



Bishop's Column

How time flies! It only seems the twinkling of an eye and the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes was on the horizon, and now it is come and gone, together with the Postgate Rally and our Assumption Pilgrimage to Osmotherley. Soon we will be celebrating the Mass for the Friends of the Lady Chapel at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace on Saturday September 10 at 3pm.

Following almost immediately on from this we will be welcoming the Relics of St Bernadette to the diocese, at St Mary's Cathedral, Ampleforth, and Our Lady of Lourdes and St Peter Chanel, Hull. Details are included in this edition of the Voice and will be displayed on the notice boards of all our churches.



Canon Derek Turnham celebrates Mass at the Postgate Rally

It is so important that we foster devotion to Our Blessed Lady and to the saints. Our faith is not an individualistic sort of hobby, we are related to one another and to Our Lady and all our patron saints through the Mystical Body of Christ. We are united through the Communion of Saints with all those who have gone before and all our brothers and sisters here on earth. We need the support and encouragement of one another but also of all those holy ones who *strengthen us by the example of their holy lives, teach us by their words of preaching and keep us safe in answer to their prayers. So that, encouraged by so great a cloud of witnesses, we may run as victors in the race before us and win with them the imperishable crown of glory.* This is what we hear in the preface of the Mass of Saints.

Also, at the end of this month, several of our priests will be taking on new pastoral assignments, and we will be welcoming the Oblates of the Blessed Virgin Mary into our diocese and to Sacred Heart and St Alphonsus in Middlesbrough. Please keep them all in your prayers. Some parishioners will not be happy with the moves, and have let me know in no uncertain terms. I normally say to such good people that if they have been helped and well ministered to by their priest, then they have to be generous enough to share them with others.

I look forward to being with you at the various events of September and October, and pray that they will bring blessings on us all.

Yours in blessed hope,

+ Long

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Scarborough church
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Diocese prepares to welcome relics

Preparations are well underway for the visit of the relics of St Bernadette to three locations in our diocese this autumn.

The events are part of a national St Bernadette Relic Tour that followed a request to the Lourdes authorities by the Catholic bishops of England and Wales.

It is being coordinated by the Association of Lourdes Pilgrimage Directors of Great Britain.

Every diocese in England and Wales will host the relics, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to spend time with them.

The relics will be received at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, at noon on Sunday October 2 and depart on Monday October 3 at 1pm.

They will be available for veneration at Ampleforth Abbey from 1.30pm to 5pm that afternoon, before being taken to the Diocese of Hallam.

They will return to our diocese when they are welcomed on Wednesday October 5 at 7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes & St Peter Chanel Church, Hull, before departing at 7am the following morning.

A detailed programme of services is being put together and there will be opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for silent prayer, time to venerate the relics and, as pilgrims experienced in Lourdes this year, we will be able to take part in the water gesture that takes place at the baths.

Relics are a sign of God's presence in his saints and a focus for our prayer and the bodies of Christian martyrs have been held in special veneration since the early days of the Church.

Thousands of people venerated the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux when they came to the diocese in 2009 and there is expected to be a similar level of interest this time.

St Bernadette was born into a poor family in 1844, one of eight children. 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 on the outskirts of Lourdes, a place now known as the Grotto of Massabielle.

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

The Apparitions of Lourdes were authenticated in 1866 by the Bishop of Tarbes. Later that year, Bernadette left Lourdes to live out her religious vocation within the community of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers. She died in 1879 and became a saint in 1933.

Diocese of Middlesbrough Lourdes director Keith Tillotson said: "This is a once-in-a-



The relics at the Grotto in Lourdes

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THE BAR CONVENT

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NEWS

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Diocese prepares to welcome St Bernadette relics

lifetime opportunity for everyone to experience a little bit of Lourdes here in our own diocese.

“We returned to Lourdes this year after a two-year break for the pandemic and the pilgrimage was a resounding success, as everyone came together in friendship, prayer and fraternity.

“Many of us have a special devotion to Our Lady and St Bernadette and the tour is a fantastic chance for a public demonstration of our faith.

“The visit will enable us to share in the many gifts and graces the relics tour will bring and encourage us to journey towards our 70th Lourdes pilgrimage, when we will visit the shrine from May 26 to June 2 2023.

“We hope as many people as possible will spare a short period of their time to help make this tour a wonderful experience.”

Writing about the tour, Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: “As we welcome the relics of St Bernadette to the United Kingdom we are also reminded of the special significance of Lourdes as a place of pilgrimage and of love, where people of all ages serve and care for the sick and the most vulnerable in our society.

“I would encourage those people who are able to, to consider continuing the journey begun by the relics of St Bernadette this autumn, joining with people from their parishes and dioceses to travel on pilgrimage to Lourdes in the weeks and months ahead.”

Please spread the word about this unique event. Everybody is welcome from all denominations, including people who may not have a faith or are struggling with their faith.

For more information about the tour, visit stbernadette.org.uk.

Itinerary for relics at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough

- Sunday 2 October
- 1.30pm: Arrival service and welcome, with the blessing of 3,000 medals
- 3pm: Veneration
- 3.30pm: Rosary – Joyful Mysteries
- 4pm: Sung evening prayer and Benediction
- 5pm: Sunday Mass to include anointing of the sick
- 6pm: Water service to continue throughout the visit in a small marquee
- 9pm: Rosary – Luminous Mysteries
- After Rosary: Quiet time for private veneration and prayer
- Midnight: Rosary - Sorrowful Mysteries

The cathedral will be open all night for veneration

- Monday 3 October
- 6am: Rosary – Glorious Mysteries: Pray for vocations
- 7am: Dawn Mass
- 8.30am: Sung morning prayer followed by veneration
- 9.30–11am: Young people from local schools visit the relics
- 11am: Lourdes Mass with Lourdes Music group
- Noon: Blessing
- 12.30pm: Departure of relics

The different faces of family

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

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.

In recent editions of the Voice, we have been publishing personal stories from people in our diocese who have different experiences of family.

This month we hear from Barbara Jameson, of St Leonard’s and St Mary’s Parish, Malton...

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

I am a woman in my 60s living in North Yorkshire. I am semi-retired and have worked in health care for more than 45 years. My closest family consists of three

brothers and their partners in their 50s and 60s. I am also a proud aunt to four nephews and nieces. Our family live throughout the UK, including Suffolk, Berkshire, Somerset and County Durham.

How do you demonstrate “family love” in your family?

In the absence of the “physical presence” of the family, demonstrating family love can be challenging. In our family, it is perhaps best seen in that unwritten understanding that although the time between contacts may sometimes be long, we are still able to pick up from where we left off.

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

Perhaps the biggest challenge we face as a family is the maintenance and growth of our relationships when being geographically distanced. This has been particularly difficult in the last couple of



years. For example, when a family wedding was postponed due to Covid 19 restrictions and one of my brothers was receiving treatment for a life-threatening illness. It was therefore a very joyous and happy occasion when we were able to come together in person to celebrate my nephew’s special day.

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

One of the great strengths of our family is our ability to pull together as a team. This invariably manifests itself in difficult times. Somehow whatever needs to be done happens – a very practical demonstration of God’s love in action.

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

To describe family life as a vocation is probably quite accurate. As with any vocation, however, it requires hard work and dedication. There are inevitably ups and downs along the way. However, with perseverance, tolerance and most importantly enduring love, much can be achieved.



Barbara Jameson and family celebrating her nephew’s special day

Record year at Tudor Croft Gardens

The stunning Tudor Croft Gardens at Guisborough have enjoyed another record charity fundraising year.

These botanic gardens comprise five immaculate acres which are home to plants from all over the world, all in a delightful setting.

In February, appreciative visitors enjoyed Tudor Croft’s collection of more than 300 different snowdrops.

In the summer, the gardens were open over four days and were once again extremely popular.

The open weekends raised £10,300 for national nursing charities such as Marie Curie and Macmillan and local charities including Kids Kabin, which does wonderful work with young people in Middlesbrough.

Money was also donated to help young people to experience working with supported pilgrims as helpers in Lourdes.

Lourdes brancardier and St Paulinus’ parishioner Mike Heagney, who lives at Tudor Croft, said: “I would like to thank all our gardeners and volunteers who work so hard preparing the gardens for our visitors to enjoy, Charlotte Potter, the Odell Singers, our musicians and, of course, our visitors, without whom the charities would not benefit.

“Artist James McGairy generously created two paintings of the gardens which were raffled. It’s been a happy and very successful year at Tudor Croft, the seventieth year we have lived here.

“Next year we hope to do it all over again!”



Mike Heagney’s family have raised tens of thousands of pounds over the years by opening their stunning gardens to the public – photos by Chris Booth

Faith recharged at Ampleforth summer camp

A concern commonly expressed in the synodal discussions has been supporting young people in the Church and in their faith. For over two decades, a summer camp has been held at Ampleforth Abbey every July for young people aged 10 to 15 years. Several young priests and teachers cut their teeth over the years, giving talks and testimonies. Here is a report from some of this year's participants...

As a child, you go to Mass because your parents bring you. Year after year, you might pay a bit more attention but still only have a basic understanding of the faith.

Then you reach the teenage years, and suddenly you are hurled into the world of secondary school.

If you are lucky enough to go to a Catholic secondary school, you most likely "fit in" with at least one other person who shares the faith. In other schools, however, if you are a Catholic and do not have a firm understanding of your faith, of why you are a Catholic, peer pressure and the feeling of being an outsider can cause you to stop practising your faith. This is why having a Catholic summer camp is so important.

The camp at Ampleforth is specifically for older children aged 10 to 15 because this is the time to solidify what it means to be a Catholic.

At Ampleforth there are five talks, each one soundly guiding you through why it makes sense to be a Catholic. We heard how we are made of the stuff of the universe. We are physical, but we are also metaphysical because we have souls!

We heard how we cannot have mathematics or science without God because maths always finds patterns within nature, from galaxies to plants, that point in the same direction, that lead to God.

And we heard how this is not enough to reach God, but God reaches us and we need to work with him in cooperation with him. Everything in the universe exists in an environment and we continue to exist in an environment that is material and spiritual. That's why we really need Jesus Christ and the Church.



Father William Massie and Father Richard Marsden with young people who took part in this year's Faith Summertime at Ampleforth

What makes Ampleforth superior to any other summer camp is the people. Tweens and teens come from all over the diocese for this week filled to the brim with exhilarating activities – like going to Flamingo Land!

At Ampleforth Summertime, you get a Catholic "recharge", just by seeing and realising you are not the only Catholic teen running against a secular world.

"It's the highlight of my summer and helps me remind myself why I am a Catholic," said one boy, who was with us for the third year.

"The community here is electric!"

SP, JP and IM



Parishioners of St Joseph's, Middlesbrough, gathered in their community garden after Mass to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Father Dominique Minskip's ordination anniversary. They presented him with gifts on behalf of the parish, including a papal blessing, a chocolate hamper and a congratulatory card. Photo by Ian Stubbs.



ST BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR 2022

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, MIDDLESBROUGH
Sunday October 2—Monday October 3

OUR LADY & ST PETER CHANEL, HULL
Wednesday October 5—Thursday October 6

middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk

SCHOOLS

Lady Chapel welcomes school retreat groups



Visitors from St John Fisher Catholic High School, Harrogate, enjoy their summer retreat at the Lady Chapel

It's been a busy summer at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace, with lots of school groups both from within and beyond the diocese visiting for end-of-term retreats. We asked one school to tell us what made their pilgrimage so special...

This summer marked the welcome return of our visits, retreat and pilgrimage programme for St John Fisher Catholic High School, Harrogate.

We were looking for a suitable place for our Year 8 form retreats and I had heard about the Lady Chapel Shrine at Osmotherley but never had the chance to visit.

After contacting Christa at Middlesbrough Cathedral, we arranged suitable dates in June and July.

As the pupils alighted from the coach to walk up the track to the shrine, beautiful views of North Yorkshire greeted them. The theme chosen for the retreat was 'Journey' and the young people immersed themselves in the theme as they chatted, joked and encouraged one another along the way.

On arriving at the Lady Chapel, Flora, a volunteer who helps to look after the shrine, greeted us. She gave us a warm welcome and shared with us a little about the history of the chapel.

The large open area in front of the chapel allowed us space to stretch our legs and get involved in some ice-breaking activities before engaging in some reflective tasks.

We had use of indoor space for the group but

found the natural surroundings provided a peaceful atmosphere to reflect on questions such as "What are my gifts and talents?" and "How can I use these on my journey to serve God and others?"

A shared packed lunch and more fun and games on the lawn before the afternoon activity of an Emmaus Walk. Pupils recalled the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32) before being put into pairs. The pairs then set off on a circuit route that took in the views of the rolling hills and joined part of the Cleveland Way.

This was the highlight of many of the pupils' day – enjoying one another's company and sharing fellowship – topped off with the sight of newborn calves in the neighbouring field!

Our last session was back in the chapel, where we asked Our Lady for her prayers for ourselves and our loved ones before we set off back down the path and return to school.

We all had a great day in this most beautiful and special of locations. A special thank you to Christa, Flora, Gerard, Maureen and all the Friends of the Lady Chapel, from Year 8 and everyone at St John Fisher's.

Francis Atkin, Lay Chaplain

For more information about retreats at the Lady Chapel, email Christa Kamanga at christa.kamanga@rcdmidd.org.uk. To find out how to support the shrine by becoming a Friend of the Lady Chapel, visit ladychapel.org.uk/friends.



£1.80 provides a child with a meal every weekday for a month
Donate Now at www.reachfoundationuk.org
THE REACH FOUNDATION UK

Jubilee fun for young and old

More than 250 people attended a jubilee party to raise funds for St Thérèse of Lisieux Parish in Ingleby Barwick.

We sold so many tickets that we moved our event to a local school to accommodate numbers. Both current and former pupils from St Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Primary School worked hard before the event preparing the stalls they ran on the day and they were a credit to themselves, their families and the parish.

We have some excellent bakers in our parish who made cakes for the day and a local sweet company gave us 50 sweet bags to sell and provided all our prizes for the fancy dress and colouring competitions.

The day raised £1,565, the children had a great time and our parishioners loved the day.

Kerry Roberts



Two young revellers at the St Thérèse of Lisieux Parish jubilee party

Awards celebrate special year of sport

A wonderful year of physical education, school sport and physical activity across all 23 Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) primary schools was celebrated at the Riverside Stadium, home of Middlesbrough FC.

Children and staff joined NPCAT head of sport Clare Harding and her team and trust CEO Hugh Hegarty for a truly memorable afternoon that showcased the fantastic sporting highlights and achievements of the 2021-22 academic year.

Each school received their first ever NPCAT Trust Mark award, recognising the quality of physical education, school sport and physical activity they offer.

These annual awards aim to celebrate and promote the outstanding work happening in our primary schools every day.

The NPCAT Sport Trust Mark is a robust process that involves continuous monitoring of school performance against several key indicators and comes in three grades, Gold,

Silver and Bronze.

The awards then focused on the schools and individuals who achieved outstanding outcomes this year. Our winners were:

School of the Year

St Alphonsus' Catholic Primary School, North Ormesby, which places PE and sport at the heart of school life, providing the very best opportunities and experiences for every child.

Team of the Year

Christ the King Catholic Primary School, Thornaby, Year 5/6 cricket team. This award is not only for their resounding success at our recent tournament but for their incredible leadership skills and qualities as true sporting ambassadors.

Inspiring Star of the Year – Pupil

An incredible young lady from St Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Primary, whose love of sport

has helped her through a very long and difficult journey and who raised more than £30,000 for the hospital that treated her.

Inspiring Star of the Year – Staff

Dave Peacock, of St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School in Nunthorpe, who shows all the school values of courage, resilience and excellence in everything he does. He always has a positive attitude and is a wonderful role model for our children.

When the school held a dress as your hero day, many pupils chose to dress as Dave because of his courage in the face of adversity. Dave has set up an inter-school golf championship and even teaches sign language during PE lessons.

Well done to all our schools and the fantastic NPCAT Sport team for an excellent year of PE, school sport and physical activity across the trust.



Active – Sport is at the heart of St Alphonsus' school life



Team – Christ the King's award-winning cricketers



Inspiring – Pupil raised £30,000 for hospital



Inspiring – Dave Peacock



SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2022



TRINITY
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
AND SIXTH FORM
MIDDLESBROUGH



SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
REDCAR



ST PETER'S
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
SOUTH BANK
MIDDLESBROUGH



ST PATRICK'S
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
THORNABY
STOCKTON-ON-TEES

Our Teesside based secondary schools are looking forward to welcoming families with children in Year 5 & 6 to their annual open evenings this autumn - please keep an eye on school websites and social media channels for more information!

NEWS

Lourdes cyclists smash target before setting off

Family and friends of much loved Lillian Dixon, who died this year, smashed their £10,000 target for Macmillan Cancer Support before even starting their 1,050-mile cycling challenge from Thornaby to Lourdes.

Lillian's four children and wider family took on the challenge – Lillian's Two-Wheeled Pilgrimage – to channel their grief for their amazing mam and nanna in a positive way.

Lillian's youngest son, Steve Walker, 45, said: "We have been bowled over by the support we've received to reach our initial target of £10,000 before we have even set off. It's testament to the impact my mam had on her community.

"As a family, we all pulled together to take on this challenge as a tribute to the incredible lady my mam was. She was very active on social media and even used her platforms to help fundraise in the last few weeks of her life once she was made aware of what we were doing and why."

Lillian, from Ingleby Barwick, died aged 74 in January after being re-diagnosed with breast cancer, as well as enduring treatment for myeloma – a type of blood cancer.

A committed Catholic, in her retirement Lillian became a foundation governor at Christ the King Catholic School Primary, in Thornaby, where she had grown up.

Steve said: "We thought Lourdes would be a special place for our family to visit in tribute to my mam, a very special place for a very special person."

The cyclists began their challenge on July 31, arriving in Lourdes 10 days later. The eight riders included three of Lillian's children, Paul Walker, 50, Gillian Hoban, 50, Mandy Kennedy, 52, as well as grandchildren Luke Walker, Brooke Hoban, son-in-law Paul Kennedy and nephews David Bradshaw and Andrew Bradshaw.

They were accompanied by a support vehicle manned by Steve, who was unable to ride because of an injury, and grandchildren Quinn Hoban, Jacob Walker and daughter-in-law Nicola



Lillian Dixon was a committed Catholic and a governor of Christ the King Catholic Primary School

Walker.

Lillian devoted many hours of her retirement to visiting children at Christ the King, helping them read and preparing them for their first Holy Communion.

She went on pilgrimage to Lourdes five years ago and was hoping to return before the pandemic and cancer intervened.

Steve said: "Mam had been battling myeloma and was having treatment during the height of lockdown. During this treatment a suspicious lump was discovered, she was seen the same day and breast cancer was diagnosed. She bravely decided to have a mastectomy but unfortunately, by the summer it had returned, and ongoing treatment was making her very poorly."

Lillian stopped treatment so she could be more comfortable for her final months. Her aim was to be around for Christmas and ideally her 75th birthday on February 5 this year.

"She made it to Christmas, but tragically died 10 days before her birthday," said Steve.

"As a family, we have been profoundly affected by cancer over the years. Making Macmillan our charity of choice was a natural decision for mam and the whole family.

"Toward the end of my mam's life we had Macmillan nurses and Macmillan community



The team after arriving in Lourdes

nurses providing exceptional care and giving support to my mam, but also all of us who were affected emotionally, as well as physically.

"Even through Christmas when everywhere else is winding down, our Macmillan nurses were stepping up to offer much-needed support at our family's most difficult time. The support from Macmillan was unreal.

The Macmillan Support Line is open seven days a week, 8am to 8pm, by calling on 0808 808 00 00, or you can visit Macmillan's Online Community.

At the time of writing, the challenge has raised over £15,000. You can still sponsor the riders by visiting Just Giving and searching for "Lillian's Two-Wheeled Pilgrimage".

Successful launch for bible musical

Blazing Grannies' new musical, *With a Dog and an Angel*, based on the Bible Book of Tobit, had a successful launch this summer.

Several songs address the loneliness and desperation of Covid, with themes such as funerals and quarantine very important in the Tobias story.

"We could see the audience responding to the songs," said the author, Mary Callan. "One person commented on the Dogs song, saying, 'That is exactly what my sister's assistance dog means to her.'"

The show's next performance will be during York's 50+ festival, at St Aelred's Community Centre, Tang Hall, on Tuesday September 27, beginning at 7.30pm.

All welcome and entry is free, with a donation invited on exit.

A Letter From Madonna House – A tribute of love

This will probably be my last article for this beloved paper, and I'd like to end with a tribute to our bishop. Our foundress taught



us to turn to our bishop if we are in turmoil, as he is the father of our soul. And Bishop Terry has always been that for us.

A few months after I arrived in England, I experienced my first trustees' meeting, and began with a proposal: We could give retreats, talks and days of recollection throughout the diocese. What bishop would not snap up such an offer? But Bishop Terry surprised me with his response, which became a guiding light and an official part of our mandate: I want you to be a place of opportunity for an encounter with God, an encounter of grace. Too many churches have to be closed while the priest is out serving his people, so he wanted our home to be open and available to receive people seeking the tenderness of the Lord.

A couple of years later, our accountant told us we were headed for financial trouble. I would have to find more funds. At the trustees' meeting that year, sensing that I was worried, Bishop Terry taught me a new word: parrhesia, which means holy boldness – be bold in asking for your needs.

His part was to commission a long article about us in the Voice, which let you all know a bit more about who we are and how

we live. And my part was to be bold in expressing our very particular needs. In many ways, that was the birth of a deeper love relationship with you all. We've not looked back since!

During a homily a few years ago, the bishop said something that shook me: clearly depicting the dire situation in the diocese with ageing priests and few, if any, upcoming vocations, he nonetheless stated with absolute conviction: "But I'm not worried. The Church belongs to the Lord, and he will find a way."

The words may not be exact, but the faith of this man rocked me. If he can hold on to confidence in such bleak circumstances, if he can exercise parrhesia and trust that God will indeed meet our needs, then I must also!

But I think my favourite lesson from Bishop Terry has been how to embrace our humanity, and he has led the way by example. When he was isolated by his knee injury, our bishop shared his pain from that experience with Voice readers; during lockdown, he admitted fear in this strange situation, thus giving permission for all of us to admit our human struggles; when my

parents died, he wrote a compassionate letter about the impact this would have on me, and the need to allow myself to grieve fully.

Jesus himself was open about his fear, grief and sense of isolation from the Father – in short, his full participation in our humanity. If we are to embrace the path to holiness, we must not fear to be who we truly are – weak, poor and beloved children of God! In many ways, I love Jesus' words of anguish in his suffering as much as his words of consolation and love. They call us to be real and open before God. Bishop Terry has imaged that for us.

A bishop's calling is unenviable! To stand like a rock, yet pliable towards the needs of his people and the voice of the Spirit; to remain faithful to the Church's teachings with voices of dissent and disappointment all around; to be pastor and teacher and a faithful, intimate disciple of Jesus; to retain and speak hope amid darkness. For man, this is impossible, but all things are possible for God (Mk 10:27). Thank you, Bishop Terry, for living the impossible out of love for us!

Cheryl Ann Smith

Ukraine crisis: Thank you all for reaching out with such kindness

CAFOD's Mark Chamberlain shares this report on how your donations are helping with the crisis in Ukraine.

Since the beginning of this terrible conflict, more than 6.5m people have fled their homes to find refuge in another part of Ukraine and 6.16m have escaped to another European country.

One in every four people has now left their home to find safety from the fighting.

More than 12,200 innocent women, men and children have been killed or injured. Without a ceasefire, these figures continue to rise.

Thanks to your kind donations and support, we have been able to respond quickly through the Caritas network – of which CAFOD is a member – to provide shelter, food and safe spaces for families who have lost everything.

The local humanitarian professionals and volunteers working on your behalf risk their own lives to serve people in need.

Vladislav and his wife fled their home in Kyiv in February. They are hundreds of miles away now but hope to return. The couple are internally displaced persons, yet they see their status as a chance to help others.

Vladislav is currently volunteering with Caritas to help other people who have fled their homes with nothing. One of his roles has been to give out clothes to people who

have fled for safety.

He says: "It may look sunny where they are, but the temperature in the evening at night drops significantly. Therefore, people have to stay warm, or they risk dying of hypothermia. Today we saw a lot of people who were affected by war. I understand how they feel because I am also an internally displaced person."

You can watch a moving video made by Vladislav on our website and read about the other work your donations have helped to provide.

The local experts we work with understand people's specific needs – from water and food, to shelter and clothing, to medicine and psychological support. No one and no crisis is the same.

Thanks to your generous support, families in Ukraine and the surrounding regions are getting the support they need. Here are just a few of the ways your kindness is bringing comfort to our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Ukraine: Caritas aid workers are bringing urgent food, water, medicine, therapy and shelter to the most vulnerable people.

Moldova: Caritas teams are providing shelter, hot meals, drinking water and hygiene kits, as well as psychological support.

Romania: Families have somewhere to stay,

wash, wash their clothes and receive medical attention.

Poland: Emergency teams are able to give people money to buy essentials, temporary accommodation, psychological help and employment advice.

Caritas-Spes in Ukraine director Father Vyacheslav Grynevych and his team are helping ensure people who are preparing to leave Ukraine have something to eat.

"We understand that these are only the first days of a terrible war," Father Vyacheslav says. "Like a terrible dream, it has

enwrapped our society."

Caritas Moldova has set up refugee centres, where staff and volunteers are providing shelter, food and medical support to those fleeing across the border. Nearly 90 per cent of refugees who have crossed into Moldova are women and children."

Thank you so much for your generosity in donating to our Ukraine Crisis Appeal. Please remember to pray for a peaceful end to the violence and for the safety of everyone who is affected by this terrible conflict.



Caritas-Spes provides meals for people waiting to cross the border into Poland – photo courtesy of Caritas-Spes

Celebrating World Day of Prayer and the Season of Creation

Pope Francis established September 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home.

The day is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth.

"Listen to the voice of creation" is the theme and invitation of this year's Season of Creation.

In his message for the World Day of Prayer 2022, Pope Francis calls us to use the season to "cultivate our ecological conversion" and to pray together in "the great cathedral of Creation".

He warns we are reaching "a breaking point" and must act decisively so that "we and future generations can continue to rejoice in creation's sweet song of life and hope." You can read his full message on our website.

This World Day of Prayer also falls at the beginning of the Season of Creation, which runs from September 1 to October 4, the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

This ecumenical season is dedicated to

prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

There are many ways to respond to Pope Francis' call to care for the gift of God's creation.

Why not take some time out of your day on September 1 to walk in your local park or take a few moments to thank God for the flowers growing in your garden?

You can also join us in praying the Joyful mysteries of the Rosary for the care of creation. Despite the challenges we face in caring for our common home, we are called to hope and joy, and so we offer these reflections on the joyful mysteries to nourish our commitment to care for the Earth.

If you have young children, you may also like to explore our family prayer resources on the wonders of creation and our responsibility to nurture and protect it.

We also have a novena to St Francis of Assisi, which you could begin today, or you could pray it in the nine days leading up to St Francis' feast at the end of the Season of Creation. You can find it at cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Novena-to-St-Francis.

These beautiful prayers are based on St Francis' Canticle of the Sun and guide us to care for the Earth and our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.

The World Day of Prayer is another opportunity for us to connect with our creator God and allow the Lord to redefine our relationship with the environment from one of consumption and control to one of care and protection.

You could celebrate Mass with a focus on the climate and care of creation. We have some Creation-tide intercessions you may wish to use.

Alternatively, get together with others from your parish and reflect on the themes of

Laudato Si'.

The encyclical reminds us that we have a responsibility to our Earth, each other and generations yet to come.

If you cannot mark the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation itself, you could use these resources at any time during the Season of Creation.

They can be found on our website, cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Care-of-creation-prayers.

Carol Cross
Community Participation Coordinator

Volunteer with us!

Would you like to learn more about CAFOD's work?

Why not come and meet with us at the volunteer centre in the Curial Office, Middlesbrough, from noon until 2pm on Tuesday September 27 to find out more about our work and how you can help?

NEWS

An encounter of joy and hope at Ampleforth

In our continuing Synodal journey, Pope Francis encourages us to get alongside people from the margins, to walk together and listen to their stories.

The vision for a recent two-day retreat was to give people from the so-called margins of society an opportunity to experience a wonderfully therapeutic and welcoming environment that ordinarily they would never have.

Terry Doyle led the retreat, which was sponsored by the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM).

A coach brought 21 people from Middlesbrough, drawn from members of the North East Opera NEO group, which uses the power of music to help give disadvantaged people a voice, the Saltburn Addiction Recovery Group and the Methodist Asylum Project MAP.

In solidarity with them were about 15 self-funded people with some experience of meditation, and we quickly all mixed in mutual support and friendship.

A variety of activities was on offer, all aimed at wellbeing. Twice each day there was an opportunity for meditation, guided by Terry or by Kate Middleton from WCCM. We shared the discipline of the silence, binding us together to form a community.

The facilitators of North East Opera, Emily Smith and David Pisaro, came to lead us all in a superb session billed as “Freeing the voice with the joy of singing”.

Using a variety of songs, including spirituals and rounds, they encouraged us all to take part enthusiastically, often at full volume. This uplifting experience reinforced the feeling of being a family.

We were invited to join the monks’ offices of little hour (before lunch) and compline (night prayer), as well as Mass. Praying with the monks was new for some of us, but most people were up for trying out different experiences and found they enjoyed the peaceful, calming effect of the prayers.

We could also take part in an art therapy workshop, making our own mandalas – intricate circular patterns with a spiritual significance. The repetition entailed in forming a symmetrical pattern was also calming and satisfying.

We were offered a variety of further tools to promote healing and enhance wellbeing, including tai chi, zen walking, capacitor wellbeing and emotional freedom technique, and we were invited to take up and use anything we found helpful.

After supper in the evening, in the crypt under the abbey church, we met with a group of sixth form students from Ampleforth College for a time of mutual sharing. Together, we listened intently as several people told us something of their story.

It was moving to hear of the struggles people have overcome, and how for some of them, regular meditation has been part of their healing. We all listened and learned from each other, and left feeling encouraged and hopeful.

Many of us were overwhelmed by the spacious and luxurious accommodation in the newly refurbished Grange at Ampleforth, as well as the beauty of the valley in perfect midsummer weather. The monks were most welcoming, and the food was delicious and plentiful. We could also take a tour of the abbey or join a walk to explore the valley.



Having fun at the two-day retreat at Ampleforth

The joy of encounter was aptly named. A warm and friendly family atmosphere was quickly established, and any initial apprehension was soon banished. We encountered each other, individually and as a group.

We encountered the monastic community, the sixth form students, and we encountered

God. The feedback at the end was tremendous as it had proved to be a truly joyful and healing experience all round, and an example of how our Church can be when it reaches out creatively to those on the margins.

Sue Westmacott

Friends step out to support church repairs

Three friends hope to raise £5,000 to help fund essential building repairs to the windows at their beloved church of St Peter, Scarborough.

Over 40 days, Anne Seegoolam, Jackie Shilleto and Rebecca Coser are walking the Camino Frances, from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in the foothills of the French Pyrenees, across the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain, a distance of 500 miles, and then onwards to Finisterre on the coast, before finally returning to Santiago.

The walk will take more than 40 days, ending in early October


Opened in 1858, St Peter's is a historic grade 2 listed building, and several windows are in a poor state of repair because of decaying of the stonework. This will be very costly work involving stone masons.

If you would like to sponsor the walk, please visit the Just Giving page at [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/st-peters-church-camino](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/st-peters-church-camino).



Anne Seegoolam, Jackie Shilleto and Rebecca Coser are walking the Camino Frances to help pay for essential repairs at St Peter's, Scarborough

Vin Garbutt
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A pilgrimage of peace, prayer and belonging

CHARLIE PERKIN reflects on a very special Lourdes experience...

I thought I knew what to expect when I was going to Lourdes, as I had been before – but I was mistaken. What an experience I had!

After such a rocky two years for everyone, I was apprehensive about what to expect. I knew the pilgrimage was a lot smaller than in previous years and that the supported pilgrims were not staying in the Accueil this year but in the same hotel as I was. This led to an altogether new experience.

From arriving at the airport at 3.45am to a check-in full of “strangers”, I instantly felt part of the family, every one of them with their own personal reasons for travelling on the pilgrimage but united by our faith.

We had that instant connection, that common ground, a bond that is rarely felt anywhere – and we were still in Teesside!

I instantly felt reassured that this was going to be a week to remember. From that point, I was straight to work, and we didn't stop!

The pilgrimage had been shortened to five days, as this was the first since Covid, but we managed to pack what we would have done in seven days into the five.

Arriving in Lourdes was a whole mix of emotions. We were all happy to be there and elated that we had a week together, but I have never seen Lourdes so deserted and quiet.

The normally jam-packed streets and churches were sparsely scattered with people, the noise of many languages as we walked through the crowds was barely a whisper, shops and hotels were closed and there was a sense of how much Covid has affected this wonderful place and the loss it has suffered. But this silence also brought a calm serenity, a sense of peace, a belonging. We had

arrived.

I was given the amazing opportunity of helping at many services throughout the week but especially at the Grotto. What a way to be able to express your faith and give something back.

Another opportunity I was given was to visit the baths. Although it was a very different experience from what it usually is, it was a deeply moving service and I felt extremely privileged to be allowed to join in.

The services were a great celebration. We were able to join as one and offer all our prayers, worries and thoughts to God together as a family.

We spent the whole week enjoying these wonderful experiences. Working as a young handmaid, I was up at 6am every morning to help with breakfast, walked miles every day pushing wheelchairs and helped our supported pilgrims in any way I could.

I loved every minute and was honoured to be able to help. We laughed, we talked, we listened, we cried, we even celebrated the Queen's jubilee – and at the heart of everything was our faith.

These people who only a few days before were strangers put their trust in me. They believed in me and encouraged me to do more. I have never worked so hard, but they were the most rewarding five days I have ever had. I always believed I had a strong faith but when you go to Lourdes your faith shines. It's like a recharge, a rock-solid strength comes over you and a calming sense of reassurance that your faith can get you through anything – even making it to the top of the bank, pushing the wheelchair!

Lourdes also showed me that faith isn't just something I “have”, it is there to be shared, and the more you share your faith with others, the stronger it gets for you all.

Faith is about community, about belonging,



Charlie Perkin says returning to Lourdes this year was a fantastic experience

about using this wonderful gift God has given us to help others. It is also about love, and I felt surrounded by this from arriving at the airport to arriving back at Teesside.

I don't think I have ever seen people take so long to leave an airport, so many hugs, thanks and goodbyes – or should I say, see-you-soons! It truly was a fantastic experience, an amazing opportunity and an inspiring journey.

I am so grateful for the help that the Duchess of Leeds Assumption Fund and Catenians gave me to enable me to make this pilgrimage.

It has embedded a seed in me that will grow, and I'm sure I will be back in Lourdes again soon to do it all again.

Funeral takes place for Lourdes doctor Sara



Sara Baxter with seafarers on a ship visit – photo courtesy of Stella Maris

The funeral of former Lourdes doctor and Stella Maris volunteer Sara Baxter took place at Emmanuel Church, Saltburn, on Wednesday August 3.

Dr Baxter, 61, was a consultant anaesthetist at James Cook University Hospital and had lived in Saltburn for several years.

Monsignor Ricardo Morgan, of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, led the service, but the venue was switched because of the large number of health service colleagues, family and friends who attended.

Dr Baxter attended Mass at Our Lady's but also had strong links with Emmanuel.

Also present were the vicar, the Rev Adam Reed, Skelton-based Baptist minister Geoff Bland, the Rev Peter Barrigan, Stella Maris Tees regional chaplain, and Dr Baxter's brothers, Adam and Tim.

Dr Baxter was a keen supporter of Stella Maris (formerly Apostleship of the Sea) and regularly visited seafarers on board ships at Teesport.

“I wanted to do voluntary pastoral work, but not in the hospital,” she said, in an interview about her Stella Maris work.

“I have always loved the sea, having chosen to live beside it since I left London. The promotion of public awareness and appreciation of seafarers is a very important part of the work of AoS. I am part of that in

my role as a parish contact, which is very important in a seaside parish.”

Dr Baxter was a governor of Skelton Primary School and a colourful character who rode a motor scooter and bicycle round town. Tributes were paid to her warm and friendly personality.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for her

Our Lady Star of the Sea, pray for her

St Bernadette, pray for her.

Lourdes Memorial Book displayed for prayer

The Lourdes Memorial book that was blessed by Bishop Terry in Lourdes will be on display at St Mary's Cathedral during the visit of the Relics of St Bernadette on October 2 and 3.

The book will be available on a lectern so it can be turned to the page of loved ones' anniversaries and visitors can say a prayer.

Time to register interest in pilgrimage 70

You can now register your interest in joining the 70th Diocese of Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Having successfully returned to the shrine this year after a two-year absence, the organisers are expecting large numbers to want to be part of this very special anniversary pilgrimage in 2023.

The pilgrimage will take place from Friday May 26 to Friday June 2, and forms to register your interest are available to collect from your parish.

Please register your interest by the end of September 2022 to stay in touch with plans and ensure you don't miss out! Email pilgrimagedirector@rcdmidd.org.uk for more details.



Members of our Lourdes Hospitalité in front of the Rosary Basilica during this year's pilgrimage

NEWS

An inspirational teacher and much-loved priest

Father Michael Simison SM passed away in Hull on June 2 at the age of 83. Father Michael was professed as a Marist in 1965 and ordained to the priesthood in 1969.

After serving as a popular parish priest in the then-Marist parishes of Holy Name, Middlesbrough (1987-91) and Our Lady of Lourdes & St Peter Chanel, Hull (1991-2000), he spent 17 years serving at the shrine in Walsingham.

Below is part of the eulogy delivered at Father Michael’s funeral by Father Noel Wynn SM...

Over the years, Michael Simison and I walked the Pennine Way two and a half times, the Coast-to-Coast walk, and our own route from Hull to Walsingham. We also completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks on several occasions.

On walks such as these, you find out quite a lot about your companion. I couldn’t have found a more congenial companion than Michael. He knew when to keep quiet, when to engage in deep conversation and when to throw in a humorous comment.

But apart from this, his attraction to these walks tells us something about his character. He was not one who excelled in physical activity, and he did not regularly go out for pleasant rambles in the countryside. He was attracted by the challenge.

His last big challenge was to walk from Hull to Walsingham, on his own, to take up his role as parish priest.

Michael’s degree was in Classics, but his teaching subjects were English and Religious

Studies, and in both disciplines, he inspired his students. He did not know the whole of Shakespeare, but he knew the bits which were worth knowing. He didn’t know the whole of the Bible, but he knew the bits which were worth knowing. And he had the kind of memory which could always produce the appropriate quotation.

His filing system was not scientific, but he could always find something if he thought it was important (usually somewhere on the floor).

I used to tease him that his off-the-cuff comments and throwaway lines were always very well prepared.

His sermons were always interesting and often relied on a tiny scrap of paper on which he had written an idea or a useful quotation.

His first teaching post was at Blackburn. After a few successful years in teaching, Michael moved over to parish ministry and served in all the Marist parishes in England. He was PP in Walsingham when Bishop Peter Smith asked him to oversee the building of a new parish church.

A familiar sight, and one which indicated his approach to parish ministry, was of him sitting on the bench outside this church for 15 minutes or so before Mass started.

The hymns for this service were all chosen by Michael, and they come as no surprise. He wasn’t the greatest fan of modern hymns and “I Vow to Thee My Country” sums up his outlook on life. It tells the tale of two domains, a patriotic Britain that stands

united in devotion, and a heaven that seeks peace above all else.

The only reading that he asked for was the Gospel and typically, this places him with Christ at the foot of the cross. The words of Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel were guidance for Michael on his journey through life.

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.’”

I am sure Michael often spoke the words of the thief who was crucified with Jesus: “Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

On this sad occasion, let us console ourselves with the words from the Book of Wisdom and from the Gospel acclamation: “The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them. God has put them to the test and proved them



Father Michael Simison

worthy to be with him.”
Happy are those who die in the Lord! Now they can rest forever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Muston community mourns loss of Father Ian

Father Ian McLean O Praem, a member of the Norbertine community at Muston, North Yorkshire, has passed away shortly before his 83rd birthday.

Father Ian was born on August 23 1939 and educated at Ealing Abbey School before working as a jazz musician and in journalism, including a period editing Jazz News.

He joined the Norbertine Order at Storrington Priory in 1965, was professed in 1967 and ordained on February 5 1972. He worked in Storrington, Manchester and Northern Ireland.

Ill health caused him to retire to a care home, but he was able to join the community at Muston in 2016. A Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Mary’s, Filey, on Tuesday August 16.

Parishioners help Joseph mark special day

St Aelred’s, York, parishioners were delighted to be present for the confirmation of Joseph Goloomba.

Joseph had been prepared for his confirmation in Luxembourg, where his family had been living, but had to miss the occasion after moving to the UK.

His grandparents Jack and Mercy Mapanje and other members of his family were there to support him when he was finally confirmed, by Father Bill Serplus, with permission from Bishop Terry.


Jack and Mercy were welcomed into St Aelred’s Parish as asylum seekers from Malawi in 1991. They have always expressed their appreciation to Father Austin O’Neill, who was parish priest at that time.

The family have continued to be part of the parish and Jack gave an interesting talk about their life in Malawi as part of our One World Evening.

Kath Stubbs



Joseph Goloomba with Father Bill Serplus



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).

Missionary tells of his work in Africa

Missionary Father Michael Heap talked about his life and work in Africa when he visited St Paulinus Church in Guisborough.

Father Michael is a member of the Missionaries of Africa, also known as the White Fathers, a missionary society of priests and brothers founded in 1868.

The name “White Fathers” comes from their white habit, which was based on the traditional North African dress of a white gown (gandoura) and a white hooded cloak (burnous).

There are more than 1,144 Missionaries of Africa – fully professed priests, deacons and brothers – but a great number now live in Europe, including many who have retired

because of age or ill-health.

Father Michael’s first parish was in Timbuktu in Mali, West Africa, much of which was in the Sahara Desert. This parish was twice the size of Great Britain, and his few Christian parishioners were scattered across the area.

He also worked for many years in other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, including the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He described his difficult and sometimes dangerous work while a missionary in Africa.

Father Michael now visits assigned parishes preaching about the work of the missions and collecting funds.

Brian Gleeson



Father Michael Heap with St Paulinus’ parish priest Father Phil Cunnah

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	1954	Rev Francis X Lynch	Scorton
4	1949	Rev Edward O’Rourke	Bridlington
5	1941	Very Rev Canon James Nolan	South Bank
6	1982	Very Rev John Currie	Hull
6	2019	Very Rev Mgr Anthony Bickerstaffe	Hull
7	1886	Rev Nicholas Rigby	Ugthorpe
7	1931	Very Rev Canon James Barry	Hull
10	1981	Very Rev Canon Thomas Slattery	Hornsea
11	1934	Very Rev Canon James Griffin	Hedon
12	1916	Very Rev Canon Silvester McMahon	Redcar
12	1978	Very Rev Canon Francis Connolly	Northallerton
12	2013	Rev Daniel McIver	Ballyhahill
13	1960	Rev Richard Fox	Hornsea
15	1962	Rev Francis Holland	Loftus
16	1969	Rev Arthur O’Connor	Holme-on-Spalding Moor
19	1911	Very Rev Canon James Brady	Holme-on-Spalding Moor
19	1971	Very Rev Canon Charles Clifford	Hull
20	1958	Very Rev Gabriel Redmond	Hull
21	1975	Rev David Quinlan	Hornsea
23	1890	Rev George Keasley	Yarm
24	1951	Very Rev Canon Cecil Farrar	Cheltenham
26	1973	Rev Gerard Croker	Pocklington
27	2001	Rev Charles Toner	Middlesbrough
30	1917	Rev Adrian Van Meerendonck	York
30	1953	Rev Michael Dillon	Driffild
30	1978	Rev Liam Noonan	Nunthorpe

Monsignor Anthony Bickerstaffe, who passed away in September 2019



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NEWS

Out and About

- 2 Friday**
Events, articles and photographs for the October *Voice* are due by today.

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

6 Tuesday
10am Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle, email: 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.

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

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

11 Sunday
3pm Middlesbrough Diocese LGBT+ Ministry celebrates Mass with an explicit welcome to
- members of the LGBT+ community, their families and friends. All are welcome to the celebration of the Eucharist.

12 Monday
9.45-10.25am 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. No charge and everyone 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.

13 Tuesday
10am Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle, email: terry-doyle@live.co.uk.
Hull and District Catholic Women's Luncheon Club - We lunch at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Kingston Square, Hull at 12.45 for lunch at 1pm. Everyone is very welcome and for further details please ring 01482446565.

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

18 Sunday
3pm Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship Mass, Holy Name of Mary, Middlesbrough.

- 19 Monday**
9.45-10.25am Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

If you have any events you would like including in the Out & About Section, please email heidi.cummins@rcdmidd.org.uk.

Birth of diocese is subject of talk

Cleveland Newman Circle opens its 2022/23 season with the first of six talks with a local history theme.

Margaret Turnham will be the guest speaker with a talk called "‘Another prophet has arisen’: Birth pangs of the Diocese of Middlesbrough".

The title is taken from the Middlesbrough Evening Gazette on February 10 1879 after news reached England of Rome's decision to divide the Diocese of Beverley into two new dioceses.

Bishop of Beverley Robert Cornthwaite and the people of Teesside were pleased by the division and the elevation of Middlesbrough to

be one of the two new see towns.

The talk examines the reasons for the form the division took, the arguments against it and the problems it engendered for its first bishop, Richard Lacy, as he strived to set the new diocese on a road to stability with few resources.

The talk takes place at St Mary's Cathedral hall, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, on Wednesday September 21, beginning at 7.45pm, with coffee and tea available from 7.30pm.

All are welcome. For more details, call 01642 645732 or email p.egerton123@gmail.com.

Celebrating 200 years at St Mary's

St Mary's Chapel, Crathorne has undergone major repairs and redecoration in celebration of its bicentenary.

This Grade 2* listed building is of national as well as diocesan significance.

It is primarily the place of worship for a Catholic community, who invite you to visit this beautifully restored House of God for our bicentenary weekend.

Thursday September 8, The Nativity of Our Lady
6.30pm: Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Terry, followed by a reception in the reading room opposite the chapel.

Friday September 9
10am-4pm: Heritage open day

Saturday September 10
10am-4pm: Heritage open day
3pm: Illustrated talk by Mike Toogood, "The story of St Mary's and its parishioners", in the reading room.

Sunday September 11, 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time
9am: Sunday Mass
10am-4pm: Heritage open day
5pm: Sung evening prayer (Vespers)



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 September 2 for our October 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.

A Christian's guide to making a difference

A new book has been published for Christians who want to make a difference by fighting poverty in the communities they live in.

Written by John Evans, "Christian Social Action: Making a difference where you are" is described as a wide-ranging manifesto and practical handbook for Christian social action.

The book combines research-based descriptions of growing household debt, food, child and housing poverty with inspiring historical and up-to-date examples of Christian action.

The content is designed to both inform and inspire the decision-making of activists and should become a key resource when building stakeholder support and bidding for income.

It also includes practical guidance on identifying local needs, building a committed

team, deciding how and where to do the good that's so desperately needed, measuring and reporting results, growing resources and communicating with partners and stakeholders.

Stephen Timms MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society, says: "As hopeful as it is sobering, John Evans' infectious vision, set out in his guide to outreach in the context of Christian fellowship, provides a stirring call to action.

"Here is a practical approach, post-pandemic, to help churches tackle the injustice around them. It draws on inspiration from history but is clear-sighted about the emerging realities of poverty in Britain today, and the barriers faith groups face in addressing them."

Copies are £7.99. Visit christiansocialcatholic.net for more information.

Help Knights mark 100 years of service

All are welcome at two events to help the Knights of St Columba Council 29 Middlesbrough celebrate 100 years of faithful service.

Established in 1922, the Knights is a fraternity of Catholic brothers who have been a mainstay of diocesan events and established the former Knights of St Columba Club on Southfield Road.

To mark the occasion, a banquet dinner is to be held at Jurys Inn, Middlesbrough on Friday October 21, with Mass to be celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral at 11am the next day, Saturday October 22.

Tickets for the banquet dinner cost £35 and are available by...

Telephone: Les Clark on 07818080388

Email: ksc29events@gmail.com

New website shows what's on in York

St Bede's Pastoral Centre has set up a new website that aims to connect churches and charities and provide an online ecumenical calendar to show what's going on in the area and beyond.

The website – called Mustard Seed York – is initially simple, but if it takes off, the organisers hope to add search facilities and other functions.

If any organisations would like to be added to the Churches and Charities page or publicise events, email programmeadmin@stbedes.org.uk.

Visit mustardseedyork.org to find out more.

St Bede's also has some longer courses starting in September.

Personal and Spiritual Development is a two-year, in-person ecumenical experiential course rooted in the Ignatian Tradition.

It usually attracts an ecumenical crowd, which makes for interesting discussions on this shared journey. The cost is £165 per term.

Spiritual Conversation is a one-year, online ecumenical course, again rooted in the Ignatian tradition. The cost is £255.

Bursaries are available for both courses for those on limited incomes.

For more details visit stbedes.org.uk, email programmeadmin@stbedes.org.uk or call 01904 464900.

Fourth priest murdered in Nigeria

Catholic leaders in Nigeria have announced the murder of Father John Mark Cheitnum – the fourth priest to be killed in the country this year alone.

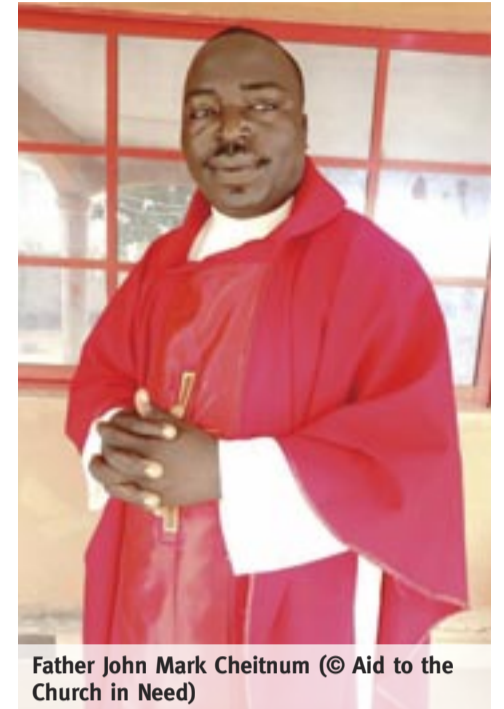
Father Cheitnum's body was found in July after he had been kidnapped.

Diocese of Kafanchan chancellor Father Emmanuel Okolo revealed that Father Cheitnum had been "brutally murdered".

Another priest, Father Donatus Cleopas, was kidnapped alongside Father Cheitnum but he escaped that same day.

Father Cheitnum, who was 44, had been ordained for nine years and was parish priest of St James's Church, Fori.

As well as being Kafanchan diocese's director of communications, Father Cheitnum was chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Jama'a local government area and chairman of the organisation's operation in Southern Kaduna.



Father John Mark Cheitnum (© Aid to the Church in Need)

Archbishop's fresh plea for abducted and abused young people

A leading bishop in Pakistan has called on the international community to do more to address the kidnapping, sexual assault and forced conversion of young people from Christian and other religious minorities in Pakistan.

Archbishop Sebastian Shaw of Lahore made the call during an event at the shrine of Christ the King in Setúbal Diocese, organised by the Portuguese office of Catholic charity

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN).

Underlining that young people can be abducted anywhere, he said: "These children are not even free to play in the garden. We have a duty to speak about what is happening, to prevent these cases."

According to the Pakistan-based Movement for Solidarity and Peace, up to 1,000 Christian and Hindu women and girls aged between 12 and 25 are seized each year.

Most villages lack priests after terror attacks

An explosion of Islamist terrorism in Burkina Faso has left one diocese in a dire situation, with parishes directly attacked and forced to close and priests unable to minister to 95 per cent of their flock.

A report sent by the Diocese of Fada N'Gourma, seen by Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), says robberies, kidnappings and murders have all increased in the area.

Terrorists in the West African country have attacked five of the diocese's 16 parishes,

which then had to close, while in seven other parishes, ministry is restricted to the main church because terrorists control land routes and have destroyed telephone communication networks.

Until September 2021, less than one third of the diocesan territory (29 percent) was accessible for pastoral work, which is 155 out of 532 villages – however, by April 2022 the number of accessible villages had reduced to 29, or 5.5 percent.

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NEWS

Answering the call for help

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

Dr Eric called Judith to the hospital.

He said: "I know you normally help malnourished children, but I have a young man here who has fled in fear of his life and has no-one else to help him. Without an operation, he will die."

Joseph had escaped from the village of Djombo, a place often beset with ethnic conflict. This time it had got out of hand.

The Gombe tribe is the majority. The provincial MPs had appointed traditional chiefs only from the minority Mongo tribe. Regionally, Mongo are the majority, but not in Djombo.

The MPs had even provided guns to the Mongo groups. The result was carnage, with bodies strewn all over the place, and 347 houses burnt to the ground. Doctors, nurses, teachers and lots of others have been forced to flee.

The total breakdown of medical services left him in a dire position. There were no doctors left and Joseph's pain became worse. Eventually, his family got him onto a boat to Basankusu, 60 miles downriver.

When he arrived, his appendix had already burst. It was already late afternoon when he arrived.

"We've been stung before," Judith told Dr Eric. "He might die anyway and then the family will ask for money for his funeral, including food for the family and his journey home. We can't risk such expense!"

Dr Eric suggested that the family sign a disclaimer letter. I wrote the letter and Joseph's parents, and a witness, signed it.

They would welcome any help we could offer, they wouldn't pursue the matter further.

They made him comfortable, and we left for the night.

The operation took place the next morning. Dr Eric called me to buy the compresses, gloves, syringes and anaesthetics necessary for the operation.

I whizzed off into town to collect the money at our Chinese friend's shop, dropping off Judith at Basankusu Cathedral. I left Dr Eric to his work and joined Judith at Mass. The operation was a success.

That same day, Judith and I were thrown from our motorbike while someone cut in front of us unexpectedly. Judith must have bounced off me, but I cut my head and crushed my ribs.

We were advised to take the opportunity of the small plane the next day and fly to Kinshasa. Painful ribs aside, we were able to raise the rest of the money needed for Joseph's treatment.

Imagine our surprise, two weeks later, when we heard that he'd disappeared from the hospital. We were so worried that he would get an infection, and even more worried that he would return to his village!

We sent people to look for him, and after three days he returned to the hospital to have his dressings changed.

We'd already paid the hospital bill, so we left the rest of the money we'd received with him to pay for dressings, antibiotics, food and so on. So it all turned out fine.

• You can follow Francis and his work in the Congo on Facebook and Instagram.



Joseph is treated after arriving at the hospital with a burst appendix



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Resources to help us take climate change action

"Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also 'macro relationships, social, economic and political ones'. That is why the Church sets before the world the ideal of a 'civilisation of love'." (*Laudato Si'* 231)

The Season of Creation spans the month of September. I highlighted this year's theme in last month's article and would like to follow that up with signposts to various resources that can provide help and inspiration.

This summer we have experienced climate change and extremes of heat and drought in some areas, focusing us on the need to "Listen to the Voice of Creation".

The Journey to 2030 website offers a parish guide to *Laudato Si'* and calls for a renewed vision for the world, one that chooses to respect life in all its forms.

It aims to help our church communities join the global 2030 agenda for change and is a place to allow the Church's contributions, based on Catholic Social Teaching, to add

something special to the debate on climate and social action.

It's also a place to share our communities' actions, stories and prayers along the journey and thereby find motivation and inspiration for action.

I would particularly recommend the poster activity pack "Building a Caring Community", which has been designed as a template for schools, parishes or communities to address the ecological and social crisis using the *Laudato Si'* goals.

You can buy a printed pack or digital download from the website. Each comes with a facilitator's handbook and addresses in a practical way what each of us can do when faced with what appear to be overwhelming world events.

It includes concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace in an integrated community response.

The handbook includes a guide to key concepts – group discussions, reflections and guidance on the *Laudato Si'* goals and a selection of prayers for use in different settings.

Visit journeyto2030.org for more details.

Barbara Hungin

Welcome Centre offers safe haven for those fleeing the war

Six months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the UN says some 12 million people have fled their homes.

Seven million are internally displaced and over five million have left for other countries.

More than 100,000 Ukrainians have arrived in the UK to escape the bloodshed.

Newly arrived Ukrainians face considerable challenges to settle outside their homeland and need support to access services, find accommodation and integrate into the community.

The UK already has a significant Ukrainian community who are helping those settling in Britain.

Now a Welcome Centre has been set up in London by the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family in partnership with the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain.

Based in central London at the site of the Eparchy's cathedral, the centre is a single point of contact for essential information for arrival, settling and long-term living in the UK.

Its director, Andriy Marchenko, said: "Our centre aims to support Ukrainians as they arrive. They need to settle, they need to get all their documentation ready, they have to send their children to schools – the majority of those who are coming are mothers with children.

"They need to find proper accommodation, they need social support, they need to find jobs, they need practical help to start life anew – even if it is for a little while."

Bishop Kenneth Novakowski, the Ukrainian Catholic Bishop for the Holy Family of London, said: "Through the work of so many people, we are providing a place that is safe, allowing people to keep their dignity.

"It's a place of welcome for those fleeing and also for those who are sponsoring people who have opened up their homes and their hearts.

"It's a place of welcome where we work closely together with other non-government agencies and governmental agencies to provide information, counselling and even community for those who are fleeing."

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday: A call to mission

The third Sunday in September, formerly called Home Mission Sunday, is now Evangelii Gaudium Sunday.

Named after Pope Francis' first solo apostolic exhortation on the Joy of the Gospel, the day offers the Catholic community the opportunity to celebrate the beauty of our faith and our commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ.

In the document, Pope Francis encouraged the Christian faithful to "embark on a new chapter of evangelisation" marked by this joy, while striving to find new paths to proclaim the Gospel in today's world.

"We cannot forget that evangelisation is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him," he wrote.

"Many of these are quietly seeking God, led by a yearning to see his face... Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone."

This is the challenge and opportunity we take up on Evangelii Gaudium Sunday.

Pope Francis calls on the Church to embark on a fundamental change when it comes to evangelisation, no longer relying on past structures and actions but reading the signs of the times and acting passionately in proclaiming the unique message of the Gospel that brings joy to all people who receive it with an open heart.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday will be celebrated in Catholic parishes on Sunday September 18.



Bishop Kenneth Novakowski and Andriy Marchenko at the new Welcome Centre for Ukrainians coming to the UK – Photo courtesy of © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

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

From the Archives

40 Years Ago

(From August 1982 Catholic Voice)

Despite a torrential downpour, a huge congregation was present when His Lordship Bishop Harris, with priests who had previously served in the Parish, together with the clergy of the area, concelebrated Mass in St. Aelred's Church York, on Friday June 25, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Parish.

In his homily, Bishop Harris explained that we were not celebrating the anniversary of the building of the church as this had happened in 1955. What we were celebrating was the birth of a community, which was far more important. The St. Aelred's birthday cake was cut jointly by Canon P. Bluett, and 85 years old Mrs M.E. Matthews.

100 Years Ago

(From the minute book of the Managers of St Peter's School, South Bank, September 1922)

The Board of Education has approved plans for the alteration of the staircase in the Mixed School but suggest that a Teachers Room might be found in the existing building when the new temporary school is erected. It has been found that there is no drain in Upper Millbank Street. Although plans for the new temporary school have been put forward by the Board of Education, their suggestions were so drastic as to change the whole situation. Under the circumstances, the chairman thought it would be better to employ an architect nearer home, so the matter stands over for the present.

David Smallwood



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NEWS

Bishops stand in solidarity with Holy Land Christians

Catholic bishops from across Europe gathered in Jerusalem for the annual Holy Land Coordination.

The bishops stood in solidarity with the local Christian communities and expressed their support through the four Ps – Prayer, Pilgrimage, Pressure and Presence.

Celebrating Mass with the faithful was an important aspect of the coordination, with the bishops visiting parishes in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

The group also met church leaders, including the Latin Patriarch, officials in the patriarchate, and Catholic charities serving people in Jerusalem, the West Bank and wider region.

By their presence, the bishops hope to remind the “living stones” of the Christian communities in the Holy Land that their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world do not forget them.

Final Communiqué

‘If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither’

Psalms 137:5

Jerusalem is a Jewish city, a Christian city, a Muslim city. It must remain a common patrimony and never become the exclusive monopoly of any one religion. We came to meet and pray with our sisters and brothers, mindful of Patriarch Pizzaballa's message that

it is our right and duty as Christians to uphold the city's openness and universality.

The Christian community is essential to Jerusalem's identity, both now and for the future. Yet its continued presence is threatened by occupation and injustice. Many of those we encountered are facing violence and intimidation by settler groups, restrictions on their freedom of movement, or separation from their families because of the status they are assigned.

We share the concerns expressed by the Christian community about unilateral restrictions on freedom of worship during Easter, imposed by the Israeli police. We experienced the deep sorrow and anger felt by local Christians at the killing of Palestinian Catholic journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the shameful attack on mourners at her funeral.

We witnessed how many people of all backgrounds are living in poverty, which has been compounded by the pandemic. The absence of pilgrims during the past two years has devastated livelihoods, including among Jerusalem's Christian community, leaving some families struggling to afford housing, food or other essentials.

Amid these challenges, there are signs of hope. We visited Christian organisations taking responsibility for the wellbeing of their community and wider society. They are working tirelessly to ease hardship and



Bishop Declan Lang heard from the Palestinian community about the killing of Catholic journalist Shireen Abu Akleh – photo courtesy Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

improve lives. We met young people who, despite facing daily violations of their fundamental human rights, refuse to be the last generation of Christians in the city.

As pilgrims return once more, we call upon them to support Christians in Jerusalem and throughout the Holy Land. It is essential that all pilgrims understand and engage with the reality of life for the Christian community

here. A true Holy Land pilgrimage should be a journey of faith, encounter, and solidarity.

Pope Francis affirms the universal value of Jerusalem, which goes beyond any consideration of territorial issues.

Inspired by Christ our Peace, all Christians must help preserve the city's sacred character and promote an authentic vision for Jerusalem as a place of dialogue and unity.

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