



Bishop's Column

I hope that the summer months have been good for you. It is wonderful that we will be able to celebrate the Mass of the Assumption at the Lady Chapel on Sunday August 14 this year.

It is even more auspicious as we will have the joy and pleasure of the presence of Bishop John Crowley, our emeritus bishop. He has agreed to preach at the Mass. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

One of the other important times for the Lady Chapel has always been around the feast of Our Lady's birthday. On September 7 1614, Little Lady Day, a group of some 16 pilgrims were arrested at the Lady Chapel. They had come to venerate Our Blessed Lady here, even though the place had fallen into disrepair after the dissolution of the monasteries; there was no roof, and the chapel was in ruins. The authorities got wind of it and came from York to arrest them for praying here.



The statue of Our Lady in the Lady Chapel

In our days, we have the privilege of being able to pray freely and openly at the Lady Chapel and indeed anywhere we feel able. To celebrate Our Lady's birthday this year, and in memory of the group of arrested pilgrims, I will celebrate Mass at the Lady Chapel on Saturday September 10 at 3pm. I invite you to join me there.

In order to keep the Lady Chapel open and in a good state we need your help. All donations are gratefully accepted. Why not think of becoming a "Friend of the Lady Chapel"? For more information on this, visit ladychapel.org.uk/friends/ or just type "Friends of the Lady Chapel" into your search engine.

I hope we are able to meet at either or both of these events and I look forward to being with you.

Yours in blessed hope,

John Crowley

What's Inside

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Sun shines for Postgate Rally

One of the warmest days of the year awaited pilgrims who came to Ugthorpe from across the diocese to honour Blessed Nicholas Postgate and the martyrs of England and Wales.

Canon Derek Turnham was the principal celebrant on this first rally since the pandemic, in the absence of Bishop Terry, who was isolating.

Canon Derek read the homily Bishop Terry had prepared for the annual event, which alternates between Ugthorpe, where Father Postgate lived, and Egton Bridge, where he was born.

"Nicholas Postgate, the offspring of Catholic parents, and nurtured by the good and solid Catholic community of this area, decided in 1621 to offer himself to the Lord in the priesthood and crossed the seas to the English College in Douai," he said.

"After his ordination and a further short stay at the college looking after the sacristy, he returned to England and ministered among the people of our area for 51 years.

"Part of the time was spent in North Yorkshire and East Yorkshire. For some of his ministry he was afforded the hospitality and support of the aristocratic recusant families of these parts; at other times, as he himself says, he 'had no certain residence but travelled among his friends'.



Canon Derek Turnham presiding at the Postgate Rally – Photo by David Smallwood

"He knew he was one of the few labourers in this part of the world and he was also very aware, that despite the political climate and prejudices of the times, the Lord's words were truer and more urgent than ever before – 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself...do this and life is

yours.' In a letter to the president of Douai College, written when he was around 60 and had returned to this area, Blessed Nicholas reflected in the following manner: 'I have always worked to help poor Catholics...I live as a poor man amongst the poor...I often repeat to myself those words,

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NEWS

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Sun shines for Postgate Rally

‘Why look for rest when you were put into the world for labour?’...what I lack is not the will, but help; I am working right to the limits of my strength.’

“Then he quotes his statistics for 34 years’ ministry – 593 baptisms, 226 marriages, 719 burials, 2,400 converts – not a bad crop given the inclement climate of his era!” Bishop Terry wrote that the climate for us today is not too different from that of Blessed Nicholas Postgate’s time.

“There are moments when we must feel that there is a concerted effort to kill us off, to destroy the Church, or at least to weaken its influence in the wider society,” he said.

“Even the state legislates in a way that is contrary to the foundations of faith and morals upon which our culture has been built. We are frequently reminded of the irrelevance of the Gospel and the Church’s teaching in this ‘post-Christian’ era.

“To publicly demonstrate our faith, in some circumstances, is to bring down ridicule on our heads. There are times still when to be a Catholic feels like being a second-class citizen; when some take it as an affront to their secularist/humanist maturity even to speak of eternal truths.

“How clearly do we hear and how resolutely do we respond to the call that Nicholas Postgate and his people heard proclaimed to them from the Gospels?

“Do we listen to the Lord urgently telling us: ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself...do this and life is yours.’?”

“Can we, like Blessed Nicholas, profess with St Paul: ‘Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation...God wanted...all things to be reconciled through him and for him.... when he made peace by his death on the cross?’”

BISHOP TERRY'S AUGUST ENGAGEMENTS

24 Attends Chapter Lunch in York

25-31 Attends Ordinary Public Consistory in St Peter’s Basilica, Vatican City

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Millions face worsening food crisis

This year, CAFOD’s focus has been on increasing levels of hunger and malnutrition in many countries where it works, as well as increases here at home. Millions of people are facing a food crisis that could be worse than any we have lived through.

In Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan, up to 20 million people are fighting for their very survival, with a terrifying drought and rocketing food prices.

Schools are closed and the threat of extreme hunger is forcing people to spend their life savings or leave their homes. CAFOD campaigns engagement manager HELEN MOSELEY explains why this is happening...

The region’s worst drought in four decades has led to four failed harvests and the death of millions of livestock. Climate change means that it’s far harder to grow food and keep cattle alive. Families have lost their ability to cope.

East Africa has been hit by multiple shocks in recent years – droughts, floods, locusts and now the conflict in Ukraine severely affecting grain supplies, the availability of fertiliser and therefore causing food prices to soar all over the world.

This situation has not happened by chance. Governments could have helped vulnerable communities cope with changing weather patterns. UK aid to the region has almost halved in the past year due to the cuts in the international aid budget.

But the crisis in East Africa is also happening in the context of a global food system that was already broken. Over the past decades, priority has been given all over the world to growing a few staple crops for export. This means that often, the agricultural land of low-income countries is used for growing crops that are profitable on the global market, rather than nutritious and varied food for the local population.

When shocks such as drought, conflict or global price hikes happen, the supply of food to vulnerable communities is easily disrupted. Communities are reliant on food from too few sources.

This model of food production, with a few crops prioritised for maximum yields, is also exacerbating the climate crisis: the way we grow, produce and transport food is



CAFOD director Christine Allen is shown a Caritas Marsabit underground water tank on a recent trip to Northern Kenya – Photo courtesy of CAFOD/Louise Norton

responsible for around a third of all global greenhouse gas emissions. So the way we produce food contributes to climate change, while climate change makes it harder to grow food.

It doesn’t have to be this way. We could tackle climate change and help communities adapt to growing food in rising temperatures.

We could prioritise investment in local food systems, so small-scale farmers would get far more support to grow crops that are suitable for their communities’ nutritional needs.

With enough land and access to their own choice of seeds, for a start, farmers could choose to grow a variety of crops that are better suited for their local culture and situation, rather than vast areas of monocrops destined for other countries.

Growing a variety of crops isn’t just better for nutritional reasons. It means communities are less reliant on one single crop if it fails. And if they can sell food locally, they are better protected against shocks on the global market.

This is a transition that is possible to make, gradually, with the right political will and decisions. We need immediate steps to be taken to help those in dire need.

As well as a swift humanitarian response, and the stabilising of food prices, to prevent crises like the one happening in East Africa

from recurring over and over, we need urgent action on the climate crisis. We need to stand in solidarity with local communities by supporting investment in local agriculture that enables them to develop resilience for the future.

Our government promised to do some of this at the COP26 talks in Glasgow last year. Please join us and ask Foreign Minister Liz Truss to implement their COP26 commitments, and back agricultural systems that tackle the climate crisis and put local communities first.

Pope Francis tells us: “Tackling hunger requires not just immediate assistance but a commitment to challenge structures that perpetuate injustice ... we can understand Jesus’ command to his disciples: ‘You yourselves give them something to eat!’ (Mark 6:37): it means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor, as well as small daily acts of solidarity in meeting the real needs which we encounter.” *Evangelii Gaudium*, 188

Our campaign action for parish groups, Fix the Food System, is available for free from the CAFOD shop. If you would like to know more, email ccross@cafod.org.uk or call 07779 804253.

Parish walk raises funds for CAFOD

The CAFOD group at St Leonard’s, Malton, meets throughout the year to fundraise and pray for the work of the charity.

Our prayer services have a social justice theme and take place during Advent, Lent and the summer.



The CAFOD group at St Leonard’s, Malton, went on a sponsored walk for the charity’s food crisis appeal

Like everyone, we have been challenged by restrictions due to Covid and over the past couple of years activities have been more individually based or online.

It’s been great to meet up again. Here are group and parish members at our latest fundraiser in aid of CAFOD’s food crisis appeal.

We tackled a five-mile circular walk around the perimeter of Castle Howard. The terrain was varied and included woodland, farmland, a historic bridge and views of some of the iconic buildings on the estate.

We had perfect walking weather and good company. Two of our young walkers enjoyed practising their map reading skills while they strode out in front as pacemakers.

We are now gathering in our sponsorship money and hope that an enjoyable walk will result in extra funds for CAFOD’s projects – a win, win!

Johanna Davis

The life-giving ministry of encouragement

In the second and final part of his reflection, Emeritus Bishop of Middlesbrough John Crowley looks back on more significant encounters and how they remained with him throughout his priesthood...

The scene now switches to El Salvador in the last decade of the 20th century, the years in which I was the chairperson of CAFOD, undertaking regular field visits to Africa, Asia and Latin America, especially to those countries where CAFOD was working in partnership.

I am sitting over coffee in the University of Central America with Father Jon Sobrino, who has been for many years part of the Jesuit Community here.

In November 1989, while he was lecturing overseas, six of his companions had been murdered along with their housekeeper and her daughter. It was a targeted assassination by a unit of the military government, a force notorious for its human rights abuses.

The Jesuits' "crime"; they had constantly denounced the injustice and repression that had fed the civil war in a ravaged country. Thus, the decade that began with the assassination of Archbishop Romero in March 1980 ended in this savage bloodletting. At the time of my meeting with Father Sobrino, the civil war was over, but violence and human rights abuses were still rife. Father Sobrino was conscious of the dangers to which he himself was exposed by his forthright condemnation of the "structures of sin" endemic within an oppressive military state.

And, like Archbishop Oscar Romero himself, he also invited the hostility of those in a largely conservative Catholic hierarchy who regard his writing and lecturing as too politicised. But at our meeting he was keen to speak less of those "structures of sin" and more about what he called "the structures of grace" which, he insisted, were everywhere to be found within the Salvadorian Church, among its catechists, lay leaders, priests and religious, often at risk of life itself.

"Unless we keep that perspective, we will rapidly become demoralised by that other story of sin within Church and state," he said.

"Look at what St Paul told a similarly persecuted Christian community in Rome – 'However great the number of sins committed, so grace will reign to bring eternal life, thanks to the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ our Lord'." (Romans 5:20-21).

Listening that morning to Father Sobrino brought flooding back a theme to which Cardinal Hume had often returned, namely the two different faces of the Church.

The one, by the very fact of its institutional nature, will always be "bleared and smeared" by various levels of corruption, the so-called structures of sin.

Whereas the other face of the Church within the People of God will present to the world a quite different vision of goodness and holiness, especially among those whose lives are lived out far beneath the radar of any public recognition.

"Forget that face of the church," Cardinal Hume insisted, "and you will quickly be prey to discouragement when the sins of the Church dominate the public agenda."

The last of those conversations firmly lodged in my memory takes place in June 1999. It is a beautiful midsummer day, and I am sitting at the bedside of Cardinal Hume in SS John & Elizabeth's hospital within a few weeks of his death.

There was much that he wanted to share that morning, but it was his new appreciation of the Lord's own prayer, "the Our Father", that dominated his attention.

"I have come to realise at life's end that all the help and strength we need for our journey to God is contained within the words of the Our Father," he said. "To be able to call God our own Father is such an amazing gift.

"Our Father who art in heaven..." he began. "Heaven is wherever God is. To become aware of God's presence within and around us is even now to be taken up into heaven.

"Hallowed by Thy name... That's our one great purpose here on earth, to praise and honour God's name by the self-giving way we live.

"Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven... God's kingdom is one of justice, love and peace, and so all our daily striving must be to hasten its coming among us."

Looking back now to that deathbed reflection of a great spiritual leader, I realise ever more clearly what a precious legacy he left us. For here was someone who throughout his 23 years as Archbishop of Westminster had spoken from the inside out, and with immense inner authority; a sure-footed guide who reached beyond his own Church to a nationwide constituency who hungered for such wisdom.

Five conversations spread over a lifetime of pastoral ministry, each one of them deeply formative at different stages of the journey. It is St Paul again who speaks of the power each one of us has to help and strengthen those we meet on the way.

"The authority which the Lord has given me is building up not destroying" (2 Corinthians 13).

But since my theme is centred around the power of encouragement, I want to add a postscript about the ministry of Pope Francis. I have never had a personal conversation with him, but in these last years, no other person had done as much to inspire and encourage me in the proclamation of the Gospel.

He has vociferous critics within the Church, some of them palpably hostile to his papacy. He would be the last to seek the high ground for himself personally. "I am a sinner upon whom God has looked with mercy."

But in an era when the public credibility of the Church has been shot to pieces by the grievous wound of child abuse, his resolute spiritual leadership has given so many of us fresh joy and hope.

His dream for the Church – "a poor church for the poor" – nudges us in the same direction. His witness of rootedness and Gospel joy in carrying such responsibilities, though now in his mid-80s and with indifferent health, is a wonderful inspiration to be cherished.

"The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew."— *Evangelii Gaudium* 2013, first year of Pope Francis' Pontificate

And it's not just the Church that needs him. His voice is increasingly heard across a world that cries out for such moral authority. In Rome today, the words of Jesus defining his own mission have been given a resounding echo, "I have come that you may have life, life is to the full."—John 10:10

You can read this reflection in full on the diocesan website.



Bishop John will be back in the diocese to give the homily at the Assumption Pilgrimage to Mount Grace on Sunday August 14

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



SCHOOLS

Caring pupils reach out to lonely parishioners



Mini Vinnies from St Margaret Clitherow's Catholic Primary School in South Bank with the jubilee gift bags they made

Mini Vinnies at St Margaret Clitherow's Catholic Primary School in South Bank responded to their concern for lonely parishioners by making them jubilee gift bags.

After learning that the theme of Mental Health Awareness Week was loneliness, they felt that some may feel lonely during the Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations, so they produced celebration bags to help them join the party.

The children thought about what they would like if they were at a jubilee party and before we knew it, a list of ideas was formed!

The bunting factory, flag workshop, queen mask makers and quiz writers took to their jobs, working so hard during their lunches for three weeks that they made a total of 30 bags.

Christopher Lovell, Mini Vinnies co-ordinator, said: "The message of mental health awareness week really struck a chord with the children, especially after the pandemic, when we all felt a little lonely, so they really didn't want anyone to feel alone when so many people are celebrating.

"Initially, I thought the children had bitten off more than they could chew. However, they really were committed, coming back every day and asking could they make some more bunting or more flags. It was great to see their passion being led by their concern for others."

One of the children added: "I enjoyed making the jubilee bags because we got to be creative and I liked that people weren't left feeling lonely."

Izzy's virtual cross-channel swim for children of Ukraine

Super swimmer Izzy from St Augustine's Secondary School in Scarborough has pulled off an incredible achievement by completing a virtual cross-channel swim.

Motivated by the terrible situation in Ukraine, Izzy wanted to do something to help.

"I was deeply affected by the events in Ukraine and wanted to do all I could to support the children who are the innocent victims of the war," she said.

A keen swimmer, 12-year-old Izzy completed the 22 miles, 1,416-length swim of the pool in just six weeks.

Izzy started her challenge last May in aid of Save the Children's Ukraine Appeal after witnessing the devastation experienced by children and their families during Russia's invasion.

Proud dad James said: "Izzy saw what was happening in Ukraine and was really affected by it. She asked what she could do to help so said I asked her what she was good at and she said swimming.

"Izzy was ill a few weeks ago and fell behind with her lengths. To make up for it she did 220 lengths in one weekend, which is crazy, but it shows how much determination and motivation she has.

"She was on crutches just a few weeks before she started, but she has really taken the bull by the horns and both me and her mum are so proud of her."



Super swimmer Izzy from St Augustine's Secondary School in Scarborough

Izzy has raised an amazing £1,168 for the appeal so far, beating her initial £1,000 target. She has received support from fellow swim club members, as well as staff at her parents' workplaces.

"The support she has received has been phenomenal," said James. "We are overwhelmed. For someone so young to come up with such an idea and show so much empathy is amazing."

If you would like to donate to Izzy's cause, visit justgiving.com/fundraising/izzyswimukraine.

Retiring schools director: 'It's been a privilege'

The retiring director of schools for the Diocese of Middlesbrough has spoken of the "pleasure and privilege" of his ten years in the role.

Kevin Duffy said he will miss the job enormously but was looking forward to spending more time with his wife, who retired from her job the same day.

"It's been a pleasure and a privilege to be the director of schools in the diocese," Kevin said.

"I say to headteachers all the time, there's nothing better than having the chance to live out your faith in your professional life.

"It's been wonderful and I've loved it and will miss it enormously. We've joined a gym and a walking club and we're going to spend some time with ourselves."

Bishop Terry paid tribute to Kevin as colleagues from the curial office gathered to say goodbye and wish him well.

"Kevin has always sought to ensure that our Catholic schools are able to teach a full curriculum in accordance with the requirements of the Church, as well as ensuring the highest standards of education," Bishop Terry said.

"He's worked above and beyond the call of duty to maintain the family of Catholic schools in the diocese, despite many challenges, Covid-19 being just one of them.

"He's been utterly dedicated and committed to his work. He understands Catholic education



Retiring director of schools Kevin Duffy

in this diocese and beyond. I'm grateful for everything he's done and wish him well for the future."

Curial office staff presented music fan Kevin with a voucher for Ticketmaster.

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All Saints' delight at glowing inspection report

Executive headteacher Paul Conway and head of school Fran Mackle have spoken of their delight after All Saints Catholic Primary School in Thirsk was graded as Good in its latest diocesan inspection report.

Inspectors found the school to be Good in all areas – Catholic life, collective worship, Religious Education and overall effectiveness. It was also found to be Outstanding in the leadership of collective worship and RE.

The report says All Saints' new mission statement – "With God all things are possible", taken from St Matthew's Gospel – is evident across school life.

"This is a happy school with a genuine love and regard for every pupil," it says.

"The quality of the Catholic life of the school is good. Parents fully support the school. Leadership is building on existing strong relations between school, parish and parents, aiming to be a community inspired by Christ to serve others.

"A climate of kindness, friendship and cooperation exists. Christ's message of faith, hope and love is acted out in the small acts that occur across the school daily."

Mr Conway said: "We're all so proud of the journey the school has made in recent years and this report is a testament to the hard work of all stakeholders.

"We are confident this will be a platform for the school and the community to strive for further success as a result of the steadfast determination of the leadership and the trust

to continually improve to be the best we can be."

Miss Mackle said she couldn't be prouder of the children, parents, staff and wider community who made the report possible.

She said: "The one line that stands out and drives us every day is, 'All Saints is a happy school'. For me, this is key, and all the staff work hard every day to make this school the happy place it is.

"We were praised for being an open and welcoming school, which we will continue to be, welcoming new families to join our wonderful school community."

All Saints is a small rural school in Thirsk, North Yorkshire. It serves the parish of All Saints and also draws pupils from surrounding villages.

The school was previously inspected by the diocese in June 2018 and found to require improvement.

A year later, All Saints joined Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) and it has also undergone changes to leadership and its board of governors.

It currently has 82 pupils and six full-time teachers, including Mr Conway and Miss Mackle.

The report praises the school's commitment to serving others, both at home and abroad, as witnessed by their fundraising for Mission Together, CAFOD, Yellow Minds, Action Aid and Children in Need.

They were also impressed with a school

project that raised awareness of climate change and said its links with St Paul's school in Ghana help pupils understand the reality of life for other children and how our actions impact the world.

Weekly newsletters and social media postings are highly valued by parents and always include a theme of Catholic life.

Positive relationships with the diocese, trust and parish – including parish priest Canon Pat Hartnett – are all strengths of the school.

Mr Conway said: "We would welcome prospective parents to visit our happy school – you will be given such a warm welcome!"



Children from All Saints Catholic Primary School in Thirsk, which has been graded Good in its latest diocesan inspection



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NEWS

The different faces of family love: Part II

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

This year's theme is "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.

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

This month we hear from Mary Collinge, who is a member of St John of Beverley Parish...

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

Like many families today, mine is a "blended family". Our family now consists of my son Bill (19), my husband Simon (54), his sons Ben (21) and Harry (20) – and, of course, myself (50). My husband and I may come from very different backgrounds, but we quickly came to realise that being respectively Catholic and Humanist was no barrier to our relationship. If anything, our beliefs complement one another perfectly, allowing us to see a more rounded and open view of the world. Sadly, labels often seek to divide rather than unite – aren't we all God's people after all? It is this mutual love and acceptance of one another that has always been at the heart of our life together. That and laughter. We laugh a lot!

How do you demonstrate "family love" in your family?

As a single-parent family for the first seven years of my son's life, Bill and I obviously had our own take on what constitutes "family love" in the eyes of the Church, but this has made the strength of our family unit, nonetheless. With the support of extended family and friends, I was able to provide my son with a secure and loving environment in which to grow, both at home and within the school and parish community. Knowing that we were never truly alone and that God was always there, our relationship as mother and son flourished.



Mary Collinge and family

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

Bringing up a boy by myself was not without its challenges, but it has also been one of the greatest joys of my life, bringing us closer than we might have been otherwise.

Meeting Simon 12 years ago obviously changed our family dynamic but in all the best ways.

Apart from being a wonderful husband, Simon has been the best father I could ever hope for my boy. Aside from my dad, Bill had never really had a father figure in his life and Simon more than filled this void.

Bringing both our families together was a challenge in the early days. Naturally, jealousy and split loyalties played their part, but patience and understanding have resulted in a much more harmonious relationship, especially now that our boys are older.



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

The love and joy my family bring, even in the darkest of times, show me that God is always there – we always seem to find humour in the most difficult situations. Believe me, there were times in the early days when I felt God had abandoned me, but he gave me my beautiful boy, and then Simon and his sons. Even in my frustrations, I know God has a plan for me if I can only be patient enough to wait for it.

In what ways do you think family life is a vocation?

Having always worked with children, both as a teacher and now in school chaplaincy, being a parent was obviously what God called me to do. Helping to guide and support young people on their path through life is such a gift and one that my husband and I cherish enormously. We may follow different paths, but our goals remain the same – to love one another.

A Letter From Madonna House – Twelve years

The airline stewardess did a surreptitious double-take as she compared the passport photo of a dark-haired woman with the silver-haired lady in front of her.

"I look different now, but that's me!" I assured her.

Twelve years living in this blessed country



has changed more than the colour of my hair: I leave with faith strengthened, more deeply bonded with Our Lady and filled with gratitude for how God has wedded himself to his people in our home.

There is a natural perspective and some wisdom that comes from many years of life: from experience, I know God is faithful and will bring me through a period of darkness into new life. But this land cries out the same perspective. For 12 years, I have watched ewes with their lambs gambolling in the field outside our poushtia – they never miss a year, even if the world is going mad. And the furrows in that same field are a testament to centuries of farming in good and bad years. The abbey ruins scattered all over this corner of England are a silent reminder that men and women of faith have lived, prayed and sought God together through the centuries.

When it feels like the Church is diminishing, those ruins promise the prayers of our predecessors and the hope of future flourishing. Yes, England has indeed reinforced the lesson that through everything that attacks us, "All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing

shall be well." (St Julian of Norwich).

Shortly after I arrived, we experienced an explosion of requests to stay with us. Delightedly I answered, "yes...yes...yes!" until one morning I realised we were hopelessly overbooked.

I cried out, "Mary, please sort this!" That shocked me, because I had never prayed like that to Our Lady – so spontaneous and concrete. But almost instantly, someone rang to cancel their stay, and the problem was solved.

We began entrusting our everyday life to Mary in this way, as well as all the concerns of country and soul. Gradually, I came to believe that the special relationship between Our Lady and England still permeates the land and air. Marian graces abound, but we've forgotten to call upon them. Then our bishops rededicated England as Mary's dowry, reclaiming this unique bond. Twelve years ago, I arrived in England with a love for Our Lady, but I leave with an honorary sharing in this dowry.

Often, when there's a change of staff in one of our field houses, God is about to make a subtle shift. Before I came to England, I thought I heard the Lord say to me, "I want

that house to be a place of consolation for priests."

"Well, we'll see if that was God's voice or not," I thought.

But evidently it was. It's been amazing to watch God draw priests to us from all over England and beyond. And scores of seminarians, some for their ordination retreat. And many religious and lay people. It's been fascinating to hear how they ended up at our door.

Although it may not always look like it, people are hungry for God – and he's hungry for us. He will "find" us in our need, and nourish us. It has been a privilege to watch God use our little house as a place of divine encounter.

Will there be another shift when I leave? Possibly. But one thing is for sure: our home will continue to be a place of hope, filled with the presence of Our Lady and God, who await each person to draw them into their embrace of love. These 12 years have been filled with graces, blessings and untold joy. I will never cease thanking God for making me an honorary Englishwoman!

Cheryl Ann Smith

Shoppers stop as Rosary Rally comes to town

Curious onlookers filmed proceedings and some even joined in with prayers as Middlesbrough hosted its first Rosary Rally in many years.

Starting off from the church of St John the Evangelist, we were joined by around 50 of our faithful brothers, sisters and children from parishes across the region.

We were blessed to process with a statue of Our Lady, along with an image of the Divine Mercy and a first-class relic of St Faustina.

We settled in the centre of town for around 40 minutes, praying the joyful mysteries and the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy before processing back to St John's and having a communal lunch in Centre Square.

The faithful seemed very enthused and heartened to see public worship return to the streets. There's certainly a feeling that now is the time to begin boldly proclaiming our faith and bringing the Good News to the people again, standing tall and showing people that the Church is alive and bringing

hope and salvation in an often lost and misguided world.

The reception from onlookers was remarkably accepting. Passers-by were seen filming the prayer, which will hopefully be shared on social media, and several people stopped to watch and listen, with some even praying with us for a time.

We hope to hold a similar rally next year.

Some of the organisers have also started a new fraternity named the Men of St Joseph (MOSJ).

We're seeking new members and are planning a men's day of prayer on Saturday September 10 at St Thomas More's Church in Middlesbrough.

The day will take the theme of healing and we're holding an intergenerational healing Mass and guest speakers including Alan Guile and Andrew Laird.

A week later, on Saturday September 17, we'll begin a weekly men's adoration and



Praying the Rosary among the shoppers in Middlesbrough town centre

bible study at 7am, also at St Thomas More's.

Anyone interested in learning more about the

MOSJ fraternity or joining us is welcome to contact Ben at ben@endeavourleisure.net or text 07867 472979.

Visitors welcomed for day out in Whitby



Some of the visitors enjoy their special day out in Whitby

Volunteers from churches in Whitby, together with other groups, welcomed 25 visitors from Thornaby and the surrounding area.

The visitors, mostly mothers and young children, are asylum seekers and a day out for them to meet new and old friends is a welcome change.

After a welcome lunch, the children enjoyed the paddling pool, go-karting and Pannett Park playground, while some of the adults took a stroll around the town.

Then it was back to the centre for afternoon tea and some beautiful singing by the ladies in the group.

There was then cake, balloons and renditions of Happy Birthday for two of the young visitors who were celebrating birthdays, Exauce, 18, and Shadrach, eight.

Local people generously donated toiletries, food and good quality children's clothing. But more important was the giving of their time and enthusiasm to get involved and

help set up and then welcome the group.

Each time a group visits it is clear to see that the most vital part of the day is the welcome given and the smiles on the faces of the volunteers and visitors alike.

Thanks go to organiser Liz Atkinson and her team of helpers along with Father Pat Keogh for hosting the event in St Hilda's Parish Centre, the book group, Hinderwell Art Group, Whitby Food Bank, the Sisters of Mercy and all parishioners and friends from both St Hilda's Church and St Hilda's Anglican Church.

It was lovely to organise the visit, since the last one was in 2019.

There are so many people wanting to take up the offer of a day in Whitby that this year there will be a second visit, on Saturday July 16.

If you would like to get involved or know more about the event, please call Liz on 07810 644140.

A month of prayer with a psalm a day

Summer is now well and truly upon us. All our readers will hopefully get a break, whether it's abroad or here at home.

I don't know about you, but part of my holiday preparation is to find a couple of good books to take with me. This isn't always a straightforward task. I often seek out something of a light-hearted novel, as well as a book that will nourish my spiritual life.

This summer, I have decided I will read and pray a psalm a day. This may sound odd because as a permanent deacon, I say the office of readings, morning and evening prayer of the Divine Office daily. So, what will be different? I find the readings and psalms of the Divine Office to be quite beautiful. The words strike home within my heart and nourish my spirit. I plan to continue saying the Divine Office but also spend some time during the day (I find early morning is best for me) just slowly and quietly praying with one of the psalms in my Bible, beginning with Psalm 1:

"How blessed is anyone who rejects the advice of the wicked and does not take a stand in the path that sinners tread, nor a seat in the company of cynics, but who delights in the law of Yahweh and murmurs his law, day and night.

Such a one is like a tree planted near streams, it bears fruit in season and its leaves never wither, and every project succeeds. How different the wicked, how different!

Just like chaff blown around by the wind the wicked will not stand firm at the judgement nor sinners in the gathering of the upright. For Yahweh watches over the path of the upright, but the path of the wicked is doomed." (Psalm 1, New Jerusalem Bible).

The Book of Psalms, or the "Psalter", is Israel's hymn book and includes prayers for every occasion in Israel's life and for our own life to this very day.

Prayer isn't just about asking God for "things". Prayer is also adoring, contemplating, desiring and listening to God and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. If we are to grow in our faith and have a personal encounter with Jesus, our prayer needs some orientation, a focus to help us open our hearts and minds to God.

There are many kinds of psalms – hymns of praise, lamentation, thanksgiving, royal psalms, liturgical and wisdom psalms.

My plan is to begin with Psalm 1 and the next day Psalm 2 and on up to Psalm 31 on the last day of August.

I'll read the whole psalm first and then ponder it. This will be followed by reading each verse and meditating for a short time (a kind of lectio).

I'm going to keep a little journal just to jot down some of the

things that come to mind. I'll begin by just making myself open to God's word and asking what God wants to reveal to me today.

I'll give thanks to God for all the blessings I have received and for all my loved ones and friends. I'll ask God to help me to do what we pray in the Benedictus every morning at morning prayer:

"As for you little child, you shall be called a prophet of God the Most High. You shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare his ways before him. To make known to his people their salvation through forgiveness of all their sins, the loving-kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high." (Luke 1:76-78)

If you're looking for something to read or to enrich your prayer life why not join me and pray a psalm a day. After all, what have you got to lose?

Wherever you are, may I wish you and your loved ones a restful and blessed summer and may we see peace restored around the world.

PS: A missionary priest visiting our parish recently suggested this idea. Thank you to him!

David Cross, Adult Formation Coordinator

LOURDES

Answering Mary's

Our young people played a vital role as we returned to Lourdes for the first time since 2019.

With a far smaller group travelling from Teesside, they had their work cut out helping our supported pilgrims get to and from the services and social activities.

Here are some of the highlights from a very special week, with thanks, as ever, to our official photographer, Lacaze, for kind permission to use their pictures.

Please consider joining us for next year's pilgrimage – our 70th – which takes place from Friday May 26 to Friday June 2 2023



Entering the Underground Basilica in the Blessed Sacrament Procession



Nurses Maureen Piggott and Audrey Kirby present the offertory gifts to Bishop Terry – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes



Brancardiers Paul Griffiths and Dom Boyes – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes



Our music group at the Grotto Mass – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes



Bishop Terry and priests in the Rosary Basilica – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes

LOURDES

Our call to Lourdes



Our Father Pat Day preaching in the Rosary Basilica – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes



Another view of our Grotto Mass – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes



Our Father Terry carrying the Blessed Sacrament – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes



Some of our young people in the Torchlight Procession



Pilgrims walking together in Lourdes



Pilgrims from our diocese leading the Torchlight Marian Procession – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes

NEWS



Sandra Rowney, Chris Mountain and Catherine Blackburn at the St Bernadette's SVP celebration

SVP organises Mass for sick and housebound

St Bernadette's, Nunthorpe SVP conference organised a Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick for elderly and housebound parishioners on the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist.

Monsignor David Hogan celebrated the Mass and the Sacrament, which was followed by refreshments provided and served by SVP members.

It was a prayerful and joyful occasion, with many parishioners being able to attend Mass for the first time since the pandemic and meet friends they had not seen for over two years.

Monsignor Hogan said: "Thank you to everyone who supported, organised and provided transport and refreshments, which all led to a wonderful liturgical celebration. "My special thanks for the sterling work of the SVP, in particular, the joy of the Mass translated seamlessly into the time for refreshments in the Nevers Room."

Susan Gardiner, President

Help put faith into action in your community

Could you put your faith into action through membership of the St Vincent de Paul Society in your parish?

Our Vision: Inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, every person in need is inspired by hope together with a sense of dignity, worth, well-being and peace of mind.

Our Mission: We seek and find those in need, providing practical support and fellowship in a spirit of justice while tackling the causes of poverty.

Our Values remind us of what is important and who we strive to be. By embedding our values into evaluations and decisions, we can take action with confidence.

For more details contact sharonp@svp.org.uk or francesg@svp.org.uk.

Clergy on the move to new parishes

A number of clergy moves will take place across the diocese by the end of September.

Father David Kueter OMV (superior), Father John Idio OMV (parish priest) and Father Mike Songu OMV (assistant priest) move to the Sacred Heart, Middlesbrough, and St Alphonsus, North Ormesby. The three priests are all Oblates of the Virgin Mary.

Canon Stephen Maughan is moving to St Charles Borromeo, Hull, with SS Mary & Joseph, Hedon, and SS Peter & John Fisher, Withernsea.


Father James Benfield moves to the Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which consists of the churches of St Gabriel's, Ormesby, and Corpus Christi, Thorntree.

Monsignor Canon David Hogan will step down from pastoral ministry at St Bernadette's, Nunthorpe, with Canon John Lumley moving to the parish.

Canon Michael Loughlin moves to English Martyrs, York.

Father John Bane moves to SS Joseph & Francis Xavier, Richmond, SS Peter & Paul, Leyburn, St Mary's, Wycliffe, and SS Simon & Jude, Ulshaw Bridge.

Father Francis Gallagher will step down from pastoral ministry at Holy Cross, Cottingham, with Father Richard Marsden moving to the parish.



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).



Canon Michael Loughlin blesses Father Peter Taylor at his ordination. Canon Michael is moving to English Martyrs Parish, York – Photo by Chris Booth

Nominations open for the UK's first church awards

The first ever National Church Awards to celebrate churches and the people who use and look after them are now open for entries.

The categories are church architecture, church maintenance, church volunteers and church tourism.

A special prize for the UK's 'Church of the Year' also forms part of the awards, being run by the National Churches Trust.

The National Church Awards are open to any church, chapel or meeting house in the UK and are free to enter. A team of church and heritage professionals will judge nominations. Churches can enter as many categories as they wish.

The awards will culminate in a ceremony including high tea at the Mercers Company Livery Hall in London in October. For more details visit nationalchurchestrust.org/awards2022.

Council 29 celebrates a century of service

Council 29 of the Knights of St Columba (KSC) is celebrating its centenary with a celebratory dinner this autumn.

The KSC is a British organisation of Catholic gentlemen established 103 years ago to support dioceses and parishes in their work. We do this spiritually, in prayer and regular Masses, and practically, by offering support for parish or diocesan events as stewards, setting up equipment and fundraising.

We can regularly be seen at events such as the Postgate Rally, which is held alternatively in Ugthorpe and Egton Bridge every July, and the Assumption Mass, celebrated at the Lady Chapel, Mount Grace, in August. Many knights also work in Lourdes as brancardiers.

The council has also contributed thousands of pounds to pay for the Dial-a-Mass service that has proved such a lifeline since the start of the pandemic for Catholics who do not have internet access.

Council 29, which is based in Middlesbrough, meets on the first Tuesday every month after evening Mass at the cathedral.

The dinner will take place at Jurys Inn, Fry Street, Middlesbrough, on Friday October 21 and tickets are £35.

If you'd like to attend, please contact Les Clark on 07818 080388 or email ksc29events@gmail.com.

Ryan Metcalfe



Members of Council 29 at St Mary's Cathedral

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	1938	Rev Gerard Collingwood	Middlesbrough
2	1977	Very Rev Canon Bernard Lovelady	Thorpe Thewles
3	1913	Very Rev Canon James Dolan	Scarborough
3	1945	Very Rev Canon Lawrence Doherty	Yarm
5	1947	Rev George Walsh	Market Weighton
6	1974	Rev Eugene Kennedy	Hayton
7	1994	Rev Francis Hack	York
8	1958	Very Rev Canon Thomas Wright	Whitby
10	1958	Very Rev Canon Thomas Wilson	Egton Bridge
11	2010	Rev J Anthony Barry	Middlesbrough
13	1924	Rev John Moore	York
13	1989	Rt Rev Mgr Patrick McEnroe	Mount Nugent
17	1918	Very Rev Canon Francis Callebert	Egton Bridge
18	2020	Rt Rev Mgr Canon J Raymond Charlton	Hull
20	1981	Canon Patrick McAniff	Malton
20	1985	Rev Geoffrey Power	Waterford
20	2011	Rev Daniel Cahill	Whitby
21	1936	Very Rev Canon Patrick Macken	Hull
21	1899	Very Rev Canon William Arnold	Brough Park
21	2005	Very Rev Canon John Mortell	Haxby
25	2008	Rev Peter Coleman	Whitby
26	1921	Very Rev Canon Thomas Murphy	Hull
27	1881	Rt Rev Provost Joseph Render	York
27	1944	Rev William Storey	Barnard Castle
27	1978	Rt Rev John Gerard McClean	Fourth Bishop of Middlesbrough
30	2007	Rt Rev Augustine Harris	Fifth Bishop of Middlesbrough

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NEWS

Out and About

1 Monday

9.45–10.25am Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com.

2 Tuesday

10am Christian Meditation Group meets. Further information from Terry Doyle, terry-doyle@live.co.uk.

7pm Knights of St Columba Council 29 meets at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, beginning with Mass at 7pm in the cathedral chapel.

3 Wednesday

5.30pm Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

4 Thursday

7.45 pm Middlesbrough Catenian Circle – sharing faith and friendship with kindred spirits throughout Teesside. Meeting at Middlesbrough Cricket Club, Green Lane, Middlesbrough TS5 7SL. Contact Peter Carey on 01642 317772 or Chris Rhodes on 01642 319161.

5 Friday

Events, articles and photographs for September edition of the Voice are due by today.

6 Saturday

11am Catholic Women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion including mediation, via Zoom. Text Barbara on 07796 1177004 with your mobile number and email address so she can add you to the WhatsApp group.

8 Monday

9.45am–10.25 Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com.

2–3.30pm Music for the Mind, for people who enjoy singing and connecting memories, St Mary's Cathedral Hall, Middlesbrough. There is no charge but donations are welcome. Tea, cake and biscuits followed by fun. You can also join in on the Diocese of Middlesbrough YouTube page. For details call 01642 710179.

9 Tuesday

10am Christian Meditation Group meets. Further information from Terry Doyle, terry-doyle@live.co.uk.

10 Wednesday

5.30pm Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough

14 Sunday

3pm Diocesan LGBT+ Ministry Mass at The Bar Convent, York.

15 Monday

9.45–10.25am Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com.

16 Tuesday

10am Christian Meditation Group meets. Further information from Terry Doyle, terry-doyle@live.co.uk.

17 Wednesday

5.30pm Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

21 Sunday

3pm Middlesbrough Fellowship Mass – St Hilda's, Whitby.

22 Monday

9.45–10.25am Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com.

23 Tuesday

10am Christian Meditation Group meets. Further information from Terry Doyle, terry-doyle@live.co.uk

24 Wednesday

5.30pm Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

- If you have any events you would like to be included in the Out & About section, please email Heidi.cummins@rcdmidd.org.uk.

Flame of Love prayer group meets at St Joseph's

A group of people from different parishes meet after Wednesday morning Mass at St Joseph's, Middlesbrough, to pray the "Flame of Love" Rosary.

Devotion to the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary finds its origins in the spiritual diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann, a Hungarian mother of six, who died in 1985.

The diary recounts claimed revelations from Jesus and Our Lady, including the direction to place an extra petition in the Hail Mary so that it concludes, "pray for us sinners, spread the effect of Grace of the Flame of Love over all humanity, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

Elizabeth explained that the Flame of Love is the two hearts of Jesus and Mary desiring to spread their grace over all humanity, a flame that "blinds Satan" to the extent that people respond to its graces.

Another prayer to emerge from the diary, the Unity Prayer, expresses very beautifully the desire to live every day in intimate union with Jesus...

My adorable Jesus, may our feet journey together

May our hands gather in unity

May our hearts beat in unison

May our souls be in harmony

May our thoughts be as one

May our ears listen to the silence together

May our glances profoundly penetrate each other

May our lips pray together to obtain mercy from the Eternal Father, Amen.

Elizabeth submitted herself to examination by Church authority and her diary was permitted to be published as free from doctrinal error.

Her local bishop encouraged people to use the Flame of Love devotion and it has spread out from Hungary to very many parts of the world.

Those meeting at St Joseph's Parish in Middlesbrough have themselves found great benefit from it, including a deep sense of spiritual communion with Jesus and Mary.

They have also produced a leaflet detailing the devotion which they are happy to send to anyone who writes, care of St Joseph's Parish, Park Road South, Grove Hill, Middlesbrough TS4 2RB.

Of course, anyone wishing to join the group on Wednesdays between 11am and noon is very welcome.

Father Dominique Minskip

Copy Deadline

Copy and photographs for inclusion in the *Catholic Voice* should be sent to: The Editor, Middlesbrough Diocesan Catholic Voice, Curial Offices, 50a The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QT.

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

Deadline Friday August 5 for our September 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.

Morita's book reflects on lockdown experiences

A retired headteacher has published a book to help children reflect on their lockdown experiences.

The Day the Virus Came was written by the former head of Christ the King Catholic Primary School in Thornaby, Morita Metcalfe, a parishioner of St Paulinus in Guisborough.

The idea came to her as she helped to home-school her grandchildren, Verity and Austin, back in 2020, when schools throughout the country were closed as part of measures to curb the spread of coronavirus.

"*The Day the Virus Came* incorporates that strange, incredible time when our world changed and describes the experience of two young people who had to be home-

schooled," says Morita.

"The book reminds us of new words and events that happened and it was created as a legacy for all.

"Do you remember clapping every Thursday night for the NHS? The book includes that and topics such as cancelled weddings and mask-wearing.

"Thank you so much to those who have already supported my endeavour by purchasing my book."

Illustrated by Patricia and Barry McKenna, the book is available in paperback and hardback editions and can be ordered from Amazon.



Morita Metcalfe with her book, *The Day the Virus Came* – Photo by Doug Moody



Jubilarians celebrate with cathedral Mass

Four of our priests celebrated special jubilees this year with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Cathedral.

Monsignor Gerard Dasey, Canon David Grant and Canon Eddie Gubbins were all marking the ruby jubilee of their priesthood (40 years), while Father John Bane celebrated his silver jubilee (25 years). Canon Alan Sheridan gave the homily.

Our picture shows Father John with Cath Palmer and Pam Grundy, parishioners at one of his previous parishes, St Joseph's, Scarborough.

Congratulations to all four of them – *ad multos annos!*

Middle Eastern feast raises Welcome House funds

The Sacred Heart parish hall in Hornsea was the setting for a wonderful celebration of Middle Eastern food.

Sacred Heart and St John of Beverley parishioners got together to host the event to support the Welcome House centre for refugees and asylum seekers in Hull.

Warda, an asylum seeker from Algeria who now works at the centre, worked through the night to prepare a variety of dishes.

Ladies from both parishes prepared salads to accompany the dishes, and it all looked so colourful and tempting.

As lunchtime approached, the hall began to fill with people who had paid £5 each to take part, all proceeds going to the centre.

Every seat was taken and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal that opened our eyes and stomachs to an amazing variety of food.

Director of the centre Bashir Siraj thanked everyone involved in preparing the event and those who came to support it.

A raffle boosted the total amount raised to an incredible £700.

Chris Cuthill



Bishop Terry and some of our diocesan priests on retreat at the Grange, Ampleforth, in June. The Bishop of Northampton, David Oakley, gave the retreat.

If you would like to advertise please contact Charlotte Rosbrooke on 07932 248225 or email charlotter@cathcom.org



Warda, left, from Algeria, who worked through the night to prepare the feast

NEWS

Growing together: An invitation to Catholic women

Are you being encouraged to continue growing in your life of faith?

What opportunities do you have to explore prayer and what it means to pray?

Do you get the chance to share your experiences of faith and church life with other Catholic women?

Many of us can move into adulthood continuing to faithfully attend and contribute to parish life, but not always having had the opportunity to continue exploring, growing and deepening our lives of prayer and faith.

The simple faith and religious traditions which gave us a foundation in our childhood and younger years may not always feel enough or may lose their meaning when we face some of the challenging realities adult life can hold.

For Catholic women, it can feel difficult to find the time to be nurtured and to receive encouragement to continue actively exploring and journeying in the life of faith.

The National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) is keen to offer an opportunity for lay Catholic women to continue to be supported in their lives of faith and to find and express their feminine voice as active and equal members of the Church.

To support you in this, three Retreat Saturdays are being organised for women of our diocese. These will take place from 10am

to 3pm on September 10 and November 19 2022 and February 11 2023 in the welcoming atmosphere of St Bede's Pastoral Centre in York, which is a work of the Congregation of Jesus founded by Mary Ward.

The days will be facilitated by myself – Julia MacDonald – and Siobhan Burke of St Bede's team and will include time to explore different ways of praying alongside space to share experiences in a supportive and sharing environment.

The day will include a communal lunch, each bringing what they can as an offering of a few loaves and "fish" on our shared table.

Support for this project is being given by the NBCW, which is a consultative body to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

And the good news is that these retreat days are free. No payment is needed – just come along, bring a friend and join one or all of the days.

Wherever you live in the diocese, you are welcome. And if you need any help with transport to York, please let us know.

To register interest and book a place, please contact St Bede's by emailing programmeadmin@stbedes.org.uk or you can call 01904 464900 and ask about "Nurturing our Spiritual Life".

Julia MacDonald

Happy 100th birthday, Tony!

Congratulations to former Holy Name of Mary, Middlesbrough, parishioner Tony Rovardi, who celebrated his 100th birthday at his home in Italy on June 13.

Although he was born in Newcastle, Tony returned to Italy as a baby to his family's native village, Arpino, where he was the eldest of six, four brothers and one sister.

He came back to England at the age of 17 to look for work and settled in Middlesbrough, where many people from his village were.

He met and married Hilda Greco whose family were also from Arpino. They bought a house in Cambridge Road and were devout members of the Holy Name parish.

They raised four children and eventually moved into a bungalow in St Francis Parish, before returning to live in Arpino when Tony was 83 and Hilda 81. Sadly, Hilda passed away two years ago.

He celebrated his birthday on the feast day of St Anthony of Padua, after whom he is named, by attending Mass at the church of St Anthony, who is also the patron saint of Arpino.

The local bishop said Mass and, together with the Mayor of Arpino, congratulated Tony, who also received a message from the pope. He was joined by three generations of his family, including 11 great-grandchildren.



Tony Rovardi celebrating his 100th birthday in Arpino, Italy, alongside the local bishop and the mayor

Brothers confirmed together after lockdown delay

There was a very special occasion at St Aelred's Parish in York when two brothers were confirmed at the same time.

Arthur and Henry Johnson were confirmed by Father Bill Serplus, with permission from Bishop Terry.

Arthur's confirmation was delayed due to the lockdown, while St Aelred's parishioners had been praying for Henry over the previous ten months after he suffered an acute illness and spent time in the intensive care unit. He was unable to attend with the rest of his group at St Wilfrid's because of ill health.

It was a truly memorable occasion not only for Arthur and Henry's family but also for the family of St Aelred's.



Brothers Arthur and Henry Johnson were confirmed at St Aelred's, York

Environment Corner

Listening to the voice of creation

"We are recovering the sense of wonder at how the world was made, and we need to reclaim the theology of why it was made. We need to listen to creation so that we can move from a theology of plunder back to a theology of wonder."



"Listen to the Voice of Creation" is the theme of this year's Season of Creation, which runs from September 1 (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to October 4 (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) each year.

The symbol chosen for this year is the burning bush, which contrasts with so many unnatural fires that aggravate the climate crisis, with the sign of fire as the light of the Holy Spirit that unites Christians.

During the 2022 Season of Creation, this symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation.

As Pope Francis wrote in Laudato Si', "Everyone's talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation". All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience,

involvements and talents." (LS 14).

Accordingly, the Season of Creation is a celebration that allows all people to recognise ourselves as "the work of the Lord's creative act," to contemplate nature and all that dwells in it, and to care for our Common Home.

We are invited to participate through prayer, sustainability projects and advocacy.

The Season of Creation website contains an excellent and comprehensive guide with ideas of how to celebrate, including a template for a prayer service, lectionary, sermon notes, ideas for events and encouragement to become an advocate for ecological restoration.

It concludes with how to create your own burning bush. The resources at seasonofcreation.org are plentiful.

Barbara Hungin

SPUC calls on supporters to take hope from US ruling

The Marist Hall in Hull was the venue for an informative presentation on the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC).
At the invitation of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Peter Chanel parish priest Father William Massie, SPUC chief executive John Deighan

KSG gave a powerful address about the political, religious and cultural landscape in which SPUC is operating.
Mr Deighan encouraged those present to take inspiration and hope from the news that the US Supreme Court has overturned the landmark Roe v Wade ruling, which

guaranteed a right to abortion, and to continue defending the sanctity of human life through witness and action in their own communities.
After outlining SPUC's work in the fields of politics, education, the media and bioethical research, Mr Deighan praised grassroots supporters who are the lifeblood of the pro-life movement in the UK.
SPUC public policy manager Alithea Williams spoke about the reality of coerced abortion and SPUC's efforts to shine a light on this terrible form of abuse.
SPUC now has four local branches whose members implement local campaigns in the

Diocese of Middlesbrough – in Hull, York, Middlesbrough and Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick.
After successful SPUC events for clergy and pro-life leaders in Middlesbrough, Thornaby, Newcastle and Gateshead in recent months, the pro-life message is beginning to be heard more widely across the region.
If you are interested in holding a similar event at your church or in getting involved with SPUC's work, please contact me on 07549 068226 or terrygraham@spuc.org.uk.
Terry Graham
SPUC Northern Development Officer



SPUC chief executive John Deighan speaking in Hull

Petra's a Catholic, 40 years later

Petra Micklethwaite is pictured celebrating after being received into the Catholic Church with the support of Filey Union of Catholic Mothers.
It was a moment that was 40 years in the making. When Petra was an eight-year-old at a convent school in Herne Bay, Kent, the headmistress allowed her to go into the convent chapel. It was then that Petra knew she wanted to become a Catholic.
On moving to Filey last autumn with her husband, Richard, and her father, she began her preparation. Petra was prepared and received at St Mary's, Filey, by Father Martin Gosling O Praem.



Petra pictured with Father Martin Gosling and her husband, Richard

Our photo shows Petra with Father Martin and Richard.

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From the Archives

40 Years Ago

(From August 1982 Catholic Voice)

More than 1,000 people from all parts of the Diocese, gathered at Ugthorpe, on Sunday, July 4th, to honour our local Priest and Martyr, Father Nicholas Postgate. Bishop Harris was the principal concelebrant and preacher. Fifteen priests concelebrated. The planning and organisation of the rally was in the capable hands of the Guild of St Hedda, under their Warden, Mr George Harrison. Brother Paul from Ampleforth brought the hand of Father Postgate which was placed upon the altar. The newly restored Calvary outside St Anne's, Ugthorpe, was blessed by Bishop Harris after the Rally.

100 Years Ago

(From a letter in August 1922 Hull Catholic Magazine)

My dear Father, Although I have a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, I do not think it is my duty to become a member of the Blessed Sacrament Guild. I am a married man with a family, and I endeavour as far as possible to make my devotions and my religion a family affair. When I approach Holy Communion, or go to church at any time, my wife and the older children invariably accompany me. If I were to join the Confraternity, my Eucharistic devotions, and frequently my Holy Communion, would be made apart from my family. As far as I can see this is undesirable.

David Smallwood

www.catholicdirectory.org

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NEWS

First Holy Communion joy for York children

Our Lady's in York is one of many parishes in the diocese that has had the joy of celebrating First Holy Communions for the first time since the pandemic.

So many children were taking part – 60 in total – that they celebrated three Masses around the Feast of Corpus Christi so all their families and friends could be with them for their special day.

Six of the children were also baptised, and one who was already baptised in a different Christian denomination was received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Photos by Johan Bergström-Allen



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