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The CatholicPost



The UK's first Carbon Neutral Catholic Newspaper



KSC, Bishop and clergy celebrate 100th birthday of Council 29
page 4



Bumper Operation Elf helps Mums and Dads in prison
page 11



CAFOD working alongside schools
page 12

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple
2nd February

Food For Thought

A relational church is needed now, more than ever

Ben Curran - togetherforthecommongood.co.uk

We need to rebuild our relationships with struggling communities through genuine connections, loving friendship, trust, reciprocity and mutual respect

This Lent finds many families continuing to struggle as the cost-of-living crisis maintains its grip on the UK economy. Whilst bills are soaring, household incomes cannot keep pace, leaving many families facing difficult decisions. As the crisis continues, many people realise local churches need to act within their local communities rather than wait for government. Yet, many parishes need support to do that.

“There is a grim irony that while the Church has a prophetic mission to serve poor communities suffering from cold and hunger, it is often estranged from those same communities,” explains Jenny Sinclair, Founder Director of Together for the Common Good.

She founded Together for the Common Good to revitalise churches and schools to enable them to fulfil their vital role in spiritual and civic renewal by building Common Good in the place where they live, strengthening social solidarity across different opinions and backgrounds.

“We need a relational church now, more than ever. We need to rebuild our relationships with struggling communities through genuine connections, loving friendship, trust, reciprocity and mutual respect. Discerning what God wants of us within these relationships should form the bedrock of our response to the cost-of-living crisis.”

Social action, common good style

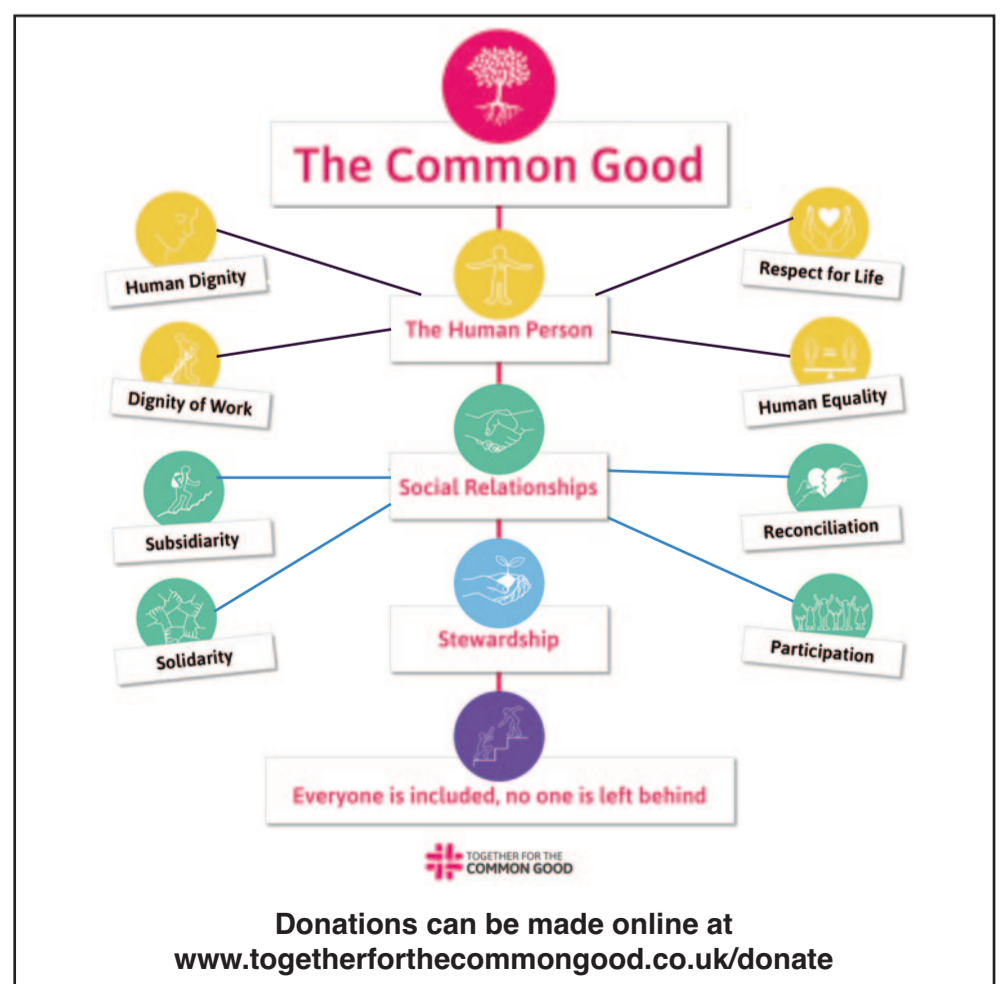
Many parishes want to do something about problems in their community but aren't sure what to do or how to approach it. That was a challenge facing parishioners from St Mary's Catholic Church in Loughborough in the East Midlands.

“Our parish has been popular for church services but had little engagement within the wider neighbourhood. Half a dozen of us met around the table debating the meaning of ‘action’ in social action. We prayed, asking God for guidance: how can we make a difference within our local community”. Our discernment kept bringing us back to the challenges that local families have in feeding and entertaining their young children during school holidays. We prayed together and followed what the Spirit was telling us. We setup Grub Club to help,” explained Catherine Brady, Co-Founder and Chair of Grub Club.

Grub Club provides children and their families with a hot meal and fun activities during school holidays. During their first six weeks, Grub Club served 380 meals to children, siblings, carers and volunteers. But Grub Club became more than a service provider. Relationships deepened and beneficiaries got involved: significantly, a parent joined the Grub Club board. Many neighbouring organisations partnered, creating a rich patchwork of local relationships.

By listening to the Spirit and partnering with the local community, Grub Club is not only providing meaningful support but also building relationships. This is the Common Good approach in action.

Times are tough. Families across the UK are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis right now. They need your prayers more than ever. If you are able to, supporting Together for the Common Good to support parishes and schools tackling challenges in their community is a great use of a Lenten donation.



Donations can be made online at www.togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/donate



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Please send articles for publication by email, supplying any photos separate to the text We welcome contributions

Here are answers to some basic questions about writing for The Catholic Post

How long should articles be?

Usually it seems to work out best if contributors simply say what they have to say and let us worry about finding a spot for it in the paper.

What is the submission procedure?

Please send as a Word file attached to an e-mail. To submit articles for publication, contact John Clawson by email at johnclwson@icloud.com Charts, graphs, and photos should be submitted as separate PDFs. Electronic photos should not be embedded or pasted into a Word document as this reduces their quality.

Photographs and Illustrations

Photographs and Illustrations should be supplied electronically as high resolution JPEG (*.JPG) files.

Photographs and illustrations should be sent in colour with a resolution of 300 dpi and a minimum size of 100 mm x 100 mm when printed (approx. 1200 pixels wide on-screen).

Computer print-outs are not acceptable. Screen captures are not ideal as they are usually not very high

Parental permission should be sought before submitting photographs of minors.

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Aspects of Lent

From the presbytery..... by Fr Neil McNicholas

Consider that God wants to fill you up with honey, but if you are already full of vinegar where will you put the honey? What was in the vessel must be emptied out; the vessel itself must be washed out and made clean and scoured, hard work though it may be, so that it be made fit for something else, whatever it may be. Let us say honey, or gold, or wine, whatever we say it cannot be named and whatever we want to say is in fact called 'God'.

What got me started on this is what usually gets me started on such things – looking up a word in the dictionary, in this case the word Lent. It turns out (and I don't think I had realised this before) that it comes from Middle/Old English (*lente/lencten*) and Germanic (*lang-*) referring to the lengthening days of spring. The Saxons called March *lenctern monath* because during that month the days noticeably lengthened. So, in that sense, it was initially a seasonal time on the calendar rather than a religious or liturgical time of the year. This led me to look things up in a number of other sources that I will borrow from in offering the following combination of information, which I hope will prove helpful.

Lent is, of course, the name given to the forty-day period of prayer, fasting and penance (in preparation for Easter) which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends before the Easter Vigil. I think I am right in saying that it's not necessarily everyone's favourite season of the Church's year because, as we'll see, it makes demands on us in areas we'd much prefer that it didn't – areas of personal comfort we might call them.

On Ash Wednesday it is traditional to be signed on the forehead with ashes (obtained from burning the previous year's Palm Sunday palms). In various places in the Old Testament, reference is made to wearing sackcloth and being covered with ashes as an external sign of sorrow and penance for sin. It is in this regard that the Church has traditionally marked the beginning of the season of Lent with the blessing and imposition of ashes, and for that reason people were encouraged to go to Ash Wednesday Mass. However, contrary to what many people think, it is not a holyday of obligation and never was.

(A personal comment: Recognising and appreciating the meaning behind the action suggests the inappropriateness of presenting innocent babies and small children to be anointed with ashes. Not only do they not understand what it is they are doing in terms of an act of penance (as an adult would), but, more importantly, what sins do they have to be sorry for? People's response to what I have just said may depend on how well they themselves have understood the symbolism of receiving the ashes, or whether it is just something they

do and would therefore bring their children to do.

Also on a recent Ash Wednesday, three people came to me after Mass to ask for the ashes; they hadn't arrived for Mass in time to receive communion, but were intent on receiving the ashes. There's almost a superstition involved – that it's Ash Wednesday and therefore we must receive the ashes. What might that say about their understanding of what receiving the ashes is all about, especially when Mass and communion should have been a priority?)

The liturgical colour throughout Lent is penitential purple – except on feast days (white) or the memorials of martyrs (red). And because of the solemn (and again penitential) nature of the season, the word "Alleluia" – being an expression of praise and rejoicing – is omitted from the prayers of the Office and the Gospel Acclamation, as is the "Gloria" at Mass for the same reason.

Traditionally Lent was divided into two parts: Quadragesima (from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday before Passion Sunday) and Passiontide (from Passion Sunday until the evening of Holy Saturday.)

(A personal comment: Passion Sunday used to be two weeks before Easter and was followed by Palm Sunday, whereas the two Sundays are now combined and celebrated on the last Sunday before Easter. This accounts for why, in the Ordo, there is still an instruction that, if it is the custom, crosses and images in church may be covered (with purple) from what is now the Fifth Sunday of Lent – two weeks before Easter and a week before Palm Sunday when we enter into the Passion and Holy Week on our modern calendar.)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent used to be known as Laetare Sunday – the word *laetare* ("rejoice") being the first word of the Opening Prayer of the Mass that day (the Introit, as it was called). The priest used to wear rose-coloured vestments instead of purple (usually no longer the practice) in order to emphasise the more joyful aspect of that particular day. In the early Church, the Lenten fast did not begin until the following day and so this Sunday was a joyful celebration before the penitence of Lent began. Later, when the fast was extended to all of Lent, Laetare Sunday was seen as a sort of

mid-Lent "relaxation" from our penitential efforts, a "day off" as it were.

The Fourth Sunday also happens to be Mothering Sunday ("Mother's Day" – a day of joy for other reasons) said to derive from the pre-Reformation custom of people visiting their cathedral or motherchurch on that day; or from the custom of children who were away from home – especially daughters in service – visiting their mothers and families on this day; or from the various references to motherhood in the reading from Galatians (4 v 22-31) which was the epistle for the day in the old missal.

In the early Church, Lent was a period of final preparation for catechumens (those receiving instruction in the Faith) prior to their baptism and reception into the Church at Easter. For everyone else it became, as we've said, a time of penance and alms-giving in preparation for Easter. Public penitents, as was the custom, were excluded from the church from Ash Wednesday until Maundy Thursday. In Rome penitential processions took place daily during Lent, ending each day at the church of a different saint or martyr as part of the eighty-four station days of the year – days of fasting until the end of Mass. (The word station was from the Latin meaning "to stand" – because the days involved walking and standing.)

Lent begins and ends with the two days we probably struggle with the most: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, days of fasting and abstinence – which is why we may struggle with them. In the first centuries of the Church only Good Friday and Holy Saturday were observed as days of penance and fasting. This was then extended to all of Holy Week, then to the three weeks leading up to Easter, and later still to the six weeks before Easter (and we think we've got things bad!).

(A personal comment: I have heard people claim that Sundays didn't count as part of Lent. I always took it to be the invention of those who were looking for an excuse to take a one-day break each week from whatever it was they had decided to give up for Lent, but it seems it may have been true. Sundays, all the year round (and therefore including those of Lent) commemorate Our Lord's Resurrection and are therefore meant to be days of joy and celebration, not of fasting or penance. There are 46 calendar days in Lent, but only the 40 if we therefore don't count the six Sundays. (It seems to me that having a "day off" every week during Lent would make it all the more difficult to return to whatever it was we had decided to give up, or to do by way of penance and self-denial. Might it not be better – practically and spiritually – to give things up for the whole of Lent instead of looking for a reason not to?)

(Part 2 of this article will follow in our March edition)

Homelessness charity thanks Coventry pupils for winter gesture

emmaus.org.uk

They have each contributed something positive to the community

Children at a Coventry primary school have helped to provide hot meals for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness this winter.

Pupils at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, part of the Romero Catholic Academy, have teamed up with Emmaus Coventry & Warwickshire to provide lunch for 13 people at risk of homelessness during the colder months.

Children from all year groups helped to create hot dishes including homemade vegetable soup and sausage rolls, as well as chocolate crispy cakes, before Romero Catholic Academy's catering team delivered the food to the charity's community office on Brinklow Road ready for lunch time.

The initiative was developed by staff at St Gregory's to support the local community as part of a school-wide Day of Service, with all ingredients donated by parents, family and staff.

Emmaus Coventry & Warwickshire enables people who have experienced or been at risk of homelessness to receive support and be part of a community, with accommodation for 17 people.

Head of Catering at the Romero Catholic Academy Marcus Chilvers was joined by



Catering Support Manager Jane Andreassen and other members of the catering team to help students create the dishes.

Marcus said: "It's vital at this time of year to bear in mind those who may not get to enjoy the plenty and excess that we associate with the festive season, and it was brilliant to see pupils taking that on board and putting the effort in to supporting local people. "They have each contributed something positive to the community and, for one meal at least, helped to address what is a great concern for many across the nation."

Megan Scullion, Associate Principal at St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, said: "We felt it was extremely important at this time of year to dedicate our Day of Service to having

a positive impact on those experiencing or at risk of homelessness this winter.

"Our pupils rose to the challenge, and it was great to see their enthusiasm in making a difference to people in the local area, and supporting an important cause."

Falishia Channer, Operations Manager at Emmaus Coventry & Warwickshire, said: "We're extremely grateful to the staff and pupils at St Gregory's. Thanks to their kindness and hard work, the people we support enjoyed a very special and delicious lunch - there was certainly no food left afterwards! It was greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten."

For more information about Emmaus Coventry & Warwickshire visit emmaus.org.uk/coventry-warwickshire

Stella Maris Chief Executive Officer to step down

Stella Maris

As the leading provider of welfare support for seafarers, fishers, and their families, Stella Maris is in a better place now than it was 13 years ago

After almost 13 years' service with Stella Maris, Martin Foley has informed the Trustees that he will be resigning his position to take up the role of Chief Executive Officer with the Arise Foundation, an anti-slavery NGO. His precise date of departure has yet to be confirmed but is likely to be towards the end of March 2023. Martin will continue serving as Stella Maris CEO until then.

Esteban Pacha, Chair of Trustees, said: "On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to express my thanks to Martin for his service to Stella Maris. As the leading provider of welfare

support for seafarers, fishers, and their families, Stella Maris is in a better place now than it was 13 years ago. That is due to Martin's dedication and hard work in collaboration with all our volunteers, chaplains, staff, trustees, and supporters. His wonderful efforts for seafarers, fishers and their families have produced tremendous fruit, both here in the UK and overseas through the global Stella Maris network."

Martin Foley said: "Stella Maris is an outstanding charity. It has been a privilege to serve Stella Maris as Chief Executive Officer,



alongside our superb volunteers, chaplains, staff, and trustees. We have achieved a great deal together and I give thanks to God for the part he has enabled me to play in this.

"As both Stella Maris and the Arise Foundation are involved in the fight against slavery and human trafficking, in my new role with the Arise Foundation I hope to continue to collaborate with Stella Maris, here in the UK and overseas, to eradicate slavery in the maritime sector."

The recruitment process for Martin's successor is underway. Further details will be announced shortly via website and social media channels

Through Your Support

Small actions of love can make a huge difference to people's lives. Crown of Thorns rosary cards, rosary packs, reconciliation cards, along with items donated through the generosity of parishes and individuals, supports the work of priests and chaplains in a multitude of circumstances and continue to reach out to comfort and console the downtrodden, the imprisoned, the sick and those at sea.

The following reports come from some of the chaplains that have recently received supplies:

From a prison chaplain: "I want to say a big thank you for the items you have provided me with for use at our prison. These will all go a long way in helping to bring Christ to the lives of our prisoners and I know it will bring a sense of comfort to them too. Even having a small picture on the wall helps them stay focused on what is really important in such a noisy, uncomfortable and sometimes volatile environment. I am so grateful for all that you have provided."

And from chaplaincy in a secure mental health unit: "I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'Thank you' to Crown of Thorns for the continued support for the ministry of the Chaplaincy Team. The items which you send us make a real difference to both our staff and patients. It is greatly appreciated."

From a Seafarers chaplain: "The box of items arrived in beautiful condition and I took some to the ships today. They are really appreciated."

In hospital chaplaincies our cards reach out not only to comfort the sick but also to cheer the staff and visitors.

It is only through the generosity of our supporters that this work is possible. Thank you. You are making a very big difference.

www.crownofthorns.org.uk
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Promoting the Holy Rosary in the U.K. & throughout the world to bring hope, comfort and peace to the marginalised, the oppressed and the imprisoned, enabling wounded hearts to find healing and shattered lives to find breath and space to renew.

Supporting priests and chaplains in their ministry, outreach and welfare.

Response from parish priests: "The rosary cards that you sent me have had a tremendous effect on the devotion and prayer life of the parish."

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KSC Council 29 celebrates hitting 100 not out!

Middlesbrough Catholic Voice

A screen showing photographs of the knights in action over the years provided a backdrop for the banquet hall

Council 29 of the Knights of St Columba, based in Middlesbrough, marked its 100th birthday in style.

The celebrations began with a black-tie dinner attended by Bishop Terry and clergy from throughout the diocese, as well as Council 29 brothers and their wives and families.

A screen showing photographs of the knights in action over the years provided a backdrop for the banquet hall.

Bishop Terry, Supreme Grand Knight of the order Harry Welsh and Council 29 Grand Knight Andrew Gardner all spoke after dinner.

TV and radio comedy impressionist Kevin Connelly, brother of Council 29 treasurer Roland, also entertained guests with a hilarious appearance to round off the night.

The following day, brothers met again for a celebration Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, where Bishop Terry was the principal celebrant.



Knights of St Columba with Bishop Terry and clergy after Mass to celebrate the 100th birthday of Council 29

Afterwards, they gathered for bacon sandwiches in the church hall.

The Knights of St Columba order was formed in Glasgow in 1919 and exists to support the Church's mission and work for the spiritual, intellectual and material welfare of its

members and their families through the virtues of charity, unity and fraternity.

Brothers can often be seen helping to marshal diocesan events such as the Assumption Pilgrimage and the Postgate Rally. Anyone interested in joining the KSC can contact their parish Priest



Loss and HOPE

In 2022 the UK's Bereavement Commission reported that, 'Millions of people across the UK faced bereavement in 2020, with hundreds of thousands more bereaved than in previous years as a result of Covid-19. Across England and Wales, 614,000 people died during 2020 and 2021, leaving an estimated three million people facing bereavement. This is 75,000 more deaths than the average across the previous five years - with an estimated additional 375,000 left bereaved.' The Commission specifically highlights the role of faith communities - asking everyone to work together - and suggesting that GPs, local authorities, funeral directors and all involved in the bereavement sector to get behind faith communities in offering support. Loss and HOPE recently published case studies highlighting examples of what churches are doing here - www.lossandhope.org/bereavement-friendly-church-case-studies/

Reverend Cassius Francis said, 'We would welcome the opportunity to engage more Christians and particularly those who are training for ministry in this critical area of mission, so please do get in touch via our website www.lossandhope.org if you are interested to know more about the training and resources that we can offer.'

Reverend Cassius Francis is the Church Trainer & Resourcer with Loss and HOPE.

Parish Matters

Peter Boylan KSG



Celebrating Easter, two challenges and a story

As we begin our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and alms-giving, we can anticipate the great Christian feast of Easter of 9th April. The date of Easter is one which always requires a check such are the vagaries of the varying date. It is fixed by an age-old formula: "the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the spring equinox." This means that Easter Sunday could be celebrated very soon after March 21st or within the four weeks to late April. Increasingly and notably from the school world, what used to be termed 'the Easter Holiday' has been renamed 'Spring Break' and dates settled to allow for a public examination schedule. How easy it would be, it is declared, if we had a fixed date for Easter and our modern year could be better organised.

It may be a surprise to many, but in the 'Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy' the Council Fathers considered and approved the idea of a fixed liturgy. In the appendix to that document it is written that "The Sacred Council would not object if the feast of Easter were assigned to a particular Sunday of the Gregorian Calendar, provided that those whom it may concern, especially the brethren who are not in communion with the Apostolic See, give their assent."

Considering that this declaration was published in December 1963, in the sixty years to be marked in December this year, we might wonder how far this has progressed. Increasingly the secular world

has dictated such a change with the consequence being that this, the greatest Christian feast, increasingly disappears from any public calendar. With the data from the recent census recording that only 46% of our fellow citizens declare themselves as Christian, the increasing secularist challenge will claim that the marking of any Christian feast is an irrelevance.

As we see increasingly with the feast of Christmas, the commercial world is only too happy to take what it can gain, from within the Christian tradition and discard the remainder. Easter is a more complex message of repentance, hope and resurrection marked commercially only with hot cross buns, rabbits and Easter eggs, to be easily replaced by 'Spring breaks' and DIY projects. The secular challenge is with us now.

But in terms of a parish celebration of the Easter Triduum, lies a great practical challenge. With the shortage of clergy, resident in a parish, how can they be present in two or three churches to preside over these liturgies? In our remote parish, with one noble resident priest who celebrates Sunday mass at four different venues over forty miles apart, short of a miracle of bi-location, this is not feasible. Many more parish centres must suffer in a similar way. What preparations have been made for such present, and increasingly more prevalent, circumstances? While a lay-led para-liturgical can be celebrated to mark Good Friday, it misses the relevance of the Triduum itself, with the

continuing liturgy marking the three major events of the Eucharist, the Crucifixion and Death of Christ, and the Resurrection. Surely among our many individual parishes somewhere these liturgical issues must have been addressed. If so, now is the time to share those practises and experiences as this liturgical challenge is with us now.

Many years ago, teaching in a State boys' boarding school in a secular country in rural Africa, we were making our own in-school preparation to mark Holy week and celebrate Easter knowing that we would still be in school term. We had the support of a missionary priest who came to school for Sunday mass but we had to make the special arrangements. We had a significant number of committed students identified as Catholics. However a week before Easter the leaders among these lads came to me in high dudgeon: the school had arranged a special film night at the same time as we were to celebrate the Easter vigil at the local church. They were concerned that many of their fellow students would choose the film rather than the liturgy. The liturgy plans continued. When the flame from the Easter candle was passed to light all the individual and Church candles in a building without electricity, (the altar was lit with a camping-gaz light) the brightness from that original flame shone meaningfully through the Church dramatically illustrating 'the Light of Christ. Oh, and we had a full congregation. Trust the Holy Spirit!

Fr Peter brings an Indian fervour to North Walsham

rcdea.org

The community could see from the very start of his ministry that he offered an extraordinary clarity of the Gospel message



Fr Peter Raj

Fr Peter Raj, who is originally from Goa in India, has taken over as Parish Priest of Sacred Heart North Walsham.

The Catholic community in North Walsham, which is linked with St John of the Cross, Aylsham and St Helen, Hoveton, had of course been saddened by the announcement of Fr James Walsh's retirement. But since the parish has recently seen an influx of Indians and their families coming to work locally, many of them Catholics, it would seem a happy coincidence that Fr Peter is himself from India, from Margao, Goa, on the west coast of that great sub-continent.

When he arrived and took up his duties in the three churches there was an immediate response from parishioners of welcoming warmth. The community could see from the very start of his ministry that he offered an extraordinary clarity of the Gospel message, together with an energetic and total dedication.

"We are indeed a very happy parish," writes Antonia Martínez, "agog at the innovations Fr Peter so quickly has in mind to bring about, in order to reach as many as he can, both old and young, with the love of our Lord."

Fr Peter is fairly new to this country. Having visited family living here in the UK when on holiday on a number of occasions, he felt the call to dedicate his life to the people of East Anglia, leaving behind his family, friends, culture and comforts. He served as an assistant priest at Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge for 20 months. Bishop Alan then appointed and installed him as the parish priest of St Mark's Church, Ipswich; but after a year he was asked to take on the responsibility of St Mary's Parish with the coming of the Carmelite Community to St Mark's Church. He faithfully carried out his pastoral duties at St Mary's Church, Ipswich, for the last three years.

"At the Sacred Heart we have been extremely blessed with our different pastors," writes Antonia. "Now, with the commencement of Fr Peter's time with us, hopefully for many years, the parish can look forward to further enlightenment in our faith from his spiritual fervour and energy."

Diocese launches new fundraising initiative

middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk

He has extensive knowledge of parish finances and will use his network of parish contacts to full advantage in this role



As we continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic, the trustees have appointed a fundraising officer to help support its parishes and create a fundraising strategy across the diocese.

Dan Woodgate takes on the role with a wealth of diocesan experience behind him. He has worked in the finance department of the Curia for 22 years, the last three years incorporating his work as the gift aid officer.

He has extensive knowledge of parish finances and will use his network of parish contacts to full advantage in this role. He is also an active parishioner in his home parish of St Patrick's, Thornaby.

Dan has already started the groundwork of the role with his digital giving campaign, which featured in last month's Catholic Voice, and he is keen to progress that further throughout the year.

There's so much more than that though, as Dan explains: "I'm excited to be given this opportunity to help our parishes increase their income."

"I know and love parish life and feel there is a real niche for this new role. I am very aware of the generosity of our parishioners, particularly in the current climate, and although I will be assisting parishes with planned giving appeals, I also want to look at generating income without hitting parishioners' pockets directly."

"This will include applying for grants, promoting the gift aid scheme, raising legacy awareness and more."

Knitting a new year scarf!

Fr David O'Malley SD

The scarf is a gathered memory that he will take with him into a new springtime

Many of us will have watched the snowman by Raymond Briggs again over Christmas. It is, at root, a story about grief and moving on.

The happiness of being with the snowman cannot last, the seasons must change. We need to let go as the past melts away into a new springtime. The ending seems sad, even brutal but there is a hidden hope.

As the little boy cries by the pile of snow that was once his friend he reaches into his dressing gown pocket and pulls out the scarf given to him by the snowman.

The scarf is a gathered memory that he will take with him into a new springtime.

A comfort as he confronts a new beginning

As we start this new year there may be many things we will be glad to see melt into the past. There may be a heavy heartedness that is not so ready to melt away and things like opportunity or good health that are drifting further away each year. It sounds a bit sad, even brutal, expressed that way. But remember the scarf, a warm memory of the past year, something that connects the past to the future. Can you name the positive and optimistic memories that were given to you in 2022? Find a significant warm memory, recall where it was, who was there and how you felt. When you have done that, think of another, and another until you have knitted your own scarf of gratitude from 2022.

"When in desolation, remember consolation"

St Ignatius

Then, as the new year begins and you hear so much about our struggling planet, disasters and self-interest, wrap the optimism of 2022 around you and let gratitude and hope lead you to build a better 2023 wherever you are.



Prayer for the New Year

Give us, Lord, the spirit of optimism, a vision to see the positive all around us and to choose to live with joy and to serve with love. Amen.

St. John Bosco, pray for us.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us

Bishop Nowakowski: “Benedict XVI understood travails of Ukrainian Catholics”

cbcew

I certainly recalled my excitement as a young student to listen to such an eminent theologian



Kind and gentle

Turning to his personal encounters with the late Pope Emeritus, Bishop Nowakowski said he once attended a lecture delivered by the then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger while he was a theology student at the Pontifical Angelicum University.

Despite failing to recall the subject matter of the lecture, he certainly recalled his excitement as a young student to listen to such an eminent theologian.

Bishop Nowakowski met Benedict XVI several other times in his life, once when he attended the initiation course for newly-ordained Bishops.

“He welcomed us warmly to Rome,” he said, “and his kindness and gentleness really showed at that moment when he met with us.”

Attentive to others

During later encounters, the late Pope Emeritus always remembered to ask Bishop Nowakowski about his mission as the Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Vancouver, in British Columbia, Canada.

“I think his personality showed through in the fact that he was interested in you. He asked you questions about how you are doing, how are you feeling, and was clearly attentive when you were speaking with him.”

As Benedict XVI was laid to rest on Thursday, Bishop Nowakowski recalled the effect the late Pope Emeritus’ caring presence had on those who met with him.

“It made me feel that I was not just another person,” he concluded. “And I think that is how his pontificate was. I think he cared about people. He was a caring, gentle, intelligent, peaceful man.”

Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, the Eparchial Bishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic community in Great Britain, speaks to Vatican News about his encounters with Benedict XVI and the late Pope Emeritus’ concern for the plight of Ukrainian Catholics.

He suffered fascism, lived through the Nazi era, and understood the destruction of our Church under the Communists.”

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Bishop of Holy Family of London offered that perspective on the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who was laid to rest in the Vatican recently.

In an interview with Vatican News’ Svitlana Dukhovych, Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski said Benedict’s experiences helped him understand the travails of Ukrainian Catholics throughout the decades.

Unique perspective on Ukraine

For a time in the seminary, the late Joseph Ratzinger shared a room with a future Ukrainian Catholic priest.

Bishop Nowakowski said this experience gave him a unique perspective on the Church in Ukraine, which he was then able to bring to his work in the Vatican in later years.

“He was able to continue that legacy of understanding those countries which suffered under Communism and Fascism. And I think that helped him understand who we were as a Ukrainian people, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union.”

On 9 November 2022, less than two months before his death on 31 December, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI met with Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

During that meeting, the Pope Emeritus reportedly told Major Archbishop Shevchuk that he was following the situation in Ukraine closely and continued to pray for peace in the war-torn nation.

Catholic agencies unite to back Homes for Ukraine scheme

sjog-homesforukraine.uk

The aim is to support 600 people on their journey towards independence and provide opportunities

The number of people fleeing the brutal Russian war in Ukraine and in need of shelter will continue to rise this winter.

Russian attacks on critical energy infrastructure are even taking place in areas considered relatively safer, such as western Ukraine.

Prime minister Rishi Sunak has reaffirmed the UK government’s support for Ukrainian defence efforts, as well as assisting those displaced by this unnecessary war.

St John of God Hospitaller Services (SJOG), in partnership with Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), is asking for people to provide much-needed help for Ukrainian guests.

Under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, hosts who commit to providing six months of accommodation are eligible to receive £350 to help with expenses associated with hosting. SJOG and CSAN have launched a new project offering a matching pathway, training and support for hosts and guests.

The aim is to support 600 people on their journey towards independence and provide opportunities to build a new life and integrate into the community.

One Ukrainian guest said: “I am so grateful to the UK government for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. I feel safe here, away from the sounds of sirens, curfew, and living in constant fear of shelling.

“The scheme has given me time to find my feet and build a new life. I have been in the UK for about seven months now, and I have found a job and moved out of my host’s place. I am incredibly grateful for all her help and support. I will be forever grateful.”

The SJOC/CSAN scheme matches hosts with guests to the requirements of both parties, including area, home and health requirements and dietary and pet preferences.

It also offers...

- Mediating first e-meetings between hosts and guests
- Toolkit for hosts and a welcome book in Ukrainian for guests
- Online training about the hosting process
- Transfer from the Poland-Ukraine border to London
- A welcome box for the Ukrainian family upon arrival
- Support during the first month of placement
- Re-matching service
- Ensuring support from local communities
- A multilingual team that speaks English, Polish, Ukrainian and Russian and is ready to help

Details of the scheme have been sent to every parish in England and Wales and the agencies hope the Catholic community will rally round to support those coming from Ukraine.

People willing to share their space with those in need of a safe place can register their interest by visiting sjog-homesforukraine.uk or by emailing homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk.

Safe Spaces Service Update

cbcew

Safe Spaces, the free national support service for victims and survivors of church-related abuse, increased operational hours under a newly appointed independent provider, First Light, who took over the service from Monday 9th January.

Safe Spaces offers a confidential, personal, and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England, The Church in Wales or The

Catholic Church in England and Wales, regardless of disability, age, gender, or sexual orientation.

Safe Spaces Services will be available on 0300 303 1056

Opening hours will be extended to Monday to Friday 9am – 9pm, Saturday 9-1pm and Sunday from 1-5pm (excluding bank holidays, subject to review)

Safe Spaces can also be contacted at Safe Spaces England and Wales



Pupils Joined Author Sue Pickford Cheung to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week!

Saint Paul's Catholic High School, Wythenshawe

Sue's relatability and anti-bullying positivity going forward left everyone feeling uplifted

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, the multi-award winning author, Sue Pickford Cheung, recently spoke to pupils at Saint Paul's Catholic High School in Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester about her childhood bullying experiences from kids at school.

Children's author and illustrator, Sue Pickford aka Sue Cheung, wrote the multi award winning book "Chinglish".

Sue talked candidly about her own childhood bullying experiences from kids at school, her parents and also the customers that came into her parents' Chinese takeaway in the 1980s. Back then there was no one for her to turn to, so she explained how she coped.

Accompanied by excerpts and illustrations from her award-winning novel Chinglish, Sue gave an insight to what it was like starting work at eleven years old, and the loneliness and hostility she felt due to not fitting in for many different reasons. Told with real humour and honesty, Sue's relatability and anti-bullying positivity going forward left everyone feeling uplifted.

"It was a pleasure to be involved in this imaginative and engaging session with author Sue Cheung on the sensitive topic of racism and bullying," said Ms Laura Fannon, Deputy Head of English at St. Paul's. "As a fully inclusive school with strong Catholic values of love and stewardship, St. Paul's is proud to be supporting Anti-Bullying Week; we do not tolerate bullying in any form and we always encourage any pupils who have concerns to talk to a member of staff or to a prefect who will be able to listen to them and provide guidance and support. Sue's story was illuminating and inspirational, yet delivered with a personal, humorous touch which engaged our pupils and will no doubt enhance their journey to becoming responsible citizens."

"Our participation in Anti-Bullying Week sends a clear and positive message that bullying is neither acceptable nor inevitable at Saint Paul's," commented Mr Mike Whiteside, Deputy Headteacher, at Saint Paul's. "We all play a part in working together to create a society where bullying is not tolerated and where we all respond to bullying quickly and appropriately."

Catholic Education Service 2022 Census

The Catholic Education Service has published the 2022 Catholic Schools' Census digests for England and for Wales

For the ninth year running the return rate has been 100%, meaning the data remains the most accurate and reliable depiction of the 2,090 English Catholic schools and academies and 85 Welsh Catholic schools. Key findings of the 2022 census data for England include:

- 820,994 pupils are educated in English Catholic schools and academies, up 836 from last year.
- Catholic schools and academies make up 9% of the state-funded sector.
- 60% of pupils at state-funded Catholic schools and academies are Catholic.
- 47,662 teachers are employed, 47.5% of whom are Catholic.
- 44% of pupils are from an ethnic minority background, compared with a 36% national average.
- 19.4% of pupils in state-funded Catholic primaries are from the most deprived backgrounds, compared with a 12.9% national average.
- 17.4% of pupils in state-funded Catholic secondaries are from the deprived backgrounds, compared with an 11.6% national average.

Additional research has revealed that Catholic schools and academies have above-average Ofsted ratings, with 89.3% graded as good or outstanding, compared with an 88% national average. Catholic schools and academies also outperform national GCSE English and Maths averages by five percentage points.

Key findings of the 2022 census data for Wales include:

- 28,176 pupils are educated in state-funded Catholic schools in Wales, down 420 from last year.
- Catholic schools make up 6% of the state-funded sector.
- 50.3% of pupils at state-funded Catholic schools are Catholic.
- 1,644 teachers are employed, 43.6% of whom are Catholic.
- 30% of pupils are from ethnic minorities, compared to 12.5% for all Welsh state schools.
- 73.4% of pupils in Welsh Catholic schools are Christians, and 80% are from a faith background.

Another recent development is that the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI), which brings together the diocesan school inspectors of England and Wales into one body, began its inaugural work of inspecting Catholic schools in the autumn.

It acts under the new National Inspection Framework agreed by the Bishops earlier this year.

The CSI and National Inspection Framework have been developed with the support of the Catholic Education Service and the National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisors.

Catholic schools have been subject to inspection frameworks set by the Bishops ever since the Catholic dioceses were first restored in 1848.

The CSI and new National Inspection Framework aim to improve the rigour, consistency, objectivity, oversight, and accountability of inspections.

The CSI logo takes as its logo the bishop's crozier, which is a symbol of his pastoral office. Inspection is one of the ways the bishop acts as a 'good shepherd' to his schools.

The different parts of the crozier have traditionally been interpreted in ways that reflect the ways this care will be evident in the inspection process. The curve of the crozier directs the straying back onto the right path; the pointy end prods those who are stuck and prompts them to get moving; and the bar between the two supports all the rest.

Pupils, parents, teachers, inspectors, and generations to come will benefit from the CSI and the new framework which advance the Catholic mission of Catholic schools.

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Dear Editor

Regarding questions about whether or not brain stem death can be equated with death, there is a simple answer. There is ample evidence within healthcare literature that brain-damaged mothers-to-be can still carry and give birth to healthy babies.

Many pregnant women have ended up in a state of brain stem death because of road crashes or drug addiction, sometimes both. Given adequate medical and nursing care they nevertheless have been able to sustain life within their wombs and in due course to give birth.

Clearly, brain stem dead does not mean dead, even though the language of euthanasia utilises

other such terms as "terminally ill", "clinically dead" and even "already dead". Sometimes the mother is kept alive so that her organs can be removed and reused.

Hospital staff struggle to keep brain-injured mothers alive knowing that once their infants are delivered the mums will be "allowed to die" or to "die with dignity". It is sometimes reported that they have then undergone "a second death".

Antony Porter, London

Dear Editor

Good to read the statistics of your first year. Also Peter Boylan's parish matters piece on Vatican 11 Mass.

It brought back memories of the 60s for a 93-year-old.

Maybe Peter would like to write about modern-day confession/reconciliation.

The sacrament has changed a lot for the better. Out is the automatic 'shopping list' of pecadillos every fortnight and in comes a once or twice a year face-to-face conversation with a priest. Better, I suggest.

Name and address supplied
North Yorkshire

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Pope mourns passing of Cardinal Pell, upholds his cooperation with Holy See

Vatican News

Sad for the news of the passing of the Cardinal, Prefect Emeritus of the Secretariat of the Economy

Pope Francis has recalled the late Cardinal George Pell's "consistent and committed witness, his dedication to the Gospel and to the Church, and particularly his diligent cooperation with the Holy See in its recent economic reform, for which he laid the foundations with determination and wisdom."

The Pope's words came in a telegram of condolences addressed to Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Dean of the College of Cardinals, for the death of Cardinal Pell in Rome on Tuesday evening, aged 81, following cardiac complications after undergoing hip surgery.

In his message, the Holy Father said he is sad for the news of the passing of the Cardinal, Prefect Emeritus of the Secretariat of the Economy and expressed his closeness to the Dean and to the entire



College of Cardinals as well as to members of Cardinal Pell's family.

He commended him for his witness and work, and said he is praying "this faithful servant,

who unwaveringly followed his Lord with perseverance even in the hour of trial, may be received into the joy of heaven and receive the reward of eternal peace."

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WYD Lisbon 2023 supports victims of the war in Ukraine

lisboa2023.org

Christmas to be lived in a “more humble way, with more humble gifts“, sending “what we save to Ukraine, which is in need“.

In response to the appeal made by Pope Francis on a recent General Audience, the WYD (WYD) Lisbon 2023 Foundation, together with the Diocesan Organizing Committees (COD), has made a donation of 30,000 euros to support the Ukrainian people in the context of the war that the country is experiencing.

The Holy Father, last December recalled the suffering of the victims of the war in Ukraine and left the call for this Christmas to be lived in a “more humble way, with more humble gifts“, sending “what we save to Ukraine, which is in need“.

Taking into account the request of Pope Francis that “we make some concrete gesture” with the Ukrainian people, the World Youth Day (WYD) Lisbon 2023 Foundation and the PCOs (structures in charge of promoting WYD Lisbon 2023 among their diocesan communities) have joined together to donate 30,000 euros to the victims of the war in Ukraine.

For Fr. Américo Aguiar, president of the WYD Lisbon 2023 Foundation, the objective is “to materialise the echo that Pope Francis’ emotion provoked in the Plaza de España, on the day of the Immaculate Conception, when



he prayed for peace in Ukraine, for the great Ukrainian people who live through war, who live through winter, who live through the cold.”

“All this, compared to our little difficulties and problems, can only have one consequence, which is to materialise the little that we can to go to the immediate aid of these brothers and sisters so needy,” said the prelate, who added that “we cannot make ourselves present in such an immediate and effective way as with the distribution of this little that we have

managed to coordinate, between the COL and the Diocesan Committees, to make ourselves present, to really be able to spend Christmas immediately with our brothers and sisters of Ukraine.”

During his message, Francis asked to celebrate Christmas “with the Ukrainians in our hearts“, a people who “are in need, they suffer a lot, they are hungry, cold and many have died because there are no doctors, no nurses available“, concluded the Holy Father.

Frank Goulding

The year 2022 left behind so much legacy that many hoped it would be much better into the New Year.

Composing this article on January 2nd I have already met many who have hopes for a different and happier world.

The continent of Europe was in 2022 greatly shaken by events involving Ukraine which sadly continued into 2023 with more lives being lost and peace seemingly far away as President Putin declared that last year was “a year of difficult, necessary decisions.” Try telling that to the families huddled together in Kyiv and elsewhere. Since the war started 11 months ago the United Nations estimates seven million Ukrainians have been displaced while millions have fled the country to find safety elsewhere.

In our country the industrial disputes causing widespread disruption seemed to escalate once the Christmas holiday period drew to a close.

I am old enough to recall, similar activity from the 1950s and 1960s indeed some historians were convinced that the 1959 General Election was decided by the London Bus strike. What cannot be denied is the misery and acute suffering inflicted on some good people who needed the NHS. The Paramedics, Accident and Emergency staff and hospital ward doctors and nurses surely need our prayers this winter. As for the political and trade unions leaders the sooner they get talking to resolve these issues the better.

I leave it to historians to comment on why nurses and ambulance drivers took industrial action. I suspect most readers will have their own opinions.

Just 14 hours before New Years Day we heard of the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. When King Charles heard this news he expressed his “deep sadness” and he surely spoke for many. Those who were present at his historic visit in 2010 will have both fond and spiritual memories. The King paid tribute to his

constant efforts to promote peace and goodwill and how his vision strengthened the global Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church. The decisions he undertook would have been accompanied by great spiritual preparation and the large crowds who gathered to pay their respects at the Vatican were proof of this

Pope Benedict succeeded to Papacy 60 years after the end of the Second World War. May He Rest in Peace.



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Lowestoft pupils spread some Christmas cheer

rcdea.org

Our school set into action to support the local food bank and instead of '12 Days of Christmas' we organised the '12 Crates for Christmas'

Pupils and staff at St Mary's RC Primary School in Lowestoft have been spreading kindness and love throughout the community to families which are struggling with the cost of living crisis.

Head of School, Ewa Parker, said: "Our school set into action to support the local food bank and instead of '12 Days of Christmas' we organised the '12 Crates for Christmas'. For 12 days, children, parents and school staff brought into school a variety of food or

personal care products. Some families even remembered about animals and donated some animal food too!

"We are very grateful for all the efforts of our school community, as we know the donated food and items will spread a little more joy and love to those in need this Christmas. Our school's Mini Vinnies and the staff have more ideas to support local community, so expect to hear more in the future from us."



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Our Lady of Godalming, uniquely Mother

English Catholic History Association

After Becket's murder in 1170, the shrine became a wayside chapel on the Pilgrims' Way to Canterbury

Tyr, the Norse deity who gave his name to Tuesday, was an immensely brave warrior and the son of Odin. He epitomised single combat, victory, heroic glory and justice.

Fenris, the giant wolf, threatened to eat the sun and plunge the world into darkness unless a courageous deity dared put a hand into the monster's mouth. All but Tyr refused. As he plunged his hand between the wolf's teeth, the other gods bound it with an unbreakable silken rope fashioned from the sound of a cat's footsteps, a woman's beard, the roots of a mountain, the longings of the bear, the voice of fishes and the spittle of birds. Furious Fenris bit off Tyr's arm. Henceforth, people honoured Tyr's self-sacrifice by portraying him with one arm.

When the Saxons invaded Britain around the year 450, they brought with them their worship of Tyr, whom they called Saxnot (from sax, a sword) and built shrines throughout Britain.

Christianity first came to Britain in the first century AD during the Roman occupation. The pagan Saxons created Godalming's shrine to Tyr between 568-650, but they encountered an increasingly Christian population. By 686, most pagan shrines were destroyed, fallen into disrepair or re-dedicated to Our Lady or Christian saints. The shrine to Tyr might have already become Christian when missionaries arrived in the future Godalming. Great care was taken not to destroy the shrine so 'that the people, seeing their temples are not destroyed, may abandon their error and flocking more readily to their accustomed resorts, may come to adore and know the true God'.

No surviving records describe the Marian dedication of the Godalming shrine, which eventually became the 'Minster', or mother church of the area, implying both local importance and the presence of one or more monks. However, a small spring nearby could have inspired the name 'Ladywell' which long predates the arrival of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDM), who currently own the land.

Godalming's ninth century parish of Ss Peter and Paul led to decreased footfall at the now ancient shrine to Our Lady, of which it was written in 1220: 'Celebrations are now held only three times during the year, that is to say, on the Eve of the Assumption the Purification and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin and this is done by reason of the great devotion for that place. And there has been a cemetery there from ancient times.'



After Becket's murder in 1170, the shrine became a wayside chapel on the Pilgrims' Way to Canterbury.

In 1860, the shrine's partial excavation revealed stone foundations and a nave of 21ft x 14ft with an eastern extension 12ft x 11ft. An eastern chancel was subdivided into two sections, each about 21ft x 5ft. In the farthest compartment were found nine skeletons lying east to west. These were covered over and the site marked with original stones.

During the Reformation, the shrine fell into disuse but was never forgotten. When the FMDMs acquired the land in 1956, they built the present shrine over the original site. Its cornerstones are from the earlier church.

They restored the earlier devotion to Our Lady. With no surviving image of Mary from the original shrine, the FMDMs erected their own Congregational statue of the Divine Motherhood. The first Mass since the Reformation was celebrated at the shrine on 7 September 1979.

Sr Janet Fearnis

Cardinal Nichols visits St Peter's Basilica to pray as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI lies in state

cbcew.org.uk

Also present were other bishops and ordinaries from England and Wales and senior clergy with links to our countries

Shortly after arriving in Rome on Wednesday, 4 January, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, spent some time in prayer and quiet contemplation before the body of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

Lying in state in St Peter's Basilica, the late Pope Emeritus was visited by almost 200,000 Catholics who paid their final respects and offered prayers for the repose of his soul.

Also present at this time were other bishops and ordinaries from England and Wales and senior clergy with links to our countries.

Former Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Antonio Mennini, who was nominated Nuncio to Great Britain by Benedict XVI in December 2010, came to pray. As did Monsignor Keith Newton, Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of



Walsingham. The Ordinariate was established by Benedict, as Pope, in November 2009 for Anglicans and their clergy who wanted to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, also spent time in prayer before the Pope Emeritus. The Ukrainian Catholic Church in England and Wales was elevated to eparchial status – effectively a diocese – on Pope Benedict's watch in January 2013. The Requiem Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI will be celebrated by his successor Pope Francis on Thursday, 5 January 2023. The last Pope to celebrate the funeral of his predecessor was Pius VII in 1802.



Bumper Operation Elf helps Mums and Dads in prison

Pact

At Pact we appreciate the generosity of those who were able to give at a time when there is so much need



Staff and families from Portland prison sent a message after their Pact Christmas Family Visit Day: 'Operation Elf was a huge hit. We would like to say Thank You.'

Pact is the national Catholic charity which provides support for prisoners and their families. Operation Elf is our annual Christmas appeal in which parishes, schools and individuals help parents in prison to give a Christmas gift to their child.

This year people generously donated gift cards - and in some cases sacks of presents - so that mums and dads in prison were able to give their children a Christmas gift. In this bumper year, Operation Elf supported the parents of almost 2,000 children across England & Wales. At Pact we appreciate the generosity of those who were able to give at a time when there is so much need. One parent said, 'Thank you for the gift cards. It means a lot as the cost of living problems we are having are hard.'

We noticed more creativity than ever. The parishes of Borehamwood and North Harrow collected gifts and worked directly with Pact staff at HMP Pentonville and HMP Wormwood Scrubs to deliver them in time for Family Days. Fr Dominic McKenna attended one of the Pact family days and was inspired to preach about it at Sunday Mass at St Teresa's in Borehamwood afterwards. School pupils from the dioceses of Southwark and Arundel & Brighton arranged a variety of Operation Elf fundraising events, like paying a small fee to wear their trainers for a day.

Pact staff at Elmley prison, Isle of Sheppey, arranged for the dads inside to choose gifts for their children, using donated gift cards to purchase them. Staff facilitated the dads being able to wrap and label the gifts and have them ready for the children when they arrived for their Christmas Visit. This process provided rich opportunities for the dads to talk about their children, think about what they might like, and look forward to seeing their smiling faces. One dad said, 'We all thought Operation Elf was a fantastic thing to do for the children. My boy really enjoyed it. Thank you for the lovely experience.' And another, 'Little touches like this make the time apart more bearable'.

Where we can, we will send some of this beautiful feedback directly to those who supported Operation Elf. However, many people sent Operation Elf gift cards to the Pact office anonymously. From all of us here at Pact, thank you for thinking of prisoners and their children and for supporting family bonds at what ought to be such a special time.

We invite you to stay in touch with the work we do at Pact all year round. Consider signing up to receive our quarterly magazine Fresh Start. Think about volunteering with Pact and working with prisoners and their families in person or remotely. We offer training, support and a community of wonderful people to work, and walk, alongside.

Theresa Alessandro



Since 1955, the Carmelite Shrine of Saint Jude has been dedicated to the Apostle of Hope. Pilgrims find it to be a place of prayer, peace, and hope. All are welcome.

The Shrine also sends out a newsletter four times a year called 'Carmelite News' for pilgrims near and far. 'Carmelite News' includes reflections, prayers, novenas, details of our Guild and Three Societies (Saint Jude, Little Flower, and Infant of Prague), news on the British Province and Carmelites around the world – plus much more. All are welcome to receive.

Please visit our website: www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/newsletter, or write to: Carmelite Friars, PO Box 289, FAVERSHAM, Kent, ME13 3BZ, or call: 01795 539 214 to find out more and/or to receive the newsletter.



Boost for Peterborough church foodhub

rcdea.org.uk

Since autumn 2021 volunteers at St Luke's have been providing emergency food each Friday for local families in need

The Foodhub at St Luke's church in Orton Malborne, Peterborough, has been boosted by the completion of the church extension, giving the team more room to work in and Christmas donations. Organiser Joan Wayland reports.

Since autumn 2021 volunteers at St Luke's have been providing emergency food each Friday for local families in need.

Since the completion of the church building work in October, the Foodhub environment is now unrecognisable. The picking and packing now takes place in the church porch. The Foodhub has its own dedicated cupboard space and our volunteers and visiting families chat, share tea, coffee and biscuits around two large tables in the now spacious new meeting room. It is often not possible to distinguish between volunteers and visiting families as the laughter and chatter create a very friendly atmosphere.

A form has been designed to allow our visiting families to select a certain number of items, so our visiting families have the dignity of choosing what they want and will eat, rather than being given food they neither want nor need. From visiting other providers of emergency food, the form has been redesigned to help with managing expectations.

Parishioners continue to be generous both with cash and food donations. A recent ecumenical Advent Carol Service raised over £200 for the Foodhub and Churches Together in the Ortons have agreed to give food donated to their individual parishes to St Luke's Foodhub. However, with increasing numbers attending the Foodhub more donations of food and money are required to keep the service sustainable. The Foodhub currently provides essential items to about 20 families per week.



Picture right: left to right, volunteers Judith Williams, Margaret Barker Fr Jeffrey Downie and Joan Wayland.

Parents and children at the new Catholic Primary School, St John Henry Newman, kindly collected food by way of thanksgiving at harvest time and operated a "reverse Advent Calendar"; a similar collection of food was arranged at St Luke's and the generosity of

everyone concerned was amazing. Due to the kindness of parishioners and other churches in Orton we were able to provide our visiting families with some extra treats over the Christmas period. We look forward to serving our local families in need during the New Year.

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Lent is a special time of preparation at Our Lady Queen of Heaven school

The children are given lots of opportunities to deepen their faith throughout Lent and have a good understanding of the Liturgical calendar. During the weeks of Lent, a weekly prayer group is held in which the children can pray the Stations of the Cross using the beautiful Stations of the Cross in the school hall.

In their RE lessons, children learn more about the events of Holy week and through Scripture, reflection and artwork, are able to explain and describe the Passion of Christ. We end our Lent preparations with a Mass, which we celebrate with our School Chaplain Fr Nelson.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hare Lane, Langley Green, Crawley RH11 7PZ

Headteacher Tobias Melia

Telephone 01293 526057

Better Never Stops!



Eighteen missionaries killed in 2022

ICN

In the last few years, Africa and America have alternated in first place in this tragic ranking

Fides reports that 18 missionaries are known to have been killed in 2022. They were: 12 priests, one religious man, three religious women, one seminarian and one lay person.

The highest number of missionaries killed was registered in Africa, where nine missionaries lost their lives (seven priests and two religious sisters). In Latin America, eight missionaries were killed (four priests, one religious man, one religious woman, one seminarian and one lay person). In Asia, one priest was killed.

In the last few years, Africa and America have alternated in first place in this tragic ranking: America for eight years from 2011 to 2021 and Africa for three years (2018, 2019, 2021). From 2001 to 2021, 526 missionaries have been killed worldwide.

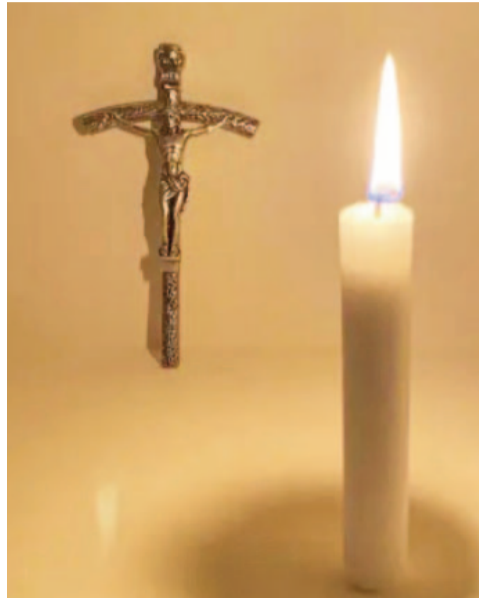
The little information on the life and circumstances that caused the violent deaths of these 18 men and women missionaries offer us images of daily life, even if in particularly difficult contexts, marked by violence, poverty, lack of justice and respect for human life. Other people who were with them often shared the same fate as the missionaries. Priests killed while they were going to celebrate Mass with the community they led, to break that bread and consecrate that wine that would have been food and life for so many faithful. A religious woman doctor killed at the diocese health center, ready to save the lives of other people, and who knows how many she had already saved in the past. A missionary killed during an assault on the mission: instead of thinking about saving her own life, she was concerned about the safety of the girls housed in the dormitory. Another layman, a pastoral worker, killed on his way to the church to lead a liturgy of the Word for the faithful of that area, who did not have a resident priest.

Witnesses and missionaries of life, with their lives, which they offered up to the end, out of gratitude. As Pope Francis wrote in his Message for World Mission Day 2022, "the disciples are urged to live their personal lives in a missionary key: they are sent by Jesus to the world not only to carry out, but also and above all to live the mission entrusted to them; not only to bear witness, but also and above all to be witnesses of Christ. The essence of the mission is to bear witness to Christ, that is, to his life, passion, death and resurrection for the love of the Father and of humanity".

Names of murdered missionaries by continent

AFRICA - In Africa, nine missionaries were killed: seven priests, two religious women.

Nigeria: Fr Joseph Aketeh Bako, parish priest of St John's Church in Kudenda, in the local government area of Kaduna South, Kaduna State, was kidnapped by armed men who had attacked the rectory; he died while in the hands of his captors, between April 18 and 20,



2022. Fr Vitus Borogo, was killed on Saturday, June 25, 2022 in Kaduna Prison Farm during a raid by armed men. Fr Christopher Odi Ogedebbe was kidnapped and killed during the armed confrontation between police and kidnappers, on Sunday, June 26, 2022, as he was preparing to celebrate Mass at St Michael Catholic Church Ikabigbo, Edo State, where he was parish priest. Fr John Mark Cheitnum was kidnapped on July 15, 2022 from the rectory of Christ the King church in the city of Lere, Kaduna State, diocese of Kafanchan, and was brutally killed on the same day of the kidnapping.

DR Congo: Fr Richard Masivi Kasereka, a Congolese religious of the 'Caracciolini', was killed on February 2, 2022 in eastern DR Congo, by armed men, as he was returning to his parish after celebrating the World Day of Consecrated Life. Fr Godefroid Pembele Mandon, was shot and killed in the night between August 6 and 7, 2022, in the parish of St Joseph Mukasa, in Kikwit, by armed bandits who had attacked the church. Sister Marie-Sylvie Kavuke Vakatsuraki, of the Congregation of the Petites Soeurs de la Présentation de Notre Dame au Temple of Butembo, was killed along with other people, during an assault that took place in the night between October, 19 and 20, 2022 in the village of Maboya, in North Kivu province.

Tanzania: Fr Michael Mawelera Samson, of the Missionaries of Africa, originally from Malawi, disappeared on June 10, 2022 from the youth centre of the church in Mbeya, Tanzania, where he worked. His body was found on the bed of the Meta river, in Sabasaba, on the morning of June 11.

Mozambique - Sister Maria De Coppi, an Italian Comboni missionary, was killed in the assault on the mission of Chipene, in the province of Nampula, diocese of Nacala, in the night between September, 6 and 7, 2022. The attackers destroyed the mission facilities, and Sister Maria was shot in the head and died immediately.

AMERICA - In America, seven missionaries were killed: four priests, one religious man, one religious woman, one seminarian, one layman.

Mexico - The body of Fr Jose Guadalupe Rivas, of the Archdiocese of Tijuana, was found on May 16, 2022 on a ranch in Tecate, where he used to spend some time to rest. And he was killed together with another person, their bodies showed traces of violence. Jesuits Fr Javier Campos and Fr Joaquín Mora were killed by armed people, on the afternoon of June 20, 2022, in the church of San Francisco Xavier in Cerocahui, in the Tarahumara region of Chihuahua. Seminarian José Dorian Piña Hernández, of the diocese of Zacatecas, was killed on the night of December 27 during an attempted armed robbery.

Honduras - Pablo Isabel Hernández, layman, leader of the Lenca indigenous group, in western Honduras. Delegate of the Word of God, pastoral worker, was killed on Sunday, January 9, 2022 by unknown men who shot him in the back as he went to lead a celebration. Fr Enrique Vasquez's body was

found north of San Pedro Sula, on the night of Wednesday, March 2, 2022, in his car, in a suburban area of Santa Cruz de Yojoa, where he had gone to visit his parents, but without arriving at destination.

Bolivia - Friar Wilberth Daza Rodas OFM, was killed in the night between Holy Saturday, April 16, 2022, and Sunday 17, Easter, by thieves who entered the church of San Francisco, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Haiti - Sister Luisa Dell'Orto, Little Sister of the Gospel of Charles de Foucauld, was killed on June 25, 2022 in Port-au-Prince, most likely the victim of an attempted robbery. Sister Luisa was committed above all to the service of street children for twenty years.

ASIA - In Asia, one priest was killed.

Vietnam: - Fr Joseph Tran Ngoc Thanh, a Vietnamese Dominican priest (OP), was stabbed to death while listening to confessions in the parish of Dak Mót, diocese of Kon Tum, by a mentally unstable man.

Child abuse inquiry releases final report

iicsa.org.uk

The Catholic Council welcomes this report, thanks the Inquiry for its work and will carefully study its contents and recommendations

A statement from the Catholic Council for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse on the final report of the inquiry...

The Panel of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has published its final report after seven years of work.

The Catholic Council welcomes this report, thanks the Inquiry for its work and will carefully study its contents and recommendations.

In the work of safeguarding all who are members of, or come into contact with, the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, at no point will the Church stop on its journey of dedicated effort in making the life and work of the Church safe for all.

Before the publication of the case study report into the Roman Catholic Church in November 2020, the Church commissioned an independent review into its safeguarding work and structures, which is in the process of being implemented.

The new national safeguarding body, the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA), which began operational work in April 2021, provides a regulatory function to organisations within the Church in England

and Wales, ensuring that standards are upheld, and all safeguarding processes adhered to.

These changes were fully aligned with the inquiry's recommendations in the case study report.

Key to this progress is the voice of victims and survivors of abuse, which has been an integral element in the development of this new agency.

The Church remains committed to listening with humility to those who have been hurt by the actions of Church members so that their experiences will inform our work.

It is important for us to again offer an unreserved apology to all those who have been hurt by abuse in the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales and to reaffirm our commitment to the continued refinement and improvement of our safeguarding work to protect all children and the vulnerable.

The Catholic Council for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse was created in 2015, at the commencement of the Inquiry's work. It has assisted IICSA under its chair, Baroness Nuala O'Loan, and has representatives from both the Bishops' Conference and the Conference of Religious. It has supported the numerous organisations that make up the Catholic Church in England and Wales in their engagement with IICSA and ensured that the evidence required by the Inquiry was collated appropriately.

You can find out more in the safeguarding section of the Bishops' Conference website cbcew.org.uk/safeguarding and the CSSA website catholicsafeguarding.org.uk. The final IICSA report can be found at iicsa.org.uk.

Our Global Community



Holy Land: UN votes for enquiry into legality of Israeli Occupation

ICN

This is a unique juncture legally and politically in the ongoing struggle of the Palestinian people for their self-determination and independence



ongoing struggle of the Palestinian people for their self-determination and independence. It gives the Palestinians an upper hand morally and legally in supporting their just and fair cause and that can be felt obviously by the action and reaction and the pressure amounted by US and Israel on many states to vote against the resolution.”

Notably, this will be the second Advisory Opinion to be delivered by the ICJ on the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The first landmark Advisory Opinion was delivered in July 2004. It focused on the construction of a separation wall in the West Bank. The ICJ found at the time that the construction of the wall violated numerous international norms, including the Palestinians’ right to self-determination, and stated that Israel was required to cease its illegal actions and provide a remedy for the violations inflicted.

On 30 December, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) voted in favour of a resolution requesting the International Court of Justice to provide an advisory opinion on the legal nature of Israel’s prolonged military occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and the responsibilities of third party-states.

The resolution, which was approved with 87 votes in favour, 26 votes against, and 53 abstentions, asks the ICJ to weigh in on the “legal consequences arising from the ongoing violation by Israel of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, from its prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition character, and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and from its adoption of related discriminatory legislation and measures”. The resolution also asks the Court for an opinion on how these Israeli policies and practices “affect the legal status of the occupation” and the “legal consequences that arise for all states and the United Nations from this status”.

In a statement the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) said it “welcomes the adoption of this important and historic resolution which is a step in the right direction towards holding Israel accountable for its ongoing oppression and suppression of the Palestinian people as it provides an opportunity to freshly examine the legal consequences of Israel’s decades long occupation. PCHR regrets that many European countries including Sweden, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and United Kingdom either abstained or voted against the resolution at a critical time as the new extreme Israeli government led by Benjamin Netanyahu has promised to make the expansion of illegal settlements and Israel’s sovereignty in the Occupied West Bank a top priority, in violation of international law.

Raji Sourani, PCHR Director said: “This is a unique juncture legally and politically in the

Bringing God’s word to young Amazonians

ACN

The Sateré-Mawé people numbered just 1,200 in 1972 and were in danger of extinction because of disease and neglect by the civil authorities



this book, our children and our youth will be able to walk along the right path. It is also very important for our own understanding of the Word of God.”

Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has distributed a new translation of its Child’s Bible to the Amazonian Sateré-Mawé people, who at last can learn God’s word in their own language.

More than 1,000 copies of the ACN Child’s Bible, God Speaks to his Children, were distributed to representatives of nearly 30 Sateré-Mawé communities, who live in the Andirá and Marau regions of the Amazon.

In total, the charity has printed 51,459,477 copies of the book in 193 languages, including more than 10 million copies in Brazil alone.

The Sateré-Mawé people numbered just 1,200 in 1972 and were in danger of extinction because of disease and neglect by the civil authorities.

They now number more than 12,000, with Sateré-Mawé children benefitting from a network of bilingual schools.

Dercival Santos Batista, a member of the Sateré-Mawé and one of seven local catechists who translated the new edition of the Child’s Bible, praised the initiative. He said: “Through

Father Henrique Uggé, an Italian missionary with the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME), who has spent decades working with the native people of the Amazon, said: “We all like to hear, read, and meditate on the Word of God in our own language, in our own cultural and historical context.”

He added that the Sateré-Mawé will also be able to hear Mass readings in their indigenous tongue, emphasising that “this will be most useful for them”.

The Child’s Bible, which includes key stories from the Old and New Testaments, is funded and distributed by ACN.

Besides the Sateré-Mawé and the standard Portuguese versions, the Child’s Bible has been translated into other indigenous Brazilian languages such as Guarani, Tukano, Ticuna and Macuxi.

In some cases, the Child’s Bible was the first book ever to be published in that specific language.

Maronite Patriarch meets with UK political leaders and Lebanese delegations

cbcew.org.uk

In all his meetings this week, the Patriarch has stressed the need to preserve the diversity and pluralism of Lebanon

His Beatitude Cardinal Mar Beshara Boutros Al-Rahi, Patriarch of Antioch, and head of the Maronite Church, continued his visit to the UK with a series of official meetings, most notably with Lord Tariq Ahmad, Minister of State for the Middle East; with Sarah Mackintosh, Deputy National Security Adviser, who has responsibility for the Middle East; and with Parliamentarians in the Palace

of Westminster, organised by the All Party Parliamentary Group to the Holy See.

The Patriarch was accompanied to all these official meetings by Archbishop Paul Boulos El-Sayah; His Excellency Rami Mortada, Ambassador of Lebanon to the United Kingdom; and Mr Maran Francis, Counsellor at the Lebanese Embassy.

In recent days, His Beatitude has also met with representatives of various Lebanese parties at the Maronite Parish in London, for which meeting he was accompanied by Abbot Hadi Mahfouz, General Superior of the Lebanese Maronite Order, and Father Fadi Kmeid, Maronite parish priest in London.

In this meeting, His Beatitude met delegations representing the Marada Movement, the Free



Patriotic Party, the Kataeb Party, the Lebanese Forces Party and the Liberal Movement.

Lebanon’s diversity and pluralism

In all his meetings this week, the Patriarch has stressed the need to preserve the diversity and pluralism of Lebanon which distinguish it from other countries in the region and which make its society such a unique model of Christian-Islamic coexistence and dialogue between cultures and religions.

Book Reviews



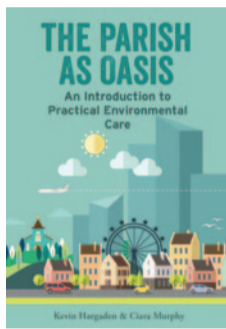
The Parish as Oasis: An Introduction to Practical Environmental Care

by Kevin Hargaden and
Ciara Murphy

€14.95/£12.95

www.messenger.ie

One of the biggest challenges facing those advocating for action on the climate crisis is the issue of 'climate despair'. Agencies across the political, social and religious dimensions encounter this



resistance which often stems from a sense of helplessness at the enormity of the task confronting us. However, it has become clear that we are all called to ecological conversion and leaders and activists in every sphere must find a way of addressing concerns and effecting action.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis strove to refocus an historical priority among the faithful on eternal salvation and drew attention to the importance of prayer in action by way of care of the earth. An exciting new book picks up on this theme and offers a practical and accessible introduction to how local churches can contribute in concrete ways to healing the environmental crisis. *The Parish as Oasis*. By Kevin Hargaden and Ciara Murphy presents a practical array of experiments and actions that congregations can undertake that can make a tangible impact in caring for our common home. While hands-on, with real-world examples, the book also plants these initiatives within a coherent eco-theology.

Ecumenical in direction, this book seeks to draw readers from across the Christian spectrum. As well as being of interest to church leaders, it will be a valuable aid to pastoral workers and parishioners in avoiding the existential environmental angst by literally digging in and getting their hands dirty. It relocates how we think about faith and the role of the church – not at the margins but serving instead as an oasis in those parts of our society that are parched and denuded.

Dr Kevin Hargaden is the Director and Social Theologian of the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice. He brings an expertise in Catholic Social teaching and eco-theology, along with a growing global reputation as a moral theologian of note. Dr Ciara Murphy is the Environmental Justice Advocate of the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice. She is an influential figure in Irish environmental activism through her work at JCFJ and Stop Climate Chaos and a published author on the particularities of how faith and social activism in Ireland.

Heresy Through the ages

Fr Jerome Bertram

£1.75

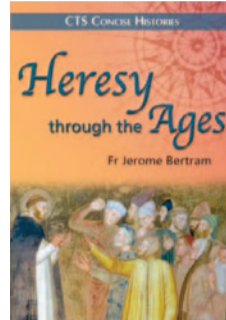
CTS Product Code: H507

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ISBN: 9781860824333

www.ctsbooks.org

Fr Bertram runs through the five main recurring heresies and their various manifestations from Arianism to Modernism, and explains how they were and are being resisted and overcome.



Throughout her history, the Church has had to combat a number of recurring beliefs and ideas which misunderstood and distorted the Faith passed down from the Apostles. Fr Bertram runs through the five main heresies and their various manifestations from Arianism to Modernism, and explains how they were and are being resisted and overcome.

Discerning and Preparing for Religious Life

Rachael Marie Collins

£1.75

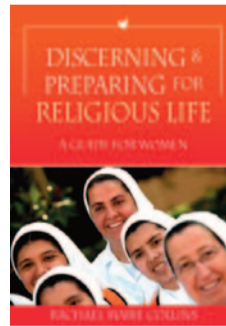
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Drawing on the wisdom of Teresa of Avila, Thérèse of Lisieux, Zélie Martin, Elizabeth of the Trinity and others, young women are guided through discerning and responding to a call to religious life.



It can take a long time to discern a call to religious life. Part of the problem is that we haven't been told how to discern. Discernment is really a period of preparation for and training in the religious life. It is also a period of courtship.

This booklet, written as a series of letters to a young woman starting the discernment process, draws on the wisdom of women who embodied the "feminine genius" (John Paul II) – Teresa of Avila, Thérèse of Lisieux, Zélie Martin, Elizabeth of the Trinity and others. It provides a lucid overview of the spiritual life and discernment process, drawing on the rich spiritual tradition of the Church.

Galileo: Science and Faith

Dr William Carroll

£1.75

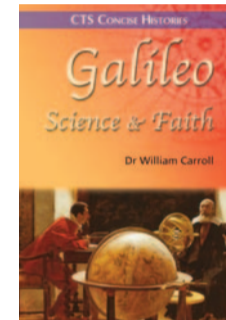
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ISBN: 9781860825460

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This booklet explains the facts of the Galileo case, the famous clash of Faith and Science, and traces the subsequent development of the myth that the Catholic Church has always been the enemy of science.



Is the Church against Science and Reason? The Galileo controversy has become a paragon of faith's supposed hostility towards science. Galileo believed that the earth rotated around the sun but did not have sufficient evidence to prove it. The Inquisition believed that unless such evidence existed the sun should continue to be considered to rotate around the earth.

This booklet explains the facts of the Galileo case and traces the subsequent development of the myth that the Catholic Church has always been the enemy of science. This history proves that even in the Galileo case, the Church remained true to its belief that faith and reason belong together.

Catechesi Tradendae

Pope St John Paul II

£1.75

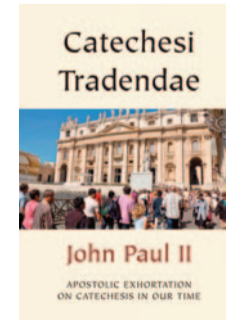
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ISBN: 9780851833033

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Apostolic Exhortation of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the Episcopate, the Clergy and the Faithful of the Entire Catholic Church on Catechesis in our time.



"I ardently desire that this apostolic exhortation to the whole Church should strengthen the solidity of the faith and of Christian living, should give fresh vigour to the initiatives in hand, should stimulate creativity – with the required vigilance – and should help to spread among the communities the joy of bringing the mystery of Christ to the world."

Preaching on Purpose

£16.00

ISBN: 978-1778054600

Divine Renovation Ministry

www.amazon.co.uk

Divine Renovation's latest title, *Preaching on Purpose*, gives Catholic clergy a step-by-step handbook in developing homilies tailored for the New Evangelisation.



The book articulates what the authors call missional preaching: strategic preaching that "pierces hearts, inspires personal conversion to Jesus, unleashes missionary disciples, and helps the entire parish break out of maintenance to ignite the world through the power of the Gospel."

In an endorsement, Archbishop Mark O'Toole says, "Priests and deacons will be extremely grateful, as I am, for the imaginative way in which *Preaching on Purpose* puts before us the challenge of breaking open God's Word in a manner which brings transformation both in the preacher and in the hearer."

Citing Pope Francis, the Archbishop says, "The authors enthusiastically urge us all to preach in a way which 'awakens the soul...and does not put it to sleep.' All those entrusted with this sacred task will read it avidly."

The book is co-authored by four experienced preachers who wish to share with a wider audience the principles of preaching needed to enable mission, evangelisation, and parish renewal:

- Fr. Alex Colautti, CC: Associate Pastor of Saint Benedict Parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Fr. Simon Lobo, CC: Pastor of Saint Benedict Parish and author of *Divine Renovation Apprentice: Learning to Lead a Disciple-Making Parish*
- Rev. Rob McDowell: Wesleyan pastor and Divine Renovation leadership coach
- Fr. Christopher Ryan, MGL: pastor of St. Declan's Parish in Penhurst, Australia, and Director of the Arete Centre for Missionary Leadership It includes snapshots of preaching wisdom from other Catholic priests, including priests from around the UK.

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Viewpoint: Synodality - is there anything in it for us?

LS Animators UK Writing Group. And ICN

An ever-deepening synodality will be reflected in greater attentiveness to the peripheries of suffering and need, both locally and globally

Following on from the Synod activity in parishes earlier this year, the Bishops of England and Wales issued their 'National Synthesis Document' from the diocesan Synod reports. At the same time, the bishops issued their own reflection on the outcome Seeking Our Heart's Desire.

Unfortunately, very little has been heard of either, then or since. Was there a letter to be read in all parishes? There does not appear to have been any communication back to the people.

We must not let the 800 pages of the diocesan reports go without making good use of the time, energy and effort that went into them, even if only an estimated 10% of the Mass-going Catholic population contributed.

Although there is nothing specific concerning climate change, the environment, care of creation, or justice and peace, that is not necessarily to be expected, since that was not the focus of the synodality process, but rather one of listening to each other and the Holy

Spirit, discerning our desire for the church in carrying out its mission in the future. There are positives, especially the experience of synodality itself, which 'to many of those taking part was a revelation'. [10]

One problem is finding out the synodality process itself. Although there was guidance produced by the Vatican, each diocese produced its own method and way of proceeding. A comprehensive guide, for example, was produced by the Birmingham Archdiocese 'Walking Together: A handbook for the synodal journey' that is still available at: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/the-synod-2021-2023 (Scroll down to 'Download Handbook'); The Northampton Diocese also have resources at <https://northamptondiocese.org/synod-resources-and-training/>. So do look at your own Diocesan website to see if there is anything there for you.

Returning to the Synthesis document, it does say [para 86]: 'A striking feature of the

submissions was the widespread desire for mission and outreach. ... An ever-deepening synodality will be reflected in greater attentiveness to the peripheries of suffering and need, both locally and globally, such that parishes and schools become ever more outward-facing, evangelising, and mission-oriented. A synodal Church in which the faithful assemble, listen and discern is more likely to recognise Christ in the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth, and to respond in concrete apostolic actions that make visible God's compassion for all His creatures.'

Therefore, it is in our own interest that the synodal process is continued, so that the church becomes more mission orientated and outward looking.

'There is a felt desire ... that the synodal process now be embedded in dioceses and parishes, and that structures and formation be introduced at every level to enable this', [76] and 'it requires of those in authority a commitment to facilitate and enable it through concrete reforms.' [88] This is happening in some dioceses, but, if not, it is up to us to approach our priests and bishops and ask what they are doing about it, as well as working with them to bring it about.

The Synod 'asks us to hear and respond without waiting for this or that change or new structure, confident that, in awakening to our



co-responsibility, the reforms will follow' ...'if embraced'. [89] Above all, the synod 'is an invitation that must be acted on' [87], as it says in the conclusion, and it is up to us to make something of it, to embrace it and to pursue it. With this in mind, we can be encouraged to approach our clergy with a view to more co-operative working. It is up to us to take the initiative. If we don't, nothing is likely to happen! Let's ask our parish priest what his plans are and how we can work with him to move things forward. Let's get other parishioners interested in joining in. Let's get the ball rolling!

All quotes from the 'National Synthesis Document' (If you have yet to read it, it is suggested you read it backwards, starting at section VII, then VI, V, etc - it makes much more sense that way!)

Brian Austin



You can use both sets of clues to solve the puzzle: the solutions are the same.

CRYPTIC Across

- 5 German heretic Diaspora hit badly (11)
- 7 Arkwright: name of American hospital at first (4)
- 8 Its English, eccentric, retro style introduces these biblical people (8)
- 9 Barker's part of this universal UK institution (6)
- 11 Persian god, legend says, is meeting with one in Egypt (6)
- 12 Turkeys lord it in the oven? (3)
- 13 Aramaean maybe investing a Welsh girl with a little time (6)
- 14 Horse or pig meat that's served up in a Canaan town (6)
- 15 Distress bearings found in the sea off Dover (8)
- 17 Women's headgear, providing it's firm at the front (4)
- 18 Into pit come the sporting opposition (11)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 One from India to look out for, they say (4)
- 2 This recipient of a letter is a kind of record: he's a Scot (8)
- 3 Part of Malta's no-go 'zombie' sector (4)
- 4 Religious type - one to find in York, for example (8)
- 5 One Coptic play that turns out to be prophetic... (11)
- 6 ...notice Earth in turmoil? (3,8)
- 10 Fuming after Ulster's reversal over weapons (2,2,4)
- 11 Place in Gilead's a goal for leading actor's comeback (8)
- 16 What you used to be is there - just get rid of the radical element (4)

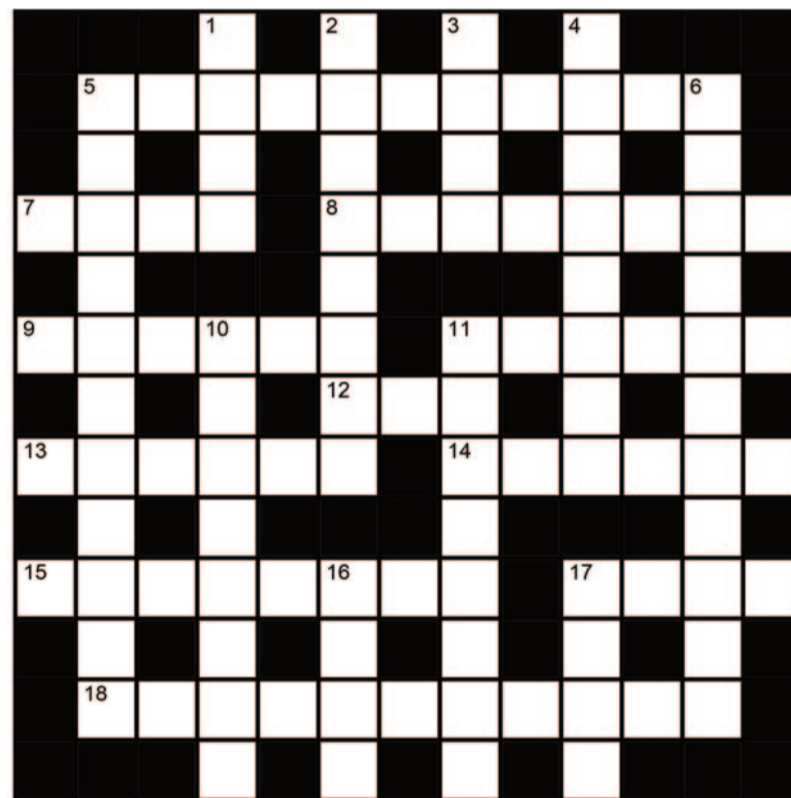
- 17 There's a tiny number in jail, brother, for murder (4)

QUICK Across

- 5 Member of a 16th Century German protestant sect condemned as heretics by Luther (11)
- 7 Along with Daniel and Job, one of Israel's three righteous men (4)
- 8 Bible people from southern Dead Sea area (8)
- 9 Domestic dog, aka Persian greyhound (6)
- 11 Ancient Persian god of light and truth (6)
- 12 --- Khan, spiritual head of Ismaili Muslims (3)
- 13 Native of a middle eastern Arabic republic (6)
- 14 Town in Canaan which after the Conquest was given to the tribe of Judah (6)
- 15 Restrict; impoverish (8)
- 17 Cap worn by fundamentalist Mormon women (4)
- 18 Formal sporting event, tournament (11)

QUICK Down

- 1 Adherent of a monotheistic religion established in the 15th century by former Hindus (4)
- 2 Recipient of one of Paul's epistles (8)
- 3 Mediterranean home of the Giant's Tower, the world's oldest man-made religious structure (4)



- 4 Clergyman, as usually called in Protestant churches (8)
- 5 Significantly prophetic (11)
- 6 Part of Genesis featured in Haydn's landmark oratorio of 1798 (3,8)
- 10 Strongly protesting; actively rebelling (2,2,4)
- 11 Where Jacob saw angels before reuniting with Esau (8)
- 16 Biblical pronoun (4)
- 17 First child of Adam and Eve (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 5 Adiphhorist, 7 Noah, 8 Edomites, 9 Saluki, 11 Mithra, 12 Aga, 13 Syrian, 14 Hormah, 15 Straten, 17 Coff, 18 Competition. Down: 1 Sikh, 2 Ephesian, 3 Gozo, 4 Minister, 5 Apocalypic, 6 The Creation, 10 Up in arms, 11 Mahanaim, 16 Thee, 17 Cain.