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# The CatholicPost



The UK's first Carbon Neutral Catholic Newspaper



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## Light a virtual candle for Pope Francis

cbcew

### The Digital Synod launches an online prayer initiative to mark the tenth anniversary of the pontificate of Pope Francis on March 13

Pope Francis will be celebrating ten years of his pontificate on March 13th. To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "viral" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a special online map featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him.

According to a press release, "The Petrine ministry is a great grace that Jesus granted to His Church and we must always be grateful for it. Therefore, prayer must be our best gift, so

that God may support the service of the one He has chosen for this ministry because on this rock He builds His Church in time and history".

Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation at the the following website address [decimus-annus.org/site/index](http://decimus-annus.org/site/index) to pray one or more Hail Marys." In the end they will send the Holy Father the map with the 'little candles' which represent the Hail Marys that are prayed for him, thanking God for His Mercy."



## Working on the frontline with the SVP

All charities are focusing on supporting those in need during these challenging times, but the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is meeting this challenge on the frontline and providing vital person-to-person support.

For 200 years, the SVP has supported people in need and today is no different. Our Vincentian values dictate we must seek and find those in need and help them in a spirit of dignity and humility, as well as speak out against injustice.

This article provides a snapshot of how the SVP is offering hope to those affected, and how it continues to provide lifesaving support and befriending to those most in need.

The beating heart of the society is its members; there are 876 Members' groups (known as Conferences) which organise visits and other support for people in need in their community.

In addition, the society is able to help in many other ways:  
• Housing - those facing forced eviction are offered Temporary Emergency Accommodation whilst permanent housing is sought.

- School Uniform - Conferences work with schools to recycle uniforms to ensure children are properly attired.
- In-work poverty - where families are falling into arrears and are forced to choose between heating and eating, the SVP supports with food parcels as well as offering debt counselling.
- Warm Space - The SVP provides warm spaces that offer a warm welcome, company, heating, food and a place to spend time during the winter months.
- Loneliness - the St Vincent's Centre in Newcastle has seen record numbers of guests in 2022. On average the centre offers around 150 hot, three-course free meals several times a week in a warm and welcoming space to anyone in need, but a major focus has been on supporting men in need of company. With increasing numbers of male suicides, such a resource offers hope, engagement and therapy to those attending.
- Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants - the Society helps this group of beneficiaries in a number of ways such as offering befriending, providing financial support, food parcels, advocating on their behalf and helping deal with bureaucracy.
- Debt - Complex debt issues are becoming increasingly common at our centres. Debt

counsellors at support centres offer counselling and advice to help those struggling to pay their way. Since the start of 2022, the debt advice team in Leeds has helped 559 people, and as a result they had a total of £733,344 debt written off.

The SVP is also lobbying the Government, proposing policy recommendations to make changes to social policy to improve the situation for those who are struggling.

They include:

1. A commitment to the Levelling Up agenda to reduce regional inequalities.
2. An engagement with faith groups to all work together for the common good.
3. Provision of house insulation and energy efficiency to help reduce bills.
4. An adequate and functioning social security system to support people, not punish them.

From having basic necessities to being able to pay for essential travel, from loneliness to debt, from having someone to talk with as well as having an advocate, the importance of and reliance upon an organisation such as the SVP cannot be underestimated.

Lance Philpott

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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 (Part 2)

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

These forty days, instituted by the apostles, should be given over to fasting which means not just simply a reduction in our food, but the elimination of our evil habits. (Pope St Leo the Great)

In the early centuries, observance of the Lenten fast was very rigid: only one meal each day was allowed and meat and fish were both forbidden. In the West the fast was gradually relaxed until it applied only to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and fish could be eaten. More recently the law governing these two days of fast and abstinence was relaxed still further. The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat but not fish.

The guidelines from our Bishops' Conference (which has authority to make its own interpretations and decisions in this matter) say that fasting means that the amount of food we eat should be considerably reduced (but it doesn't give specific details regarding by how much), and abstinence means that we give up a particular kind of food (but without specifying which) or some form of amusement. It all seems a lot more lenient than it used to be and, perhaps, a little confusing. Rather than allowing that to be an excuse for doing little or nothing, it actually invites us to enter into the spirit of what fasting and abstinence are about, and to make our decision maturely out of a freedom of choice rather than blind obedience to the letter of the law.

Canon Law says that the law of fasting applies to those aged eighteen to the beginning of their sixtieth year (in other words from the day after someone becomes eighteen until the last day they are fifty-nine - if we want to be legalistic about it. Abstinence applies to those who have completed their fourteenth year (strictly speaking from the day after their fourteenth birthday). Reasons of ill-health, pregnancy, etc, may excuse of course. Other forms of penance may be chosen by those who are excused or who are not obliged in law.

Most of us find abstaining from meat to be no great hardship, the problem is trying to remember. On the other hand many of us, I think, dread having to fast for the day - even though we aren't really fasting as such, just eating a little less than we normally do. Part ways through even just Ash Wednesday or Good Friday morning, you'd think we hadn't eaten for days (even though we probably ate breakfast) as we struggle with the temptation to have our usual "elevenses". And the same in the afternoon.

The catechism is remarkably silent on the subject of self-denial as a form of penance in terms of providing us with some guidance. Many of us probably fall back on our childhood practice of giving up something - which is OK in and of itself so long as we make the connection with its purpose as an act of penance, but such things tend to be somewhat superficial (especially if we haven't really moved on very much from what we gave up as children). Giving up chocolate or cake or biscuits may have more to do with losing a little weight than with self-denial as such. And while it might take a bit more will-power to resist having a drink for six weeks, is it doing us any spiritual good? - which is actually the purpose.

This introduces a dimension to Lent that people don't always consider: that of doing something extra (especially spiritual) rather than giving something up, which can often be just as challenging. Choosing to do something that requires a real commitment on our part such as works of mercy (which might include visiting the sick, the elderly or the housebound) (Mt 25 v 31-46); making more time each day for prayer or spiritual reading; going to daily Mass; and that perennial challenge - getting to confession (and making it the start of a regular practice).

On the subject of making an effort to go to Mass more often, our own diocese has, in recent years, restored the practice of "station Masses". In the early centuries of the Church, "Station Days" (from the Latin *statio* - a Christian assembly) were the occasions throughout the year (on feast days and during Lent) when the Pope, as Bishop of Rome, would celebrate Mass in various designated churches as a way of unifying the diverse Christian communities of the city. The people would assemble in a nearby church and then process to the "stational church" as a sign of witness. Our Lenten "station Masses" are celebrated by the bishop in designated churches - again as a sign of unity, but also to encourage people to come together for the celebration of Mass and to do so more frequently as a way of marking the season.

The Church also reminds us about the importance of alms-giving, the suggested link

being that we give from what we have saved from our acts of self-denial - which therefore benefits us (spiritually) and those in need (materially).

Although any time is suitable for the exercise of the virtue of charity, it is more especially urged on us by this present season...that the relief of those in need may support our fasts. (Pope St Leo the Great)

Fasting does not germinate unless watered by mercy. When mercy dries up, fasting suffers drought, for mercy is to fasting what rain is to the earth. Consequently, lest you lose by saving, gather in by dispensing. Give to yourself by giving to the poor. (St Peter Chrysologus)

Pope Leo's mention of "the virtue of charity" suggests yet another way we can mark Lent: by being just a little bit nicer to others, a little more charitable, a little more patient and understanding, a little less critical or judgmental. Maybe we can reflect further on this by reading Lk 6 v 36-38 and even Mt 5 v 23-24 if there may be bridges to be rebuilt.

The instructions in the Roman Missal for "The Passion of the Lord" (on Good Friday) state (p.346): On this and the following day, by a most ancient tradition, the Church does not celebrate the Sacraments at all, except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick.

During my time in the seminary we were taught that from the end of the "Mass of the Lord's Supper" on Holy Thursday until the start of the Easter Vigil, sacramentally speaking the Church was considered to be "dead" with Christ in the tomb. This is why there is no Mass on Good Friday and why communion is ministered using hosts (only) consecrated the previous day. Obviously people can't help having need of the Sacrament of the Sick in an emergency situation and, therefore, it can and would be celebrated with them.

One final thought: I can't help wondering just how well, and in what ways, Lent and all that it involves and what it's about, is taught in our Catholic schools these days. Are our children and young people aware of the penitential practice of self-denial - of giving something up for Lent? Are they aware of the requirement on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday to abstain from meat (from 14 years of age) and to fast (from age 18) and what the law says about fasting on these days? And just in case our schools aren't teaching these things as they should, are their parents?

And one final, final thought: when we are deciding what to give up for Lent, let's make sure it isn't Lent itself!

# No Place For Racism



[rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://rcsouthwark.co.uk)

## Racial Justice Sunday sees full Cathedral for celebratory Mass

A vibrant Mass for Racial Justice Sunday took place in St George's Cathedral, Southwark during which the Archdiocese celebrated the wonderful diversity of Southwark, and in which

Archbishop Wilson affirmed that there is no place for racism in our parishes, schools and wider community.

Thank you to all who organised this inspiring liturgy and took part. Special thanks go to all who arrived in their national dress and brought banners and flags.

## The Power of Prayer to change world events

So many elderly people feel that the world is too fast, too changed, for them to have an active part in family or parish life, or in politics. Many feel lonesome, worry about their children and grandchildren, thinking that there is nothing that they can do to support them. Yet these elderly and housebound members of parishes are the most amazing asset.

For these are the people who have power to pray for the younger generations. Their silent prayer each day for their families, priests and parish communities, is the most wonderful gift that anyone could receive.

For if we wish to change the course of world events, we can. Our Lady has repeatedly told us so. She has begged us to realise this. She calls us again and again to believe in the power of our prayer, of her intercession, through the Holy Rosary. The messages of Lourdes and Fatima, along with that of her other apparitions, echo a mother's call, for then and for now. Our Lady brings us hope and gives us choice. She requests our prayer to change the course of history and to allow miracles to happen. It is up to us to respond.

The horrors of war can be stopped. We have Our Lady assuring us of this, but we must act. This is not difficult but it takes willpower and trust. It takes us all to do our bit.

The Holy Rosary, with its simplicity of prayers and meditations brings us into contact with the Holy Family, their hardships and their joys. It allows our minds to wander through the lives of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, in parallel to ours. Whether one decade is prayed daily or several, is less important than the effort and trust that is put into it.

[www.crownofthorns.org.uk](http://www.crownofthorns.org.uk)

## Celebrating STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) Week

**Ursuline Prep School, Warley**

Each class worked with a visiting artist to produce specific pieces, an inter-house maths quiz as well building their own 'Bug Club' hotels!

Bug Club Hotels that they were asked to create and we celebrated each and every one of them during our assembly on Friday. Some of these hotels have now been moved to St. Angela's Garden, on our school grounds to house any bugs that choose to move in!

During Steam week we welcomed Eliza Stimpson, a visiting artist, whose work is inspired by Botanical illustration into every classroom. Eliza uses paint to capture the many colours, patterns and textures of fruit and vegetables in her work. She always celebrates the beauty of food and nature too. The children thoroughly enjoyed working with Eliza developing their skills in sketching, painting, printing, collaging and marbling. The children created: ice creams by printing; fruit and vegetables using collage; sketching and shading single fruits; marbling backgrounds to use to create different foods and Lower Two and Upper two worked in groups to complete



3D creations of lemons, oranges, garlic and fennel. The children thoroughly enjoyed working with Eliza.

An enjoyable week had by all!



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# UK Aid is being Wasted

**UK aid is being wasted on fossil fuel investments, House of Commons Select Committee told**

CAFOD

If the government is serious about its commitment to preventing global warming of 1.5c, then we must make sure no UK aid is invested in fossil fuels

MPs were told today (24 January) that overseas aid is being spent on fossil fuels, taking away money from humanitarian programmes, including those for women and girls.

Graham Gordon, CAFOD's head of policy, told the International Development Select Committee in an oral evidence session that despite promises in 2019 that fossil fuel investments would cease, there were around £700m (12.6% of the overall portfolio) ongoing direct investments in fossil fuels in 2021 by the UK government's development finance institution, British International Investment (BII). This is what BII calls carbon-related exposure.

BII also admit that they do not know their current exposure to fossil fuels through indirect investments in funds and financial intermediaries, so the real figure will be higher.

This undermines the government's legal commitments to reach net zero emissions and its "number one foreign international priority to tackle climate change".

Graham Gordon said: "If the government is serious about its commitment to preventing global warming of 1.5c, then we must make sure no UK aid is invested in fossil fuels. Because it is currently going in the opposite direction to where we want aid money to go.

"It's bad investment and it's taking money away from essential humanitarian aid, such as education and girls healthcare."

The Committee were urged to pressure FCDO to close loopholes in BII's climate change policy and to mandate it to pull out of all legacy fossil fuel investments.

A third of BII's investments go through funds or financial intermediaries, where BII remains an arm's length investor. The government's own documents admit that BII has less control over the investments and therefore there is less information about where UK aid money goes not the impacts the money has.

Due to this lack of transparency, CAFOD recommended that FCDO instructs BII to drastically reduce its investments through financial intermediaries and instead redirects them to companies with an explicit focus on creating decent, green jobs in the poorest countries and communities.

Graham Gordon told the committee that FCDO need to take back control of BII: "As the sole shareholder, FCDO have chosen to operate at

arms length, while BII then operate at arms length to many of its investments, then they have an even longer arm in terms of where their investments are reaching."

Given the context of drastic cuts to the aid budget (Overseas Development Aid), Graham recommended the FCDO should not give any more aid money to BII. Adding "BII should have a much stronger poverty eradication focus in line with the International Development Act.

"We have a very clear act from 2002 that all ODA needs to be tackling poverty.

"We have shifted where a lot of our ODA is going, we need to bring it back to be focusing on poverty very clearly, tackling climate change, to focusing on the poorest countries.

"Because we have an ever decreasing pot of ODA at the moment and we need to make sure that is really targeted."

BII's assets have more than doubled since 2015 to £8bn, while UK bilateral aid to poor countries continues to be slashed. Any



Graham Gordon

additional funds for BII would be in the context of cuts to emergency response, health, education and women's economic development.

Question marks were also raised over BII's transparency, Graham asked: "Why is ODA that goes through BII particularly through financial intermediaries let off the hook in terms of transparency?"

Sarah Champion MP, the Committee's chair added that is exactly why this inquiry is running.

## Parish Matters

Willie Slavin MBE



### Why is breaking bread with the poor unusual?

The headline 'A relational church is needed now, more than ever' in last month's issue caught my interest for a number of reasons, not least because of the reference to the influence of Together for the Common Good (T4CG) organisation whose inaugural conference in 2011 I was privileged to attend. However, the principle reason for my interest was the illustrative story of a parish reaching out to its wider community and, perhaps more exciting, evoking a response from within the community to engage with its own wellbeing. The reaching out only becomes relational when the gesture is reciprocated and becomes two way and transforms from a giver/receiver transaction into a joint relational venture with its reward in mutual fulfilment.

The T4CG movement found its model and inspiration in the remarkable partnership of Liverpool's Archbishop Derek Worlock and Anglican Counterpart Bishop David Sheppard in the 1980s whose work was characterised by a combination of gifts from different Christian traditions. Much like the parishioners in Loughborough, praying together they envisioned an "outward-facing church" which drew upon the wealth of Catholic social teaching to work for the common good. The Liverpool episcopal partnership expanded to draw the wider

ecumenical community into their joint venture and inspired the Methodist leader Dr John Newton to eloquently describe the vision of the Merseyside churches: "My hope and prayer is that, as Christians draw closer together, so they will work more effectively as one in their mission and service to God's children. Our united resources are called for to minister to the needs of a broken and divided world: to bring hope to the poor, the homeless, the unemployed, those who have lost faith or never had it."

These sentiments, so pertinent in that then troubled city, could just as easily be applied to our present troubled land that is surely crying out for a similar response from our faith communities in every part of the country.

What is evident in my own community is that 'Warm Hubs', set up to offer warmth and companionship during this period of high energy costs, have inspired many churches to welcome people of every generation into a warm, hospitable and social environment. Many have evolved into thriving, multi-activity community centres where a hot lunch is provided at very reasonable cost. Like the Loughborough parish the range of activities and possibilities being offered by many church communities, often ecumenically, is drawing people into a community of generous service

and, significantly, offering an estranged generation a more enlightened and appealing view of what Christianity is about.

Given that there is every indication that the energy crisis is not going to go away any time soon and, in all likelihood will taper off gradually, will our church communities crawl back into their comfortable shells or will we have found that our mission has found its true location among those in need? There is every likelihood that the good people in Loughborough will have already realised that they are in this for the long haul. (Perhaps we could, editor willing, get regular updates on this encouraging and admirable initiative.)

If we have the foresight and wisdom to join up the dots between the energy crisis and global warming, which will be best served by using less energy on a permanent basis, it is inconceivable that this particular impetus for action, like the Church's mission, will ever end.

What wonders will be revealed by the simple act of reaching out and breaking bread with our neighbours?

Seek the welfare of the city, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare, you will find your welfare - Jeremiah 29.7 quoted from the T4CG website.

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# Ukrainian photographer documents a year of the war in powerful photo exhibition

[mwbuk.org](http://mwbuk.org)

Misha's photos are a snapshot of the many hundreds of villages, towns and cities destroyed by Russia

Mykola Bogdanets is Mission Without Borders Ukraine Country Director. He said, "I have seen the devastation first-hand. Misha's photos are a snapshot of the many hundreds of villages, towns and cities destroyed by Russia. My prayer is that the war will end soon, and we can help our people rebuild their lives. My colleagues are supporting their neighbours in so many different ways, but much more is needed."

One year on from the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces on 24 February 2022, Ukrainian Photographer, Misha Vavylyuk, shares pictures from the last 12 months in a moving and powerful online exhibition.

Through his photos, Misha, who works for the international charity Mission Without Borders in Ukraine, hopes that they will show the world what his country people have been going through this past year. "My hope is that these pictures will make people feel closer to us. The enemy is dreadful and enormously big and its intentions are cruel. We really need support of the world and I hope that the world will not turn its face from us," he said.

Mission Without Borders UK Country Director, John Chamberlain, said, "Misha's pictures show the impact of the devastation this war is having on the lives of millions of Ukrainians. Mission Without Borders Ukrainian staff and volunteers have been working in Ukraine for over thirty years, providing love and care through action and practical support and emergency aid. I hope that through this exhibition and the wider One Year At War Appeal campaign, people will get a glimpse of the dramatic impact this conflict has had on individual lives and find ways to support our work."



Kateryna and Sasha's father was killed by a missile in August 2022. Sasha's mother explains, "Sometimes he acts as though his father is still here. He'll sometimes ask the others to be quiet because father is sleeping."



A Mission Without Borders summer camp held in Voloshky, Ukraine, provided some much needed fun for children whose parents are serving on the front line, in the army, police, fire service and rescue units. Some of their parents had already been killed.

To mark One Year At War in Ukraine Mission Without Borders (MWB) is asking for help in three very direct ways -

1. Pray - Seeking support in prayer from individuals, churches and Christian groups. MWB is inviting people to use a brand new resource booklet "Reflections on Ukraine" and the prayer on the inside back page in services, fellowship meetings and individual devotions on Sunday 26th February. Visit [www.mwbuk.org](http://www.mwbuk.org) for more information.

2. Share - Inviting people to pause and reflect on the impact of the war. People can go to MWB's moving and powerful online photo exhibition of pictures taken by Ukrainian photographer, Misha Vavylyuk, which bring

home the devastation of war in individual lives. Scan this code below with your phone or go to "One Year At War" at our website [www.mwbuk.org](http://www.mwbuk.org)



3. Support - Help MWB's Emergency Response Appeal for Ukraine by donating. £15 will enable the charity to deliver one essential emergency parcel of food with items such as pasta, rice, tinned meat and vegetables. A gift of £30 will enable MWB to deliver two parcels, the second with hygiene items such as soap, washing powder and toothpaste.

## Ince Benet: New prayer and retreat centre on Merseyside

ICN

Ince Benet is a new prayer / retreat centre near Liverpool set in acres of beautiful woodland. This marks a new chapter in the life of the monastery built by Fr Tom Cullinan in 1980, through the generosity and support of the Augustinian sisters at Ince Blundell Hall. Over the next forty years Fr. Tom lived the monastic life of a Benedictine monk, putting Ince Benet at the service of the local and wider community, offering hospitality and an atmosphere of prayer, study, conversation and guidance to many people of all faiths and none.

As an evolution of Fr Tom's life and work, Ince Benet has been renovated, thanks to the continued generosity of the Augustinian sisters and is now available to individuals,

couples and groups of all faiths or none as a place of prayer, reflection and renewal.

Half an hour from Liverpool and 10 minutes from the M57 & M58 motorways, it is ideal for those looking for somewhere that is easy to reach, yet has an 'away from it all' feel from the moment you enter the woods. The chapel, bedrooms and communal areas have been designed not just to be set in the beautiful surroundings, but to be part of them, allowing visitors to blend contemplation and conversation according to their needs. Ince Benet is ideal for retreats or for quiet days of rest and prayer, for planning and Inset days, and is available for residential stays and away days for individuals and for groups. We welcome people of all faiths and none.

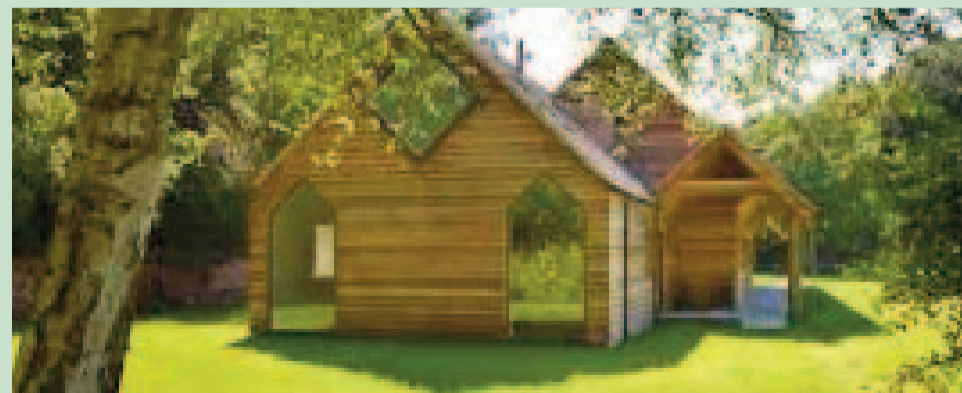


Image by Ron Davies

Since opening, it has been used by individuals, small groups and groups of 15-20  
 - Clergy: groups of priests both for planning days and for overnight stays  
 - Parish groups: retreat days  
 - Schools: Inset days for staff

- Individuals: both for quiet days and short stays of quiet, rest and prayer  
 - small groups: using the meeting room for planning days.  
 For more information go to [www.incebenet.co.uk](http://www.incebenet.co.uk)

# Mgr Philip Moger says farewell to Walsingham



rcdea.org.uk

## Mgr Moger leaves Walsingham to take up his new position as Auxiliary Bishop-Elect for the Archdiocese of Southwark

Bishop Peter Collins and Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes joined Mgr Philip Moger as he celebrated his last Mass as Rector of the National Catholic Shrine in Walsingham on Sunday 5 February. Mgr Moger is now Auxiliary Bishop-Elect for the Archdiocese of Southwark and is preparing to take up his new responsibilities.

He came to Walsingham in September 2020, for a five-year-appointment, but the plan changed when Pope Francis decided last November on his appointment to the Archdiocese of Southwark.

"Leaving Our Lady's National Shrine to become a Bishop wasn't part of my plans," writes Mgr Philip, "but then, doesn't Our Lady of Walsingham teach us always to be open to the new thing God might want us to do? Of course, what God asked of her was unique, beyond compare, and of vital importance; but, doesn't God ask of us each day to do things - however small - to help build his kingdom, and give glory to His name? None of us can say that we're too small or insignificant to play a part in God's plan. And if we don't, who will?"

Speaking of his move further south, Bishop Peter said: "I wish to express sincere gratitude to Mgr Philip Moger, Auxiliary Bishop-Elect for the Archdiocese of Southwark, as he prepares to conclude his tenure as Rector of the Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady in Walsingham.

"Mgr Moger has served as Rector for the past three years, moving to Walsingham from his home diocese of Leeds. Alongside his diocesan duties, Monsignor Moger has been a most faithful and talented servant of the Catholic Church in England and Wales for many years, contributing greatly on the national level to the liturgical and spiritual wellbeing of the Church.

"On behalf of the Diocese of East Anglia, I offer thanksgiving for the immense contribution of Mgr Moger to the ongoing development of the National Shrine and its mission. We note, in particular, the recent decision to designate the celebration of Our Lady of Walsingham as a National Feast in England. Bishop-Elect Philip has ever been, and will ever be, a true and most caring Pastor of the Flock.

"Whilst we are sad to see him leave the sacred precincts of Walsingham, we entrust him with great confidence into the realm of his future episcopal ministry. Our Holy Father Pope Francis, as Vicar of Christ, has chosen Fr Philip to assist Archbishop Wilson in the vineyard of South London and Kent. We offer Bishop-Elect Philip the firm assurance of our prayers during these days of transition, and we entrust his future ministry to the loving embrace of Our Lady of Walsingham."

## Ordination of Fr Marc Pitson

Diocese of Leeds

Fr Marc Pitson was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood at Leeds Cathedral on Saturday 28th January by Bishop Marcus.

Fr Marc is a former student of Leeds Trinity University and the Venerable English College in Rome. Following his ordination to the Diaconate last year he has been assisting in the parish of St John Mary Vianney, in Leeds, and it was here that he said his first Mass, in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Moortown, Leeds on Sunday 29th January.

Please pray for Fr Marc in the coming weeks as he begins his priestly ministry.

# Catholic school pupils over 20% more diverse than England national average – new survey

CES

Catholic schools continue to be more diverse than the England average whilst outperforming national GCSE averages for English and Maths

The figures come from the annual census of Catholic schools and academies conducted by the Catholic Education Service (CES), released this week. The CES acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference and has supported Catholic education since 1847.

Paul Barber, CES Director, said: "Catholic schools have led the way on diversity since the nineteenth century, when many were established to meet the needs of immigrants from Ireland.

Pupils in Catholic schools and academies are significantly more diverse than the England average, according to the latest data.

Overall, 44% of pupils at Catholic state-funded primaries and secondaries are from an ethnic minority background, compared to 36% nationally.

A total of 11.4% of the 820,994 pupils in England's 2,090 Catholic schools and academies are either Black or Black British, compared to 5.8% nationally. The percentage of black teachers is also slightly higher, at 2.6%, above a national average of 2.4%.

There are more than three times the proportion of White Irish pupils (1%) than in other state-funded schools and academies (0.3%).

Sixty per cent of pupils in Catholic schools and academies are Catholic, as are just under half of the 47,662 teachers employed. Of the 316,070 non-Catholic pupils, just under half are from other Christian denominations. The largest non-Christian religion represented is Islam, with more than 34,000 Muslim pupils.

Only 0.03% of all pupils, or just 277 of them, in Catholic schools across England are withdrawn from acts of collective worship such as Mass and prayers in assemblies.

"Today they outperform national GCSE averages for English and Maths by five percentage points, with more pupils from the most deprived areas, and from ethnic minorities. Parents and pupils of other faiths and none rightly value this success and the distinctive, all-inclusive ethos of Catholic education."

Due to a 50% admissions cap for new religious schools, only two new Catholic ones have been built in England since 2010. The cap means a new Catholic school could be put in the position of turning away a pupil for being a Catholic, which is against canon law.

Catholic schools continue to convert into becoming Catholic academies, with a 17% increase in the past year. There are now 814 Catholic academies in England, run by 77 multi-academy trusts.

Altogether, Catholic schools and academies make up 9% of the national total of the state-funded sector, making the Catholic Church the biggest provider of secondary education and the second-largest provider of primary education overall.



# Nottingham Cathedral lights up the night

*The Friends of Nottingham Cathedral*

The stunning arches and chapels were illuminated with beautiful colours, highlighting the depths and heights of this Gothic Revival build

The Catholic Cathedral of St Barnabas joined the 'Nottingham Light Night' trail for the first time this year, offering visitors an immersive light and sound experience which showcased the beauty of this AWN Pugin gem. As part of this popular after dark festival, now in its 15th year, the Cathedral welcomed nearly 2000 visitors over the evenings of the 3-4th February, with many visitors having never visited the Cathedral before.

An annual fixture on the Nottingham scene, Light Night offers many immersive and interactive light-based installations, performances and activities across the city. The event aims to offer high quality art within the city, encourage residents to see the city in a different light and open buildings which may usually be inaccessible at night. Responding to this brief, 'The Friends of the Cathedral' in collaboration with Cathedral parishioners and the Cathedral music department, found itself on the official app, map and trail with the promise of a 'Gothic Extravaganza' for visitors. A simple yet spectacular light installation and experience was offered to visitors, highlighting the beauty of this Pugin masterpiece. The stunning arches and chapels were illuminated with beautiful colours, highlighting the depths and heights of this Gothic Revival build. There were gasps of joy as newcomers walked

through this captivating experience and those familiar with the Cathedral commented on how the lighting had moved the space from being two-dimensional to something much more three dimensional. Throughout the evening visitors were treated to choral and organ performances, with a number of visitors commenting that the music really completed the experience for them. As visitors passed the Sanctuary on their way out, they were offered the opportunity to light a candle- on Saturday evening, more than 500 candles were aglow on the Sanctuary steps. Many were visibly moved by the beauty and splendour of what a number of visitors called a 'hidden gem' in the city and volunteers were encouraged to do more to share and showcase it.

The evening provided an opportunity to share something of the history of the Cathedral and the ambitious plans to 'Restore Pugin' to the east-end chapels and ambulatories, thanks to a generous grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Light Night was an opportunity to begin to open the Cathedral doors to even more people in the City and further afield, letting them know this precious sacred space is open and accessible to all. The Cathedral is an important part of Nottingham's story and it wants to be an important part of people's lives across the City, County and region;



Image by Francesca Rachel Hyde

offering a place of peace, beauty and sanctuary amidst an often busy and frenetic urban life. The weekend has certainly set the

bar high in terms of future events the Friends, Cathedral and Diocese have planned this coming year!

## World champion darts player Michael Smith trains at St Helens parish club

[liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

When he is not away competing, Michael can be found at the centre training

Earlier this year Michael Smith from St Helens, hit the headlines after winning the PDC World Darts Championship title at London's Alexandra Palace, a title he clinched thanks to his daily training at one of the Archdiocese of Liverpool's parish centres - St Anne and Blessed Dominic in Sutton.

Michael's mum Sandra Woods has been the manager of the centre since 2011, and when he is not away competing, Michael can be found at the centre training.

He said: "I come here when the club is closed to practice, I do the school run and then train for about four hours a day before picking my two boys up on the way home. I don't have a dart board at home as I want to keep work and home separate, so the club is where I do all of my training."

Sandra said: "It's such a great opportunity for local people to come and see the trophy, we have had lots of interest and it's lovely to see so many people, including children coming through the doors to see it.

"I am so proud of Michael, but I'm proud of all of my children and it's not just the darts that makes me proud of him. During Covid he donated thousands of pounds worth of food to nurses at St Helens and Whiston Hospital and I'm incredibly proud of that."

Due to her work commitments at the centre, Sandra doesn't go to watch Michael play live, but watches the matches on TV at the centre. She added: "When Michael won the world championship, the club was packed with family, friends and regular customers - it was a great atmosphere. However, it cost me £150 as I bought everyone a drink when he won!!"

It is no surprise that the club has two darts teams who meet weekly. Sandra said: "We have lots of activities on at the centre including darts, dominoes teams, chess club, snooker teams, pensioner bingo and baby sensory classes. The Police hold a drop in clinic for local people to help them feel safe in their community. We host functions from funerals and weddings to birthdays, christenings and children's parties.

"The centre also is a warm and cosy hub every Tuesday between 1-3.30pm welcoming anyone to come to spend time at the parish centre to keep warm and make new friends in a safe space.

"We are proud to be a hub of the community and I love seeing people benefit from the centre. There is a young boy from Ukraine who comes along to our chess club and it is so lovely to see him settling into a new community and getting involved in something he loves doing."

Family is at the heart of St Anne and Blessed Dominic's, Sandra who has worked for the



archdiocese for 25 years, started work at Our Lady's club in St Helens before it closed as her two brothers were the manager and assistant manager and her sister managed St Joseph's club. Sandra started as a cleaner then as bar staff before working her way to management. Sandra's partner Ian is the assistant manager at St Anne and Blessed Dominic, daughter Claire is bar staff and Michael has made a few rare appearances behind the bar to help his mum out.

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# Letters to the Editor

All correspondence to Letters to the Editor to be sent by post to Bellcourt Ltd, N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7BN or via e-mail to johnclwson@icloud.com and must give a contact name and place of residence. Anonymous correspondence will not be considered for publication.

Dear Editor

It is a real treat to have a Catholic paper once again. I was unaware you are now celebrating your 12 months publication of this wonderful paper. Congratulations and best wishes for the future. We need it so much.

Mary McGogh

Dear Editor

With the Christian churches having more or less exhausted the topics of gender and sexuality, these also now ceasing to grip the public interest, is it not time for them to explore and oversee the more important areas of modern life, notably motoring lifestyles?

My suggestion is that they should now establish a bishop of road safety, whose job it would be to look at life and death on our roads. In recent times, around 1,700 people have been killed on Britain's roads every year, over 50 of them children.

Some 600 elderly folk are killed annually. About 430 pedestrians perish nationwide. On average

around 70 people die in "hit and run" tragedies, all of these avoidable. In London, over 50 pedestrians die annually on local roads.

A bishop of road safety would have his or her work cut out dealing with themes like grief, injustice, indifference and the woeful culture of speed. Perhaps a good start-up will be to determine the arcane legal difference between dangerous driving and careless driving?

Antony Porter, London

Dear Editor

I recently watched an interview with a Norbertine Priest on the Journey Home Programme on EWTN.

The Priest, Fr Sebastian Walshe, made the suggestion that we should all make a return visit to the Church in which we were Baptised as infants. He suggested a pilgrimage to the actual Font that was used.

At the Font we should quietly renew our Baptismal Promises. A recommitment to our Faith as adults, reflecting on, and being open to

the words of Saint John the Baptist, "He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

I think this is a wonderful idea, and should be encouraged, perhaps taking the opportunity of Confession also.

However, a visit to our Cathedral Font with the desire of a Pilgrim on our Journey of Faith would be equal I'm sure.

Name and address supplied

Dear Editor

The article on Papal Nuncio to GB in the January edition of The Catholic Post been more interesting for me had you included information on the position of Papal Nuncio and what he does, where he lives who he is responsible to etc. Also the prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches. I realize most people know this but for those of us who don't it would be educational and interesting.

God Bless

Penny Kain

## Ship visiting resumes in Ukraine

Stella Maris

Stella Maris is physically present and actively working in Ukraine to support seafarers and their families

Global maritime charity Stella Maris is pleased to announce that it has resumed regular ship visits in the port of Odesa in war-torn Ukraine, after almost a year of not being able to do so due to security and safety concerns.

On Tuesday, 24th January, the charity's port chaplain Fr Alexander Smerechynskyy, and assistant chaplain Rostyslav Inzhestoikov, were granted special permission to go on board ships. With a military escort at all times, they were able to pay very welcome visits to seafarers who have been alone on their vessels in Odesa for many long months.

"Rostik and I are delighted that Stella Maris has been granted permission to visit ships once again in the port of Odesa," said Fr Alexander.

During the months that they were not allowed to visit ships, Fr Alex and Rostik have been

supporting seafarers in many other ways, including ensuring the delivery of food parcels to seafarers trapped on ships in the Black Sea. They have been providing spiritual and pastoral support remotely to Ukrainian seafarers on ships around the world through messages broadcast via social media.

Through Stella Maris' Centenary Emergency Fund, Fr Alex and Rostik have also been providing tens of thousands of pounds in urgent life-saving grants to hundreds of Ukrainian seafarers and their families in need of immediate assistance as a result of the war.

They also ran a soup kitchen to help families of seafarers in Odesa and helped organise safe places of refuge for Ukrainian seafarers finishing contracts overseas and their families fleeing the country.

Late last year Stella Maris launched a psychological support service for seafarers and their families in Ukraine. The programme provides medium to long-term support from professional psychologists in Ukraine, and delivers remote, ongoing psychological support for those most in need.

Stella Maris is the world's largest ship-visiting network. The importance of a personal visit from the charity's chaplains and volunteers, and the impact of the human touch on



Fr Alex and Rostik preparing to ship visit in Odesa port on 24th January

seafarers' mental health and wellbeing cannot be over-estimated.

Seafarers, especially those working in conditions of heightened anxiety and stress, appreciate seeing a friendly face, ready to offer support and a listening ear. It reminds seafarers that they are not forgotten amid the horrors of the war.



# Tiny but Mighty

**Right to Life**

## New charity set up to help the parents of premature babies

A mum from Swindon, whose son was born 11 weeks early, has started a charity to help other parents of prematurely-born babies.

Chloe Kirwan, 34, said "I gave birth in January of last year and my son was 11 weeks early and he only weighed 895g, which is of course much lower than normal".

Thankfully, despite being born so early, George was okay, but Chloe felt that she didn't get enough support as a parent. Chloe wanted to bring some home comforts to other parents in a similar situation so she set up a small charity to help.

"I set Tiny But Mighty up to help others and started with providing care packages", she told our reporter.

"We have grown substantially since and we are now holding our first coffee morning for parents to attend".

"We are going to be launching care packages for parents who end up on the children's ward later this year".

"These will include a reusable coffee cup, a water bottle, a notepad, a pen, fluffy socks, a puzzle book, mini toiletries, beauty face masks, snacks and hot chocolate".



"We truly believe that selfcare is not selfish when you are going through this situation", she added.

One year on, Chloe and her husband Nick's son George is doing well.

"He is thriving now and you'd never know that he was premature. He has beaten all the odds", Chloe said.

Almost four out of five babies born prematurely between 22 and 28 weeks gestation survive to discharge from the hospital according to recent research.

A study, 'Mortality, In-Hospital Morbidity, Care Practices, and 2-Year Outcomes for Extremely Preterm Infants in the US, 2013-2018', by Dr Edward F Bell of the University of Iowa, found that from 2013 to 2018, with infants born between 22 and 28 weeks gestation, "survival

to discharge occurred in 78.3% and was significantly improved compared with a historical rate of 76.0% among infants born in 2008-2012".

The study, which took place between 2013 and 2018, assessed 10,877 infants born between 22 and 28 weeks gestation in 19 academic medical centres across the US.

This means that almost four out of five extremely premature babies survived and were able to be assessed at 22-26 months corrected age (22-26 months from their due date) for a number of health and functional outcomes.

Right To Life UK spokesperson Catherine Robinson said "The outcomes for premature babies are improving all the time and it is wonderful to hear that baby George has gone home despite the odds being stacked against him".

## Frank Goulding

As we start Lent this year we will hardly need reminding that 12 months have passed since the conflict in Ukraine invoked outrage and dismay to all who pray for peace.

The Second World War left Europe needing great healing, no one could know what the invasion on the early hours of February 24th 2022 would lead to. With the aid of modern technology and 24 hour news coverage we are well informed of the devastation and the bravery that followed after those early missiles began to hit Kyiv.

I do wonder what our young people still at school will make of all these tragic events. In the 1950's the Primary and Secondary Modern schools I attended never gave any time to the then recent war let alone allowing their pupils to ask questions.

When I started in 1960 to work in industry a number of colleagues then in middle age had been on active service during the 1939-45 conflict. With just two exception they did not wish to recall the full horrors they had witnessed. These 2 appalling instances I

choose not to repeat but can never forget what they told me.

Later this year on December 10th there is another anniversary. On this date it will be 75 years since the United Nations General Assembly voted in favour of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Forty Eight members voted for the Declaration and eight abstained in 1948. The abstention 8 included the USSR and five of its allies, South Africa and Saudi Arabia.

Well we all know words can sometimes come easy and sadly actions often take much longer. Most of the articles agreed in 1948 would have been influenced by the truly horrendous experience of the Second World War, We should not forget that the economic circumstances of the 1930's with mass unemployment and poverty may well have influenced the opinions of the 1948 gathering.

Some of the Declaration is fairly straight forward. In the preamble to the thirty Articles we read "of the inherent dignity and equal rights of all members of the human family being the foundation of all freedom, justice



and peace." In Article 1 we read "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" In Article 3 we further read, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." Finally in Article 7 we read, "All are equal before the law."

Despite the enormous technical progress since 1948 we surely need to at least reflect on the relevance of the U.N. Declaration today.

I cannot recall how the Church prepared for Lent in 1948 but we have much to be grateful from all missionary activity over the last 75 years.

The problems of Europe coincide with the growth of the Church in so many areas of our world as highlighted by the recent visit of Pope Francis to sub-Saharan Africa.

Human rights were high on his agenda as they must be on ours



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# Shrines in England

## Our Lady of Fernyhalgh

[ladywellshrine.co.uk](http://ladywellshrine.co.uk)

Even during penal times apart from a period of five years, the shrine attracted pilgrims and was the focus of local Catholic prayer

Devotion to Our Lady of Fernyhalgh goes back through the ages to the 11th century. Since the Reformation a devotion to Our Lady as Queen of Martyrs has developed, which is reflected at Ladyewell in the reliquary, the presence of the Burgess Altar and the chapel of the English Martyrs. There has never been an apparition of Our Blessed Lady at Fernyhalgh just continued prayer and petition over seven centuries. Even during penal times apart from a period of five years, the shrine attracted pilgrims and was the focus of local Catholic prayer. A secluded spot, only 4 miles from the centre of Preston and in close proximity to a very busy motorway, surrounded on three sides by ancient and protected woodland, Fernyhalgh has retained its tranquil and sylvan charm.

The name Fernyhalgh is thought by some historians to mean Ancient Shrine. Professor E.J.Popham suggests that the place was called "ancient shrine" by Anglo Saxons because on this site was a shrine which even in their day was considered ancient, though this seems a tenuous link. The more feasible explanation is that of etymologist John Bannister who maintains "the name means a watery meadow abounding in ferns." He goes on to say "halgh bears a similar meaning to the first syllable of Haighton, and is interchangeable with haugh". "Fernig halth," the Old English for "a field with ferns" would appear to confirm that this is the more likely meaning.

The name Ladyewell, spelt originally Ladye Well, appears to have developed following the rebuilding of the present house in 1685. There was another Ladywell in the centre of Preston,



which has long ceased to exist; the site of an old friary is remembered by the present day Ladyewell Street.

Local people tend to refer to Our Lady of Fernyhalgh, which is correct, but over the years the term Ladyewell has become used by those who visit particularly from away. In the writings of Fr Christopher Tuttell (alias Blacklow) the house and chapel was referred to as Ladyewell House, which is the case today.

Pilgrims continue to make their way to this beautiful shrine where they intercede to Our Blessed Lady, bring their petitions and leave unburdened and spiritually renewed.

Fernyhalgh is the Diocesan Shrine of Lancaster and encompasses the beautiful church of St Mary and Ladyewell House and grounds, which is the site of the well. The main pilgrimage season tends to run from May to the end of October, during which time the dioceses of



Lancaster, Liverpool and Salford hold their annual pilgrimages to Ladyewell; pilgrims attend in large numbers and are usually led by the Archbishop or Bishop of the visiting group. The devotion at Ladyewell is ecumenical, attracting members of other Faiths. The Anglican community come all year round and usually hold a large pilgrimage at the beginning of June (Forward in Faith and the Society of Mary). Members of the Orthodox churches also visit and hold their services. The Kerala Indians living in this part of Lancashire hold a service each month in their own vernacular. They have a great devotion to Our Blessed Lady and never a day goes by without members of this Catholic Indian community visiting. They pray often for the blessing of children and come back to give thanks usually on the way home from the maternity ward. Travelling families also visit Ladyewell, its proximity to the motorway enables them to call frequently en route often from Ireland, their names and faces are very familiar to us. Pilgrims come daily summer and winter whatever the weather. Even when the house is closed they come and intercede at the shrine, which is always open. Large pilgrimages usually start with Mass at St Mary's and then process down to Ladyewell either with the Blessed Sacrament or reciting the rosary. It is a moving and inspiring sight to see so many of the faithful, young, old and very often infirm

gathering to honour the Mother of God in this particular way. Many of them recall being brought as children by their parents and recount of prayers answered and favours granted.

Local pilgrims remember coming as part of their own annual church pilgrimage, walking from Preston in procession to congregate and give homage to Our Blessed Lady of Fernyhalgh. Many parish groups of lay ministries and Catholic associations visit and have their own days of retreat and devotions.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the sacrament of Reconciliation is an important feature of pilgrimage days enabling pilgrims to obtain the Spiritual rewards that they seek; they also take away with them water from the well and use it in invocation to Our Blessed Lady who inspires great devotion. "To Jesus through Mary" is so relevant at the shrine where those who may have strayed from their Faith often find the courage with the help of Our Lady to benefit from the peace of the sacrament of Reconciliation, which is available on request.

For further information visit [ladywellshrine.co.uk](http://ladywellshrine.co.uk)



# Westminster churches offer Warm Spaces and warmer welcomes

ICN

The Warm Space initiative began as a means of helping people, many of them already struggling financially, get through a cold winter

Warm Spaces established by churches are becoming places for companionship in diverse communities across the diocese of Westminster.

Caritas Westminster has been supporting a number of these Warm Spaces, as a way to provide people who have been struggling to heat their homes this winter with a place to go for warmth, a hot drink and often a meal too. But in a recent survey the charity discovered that the Warm Spaces have also become places of friendship, community and companionship.

For example, in the parish of St Bartholomew, St Albans, asylum seekers from different cultures have come together to cook soup, and Fr Richard Nesbitt from Our Lady of Lourdes in White City reported that their warm space has provided a safe and creative space for a variety of young families.

Fr Nesbitt described the scene at their Warm Space one week: "a local Syrian father was teaching his two young sons to play chess on one table, while a Ukrainian family were preparing a variety of pancake fillings with an Italian family on the next table, while the parish priest was playing dominoes with a Muslim mother and daughter at another table! All to the joyful background noise of an ecstatic group of children aged 5-8 playing their own version of football in the main part of the hall! There wasn't a mobile phone or other device in sight!"

Caritas Westminster has seen this type of companionship being repeated across the diocese. People have come together across cultures and generations, cooking, making friends, helping each other, celebrating Christmas and at least one birthday.

At St Paul the Apostle in Wood Green, where the Society of St Vincent De Paul conference have set up a Warm Space, people who had never met before are making friends and supporting each other. They reported that "Glen, a parishioner and a wheelchair user, has come every week, regardless of the weather. His journey is not easy as he has quite a distance to travel by bus, but every Wednesday, shortly after opening time, he is there. Glen says he enjoys the company and that his Warm Space visit gives him a focus for his day. 'Ian' joined us on our third week. He was just passing, saw the sign and popped in. At first, he was very reserved, but now he joins in with things, and keeps a quiet eye on Glen." (names have been changed to protect identities).

Nineteen parishes and one community project have set up Warm Spaces in the diocese and most have received a small grant from Caritas, to go towards the heating, refreshments and other costs associated with their warm space. Fr Howard James from Bow explained what a huge difference this money has made: "When we got the grant from Caritas we were grateful. I had been using my own resources to make soup for parish lunches on Fridays in Lent...

when Lent ended I told them that we would do it again in Lent 2023... So, imagine the joy when through your donation we were able to start again, four months early! Everyone was grateful, and the joy of being with people is good. The 'warmers' get to spend time together - many of them live alone. And it strengthens my ministry to see people at ease and happy to be with each other."

Our Lady of the Rosary in Staines is a parish which has extended an existing social activity - in their case, their Gresham Junction community café, to be a warm space. According to Parish Priest Fr Philip Dyer-Perry: "Guests are eager to invite not just friends, but others who they feel would benefit from spending time here. At first, we attracted elderly parishioners, but the net has spread wider and wider - with a great cross-section of the local community dropping in... An effective and highly motivated team of coordinators means the sessions run well - including during school holiday times when everything else tends to stop."

Sr Silvana Dallanegra, who has been managing Caritas Westminster's support for these warm spaces, said: "It seems as though the needs being met aren't only for physical warmth, but for the warmth which comes from



Warm Space at St Paul the Apostle, Wood Green

companionship and good company. And it's so lovely that this is happening, and able to happen again, after the worst of Covid."

The Warm Space initiative began as a means of helping people, many of them already struggling financially, get through a cold winter. However, as we inch our way towards spring, and the need for physical warmth lessens, the need for human warmth and hospitality continues. Some parishes have told Caritas Westminster that they would like to continue offering this space, as a time for socialising and building up the community. Warm Spaces, born out of an urgent physical need, may yet leave a very positive legacy.

Louise Cook

## The Little Way of Love

To commemorate 25 years since St Thérèse of Lisieux was made a Doctor of the Universal Church, the Sisters of Dolgellau Carmel have produced a twenty minute film about her Little Way of Love. The Little Way is essentially about living a confident, trusting relationship with God our Father, expecting all things from His goodness, with the loving surrender of a little child. Like little children Thérèse wants us to be poor, humble, trusting, simple and grateful. She encourages us to make little acts of sacrifice and love - anything that costs us - simply to please Jesus. It means embracing your weakness as God's opportunity to manifest His mercy. In weakness we realise we cannot do anything on our own, and it is this that prompts us to unite ourselves to Jesus and ask him to do everything in and through us. This film, set in the Carmel in London, gives



an insight into cloistered Carmelite life, and a way of holiness that can be practised by anyone in any walk of life. There are further resources on Prayer from the Carmelite Saints, on Discernment and the Holy Spirit at: <http://carmel-dolgellau.uk>



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](http://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.



# Punitive World Bank conditions undermining farmers rights

CAFOD

Loans can include demands for seed laws that push farmers towards buying seeds from a handful of giant corporations

A campaign has been launched in opposition to the World Bank's conditions on country loans, which lead to legislation that undermines farmers rights to seeds.

The conditions are placed on financing for governments in the Global South. Loans can include demands for seed laws that push farmers towards buying seeds from a handful of giant corporations.

These seed laws can prevent small-scale farmers from using their own seeds or sharing seeds amongst themselves, a practice that has existed successfully for generations.

To support small-scale farmers from across the world, leading international aid agency CAFOD has launched a campaign calling on people to write to the UK's representative at the World Bank, Vel Gnanendran, to urge him to end this damaging practice.

Dario Kenner, a policy lead at CAFOD said: "The World Bank's harsh conditions are undermining small-scale farmers' ability to grow what they want, while helping big business increase their market share and line their pockets.

"Tackling food insecurity must prioritise supporting farmers, not just agribusiness corporations who make huge profits. The only way we will begin to tackle the global food crisis is by giving back control to small-scale farmers, so they can use the seeds they sow rather than being pushed to buy seeds from faceless corporations."

The campaign has been supported by over 1,600 people already, with over 1,000 emailing Vel Gnanendran in just 24 hours.

The World Bank has pushed seed laws in country after country, pursuing a development model that benefits private companies over the people producing and consuming the food. In Africa in the last 10 years, the World Bank has placed conditions on financing to Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Niger requiring implementation of seed regulations.

These laws have opened up the seeds and fertiliser markets to agribusinesses, but the World Bank cannot convincingly show that increasing private sector control of seed supply



chains has an overall positive long-term impact on reducing poverty and food insecurity.

Instead, farmers are struggling to access the diverse range of seeds they need to combat the effects of climate change and grow nutritious foods for their families.

There are alternatives to the World Bank approach, which work for small-scale farmers and for local communities.

CAFOD supports Salina, a small farmer in Bangladesh.

For the past two years Salina has been able to grow better quality crops by getting her seeds

from a seed bank. This means she does not have to pay for the expensive fertiliser demanded by corporate controlled seeds. Coupled with the higher price her organic produce attracts at market, she's been able to provide more for her family.

However, she is acutely aware that being dependent on buying seeds and fertiliser from big agribusiness has a big impact on other farmers in her community: "I believe the companies do not care for the farmers. They are in it for their profits. So, the company seed is not designed for farming, it is designed for business. I think seeds and business should not go together."

## God of Creation

Almost 8 years ago, Pope Francis wrote his encyclical 'Laudato Si', a letter written to the whole world, asking for conversion, asking for us to recognise our relationship with the created world and each other, asking for us to hear the cry of the Earth as she writhes in pain due to our overuse and throwaway culture. In 2022, the film 'The Letter' was released, a time of encounter between Pope Francis and four people from across the globe, affected by climate change, again calling for conversion, a change of heart, recognising that how we treat the created world around us, profoundly

impacts not just all the creatures on our beautiful Earth, but humanity too and especially the poor. We are one species of many, living in a world that is deeply interconnected and interdependent. We do not hold dominion over all the Earth's creatures, they each relate to God, their Creator independently of us. We need to engage with all creatures who must be respected and protected in their own right, as each has the same Source as us.

Thomas Berry wrote: 'The divine communicates to us primarily through the language of the natural world. Not to hear the natural world is not to hear the divine'. God communicates to us through our sacred book of scripture, the Bible but also through the sacred book of creation. We can learn much about God by paying attention to nature, as it is God's fingerprints that are all over it.

Shona Cahill

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The CAFOD campaign is calling on the World Bank to end these damaging practices by:

1. Putting an end to all policies that limit small farmers' choice over which seeds they can access.
2. Protecting the fundamental rights of small farmers to save, use, exchange and sell their

## Earthquake Appeal

Please help the victims of the earthquake in northern Syria – where ACN is working with project partners to deliver emergency aid and provide food, blankets, medicine and shelter for those who have lost everything. **Syria does not have the infrastructure to cope with this disaster – so please give whatever you can afford!** They need our prayers and support at this time.

**PLEASE GIVE TODAY:**  
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A23P2CO

# Ramping Up Church Disability Inclusion

Through the Roof

We feel privileged to support Through the Roof, as they work to make churches and faith more inclusive for disabled people

With a generous grant from Benefact Trust, disability inclusion charity Through the Roof is ramping up its 'Roofbreaker' project to triple the support for disabled people in UK churches.

Only 5-10% of disabled people ever hear the gospel in their lifetime (Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization). Our Roofbreakers are local volunteer disability champions who enable disabled people to encounter God's



Support from Roofbreakers overcomes barriers, such as difficulties reading the Bible in church

love. Benefact Trust's funding will help Through the Roof to recruit more Roofbreaker champions to increase the number of disabled people supported from 9,000 to 30,000 within three years.

One Roofbreaker used technology to include a Deafblind lady who is partially sighted and uses British Sign Language. It made a huge difference and the lady responded by saying: "I looked at myself as a nobody in the past. I didn't think much of myself because people didn't have much patience with me. But now ... I've started finding identity which I never had before... it's helped me totally accept myself for the first time. You have given me a voice that a lot of people can understand."

Benefact Trust funding will recruit three Regional Co-ordinators to build up local Roofbreaker networks across the four nations of the UK. Funds will also be used to provide specialist resources and support, equip disabled Christians to lead training, and organise events so churches catch the vision for disability inclusion.

Katie Mobbs, Through the Roof's Outreach Co-ordinator who is a wheelchair user, is passionate about the difference Roofbreakers are making in churches: "I think the most important thing is giving people a place to belong within church life. We want to see disabled people welcomed and enabled as part of the church family. My passion is for disabled people themselves to be empowered; to see that the disability that they face can be turned into a mission opportunity. Thanks to Benefact Trust's support we can multiply the difference we are making."

Chloe Ewen, Grants Officer for Benefact Trust, said: "We feel privileged to support Through the Roof, as they work to make churches and faith more inclusive for disabled people. Everybody should feel empowered and have equal opportunities to thrive. To be able to support Through the Roof to triple their support for disabled people is amazing."

Benefact Trust is one of the UK's largest grant-making charities and awarded more than £23 million to churches, charities and communities in 2020. Its funds come from its ownership of the Benefact Group.

Through the Roof trains and equips churches and other organisations to be inclusive of people across the whole spectrum of disability. Their 25th anniversary video on YouTube (@TTRChangesLives) features Roofbreakers speaking powerfully of the benefits disabled people bring to church life.



Heidi holding her 'cardboard testimony' showing how Roofbreakers transformed her life

Find out how your church can be blessed by the full involvement of disabled people at: <https://www.throughtheroof.org/roofbreakers> / or @TTRChangesLives on social media.

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Bibles

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## The Cambridge Cornerstone Bible ESV-CE Catholic Edition

The Cambridge Cornerstone Bible uses the English Standard Version Catholic Edition. It includes all 73 books of the Bible accepted by the Catholic Church, in the same order as the Septuagint.

The text is a generous size for ease of reading and presented in paragraph format, with section headings. At the front of the Bible is a family record section and at the back is a section of maps and plans depicting the world of the Bible.

The Bibles are beautifully produced; printed on India-style paper and finished with gilt edges for a traditional look. Choose between smooth and supple faux leather and luxury cowhide.

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# Our Global Community



## Pope stops to pray before icon of Our Lady on return to Rome

Vatican News

Pope prayed to Our Lady for her maternal protection during his Apostolic Journey to DR Congo and South Sudan

Pope Francis made a brief stop at the Basilica of St Mary Major on Sunday evening, on returning to Rome from his Apostolic Journey to South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Holy See Press Office report that the Pope prayed before the ancient icon of Maria Salus Populi Romani ('Salvation of the Roman Peoples'), for a short time - to thank Our Lady for her maternal protection during his Apostolic Journey to DR Congo and South Sudan.

This was his 104th visit to Our Lady's icon. He had visited the Borghese Chapel in the Papal Basilica on Monday, ahead of his departure.



Although its origins date back much further, tradition holds that the icon of Maria Salus Populi Romani arrived in Rome during the reign of Pope St Gregory the Great, sometime around 590 AD.

In 1838, Pope Gregory XVI crowned the icon, and a century later, Pope Pius XII - during the Marian year of 1954 - repeated the gesture of devotion.

In 2018, the Vatican Museums cleaned and restored the ancient image.

## US eyewitness: Is there really no room in the inn?

Columban Missionaries

This year, I interacted with many migrants and heard so many stories

Cynthia, who serves as the Advocacy Coordinator for St Columban Mission for Justice, Peace and Ecology, and is based in El Paso, Texas, is witnessing first-hand the manufactured crisis of migrants on the US/Mexico border. She reports: All of this past year, I have been going to help at our Columban migrant projects and other community shelters here on the border. Doing the advocacy work is fulfilling and necessary but at many times it can be frustrating and slow. I like to go and connect with migrants so I can be reminded of why all of this work is important.

This year, I interacted with many migrants and heard so many stories. Some were more painful than others, but all are equally moving. This last week, however, what I have witnessed has been completely different and heart-breaking. Hundreds of migrants have found themselves on the streets of both Ciudad Juárez and El Paso. All our shelters are at capacity. Some local parishes like Sacred Heart in El Paso even opened their doors to let families with children sleep. Yet so many others that cannot find a space end up sleeping outside in the cold.

It is a tradition here to celebrate the "Posadas", a reenactment of the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem. This year it feels like we are living that in real life. The last few days I have seen so many families with small children, single mothers with children, and pregnant women needing a place to stay. Our government is not doing all that it can to give them shelter. Yet even in the middle of confusion and uncertainty, so many community members are volunteering and donating clothes, blankets, and food. This border community - my community - continues to show love and compassion by sharing the little that they have. Couldn't the rest of the United States do that too? Couldn't politicians and national leaders agree to restore asylum and establish the necessary processes to avoid this unnecessary suffering?

Hundreds of families find themselves on the journey to what they think will be a safe place. Migrants and asylum seekers venture on this dangerous journey to escape violence, poverty, environmental degradation, and political unrest. Many travel miles, selling the little that they have to support their journey north. In their journey, many are robbed, raped, kidnapped, and abused, with many even venturing through the deadly 'Darien Gap.'



Confused and with little information they hold to a dream, a hope, that there will be something better once they get to the United States. However, once they arrive they find "No Room in the Inn."

After weeks or months of traveling, they arrive at the US/Mexico border only to be welcomed by a 30ft wall with razor wire and law enforcement agents with guns. The confusion caused by inhumane policies like Title 42 forces people to take the most desperate decisions. In the last few weeks, with the hope that Title 42 would be lifted and they could lawfully present themselves asking for asylum, hundreds of families arrived at the US/Mexico border. In the border community of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, where Columbans have been serving for more than 25 years, the numbers of migrants arriving daily quickly overwhelmed all shelters and community services. For days, thousands of migrants on both sides of the border have been sleeping on the streets in the cold. The number of migrants arriving is expected to continue to increase.

Both the Old and the New Testament reveal God's abiding love for migrants (cf. Ex. 22:21, Lev.19:33-34, Mt. 25:35, Rom. 12:13). Scripture, as well as our Church's two-thousand-year history, tell many heart-breaking stories about people fleeing from violence, persecution, and poverty. As the Christmas story remind us, even Jesus and his family were refugees.

Reflecting on these sacred foundations, the Catholic Church recognises that people have the right to migrate to sustain their lives, and the lives of their families, if they cannot do so in their country of origin. The migrant's story reminds us of a fundamental principle of Catholic social teaching: that the goods of the earth are intended to benefit all people. It is never God's will that some of God's children live in luxury while others have nothing (cf Caritas in Veritate, 21).

As people of faith, God calls us to live in solidarity with others, especially with those who live in poverty or are marginalised.

Pope Francis teaches us, that we have "an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ, who identified himself with the foreigner who has been accepted or rejected in every age."

Cynthia Gonzales

## 'Bahrain Document' holds European launch in Rome to promote interreligious harmony

Deborah Castellano Lubov

The launch of this Declaration in Europe takes place in these times of hardship and war

Following Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey to the Kingdom of Bahrain. 'The Bahrain Declaration' promoting interreligious dialogue and peace holds its official European launch at a Gala event in Rome.

The event follows Pope Francis' historic visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain in November 2022, where, welcoming the invitation of the nation's authorities and the local Church, he brought a message of peaceful coexistence among religions and working together against war.

The gala dinner of the launching ceremony, was organized by the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence, Bahrain's Embassy to Italy in Rome led by H.E. Ambassador Naser Al Belooshi, and "This is Bahrain," took place on 26 January 2023 at the Rome Marriot Park Hotel.



The Bahrain Declaration was first launched in 2017 in Los Angeles at a historic event attended by His Royal Highness Prince Naser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa and co-sponsored by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

This was followed by a second launch in 2020 in São Paulo, Brazil, in the presence of the then President of the Federal Republic of Brazil.

The launch of this Declaration in Europe takes place in these times of hardship and war.

The Declaration carries the directions, objectives and messages of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the country's monarch, calling for religious tolerance and harmony.

# Book Reviews



## Jesus of Nazareth – Holy Week

Pope Benedict XVI

£21.99

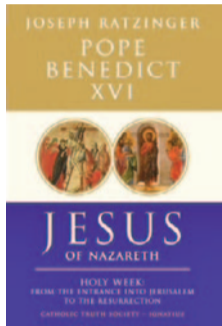
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ISBN: 9781860827075

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Who is Jesus? In this sequel to the widely acclaimed Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict XVI dares readers to grapple with the meaning of Jesus' life, teaching, death, and resurrection.



What happened in the final week of Jesus of Nazareth's earthly life? In Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week—From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection, Pope Benedict takes up that and other crucial questions. How did the man whom many hailed as the Messiah come to be rejected by the leaders of his own people? Was he a political revolutionary? Who was responsible for his death: the Romans or the Jewish authorities, or both? How did Jesus view his suffering and death? How should we? Did he establish a Church to carry on his work? What did he teach about the End of the World? And most importantly, did Jesus really rise from the dead?

This is a book for Christians—Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, as well as other believers and non-believers. Benedict brings to his study the vast learning of a brilliant scholar, the passionate searching of a great mind, and the deep compassion of a pastor's heart. In the end, he dares readers to grapple with the meaning of Jesus life, teaching, death, and resurrection.

## What is the Catholic Faith?

(Pack of 25 Leaflets)

£9.95

CTS Product Code: LF54

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ISBN: 9781860826559

www.ctsbooks.org

A succinct and masterly summary of what Catholics believe and the reasons for their belief, offering a very accessible introduction to Catholicism for those who are interested to know more.



This leaflet provides a succinct and masterly summary of what Catholics believe and the reasons for their belief. It offers a very accessible introduction to Catholicism for those who know something – perhaps very little – about it, but who are interested to know more.

It is impossible to summarise the Catholic faith in a few hundred words. This leaflet will simply give you an idea of the main areas of Catholic belief, and perhaps encourage you to look into some of them more deeply.

## Lights for the Path

John Sullivan,

€24.99

www.veritasbooksonline.com

ISBN978 1 80097 026 7

It is a very good idea! We all have our heroes! John Sullivan has selected eight, all heroes of education, each with something to say about education. Not all are well known as educationalists.

Some are surprising! Elizabeth Jennings, for instance, and Etienne Gilson. Each one highlights a particular aspect of education.

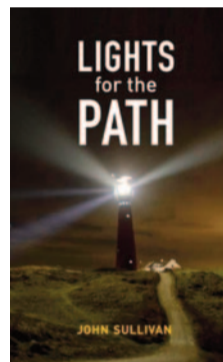
For example, Paulo Freire exemplifies dialogical teaching. This is the opposite of authoritarian teaching where knowledge is poured into students like milk bottles. Dialogue means you listen to, and learn from, your pupils. You are changed by them, as they are changed by you! For Edith Stein education is for the individual person. Other heroes are Maximus the Confessor, Hildegard of Bingen, Bonaventure, Marshall McLuhan, Walter Org, Etienne Gilson.

These could well surprise you. They could stimulate you to make your own litany of saints. John Sullivan hints at Bernard Lonergan, Jacques Maritain, John Henry Newman, Maurice Blondel. He has written about these elsewhere.

There is a brief biography of each hero, and aspects of their thinking which are relevant to the classroom today are discussed. The main thrust of the thinking is to achieve and to pass on to the pupils the wider view of life and the world. Each of the heroes has a wider view than the strict worksheet, question and answer method of study, common in schools.

However in the interests of brevity he has sacrificed clarity. You have to read his writing several times to get the gist of what he is saying. He is not an easy read. But inspirational if he prompts you to choose your own legion of honour!

There is a danger in the bold insistence on a catholic education. It can be seen as revisionism, an attempt to create a catholic zeitgeist, a



world view, in which to place the education system the book is proposing.

A stark contrast is drawn between secular society and Catholicism. But that is no longer true. Catholicism, and Christianity in general, has moved towards secular society, especially with the synodal process. And the Secular society, with mindfulness and interiority dominant features, has moved towards religion. The world of education has many lights, secular and religious.

The Oxford University Logo, is a book with seven markers, the trivium, (Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric); the quadrivium, (Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, Astronomy) ) the three crowns above the book, are Theology, Physics, Law. In the middle is the inscription from the psalms, Dominus illuminatio mea, the bible, in the middle, the aim of all education.

This was the medieval world view. It brought together secular and religious learning. The enlightenment of the eighteenth century forced them apart, but modern thinking is bringing the two spheres of learning together again. John Sullivan's book is part of that process.

Reviewer John Baron is a retired priest.

## Time To Delay No Longer

A Search for Faith and Love

Bill and Win Evans Edited by Ruth Evans

£20.00

ISBN: 978 0 85244 927 1

www.gracewing.co.uk

When Bill Evans and Win Klein first met at Durham University in 1955, they not only found a love that would last a lifetime and form the bedrock of their family, but also a shared desire for a faith to guide them, in their love for one another, from the shadows of the past into a more secure future.



They came from very different backgrounds, but emerging into adult life from a society ravaged by World War Two, each had spiritual hopes and queries without certainties. Both were moved and intrigued by Jesus of Nazareth, but neither of them claimed to truly know who He was or to understand Him. Still searching for an answer, they got married. This book is about their pursuit of the question, led by Bill's tireless intellect, and about one family and its journey of faith.

Ruth Evans is a contemplative sister who lives and writes in the diocese of Shrewsbury. She owes her adult spiritual formation to the Poor Clare Order where she lived until the closure of the Poor Clare Convent at Woodchester in

2011. Her life and writings have been strongly influenced by her father Bill's spiritual legacy, Franciscan theology and the abolition movement in the USA.

## Dementia - Hope on a Difficult Journey

By Dr Adrian Treloar

£9.95

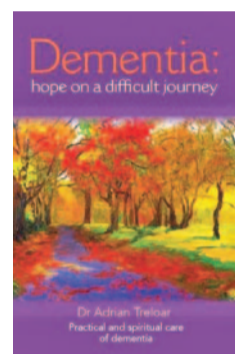
RP Books

Product Code: 1734

ISBN NO:9780852314715

www.rpbooks.co.uk

In summary Dr Treloar's book, which is slightly smaller than A5 in size is a beautiful piece of literature that is a beneficial read for all healthcare professionals and those who know an individual with dementia.



While it is written from a Catholic perspective the vast majority of the book is highly relevant to those of all faiths and none. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the book and will enjoy referring to it in the future, it has enabled me to spend some time considering and reflecting upon the many varied and important practical and spiritual care elements of caring for and interacting with a person who has dementia.

Donato Tallo - The Catholic Medical Quarterly Volume 67

## Peace of Heart – According to St Benedict

Fr Bernard Ducruet, OSB

£3.50

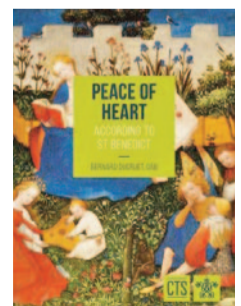
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Learn to welcome peace beyond trials and to see it as a limitless gift from God, through teaching marked by the Spirit of St Benedict.



Trials quickly take Peace away from us. Does this mean peace of heart is impossible? No, for Jesus himself promised it to us. There is peace beyond our trials, but we do not receive it according to the way of the world. Fr Bernard Ducruet, through teaching marked by the Spirit of St Benedict, leads us to welcome the peace as a limitless gift of God and the fruit of struggle.

# Sport

## The girls following in the Lionesses' footballing footsteps

*St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn*

The passion for girls' football is only set to rise following the Lionesses' victory at the Euros and a more elevated profile of female players in the media. This Schools' Football Week, which ran from Monday 6 February to Sunday 12 February, schools across the country embraced school-level football and the wellbeing benefits it provides to both pupils and players.

Football is a sport that pupils and staff alike are passionate about at Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (BCCET) which looks after 30 primary and secondary schools in East Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland – and girls' football is firmly on the agenda to increase engagement and success in the sport. St Joseph's Catholic Academy in Hebburn is just one of the Trust's schools keen to promote and develop girls' football.

James Burns, curriculum leader of PE at St Joseph's, said: "St. Joseph's Catholic Academy has, for a very long time now, been

enthusiastic about promoting and developing girls' football. The number of girls involved in school teams grows every year, to a point now where we have upwards of 70 students involved in competitive inter-school games. All students play for a local club, with some students playing for Academies at Sunderland or Durham. In addition, we have five students playing at a county level too. We see a great deal of success in sport, and girls' football is no different."

The girls have won titles across the age groups in the local South Tyneside CVL and Futsal, Tyne & Wear School Games finals, County Cup and EFL Cup.

"Our widely reported national title gained us great recognition and helped us to continue promoting the talent of students who play for the school," added Mr Burns.

This term, the school is continuing in its pursuit to provide opportunities for as many students to play. The team is currently top and third in



the Y7 South Tyneside CVL, with the Y8 team second. The Year 9, 10 and 11 futsal squads have all been crowned South Tyneside champions and will progress to the County Finals. The U13, U14 and U16 teams are in the Durham County Cups, with convincing wins against their opposition to date.

Their entry into the ESFA (English Schools Football Association) National Cup has shown some very impressive score lines, with the U15s still in the competition at Round 5 – the final 32 from 386 teams.

The Year 8 and 9 girls' football team at St Wilfrid's RC College in South Shields, which is also part of BCCET, is also proving a team to beat this season. They have worked extremely hard this year and have qualified for the county

finals. They are unbeaten in the 10 matches they have played so far, celebrating victory on eight occasions.

"Our contribution to girls' football doesn't end there," said Mr Burns.

"We feel it is important to encourage girls into other areas of the sport and therefore look for opportunities for them to officiate and coach where possible. We currently have students who have completed their refereeing course and have used this to officiate games for school. Additionally, we have students who are part of the FA Girls Game of Our Own programme, taking their first steps into coaching. We are also proud to say that we have the girls football ambassador for South Tyneside in our Y10 squad!



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

**CRYPTIC Across**

- 5 God invites in accountant, about to have tea with the taxman (9)
- 8 Cliff in Edom drinks, backsliding (4)
- 9 With Capone's acceptance into church official, it's almost Babylonian (8)
- 10 Old Archbishop of Canterbury could be Brown's double (7)
- 12 Golden cloud, virtually, is seen to the west of Canaanite city (5)
- 14 He wrote masses; marginally down after book fair (5)
- 15 Song uncle's preferred to old capital (7)
- 17 Jude Hunt is an alias for David's Levite (8)
- 18 Other half of Jezebel is primarily as hard and brazen (4)
- 19 16 mostly responsible for this festival? (9)

**CRYPTIC Down**

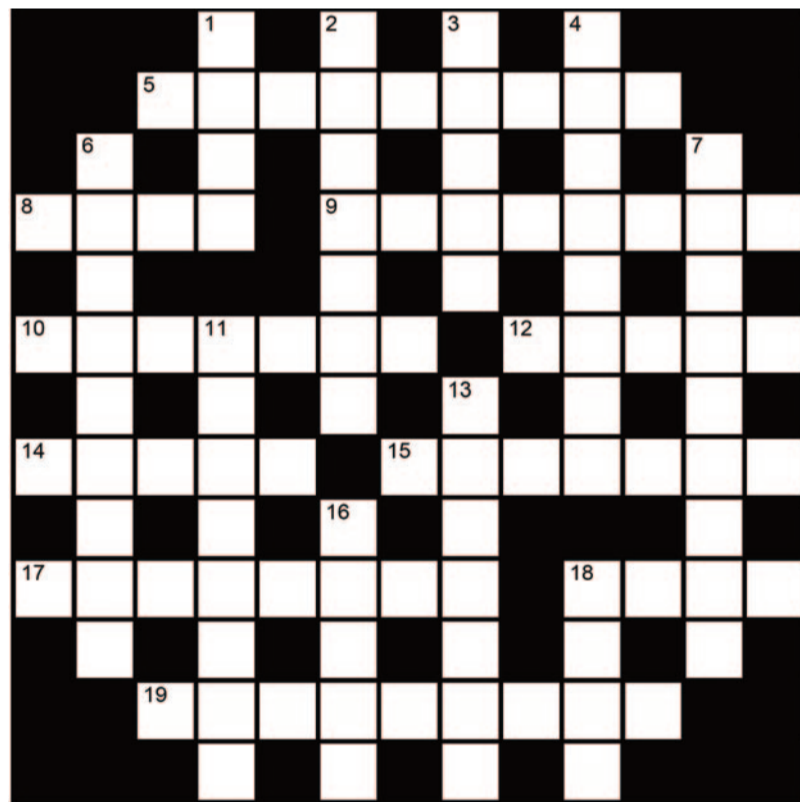
- 1 Get a mug over here for the wine miracle (4)
- 2 Scots chap supporting two accounts leads to a schism (7)
- 3 British king's framed in the style of an OT monarch (5)
- 4 Sikhs meet here to condemn a drug war (8)
- 6 James' rule to rewrite the Bible? (9)
- 7 Hours in church after weird icon appears during passage (9)
- 11 Cleric's in front, ahead of the leading Essene Jew (8)
- 13 Canaanite city's discovered thanks to an article on a church (7)
- 16 Caucasian Carmelite cleric's gone missing (5)
- 18 Blunder losing front part of the church (4)

**QUICK Across**

- 5 Jericho 'sinner' who, having Jesus to his house, subsequently gave half his property to the poor (9)
- 8 Rocky plateau at the foot of which the Nabataeans carved the city of Petra (4)
- 9 Of people from an ancient part of Babylonia, home to Abraham (8)
- 10 Abbot of Glastonbury, and Archbishop of Canterbury from 959 (7)
- 12 Canaanite city rebuilt by Solomon, along with Megiddo and Gezer (5)
- 14 Composer brothers (Franz) Josef and Michael (5)
- 15 Capital of the biblical Northern Kingdom of Israel (7)
- 17 Levite David appointed as a leader of the Temple music (8)
- 18 Pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (4) 19 Seventh Sunday after Easter (9)

**QUICK Down**

- 1 Town in the Bible, the scene of the water-into-wine miracle (4)
- 2 Schism between Rome and the East, 482-519, named after the Patriarch of Constantinople (7)
- 3 Moabite king who hired Balaam to curse Israel (5)
- 4 Place of assembly and worship for Sikhs (8)
- 6 Holy city for Jews, Christians and Muslims (9)
- 7 Conforming to the recognized rules of cathedral clergy (9)
- 11 Member of an ancient Jewish sect denying the



- 13 resurrection and the existence of angels (8)
- 13 Canaanite city; later one of the cities of the Levites (7)
- 16 Link between Carmelites, Magdalenes, Cistercian Monks, Premonstratensians – and Christmas! (5)
- 18 Angular or round section often found in the western part of a church (4)

**SOLUTION**

Across: 5 Zacchaeus, 8 Sela, 9 Chaldean, 10 Dunstan, 12 Hazor, 14 Haydn, 15 Samaria, 17 Jeduthun, 18 Ahab, 19 Pentecost. Down: 1 Cana, 2 Acacian, 3 Balak, 4 Gurdwara, 6 Jerusalem, 7 Canonical, 11 Sadducee, 13 Taanach, 16 White, 18 Apse.