocking about with a bunch of young teenage girls on the street merits further investigation.



Crime Commissioners in 2014, after four long years, that something was finally done. A detective constable was allocated to research previous crimes, known information and ascertain any new lines of inquiry.

Two children had given birth by the same man in a 12-month period. The police knew that the man had threatened one of these girls with a knife to force her to terminate the pregnancy, and that one girl had given evidence about waking up in a flat with strange men after having her drink spiked. The local authority was informed. Nothing was done.

#### Abortion - the Abuser's Friend

While we do not know which provider was involved in Yeovil, whoever abortion provider carried out the procedures these girls suffered also has to carry some portion of the blame, as this was identified by the review as yet another missed opportunity for intervention. The law on abortion was flouted, and nothing was done.

It's a microcosm of modern Britain: police apparently more interested in a fabricated accusation of verbal racist assault made by an abuser than the plight of his victim, and a society which believes that teenagers need to be taught about sex and given free access to abortions to get them out of trouble.

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Or your local representative .....

at:....

Fortunately, the girl was cleared of the ludicrous charge of 'hate crime' but the case review is a damning indictment of the misplaced priorities so prevalent in today's culture. When the parents of one of the girls repeatedly begged the authorities to investigate further, having reported behaviour changes, self-harm attempts and suspected miscarriages, they were ignored. The Review found that practitioners focused upon short-term intervention for perceived parenting deficits rather than taking the time to listen and hear the parents' worries of risks outside the family. In short, they blamed the parents.

#### Chances to intervene...overlooked

After 14 missed opportunities, it was only when the mother of one of the girls wrote to the Police and Why talk about this? Because our children are being put at severe risk by misguided social policy, which isn't just affecting the criminal justice area. It is affecting schools as well. It is guite shocking, and a matter of concern to every parent in the country.

You can find Caroline Farrow's full article at www.conservativewoman.co.uk/caroline-farrowreal-sex-scandal-police-care-hate-crime-girls-rape The full Serious Case Review report can be found

at

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/newsroom/2017/ 11/serious-case-review-published-regardingoperation-fenestra/

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Please support Christian Blind Mission today and bring colour back into someone's world.

...to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free Luke 4:18



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<b>£24</b> could restore sight in an adult's eye		
<b>£48</b> could restore sight in both eyes of an adult		

- **£95** could restore the sight of a child like Milly
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