

Visit

tothe

Newspaper following the first ever Papal State Visit

to the UK

Issue 2 - 17th September 2010

Crowds prepare to meet Pope Benedict

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Poster to Commemorate the day

70,000 people attend Mass at Bellahouston Park

The Papal Mass took place in Glasgow yesterday at 5.15pm and was attended by 85,000 people from all over Scotland and the Northern Dioceses of England. The Pope was received by overwhelming enthusiasm from the pilgrims attending the Mass. The two hour Mass involved musicians from all over Scotland led by five conductors and two organists. The events at Bellahouston Park were the culmination of the Pope's day in Scotland which combined two large public events and various state and pastoral visits.

Pope arrives in London



After a full day in Scotland Pope Benedict left Glasgow Airport and touched down at London Heathrow soon after 9pm. Although this was not scheduled as a public event people had gathered to try and catch a glimpse of His Holiness. From Heathrow he travelled in a motorcade to the residence of the Papal Nuncio, in Wimbledon. He will stay with the Papal Nuncio until he returns home via Birmingham on Sunday.



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Edinburgh rejoices at St Ninians Parade

Today's St Ninian's Day Parade marked the historic occasion of Pope Benedict XVI's state visit to Scotland and celebrates the first man to be named a Saint in Scotland, nearly 1600 years ago.

The parade started at 11.00am led by Anthea Bundy, a 15 year old Highland Dancer, and boxing champion Ricky Burns. Both were wearing the blue and green Papal tartan that was created especially for the Pope's visit, and Anthea carried the Papal flag at the front of the parade. She said "It is a real privilege. My family are very proud and my friends are envious".

Following the pair were pipers and drummers from Scotland and further afield guiding the parade from Regent Road and along Princes Street. An estimated 100,000 people attended the parade both to celebrate the St Ninian's day and to see the Pontiff. Pipe Bands played 'Highland Cathedral' as he traveled past in his Popemobile. The VIP's were nearly 1000 school pupils from St Ninian School's around Scotland who helped turn Princes Street into a sea of blue. To add to the colour, thousands of flags that were given out

to spectators along the route.

Over the last 1,600 years Scotland has had a remarkable history and today's St Ninian's Parade was a fantastic opportunity for spectators and the media to meet and greet important characters from Scotlands past, including William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots, John Knox and Robert Burns and of course St Ninian himself.

To this day Ninian is a saint held in common by all Scottish Christians and, indeed, by all Scots. Earlier this year the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien, sparked the idea for the parade by asking the question - "Why don't we resurrect the great festivities that used to surround St Ninian's Day in this country? A grand Scottish spectacle to welcome Benedict XVI." The event, described as joyous, charitable and inclusive, has been reported by the council to have been watched by up to a billion people around the world. The cost of the parade is likely to be £400,000, however the capital is set to benefit financially as it is likely to raise as much as £4m in tourism.





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What the Web Said

Views from people at Bellahouston park

twitter

@politicspoetry Catholicism is such a beautiful religion in peaceful teachings and aesthetics. A true religion of peace. #pope #bellahouston

@cathcom Incredible day meeting so many people, both supporters and protesters, and an electric atmosphere

@conormcginn What a joyous and uplifting end to the #papalvisit to Scotland. An amazing day. I hope we can match it in London tomorrow and Saturday!

@Bordeaux8 And the sign of peace. Look at that, people who do not know each other sharing in a wonderful moment #papalvisit

Opilgrimclaz Oh Wowam I loving this latin mass and all the beautiful music. I luv the Catholic faith! & I luv those yelo communion brollies! #papalvisit

@siliconglen Popemobile ran out of petrol in Glasgow. Apparently the petrol station didn't accept paypal:) #papalvisit

facebook

Chris McMenamin

had a magnificent day at Bellahouston Park. The sun shone and it has been a great day to be a Catholic. God bless the Holy Father.

Frank Doherty

simply fantastic. awesome, touching and totally inspiring homily. Viva II Papa;0)

Deborah Hone

What a truly amazing day at Bellahouston today, i feel truly blessed to have been there & SuBo and Michelle Mcmanus were fab.

Launch of the John Paul II Sports Foundation

At a celebration to be held at St Mary's University College, Twickenham, this Friday, Pope Benedict XVI is launching the John Paul II Sports Foundation. This will take place during a school assembly being broadcast live to more than 800,000 school pupils across England, Scotland and Wales.

32 children from school years 9 to 11, from state, independent and special needs schools, who have achieved sporting success have been chosen to take part. They will make a pledge before the Holy Father to engage in sport and "play with the right spirit, enjoy myself, give of my best, respect others, myself and the rules".

Archbishop Vincent Nichols said: "With the Olympic Games less than two years away, we have a moment of opportunity and a whole process in which the aspirations of young people, the meanings of habit and routine in their lives, and the whole notion of achieving excellence can begin to be lifted up again.

"Within the 2012 Games there are seeds for all sorts of good ideas and good initiatives. The John Paul II Foundation for Sport is a venture that I am particularly interested in as it uses sport to try and introduce to young and old alike the importance of health, the dignity of our bodies, the care of physical well-being and its spiritual meaning."

At a time when sports news fills both the front and back pages of newspapers, it is fitting that the John Paul II Foundation for Sport be established by the Catholic Bishops as a legacy in the UK to the forthcoming 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the life and witness of Pope John Paul II. He was himself a passionate sportsman and spoke 120 times during his pontificate about sport, insistent that sport should have its own unique celebration during the Great Jubilee Year

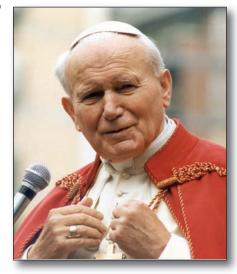
One of his last major acts as Pontiff was to form a Vatican Office for Church and Sport in August 2004. Since this time bi-annual global conferences have taken place in Rome to examine the role of the Christian faith within the sporting world.

At the Foundation's launch, Brian Kidd, who scored for Man Utd in the 1968 European Cup Final victory while still a teenager, and is now Assistant Manager of Manchester City Football Club, will light an Inauguration Candle in the presence of Pope Benedict XVI as a symbol of God's light present in the world of sport. The schoolchildren will make their pledge before Pope Benedict XVI and will later light their own individual candles which they will return to their schools as a

reminder that the Christian faith is something to be passed on, and that Christ is present in and through sport.

Professor Simon Lee, Chair of the Board of the John Paul II Foundation for Sport, said: "Through this initiative, the Church is inviting all-comers to join in creating a joyful legacy for 2012 and beyond, in the spirit of John Paul II's love of sport.

"John Paul II stands, in sport and wider life, for being both competitive and gracious, cherishing both excellence and inclusivity. As Pope he praised the Olympic Games and the discipline and sacrifice of the world's greatest athletes. Yet he also volunteered as a boy to switch sides to make football games more even and less

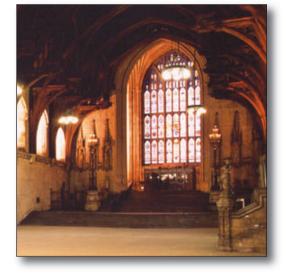


"His greeting to participants in the European

Games for the Blind in 1985 sums up the inspiration of all disability sport, right through to the elite level of the Paralympics, declaring that your sporting activities 'are a sign of your great human capabilities. You do not allow yourselves to be overcome by difficulties, but are determined to conquer them. In this you show courage and great gifts of mind and will.' "He challenged football to become 'a field of authentic humanity, where young people are encouraged to learn the great values of life and to spread everywhere the great virtues that are the basis of a worthy human society, such as tolerance, respect for human dignity, peace and

"It is not only because of his personal interest that the Church sees value in sport properly understood and practised. We are grateful to Pope Benedict XVI for generously launching this Foundation in honour of his predecessor and as a gift to wider society. As Pope Pius XII put it in 1945, 'How can the Church not be interested in sport?' All who love sport are invited to join this new Foundation in promoting practical opportunities to share in its very best values."

Pope Benedict addresses MPs and peers



He will make an address to MPs and peers from the spot where Sir Thomas was sentenced in 1535 for his opposing the adultery of King Henry VIII.

Westminster Hall was built in the 11th century and is the oldest part of the Palace of Westminster. It is sacred to many Catholics because it was where many martyrs and saints were tried for High Treason during the Protestant Reformation.

Most notably it was the scene of the trial of Thomas More, the former Lord Chancellor canonised as a saint by Pope Pius XI in 1935 and made patron saint of politicians by Pope

More was beheaded after he refused to take an oath attached to the Act of Supremacy that made the King the supreme head of the Church in England.

A plaque marking the spot where the trial took place was kissed by Mother Teresa of Calcutta during one of her visits to Britain.

During the Elizabethan era, St Edmund Campion, the Jesuit missionary, was also tried in the reign on James I it was the setting for the trial of Guy Fawkes, who had tried to blow up the building in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.

In the same century dozens of innocent Catholic priests falsely accused by Titus Oates of plotting to kill King Charles II and put his Catholic brother James on the throne were tried and sentenced to death there.

Samuel Pepys, the diarist and naval administrator, was implicated in the plot, was also tried but was acquitted.

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Day 2 of the Papal Visit

10.00am

St Mary's University College, Twickenham

Pope Benedict will begin by praying with representatives of Religious Communities. He will then meet with 3,000 school children and students for the "Big Assembly" which will include the inauguration of the John Paul II Institute for Sport. After his address he will meet with religious leaders from various Faiths in the Waldergrave Drawing Room.



Lambeth Palace

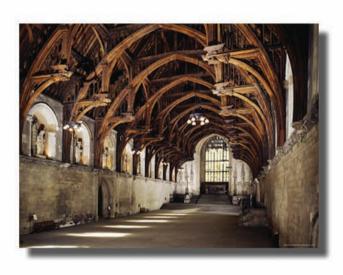
Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, will receive the Pope at Lambeth Palace for a Fraternal Visit. Both the Holy Father the Archbishop will make a speech. Following this Pope Benedict will begin the first of two Popemobile routes through London.





Westminster Hall

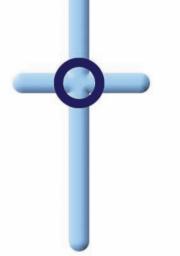
The Pontiff will end his drive through London and arrive at Westminster Hall in the Palace of Westminster, the Hall where St Thomas More was condemned to death. There he will make his Address to Civil Society to representatives of the Government and key people in Britain.





Westminster Abbey

Finally the Pontiff will celebrate Evening Prayer at Westminster Abbey with the Archbishop of Canterbury. Once again both Dr Rowan Williams and Pope Benedict will give a speech.





Pope to meet religious Leaders

Interfaith Statements on Pope visit

At a time when a flood tide of secularism poses a strong challenge to the Christian Church it is timely that in the visit of the Pope the agenda of faith is clearly set out. I suspect that some of the coverage of the Pope's visit will be critical, but one clear thing that this visit has achieved is that spirituality is for a while at the top of people's agenda – that is good news!

Here in Westminster three great Churches – Westminster Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and my own church the Methodist Central Hall Westminster – seek to work together wherever we can. Our united walk of faith on Good Friday is a tremendous witness and the warm personal relationships of the three senior clergy means that we regard each other with great affection. At the heart of our working together is our common trust in the love of God, our faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ, our openness to the work and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Thus as Methodists we rejoice in our shared Christian faith and we pray that the visit of the Pope might bring renewal not just to Roman Catholicism but also to the wider Christian community in our



Martin Turner,
Team Leader and Superintendent Minister,
Methodist Central Hall Westminster

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Little Sisters of the Poor



Today will be the first of two routes that the Pope will take through London. Yesterday he drove through Edinburgh in the Popemobile as part of the St Ninian's Parade. The route the Pope will take starts at Lambeth Palace, after meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams. He will then cross Lambeth Bridge, and head towards the Houses of Parliament. However, the drive through today will be more low key due to a lack of space to fit well-wishers on the sides of the street. People are being encouraged to come into London tomorrow to see the Pope instead as there will be more room for crowds.

Tomorrow Pope Benedict will travel down Horse Guards Road, continuing onto The Mall, past Buckingham Palace, through Green Park, via Constitution Hill, and onto Hyde Park. He will then attend the Vigil of Prayer at Hyde Park.

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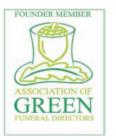


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Westminster Cathedral - shop front of Catholic Church

Westminster Cathedral is used to being in the spotlight; over the years countless broadcasts have taken place to mark installations, funerals and concerts. Inevitably, any television news story on the Catholic Church concludes with the reporter standing outside the Cathedral – it is the shop-front of the Catholic Church in England and Wales

But not since 1982 has there been an occasion like this, when the eyes not just of Catholics in our own country, but around the world, will be focussed on the great building

when Pope Benedict celebrates Mass. As he enters the Cathedral sanctuary, the Pope will walk across the plaque commemorating the earlier visit of Pope John Paul II.

The world has moved on from then, but in many ways the visit of Pope Benedict has the same significance for Catholics as the visit of his predecessor; to encourage and strengthen them to live out their faith, and to issue a rallying call to them to contribute in creating a more just, more fulfilled, and more joyful society.

Our hearts will be stirred and our spirits will soar tomorrow morning; but as with every Mass, the Papal Mass is important not only as a historic occasion in itself, but as something of lasting and transforming value.

The Pope comes to the Cathedral that symbolises the Catholic presence at the heart of our nation, to affirm us as we strive to place faith at the heart of our nation, and share the joy that faith can bring.



New mosaic completed for Westminster Cathedral Our Lady of the

A new mosaic of St David, by artist Ifor Davies, has been completed at Westminster Cathedral. The mosaic will be blessed by Pope Benedict XVI when he celebrates Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 18 September 2010.

Welsh artist, Ifor Davies said: "I have been painting all my life and this is one of the most exciting commissions and very close to my heart. I have always been interested in Welsh history and so have done lots of research around St David and the early church in Wales."

"To start with I made a drawing, about the same size of as the mosaic on very thick paper and painted the image. Together with Tessa Hunkin from the Mosaic Workshop we traced the original image in order to be able to put it into a mosaic format."

"St David is depicted as standing on a mound, the myth states that he was preaching to a crowd and, in order for them to be able to hear him, better the ground rose underneath him. The bit of stone at the bottom of the mosaic is from Llanddewi Brefi, the spot where the miracle is said to have happened. There are also lots of other references to stories

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associated with St David, the water coming from his cup represents the fact that he drank only water for example."

The mosaic has been an important part of the Cathedral's preparations for the visit of Pope Benedict XVI. Cathedral Administrator, Canon Christopher Tuckwell said: "I am delighted with the mosaic. When I first saw the drawing I could see that there was something new, fresh and alive about it. We are looking forward to the Holy Father coming here to bless the mosaic. It is a great part of his outreach to the people of Wales."

Tessa Hunkin from the Mosaic Workshop who put the mosaic together said: "It has been a great piece to work on, but a bit more difficult than other mosaics because there is so much gold and you have to use a slightly different technique when working with gold to ensure that it shimmers."

At the end of the Mass on 18 September, the Pope will bless the mosaic with water from St Nonn's well in Wales. St Nonn was the mother of St David. He will then address the people of Wales before concluding the Mass in Westminster Cathedral.

Our Lady of the Taper statue visits Westminster Cathedral

Pope Benedict is unable to visit Wales in September, but a statue which is precious to Welsh Catholics will be taken to Westminster Cathedral as part of his visit.

The statue of Our Lady of the Taper normally resides in the Catholic National Shrine of Wales in Cardigan. The blessing and lighting of the taper candle in the hand of the Virgin Mother has now been included in the Pope's official programme.

This is a great honour for the Catholic Church in Wales and recognition of the National Shrine as an important site of pilgrimage for people from all over Britain and the rest of the world.

The Rector of the National Shrine, Father Jason Jones, said "It is a joy for the National Shrine of Wales to be able to take part in the Papal Visit. One of the great hymns of Cardinal Newman is of course 'Lead Kindly Light'. It is an appropriate hymn which connects the Shrine and the event.

The image of Our Lady of Cardigan portrays the Blessed Virgin holding the Christ Child and the Taper candle. Many who come on pilgrimage to Cardigan seek the intercession of our Lady in the 'encircling gloom' and seek the kindly light for guidance. I remember the visit of Pope John Paul II and the great crowds and enthusiasm.

Our hope and prayer at the Shrine is that the visit of Pope Benedict will enkindle and enlighten all people to seek the light of Truth. That those who are stumbling will have light for their journey, those who are far from God will feel the warmth of the flame of Christ's Love."

Bishop Tom Burns, Bishop of Menevia, said "I told the Holy Father that we would be putting forward some plans for him to be 'in touch' with Wales during his Visit. I showed him on the map where Cardigan was, and explained that the people of Wales would like to bring the statue of Our Lady of the Taper from Cardigan to London on pilgrimage to meet him."

Father Jason Jones will lead a group of pilgrims from Cardigan, joined by others en route, to accompany the statue to London in September. Owing to pressure on numbers, only a very small delegation will be invited into Westminster Cathedral.

Afterwards, the pilgrims will return to Cardigan, where a Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated.



Popemobile route

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Yesterday with CathCom

As well as meeting many wonderful people attending the event and enjoying an incredible atmosphere which was alive and electric we had always intended the paper to serve those that were not catered for. There were many people outside the event, some who had travelled there hoping to get tickets but mainly local residents that could not afford the cost of a ticket. We talked with many of them and they were more enthusiastic about receiving the paper than anyone. A number of people were amazed

that the paper was free, thanks to the generosity of Premier Christian Radio, however, one of the local residents insisted on paying £2.50 for the work we had done.

We distributed
50,000 papers at the
main event, to local
residents and to
protesters. The Papal
Visit paper was also
distributed at Glasgow
and Heathrow airports,
on flights from Glasgow
to London, and to
executives co-ordinating
the Papal flight at the
airport.

Daniel Griffiths from CathCom handing out papers to local residents on the other side of the barriers.



CathCom chatting and discussing with all the protesters during the main event.

Liam aged 4 holding up the Poster from yesterdays Papal Visit waiting for the Pope to go past.

A Papal Visit in the Digital Age by Kevin Bennett

When Pope John Paul II kissed the ground at Gatwick airport on Friday 28th May 1982 it was a very different country that he greeted compared with the one that Pope Benedict has arrived in this week.

In 1982 your music was on a vinyl record, mobile phones were still three years away, VHS was fighting Betamax for home video superiority, your home computer was the newly launched Commodore 64 and the world wide web hadn't even been invented. In 2010 we find ourselves in the midst of a Papal Visit that is truly a part of the digital age with all its associated trappings. For months now www.thepapalvisit.org.uk has been keeping the faithful up-to-date with the latest information on arrangements for visit. Those who are unable to make it to the events will be able to watch them streamed lived over the internet. For those on Twitter, an internet based short message service, athepapalvisit has been tweeting out information and facts throughout the day and night. And those on the now- ubiquitous Facebook have been able to both 'like' and 'comment' on the official Papal Visit group page.

But does any of this matter? The reality is that communication has changed dramatically over the last 28 years and the Church has a duty to be 'Salt and Light' in the new media

Papal Visits Newspaper

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landscape. This year on the 44th World Communications Day Pope Benedict gave the following message "God's loving care for all people in Christ must be expressed in the digital world not simply as an artefact from the past, or a learned theory, but as something concrete, present and engaging. Our pastoral presence in that world must thus serve to show our contemporaries, especially the many people in our day who experience uncertainty and confusion, "that God is near; that in Christ we all belong to one another...... I renew the invitation to make astute use of the unique possibilities offered by modern communications. May the Lord make all of you enthusiastic heralds of the Gospel in the new "agorà" which the current media are opening

Stepping out into this digital world can feel very daunting, but all of us can start to make our first tentative steps. Perhaps you could

include a Bible verse in the 'signature' of your email? Maybe you could share a spiritual video on Facebook? You could even start a blog, a type of online diary, where you can share thoughts on your spiritual journey for others to be edified by.

Lao-tzu said 'a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step' perhaps today God is calling you to start that journey, and if He is, may God bless you on your travels

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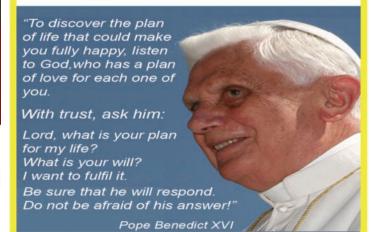
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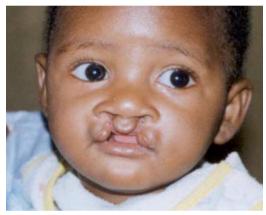
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