



## Bishop's Column

While it is neither hardly possible nor right that we should remove ourselves from all the external and more peripheral preparations for Christmas during our Advent journey, at the same time it would be so sad if we forgot that through the Incarnation our God comes to us as "Emmanuel", *God-with-us*; and "Jesus", *the one who is to save us from our sins*.

No matter where we journey, from now on our God is with us. There is no depth so deep, no height so above and beyond, no dark night so smothering and fearful, no situation so complicated and disturbing that our *God is not with us*. That is what Incarnation means; God is with us always, no matter where, no matter what. All we have to do is stretch out our hand and he is already holding us.

And he is "Jesus", *the one who saves us from our sins*, no matter how terrible we or others might consider them. All we have to do is look towards him and we will see him already looking deeply into our lives; longing for us to return, to start again, to come home. This is the message of Advent, this is the message of Christmas, this is the Good News of the Gospel. Like Isaiah, Matthew, John the Baptist and Mary, we must proclaim it loud and strong not only with our voices but with our lives also:

*"The Word was made flesh and lived among us and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only son of the Father full of grace and truth. A light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.....to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God."*

(From the Gospel of John  
Christmas Day)

Yours in Blessed Hope,

## Father Colman Ryan, RIP



Shortly before going to press we learned the sad news of the death of Father Colman Ryan, aged 77.

Father Colman, who had been in ill health for a number of years and lived at Alexandra Court Care Centre in Hull, was taken into hospital in the city on November 12 and died that day.

Originally from Ireland, he was ordained in St Patrick's Cathedral, Thurles, Tipperary, on June 10 1967, the same day as fellow diocesan priests Father Dan O'Neill, Father Bill Ryan, Father Dermot Nunan RIP, Father Kevin Trehy and Father Pat Bluett.

He served in parishes throughout the diocese and celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination in 2017.

We give thanks to God for his service within the diocese and ask you keep him and his family in your prayers. We'll have more details in our January edition.

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**Welcome Masses For Schools**  
Page 19



# The God Who Speaks Launches – So Are We Listening?

Our new adult formation coordinator, **DEACON DAVID CROSS**, introduces an important new scripture initiative that will be launched in our diocese with a special service on Sunday December 1...

The First Sunday of Advent sees the beginning of **The Year of the Word: The God Who Speaks**.

In partnership with the Bible Society, the Catholic Church in England and Wales wants to help Catholics up and down the country to focus on celebrating, living and sharing God's Word during 2020.

Pope Francis and his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, speak time and again about our Christian faith being an invitation to a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. The primary role of the Church is to foster such a relationship among the faithful.

The Year of the Word is an extraordinary opportunity for us as a diocese, helping us explore more fully how we can become heralds of the Gospel and take up our mission in the world of today – that is, in our families, places of work, schools, colleges and institutions – in proclaiming the Good News through the way we live: taking care of the sick, the homeless, the vulnerable, seeking to promote social justice and looking after our planet.

To do this well and sustainably we need to be attuned to the voice of the God Who Speaks. As Christians we are aware that God speaks to us through his Word, through the sacraments, including the greatest sacrament of all, the Eucharist.

Pope Benedict XVI in *Verbum Domini* tells



## Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral, St Francis & St Clare

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**  
With Bishop Terence Patrick Draine  
Sunday, 1 December 2019 at 3 pm

**St Francis**  
First Mass of Christmas 6 pm  
(suitable for children and families)

**BBC TEES CAROL SERVICE**  
Saturday, 7 December 2019 at 3 pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**Cathedral**  
Christmas Day Mass 10 am  
With Bishop Terence Patrick Draine

**CHRISTMAS EVE - TUESDAY, 24 DECEMBER**  
Lady Chapel, Mount Grace  
First Christmas Mass 4 pm

**St Clare's**  
Christmas Day Mass 9.30 am

**Cathedral**  
First Christmas Mass 6.30 pm  
(suitable for children and families)  
Preceded by Carols at 6 pm

**St Francis**  
Christmas Day Mass 10.30 am

Midnight Mass 11 pm  
With Bishop Terence Patrick Draine  
by Candlelight  
Preceded by Carols at 10.30 pm

**26 DECEMBER**  
Boxing Day Mass  
Cathedral 10 am  
Lady Chapel, Osmotherley 11 am

**St Clare's**  
First Mass of Christmas 5 pm  
(suitable for children and families)

May the Lord bestow on you and your family the gift of peace this Christmas filling your hearts with deepest joy and blessings that never cease.

**Continued on Page 2**

  
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NEWS

# The God Who Speaks – Are We Listening?

Continued from Page 1

us: “In the word of God proclaimed and heard, and in the sacraments, Jesus says today, here and now to each person: ‘I am yours, I give myself to you’; so that we can receive and respond, saying in return: ‘I am yours’.”

During this special Year of the Word, the Church wants to create new and renewed encounters with Christ through the scriptures.

Every Catholic church in our diocese has received free copies of the booklet *The God Who Speaks* and St Matthew’s Gospel. These should be available in your church (there’s a great poster inside the booklet).

Pick up your copy of each, read them and think, reflect and pray about how you might share the Good News with others in your parish, family, and place of work. Everyone can be involved, no matter how young or old. The Good News is given for all.

On the First Sunday of Advent we hear in Matthew’s Gospel about the final coming of Christ and are urged to stay awake and take action without delay. As a diocese we are being asked to take up our baptismal calling to become images of God to those around

us.

To be able to do this we need to accept Pope Francis’ invitation, “To all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord...Whenever we take a step towards Jesus we realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms” (*Evangelii Gaudium* para 3).

Refocusing our lives on sacred scripture and being open to listening with our hearts and minds to the God who is speaking to us will help us face the realities we will be asked to deal with, not just in our own lives but in the life of our church in our diocese.

“Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are ‘disciples’ and ‘missionaries’, but rather that we are always ‘missionary disciples’.” (*Evangelii Gaudium* para 121).

**‘In the sacred books the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them.’ (Dei Verbum 21)**

Let’s make ourselves open to a renewed personal relationship with Our Lord by taking time to read the Gospel of Matthew, reflect and pray about what God is saying to us during this marvellous opportunity to both hear and proclaim the Good News about God’s love for us all.

Visit [godwhospeaks.uk](http://godwhospeaks.uk) for all kinds of resources to help you and your family or parish community to participate fully in the Year of the Word.

Parishes are encouraged to look at ways of engaging with

the Word throughout the year:

- Services of the Word when no Mass is being celebrated
- Morning, midday and evening prayer on weekdays. The Mass readings of the day can be added to any of these hours
- Holy hours with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- *Lectio Divina*
- Bible reading in context and helping people to navigate their way around the Bible, seeing it as a library of books

• Encourage parishes to use the Word in preparing for Christmas, for example, focusing on the Biblical characters and making time for the Word (reading and reflection)

• Encourage improvement in proclaiming the Word in parishes

• Watch out for and encourage parishioners to attend diocesan events that will be offered throughout the year

Visit the diocesan website at [middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk](http://middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk) for news on what’s happening here.

**Join us at the cathedral at 3pm on Sunday December 1 for our diocesan launch of the Year of the Word. We will be joining every other Roman Catholic cathedral in England and Wales celebrating solemn vespers of the First Sunday of Advent. Everyone is welcome!**

**Deacon David would like to hear from parishioners and parish priests who are either actively taking forward the call to become missionary disciples or want to get started. The Year of the Word can be a marvellous vehicle for this, as we can’t be missionary disciples if we don’t know who it is we’re following and why. Why not call him on 01642 850505 or email him at [adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk) to discuss this further?**

# Is God Speaking To You?

**FATHER PHIL CUNNAH invites us to help celebrate the Year of the Word by sharing the passages from scripture that mean most to us...**

“God is speaking to me.” We don’t often hear these words spoken in our Catholic circles. They might be words that make us uneasy.

Perhaps they represent for us a “holier than thou” attitude as though someone has a direct link to God that makes them superior to others.

Perhaps we think they mean there’s a voice in my head telling me what to do that

rocks my sanity. However we react to hearing those words, they are in fact true for each of us and “God is speaking to me” could be a summary of the whole endeavour of the Year of the Word.

So how do we recognise this personal word that God is speaking to me? In part, it involves engaging personally with the Bible. It’s true that the Bible helps all of us to understand that we were each created with dignity, that we are greatly loved by God and that we are each called to a mission, yet the scriptures have both a communal and a personal aspect. They can

inspire me in my own day to day life.

One way to recognise this personal word is to identify my favourite piece of scripture. It is likely that there is a particular story or phrase that stands out to you and resonates within.

This can be related to a certain life experience, or it might be a saying that inspired a new way of life for you, or perhaps an image that grabs your attention. These are significant moments for our relationship with God and returning to them can reinvigorate and renew our friendship with Jesus.

During this year, we are inviting people across the diocese to share their favourite scripture and something of what it means to them. We will publish a selection each month here in the Voice. It helps us to hear each other’s faith journey and can give us confidence for our own.

So why not start a conversation in your parish or coffee mornings by asking or sharing your favourite passages? And better still, why not spend some time in silence listening to and praying with your favourite passage to renew and invigorate your own faith?

# Christmas Hamper Campaign Is Launched

**Catholics Against Unemployment and Social Evils (CAUSE) would like to remind its donors that the time has come to launch the annual appeal to provide Christmas hampers for needy families.**

Requests to CAUSE for help are greater than ever. If you can spare just a little, it will go a long way and be greatly appreciated.

Cheques made payable to CAUSE can be sent to Pat Wilson (Treasurer), c/o Curial Office, 50a The Avenue, Middlesbrough TS5 6QT.

CAUSE would also be grateful for help with deliveries or any other assistance. If you have time to spare and would like to help, please contact co-ordinator Pat McBride on 07935 101812 or email [causehampers@outlook.com](mailto:causehampers@outlook.com).



Children from St Gerard’s Primary School, Hemlington, packing CAUSE hampers

# Our Role In Ensuring Politics Serves Others

**Pause for a moment, set aside festive preoccupations and reflect on the enormity of the decisions we make on December 12.**

The General Election this month will be fought on many issues: the climate crisis, the economy, the decay in public life and the future of the union. But more than any other issue, it will determine whether the United Kingdom leaves the European Union after 46 years within the European project.

This election, without question, will shape Britain's fate not merely for years but for decades. We must think of how this will impact on future generations. We can turn to Pope Francis for guidance...

"Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law. Once this is certain, good politics is at the service of others."

It is our Christian obligation to test what political parties say when measured against our Christian experience of living the Gospel. In addition, we can measure manifestos and statements against our Catholic Social Teaching and other important milestones such as the publication of the "Common Good and Catholic Social Teaching." We can also speak with authority, based on our Caritas and Justice and Peace projects.

Once again, we have guidance from Pope Francis...

"Those who hold political office must exercise their office in the service of others, basing their work on law and justice."

We must exercise our right to vote and take opportunities to attend hustings and question prospective candidates. Our Christian instinct to exercise our conscience and judgement is an antidote to the

extremes of angry, divisive dialogue.

Our willingness to participate and engage in the democratic process by voting can be a meaningful act of unity with other Christians and denominations. Just think about how Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland as an ecumenical project has not only delivered essential services but has also presented evidence to politicians and parliamentary committees.

Over the years, Catholics in our diocese have sought to develop relationships with our elected councillors, MPs and MEPs.

Representative and responsible government can only exist if we find opportunities to remind our elected representatives to strive for a fair and just world. Our commitment should not stop at the ballot box.

After you have paused and voted on December 12, ask yourself this question – on

the eve of a new decade, how can we continue to bear witness and ensure the Christian message of the Common Good is constantly heard by our political representatives? We are well placed to deliver messages of hope and renewal in times that seem dark and divisive.

**How do we as Christians contribute to regular dialogue with our politicians? Contact me to share ideas for some practical ways forward for the next decade. As Pope Francis also states: "Politics should foster the talents of young people and their aspirations." Ideas from our young people are especially welcome.**  
jnhinman@gmail.com

John Hinman, Parishioner,  
St Mary's Cathedral

## The Ten Principles Of Catholic Social

**1 Human Dignity:** Belief in the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching. Human life is sacred, and the dignity of the person is the starting point for a moral vision for society.

**2 Common Good and Community:** The human person is both sacred and social. Human dignity can only be realised and protected in the context of relationships with the wider society.

**3 The Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:** The moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. The poor have the most urgent moral claim on the conscience of the nation.

**4 Rights and Responsibilities:** Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency – starting with food, shelter and clothing, employment, health care, and education.

**5 Role of Government and Subsidiarity:** The state has a positive moral function, to promote human dignity, protect human rights and build the common good. The functions of government should be performed at the lowest level possible.

**6 Dignity Of Work And Rights Of Workers:** The economy must serve people, not the other way around. All workers have a right to productive work, decent and fair wages, and safe working conditions.

**7 Stewardship of God's Creation:** The goods of the earth are gifts from God, intended for the benefit of everyone. How we treat the environment is a measure of our stewardship

and a sign of our respect for the creator.

**8 Promotion of Peace and Disarmament:** Catholic teaching promotes peace as a positive concept, not merely an absence of war. Peace is the fruit of justice and is dependent upon right order among human beings.

**9 Participation:** All people have a right to participate in the economic, political, and cultural life of society. It is wrong for a person or a group to be excluded unfairly or to be unable to participate in society.

**10 Global Solidarity and Development:** We are one human family. Our responsibilities to each other cross national, racial, economic and ideological differences. Accumulating material goods will be unsatisfactory and debasing if there is no respect for moral, cultural and spiritual dimensions of the person

### How Can I Ask An Election Question?

- When candidates or canvassers knock on your door
- In a letter to candidates sent to a local newspaper
- At a hustings meeting – for help with organising your own, visit [electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)
- By calling a local radio phone-in show.

Take notes on what they say and hold them to account if they get elected! To find a list of candidates in your area, visit [aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://aboutmyvote.co.uk)

**Bishop Terry joined faith leaders from different religions and denominations to sign a statement affirming their common principles ahead of the 2015 General Election.**

We affirm:

The sacredness of all human life as the basis of how we think and behave

That we share a commitment to seek the common good as the basis for a just society

That people who are poor and at risk are specially deserving of fair treatment, protection and dignity

The right of every person to decent standards of food, shelter and clothing, health care, employment and education

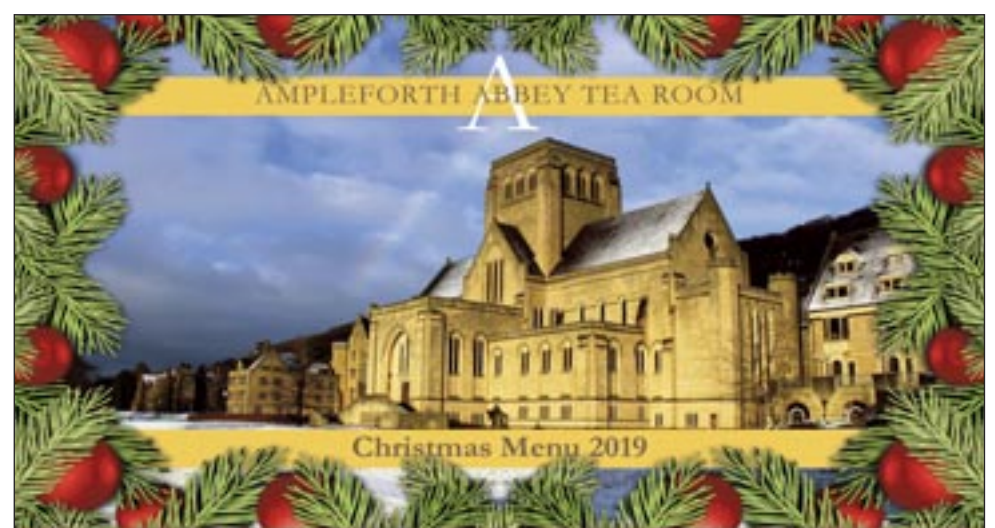
That workers should be safe and have fair wages

Our responsibility to care for the environment and hand it on in the best state possible to the next generation

Our duty to promote peace as the fruit of justice, to honour people of all cultures and faiths, to serve those who have experienced injustice or persecution and to welcome people who are in need of a safe refuge

That we stand together against all harm and abuse motivated by hate and prejudice

That it is important for us all to take our part in building society, including voting in accord with our conscience.



**AMPLEFORTH ABBEY TEA ROOM**

**Christmas Menu 2019**

Available 12:00pm to 2:00pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from Tuesday 3rd December to Friday 20th December - booking and pre-order essential. £18.45 for two courses or £22.50 for three courses

Spiced Lentil, Parsnip and Apple Soup (vegan GF)

Timbale of Smoked Salmon and poached Salmon Mousse, Cucumber Ribbons and Lemon Gel (GF)

Pressing of Chicken and Ham Hock, Red Onion Marmalade, Toasted Brioche

Whipped Goats Cheese, Spinach and Carrot Roulade, Celeriac Salad and Watercress Dressing (V)

\*\*\*

Roast Yorkshire Turkey with Traditional Trimmings of Pigs in Blanket, Cranberry Sauce, Roast Gravy, Apricot Chestnut and Ginger Stuffing Ball

Grilled Supreme of salmon, Wilted Spinach and Chestnut crushed potato, Hollandaise Sauce

Parmesan Filo Tart filled with Roasted Beets, Wild Mushrooms and Butternut Squash (V)

Cauliflower, Chickpea and Spinach Dahl Puff Pastry Parcel Spiced Tomato Coulis (Vegan)

All served with Traditional Roast Potatoes and Vegetable Panache

\*\*\*

Classic Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce

Black Forest Torte, Crème Anglaise (GF)

Orange Panna Cotta, Mulled Winter Berries, Cinnamon Shortbread

\*\*\*

Mince Pies & Fresh Coffee

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The Diocese of Middlesbrough would like to point out that while every care is taken with advertisements placed in the Catholic Voice, publication does not suggest an endorsement of any views expressed.

**SCHOOLS**

**The Fourth Mystery of Light  
The Transfiguration**



As we say the fourth decade of the Mysteries of Light (or Luminous Mysteries), we remember when Jesus took Peter, James and John up the mountain to pray. As Jesus prayed, his face changed and his clothes became as brilliant as lightning. He was joined by Moses and Elijah, who had lived in ancient times. Peter became very excited and wanted to build a shelter for each of them. Just then, a cloud appeared and covered them in shadow. The disciples were afraid. Then they heard a voice from the cloud saying: "This is my son, the chosen one. Listen to him." Afterwards, Jesus was found alone again.

**Word Search**

P	R	A	Y	E	D	E	T	U	Z
E	L	S	C	L	O	U	D	Y	E
T	A	I	E	O	R	W	I	Q	X
E	M	J	G	H	V	F	R	U	C
R	W	D	O	H	T	E	O	A	I
M	O	S	E	S	T	O	R	S	T
B	D	I	P	L	L	N	L	E	E
N	A	C	E	V	X	G	I	C	D
U	H	H	A	J	I	L	E	N	I
P	S	A	F	R	A	I	D	K	G

PETER  
PRAYED  
CLOTHES  
LIGHTNING  
MOSES  
ELIJAH

EXCITED  
SHELTER  
CLOUD  
COVERED  
SHADOW  
AFRAID



**The Staff, Governors and Pupils/Students of the following Schools would like to wish readers of the Voice a Happy and Holy Christmas**

**All Saints RC School**  
Mill Mount  
York YO24 1BJ  
Tel: 01904 647877  
Headteacher: Sharon Keelan-Beardsley BA (Hons)  
Email: usreception@allsaints.york.sch.uk  
Website: www.allsaints.york.sch.uk

**St Patrick's Catholic Primary School,**  
**A Voluntary Catholic Academy**  
*"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God."*  
Westbury Street, Thornaby TS17 6NE  
Tel: 01642 676724  
A member of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy  
**Executive Head Teacher: Mr M Ryan**  
**Head of School: Mr J Conwell**

**ST PETER'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE**  
Part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust  
Normanby Road, South Bank  
Middlesbrough  
TS6 6SP  
**Interim Headteacher: Mr Neil Skerry**  
Tel: 01642 453462  
[enquiries@stpeters.npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stpeters.npcat.org.uk)  
[www.stpeters.npcat.org.uk](http://www.stpeters.npcat.org.uk)

**St Margaret Clitherow's Catholic Voluntary Academy**  
Part Of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust  
South Bank, Middlesbrough TS6 6TA  
Tel 01642 835370  
**Headteacher: Miss C McNicholas**  
email: [enquiries@smc.npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@smc.npcat.org.uk)

**St Edward's Primary School**  
**a Catholic Voluntary Academy**  
Part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust  
Eastbourne Road, Linthorpe  
Middlesbrough TS5 6QS  
Tel 01642 819507  
**Headteacher Mrs Mary Brown**  
email: [Enquiries@stedwards.npcat.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@stedwards.npcat.org.uk)  
[www.stedwardsrprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stedwardsrprimaryschool.co.uk)

**ST. GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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Allendale Road, Ormesby,  
Middlesbrough, TS7 9LF  
**Headteacher: Mrs L.Phelps**  
Tel: 01642 315538  
Email: [enquiries@stgabriels.npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stgabriels.npcat.org.uk)

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Telephone: 01642 298100  
Website: [www.trinitycatholiccollege.org.uk](http://www.trinitycatholiccollege.org.uk)

**Christ the King Primary School**  
A member of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust  
Tedder Avenue, Thornaby,  
Stockton-On-Tees TS17 9JP  
**Executive Head Teacher: Mr M Ryan**  
**Head of School: Miss H Lickess**  
Tel: 01642 785639  
Email: [enquiries@ctking.npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ctking.npcat.org.uk)

**St Benedict's Catholic Primary School**  
*"Pray together, Learn together"*  
Part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust  
Mersey Road, Redcar TS10 1LS  
**Headteacher: Mrs Kendra Sill**  
Tel: 01642 495770  
E-mail: [enquiries@stbenedicts.npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stbenedicts.npcat.org.uk)  
Website: [www.stbenedicts.npcat.org.uk](http://www.stbenedicts.npcat.org.uk)

**ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust  
Green Lane East, Thirsk,  
North Yorkshire, YO7 1NB  
**Executive Headteacher: Mrs Mary Brown**  
**Head of School Fran Mackle**  
Telephone: 01845 523058  
[Enquiries@allsaints.npcat.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@allsaints.npcat.org.uk)

# Called To Serve Up On A Plate!

St Gabriel's Primary School in Ormesby, Middlesbrough, has been showing its commitment to Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust's "Called to Serve" initiative by supporting families within its own community.

In the latest of a series of events, 150 children were treated to music, food and a free take-home bag at an autumn disco during the half-term holidays.

It follows the spectacular success of a summer-long programme of picnics and sporting events to help keep local children well-fed, healthy and active during the holidays.

Headteacher Lindsay Phelps wanted to provide families with at least one meal a week they didn't need to pay for or cook – and they couldn't get enough of the delicious food on offer.

The scheme grew and grew until around 200 children were coming each week to enjoy treats including pizza and spaghetti Bolognese.

They ranged from babies to secondary-school-age children.

"I was very lucky to have been supported by my family and staff in running the autumn disco," said Lindsay.

"We're planning some more events through the year and currently looking for families who would benefit from a Christmas dinner box. We're also hoping to run a Christmas carol singalong between Christmas and New year, with a free lunch for all."

NPCAT's family of 26 schools are using the

Called to Serve banner to showcase some of the wonderful work they do throughout the year to help others and support good causes.



Children enjoying the holiday fun at St Gabriel's



St Peter's Mark Gent, Eddie Woodcock and Amelia Salt with the choir from St Patrick's and Christ The King primary schools

# Schools Gather To Remember The Fallen

Pupils and staff representing the 26 schools within Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust and its central team gathered for a moving Remembrance Day service.

The service took place at the striking new memorial area outside the trust's Middlesbrough offices and featured music, prayers and a two-minute reflection on the 100th anniversary of its inception, which came one year after the guns of World War I fell silent.

Piper Eddie Woodcock, a pupil at St Peter's Catholic College, South Bank, and a member of Middlesbrough Sea Cadets, played a selection of traditional military airs before a welcome from trust chief executive officer Hugh Hegarty.

Canon Derek Turnham and the trust's lay lead chaplain Angela O'Brien led prayers and a bugler played the *Last Post* before the immaculately observed period of silence.

St Peter's head girl Amelia Salt read the poem *Freedom* and Mark Gent and head boy of the Sacred Heart Catholic Secondary in Redcar read the exhortation from *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon.

The service ended with the choir from St Patrick's and Christ The King primary schools in Thornaby singing the *Green Fields of France*.

NPCAT's chief operating officer Jim Farquhar attended the service in his full uniform. Jim is a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve's HMS Calliope (Tyneside) Unit.



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with high quality Catholic education in Teesside and North Yorkshire



Our 22 primary schools are now taking applications for September 2020 entry

For more information, visit [npcat.org.uk](http://npcat.org.uk) or follow us on Twitter @NPCAT\_Media

**SCHOOLS**

# Service Recognised At Education Masses

**Bishop Terry celebrated our annual Education Masses in York, Hull and Middlesbrough.**

The Masses welcome in the new academic year and are an opportunity to recognise the achievements of those who have recently retired from working in schools and academies. The Bishop presented Episcopal Blessings to retiring teachers, support staff and governors and thanked them for their many years of service to Catholic education.



Bishop Terry with Helena Lee at the York Mass



John Ord, Patricia Hawkin, Maureen Lightfoot, Bishop Terry, Tove McTiernan, Andy Jankowski and Christine McCarthy at the Middlesbrough Mass – Photo by Paul Bowen



Mike Wildman, Bishop Terry and Veronica Whittingham at the Hull Mass – Photo by Bernard Swift



# Year Of Celebrations Begins For St John's

**A year of celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary a specialist Catholic school has begun with a very special Bishop's Mass.**

St John's Catholic School for the Deaf in Boston Spa, near Wetherby, is marking its foundation by a Belgian priest, Monsignor Desiree de Hearne.

After working with a family of deaf children in his parish and discovering how limited their educational opportunities were, he decided to found a school to meet their needs. It was dedicated to St John of Beverley, who became Bishop of Hexham and York.

Today the school supports children who are deaf, hearing-impaired or who have multi-sensory and communication difficulties, including young people who have an autism spectrum condition.

Pupils and staff welcomed Bishop of Leeds

Marcus Stock as principal celebrant at the 150th anniversary Mass on the feast of our Lady of Walsingham.

Headteacher Ann Bradbury thanked the congregation, families, her staff and the governors, saying: "We are immensely grateful that you are all able to celebrate with us the long and magnificent history of the school.

"Even now we are building on the legacy of Monsignor de Hearne who dedicated his life to the education of vulnerable children, which is such a key part of the mission of the Church," she said.

"To our students, who inspire us and make sure no two days are ever the same, I would like to tell them that they teach us far more than we could ever teach them."

St John's will hold celebratory events throughout the year.



Bishop Marcus with headteacher Ann Bradbury and students from St John's Catholic School for the Deaf in Boston Spa



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Dear Middlesbrough Voice reader,

Life with severe cataracts has not been easy for three-year-old Nahel, living in West Africa. Unable to see, this bright boy struggles to play with his friends and may not be able to go to school when they do. Education is the key to future employment, a way out of poverty.

Nahel's mother is heartbroken that he is needlessly blind. Cataract surgery to restore sight can take just 45 minutes, but many families in low-income countries cannot afford the £95 for surgery. So their children have no choice but to live in darkness. You can change that with a gift to CBM right now. For a limited time, a kind funding partner has pledged to unlock £4 for every £1 you give. **This means that if you can give £95 for one child's sight saving surgery today, five children could have their sight restored.**

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God bless you,

*Rebecca*  
 Rebecca Molyneux  
 Programme Manager, CBM UK

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**NEWS**

**A Letter From  
Madonna House**

**Embrace The Day!**

Have you ever been through a period so dizzying in its busyness and changing schedules that you wake in the morning and think, "Where am I? What day is it? Do I have to get up now?" It's been like that lately.



Yesterday I awoke with those questions and remembered we'd come home late the night before, having given a presentation on the Advent/Christmas season in Hull. It was a blessed evening and some images of the people we met now floated through my mind.

Usually I rise long before our 7.30am hour of Adoration, but yesterday morning, I lay lazily in bed, allowing other images to emerge. As I write this, we haven't yet entered Advent, but it will be a full season. It is a time to prepare our hearts to receive Christ in a deeper way, and so our prayer/poustinia rooms and cabins will be full.

We will welcome Franciscan friars and sisters, an artist and his beautiful wife bringing us a statue he created of a Madonna and Child, a young layman working in sensitive areas for the Church, two consecrated virgins travelling from different parts of the country and a couple of lay people we've not yet met.

Special events abound in this season: our Churches Together Lectio Divina gathering that will be expanded this month, Christmas concerts, our open Mass on the coming of Christ, the welcoming of a Rosary group and an ecumenical prayer group to our home, an extended visit of one of our Madonna House priests, not to mention making our Advent wreath from local greens and berries and later decorating our house for Christmas, practising Advent and Christmas music, making cards and sending out letters.

I must admit, I was tempted to burrow under my covers, just thinking about all that lies ahead in one short month. But then other images began to beckon: the Christ Child radiating peace, hope and beauty, the three great men from another land who journeyed through dark and dangerous paths just to adore and bring their finest treasures to this Divine Child, the warm breath of the animals and the stillness and love suffusing that cave, as all were captivated by the tender beauty and promise of this little one.

This is what lies ahead – not just work and fatigue but drawing near to the source of our joy. And what of our lives? What images fill our hearts? Do they spring from fear of the unknown, fear that God won't protect or care for us, fear that we'll fail? Can we replace those images with the "sight" of the Good Shepherd or the "prodigal Father" or God himself coming to us as a Babe, to be with us and to save us?

We know not what joys and sorrows, sacrifices and gifts await us, but they all lead ultimately to the fulfilment of seeing his beautiful face – reason enough to jump out of that cosy bed and embrace the day!

Cheryl Ann Smith



Bishop Terry blessed the graves outside St Mary's Cathedral ahead of our annual Mass for deceased bishops and clergy – photo by Paul Bowen

**Gold Sports  
Mark Award For  
Whitby School**

St Hilda's RC Primary School has been presented with a gold sports mark award in recognition of its commitment to the development of competition across the school and in the community. The children were all involved by supporting each other, leading PE sessions and competing at sporting events arranged by the Whitby and Ryedale School Sports Partnership. The award was being presented by school games organiser Sue Robinson. Children have also been helping their community by generously donating items for Whitby Food Bank.



St Hilda's RC Primary School has been presented with a gold sports mark award



**Night Of Music In Scarborough**

More than 400 parents and friends of the pupils packed Westborough Church for St Augustine's, Scarborough's annual year seven concert. The year group performed together as a 115-strong choir, singing popular songs including some from the Sound of Music. There were standout solo performances from Abigail Sayo and Ayla Cole, who sang and played the ukulele. Music teacher Oliver Barron said: "It was another hugely successful evening. To put on a concert like this is a real testament to the hard work and commitment of the whole year group."



# Prestigious Award For Environmental Efforts

**St Francis Xavier School in Richmond has won a prestigious sustainability award from the Department for Education in recognition of its outstanding efforts to protect the environment.**

The joint Roman Catholic and Church of England School, which is part of the newly formed St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (SMCCAT), was presented with a £2,500 cheque to support their pioneering work.

Earlier this year the school won the coveted Eco-Schools Green Flag. As well as slashing energy consumption by 23%, it has dramatically cut its paper usage and a lunchtime recycling system has been introduced.

Around 30 bags of rubbish have been collected in more than 50 litter picks in the school grounds, while 3,000 spring bulbs have been planted. The school has also stopped selling single-use plastic bottles and condiments sachets have been replaced with dispensers.

But the school's thriving eco group has no intention of resting on its laurels and will now step up its work and do even more to help create a sustainable environment and protecting wildlife.

Next they hope to create natural habitat schemes in a local churchyard and the school grounds. With the help of technology technician Stuart Lister they plan to build hedgehog houses fabricated from recycled pallets, with the first one ready and in place before the hibernation season starts.

Stuart presented the student eco team with their award during assembly, to rapturous applause from the whole school.

Margaret Land, who organises the school's eco group, said: "I want to thank all the students and staff for their cooperation, which has made a huge impact within the school. So many of the school community are committed to supporting our eco work in a variety of ways."

SMCCAT chief executive officer Amy Rice

praised the school for its achievement and said the trust will build on their success.

"This passion for caring for our environment, an issue highlighted in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, is something I have seen in many of our schools and I am committed to making it a feature of our trust," she said.

"Some of our schools will be attending a session run by Margaret to share good practice and expertise. Of course, there's already lots of great work going on around the trust. St Peter's in Scarborough redesigned the Rotunda Museum to show what the impact of plastic pollution could be and organised a beach clean with Surfers Against Sewage.

"All this is having a real impact on their local environment and I'm delighted to see our young people leading the way and showing just what can be done if we put our minds to it."



Staff and members of St Francis Xavier School's eco group with the sustainability award



Newly appointed school leaders from Catholic schools throughout the diocese attended a welcome day at the Curial Offices

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# Christmas Mass Times

## *Easingwold*

### **St John the Evangelist**

#### **Saturday 21 December**

11.45am Rosary: joyful mysteries  
12noon Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament and Sacrament of  
Reconciliation (Confession)  
5.45pm Vigil Mass for  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### **Sunday 22 December**

10.00am Mass for  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
6.30pm Joint Churches Carol Service  
at the Parish Church

#### **Tuesday 24 December**

4.30pm Crib Service for children  
8.00pm: First Mass of Christmas

#### **Wednesday 25 December**

10.00am Day Mass of Christmas

## *Guisborough*

### **St Paulinus**

#### **Christmas Eve**

6:00pm

#### **Christmas Day**

10.00am

## *Hessle*

### **Our Lady of Lourdes**

#### **Christmas Eve**

6.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas  
(especially for young children  
and parents)

12.00 Midnight Mass

#### **Christmas Day**

8.30am Mass

10.30am Mass

## *Hull*

### **Our Lady of Lourdes and St Peter Chanel**

#### **Christmas Eve**

Confessions 6.30pm-7.00pm.  
Carols at 7.30p.m  
First Mass of Christmas at 8.00pm

#### **Christmas Day**

8.30am Mass

10.00am Mass

## *Hull*

### **Withernsea SAINT PETER & SAINT JOHN FISHER**

#### **Christmas Eve**

4pm Mass

#### **Hedon**

### **SAINT MARY & SAINT JOSEPH**

#### **Christmas Day**

9am Mass

### **Kingston-upon-Hull SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO**

#### **Christmas Eve**

6.30pm Vigil Mass  
11.30pm Carols followed by:  
12.00am Midnight Mass

#### **Christmas Day**

11.00am Mass of Christmas Day

## *Ingleby Barwick*

### **St Therese**

#### **Sunday 22nd December**

Candlelit Carol Service 6.30pm

#### **Christmas Eve**

Vigil Mass 5.30pm  
First Mass of Christmas 8.00pm

#### **Christmas Day**

10.00am Mass

## *Lealholm, Egton Bridge, Ugthorpe*

### **Our Lady, Lealholm**

#### **Christmas Eve**

5.30pm Carols  
6.00pm First Mass of Christmas

### **St Hedda, Egton Bridge**

#### **Christmas Eve**

8.00pm First Mass  
of Christmas

### **St Anne, Ugthorpe**

#### **Christmas Day**

10.00am Mass

## *Ormesby & Thorntree*

### **Corpus Christi**

#### **Christmas Eve**

4.30pm Carols and Children's Nativity  
5.00pm First Mass of Christmas

### **St Gabriel's**

#### **Christmas Eve**

6.00pm Carols & Children's Nativity  
6.30pm First Mass of Christmas

#### **Christmas Day**

10.00am Mass of Christmas Morning

## *Redcar and Marsk*

### **The Parish of Blessed**

#### **Nicholas Postgate**

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Sacred Heart and St Augustine

#### **The Parish of St Bede,**

#### **Marske-By-The-Sea**

#### **Christmas Eve**

5.00pm First Mass of Christmas at  
Church of St Augustine

6.30pm First Mass of Christmas at  
Church of St Bede

8.00pm First Mass of Christmas at  
Church of Sacred Heart

#### **Christmas Day**

9.30 am Mass of Christmas Day  
at St Church of Sacred Heart

**Church of Sacred Heart,  
Lobster Road, Redcar TS10 1SH**

**Church of St Augustine's,  
Warwick Road, Redcar TS10 2ER**

**Church of St Bede,  
Southfield Road, Marske**

**TS11 7BP**

## *Saltburn-by-the-Sea*

### **Our Lady of Lourdes**

#### **Christmas Eve**

6.30pm Carols  
7.00pm First Mass of Christmas

#### **Christmas Day**

10.30am Family Mass

## *The Dales Mission*

### **St Joseph and St Francis Xavier, Richmond**

#### **Christmas Eve**

6pm Vigil Mass

#### **St Mary's, Wycliffe**

Midnight Mass Midnight  
(preceded by Carols at 11.30pm)

#### **Ss Simon and Jude, Ulshaw Bridge**

#### **Christmas Day**

8.30am Dawn Mass

#### **St Joseph and St Francis Xavier, Richmond**

#### **Christmas Day**

9.30am Mass During the Day

#### **Ss Peter and Paul, Leyburn**

#### **Christmas Day**

10am Mass During the Day

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*Teesville  
St Andrew's Parish*

**Christmas Eve**

**St Andrew's Church**

**Fabian Road, Teesville**

5.00 pm – Carols before Mass  
5.30 pm – First Mass of Christmas

**Christmas Day**

**St Peter's Church**

**Middlesbrough Road, South Bank**

9.00am Mass

**St Anne's Church,**

**Birchington Avenue, Eston**

10.30am Mass

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*Thirsk & Osmotherley*

**All Saints, Thirsk**

**Christmas Eve**

5.00pm - 6.00pm Confessions  
7.00pm First Mass of Christmas

**Christmas Day**

10.30am Morning Mass

**Our Lady of Mount Grace,  
Osmotherley**

Next Sunday Mass:

5th January 11.00am

*York*

**St Joseph and St Wilfrid**

**St Joseph**

**Christmas Eve**

5.00pm Mass with Carols and  
Blessing of the Crib

**Christmas Day**

9.30am Mass with Carols

**26 December, St Stephen's Day**

**(Boxing Day)**

No Mass

**St Wilfrid**

**Christmas Eve**

6.00pm Sung Mass followed by  
blessing of the crib.

11.15pm Carols and Readings  
followed by Midnight Sung Latin  
High Mass (EF)

**Christmas Day**

8.30am Mass with Carols

10.30am Mass with Carols

4pm Benediction of the Blessed  
Sacrament followed by Prayers at  
the Crib

**26 December, St Stephen's Day**

**(Boxing Day)**

Mass at 12.10pm

*York*

**St George**

**Wednesday 18th December**

Candlelit Carol Service  
@ 7pm

**Sunday 22nd December**

10.30am and 6.30pm Mass

**Christmas Eve**

9.30am Mass followed by  
Confessions to 10.30am  
First Mass of Christmas  
8pm

**Christmas Day**

9.30am Mass

**Boxing Day**

No Mass

*Whitby*

**St Hilda, English Martyrs**

**Christmas Eve**

5.30pm Carols - St Hilda, Whitby

6.00pm Mass - St Hilda, Whitby

**Christmas Day**

9.00am Mass - English Martyrs,  
Sleights

10.30am Mass - St Hilda, Whitby



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# Out & About around the Diocese

**BISHOP TERENCE PATRICK DRAINEY ENGAGEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2019**

- 1** Attends Advent carol service at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 3pm
- 4** Attends Care in an Ageing Society: Caritas Social Action Network Reception in London 6pm
- 5** Attends meeting of Ushaw Trustees at Hinsley Hall, Leeds 10.30am
- 7** Attends BBC Tees carol service at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 3pm
- 8** Visit to the Sisters of Mercy, Southcoates Lane, Hull 11am
- Attends CAFOD carol service at St Charles Borromeo, Hull 3pm
- 10** Attends meeting of Bishop's Council at Bishop's House, Middlesbrough 11am
- Attends meeting of VEC Trustees in Birmingham 10.30am
- 12** Attends meeting of Council of Priests, the Curial Offices, Middlesbrough 2pm
- 17** Attends CSAN board meeting in London 11am
- 19** Attends meeting of Diocesan Board of Trustees at Curial Office, Middlesbrough 10am
- 24** Celebrates Mass at HMP Deerbolt, Barnard Castle 9am
- Celebrates Christmas Eve Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 11pm
- 25** Celebrates Christmas Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 10am

**1 Sun**  
**11am** Mass at Our Lady of Mount Grace (18 North End, Osmotherley Village, DL6 3BB) (first Sunday)  
**Noon** Sung Latin Mass, St Wilfrid's, Duncombe Place, York YO1 7EF  
**4pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction, St Wilfrid's, Duncombe Place, York YO1 7EF

**2 Mon**  
**10.15am** Christian Meditation Weekly Group, St John of Beverley Church (10am for new meditators). Contact: christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com

**3 Tues**  
**7pm** Knights of St Columba Council 29 meets at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, beginning with Mass in the Cathedral Chapel

**7pm-8.15pm** Christian Meditation Group, St Andrew's, Teesville. Contact terry-doyle@live.co.uk.

**4 Wed**  
**10.30am** Our Lady of Mount Grace, 18 North End, Osmotherley Village DL6 3BB, Midday Prayer/Wednesday Word/Prayer Intention for January 'Those persecuted for their faith' followed by refreshments.

**6 Fri**  
**6pm** Light Up A Life service for St Catherine's Hospice, Scarborough, held at St Hilda's Church, Whitby  
**7pm-8.30pm** Divine Mercy Prayer Group meets in St Anthony's Church, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact John (01759) 380415 for details.  
Events and articles for the January Voice are due by today

**7 Sat**  
**11.30am** Centering (Contemplative) Prayer Group, St Gabriel's Church, Ormesby, Middlesbrough. Contact Canon Lumley jl@rcdmidd.org.uk

**8 Sun**  
**Noon** Sung Latin Mass at St Wilfrid's, Duncombe Place, York YO1 7EF  
**3pm** Diocese of Middlesbrough LGBT+ outreach and service. Mass giving an explicit welcome to LGBT+ Catholics, their families and friends, in the chapel of The Bar Convent, 17 Blossom Street, York YO24 1AQ. All are welcome.  
**4pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction, St Wilfrid's, Duncombe Place, York YO1 7EF

**9 Mon**  
**10.15am** Christian Meditation Weekly Group, St John of Beverley Church (10am for new meditators). Contact: christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com  
**7pm** York Newman Circle: Rev Michael Chester – The Wesleys: How a reform movement became a denomination. Talk at the Bar Convent from 7.30 pm. Tea and coffee from 7pm.

**10 Tues**  
**12.45pm** Hull and District Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meet at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Hull. Christmas lunch.  
**12.45pm** The Life Ascending Group, York West meets at Our Lady's, Acomb, York in the Father Kelly room.  
**7pm-8.15pm** Christian Meditation Group, St Andrew's, Teesville. Contact terry-doyle@live.co.uk.  
**7.30pm** The Knights of St Columba, Council 95, meets at Council Chambers, English Martyrs Hall, Dalton Terrace, York

**11 Wed**  
**12.45pm** The Life Ascending Group at St Leonard & St Mary, Malton meets  
**2-3.30pm** Music for the Mind, for people who enjoy singing and connecting memories, St Mary's Cathedral Hall, Middlesbrough. Call 01642 710179  
**7.30pm** Hull Circle of the Catenian Association meets at Lazaat Hotel, Woodhill Way, Cottingham, HU16 5SX. Contact Bernard Swift (01482) 348272 for details.  
**8pm** The Knights of St Columba, Hull Council 45, meet at St Joseph's Church, West Hull

**12 Thu**  
**7pm** Pro-life Mass to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Protectress of the Unborn, St Thomas More's Church, Beechwood. Celebrant Father Dominique Minskip

**14 Sat**  
**11.30am** Centering (Contemplative) Prayer Group, St Gabriel's Church, Ormesby, Middlesbrough. Contact Canon Lumley jl@rcdmidd.org.uk  
**Noon** Christian Meditation Weekly Group, St John of Beverley, Church (11.45am for new meditators). Contact christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com

**15 Sun**  
**Noon** Sung Latin Mass, St Wilfrid's, Duncombe Place, York YO1 7EF  
**3pm** Catholic Fellowship Mass, St Gabriel's, Ormesby  
**4pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction, St Wilfrid's, Duncombe Place, York YO1 7EF

**16 Mon**  
**10.15am** Christian Meditation Weekly Group, St John of Beverley Church (10am for new meditators). Contact: christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com

**17 Tues**  
**7pm-8.15pm** Christian Meditation Group, St Andrew's, Teesville. Contact terry-doyle@live.co.uk.

**20 Fri**  
**7pm** Marian Prayer Group, St Anthony's Church, Beverley Road, Hull. All welcome. Contact Pat (01482) 802483 for details

## December Choral Services At The Cathedral

**Sunday 1 at 10am:** Solemn Mass (Cathedral Choir)  
**Sunday 1 at 3pm:** Festival of Carols for Advent and the Year of the Word (Cathedral and Diocesan Choir)  
**Wednesday 3 at 6pm:** Sung Benediction with Vespers (Ladies Schola)  
**Sunday 8 at 10am:** Family Mass (Cathedral Choir)  
**Sunday 8 at 4.15pm:** Solemn Vespers (Cathedral Consort)  
**Sunday 15 at 10am:** Solemn Mass (Cathedral Choir)  
**Sunday 15 at 4pm:** Festival of Carols for Christmas (Cathedral Choir)  
**Sunday 22 at 10am:** Solemn Mass (Cathedral Choir)  
**Tuesday 24 at 10.30pm:** Carol service and Midnight Mass (Cathedral Choir)  
**Wednesday 25 at 10am:** Solemn Mass for Christmas Day (Cathedral Choir)

For more information about our choral services and music visit us online at <https://sites.google.com/site/middlesbroughcathedralmusic>

NEWS

# Following The Dove Of Peace

**A Christmas Story from ANTHEA DOVE, a Christian writer and a parishioner in Whitby... Jacob lived in Bethlehem in a big house belonging to his grandfather who was very, very old and sometimes grumpy. Jacob's mother and father had died and he sometimes felt very lonely.**

One day he was so miserable that after his lessons he ran out into the garden, sat down with his back to the wall and began to cry. He cried for quite a long time, but then he heard a tapping sound on the wall behind him and a voice called "Hey, boy, don't cry! What's the matter?"

Jacob felt ashamed. He was seven years old after all, much too old to cry. Then he saw that someone was pushing on the big gate. He got up and ran to open the gate and was amazed to see a girl, quite a small girl, standing there.

"Can I come in?" she said. "I'm sorry you are sad. I've brought you some cake".

Jacob couldn't think what to say, except, "Thank you" and then, "Sorry. I'm too big to cry. I'm seven. It's just, well, I get so lonely."

"Me too," said the girl. "My name is Hannah, and I'm seven, like you. Sometimes I get lonely, and sometimes I cry, too."

After this, Jacob and Hannah became great friends. They played together every day and forgot to be lonely. Then one day, Hannah said, "Listen! I can hear something in the hedge."

It was a very small white bird and had got stuck among some prickly twigs. Very gently, Hannah lifted it out, and Jacob ran to get some breadcrumbs. After this the little bird came every day. They fed him and soon he let them hold him and stroke him. He grew bigger and stronger and he seemed to enjoy being with them.

But then early one morning, when Jacob ran out into the garden, the little bird wasn't there. Hannah came round and they called to him, and Jacob brought some special birdseed, but the bird didn't come.

Both the children felt sad and afraid that something bad had happened to him. They waited all day but they did not see him.

Then next morning he appeared again. He flew away a short distance, then came back. He did this three times.

Hannah said, "I think he wants us to follow him." So they went into the lane and began to follow the bird. But they were too slow for him, so he kept coming back then flying a little way and coming back again.

"Where can he be taking us?" said Jacob. But now the bird had stopped. He was perched on the gate at the end of the lane.

"He wants to lead us inside," whispered Hannah. So they followed him into the courtyard of an inn and then inside a stable.

The two children gasped. It was such a beautiful sight. There was a lady with a gentle face and a newborn baby on her lap. The dove, their dove, was perched next to them. There was a beautiful light all round them.

Jacob and Hannah knelt down because it seemed the right thing to do. But the lady beckoned them over.

"I am Mary, and this is my baby, Jesus," she

said. "The little dove is a dove of peace, and I think you know him?"

"Yes, we do," said Hannah.

"He's our friend," said Jacob.

"Come closer," said Mary. "If you like you can touch the baby. He is fast asleep, but he won't wake if you are gentle."

The children stayed a while, but then many other people began to come into the stable, so they decided to leave. They waved goodbye to Mary and to their little friend the dove. And to their great surprise, he began to coo to them.

"It's like he's saying goodbye to us," said Jacob.

As Hannah and Jacob walked home they didn't feel sad, only very happy to have seen Mary and Jesus her child. And the strange thing was, neither of them ever felt lonely again.



Canon Pat Hartnett, Canon Michael Loughlin, Bishop Terry, Canon Michael Ryan and Father Phil Cunnah celebrate Mass at San Giovanni Rotondo during our diocesan pilgrimage to shrines in Italy. The group also visited Assisi and Pietrelcina – Photo by John Roberts

- 21 Sat**  
**7.30pm** Sacred Heart Parish Dance (Sally Glennon), Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB.
- 22 Sun**  
**10am** Family Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough  
Noon Sung Latin Mass, St Wilfrid's, Duncombe Place, York YO1 7EF  
**4pm** Sung Latin Vespers and

Benediction, St Wilfrid's, Duncombe Place, York YO1 7EF

**23 Mon**  
**10.15am** Christian Meditation Weekly Group, St John of Beverley Church (10am for new meditators). Contact: christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com

**29 Sun**  
January Voice available from churches

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Tel (01642) 850505, email catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk  
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**Friday January 3 for February issue**  
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NEWS

# Waiting For Christmas In The Congo

**Francis Hannaway, from St Gabriel's Parish, Middlesbrough, lives and works in Basankusu Diocese, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.**

I love the Russian story of Babushka. A woman is visited by the Three Wise Men who tell her that baby Jesus will soon be born, they are on their journey to Bethlehem, and "why don't you come along?" Babushka tells them that she will join them just as soon as she's got the house ready. And, when she's finally ready, she's too late. We all prepare, but we shouldn't leave things too late.

I'm doing my own preparing right now. Before leaving the Congo in September, to go to a family funeral in Middlesbrough, the Bishop of Basankusu instructed the diocesan Caritas group to write an invitation letter for me, which he would sign, and which would get me a new visa. My current five-year visa runs out December 14. There should have been plenty of time.

I arrived in Congo's capital, Kinshasa, on October 23, to powerful tropical thunderstorms! Still no sign of a letter. "No, don't worry," I was advised, "there's still plenty of time. The bishop has gone for a week of meetings and will be back Sunday evening, November 3."

Soon, central Kinshasa, hot and muggy, was completely flooded. We managed to manoeuvre down less popular roads through about a foot of water, while others saw their parked cars completely submerged.

I met up with Huang, our Chinese friend. He's also trying to renew his visa. He took

me to a Chinese restaurant – what a treat in the middle of Kinshasa! – and then on to a modern bar/nightclub (don't worry – I was back home by 9pm). Kinshasa has made some improvements recently.

I realised I was seriously running out of time for my visa. Like Babushka, my deadline was coming up, but the preparations continued. I was eventually able to get in touch with Brother Paul, from Caritas, who works with children accused of witchcraft.

"Don't worry," he assured. "The bishop will discuss your invitation letter, Tuesday morning at 8.15." "That's great!" I replied. "Will they send it to me the same day by email?"

"No, then it will have to go to the territorial administrator to be certified – and then it will be sent to you, and then you can submit it with your passport in Kinshasa."

I pondered the situation. If my visa expires while it's being processed in Kinshasa, I'll be stuck. If I have to return to England without a visa, I'll have to begin again from scratch – a process that could take several months.

While I'm sure there won't be snow in Africa this Christmas, I'm not sure if I'll be successful with my visa. Perhaps I'll be like Babushka, still in a never-ending circle of preparation. Have a great Advent!

•Support Francis' work in the Congo. Donate via PayPal type [PayPal.me/FHannaway](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.paypal.me/FHannaway) into your browser, or tap the link on his facebook page, or internet banking: Pay: Francis Hannaway, Ref: Congo, sort code: 40-33-01, account: 01172115.



Francis with the centre volunteers



Parishioners from The Sacred Heart Church in Hornsea raised £500 for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) with a French-themed social evening. Parishioners made food for a menu created by Leo and Maureen Murray who lived in France before moving to Hornsea.

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Jonathan, Matthew and Oliver are pictured with Canon David Grant after first Holy Communion at the Sacred Heart, Hornsea – photo by Gerry Quinn



Tim Harrison, choral scholars Hannah Perkin and Grace Oliver, Michael Wiles and Bishop Terry – Photo by Paul Bowen

# Choirs Celebrate Donation Success

**Bishop Terry led a service of thanksgiving for the work of the choir of St Mary's Cathedral. During the service, Michael Wiles, area representative of the Friends of Cathedral Music, made a donation in support of the cathedral's scholarship fund.**

In his presentation speech, Mr Wiles said: "It's a great pleasure to attend this service of solemn vespers and to present an endowment grant of £20,000 on behalf of Friends of Cathedral Music.

"The choir have sung beautifully and it is noticeable how it continues to improve under director of music Tim Harrison's skilful and enthusiastic leadership. It is very good to know that our grant will go towards funding two more choral scholars."

Music was sung by the choristers and adults of our cathedral choir and members of our diocesan choir. It reflected a huge range of style from plainsong through polyphony by Viadana and including contemporary choral works by James MacMillan, William Mathias and Tim Harrison.

Friends of Cathedral Music support choral foundations thanks to the generosity of its 4,000 members. If you would like to be involved in supporting music that enriches our worship, leaflets are available in the cathedral or you can join online at [fcm.org.uk](http://fcm.org.uk). For further detail, email [york@fcm.org.uk](mailto:york@fcm.org.uk).

# Bishop Commissions Hull Ship Visitor Keith

**Bishop Terry commissioned ship visitor Keith Rodgers during a Mass at St Charles Borromeo in Hull to commemorate the feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea.**

Keith, 74, has been a ship visitor with Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) since 2012 and boards ships arriving in the ports of Hull and Goole to support seafarers.

The Mass was attended by all the Apostleship of the Sea chaplains from the North East region as well as volunteers, supporters and parishioners.

In May 2016 Keith supported a 22-year-old Indian seafarer who sustained injuries at sea. The seafarer was hospitalised and Keith visited him almost daily and sometimes twice a day.

Keith put into action Apostleship of the Sea's local "emergency plan" and gave the seafarer a mobile phone so he could contact his parents, who initially didn't know what had happened to their son.

During many hours together Keith and the injured seafarer spoke about the young man's hopes and aspirations and helped to encourage him in his positive outlook. He left hospital in much better spirits.

Seven out of ten seafarers are estimated to be Catholic, coming from places like the Philippines, Poland and Goa. Apostleship of the Sea's network of port chaplains, ship visitors and volunteers provide spiritual and practical assistance to seafarers by being a friend in port.

Apostleship of the Sea celebrates its centenary next October and will hold its 25th world congress in Glasgow, where it was founded. Watch a welcome video at [youtu.be/5jzcs5ObbqI](https://youtu.be/5jzcs5ObbqI)



Bishop Terry with newly commissioned Stella Maris ship visitor Keith Rodgers and guests after Mass at St Charles Borromeo in Hull

## This Month's Clergy Anniversaries

Please pray for the following priests of our diocese whose anniversaries are during the month of December...

3	1925	Rev James Butler	Hull
4	1897	Rt Rev Mgr Thomas Witham	Lartington
7	1928	Rev Bernard Kelly	Grangetown
8	1938	Rt Rev Mgr Canon Bernard McCabe	Whitby
8	2000	Very Rev Canon Patrick Moynagh	Loughlinstown
9	1921	Rev Arthur Calvert	Holme-on-Spalding-Moor
9	1997	Rev Patrick Morris	Thurles
14	1931	Rev William McKernan	Staithes
15	1982	Rev Charles Wilde	Whitby
15	1968	Very Rev Canon William Clifford	Market Weighton
15	1980	Rev Gerard Bankes	Holme-on-Spalding-Moor
17	1934	Very Rev Canon Cornelius English	Bedale
23	1884	Rev Joseph Fisher	Hedon
24	1917	Rev Charles Van Pouke	York
24	1971	Very Rev Canon William Warmbold	Wycliffe
25	1950	Rev Patrick Fox	Hessle
26	1996	Rev David Cawkwell	Los Angeles
27	2004	Rt Rev Kevin O'Brien (Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus)	Middlesbrough

## From the Archives



### 50 Years Ago

*(From a letter from a parishioner of St John the Baptist's Church, Holme-upon-Spalding-Moor to Bishop McClean)*

"In token of the esteem in which the late Father Arthur O'Connor was held because of the courageous way in which he served this parish in spite of severe physical handicap, we thought it proper to perpetuate his memory.

A working committee has been formed and it has been decided to restore completely the Calvary in the Catholic cemetery on Holme Hill as a memorial to Father O'Connor.

The efforts of this committee are receiving generous support from Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The committee would feel itself greatly honoured to count its Bishop among the subscribers. They would also, even at this stage, like to invite you to perform the dedication ceremony during the late Spring of 1970."

### 100 Years Ago

*(From Hull Catholic Magazine, December 1919)*

**Important** – The Bishop has made known, through the Rural Deans, that the Holy Sea [sic] has remitted the law of Abstinence this year on Dec. 26th (Boxing Day)

David Smallwood

NEWS

# Jodie Helps Parish Protect Our Common Home



Jodie shows the CAFOD wall in the parish hall at Our Lady and St Edward's in Driffield

**While teenage activist Greta Thunberg has been capturing headlines for her climate change work, in our own diocese 14-year-old Jodie Lidster has been inspired by CAFOD's "Our Common Home" campaign to ensure her parish does everything possible to protect the planet...**

Hello! My name is Jodie, I am 14 and have been an altar server since I made my Holy Communion. Our church, Our Lady and St Edward's in Driffield, has people from all over the world, including Poland, China, Hungary, India, Philippines, Jamaica, Ireland and, of course, East Yorkshire! It's a very friendly parish we are a massive family.

Some of the things we are doing together include helping with food banks and sorting out the garden. Because many of our friends are old and frail and others have disabilities, we had a problem with the steps into our church. So we decided to raise money for a ramp to help people feel independent and welcome.

I chose to become a CAFOD junior volunteer because this year's campaign, "Our Common Home", is something I feel strongly about. I have learnt that CAFOD helps people become safer and free from bad experiences they have gone through.

Climate change is a big problem because we are killing all living things on the Earth, like trees, flowers and sea creatures. There is drought and flooding and people are suffering – and we don't know it's happened because we've done so much damage.

The world won't be the place we have grown up to love and to cherish. When we get rid of rubbish, does anyone think where it goes? I don't think so. It travels all over to the other side of the world just to be dumped in the poorest countries. It's not fair. What's even more unfair is that they have to walk through it just to look for food and drink. Enough!

I want to help. I want my parish to help me to help. We decided to work together – the gardening group, disabled access group and the children's liturgy group. With a lot of effort, we managed to explain to people about the "Our Common Home" campaign and we raised a little money and decided to share it between the disabled ramp and CAFOD.

We met and agreed a message to our parish, that we are hurting our planet and that we all need to take action. We wanted everyone to know they can help by recycling, reusing and not wasting food. We made a massive poster and now have a CAFOD wall in our church hall, which will be a reminder for people.

I talked to the children's group, showed the CAFOD video, "Caring For Our Planet", and played environment games. We also gave out CAFOD leaflets and three sisters made a marvellous banner.

I helped organise a plant and produce sale. When we asked the people from the parish for help, they came with local plants, vegetables and eggs from my grandma's chickens. People made jams from homegrown fruit and one of our young readers and her mum made biscuits, which sold so quickly. Everyone who bought was given a CAFOD thank you card for being "Zero Hero". I'm hoping this will be a reminder to them.

We got support from the children's liturgy group, who explained how we can all help in our own world. Our youngest church reader is seven and he taught us to recycle plastic to make bird feeders. Two young friends who recently made their first Holy Communion helped by making posters to show how litter can hurt and we have given the church hall recycle bins instead of putting everything into the landfill bin.

How to keep this good work going...

We will make a sign to remind everyone using the church hall to use the recycle bins.

We will talk to the church flower group about using locally grown flowers.

We will carry on working with the younger ones to keep sharing their good ideas about how each of us can care for our common home.

We will ask everyone in our parish to pray and also to take action by not wasting food, by reusing things or giving them to charity shops and to recycle as much as possible.

**To find out more about CAFOD's our Common Home campaign, visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Our-Common-Home>**

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## 'Listen, my son'

Rule of Saint Benedict

[www.buckfast.org.uk/vocation](http://www.buckfast.org.uk/vocation)  
[vocations@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:vocations@buckfast.org.uk)

Buckfast Abbey

God calls to us constantly, longing to guide those who yearn for life and desire to see good days into the way of peace. The Rule of Saint Benedict helps us to hear God's voice, in the Holy Scriptures, in the sacred liturgy and in our brothers in community. If you are a single man longing to live your Catholic faith in a way which brings great joy as it demands the best of you, consider whether God is calling you to be a Benedictine monk at Buckfast Abbey. Please reach out to us, and we will do all we can to help you.



Bishop Terry renewed his friendship with Father Anthony Chantry at our diocesan celebration to mark Extraordinary Month of Mission at St Mary's Cathedral. They first met in Kenya while Bishop Terry was working out there. Father Anthony is now the national director of Missio, England and Wales. Photo – Paul Bowen



## Curial Office Bids Farewell To Sharron and Martin

**Staff at the Curial Office gathered to say farewell to two long-serving colleagues.**

Sharron Driver, who served as a secretary in several departments, most recently assisting with work including liturgy and communications, has left to begin a Law degree at Teesside University.

Martin Russell, who many parishes will know through his work as gift aid officer in the finance department, has retired and his role has been taken up by Dan Woodgate.

Both were presented with gifts as a mark of our thanks and we wish them both all the very best for the future.

Meanwhile, Lisa Campbell is joining the finance department. Lisa brings with her significant charity accounts experience.

**Right: Curial Office staff with Sharron Driver fifth from the left and Martin Russell beside her at the back.**



## Mothers Visit Pioneering Camphill Village

**Members of the UCM foundation at the Holy Name of Mary in Middlesbrough were inspired to visit Botton Village in North Yorkshire after a fascinating and heartwarming talk.**

Alex Robertson, from the Camphill Village Trust, which provides care for adults with learning disabilities, explained that the movement was founded in Scotland in 1939 by Austrian doctor Karl Konig.

Botton was its first establishment and is now home for almost 100 adults with learning disabilities with its own farm, workshops and gardens. Alex brought items including wooden toys, woollen scarves, apple juice, vegetables and biscuits, all made by the clients.



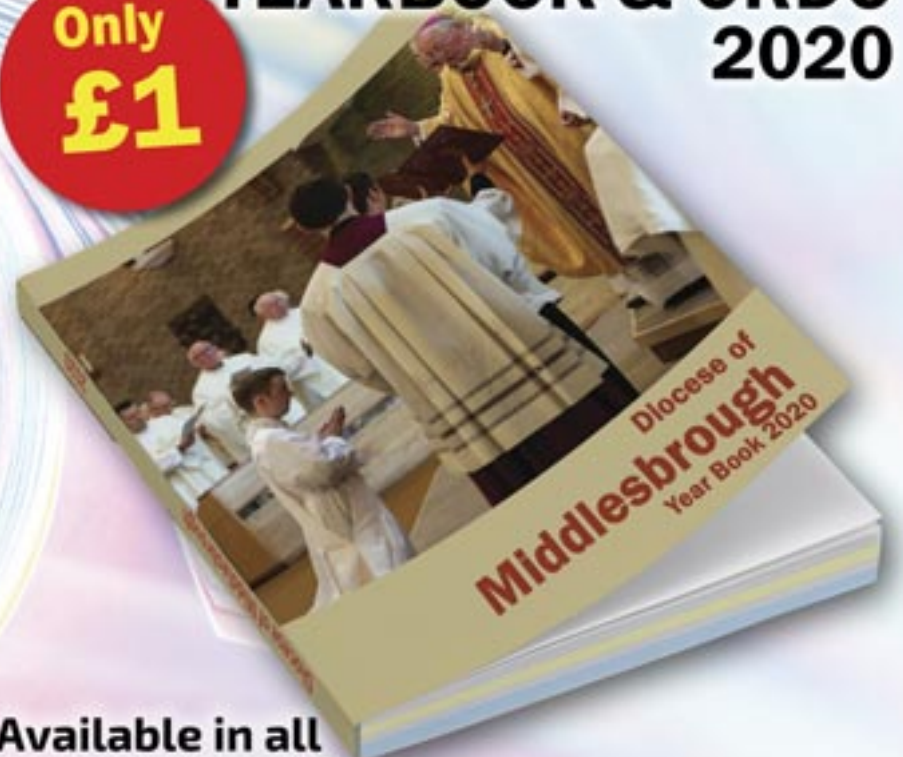
Guest observer David and guest speaker Alex Robertson with members of the Holy Name of Mary UCM



St Aelred's Union of Catholic Mothers joined the Carmelite Sisters at Thicket Priory for Mass celebrated by Father Bill Serplus

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**NEWS**

# Businesses Urged To Back Baby Hospice



Zoë's Place provided babies and children up to five with palliative, respite and end-of-life care

**Businesses are being urged to support their local baby hospice and tick their corporate social responsibility box at the same time.**

The call comes from Mark Guidery, general manager of Zoë's Place in Normanby, the only hospice in the North East dedicated to providing babies and children up to five with palliative, respite and end-of-life care.

With a growing number of companies integrating corporate responsibility programmes as part of their standard business practice, encouraging their workforces to be more conscious of their economic, social and environmental impact, Mark said supporting Zoë's Place provided the perfect opportunity for businesses and individuals to help make a difference.

"Nowadays more and more people are looking to give something back to the community," he said. "But with pressing schedules both at home and at work, many find it hard to set the time aside for charitable activities on top of everything else."

Mark said without the support of companies and their employees, the hospice would not be able to keep its doors open day and night, providing round-the-clock specialist

care to children with complex needs and their families.

He said more and more companies are realising the benefits of teaming up with a local charity and making a positive impact on its beneficiaries and the local community.

"We are committed to building partnerships with businesses that are mutually beneficial and socially responsible. By working in partnership with us, companies and their employees can make a real difference to babies and young children with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses, and also to their families."

Some companies introduce schemes allowing their employees to give to Zoë's Place through their payrolls. A regular giving account allows a donor to make monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annual donations of any chosen amount – usually £5 or above – to the hospice through its website.

Alternatively, Zoë's Place's lottery offers players over 16 the chance to win £25,000 every week, for just £1 and well-wishers can also help by leaving the hospice a legacy in their wills. To contact Zoë's Place log on to [zoes-place.org.uk/middlesbrough/contact\\_us.aspx](http://zoes-place.org.uk/middlesbrough/contact_us.aspx).



## New Leaders For FCJ Order

The Faithful Companions of Jesus have elected Sister Bonnie Moser as general superior for the next six years. Educated by the FCJs in Edmonton, Canada, Sister Bonnie entered the society in 1968, received a doctorate in educational leadership and was principal of FCJ schools in Calgary and Toronto. Sister Patricia Binchy, Sister Ruth Casey and Sister Judith Routier were elected to the FCJ general council. For more information visit [fcjsisters.org](http://fcjsisters.org). Our picture shows Sister Ruth Casey FCJ, Sister Bonnie Moser FCJ, Sister Patricia Binchy FCJ and Sister Judith Routier FCJ.

## Environment Corner

For this month, it seems appropriate to consider our celebration of Christmas in light of Pope Francis' encouragement to care for God's creation.

### Ethical Christmas Presents

There is much joy in the giving and receiving of presents. This year, more than ever, there are possibilities for sourcing ethically produced gifts – whether through websites or from local Oxfam and other Fair-Trade shops. CAFOD produces an attractive booklet of World Gifts ranging in price from £4 to £192 ([worldgifts.CAFOD.org.uk](http://worldgifts.CAFOD.org.uk)). Some make excellent stocking fillers. Home-made treats are also much appreciated and fun to prepare.



### Wrapping Paper

Apparently in Britain every Christmas we throw away over 200,000 miles of wrapping paper. Unfortunately, wrapping paper cannot be recycled because it is often laminated with plastic, foil or other non-paper materials. Some wrapping paper is very thin and contains few good quality fibres so is not suitable for recycling. Creative alternatives are to use brown paper – with colourful ribbons instead of sticky tape. Recycled paper and cards are available from [re-wrapped.co.uk](http://re-wrapped.co.uk).

### Christmas Cards

Sending and receiving cards is also a wonderful way of keeping in touch with those we rarely see and an essential source of funding for many charities. Consider using only charity Christmas cards and remember to recycle those received after Christmas.

### Christmas Trees

To cut down on plastic dependence and to offset carbon emissions, a creative way is to buy a living tree and keep it in the pot in the garden when not being used as a Christmas tree. Norfolk pines are suitable as they don't grow large. If this is not possible, many local councils will collect and compost your tree when you have finished with it.

Wishing you all a celebration of Christmas imbued with the joy of God's creation.

Justice & Peace Commission

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# Postgate Schools Gather For Welcome Masses

**Father Phil Cunhah celebrated two Welcome Masses for new year seven students from some of the family of schools within Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust.**

In Middlesbrough, Trinity Catholic College and St Pius, St Gabriel's, Sacred Heart, St Gerard's, St Augustine's, St Alphonsus, St Joseph's and St Clare's primary schools gathered at St Mary's Cathedral.

"A part of the celebration the schools they had just left – including pupils who will be joining us next year –were all invited to join

us as part of one big family," said Trinity's assistant head leading on Catholic life, Nic Smith.

Father Phil told them we have to look after each other, because that's what families do. St Peter's College and St Margaret Clitherow Primary School, both in South Bank, and St Mary's Primary School, in Grangetown, came to St Andrew's Church where Father Phil spoke about the need to be missionaries of charity within our schools.



These bright St Peter's pupils have all the answers



Trinity pupils wear their poppies with pride as they give out the Order of Service at the cathedral



Processing into the cathedral



Father Phil preaching



Music from the Mass at St Andrew's

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**NEWS**

# Marist Mission Under Threat In Thailand

**BROTHER JOHN McALLISTER SM** would like to thank all the parishes in the northern part of the diocese for generously supporting recent Marist Mission Appeals. As he tells us here, one of their projects needs special prayers at this time...

The Marist mission in Ranong, Thailand, has been supporting Burmese migrant children and families since 2006.

Recently an order was issued from Thailand's Department of Labour to search and scan all ten Burmese migrant learning centres and 32 Burmese migrant teachers were arrested and deported.

The Marist Asia Foundation decided to close its preschool and secondary education programmes to keep Burmese staff safe from the possibility of arrest.

Director of the mission Father Frank Bird said: "As we closed our doors, we went visiting the families and listening to their stories. They are struggling with not being able to go to work, as their children cannot go to school.

"Some children wander the streets, exposed to trafficking. We ask for your prayers and support as we continue our dialogue with the government and try to find a way to get our children back into the classroom."

The Marist Asia Foundation was invited to speak at a gathering of officials in Bangkok from the United Nations as well as the International Organisation for Migration, Save The Children, UNESCO, UNICEF, Help Without Frontiers, the European Union and staff from the Myanmar Embassy.

They wanted a report on the "Ranong Raid", as it has become called. Father Frank highlighted the challenges of Burmese teachers and students, particularly the problem of migrant learning centres not being recognised in law and Burmese migrants not being allowed to be teachers, which is a special reserved category of work.

Migrant learning centres play a vital role in educating the most vulnerable migrant children. There are more than 75 migrant learning centres supporting around 17,000 children – but an estimated 200,000 Burmese migrant children are currently not in education. We need to campaign at local and national level to support children's rights to education.

Thank you for all the help you have already given us. We ask for your prayers and support as we continue to speak to the government and try to find a way to get our children back into the classroom. We have seen children transformed by the gift of education to become leaders and teachers in their communities.

Please pray that as the Marist Mission works on the edges in Ranong, we can accompany our migrant families with Mary's compassion and strength. Education truly is the greatest gift that can be given to a migrant community. Education gives brighter futures.



Father Dominique Minskip with Dominic Jones during Brother John's visit to St Joseph's in Middlesbrough

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