



Bishop's Column

On July 7 I will have the privilege of being present at the Million Minutes' Celebrating Young People awards in the House of Parliament and I will have the great honour of presenting the St Josephine Bakhita award, for celebrating human dignity.

Young people are often seen and not listened to. They get shut out of decision-making, stereotyped, and scapegoated for society's problems. Young people's energy and vibrancy shouldn't be underestimated. They care about the future. They can change the future for the good of all.

Million Minutes wants to enable young people to be the ones to build a world based on the principles at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching – the principles of dignity and equality, of service to the poor and the oppressed, of care for the world and the promotion of peace and solidarity.

Also, please remember the Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly which falls on the weekend of July 23 and 24.

The Holy Father has also granted the faithful the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence on July 25 by devoting adequate time to actually or virtually visit elderly people in need or in difficulty (such as the sick, the abandoned, the disabled and other similar cases).

*I thank You, Lord,
for the comfort of Your presence:
even in times of loneliness,
You are my hope and my confidence,
You have been my rock and my fortress
since my youth!*

*I thank You for having given me a family
and for having blessed me with a long life.
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,
for the dreams that have already come true
in my life and for those that are still ahead
of me.*

*I thank You for this time of renewed
fruitfulness to which You call me.
Increase, O Lord, my faith,
make me a channel of your peace,
teach me to embrace those who suffer more
than me,*

*to never stop dreaming
and to tell of your wonders to new
generations.*

*Protect and guide Pope Francis and the
Church,
that the light of the Gospel might reach the
ends of the earth.*

*Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,
that the storm of the pandemic might be
calmed,*

the poor consoled and wars ended.

*Sustain me in weakness
and help me to live life to the full
in each moment that You give me,
in the certainty that you are with me every
day,*

*even until the end of the
age.*

Amen.

In blessed hope

+ Tony

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What a pilgrimage!

We returned to Lourdes this spring after a two-year break due to the pandemic. Was it worth the hours of planning, the heartache of "Can we go, can't we go?" and the final decision to go for it? Well, I can tell you that without question, it was!

From the moment we arrived at Teesside Airport at that unearthly hour of 3.30am on Monday morning thinking we will be first, and being overwhelmed that our youth had beaten us to it, to the time we arrived back at 8.30pm on the Friday, we were one big family. The care, consideration, help and love expressed to each and every pilgrim had to be seen to be believed.

During our week in Lourdes, our young people worked tirelessly caring for our supported pilgrims and growing in stature every day. There were only 28 of them, but I can tell you we had 28 giants. Never underestimate the ability of our young pilgrims. Their understanding, social skills and tired and aching bones were put to the test, but they passed with flying colours.

Our Hospitalité helpers, handmaids, brancardiers and medics were faced with different challenges this year, as we accommodated everyone in the hotels rather than the facilities in the Accueil Notre Dame.

There were no domestic duties for our Hospitalité, and they adapted the care needs to suit the situation. All worked as a team and were kept busy. What a fantastic group of people! It's a real privilege to work



Some of our young people taking part in the Torchlight Marian Procession, while our brancardiers help carry the statue of Our Lady – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes

alongside them all.

Bishop Terry and our clergy led us in a highly emotional and spiritual journey through the week.

It was strange to have Lourdes to "ourselves", the town and the domain being quiet compared to the normal pre-pandemic numbers and we were able to celebrate our

services in a more focused way.

The Mass at the Grotto was a particular highlight for us all, as this is normally celebrated with our friends from Birmingham, but again we were flying solo and our musicians did us proud.

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EXHIBITION | CHAPEL | CAFE
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NEWS

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Lourdes 2022: What a pilgrimage!

Unfortunately, not everyone was able to join us in Lourdes this year and we had to disappoint a couple of pilgrims in the latter days of our preparations as we could not guarantee the care they required. This was a devastating decision for them and us alike. For the pilgrims we left behind we arranged to stream a number of services on YouTube. They have been watched by more than 9,000 people and are still available to view.

The following is a little snip of one of our pilgrim’s posts on Facebook that I think sums Lourdes up – I hope the author doesn’t mind me sharing this little insight...

“The cost, the kids, the time off work, no one else I knew was going, Covid might stop it again anyway etc. Yet I kept getting this feeling, ‘You have to go!’ And so yesterday I stepped off the plane at Teesside Airport after spending five days in Lourdes working as a nurse – with the most amazing and inspiring people.

“‘How was it?’ people have asked. And I can’t quite find the words – I just know that I have come back so humbled, feeling loved, valued and part of something you really have to experience to understand. I’ve had the most personal and spiritual experiences this week that if anyone else had told me, I would have probably thought they’d made up.”

Thank you to all our clergy, supported pilgrims, pilgrims, hospitalité and youth for journeying with us. It really was a privilege to walk with you this year.

Please consider joining us for next year’s pilgrimage – our 70th – which will be from Friday May 26 to Friday June 2 2023.

Keith Tillotson
Pilgrimage Director

BISHOP TERRY'S JULY ENGAGEMENTS

5	Attends meeting of the Trustee Board at the Curial Office, Middlesbrough 10.30am
6	Celebrates Mass for Bishops Certificate of Catholic Teaching, York 10am
7	Attends the Million Minutes' Celebrating Young People awards, Houses of Parliament All day
10	Celebrates Mass at the Postgate Rally at Ugthorpe 3pm
12	Attends meeting of Bishop's Council at Bishop's House, Middlesbrough 10.30am
13	Attends meeting of Safeguarding Sub-committee, Curial Offices, Middlesbrough 10am
14	Attends meeting of Council of Priests, Curial Offices, Middlesbrough 13.30pm
16	Celebrates the diamond jubilee of Mother Mary of Carmel, Thicket Priory All day
17	Celebrates confirmation at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Market Weighton 10.30am

Join us as we celebrate our 70th!

The 70th Diocese of Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from Friday May 26 to Friday June 2 2023.

I just want to let people know that the interest already being shown in this pilgrimage is very exciting. We expect to have record numbers as we return to our normal pilgrimage plans, with Covid restrictions hopefully behind us.

As we experienced in Lourdes this year, the spiritual and social needs of our pilgrims are uppermost in our thoughts and we will plan for these requirements.

The committee and I will be having a short break after analysing this year's pilgrimage before starting to plan for 2023.

I hope to have details including prices as soon as possible and by the time the Relics of St Bernadette arrive in the diocese at the start of October, we should have booking forms available. I would recommend early booking to avoid any disappointment.

Applications will also be available soon for anyone to register their interest for 2023 as a supported pilgrim.

Keith Tillotson, Pilgrimage Director



Our handmaids and supported pilgrims taking part in the procession

It was so different, but it worked so well!

We made it! It was different – very different – and at times difficult, but I hope and believe we met those challenges head-on and made them work.

I think we all felt a little anxious as we approached our pilgrimage – I know I did. But once at Teesside Airport at 3.30am, with most of our Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust youth group already there, tired but excited, all those anxieties melted away.

As our supported pilgrims and pilgrims arrived, the chatter got louder and the hugs were delivered.

We arrived at the Elisio Hotel and soon settled in. It was lovely to be able to spend our days in the company of our supported pilgrims, having our mealtimes sitting among them, sharing our social time and, most importantly, in our services and liturgies. On a personal note, I did miss the Accueil – even all those domestic duties!

Our Hospitalité teams worked so well together, delivering care, support and company to our supported pilgrims and each other.

We laughed, we cried and we prayed together. It really was a special year.

This year we had with us for the first time two young brancs, Phil and Dan, and one young handmaid, Charlie, our granddaughter. I can't begin to tell you how amazing they were and how proud we are of them and, more importantly, how much they loved their roles. I'm sure they will be back year after year.

We also had the 28 young people from NPCAT, pupils from Trinity Catholic College, Sacred Heart Catholic Secondary, St Peter's Catholic College and St Patrick's Catholic College, along with six staff.

Every one of them worked incredibly hard, always with a smile, chatting with our supported pilgrims and taking part in the services. Their schools and their parents should be very, very proud.

I'm hopeful that our 2024 pilgrimage we will have lots of six-formers coming along and working as young handmaids and brancs.

Can I say a personal “thank you” to each and every handmaid on this year's pilgrimage,

especially our team leaders and deputies, leading their teams in difficult circumstances? You provided care and support to our supported pilgrims as you would to your own families. My thanks also to all those at home supporting us with your prayers.

I hope next year, our 70th, many more will be able to travel with us on our pilgrimage.

A huge “thank you” on behalf of our supported pilgrims for the lovely cards and bookmarks made by Mini Vinnies from St Clare's, Endsleigh Holy Child, St Patrick's and St Margaret Clitherow's primary schools and a group of St Augustine's secondary school pupils. I wish you could see their faces and hear the conversations as they received them.

We managed to smuggle in two beautiful celebration cakes made by Kate and Pat, which we cut on the occasion of the Queen's jubilee. All I can say is that we really enjoyed them! Thank you.

Like other years, we took beautifully knitted and quilted blankets and each supported pilgrim was given one at our pre-pilgrimage masses to put in their cases.

Although we had beautiful weather, they were very useful on the cooler nights in processions. Again, to each and everyone who took the time to create these blankets, thank you.

**Chris Tillotson
Head Handmaid**

Sunday August 14

at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace

PILGRIMAGE TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

- 2.30pm Rosary
- 3pm Mass
- Car parking available
- Lifts up to the chapel
- Refreshments
- Bring suitable seating

St Bernadette relics to visit our diocese

The relics of St Bernadette will be displayed at three venues within the diocese in October during what is being described as a “once-in-a-lifetime” tour of England, Scotland and Wales.

The organisers say it is an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes in a church or cathedral near them.

The relics will arrive at St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough at noon on Sunday October 2, leaving at 1pm the following day.

They will then be welcomed at Ampleforth Abbey at 1.30pm on Monday October 3, departing at 5pm the same day.

The relics will then return to our diocese at 7pm on Wednesday October 5, at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Peter Chanel Church in Hull, where they will remain until 7am the following morning.

It is hoped the tour will be as successful as the tour of the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux. Thousands visited St Mary's Cathedral when it remained open for the full 22 hours of their visit in October 2009 and in 2016 two relics of St Anthony of Padua were venerated there.

St Bernadette's relics will also be taken to a prison and several hospices and an ecumenical event will be held in Liverpool.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: “There are two objectives in this – one is to encourage people to come into church again and to enter into the spirit of the simplicity of Bernadette's life and openness to God.

“The second is obviously to enter into the practice of pilgrimages to Lourdes itself. The message of Lourdes is very remarkable.

“There is a certain turning on the head of contemporary priorities when you go to Lourdes that is strengthening and affirming for many people.”

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844, one of eight children in a very poor family. Although initially unremarkable, Bernadette's life was to inspire generations of people to journey in faith on pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Between February 11 and July 16 1858, Bernadette saw the Virgin Mary 18 times in a series of apparitions that took place in a cave now known as the Grotto of Massabielle, on the outskirts of Lourdes.

During these miraculous encounters, Bernadette, then aged just 14, became the friend and confidante of Our Lady.

The apparitions were authenticated in 1866 by the Bishop of Tarbes. In that same year, Bernadette left Lourdes to live out her religious vocation within the community of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers.

She stayed at the convent until she died, not leaving even to attend the opening of a new basilica at Lourdes in 1876.

She suffered grievously from asthma and tuberculosis and died aged 35 on April 16 1879. When her body was exhumed in 1909 it was found incorrupt, preserved from decomposition. She was canonised in 1933.

The tour will leave Lourdes on Thursday



Bishop Terry at the veneration of the relics of St Anthony of Padua at the St Mary's Cathedral in 2016

September 1 and return to the shrine on Tuesday November 1.

For full details, visit the special website, stbernadette.org.uk, which includes the tour schedule, the story of Bernadette and the apparitions, information about relics and

resources including prayers, liturgies and music.

We'll have more details of opportunities to venerate the relics in the three locations in our diocese in future editions.

Chorister earns place in top drama school

Former cathedral choral scholar James Oliver has won a place at the prestigious ArtsEd London, one of the top drama schools in the country.

James sang with the cathedral choir for a number of years, and is an active member of Middlesbrough Youth Theatre, which nourished his interests in all things musical theatre and dance.

In his time singing at the cathedral, James became familiar with a very different repertoire, and entered enthusiastically into all aspects of choir life, being an excellent bass.

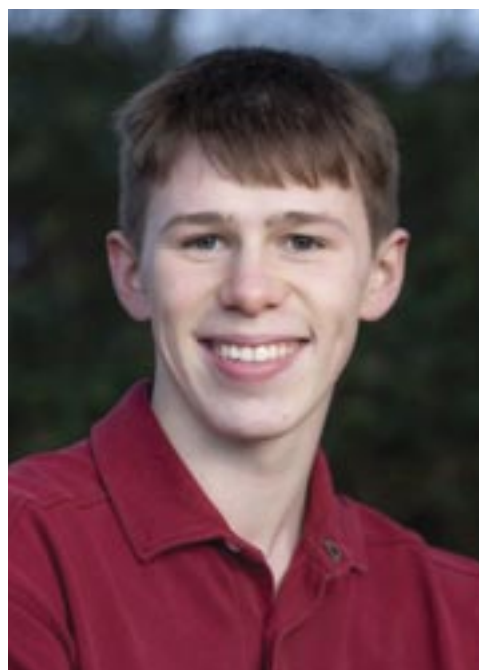
James said: “I'm so happy to have been offered a place at ArtsEd, it's my dream stage school. The choral experience I've had at the cathedral has really helped me develop and secure my singing voice and I've loved being part of this friendly choir.”

Cathedral and diocesan director of music Steven Maxson said: “We are all so proud of James and his achievements both here in Middlesbrough and in securing such a place at such a prestigious drama school.

“James and I only crossed over for two services, but even in that short time, it was clear to me that James was an excellent singer and a fine young man. Everyone here at the cathedral wishes James well.”

There are four funded choral scholarships at the cathedral, three of which are currently available, all designed to support people in education.

There are opportunities for alto, tenor, and bass scholars. Scholars receive lessons in voice or piano, and a small sum per term.



James Oliver has won a place at the prestigious ArtsEd in London

Former scholars have gone on to do many different things afterwards, with our most recent scholar before James currently studying at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London, including singing with the renowned chapel choir in the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

• **Anyone interested in finding out more should contact Steven at musicdept@rcdmidd.org.uk.**

A request for help

Pat McCamley travelled on a Jumbulance in April to help out on a trip to Lourdes, following a two-year absence due to Covid.

Pat, a group leader and nurse from the Isle of Wight, made the trip as a volunteer. Jumbulances are custom-built coach ambulances especially built to provide long-distance transport for people whose medical or physical condition makes normal methods of travel either impossible or impractical. They are used to provide transport from the UK to Christian pilgrimage centre to Lourdes in south-west France for the seriously ill and disabled. Priority is given to people with a terminal illness and those confined to bed or a wheelchair.

Pat said it was fantastic to be back in Lourdes with Across and that she always finds it humbling and so worthwhile to make a difference in the lives of others not as fortunate as she is.

These trips to Lourdes would not be possible without nurses, and Across would certainly welcome the help of any other nurse who wishes to be a travel volunteer.

The Jumbulance consists of 24 people, 10 of whom are sick or disabled. The other 14 are volunteer carers, nurses and/or a doctor and a chaplain, who all give their spare time freely and pay their own expenses.

For details of how to volunteer, call Lisa O'Connor at Across on 020 3542 1800, email contactus@across.org.uk or visit across.org.uk.

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Nurse & Helpers Needed

Across is a charity created specifically to provide transport to enable those with special care needs to go on pilgrimages to Lourdes. The charity also enables groups to organise holidays to other destinations in Europe for those with special care needs.

Dates Needed

18th - 27th August
1st - 10th September
8th - 17th September
29th Sept - 8th October
20th - 29th September

If you are interested in travelling with Across please call the office on: 020 3542 1800 Or Email: Pilgrimages@across.org.uk

REFLECTION

The life-giving ministry of encouragement

In the first of a special two-part reflection, Emeritus Bishop of Middlesbrough John Crowley looks back on significant encounters during his priesthood and how they gave him encouragement when he needed it most...

Every day as long as this day lasts keep on encouraging each other so that none of you is hardened by the lure of sin. Because we shall only remain co-heirs with Christ if we keep a grasp on our first confidence right to the end (Hebrews 3:13).

Having reached the 80-year mark, I find myself looking back on important conversations which strengthened and encouraged me over the years since being ordained priest in 1965. They happened at timely moments that helped shape my approach to pastoral ministry as a priest and later as a bishop.

This first took place within weeks of my first appointment to Holy Trinity Church, Brook Green. A parishioner called to see me because she wanted to suggest how I might think about preparing the Sunday homily. She was a marriage counsellor juggling a full-time job with her family responsibilities as a wife and mother of three children.

“At the moment I feel that I am doing neither well, and that depresses me,” she said. “As a result, I’m eating and drinking too much, so my morale is increasingly fragile.

“All of which means that when at Mass on Sunday, the last thing I need to hear is a moralising sermon peppered with oughts and shoulds.

“By all means, challenge me with the Gospel message, but what I need most is fresh hope and encouragement. That will enable me to win the battle against the depression which can at times overwhelm me”.

Fifty-six years on, her words remain etched in my memory whenever settling to the task of preparing a homily. It fills me with the desire to break the Scriptures open in such a way as to soften life’s many burdens with the light and joy of the Gospel.

Fast forward 21 years, and I have just been appointed auxiliary bishop to Cardinal Hume, with responsibility for Central London parishes. Tom McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood, shares with me some advice he had been given when first ordained a bishop.

“When I go to a parish, and especially during a formal visitation over a weekend, I try to keep four things in mind, all interconnected,” he said.

“Firstly, I strive to be fully present to the person or person I’m with, giving them my attention. However, secondly, I turn a blind eye to most things I hear or see which may not be to my personal taste, knowing that a constantly critical approach is bound to demoralise.

“But thirdly, situations might arise when, for the greater good of the parish, I must be prepared to challenge the status quo. Such confrontation is never easy, requiring a delicate mix of truthfulness and kindness.

“Lastly, and most important of all, I set myself to encourage a lot. My overriding desire is for all those I encounter during the weekend visitation to feel affirmed by my stay in their parish.”

What timely advice that was for a neophyte bishop, and six years later it certainly helped to focus my mind again for the task ahead, of sharing the joys and hopes, the fears and anxieties, of those in the North-East of England whose pastoral care had just been committed to my charge.

It is now 1996, four years since being appointed Bishop of Middlesbrough Diocese, and this morning I am visiting Father Ian Petit, a much-loved monk of Ampleforth, for my regular session of spiritual direction.

Today, my tale is largely one of woe. Nothing much has gone well since we last met, and I am feeling overburdened. Ian listens carefully as always, empathising with the pressures of episcopal ministry, but then he throws in a piece of advice to which I return very often. “When the setbacks that life throws up seem especially dispiriting, how important it is to inhabit the promises.”



Bishop John's golden jubilee celebrations at St Mary's Cathedral in 2015

It was that invitation to inhabit the promises that remains with me to this day. I still hear his voice naming some of them from the Gospel.

Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest—Matthew 11:28

I am with you always, yes, until the end of time—Matthew 28:20

I am the Vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in them will bear fruit in plenty—John 15:5

Father Ian had reminded me of a vital truth, that such promises given us by Truth Himself remain only for words on a printed page until they are breathed in, inhabited, at heart level.

• Part two of this reflection will be published in August's *Catholic Voice*.

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‘Outstanding’ report for ‘warm, welcoming, inclusive’ school

A Middlesbrough school described as “a haven where pupils flourish” is celebrating after being rated Outstanding in all areas in a glowing diocesan inspection report.

Inspectors said Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, on Cargo Fleet Lane, lives out its mission to “Love one another as I have loved you”.

“Corpus Christi is a warm, welcoming, inclusive school where all are valued, well respected and very well cared for,” the report says.

“The welcome from pupils, staff, and governors is warm and friendly and is a true sign of the excellent relationships which are a key strength of the school.

“The behaviour of the pupils is very good. Pupils and staff, parents and governors are all rightly very proud of their vibrant and inclusive school. Pupils speak of a deep sense of belonging.

“Staff strive to lead by example and have very high expectations of the pupils’ behaviour. As a result, the pupils’ behaviour is very good; they are polite, happy and very keen to share their love of learning and school.”

Headteacher Carolyn Baker said everyone at the school is delighted with the report, which affirms the hard work and commitment of staff, parents and pupils.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled, it’s amazing,” she said. “The first line about us being a



warm, welcoming, inclusive school is really important. We want to be a real strength in the community.”

Asked what makes the school so special, Mrs Baker said: “Every member of the team goes above and beyond what they’re asked to do and we’re a real community school.

“We have excellent behaviour and that’s all down to strong relationships, dedication, perseverance and wanting the very best for our children – we have the highest ambitions for every one of them.

“We’re very well supported by our families and that support is reciprocal. We look at what we can do for the whole family as well as for the children.

“We run parenting courses, an eco-shop and a credit union, and our parents are involved all the way through. We also help them with



Children from Corpus Christi in Middlesbrough, an “Outstanding” Catholic School

interviews, CVs and benefit advice.

“The parents help the children and also improve their own life chances in terms of qualifications and experiences and signposting them to further education, voluntary work and employment.

“The parish is also a massive part of our school. We’ve been so supported by Canon John Lumley, who really values our school and the part it plays in the community.”

Corpus Christi – which is one of 27 schools within Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust – is in one of the most deprived wards in England. It currently has 280 pupils and also offers a nursery and facilities for two-year-olds.

The report says pupils enthusiastically live out their faith, taking a leading role in fundraising activities such as the CAUSE Christmas hamper campaign.



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It’s never too early to get your child’s name down for a nursery place at an NPCAT school. We have Catholic schools across Teesside and North Yorkshire that offer places from as early as 2 years old. We are **one of the top performing trusts in the country** at Key Stage 2 - contact your local school and secure your child’s place with us today!

Our headteachers welcome visits to their schools at any time, please contact your local school directly to arrange. Find your nearest NPCAT school at:
npcat.org.uk/our-academies

NEWS

The many faces of family love

The 10th World Meeting of Families (WMOF) took place in Rome last month.

This year's theme was "Family Love: A Vocation and a Path to Holiness", with a focus on reaching out to families all over the world by celebrating WMOF in every diocese, linking these local events to those happening in Rome.

Masses were celebrated in each of the four deaneries in our diocese.

Over the next few months, we will be publishing personal stories from people in our diocese who have different experiences of family.

Our first family are the Wordsworths, Peter and Di and their children and grandchildren...

Can you give a brief description of your family and explain what makes your family tick?

Empty nest, retirement, becoming grandparents. All wonderful stages in life, which we have been lucky enough to embrace in the past decade. We met at university and married in our early 20s. Our children, now in their 30s, are married and both live within an hour's drive of us. In the past nine years we have been blessed with four grandchildren and we regularly provide childcare for our youngest two, who are aged three and four.

How do you demonstrate family love?

The essence of our family has always been based on love, honesty and trust. Hugs, kisses and physical contact, which we found so hard to lose during the lockdowns, have always been very important to us.

What are the challenges and the rewards/high points in your family?

In the late 1990s we decided to escape the rat race in Surrey and relocated our family back to Middlesbrough. This was quite a challenge – changing jobs and moving our children at the ages of nine and 10. We are now a retired married couple. Our children left the nest very early compared to many



families nowadays and we have had a few years on our own rediscovering the joys of "coupledom". Life has had its challenges in recent years, including caring at a distance for two parents in their 90s. However, these challenges are far outweighed by the joy of being a grandparent.

How does God's love show itself in your family and what helps you get through the difficult times?

Providing regular childcare to our grandchildren is tiring, but also a real joy and a privilege. We plan our other commitments around it and due to shift work, the days and times of childcare vary from week to week, so planning our diaries can be complicated. However, having a four-year-old run through your door shouting "Grandma!" at the top of their voice and desperate for a hug, is to us, God's love in action. Knowing we are loved and trusted, no matter what, by our grandchildren, is a demonstration of how God loves us.

In what ways do you think family life is a vocation or a "way to holiness"?

We chose married life in our 20s and feel it is very much a vocation. Sharing your life with someone is a huge privilege and blessing, but also involves sacrifices and a big helping of selflessness. We have survived so far by talking openly and honestly with each other, especially when life has thrown challenges at us. We also never go to sleep on an argument. We are lucky enough to have wonderful support from a wider network of friends and extended family. We have also



Peter and Di Wordsworth with their grandchildren

been members of an international group for married couples called Teams of Our Lady for over 30 years, which has been a huge

support to us. In times of crisis and severe illness, knowing all these people are praying for us, has been a source of great comfort.



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Out & About will return next month.

A Letter From Madonna House – A broken heart

Well, the day finally arrived. The day I had been trying to prepare for. The day I knew would break my heart. And so it did.

When I joined Madonna House, I promised



to live in poverty, chastity and obedience. Our way of life brings joy and beauty, but not without struggle. And I did struggle on the day I was given my next obedience: Arise from this beloved house in England and go! We have a 12-year limit for directors in a particular house, and my time is up. So it was not a surprise, but it still broke my heart.

God's will brims over with grace and love, so I know blessings will come with this move – for myself, and for our apostolate in England. But my humanity keenly grieves the loss of all that I have loved in this country – the sheer delight of gambolling lambs, the joyous beauty of daffodils strewn with abandon along the verges of each village, bluebells secretly adorning hidden woods, the faithful sea, at times hiding a whole world in its depths, and other times depositing treasures on the shore for children to find with wonder.

Treasures are strewn all through this

northern region. I will never forget the train ride from York when I first landed in England. Glancing out of the window, my eyes popped out of my head: there, in a field, were spectacular ruins of an abbey, a silent testament to monastic fidelity from another era. That treasury of faith breathes through the land to this day.

This history and culture, so rich in suffering and amazing accomplishments, has led to a palpable resilience, courage, willingness to sacrifice for others, which moves me deeply. No wonder Captain Tom was such a hero for us.

How I will miss our lovely home which catches glimpses of the sea and is regularly serenaded by all kinds of songbirds...our lush garden with flowers in profusion and vegetables for our table... the exquisite rhythm of life we've been able to fashion, with ample time for prayer, community life and vigorous apostolic outreach.

But of course, it is the people I will miss the most: you, our diocesan family, who've been so generous in welcoming us into your hearts, seekers from all over England and beyond who've come to our house on retreat, desiring peace and a deeper love with God, our neighbours, the many who ring or write, asking for prayers. I've become so deeply embedded in the life and heart of this country, I cannot imagine leaving. And yet, leave I must in September.

You know, a broken heart is a beautiful thing, a testament to love. Only a heart that is open and in love can be broken. Jesus' own heart was broken and pierced and from that wound flowed grace upon grace for us.

So I offer you my heart, broken in love for you. A heart that carries you with me, that will forever love you and hold you before the Father.

Cheryl Ann Smith

A synod for the world



Keynote speaker Jenny Sinclair at our synod day

The synod on synodality is not only about saving the Church, it's about saving the world, speaker Jenny Sinclair told a gathering of clergy, laity and religious at St Mary's Cathedral.

The founder-director of Together for the Common Good – a charity dedicated to revitalising churches so they can fulfil their role in spiritual and civic renewal – was the keynote speaker at our diocesan Synod Day in May.

The day marked the completion of the diocese's first step in becoming "synodal", part of the listening process underway in the worldwide Catholic Church.

Children from St Benedict's Catholic Primary School and North East Opera provided musical food for thought and Bishop Terry and synod contact team members Sue Westmacott and Pat McBride both spoke to set the scene for the day.

Jenny's talk, A Synod for the World, was divided into three parts. In the opening session, she spoke about her background in the Anglican church as the daughter of David Sheppard, the former Test cricketer who was Bishop of Liverpool from 1975 to 1997.

He and Catholic counterpart Archbishop Derek Worlock forged a friendship and public partnership at a time when the city was riven by sectarianism, high unemployment and unstable local politics.

Jenny was estranged from the Church in her teens but had a conversion experience when she was 26 and became a Catholic.

Together for the Common Good was set up 11

years ago and draws on Catholic Social Teaching and works across the Christian traditions. Jenny said some Catholics have responded to synodality more in fear than in hope, fearing change – or no change – while others dismiss it as a waste of time. "But this diocese is one of those who have taken it to heart," she said. "I think you will know that synodality is much more than an ecclesial exercise or a battleground where issues are contested," she said. "Being synodal is not about political issues – progressive or conservative. It is about developing a posture of listening to the Holy Spirit together."

She said it was vital that the key findings from the listening phase of our synodal journey are grasped and play a part in the future of the diocese.

She spoke about the decline of the Catholic Church in the West and tensions between the liberal and traditional wings and the "social activist" and "evangelism" wings of the Church.

But she said this is also a time of opportunity.

"Catholic Social Teaching can help us recognise when social and cultural systems are dehumanising," she said. "It can help us to be politically literate about what is going on in a way that is aligned with our faith,

avoid the risk of mission drift and the corrosive influence of secular ideologies.

"It teaches that neither human beings nor nature should be commodified, and that capital has a tendency to do exactly that.

"But Catholic social thought is not an anti-capitalist ideology. Rather, it transcends left and right. "The pandemic brought our troubles into sharp focus, but they are not new. We are in the middle of a very deep spiritual malaise, driven by forces corroding our civic life for over 40 years, with deeper roots going back at least two centuries.

"The family, community and place have all been undermined," she said. "The era of individualism – active on both the left and the right – has been hostile to human beings.

"The unravelling happening now is marked by breakdowns in trust, political polarisation between post-modernism and conservatism, social fragmentation, inequality and symptoms of distress, rises in loneliness, addiction, self-harm, depression and nihilism.

"The churches have been vulnerable to this assault too and have not known how to resist.

"Our domestic politics are in a protracted period of realignment, no longer a matter of the old left and right: both parties are incoherent and failing to resonate with the majority of the population who are a long way from Twitter, Westminster and political activism. "All of this impacts communities and real life. All the more reason for us, the Church to get our act together.

"However, the Church is not well prepared. Many Catholics still don't know the reality of the Holy Spirit in their lives. But the synodal culture is a way to correct this. Some of you here will have experienced the unmistakable gentleness of the Spirit and you will know what I mean."

Jenny said the next steps in the synod process are vital and should be both inward-facing – focusing on our own formation as "church" – and outward-facing, to the neighbourhood, and each other.

"It's clear that God is working among you and that change is more likely to come from the grassroots, more bottom-up than top-down," she said.

She suggested that parishes could start by drawing a map showing all local institutions – businesses, other churches, charities, clubs and shops – and ask how well we are connected.

"Who do we know? Where are our blind spots? How will we connect with our neighbours? For example, could we pray for local business owners or invite them for a regular breakfast? There are lots of ideas you will come up with."

The full text of Jenny's talk can be found on the diocesan website, and you can watch her talk and other key events from the day on our diocesan YouTube channel.

Find out more about Together for the Common Good at togetherforthecommongood.co.uk.

Who took part in our diocesan synod?

Contributors to the synod consultation came from people of all ages and all backgrounds from across the diocese.

- More than 40 parish communities responded to the invitation to enter into the consultation process.
- The following apostolic groups responded: Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission; LGBT+; Mustard Seed Group; People marginalised through poverty, addiction, seeking refuge; Society of St Vincent de Paul; York Circle of the Newman Association; York Camino Group; Young Christian Students of England and Wales; members of the following prayer groups: Divine Mercy Apostolate; World Apostolate of Fatima England & Wales, Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Group; Pro-Life Group; Charismatic Renewal; Sycamore Group.
- The following Religious Orders in the diocese responded by holding a day on the synod for religious: Benedictines (Abbot) of Ampleforth; Benedictines – Stanbrook Abbey; Carmelites – Thicket Priory; Congregation of Jesus – Bar Convent; Corpus Christi Carmelites; Marists – Hull; Sisters of Mercy.
- Eighteen people responded as individuals.

The Diocese of Middlesbrough is grateful to all those who have responded to this stage of the synod process.

All the feedback can be provided in a zipped folder upon request by emailing adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk or calling 01642 850505.

The Middlesbrough Diocesan Synod Contact Team

The Bishop of Middlesbrough, the Rt Rev Terence Patrick Draine

Kate Bailey, diocesan co-director of schools

Deacon David Cross, parish deacon and adult formation coordinator

Father Phillip Cunnah, parish priest, diocesan youth chaplain and coordinator of school chaplaincy

Terry Doyle, member of Meditatio and worker with people on

the margins

Pat McBride, retired teacher and a founder member of the CAUSE Foundation

Michael McGeary, diocesan communications officer

Dr Emma Morrison, junior doctor

Canon Derek Turnham, parish priest, episcopal vicar for missionary communities and diocesan synod contact person

Susan Westmacott, parish pastoral assistant



Deep in discussion at our synod day

SPECIAL SYNOD SUPPLEMENT



Deacon David Cross speaking at the synod day

OUR PARISH CONSULTATION

– The diocesan synthesis in full

INTRODUCTION

Our diocese has embarked on the synodal journey, some of us with initial anxiety but then with increasing hope and enthusiasm.

However, there are some who have not yet engaged with it, perhaps because they doubt that the Church is really listening or open to change.

Bishop Terry appointed our diocesan contact person and then gathered a small team for a first meeting online in July 2021. In a series of meetings, we gradually enlarged the team to include two members who work with people on the margins of society, two who work in schools and one young adult. By October we were a team of 10.

The contact team invited parish priests to appoint two parish coordinators for each parish and set up two training days, one (in October) for priests and the second (in early November) for parish coordinators together with the leaders of apostolic organisations. Both days included a time of prayer and Exposition as well as background information about the Synod. We adopted the method of spiritual conversation on the Jesuit model,

showing a video of this at the training days and giving an opportunity to try it in small groups.

Both training days had an encouraging sense of enthusiasm, even excitement, about the journey we were beginning.

Parishes were then left to set up Synod conversations in whatever way seemed best to them. We held a Zoom catch-up meeting in mid-January for parish coordinators and parish priests and were encouraged by their continuing enthusiasm for the process and the progress made. There was a wide variety of approaches.

Conversations were held in two-thirds of the parishes of the diocese and apostolic organisations, including the LGBT+ Ministry.

A Synod Day was convened for religious, with eight different orders represented. Some people from the margins in Middlesbrough were invited to give their contributions. Around two-thirds of the Catholic schools in the diocese held conversations between staff, students and/or parents. At least two parishes held a Synod conversation with local ecumenical leaders.

Some parishes also used questionnaires in an

effort to reach more people, and a few individuals submitted responses directly. We gave more weight to the fruits of group conversations, where people have listened to the Holy Spirit and each other.

There is a great diversity of views: some favour the Tridentine Mass, some advocate the ordination of women. Most contributions seem mature and well-balanced.

There is some dissatisfaction with the Church as it is, but a hopeful and encouraging openness to change. A few however are fearful of change.

Overall, the synodal journey is seen as an exciting opportunity. Many were surprised to discover the power and freedom of a spiritual conversation. Listening and speaking to each other under the guidance of the Holy Spirit proved joyful, liberating and encouraging.

Some priests have not responded to invitations to take part in the synodal process. This may be because they are tired and busy, although some priests (and some laity) are sceptical about being listened to or of anything changing.

Some priests deliberately didn't take part in their parish conversations for fear their

presence would influence people's freedom to speak out.

Priests should be able to take part in conversations alongside their parishioners, but we appreciate that this could affect both the dynamic and the outcome.

Our synodal journey so far has taken place after two years of the coronavirus pandemic. Covid has brought obvious sadness and suffering, with many people losing family or friends and some unable to visit the dying or attend funerals.

Many have missed seeing family members and mixing with friends, and there are some who have been, and still are, isolating.

The residents of care homes have suffered particularly from the prohibition of visitors. However, there were some surprising benefits: the live streaming of Masses; the intimacy of online media for social contact and prayer; it showed people what's important in their lives; it enabled at least the stewards in parishes to get to know people by name and so give a better welcome; an increased willingness and ability to meet by video conference.

MAIN THEMES

Welcome and Community

Many parishes are friendly, welcoming communities, though some say they would like to know more people's names. The pandemic brought together those who were able to come to Mass, giving a sense of camaraderie. Because we had to keep a list of attendees at Mass, the stewards got to know and welcome people by name.

There is sadness that some haven't yet felt able to return to Mass, and concern to find ways to include them fully in the parish.

Many parishes mention a determination to be ever more welcoming and inclusive. They express concern for groups of people who may have experienced exclusion, such as those who are disabled, divorced and remarried, LGBT+ and those who suffer mental health problems or homelessness.

Relationships within parishes are nurtured by a variety of spiritual and social events, many of which are just starting up again after the pandemic. We also get to know each other when working together, even on something as mundane as cleaning the church. A desire is expressed for new groups and different events to build the community.

Communication

There are calls for improved communication within parishes and in the diocese and, indeed, throughout the Church. People want to know how and why decisions are made and where their money is going. This would help them to feel involved in the community and enable all the baptised to share in responsibility for the Church.

Children and young people

There is widespread concern about the lack of children and young people at Mass in our parishes. The busy lives of parents with young children, often with both parents working, make it difficult for families to take a full part in the parish community. There is a proliferation of sports and other activities for children taking place on Sunday mornings. Improving the links between school and parish are suggested, both inviting schools to participate in a parish Mass and priests and parishioners going into schools. Parishes struggle to hang on to young people after their Confirmation. We hope to use their strong sense of social justice to engage them in social action through their parishes.

Formation needs

A widespread desire is expressed for more formation, both spiritual and cognitive. Parishes express a need for input on prayer and scripture, as well as Church teaching. There are suggestions for more small groups to meet to share scripture and prayer. Formation and training will be needed for lay people so they can take on some of the responsibilities currently born by priests.

Through Synod conversations, people are discovering the benefits of listening to each other in small groups and communicating on a deeper level than in normal social interactions. Some would like help to develop their listening skills.

Parish priests and lay responsibility

There is great appreciation for our priests and for the increasingly complex job they do. Many of them are ageing, while also taking on extra responsibilities as their numbers reduce. Parishioners express a willingness to

take on more responsibility for the running of parishes. They would love their gifts to be used and valued. Appropriate training will be needed for many roles. We expect those who have taken the online Certificate in Pastoral Ministry will be able to contribute greatly to their parishes.

The role of women in the Church

Women's voices should be heard more in the Church and women's gifts appreciated and used to enrich the Church.

In society outside the Church, including business, politics and law, it is widely recognised that organisations benefit when leadership is shared between men and women.

One of our women religious pointed out that at present the Church is losing out on the gifts of women by not including them in leadership. Even when women are in roles of responsibility and leadership, there is often a lack of visibility.

At the time of writing, Pope Francis has just announced a change in the organisation of the Roman Curia, so that women can hold positions of high leadership, and this is welcomed.

Reaching out to the margins

Many parishes express a desire to go to the margins of the Church and society, as advocated by Pope Francis. However, they frequently say they don't know where to start. The diocese has produced a set of simple suggestions for parishes, to encourage this reaching out as one form of evangelisation. It puts a big emphasis on making everyone feel welcome.

Two members of the Contact Team have considerable experience of working with people on the margins of society: users of food banks, refugees and asylum seekers,

people living with addiction and homelessness. Some of the ideas of these people are included.

There is a monthly Mass in York at which explicit welcome is made to the LGBT+ community, their friends, and supporters. This attracts both Catholics and non-Catholic Christians, some coming from as far away as Manchester and Newcastle. The results of their Synod conversations are included.

Many in the community have known the experience of judgment and exclusion, which gives them a strong desire for social justice. They ask the Church to look again at its teachings on sexuality, gender and homosexuality in the light of modern scientific understanding.

They see doctrine as dynamic rather than static. Some have lived through the Aids crisis of the last century and are familiar with the fear and loss a pandemic can bring.

Pope Francis wants us to serve those most in need, like a "field hospital that takes in the weakest people and the infirm. Jesus calls us to look after these wounded people, to support them and to heal them". To do this we must become genuinely more welcoming and inclusive, listening with compassion, giving our full attention, particularly to those who feel marginalised and excluded for any reason. This can be a moving and healing experience for all concerned.

During the lockdowns, when our Church buildings were closed, we had to find new ways of "being the Church", supporting our most vulnerable out in the communities. Now more of us want to learn to take our faith and our Gospel values out to wherever people are – to take the Church to the margins and not just wait for the marginalised to come to the Church buildings.

Continuing synodal process

There is an appreciation of the benefits and

joy of listening to each other and a desire for the synodal journey to continue. The parishes and the diocese will need to learn to work in a synodal way, with improved communications.

Calls for change in the wider Church

There is a desire to follow the example of Jesus in the inclusive welcome we give to people, not being overly concerned about rules. One person said: "The Church needs to lighten up, liven up and simplify." The handling of issues such as contraception, abortion, divorce and remarriage, sexuality and gender and ecumenical inter-communion is seen by many as damaging, both to the people concerned and to the credibility of the Church. We want to welcome people and accompany them with compassion.

There is a call for a clearer demonstration of hierarchy as service to all in the Church. Can we separate authority from ordination and from maleness? Can we have more lay leadership and responsibility, for both males and females? Can we have both married priests and women priests? These are controversial issues and there is a diversity of views.

The Eucharist is central to who we are as a Church, and there is a perceived need for more priests. Some suggest we have married priests and women priests; others disagree. Other suggestions are to allow a time-limited commitment to the priesthood; to shorten the training in seminaries; to broaden priestly formation to include more human sciences.

Strong feelings are expressed about the scandal of clerical sexual abuse, and the damage and pain inflicted on victims. Undoubtedly some people have left the Church because of this. And as a result, many feel the Church now lacks moral authority.



Father Ivan Dawson speaking in one of the breakout groups

SPECIAL SYNOD SUPPLEMENT

SYNOD PROCESS IN OUR SCHOOLS

Let the Children Come to Me

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” (Mark 10:11-13)

Context of Feedback

Thirty-three schools (about two-thirds) submitted synod feedback: all our secondary schools (eight) and 25 primary schools (nine in the northern area of the diocese, nine in the central area and seven in the southern area).

Process

The process was conducted in a range of different ways – discussions, spiritual conversations, surveys and questionnaires. Some engaged large groups and some smaller groups. In most instances the contributions of parents, students and staff were collected. Parent engagement was generally not high.

The students who did participate were so keen to share their thoughts and the spiritual conversations were done with such integrity, I was delighted with the process and outcome. Sixteen students came forward in total, from both RC and C of E backgrounds, so we had two sessions of eight students. I was astounded by how respectful the students were and how well they embraced the spiritual conversation; they listened to one another so attentively and with such kindness. It was a wonderful thing to do, and I hope we can continue meeting like this upon occasion.—Secondary school

The voice of the young people

What has the pandemic highlighted for young people?

Responses include anxiety, confusion and a sense of loneliness or disconnection, particularly from friends and family. Death, loss and grief have become all too real to even very young children. In a few cases, there was happiness at spending more time

as a family as parents worked from home. Many young people have missed out on opportunities through school and community. There is an added stress of feeling the pressure to catch up because they are behind academically.

Life as a young person

Children’s experiences are generally positive. Especially in the younger age bracket, the word “fun” was often used. School was also described as a safe place. In some cases, their experience used words like awful or lonely. The online world is a big part of their lives, and it is recognised that this has positive and negative elements. Looking to the future, young people have both a global and a personal outlook. Globally, they desire an inclusive, welcoming society that seeks to tackle big problems such as ecology and the pandemic. Personally, they hope for jobs and good relationships with friends and family. Thinking about the future also produces anxiety for many.

The Church – experiences and hopes for the future

Within the Church, children want to be listened to and to take part. Many, particularly at primary level, described a relationship with God and find that prayer helps them. Some used words like peace or community when thinking of Church and there were other positive comments.

Many young people do not feel part of the Church and describe a disassociation or a lack of connection. It is perhaps something they are familiar with in school but not in parish life. Some parts of the Church feel inaccessible to them, like the relevance of some scripture or the rigid, formal nature of the liturgy.

Older children want more opportunities to explore and discuss faith rather than simply have faith “done to them”. Younger children find the priest uses too many tricky words.

Children enjoy the Catholic Social Teaching/faith in action element and respond well to the need to help others. Many of the older ones want more opportunities to connect with those in need but rules and regulations often hinder them.



Another of our breakout groups, with Carol Cross speaking

The experience of a student with special needs is highlighted – his experience of Mass allows him to feel like he belongs and is the same as others.

Parents, governors and staff voice

Ideas emerging about their experiences of Church and the future Church.

In many cases, there is a sense of dissatisfaction with the Church. On one level, it is felt that themes of welcome, equality and inclusivity need to be more central. There is a mood that the Church needs to move with the times, with married priests, the place of women in the Church and an openness to the divorced and remarried. Another comment calls for the Church to be more open and honest.

At another more local level, comments are made that not all priests sing off the same hymn sheet. There is fear for the future of the local parish, with fewer young parishioners and fewer priests. There is a desire to do more to confront this.

It is felt that the schools are doing a lot to continue the mission of the Church and the children can relate to their faith in the school context but not when it comes to Church – the parish needs to do more outreach in

order to build the bridge. In the past, faith was passed from one generation to the next. This is not happening in the same way now, and work needs to be done on making faith relevant to the young people, so they can make it their own.

In some cases, responses are positive toward the local Church and there is gratitude for the work of local clergy. There is a desire to focus on the joy of the gospel.

The responses include some personal experiences of Church. In Mass, parents with young ones feel under pressure to make sure children behave, destroying the experience for them. Some feel strongly hurt by the Church’s response to their personal circumstances. One family shared that a priest refused the burial of a relative because the person committed suicide.

For school staff, including non-Catholics or Catholics who do not attend church, school provides a context for journeying together in growing closer to God, in a situation where they feel more comfortable than in church. In singing together we feel a sense of being a strong Catholic community. Praying together provides a sense of safety. They value the time given to prayer in school, which gives them – as adults – space for this contemplation.—Primary school

CONCLUSIONS

Much of the feedback from parishes concerns issues that can be put in hand locally and without delay, within the parish. The parochial is what touches people immediately. Lay people can be empowered to make things happen within their parish, but their activity needs to be coordinated.

This has been the role of the parish priest, but it is recognised that already not all parishes have a resident priest, and this will be the case for more parishes very soon. Alternative structures of oversight will need to be put in place.

Relationships between clergy and lay people need to change from the “Father-knows-best” mentality. Lay people must be given (and take) their full dignity as baptised Christians and enabled to “grow up” and play their full part in the Body of Christ. This will require both clergy and laity to adjust their expectations. The role and visibility of women in the parishes, the diocese and the wider Church should be reviewed.

Formation needs

There is a call for more adult formation, with input on prayer, scripture and Church teaching. There will also be a need for training in various responsibilities that have previously been taken by parish priests.

Many tasks can readily be done by trained lay people, leaving priests to focus on what they were ordained to do.

These include health and safety, safeguarding, catechesis, technology, care and maintenance of buildings, financial management, as well as pastoral matters, including some funeral ministry.

Training is needed to empower those within our parishes who wish to get involved in more active outreach to people on the margins.

This would enable us to serve those who need us the most, and at the same time build our Church community.

We hope to explore at both parish and diocesan level the almost universal difficulty of attracting and keeping children and young people in our parishes. Bridging the gap between our schools and parishes is vital to this endeavour.

Evangelisation is hardly mentioned, despite a diocesan event before the pandemic focusing on our all being missionary disciples.

We need to foster an encounter with Christ for everyone, so all are empowered to go out and share the Good News.

We want all the baptised to take ownership of the Church and to move towards a model of co-responsibility.

We want to promote synodal working and improve transparency and communication throughout the Church.

It is important that the parishes and the Diocese are seen to respond to the ideas voiced locally in the Synod, and quickly.

For the Universal Church

The Church can use the synodal process as an opportunity to explore again some of the difficult areas of its teaching. Look at what the priesthood is for, and consider new structures where priesthood is not essential for leadership. Promote the dignity of all the baptised, so that lay leadership and women’s leadership become normal in the Church.

This may or may not eventually lead to the ordination of women as well as men. All leadership in the Church should be seen as ministry, as modelled by Jesus when he washed the feet of his disciples.

Theological questions about sexuality, gender and identity should be openly re-examined in the light of modern scientific discoveries and of the lived experiences of people of different sexualities and gender identities. The Church must welcome and celebrate humankind in all its wonderful diversity.

+ Terence Patrick Draine
Bishop of Middlesbrough, April 4 2022

NEWS



DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH

ANNUAL
PILGRIMAGE TO
WALSINGHAM

Led by Bishop Terry

Saturday 8 to Sunday 9 October 2022

If you wish express your interest in booking a place or receive further information about the pilgrimage, please contact Dawn Cummings at bishopsecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk.

Please advise on your room and travel requirements. As usual, it is anticipated there will be coach pick-ups in Middlesbrough and York (not Hull).

Please remember in your prayers the following clergy from our diocese whose anniversaries are this month. They are listed here along with their final resting place.

1	1967	Very Rev Canon Michael Deehan	Grangetown
1	1984	Rev Geoffrey Cooper	Middlesbrough
1	2020	Rev William East	Maidenhead
2	1928	Very Rev Canon Thomas O'Connell	Scarborough
2	2004	Very Rev Canon Garvan O'Hara	Whitby
3	1958	Rev Christopher McCormack	Filey
3	1986	Rev Patrick O'Hara	Pocklington
5	1927	Rev Henry O'Rourke	South Bank
5	1953	Rev Arthur Mercer	Scorton
6	2001	Rev Christopher Keating	Redcar
6	2006	Rev Edward Scales	Middlesbrough
7	1885	Very Rev Canon Joseph Molloy	Whitby
9	1898	Rev Francis Nelson	Brough Park
12	1880	Rev Thomas Middleshurst	Malton
14	2005	Rev Tom Hunter	Middlesbrough
16	2000	Rev Philip Keily	Co Tipperary
21	1900	Rev Lawrence McGonnell	Thirsk
21	1925	Rev Patrick McKernan	Malton
21	1999	Rev Gerard Smyth	Middlesbrough
21	2004	Very Rev Canon Joseph O'Mahony	Scarborough
22	1967	Rev James Cormack	Middlesbrough
23	1934	Very Rev Canon Albert Gryspeert	Redcar
27	2001	Rev Michael Boyd	Newry
28	1935	Rev Prosper Coppin	Hull
29	2014	Rev Thomas O'Connell	Scarborough
30	1979	Rt Rev Mgr John O'Mahoney CBE	Scarborough
31	1940	Rev Robert Currie	Brough Park

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STELLA MARIS

10th July is Sea Sunday.

Please pray for seafarers and support the Catholic charity ministering to them:

Stella Maris
(formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea).

To donate, go to
www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate

NEWS

Far away at sea while their nation is torn apart

Stella Maris area port chaplain for the north of England Anne McLaren has heard from seafarers how the war in Ukraine has ripped families apart.

When a Ukrainian seafarer was transported to Hull Royal Infirmary after breaking his back on the cargo ship he was working on, Anne visited him.

As the seafarer spoke little English, she brought in a Ukrainian interpreter and discovered he was from Kherson. His house had been bombed, and his family were still sheltering in the city.

For the several months he was in Hull, Anne and Stella Maris volunteers visited him regularly, bringing him clean clothes, toiletries and SIM cards, so he could contact his family back home.

Other Stella Maris port chaplains have reported similar experiences.

John Fogarty was asked by a shipping agent to visit a ship in Sheerness, Kent, and meet the Ukrainian captain and first officer.

"We sat together in the captain's mess, and I said to the captain, 'How are you?' He looked at me with tears in his eyes, unable to speak. And then the first officer said, 'We are at war.' It was a very painful moment as the reality of what he said really hit home.

"After a few moments, the captain said, 'I don't know where my wife is. We don't know if our children are well.' We all sat together in silence but in solidarity for some time."

John gave the captain and first officer mobile phone SIM cards, which he always carries with him when visiting ships.

"Both Ukrainian and Russian seafarers are shocked and horrified by what they are

seeing and hearing about the war," said John.

"I spoke to the Russian captain of a vessel with 13 Russian crew members. His mother was half Ukrainian, and he was almost apologetic, as were the crew members, simply for being Russian. It struck me that there may be many more seafarers feeling the very same."

Just before Christmas, East Anglia regional port chaplain Julian Wong facilitated a last-minute day trip into London for the Ukrainian captain of a container vessel.

In March, the captain brought his vessel back into Felixstowe port. When the captain said his wife and daughter were fleeing Ukraine due to the war and desperately seeking accommodation in Poland, Julian told him that Father Edward Pracz, Stella Maris's Poland national director, had opened a refugee centre in Gdynia for seafarers and their families.

The captain immediately rang Father Edward, who confirmed he could accommodate the family. He then contacted his wife and daughter who made their way to Gdynia to join 50 other seafarers and their families under Father Edward's wing.

Some weeks later, the captain's ship was scheduled to call in Hamburg, so arrangements were made for the captain to be reunited with his family in port. The captain's family drove nearly nine hours across Poland and Germany to Hamburg, where port chaplain Monica Döring from the Stella Maris seafarers' mission in Hamburg had arranged overnight accommodation for them.

The next morning, Monica drove them into the port to be on the quayside as the captain



Stella Maris area port chaplain for the north of England Anne McLaren

guided his vessel into port. They were then reunited after seven months apart and were able to spend a joyous day and night together as a family again before the vessel departed the following day.

July 10 is Sea Sunday, when we are asked to pray for seafarers, who work in hazardous conditions, all types of weather, and even during war, to bring us many of the goods we rely on in daily life.

We are also asked to support Stella Maris and its global network of port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors. Their work is hidden, but for seafarers, far away from home and in a foreign land, they are a true lifeline and Good Samaritans.

To make an online donation to support this important ministry, visit stellamaris.org.uk/donate.

Stella Maris resumes annual Lindisfarne pilgrimage

After a two-year break due to the pandemic, Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) resumed its annual Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne on June 4.

Parishioners, volunteers and supporters from the Dioceses of Hexham & Newcastle and Middlesbrough came to pray for seafarers, fishers and the work of Stella Maris.

They were joined by Stella Maris' bishop promoter for England and Wales Paul Mason, senior area port chaplain (north of England) Anne McLaren, North-East port chaplains Paul Atkinson and Deacon Peter Barrigan and chair of trustees Captain Esteban Pacha.

Stella Maris chaplains from other parts of the country and head office staff members were also present.

The sound of bagpipes marked the start of the day, followed by the traditional Celtic prayers, this year held at the green and led by Monsignor Ronnie Brown.

As in previous years, there was a lovely mix of music, readings and prayer, which set the tone for a peaceful and reflective day in this sacred, maritime setting.

The pilgrimage ended with Mass in St Mary's Anglican Church, concelebrated by Bishop Paul and priests and deacons from both dioceses.

The organisers thanked all the volunteers

who made the day extra special, the musicians who provided the excellent accompaniment, those who helped with the prayers and at Mass and all who helped in their own way.

For more information about Stella Maris and its work with seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world, please visit stellamaris.org.uk.



Stella Maris north-east Scotland regional chaplain Deacon Doug Duncan chatting to Father Xavier Santhiyagu and Father Anil Kumar Narisetti, from St Mary's Cathedral parish, during the Holy Island pilgrimage

New recruits wanted for pastoral ministry course

Are you active or would like to be more involved in your parish? Do you want to know more about serving your parish community?

If the answer is yes to these questions, then the Online Certificate in Pastoral Ministry could be for you.

This is a two-year, online course, studied through Loyola University, Chicago. The programme of study is designed for anyone wishing to grow in their faith and practice.

The online format allows participants the freedom to balance study around other commitments.

It helps develop a strong online community of diverse, committed individuals from across the UK exchanging ideas and suggestions that are mutually beneficial.

Throughout that course there are three opportunities for students to gather in person.

The course is studied in ten modules:

- What is pastoral ministry?
- God who reveals: Looking at the Old Testament
- Christ and his disciples: Looking at the New Testament
- Missionary Disciples: The story of the Church in Britain
- Vision of the Church: Vatican II
- Building a fairer world: Catholic Social Teaching
- Holiness and wholeness: How we grow as people of faith
- Making connections: Catechesis as sharing faith today
- Building parish communities
- Serving and leading: Skills and strategies for ministry

The next course begins with a face-to-face induction session on September 3 in Darlington or September 24 in Liverpool. The course begins proper in October 2022.

• **To find out more and to obtain an application form please contact Deacon David Cross by emailing adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk or calling 01642 850505.**

Calling all Ministers of the Word and Holy Communion

By the time you read this, your parish priest and coordinator will have received the information and registration forms for what would be our annual diocesan inspiration day for Ministers of the Word and Holy Communion.

This year, we're doing things differently. As this is the first time we will be coming together after the pandemic, it was suggested that we "commission" all our ministers, both existing and new.

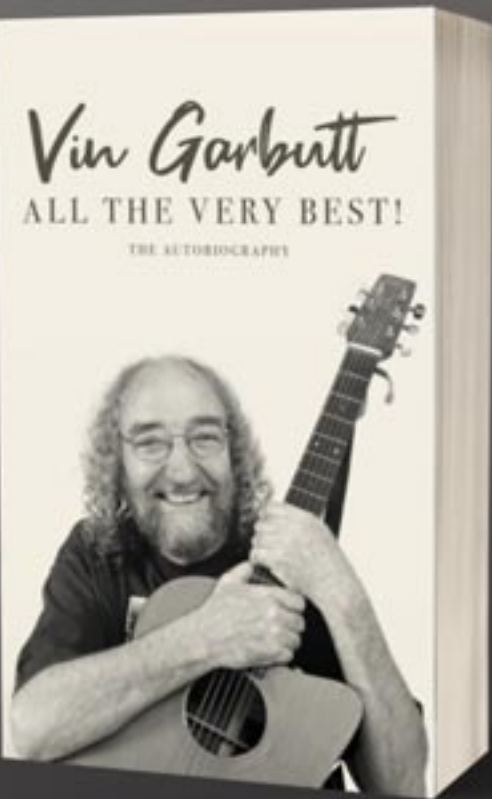
A Commissioning and Inspiration Day will take place at the Spa in Scarborough on Saturday September 10 from 9.30am to 3pm.

The community from Madonna House will lead us in reflecting on our ministry in the light of Gospel of Luke 24: 13-35 – The Walk to Emmaus.

"Did not our hearts burn within us?" Luke 24:32

The deadline for registration is Friday August 12 2022.





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Tel (01642) 850505, email catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk

Deadline Friday July 1 for our August edition.

Where possible please send articles in Word and photographs as jpegs.

Please confirm when you send in your photographs that those who appear in them have given their permission for publication.

NEWS

Come and See: Retreats at Ampleforth Abbey

Founded in 1802, Ampleforth Abbey is home to the largest community of Benedictine monks in the UK, where, in the beautiful stillness of the surrounding valley, guests are invited to rest in the promise of spiritual nourishment.

For the brethren of Ampleforth, welcoming guests on retreat is an honour – one which places value on making space for everyone and treasuring each personal journey.

Earlier this year the abbey reopened the Grange – one of its most beloved retreat buildings – after extensive renovations, ending the first phase of the long-awaited Retreat Centre project.

The renovation provides a retreat space that serves visiting groups and individuals better than ever, with ensuite bedrooms, varied meeting spaces, and modern, accessible design, which warmly invites guests to make themselves at home.

“Our ultimate vision as a monastic community is that our Retreat Centre is a genuine place of welcome, a spiritual resource to a wider population of Christians on a faith journey, and to all those seeking meaning in their life” says Abbot Robert Igo OSB.

The new renovations are already transforming the experience of both new and returning retreatants from within the Diocese of Middlesbrough and further afield.

The unsettled nature of the past two years means that many community, parish and church groups are only now starting to meet as they once did, and Ampleforth Abbey is

providing them with the perfect setting to reconnect, whether for a day, a weekend or a week, on a tailored retreat.

As well as talks and time for reflection, retreatants are invited to be part of the rhythm of life at the Abbey – joining services and times of prayer and coming together to eat as a community throughout the day, which church and parish groups find particularly valuable.

School and university groups have also found a home at the abbey. With the personal approach to each retreat, universities such as Durham, Leeds, and York – among many others – have found a safe, welcoming space, to which they return year after year.

As well as tailored group retreats, the abbey runs a seasonal retreat programme throughout the year, providing a variety of opportunities for spiritual nourishment.

Individual guests are also welcomed year-round to spend some time in stillness, reflection, and discernment – or whatever is sought on each personal journey.

There are many ways to engage, with a retreat experience for everyone. Whether you are a seasoned retreatant or you're ready to dip your toe into something new.

Ampleforth Abbey Retreat Centre welcomes all without expectation. To talk through ideas for your group, or to find out about an individual stay, the Retreats team are looking forward to hearing from you at retreats@ampleforthabbey.org.uk or on 01439 766087.



Ampleforth Abbey provides the perfect setting to reconnect, whether for a day, a weekend or a week, on a tailored retreat

Environment Corner

Transforming the world can begin in our parishes

“When we speak of the ‘environment’, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.”

Laudato Si’ 139

How can we reconnect with nature? This month I would like to share with you some ideas from journeyto2030.org.

We can take the first step by creating homes and food sources for wildlife in our parish. Churchyards and cemeteries are known to be potential havens for biodiversity, especially if parts are left unmown for flowers to set seed and animals to forage in.

Even if the space outside your church is small, perhaps there is an abandoned flowerbed, a patch of bare ground or a wall that might just suit some wildflower seeds or plants for insect pollinators.

Every small act can help – even a pot of sunflowers can make a difference to bees, butterflies and birds. The creatures you attract may only be small in size but they are the foundation of the food web on which we and all other species depend.

There are many simple actions that you

can do to enhance the outside space for wildlife in your parish...

- Plant flowers for pollinators, or berry, fruit and nut-bearing shrubs and trees for small mammals and birds.
- Pile up logs or leaves or create a compost heap for winter hibernation.
- Create a pond, hang up bird feeders, nest boxes or bee hotels.
- Create passageways for wildlife to move easily between the church ground and neighbouring gardens.

All these actions help restore the food sources, shelter and nesting sites that have been lost to wildlife by our treatment of the UK environment. Actions that benefit wildlife benefit us too.

The bees and butterflies we attract pollinate our plants and vegetables, and the homes we create for hedgehogs, toads, birds and predatory insects maintain a population hungry for the slugs and snails, aphids and caterpillars that can ravage allotment crops.

As all life is interconnected, to care for wildlife is, in a way, to care for ourselves, and what better way is there to practise self-love than to plant sunflowers or to pile up logs?

Barbara Hungin

Discover Retreats
at Ampleforth Abbey

Come and See

“Who is there here who longs for life?”
(RB, Prol. 15)

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Carol's visit inspires women to fix the food system

The Holy Name of Mary's UCM foundation invited our diocesan CAFOD representative Carol Cross to speak at our meeting.

Carol began by saying how pleased she was to be able to talk to us in the 60th year of CAFOD, as UCM members were instrumental in the charity's establishment all those years ago.

She thanked us for fundraising by the UCM in aid of the women of Lebanon, which has now hit over £9,000.

We learned about the many ways this money is improving the confidence and vocational

opportunities of Lebanese women, allowing them to broaden their horizons and give them financial independence.

Carol spoke about CAFOD's new Fix the Food System campaign and how we need to grow food in ways that are good for people and the planet.

Our foundation looks forward to joining the campaign and finding out more. We all thoroughly enjoyed the talk and are inspired to help Fix the Food system.

Jean Rigg



Carol Cross, back right, with members of the Holy Name of Middlesbrough UCM foundation

Sister Imelda speaks about her work in Albania

Inspirational speaker Sister Imelda Poole MBE IBVM will visit St Mary's Cathedral for a special event on Wednesday July 27.

Sister Imelda, president of the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation in Albania, will speak about her work in the country and the launch of a new charity – Mary Ward Loreto UK.

The charity will facilitate cross-border work between UK and Albania, supporting Albanian trafficking victims, who are mainly women and children.

Mary Ward Loreto is planting hope with a human rights approach to combating modern slavery.

This challenging mission is implemented through works of justice, education, grass roots action and systemic change.

The overall aim is to eradicate poverty – the prime cause of human trafficking.

We are delighted to welcome Sister Imelda, who is well known in our diocese.

The event takes place from 3pm to 6pm and refreshments will be provided. Everyone is welcome.

Could you be a lay funeral minister?

In March we completed the formation and training of three men and three women as lay funeral ministers in our diocese.

Lay funeral ministers provide vital support to our parish priests by being able to preside at funeral services in the absence of a priest.

The lay funeral minister will visit the bereaved family, pray with them and help them put together the funeral service so that they can celebrate the life of their deceased loved one and then conduct the service.

To be a lay funeral minister is a great privilege as the minister accompanies the bereaved at what is probably the most difficult time in their lives and can provide comfort and support.

If you are a practising Catholic and feel a calling to assist your parish priest through this ministry, please talk to him first and then get in touch with Deacon David Cross.

Our next course begins in September this year and involves the attendance at six formation sessions.



The first six lay funeral ministers in our diocese were commissioned in March

Mary honoured with flowers in moving service

Around 50 children from St Vincent's School and parish in Hull took part in this year's May procession. It was a wonderful occasion to honour Our Lady as the children presented flowers to Mary. Emily, the May Queen, and Dylan, the crown bearer, did an excellent job of leading the procession around the school and parish grounds, before crowning a statue of Our Lady with flowers while the congregation sang *Bring Flowers of the Rarest*.



Hull Catenians meet for hospice talk

Hull Catenian Circle meets at Lazaat Hotel, Woodhill Way, Cottingham, HU16 5SX on Wednesday July 13 at 7.30pm.

The meeting will be followed by dinner and a talk about this year's president's charity, Dove House Hospice. If you are interested in coming, please contact Charles Cseh on drcseka@gmail.com or 07783 664629 before Friday July 8.

From the Archives



40 Years Ago

(From July 1982 Voice...)

Twenty-five thousand people listened to the message of Father Patrick Peyton, an Irish American priest, at Ayresome Park, Middlesbrough, and were moved by it. Father Peyton believes that prayer will be the salvation of our troubled world. The movement must begin in the family unit, he says, and spread upwards to other strata of society. Son of a "Rosary Home", Father Payton says: "The family that prays together will stay together". He asks people of all denominations to make a practice of daily prayer with their families. To Catholics he particularly commends the rosary.

The above is an extract from the North Eastern Weekly News, Friday May 2 1952. The message of Pope John Paul II on June 2 1982 to the youth at Ninian Park was PRAYER.

100 Years Ago

(From July 1922 Ushaw Magazine)

Our readers will be pleased to learn that a beautiful silver snuff box which once belonged to Dr. Lingard, and was given to him by his great friend, Canon John Walker, of Scarborough, has now come to Ushaw. We have to thank the Very Rev. Canon O'Connell, Rector of St Peter's, Scarborough, for this gift to Ushaw, the Alma Mater of the learned historian, and his friend the Catholic Controversialist of Scarborough.

David Smallwood

NEWS

New milestone in our support for Baghdad children's hospital

The diocese has generously supported Baghdad Central Training Hospital for Children ever since Bishop John launched an appeal in 2004.

We delivered more than £140,000 of paediatric oncology drugs, at a time when other charities had to pull out of Baghdad.

Catholic contacts in the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Air Force proved to be exceptional – the gentle but effective power and influence of faith communities!

Readers may recall that Ausama al Khalil, an artist and interior designer, read about the

initiative when he was recovering in James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough from wounds inflicted by torture.

Margaret and I became friends with him, until sadly Ausama took his own life in December 2016.

We were left with the unsold portfolio of Ausama's paintings and have held exhibitions throughout the North-East. We decided to sell the 27 paintings through a live auction and raised just under £7,000.

Half of the proceeds were sent to Baghdad Central Training Hospital for Children and the rest to Freedom from Torture, which supported Ausama for almost a decade.

We are so grateful for the support we received from the diocese. As well as initial support from Bishop John, at one stage Bishop Terry was negotiating with the papal nuncio of Iraq to speed the process of the transfer of funds kindly raised by Voice readers and parish collections.

Investing in People and Culture (IPC) – originally based at the John Paul Centre in Middlesbrough and now at the International Centre in Abingdon Road – played a major part in Ausama's life and story.



Ausama al Khalil's paintings raised £7,000 for charity

IPC is now engaged with supporting the Warsaw initiative to assist Ukrainian families, but we also remain committed to supporting vulnerable children in Baghdad, thanks to your generosity and support over many years.

John Hinman

Trustee, Investing in People and Culture and member of Diocesan Caritas Group



Bishop Terry pictured with newly confirmed young people from three York parishes at Our Lady's in Acomb

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