



Bishop's Column

New Year's Day has many historical and religious origins.

In our part of the world, it owes its principal origins to the Roman god Janus. Janus was the god of gateways.

He is depicted with two faces, one facing forwards and one facing backwards, the god of beginnings and endings, the god of transitions.

The month of January is named after Janus, hence the reason the New Year is in January.

Christianity has always been adept at weaving earlier customs and practices into the fabric of belief and catechetics.

There is a natural desire in the human heart to commend to the Creator in thanksgiving the good things that have happened to us, and to heal and mend all that is broken and dysfunctional, especially that which now appears to be beyond our powers.

As we look to the future, we desire that God will bless and prosper us and all of creation.

Looking back over the year that has ended, we know we would want peace to grow where war is raging.

We crave stability, respect, justice for ourselves, for those we love, and indeed, for all people of goodwill.

Many of the situations in our world that we know have been caused by human greed, by indifference, ignorance, hubris, lust for power, seem to be beyond our control. We feel helpless.

That is why it is good to pause as we enter into a new era, a fresh beginning, this New Year of 2023.

We place the past into God's hands in sorrow and thanksgiving. We entrust the future to God in hope and trust.

We pray for God's blessings on all:
*O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.*

*Let the nations be glad and exult,
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.*

*Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.*

*May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.*

(Psalm 66 [67])

In blessed hope,

+ Liz

What's Inside

**100 years since birth
of Cardinal Hume**
Page 6



**St Stephen's
hits 40!**
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Diocese launches new fundraising initiative

As we continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic, the diocesan trustees have appointed a fundraising officer to help support its parishes and create a new fundraising strategy.

Dan Woodgate takes on the role with a wealth of diocesan experience behind him. He has worked in the Curia finance department for 22 years, the last three years incorporating his role as gift aid officer.

He has extensive knowledge of parish finances and will use his network of parish contacts to full advantage in this role. He is also an active parishioner in his home parish of St Patrick's, Thornaby.

Dan has already started the groundwork of the role with his digital giving campaign, which was featured in last month's *Catholic Voice*, and he is keen to progress that further throughout the year.

There's so much more than that, though, as Dan explains: "I'm excited to be given this opportunity to help our parishes increase their income."

"I know and love parish life and feel there is a real niche for this new role. I am very aware of the generosity of our parishioners, particularly in the current climate, and although I will assist parishes with planned giving appeals, I also want to look at generating income without hitting parishioners' pockets directly."

"This will include applying for grants, promoting the gift aid scheme, raising legacy awareness and more."

Dan will share his news here throughout the year but is also keen to hear from you. If you have any income-generating ideas, whether locally or diocese-wide, please get in touch with him at fundraising@rcdmidd.org.uk or call 01642 850505, extension 254.



New diocesan fundraising officer Dan Woodgate

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NEWS

Solemn service remembers South Bank’s fallen

Canon John Lumley was the celebrant at the annual remembrance service at Smith’s Dock Park in Normanby.

The main memorial is to the men of South Bank who lost their lives in the two great wars. There is also a newer brass memorial plaque to those who died when La Bastiase was sunk by a German mine on June 22 1940 – the day France surrendered to Hitler’s forces during World War II.

The ship, a Flower-class corvette of the French Navy, was built at Smith’s Dock, Middlesbrough, and was undergoing sea trials off the River Tees.

The night before, Luftwaffe bombers had dropped mines into the shallow coastal waters.

Most of the French crew were killed, 43 in

all, as well as at least 18 Smith’s Dock workers who were on the ship.

Local dignitaries from Redcar and Cleveland Council and MP Jacob Young were among those who laid wreaths at this year’s service.

As usual, young footballers from South Park Rangers, as well as adults from Redcar Newmarket FC and their opponents, suspended their games to take part in the act of remembrance.

Canon John, who is now parish priest at St Bernadette’s, Nunthorpe, was asked to lead the annual service when he arrived at his previous parish, St Gabriel’s, Ormesby.

There is a family connection, as Canon John’s late dad worked at Smith’s Dock during the 1950s and 60s.



Canon John Lumley leads the remembrance service at Smith’s Dock Park in Normanby

Come and reflect at Whitby's Oasis of Silence

“Into the silence of our hearts, with Father and with Son, in answer to our constant prayer, O Holy Spirit come!”

This daily prayerful plea of the monks in Ampleforth is echoed in the hearts of many who seek to encounter God amid the busyness of their everyday lives.

As Jesus himself knew so well, to find stillness and silence it helps to “come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile” (Mark 6.31).

A new programme in Whitby, Oasis of Silence, has recently offered such stillness and prayerful encounter.

“The oasis is a wonderful way of helping people to get to know contemplative prayer practice,” says Father Pat Keogh, parish priest from St Hilda’s in Whitby.

“It’s good for Whitby to be known for its prayerfulness and spiritual education, as it was in the time of St Hilda.

“Sadly, nowadays the abbey is better known for Dracula than for St Hilda. It’s time that changed!”

Based on the Gries Path, taught by the Hungarian Jesuit, Franz Jálícs, which has brought thousands in Europe and elsewhere to pray with the name of Jesus Christ, the Oasis of Silence wants to attract – and be affordable to – anyone interested in contemplative prayer, whether they are just starting out or have been practising using other methods (all of which are compatible) for years.

The new programme is an ecumenical project housed in the peaceful surroundings of St Hilda’s Priory on Castle Road, on the outskirts of Whitby.

“As a community, we are delighted that this programme and ministry has begun here. It is important for us to work together in God’s vineyard,” says Sister Helen, one of the Anglican sisters of the Order of the Holy Paraclete, responsible for hospitality and the retreat house.

Angela Simek, from St Hilda’s Roman Catholic parish, who leads the retreat programme, agrees.

“Contemplative prayer is about listening to the Holy Spirit and then going wherever called,” she said. “It is certainly what Pope Francis is teaching us to do.”

This year, the Oasis of Silence is offering a variety of contemplative retreats.

They are monthly one-day retreats (on January 21, February 18, March 18, all from 10am to 4.30pm), a four-day “Tasting the Silence” after Easter and the classic 10-day contemplative retreat in early July.

During Lent there will be courses each week (“In Everyday Life”) beginning on Thursday February 23.

For more information, please email hospitality@ohpwhitby.org.uk or call 01947 899600.



Whitby Abbey – Photo by Angela Simek

BISHOP TERRY'S
JANUARY
ENGAGEMENTS

6

Attends Epiphany Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough 9.30am

11

School Visitation to St Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Primary, Ingleby Barwick 9am

12

Attends meeting of the Diocesan Trustee’s Education Committee via Zoom 10.30am

14-15

Parish Visitation St Thérèse, Ingleby Barwick

18

Attends Ushaw Trustee Meeting via Zoom 11am

19

School Visitation to St Joseph’s Catholic Primary, Middlesbrough 9am

20

School Visitation to St Thomas More Catholic Primary, Middlesbrough 9am

21-22

Parish Visitation to SS Joseph and Thomas More, Middlesbrough

23

Attends Mass at St Andrew’s, Teesville 7pm

24

Attends Bishop Council’s Meeting, Middlesbrough 10.30am

25

Attends installation of Canon Paul Farrer at St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough Noon

Winter comfort, far from home

At this special time of year, many of us have been spending time with our loved ones.

Most seafarers will not. At best, they may be in port with access to the internet or mobile phone connections. At worst, they will be at sea with no opportunity to contact their families.

“When we go on board a ship with Christmas gifts, it makes such a difference to seafarers,” says Deacon Peter Barrigan, Stella Maris regional port chaplain to Tees, Hartlepool and Seaham.

“Last year, one seafarer said to me, ‘Thank you for not forgetting us.’”

Typically, seafarers spend between nine months to a year at sea, with little chance to meet others during their brief stays in port, given the fast turnaround time of vessels.

The seafarers might be invisible, but many of the items you see in your local shops have arrived in the UK by sea, as has the fuel at the petrol station and your mobile phone or computer.

Stella Maris port chaplains such as Peter, and his team of volunteer ship visitors, are often a lifeline to seafarers, providing, among other things, transport to local shops, mobile wifi devices, warm clothing, and arranging medical appointments.

Peter says one of the most important things is to enable seafarers to contact their families.

“We make sure they have SIM cards and mobile phone top-up vouchers. We are aware of the sadness that being away from families can bring at this time of year, so we try to spend more time on ships.”

When Peter takes gifts on board, he dresses up as Santa Claus. Seafarers will often take photos of him to send back to their families.

Last year, he and his team distributed around 800 shoe boxes or bags provided by local parishes and schools and contained items such as toiletries, socks, woolly hats, and chocolate.

“There’s often a card inside with a simple message written by a child, saying something like ‘Thank you for all you do for us.’

“On one ship last year, an officer went to his cabin and returned with the card he’d received the previous year, telling me it had meant so much to him he had kept it by his bed.

“We tend to have an impromptu sing-along when we take the gifts on board. As we gather in the mess rooms, we start singing songs, which the guys join in. It’s just a few verses, but it brings smiles to their faces.”

Unlike Stella Maris port chaplains, we are unlikely to meet any seafarers. Yet it’s only because of the tough job that they do that we can buy many of the things that help make this such a special time. To find out more about Stella Maris’ work or to make a donation go to stellamaris.org.uk.



Deacon Peter Barrigan, Stella Maris regional port chaplain to Tees, Hartlepool and Seaham

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SCHOOLS

Prayer Day Mission brings Rosary to Hull schools

Hull primary schools have been taking part in a Prayer Day Mission organised by St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust.

The trust chaplaincy team took over each of the schools for a day with a Rosary-inspired prayer day to celebrate the month of October, the month of the Rosary.

Every class had different activities to complete during the day. Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children had to go on a mystery hunt to find the stories in the joyous and luminous

mysteries.

Key Stage 2 had to complete a mysteries-themed escape room to free one of the chaplaincy team who had strangely found himself locked inside St Vincent's Church!

Each class had to look at one of the "big three" prayers and decide the best way to tell others what they meant.

All the classes learned Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be songs, which were sung in the closing liturgy.

Every class prayed the Rosary at the beginning of each session throughout the day, and we even made a living Rosary in the playground of each school. Once we had made it, we prayed it!

At the end of the three weeks of prayer days across seven schools, we worked out we had prayed more than 41,000 Hail Marys, 4,000 Our Fathers and the same number of Glory Bes – not including all the ones we sang!

The days were prayerful, joyful and illuminating. All the children and staff were so enthusiastic about the day, with one

commenting: "Seeing 300 children singing about prayer and the love of God was very moving."

At the end of each day, we gave every child a gift of their own Rosary beads, almost 2,000 in all, which stayed in school with them until the end of the month so they could all continue to pray the Rosary together.

The St Cuthbert's chaplaincy team has more plans for mission days in the new year, hopefully in schools in the East Riding.

Micki Coyle



Children taking part in the St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust Prayer Day Mission

Generous parish supports Salvation Army appeal

During this cost-of-living crisis, it's often those who've experienced hardship themselves who show the greatest solidarity with the poor.

That's the analysis of Father Tony Lester, parish priest of Our Lady's Church in York, which supported the Salvation Army's appeal for new Christmas toys to distribute to families in need. Parishioners donated dozens of gifts, prompting Father Tony to say: "Once again the response from the parish family has been amazing."

"Many parishioners know or have known what it is to struggle financially themselves, especially when they had young families."

"They feel the need from their own experience. This care for others is not just at Christmas but is a 52-week-a-year reality. Parishioners donate food and other household items which are distributed via the school food bank, as well as giving financial support which enables the purchase of shoes, coats, and so on."

In the new year, Our Lady's is opening its parish hall as a Warm Welcome heat bank, offering a friendly spot for people in the local area to share company and food in a warm environment.

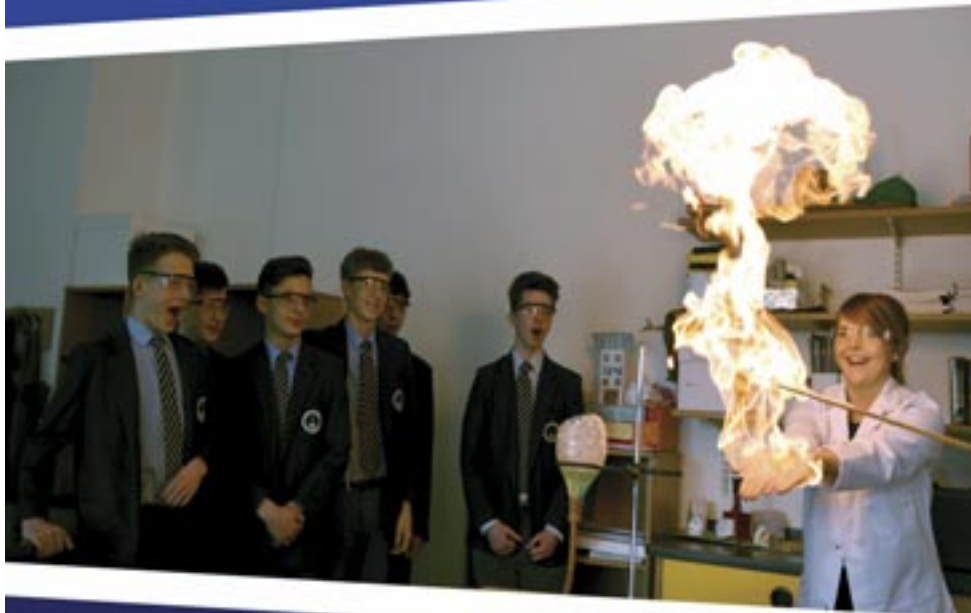


Our Lady's, Acomb, parishioners with some of the toys donated to the Salvation Army appeal

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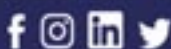
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Ambitious St Bede's welcomes Good Ofsted rating

Pupils and staff at St Bede's in Marske are celebrating after being rated Good in all areas by Ofsted.

Their report says St Bede's – which had been judged to require improvement at the beginning of 2019 – is a caring and safe place where leaders support pupils to fulfil their potential.

"Staff help pupils to follow the school 'golden rules' of 'listen with respect, act with kindness, speak with love, work together and always do our best'," it says.

"Pupils are respectful and kind to each other in the playground. They listen to each other in lessons. Adults model and show children in Nursery Year how to take turns and be kind to each other. Pupils are proud of their achievements as well as their friends."

Inspectors praised headteacher Lucy Smith and the new leadership team, who they say have improved behaviour in classrooms and the playground.

Staff deal with any concerns quickly and keep parents and carers informed about the welfare and achievements of pupils.

The report says: "Leaders have also introduced a new framework for teaching and learning to ensure a more consistent approach to classroom practice. As a result, standards have improved."

Ms Smith, who was appointed head in September 2021 and joined by a new deputy three months ago, said the report confirmed what the school already believed.

She said: "The staff are all delighted with

the report, which is a vindication of all the hard work they've put in and their dedication to the school. Everybody's worked together to get the result we wanted.

"St Bede's has a real family focus and feel. It's a wonderful community and everybody has a strong sense of belonging, and the children are at the heart of everything we do.

"The PTA are brilliant, and our parents and carers are very supportive and champion St Bede's at every opportunity."

NPCAT has made significant and major investment in both the internal and external fabric of the school, including car parking provision, fencing and new playground provision as well as transforming the early years learning zone and library.

The report praises the trust, the Diocese of Middlesbrough and governors for their robust reporting systems that ensure they challenge leaders and hold them to account for the quality of education.

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said: "I am delighted for all our community of parents, carers and staff. St Bede's has made significant strides forward over the last few years and we will build upon these improvements as we progress towards Outstanding provision.

"I would like to thank everyone – parents, carers, governors and staff – who work tirelessly with Ms Smith to afford a nurturing, loving Christian education to our fantastic pupils."

Ms Smith added: "I'm proud that the report talks about our ambition for all pupils, that pupils with special educational needs are carefully identified and well supported, and that children are safe and happy."

"For us, it's not just about the Ofsted result, it's about providing the highest quality of education for every child, but having what we're doing recognised in this way is a really good feeling.

"Everything we do is about moving forward. We're very ambitious for the future and just want to keep on improving."



Headteacher Lucy Smith with children at St Bede's Catholic Primary School in Marske



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NEWS

Celebrating a century since Cardinal Hume's birth

On March 2 this year, it will be 100 years since Cardinal Basil Hume was born. To introduce a two-part special feature, Emeritus Bishop of Middlesbrough John Crowley remembers his time as his private secretary. We then reprint the first part of Bishop John's homily at Cardinal Hume's funeral Mass at Westminster Cathedral on June 25 1999...

By the time of his death, Cardinal Basil Hume OSB was a much admired and respected figure in the country and loved within his own Catholic community.

The approach to his centenary gives me a chance to reflect on the six years I spent with him after he first arrived in London in 1976 at the age of 53. Then he was relatively unknown, although he had already been Abbot of Ampleforth Abbey for 23 years.

During those early years at Westminster, he was keen to keep himself physically fit, which meant that part of my role was to be squash partner and running companion. He had a well-developed sense of humour, and that made for relaxed living in community with him. The other members of the Archbishop's House community were religious sisters, initially Dominican, but for most of his time the Sisters of Mercy provided that vital supportive ministry. The Cardinal valued enormously their presence, especially as a praying community. We all gathered in the house chapel at the beginning of the day. Looking back, those early morning prayer times together before the busy days unfolded are a precious memory.

If there was a particular quality of Cardinal Hume I would want to highlight in this article, it would be his manner of relating to others. He had the profound conviction that each person he met was superior to him in some way, possessing some talent, skill or gift which he lacked. This approach to others meant that everyone he met felt valued and appreciated. It was an especially lovely gift, which enabled others to be quickly at ease in his presence.

Like every human being, the Cardinal had his failings – his path to sanctity was, as for us all, amid and not despite human weakness. That said, the private man was, essentially, the public one also. What others saw was what he was. The inspiring words he spoke and wrote about the things of God were words he inhabited himself. It showed through. God has blessed us richly through his life and through the manner of his holy death.

Readings: Wisdom 13: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:25-31; Luke 19:9-14

Dear sisters, dear brothers,

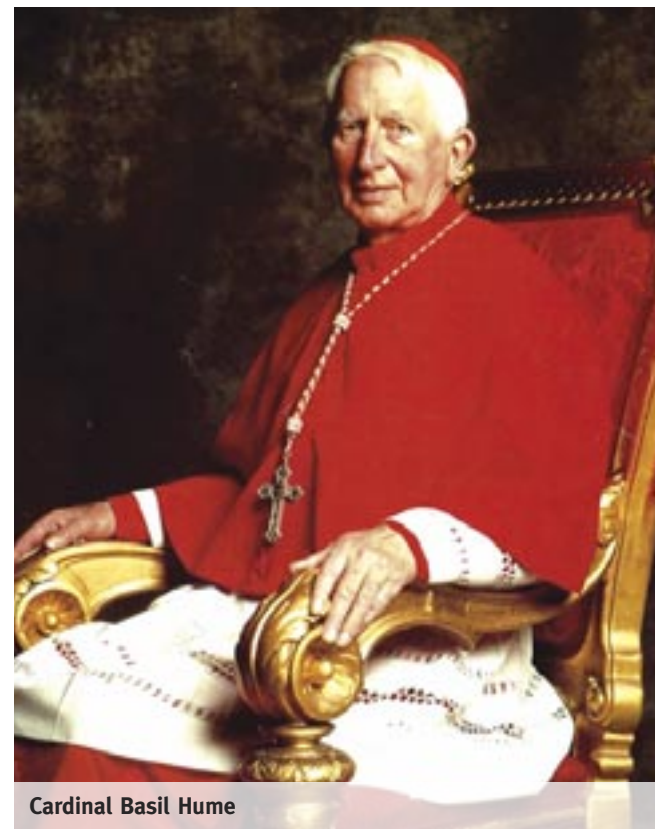
Two short months ago when told of his terminal cancer, the Cardinal was, at first, tempted to say, "If only..." "If only I could start all over again, I would be a much better monk, a much better abbot, a much better bishop. But then I thought" – these are his own words – "then I thought how much better if I can come before God when I die, not to say thank you that I was such a good monk, good abbot, good bishop, but rather God be merciful to me a sinner? For if I come empty-handed, then I will be ready to receive God's gift. 'God be merciful to me a sinner'."

How long ago it all seems now since that famous newspaper article in September 1975. It listed for the very first time the name of Basil Hume as one of six front runners for Westminster. Each candidate was given a little write-up, noting main advantages, main disadvantages. Under the Abbot of Ampleforth, the main disadvantage was brief and to the point. It read "Much too humble to make known his abilities. Could easily be missed!" How grateful we are to God that he wasn't!

To his own family and some lifelong friends, he was George or Basil, to others Your Eminence, but to most of us, he was just Father. The Cardinal answered to many titles. "How would you prefer to be addressed?" said one of his new priests way back in 1976. Back came the surprising reply, "I can cope with just about anything short of, 'Hey you!'"

But to all of us, whatever we called him, Cardinal Hume has been an outstanding spiritual leader, a man we shall achingly miss, and for whose life we are so grateful to God. Our first thoughts in love today are for his family, for his own personal household and staff next door (particularly the Sisters of Mercy), the priests of Westminster Diocese where he had come to feel so much at home, his monastic brethren, and his many friends. Because he was not just admired but loved, the Cardinal's death has provoked a lot of sadness, a shaking amount of personal grief all over the place.

But our main task today is to say, "Thank you, God" for giving us a shepherd after your own heart. Isn't it already clear that through his life, and in the manner of his dying, God has amazingly blessed us, and far beyond the boundaries of Church or religious belief? In a quite extraordinary way, it seems that everyone thought of him as a personal friend. Among the sacks full of letters which engulfed Archbishop's House when his terminal illness became known, a sizeable chunk of them began with the words, "I am not a member of your Church..." or "I am not



Cardinal Basil Hume

a believer..." But each letter bore its witness to a man of God who had touched people's hearts in a remarkable way. That universal appeal was somehow symbolised when Her Majesty the Queen conferred upon the Cardinal the Order of Merit. How moved he was by the graciousness of that gesture.

Now I begin to feel the Cardinal tugging impatiently at my alb, commanding me to return to the Scriptures for this Mass, all three of which he so carefully chose. Throughout his life he was much more fearful of praise than criticism. To a friend whose virtues were being a bit over-sung in his hearing, he remarked, "Enjoy that, but don't inhale, please!" So, back to the Scriptures, and particularly to the final words of that second reading, "As it is written, 'Let him who boasts boast of the Lord.'" That's surely what we want to do at this Mass.

Pope John Paul can perhaps help us here. He once wrote, "We need heralds of the Gospel who are experts in humanity, who know the depths of the human heart, who can share the joys, the hopes, the agonies, the distress of people today, but who are, at the same time, contemplatives who have fallen in love with God."

Those words of the Pope – which incidentally the Cardinal loved and often quoted – capture well our pride in him, and our gratitude to God. For here was a monk, a bishop, who touched people's lives deep, deep down because he knew God. Because he first inhabited his words, what he then said about God rang true. It had authority behind it. He spoke to us, as someone said, from the inside out.

But here too was someone whose very warm human heart had been broken open, to share in God's own compassion for others, and especially for those in pain. Because his eyes were fixed on God, he became vulnerable to others and especially to the poor. His very last public intervention just a fortnight ago, and virtually from his deathbed, was to support countries shackled by unpayable debts.

At home, too, his support for those driven to the margins of life was utterly faithful. No one who knew him had to ask why this passionate social concern. From the depth of his being, he believed that every human person is made in God's image and likeness. His logic thereafter was impeccable: the less that dignity was recognised, the more he raised his voice. There was a solid earthiness about his holiness, his wholeness, which was anything but otherworldly.

***Read part 2 in next month's *Voice*.**



Bishop John at his golden jubilee Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in 2015 – Photo by Les Clark

Housebound group marks 40th birthday in style

More than 100 people gathered in the Sacred Hall Parish Centre, Hull, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the St Stephen's Housebound Group.

The hall had been beautifully decorated in red and white by a team of volunteers led by Margaret Merrison and Jean Campbell and it looked stunning.

The day began with Mass celebrated by Canon John Loughlin, Father Frank Gallagher and Father Gerard Burns SM, after which everyone settled down to a delicious three-course meal prepared by Margaret Moxon and her team of volunteers.

After the meal, people chatted and shared stories and memories of the housebound days, which have been a godsend to many who would otherwise be isolated and unable to leave their homes easily.

After St Stephen's Pastoral Centre opened in 1982, a new project in Hull, Father Tom O'Neill, Margaret Merrison and Monique Brookes were busy planning how the centre would be run.

One idea was to have a day for the elderly and disabled. It started in the large room in the parish house with about 15 to 20 people.

Shortly afterwards, Father Tom left to undertake mission work in Kenya and was succeeded by Father Pat Day and the numbers grew, often exceeding 100 people.

It was decided to move into the large hall in the pastoral centre, enabling many more people to attend, and volunteers were able to set up stalls selling books, cards and religious items.

The day includes Mass, a tombola, a raffle and bingo and endless cups of tea are served. For lunch, there is usually soup and often extra treats. Income generated by the stalls and the activities enables the day to be financially sound.

Volunteer drivers bring anyone who cannot make the journey themselves and a team of volunteers looks after everyone during the day.

It takes an awful lot of organising, which is done by Margaret Merrison, Jean Campbell

and Margaret Moxon.

The day takes place on the final Wednesday of each month (except August) and has done for the last 40 years.

From the very start, the group went on an annual pilgrimage to Walsingham, initially for two days, but this became three days as more and more people wanted to go. There were often more than 75 pilgrims and one year there were 125!

The pilgrimage was suspended during the pandemic and it was a very hard decision not to start it up again. There are such happy memories of the pilgrimages and all the people who went to Walsingham.

When Father Pat left to become parish priest at Holy Cross, two IBVM sisters, Sister Anna and Sister Josie, came to run the pastoral centre. This enabled the Housebound Day to continue, and the sisters made everyone welcome and were fully supportive.

When they had to leave, the Sisters of Charity took over and Sister Maria, Sister Theresa and Sister Susan gave wonderful support.

When the Sisters of Charity had to leave and after a break because of the pandemic, Canon John Loughlin, parish priest of Sacred Heart, welcomed the Housebound Group to move to the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, where it continues to thrive.

In 2003, the group celebrated its 21st anniversary with Bishop John, Father Tom and Father Pat, and 10 years ago, Bishop Terry came to celebrate the 30th anniversary, joined by Father Pat, Father Frank Gallagher and Father Clive Birch SM.

Over the years, there have been so many wonderful meetings and reunions with friends and families and lots of beautiful celebrations.

Thanks must go to Father Tom for his initial idea and to Father Pat for continuing with this special day. After that came Father Frank Gallagher, who is always there to support the day and has done so over many years.

Father Dominique Minskip and the late Father John Wood were also great supporters. Special thanks must go to the



Canon John Loughlin with two of the St Stephen's Housebound Group organisers, Margaret Merrison and Margaret Moxon – Photo by Bernard France

late Father Clive Birch SM who served the Housebound Group so faithfully until his death during lockdown.

There have been many other priests, both diocesan and Marist, who have joined in the housebound days and made them so special.

We must not forget the dozens of volunteers who have given their time and effort so consistently and the young people from

St Richard's Primary School and St Mary's College, who have given invaluable help over the years.

Above all, we must thank Margaret Merrison who has been at the very heart of the Housebound Day since the very beginning and the members of her committee who are tireless in their efforts and generosity.

Chris Cuthill



The stunning Peace on Earth display of origami doves at the Bar Convent in York. The display was created in partnership with award-winning arts, culture and heritage charity New Visibility. Our picture shows New Visibility co-director Ails McGee – Photo by Kieran Paul Photography



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UKRAINE

York unites to pray for Ukraine

“Great idea, but we haven’t got time to organise it.”

That was the repeated response when Mary Callan suggested a united service of prayer for Ukraine to churches and unity groups in York.

So Mary organised a unity service herself, in English Martyrs’ Parish.

The parish was changing priests in September, so with Father John Bane’s agreement, Mary phoned incoming parish priest Canon Michael Loughlin and gained his approval.

Mary appealed to the parish musicians, chair-movers, bakers and tea and coffee makers for support and set to work writing the service and publicity and networking to involve as many faith and non-faith groups as possible.

“I attended Easter services in both York’s orthodox congregations,” said Mary. “I’ve helped York’s liberal Jewish community build their Succot shelter and attended open days at York mosque.”

Mindful of Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky’s Jewish heritage, Mary chose Old Testament stories and meditations including Moses praying, Joshua fighting the Battle of Rephidim, David setting off to fight Goliath and finally, the promise of peace in Isaiah 11.

The parish musicians welcomed Reverend Paul Millard, vicar of St Paul’s, to lead the singing.

A Quaker and an Orthodox priest were among the readers, York Central MP Rachael Maskell led the recital of Psalm 89 and another orthodox priest led some chanting, partly in Ukrainian, which the assembly found especially moving.

A Polish family announced the prayer intentions, and a Zen Buddhist led the final exhortation.

Canon Michael gave a very warm welcome and the final blessing, and the congregation, which included six young Mormon missionaries, stayed for refreshments and fellowship.



Mary Callan organised a united service of prayer for Ukraine in York

An Emergency Winter Appeal

Ukraine has faced the severest air attacks since Russia’s full-scale invasion on February 24 2022.

Peaceful Ukrainian cities have been hit with deadly missiles. Civilians have been targeted and infrastructure destroyed, leaving many without the necessities including electricity, heating, and water.

Millions have been displaced internally or forced to seek refuge outside of their homeland.

Ukrainians remain resilient, but they know a harsh winter is ahead. For that reason, Patriarch Sviatoslav, major archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, has launched a new Emergency Winter Appeal to provide food packages for the most vulnerable on the front lines and in recently liberated regions in east and south Ukraine, which is suffering from a severe humanitarian crisis because of Russian occupation and bombardment.

The Emergency Winter Appeal will be run in partnership with Caritas Ukraine and Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church parishes in east and south Ukraine, as well as local NGOs.

The cost of one food parcel, providing enough food for two people for a week will cost around £16. Each package will contain the basics, such as grains, flour, pasta, meat and fish preserves, oil, canned vegetables, sugar, tea, coffee and biscuits.

Organisers hope to raise £160,000, allowing 10,000 food parcels to be supplied to those most in need.

If you would be willing to help those in need in Ukraine, the bank details are...

Account Name: Ukrainian Catholic Church Central Fund

Account Number: 20927317

Sort Code: 20-92-60

Thank you.



Father Vlod reflects on the sounds of war and peace

Father Volodymyr Sampara, an Eastern Rite Catholic priest from Ukraine, received a very warm welcome when he came to speak to the Cleveland Newman Circle.

He came to share his thoughts on peace and war and instead of using film or slides, he enhanced his presentation with audio clips.

He started with calm, rural sounds of birdsong beside a river – so tranquil. This illustrated the natural hope of all people to live in peace: God wills that, for the fullness of human existence, people should be born and prosper in peace and safety.

Since prehistoric times there have been conflicts, but usually prompted by the need for food to survive. However, it is in the human nature of all, including fighting soldiers, to seek a life of peace.

Father Vlod, as he is known, contrasted those primitive struggles with modern warfare, which is unnatural, causing damage, personal danger and fear.

To bring this home, he played sounds of the bombing, shelling and gunfire presently experienced in Ukraine: this was deeply unnerving to his audience. This type of war, he said, was about seeking power over one’s neighbours.

There is no justification for a war of conquest, which Father Vlod characterised as evil. This is explained by some imaginary danger and fostered through misleading propaganda.

He contrasted bad ideology, leading to invasion, destruction, killing and looting, with good ideology, where fighting is for protection and defence.

For Ukrainians, the morality of fighting is clear – not to kill, but to defend. Ukrainians want to win peace.

Father Vlod demonstrated different wartime rhetoric by playing sobering audio clips of Hitler and Churchill during World War II, and of Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelensky this year.

Father Vlod came to England with his wife and family in 2013, to be a priest at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Manchester. Since January 2022 he has been a regular chaplain of the British army, presently serving at Catterick Garrison.

His military role was evident from his dress in fatigues, and his obvious – and totally understandable – focus on the present situation in Ukraine.

He is personally involved, and not only because two close family members have recently been killed in the fighting.

It was a privilege to hear Father Vlod, a passionate patriot, firmly against war but clear on the need to fight to defend one’s country.

Above all, he is a priest, who finished the evening by hearing confessions in Ukrainian.

• For information about Cleveland Newman Circle, email p.egerton123@gmail.com or call 01642 645732. The group’s next event is a New Year’s Lunch at 12.30pm for 1pm on January 29 at the Parkmore Hotel, Eaglescliffe, TS16 0DH.

Patricia Egerton

Catholic agencies back Homes for Ukraine

The number of people fleeing the brutal Russian war in Ukraine and in need of shelter will continue to rise this winter.

Russian attacks on critical energy infrastructure are even taking place in areas considered relatively safer, such as western Ukraine.

Prime minister Rishi Sunak has reaffirmed the UK government’s support for Ukrainian defence efforts by providing intelligence, military and diplomatic support, as well as assisting those displaced by this unnecessary war.

St John of God Hospitaller Services (SJOG), in partnership with Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), is asking for people to provide much-needed help for Ukrainian guests.

Under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, hosts who commit to providing six months of accommodation are eligible to receive £350 to help with expenses associated with hosting.

SJOG and CSAN have launched a new project offering a matching pathway, training and support for hosts and guests.

The aim is to support 600 people on their journey towards independence and provide opportunities to build a new life and integrate into the community.

One Ukrainian guest said: “I am so grateful to the UK government for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. I feel safe here, away from the sounds of sirens, curfew, and living in constant fear of shelling.

“The scheme has given me time to find my feet and build a new life. I have been in the UK for about seven months now, and I have found a job and moved out of my host’s place. I am incredibly grateful for all her help and support. I will be forever grateful.”

The SJOG/CSAN scheme matches hosts with guests to the requirements of both parties, including area, home and health requirements and dietary and pet preferences.

- It also offers...
- Mediating first e-meetings between hosts and guests
 - Toolkit for hosts and a welcome book in Ukrainian for guests
 - Online training about the hosting process
 - Transfer from the Poland-Ukraine border to London
 - A welcome box for the Ukrainian family upon arrival
 - Support during the first month of placement
 - Re-matching service
 - Ensuring support from local communities
 - A multilingual team that speaks English, Polish, Ukrainian and Russian and are ready to help

Details of the scheme have been sent to every parish in England and Wales and the agencies hope the Catholic community will rally round to support those coming from Ukraine.

People willing to share their space with those in need of a safe place can register their

A new year to build on our synod foundations

Happy New Year to all those involved with or supportive of our diocesan adult formation work over the past year. I wish good things to you and your families.

Most of the past year has been taken up with working on Pope Francis' initiative, the Synod on Synodality, which looks to be bearing much fruit across the diocese.

After the parish consultations that took place in the early part of 2022, we held our synod event in the cathedral in May and were able to distribute copies of our diocesan synthesis which was, in turn, fed into the discernment process of the Catholic Bishops' Conference.

We asked those attending our synod event to take the synthesis back into their parishes and, working with the parish priest and laypeople, discuss and pray about what they might put into practice in their parish.

After all, the document is a synthesis of people's ideas and concerns raised during the consultation process held in the early part of 2022.

However, there have been several other things going on alongside the synod process. We have trained and commissioned six lay funeral ministers and have another six people currently in training.

In September, more than 500 ministers of the word and holy communion attended our Inspirational and Commissioning Day at the Spa in Scarborough, which was led so beautifully by the Madonna House Community of Robin Hood's Bay.

In March, Bishop Terry presided at the first Rite of Election in our diocese for two years. These events all link into the synodal process. Our diocesan synthesis highlighted several areas people said they would like us to focus on:

- More formation, with input on prayer, scripture and church teaching
- Training in group facilitation and listening skills
- Ways in which to help reduce the workload of our clergy
- How to reach out to people on the margins of our communities
- How to help our young people feel part of the church
- Establishing pastoral councils in our parishes.

Each area can be a large programme of ongoing work and it's worth reminding ourselves of something St Oscar Romero once said to the people of El Salvador. "We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter in and do the rest."

This year, adult formation in the diocese will respond to some of the above areas of work.

From early February through to June we will run a monthly series of online sessions using the Sycamore Programme, which will cover the topics of prayer, Catholic Social Teaching and scripture, and will be suitable for enquirers and catechists to use.

We have produced a set of guidelines on how to establish and run a pastoral parish council. We intend to deliver some training sessions aimed particularly at those who have been asked to become pastoral parish councillors.

There is already a resource for those interested in reaching out to people on the margins, which is obtainable from adult

formation.

Why not begin 2023 by inviting people to a parish meeting and asking them what they think they would like to see happen in the parish and what they will do to help make it happen?

There are several free resources to help you get the ball rolling:

- Missionary Disciples, Missionary Parish, Missionary Diocese (Parish workbook)
- For a Synodal Church, Middlesbrough Diocese Resource Pack
- Guidelines for establishing and running a pastoral parish council
- Reaching out to people on the margins.

David Cross
Adult Formation Coordinator



Adult Formation Dates for 2023

Saturday January 21, 10am to 3pm: RCIA Retreat at Our Lady's, Gale Lane, Acomb. Those preparing to be received into the Church at Easter are invited to attend, along with their catechists.

Sunday February 26, 3pm: Rite of Election, St Mary's Cathedral: Why not join Bishop Terry for this beautiful service for those preparing to be received into the Church? Come along and join them in prayer and support.

Saturday September 16: Inspirational Day for Ministers of the Word and Holy Communion, Spa, Scarborough.

Homes For Ukraine

interest at forms.office.com/r/DFYUneZ7nC. For more information, visit sjog-homesforukraine.uk or email homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk. You can also find out more at facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine.

The project is supported by the Albert Gubay Foundation and the agencies are working with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and

Communities.

SJOG Homes for Ukraine invites anyone interested to a presentation about its Homes for Ukraine Scheme matching service in the Yorkshire Room at Middlesbrough Central Library on Saturday January 21 at 2pm. To register your interest, email homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk.



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NEWS

Blisters, a broken foot, but no regrets

In 2018, a group of celebrities set out to walk the most popular long-distance trek in the world, the Santiago de Compostela, along the Camino Frances route.

At the time I was in recuperation after a kidney transplant and as I watched the TV series about their journey, *The Pilgrimage*, I decided that once I was fully recovered, this would be my way of giving thanks to God for a successful and very happy return to life.

Fast forward to 5.30am on August 27 2022. I'm at Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port starting the Santiago pilgrimage.

At the beginning of the walk, they give you a pilgrim passport, which is stamped wherever you stop along the way as proof that you've completed this historic pilgrimage.

Headlamps on, we are off following scallop shells, way markers and yellow arrows, and if any more help is required, the rucksack in front. All are heading for the same location 500 miles away, Santiago de Compostela, to visit the tomb of St James the Apostle.

Walking between 16 and 20 miles a day, the route passes beautiful countryside, villages and towns, cathedrals, churches and castles, with many opportunities to stop, take photos and chat with the locals.

According to the guidebook, every day would be a relatively “easy” walk with lots of flat terrain. By day four, we realised the author may not have completely understood the word “flat”, as most days felt like we were walking uphill, with all options for rest at the top of a difficult climb!

All along the route were hostels (albergues) housing hundreds of walkers in large rooms of bunk beds – the aim of the game was to arrive in time to score a bottom bunk.

There were good and bad days walking. You quickly learn to make friends with those who had a medical background and could advise on how to restore your feet ready for the long days ahead.

Each day you pass many people walking the same route, all with the same greeting, “Buen camino!” (“Good walk!”).

Conversations expand, and personal stories begin to surface. You don't realise it at the time, but something very special happens, which is going to help get you through the whole journey. It's the beginning of your

Camino family. Without them, it would be almost impossible to complete the route. They were the people who kept you motivated when it was difficult to face another long walk. You hear many personal accounts of people's reasons for walking the camino. Everyone has a story to tell. The one that stands out for me was Alexander, from Honduras. I met Alexander on our fourth day walking, on a very long, rocky, uneven road. I noticed him from a good distance, as something looked odd with his feet. As I caught him up, I noticed he had bare feet. We started talking, and although his English and my Spanish were not a good fit, over the days of walking his story came out. Alexander came from a poor family. He and his brother decided that to change their lives, a location change was required, so both set off for the American border. Once there, they searched for a crossing point. Unfortunately, once they were on the other side, border guards noticed them and set off to arrest them. They ran in the opposite direction and the police were closing in when Alexander saw an abandoned truck, so they dived under and hoped for the best. Alexander prayed to a saint he had heard about, St James the Apostle, patron saint of pilgrims. The police pulled up next to the truck and began searching. Walking around the truck, one got so close he stood on Alexander's foot, but still did not realise he was there. Both brothers held their breath and stayed deathly still. Alexander continued praying and after what seemed like hours the patrol give up the search, returned to the car and drove away. Alexander and his brother found work in America and set up a business. Some years later, they returned to Honduras. Alexander never forgot what had happened and decided to walk the Camino barefoot in thanks to St James. I bumped into him regularly, another welcome family member. He became a Camino legend, known as the barefoot pilgrim. As I approached Santiago, the walk became more crowded, particularly from Sarria. There you have 100 kilometres to go before you can receive your Camino certificate and

many people join here if they didn't want to complete the full pilgrimage. It's also the hardest place to get coffee and food, because of the crowds. There was a great sense of achievement with the end in sight as I headed to the Monte do Gozo. Here was my first view of Santiago and the cathedral, which looks a lot closer than it is! Entering Santiago, a straight road heads for the cathedral, the outline getting larger as I walked – and then I heard bagpipes. It's now that the enormity of what I'd achieved hit me. Approaching the ancient steps is a

very emotional moment. The piper piped us into the cathedral square, where we met all the people I'd seen along the walk, laughing, crying and cheering that we'd completed this historic pilgrimage. It took me 31 days to complete, and I certainly didn't come out of it unscathed – blisters upon blisters, no toenails left and a fractured left foot. But I've made friends for life with pilgrims from across the world and I don't regret a second of it.

Steve Cassy



Steve Cassy at Santiago de Compostela Archcathedral Basilica after completing his walk

A Letter From Madonna House – The French hen that came home to roost!



On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me a partridge in a pear tree. The Twelve Days of Christmas! That was my first experience of England. As a young member of Madonna House, I was assigned to our house in Paris for almost nine years, from 1993 to 2002. Almost every year, soon after Christmas Day, we members of the Paris team would make the long trip by train, ferry and bus to Robin Hood's Bay, where we would pass some of the Twelve Days of Christmas with our English team. It was a breath of fresh air for us to leave the city and travel those winding roads through rural England. As much as I loved Paris, each time we crossed the border into England, I breathed a contented sigh. The time spent with our brothers and sisters in Robin Hood's Bay was always a joy. One year, three of us came, and they dubbed us the three French hens. Whenever we sang the Twelve Days of Christmas and came to the line about the French hens, we

would flap our “wings”. It was great fun! Some 25 years later, I am eagerly anticipating the Twelve Days of Christmas in England. This time it is not as a guest coming from afar, but as the newly appointed director of our house in Robin Hood's Bay! I ask myself why this is such a source of joy. I think it is because traditions like this bring the practice of our faith to life. Anticipating a feast and preparing for it prepares our hearts to welcome the mysteries of our faith. God has come in the flesh. His name is Jesus. He was born one day in Bethlehem. He first came as a baby, then grew and lived among us. He saved us, loving us to the point of giving his life for us through his Passion, Death and Resurrection. Traditions are a way of helping us to “revisit” these truths of our faith. They are a way to help us “reconnect” with the beauty and joy of believing.

We eat special foods, play and sing, share stories, decorate our homes. It is a lot of work at times, but it helps those mysteries find a place in our lives and penetrate more deeply into our hearts. Traditions bring us together to celebrate with people we know and love, and can open us up to welcome the stranger, or visit someone who is sick or isolated. We can be messengers of the Good News that God loves them. The Liturgy is also full of traditions. At Christmas Mass we come together to hear carols, bells ringing, the stories of the Nativity proclaimed... and we can receive the one who was born in Bethlehem in Holy Communion! I may not be one of the three French hens this year, but I look forward to singing that carol again. Blessed Twelve Days of Christmas to each and all!

Jeanne Guillemette

Clenched fist is focus for healing service

The emphasis of a much-needed healing service led by Father Bill Serplus at St Aelred's, York, was the clenched fist warned about by the Prophet Isaiah.

"The Lord says this: if you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked work..." (Isaiah 58)

Father Bill asked the congregation to reflect on any problems they encountered that might cause such a clenched fist.

For example, what needs releasing by Jesus in my life? What yoke needs lifting? What are the anxieties that unsettle me? Do any painful experiences still trouble me? Do I struggle with hurts or memories from the past?

We were told to hand them over to the Lord and ask for healing, forgiveness and peace. Have faith that God will bring peace and calm into our lives once more.

The number of people who came to this service emphasised the present need in all our lives.

Music was provided by Catherine McGlinchey, and afterwards we enjoyed refreshments provided and served by members of the SVP.

Kath Stubbs



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

3	2000	Rt Rev Mgr Canon Peter Storey	Osmotherley
3	2000	Very Rev Canon James Oliver Plunkett	Beverley
5	1887	Rev William Brown	York
7	1981	Rev Michael McCarthy	Scorton
7	1991	Rev Christopher Pattison	Eston
9	1956	Rev Charles Heslin	Redcar
11	1965	Rev Cuthbert Clifford	Hull
11	1995	Rev Leo Dennett	Egton Bridge
13	1964	Very Rev Canon James Knowles	Hull
16	1965	Rev Bernard Pears	Everingham
16	1908	Rev Michael Aylward	South Bank
17	1978	Very Rev Canon T Lynam	Westmeath
18	1957	Rev Alphonsus Van den Bossche	Ulshaw Bridge
20	1939	Rt Rev Mgr Canon Richard F Sullivan	Middlesbrough
21	2005	Very Rev David Fitzgibbon	Castlebar
21	2007	Rev James Hughes	Hessle
25	2010	Rev Joseph O'Brien	Hull
27	1993	Rev Edward Glynn, RN	Sleights
29	1975	Rev Denis Manley	Hull
31	1985	Rev Patrick Smyth	Hull
31	2005	Rev Mark Crowley	Kilmallock
31	2021	Rev Peter Egan	County Clare

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NEWS

Out and About

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

3 Tuesday
10am Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle at 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.

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

6 Friday
Events, articles and photographs for February edition of the Voice are due by today.

- 7 Saturday**
11am Catholic Women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion including mediation, via Zoom. Text Barbara on 07796 117704 with your mobile number and email address so she can add you to the WhatsApp group.

8 Sunday
3pm Mass for LGBTQ+ Catholics, family and friends in the chapel of the Bar Convent.

9 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, everyone is 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.

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

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

- 12 Thursday**
7.45pm Middlesbrough Catenian Circle, 'Sharing faith and friendship with kindred spirits throughout Teesside', meet at Middlesbrough Cricket Club, Green Lane, Middlesbrough TS5 7SL. Contact Peter Carey on 01642 317772 or Chris Rhodes on 01642 319161.

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

17 Tuesday
10am Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle at terry-doyle@live.co.uk.

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

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

24 Tuesday
10am Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle at terry-doyle@live.co.uk.

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

28 Saturday
Noon Social gathering in the café at the Bar Convent for LGBTQ+ Catholics, family and friends. All welcome.

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

31 Tuesday
10am Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle at terry-doyle@live.co.uk.

If you have any events you would like including in the Out & About section, please email Heidi.Cummins@rcdmidd.org.uk.

A helping hand – and paw – this winter

A total of 240 Vinnie packs are being delivered by our members – with the help of Logan the dog – to the Street Angels, DePaul UK and other groups around the diocese.

Packs contain a hat, two pairs of socks, thermal gloves, toothbrush and paste, a flannel and a pen, as well as a list of useful local contacts.

The SVP hardship fund was set up to give grants of up to £500 to conferences to help set up warm spaces in a variety of locations, as well as helping them support needy families around the diocese. By the beginning of December, eight had been received and used. Several parishioners have joined us as temporary "Winter Vincentians" to enable the work we do in this time of extra need.

Our Mini Vinnies were very busy making Christmas cards and gifts to give to our elderly beneficiaries, as well as hosting tea parties for them.

They are always delighted with the children's cards. Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Frances Gilchrist, Middlesbrough SVP President

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 January 6 for our February 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.

Bookings coming in for our platinum pilgrimage

Bishop Terry will lead our 70th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Friday May 26 to Friday June 2 2023.

The organising committee have been working hard to negotiate the best possible prices, and have taken on board the economic situation, inflation and soaring energy and food costs.

Full board prices start at £799, with a flight-only option at £550. Insurance is extra, as is with any single-room supplement.

We encourage you to book early, as the demand for the pilgrimage is already extremely high. To improve the pilgrimage experience, we have put in place the following booking system:

Pilgrims wishing to stay in the Accueil Notre Dame

Please complete the supported pilgrim application available from our pilgrimage secretary, Pat Ling. Our medical team will review your application and will be in touch to carry out a nursing assessment on each applicant. Initially, booking will not be through Tangney Tours but directly with the

pilgrimage, as detailed on the application forms.

Hotel supported pilgrims

We will only be able to support those pilgrims with assistance from the designated hotel to the services and return. Due to limited numbers of volunteers, we cannot offer any personal care.

You will be required to fill in a "Hotel Supported Pilgrim" application, available from Pat Ling, which will enable our medical team to assess your needs while on pilgrimage.

As well as the "Hotel Supported Pilgrim" application, you will need to complete a Tangney Tours booking form. You should complete this after your nursing assessment.

Pilgrims not requiring help

All other pilgrims not requiring any assistance are asked to complete either an online booking or paper booking form and send it to Tangney Tours. Application forms are available in all parishes. Email Pat Ling at lourdessecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk or call her on 01642 760105 for more information.



Pilgrims from our diocese processing in Lourdes last year
– Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes

Formation Day dates confirmed

Please put the following important dates in your diaries for the mandatory training we need to cover so we can work safely in Lourdes.

The Formation Day is on Saturday March 25 and the Formation Evening is on Tuesday May 16. Both events will be at Trinity Catholic College, Middlesbrough.

Cèilidh time for Lourdes supporters

We invite Lourdes pilgrims and supporters past and present to put on their dancing shoes for a cèilidh in the Holy Name of Mary Church Hall, Middlesbrough, on Saturday January 21.

Doors open at 7pm and the music will continue from 7.30pm to around 10.30pm.

Tea and coffee will be available, bring your own alcoholic or soft drinks and nibbles.

Tickets are £5 and are available from Head of Hospitalité John Brown by emailing john.brown160@ntlworld.com or calling 07871 958412.



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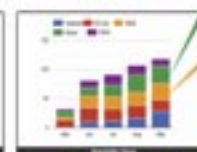
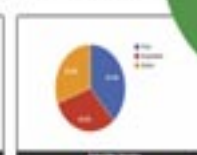
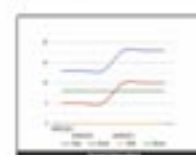
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NEWS

A long list of New Year needs for feeding centre

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

"What will 2023 bring us?" I asked Judith.

"Never mind that," replied Judith. "The owner of the main centre wants his rent! Put your walking shoes on, withdraw some money from Huang's store and take it to the centre. After two days of non-stop rain, the roads are extremely muddy."

In 2014, I invested in a pair of shoes. After wearing flip-flops, prising my feet into good, supportive shoes felt uplifting, and they would carry me across the bumps and crevices of the eroded dirt tracks.

Huang's shop is about a mile away. The sun was out now and it was getting hot. I took the money and set out to our feeding centre. It was two miles uphill, and the sun was now relentless. Sweat trickled into my t-shirt, but my shoes held the muddy road well.

At the centre, I chatted with the parents of

the few resident children there. I gave Judith's sister the rent, tightened my shoelaces and strode out towards our house.

The roads are always full of people: women carrying enormous baskets of firewood, schoolchildren in their smart uniforms and men pushing handcarts full of bricks. People said hello, but I didn't want to break my step. A quick "Hello!" in reply and I kept going.

Perhaps Judith will have a cold drink for me when I get in, I thought. I saw our house ahead and, curiously, heard my steps being echoed. With every step I took, it was as if something was tapping underneath one shoe.

Judith greeted me at the door, but there was no cold drink.

"Because of the two days of rain, I've got no charge on my phone, neither have you. Go to the Catholic Procure and get Father Christiantus to charge them."

I showed her my shoe. Part of the heel was

detached – it was only a bit, I'll buy some glue. Off I went – it's only a 10-minute walk. Dark clouds rapidly appeared in response to the baking heat, and large spots of warm rain started falling – and something else.

This time like someone clapping in time to my steps! I looked down at my other shoe – the whole underside of the shoe was slapping the bottom of my foot!

Father Christiantus laughed and gave me a pair of house slippers and a lift home.

"During 2023, I'd like to buy some new shoes!" I told Judith, on arriving.

"Never mind that," she said. "I've made a list of what we need ..."

And with that she gave me a list of everything that's worn out over eight years of running the centre – cooking pots, spoons, plates, cups, buckets...

So here's hoping our New Year gets off to a great renewal! Happy New Year to you all.

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



Francis and Judith, who run a malnutrition centre in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Rome comes to the Humber with nuncio visit

The University of Hull Catholic Chaplaincy had the great pleasure of a visit from the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain.

His Excellency Archbishop Gugerotti celebrated the Saturday evening parish Mass with Bishop Terry. Afterwards, students at the chaplaincy hosted the nuncio for supper, followed by a question-and-answer session. The questions were both extensive and wide-ranging.

First, how does a man go about becoming a papal diplomat? The nuncio almost laughed, and declared it was never his intention to become a Vatican diplomat, his was to be a priest and to teach and learn "funny languages".

His becoming a diplomat was more an accident of place and time. The second question was about his inspiration particularly in his becoming a priest. The nuncio told a heartwarming story of his family and his local parish priest being his inspiration.

Those who inspired him most were those who got on with the business of being

Christians in a quiet way.

A third question of note was asked about Eastern Europe and Russia in particular by a young Anglican who occasionally visits the chaplaincy.

The question was about the recent "revival" of public Christianity in Eastern Europe, with which the nuncio is well acquainted.

The nuncio's answer was instructive. He said there was not so much a revival in belief as a revival in symbolic Christianity and that post-communism, it had become linked to the national and ethnic groups in Eastern European society – to be a Ukrainian was to be Orthodox.

The levels of practice in Eastern Europe were actually surprisingly low. He also stressed the cultural differences between east and western Christians.

The Orthodox East was closer, culturally, to Islam than western Catholicism or Protestantism, as both were cut from the same intellectual traditions.

The session was well attended, with almost all the Catholic students we could fit into



Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain Archbishop Gugerotti with Father William Massie and Bishop Terry at the University of Hull Catholic Chaplaincy

the chaplaincy's sitting room (breaking 40) and some diversity of faith. It was a memorable night.

Reece Macaulay
Student president of the Catholic Society

Environment Corner

How meat-free Fridays can help protect the planet

We are all familiar with Pope Francis' emphasis on the importance of lifestyle change in our response to climate change and the moral dimensions of our consumption decisions in achieving sustainability.

A recent study from the University of Cambridge has revealed the significant effect that meat-free Fridays can have on our planet.

For Christians, the practice of not eating meat on Fridays dates back to the first century AD, from Pope Nicholas I's declaration.

At that time, Catholics were encouraged to perform this act of penance in memory of Christ's death and crucifixion. We will all have powerful memories of this customary practice.

It was reinstated in 2011 – initially a "spiritual" gesture but, of course, one that also has a practical impact on our carbon emissions and

the environment.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference is urging all Catholics to refresh their weekly observance of Friday abstinence by refraining from eating meat on that day. In this way we dedicate ourselves to the pressing need for us all to live more simply.

What if all Catholics in the UK were to observe a meat-free Friday? What if Catholics around the world were to adopt this simple and undemanding practice? The impact on our environment would be considerable.

It is important that each one of us embraces the fight against climate change in our everyday lives. Maybe abstaining from meat on Fridays is an important way we can put our faith into practical action?

Barbara Hungin

Priests' retreat focuses on writings of St Paul

Pilgrimage People, a charity founded by East Anglia priest Father Paul Maddison, is planning a retreat for priests in the stunning surroundings of Buckfast Abbey in Devon. The retreat will examine how priests encourage others and encourage themselves at a time of momentous change in the Church and in society. There will be opportunities to relax, rest and refresh.

Father Paul Maddison will lead the retreat, focusing on St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, when St Paul realises that in order to be strong, we need to be content with our weaknesses.

The retreat runs from the afternoon of Monday February 6 to Friday February 10 2023. High-quality single en suite rooms at Northgate House within the grounds of Buckfast Abbey and all meals are included in the price of £590 per person.

A conference will be held each morning and afternoon, daily Mass will be celebrated and there is the opportunity to join the community for daily office.

Places are limited. To reserve your place, call 0800 612 3423 or email info@pilgrimagepeople.org.

A new year with so much to pray for

In the quiet moments around midnight on New Year's Eve, my thoughts turn to my family, those who are living and those who have passed into eternal life.

I thank God for the year that's gone and all that was in it, for all the joys and blessings we shared as a family.

I ask that his blessing will be with us all in the year ahead – a new year filled with promise and new beginnings, a time of hoping for a better world, for everyone, especially for those in most need, here at home and around the world.

In the warmth and comfort of my home, I think of those without a home or a safe place where they can find shelter and rest.

People who are homeless and sleeping rough out in the cold, refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people.

As the New Year begins, there is still so much to pray for – an end to the terrible

conflict between Russia and Ukraine which has claimed so many lives and displaced so many people, to say nothing of the utter destruction of homes, hospitals and schools.

For the people of Syria and the occupied Palestinian territories, the people whose homes were swept away in the floods in Pakistan, the ongoing food crisis in East Africa caused by nearly five years of drought.

However, there are some flickers of hope for those fighting to protect our planet and defend those most at risk from climate change.

Newly elected Brazilian president Lula da Silva has vowed to protect indigenous rights and reverse the damaging environmental policies of his predecessor Jair Bolsonaro, promising to create a Ministry of Original Peoples and zero deforestation by the end of the decade.

Joenia Wapichana, formerly working for CAFOD partner CIR (Indigenous Council of Roraima) as a lawyer fighting for the rights of indigenous peoples and the first indigenous female MP, has been appointed by Lula's transitional government's cabinet to be one of the 15 indigenous representatives of the Technical Group for Indigenous Peoples.

Davi Kopenawa, president of our partner HAY (Hutukara Yanomami Association), has also been made part of this group.

This recognition is a testament to Joenia and Davi's long-term struggles for social justice and courage over many years fighting for the rights of their communities.

Neil Thorns, CAFOD's director of advocacy, who attended the COP27 meeting in Egypt, also has some positive news.

He said: "The establishment of a 'Loss and Damage' Fund is a major step forward in

supporting communities whose lives, livelihoods and cultures have been destroyed by climate change.

"The next step is to ensure the fund works under clear principles of justice and is capitalised without delay."

The UK has tripled its contribution to adaptation funding, which is a positive move by the government, but we need more of that from other countries.

That's good news, but he also said: "There was slow progress in delivering sustainable food systems.

"The Sharm El Sheik programme does not take the holistic approach needed if we are to reform our broken food system, which currently harms the planet and leaves people hungry."

Carol Cross
Community Participation Coordinator

Are you looking for a new challenge?

Have you thought about volunteering with CAFOD? The work is exciting and there can be great opportunities.

One of our former office volunteers, Liam Finn, is now our campaigns manager and another, Patrick Kinsella, is our head of media communications.

Liam says: "I've been supporting CAFOD since I was at school, so to have an opportunity after coming home from university to volunteer and learn more about how the organisation works was exciting.

"It gave me experience and helped me gain skills that ultimately led to me working full time with CAFOD, enabling me to put my faith into action in my working life."

Patrick adds: "I volunteered with CAFOD in the Diocese of Middlesbrough while studying at the University of York. I was interested in social justice issues but lacked the confidence or know-how on what I wanted to do to tackle them.

"Working with CAFOD was an amazing experience for me, as it really helped grow my confidence when I needed it most. It gave me practical experience in tackling social justice and I always felt like an important part of the team.

"It also inspired me for the rest of my career and I knew I always wanted to come back to work for CAFOD again. I recently joined as head of media after working in government communications. I'll always be grateful to

Carol and CAFOD for taking me on as a volunteer."

As you can see, there is a wide variety of work to be done!

If you have a few hours to spare and would like to join our diocesan team of volunteers who share our work on social media or in

parishes and schools, full training and support is available.

Get in touch for an informal chat on 07779 804253, or visit our website, cafod.org.uk/volunteer, and look at the different ways you could help. Thank You!



Liam Finn in campaign mode – photo by Andrea Speranza/CAFOD



Patrick Kinsella walking the Camino in Spain – Photo by Maria Kinsella

More House welcomes Archbishop of York

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell was a welcome visitor to More House, the Catholic chaplaincy to the University of York and home to the University of York Ecumenical Chaplaincy Team.

Archbishop Stephen joined students for midday prayer and anticipated Advent with some powerful words about the Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell.

After prayers, the archbishop joined an ecumenical group of students and chaplains for the regular Wednesday soup lunch and shared some fascinating inside knowledge about life behind the scenes in the House of Lords.

This included his role in the Accession Council when King Charles was proclaimed and plans for the Coronation.

He said everyone at the Accession Council was milling around in the palace and nobody could remember what happened last time – 70 years ago – so the two archbishops led everyone into the room because at least the two churchmen knew how to organise a procession!

After lunch there was a good question-and-answer session with a no-holds-barred discussion that included reform of the House of Lords, proposed Church of England rules on same-sex marriage and the churches' attitude to climate issues. Strong positions were defended with spirit and with charity.

Bishops are busy people and Archbishop Stephen had to leave at 2.30pm, but not before he joined in recording a hymn singing reel for Instagram led by student musicians and joined in enthusiastically by everyone.



From the Archives



40 Years Ago

(From January 1983 Catholic Voice)

British Popemobile goes to Rome

British Catholics have presented to Pope John Paul II one of the converted Range Rovers he used during his pastoral visit earlier this year. "The vehicle," said Monsignor Ralph Brown, who was the coordinator for the Papal visit to England and Wales, "represents a gift of some £28,000 from the Catholics of Great Britain."

British Leyland Land Rover Ltd, had organised the movement of the vehicle to Rome and borne the cost of the transportation. The vehicle is expected to be used weekly in summer months in St Peter's Square in the Vatican, for the Holy Father's public audiences.

100 Years Ago

(Advert in Hull Catholic magazine)

Tea in Town! After shopping, what is more refreshing than a cup of good tea, served under congenial surroundings, at Powolny's Ltd. The Bijou Orchestra discourses music from 12 noon to 9-45 pm. A few minutes spent here will take away all the tired feeling occasioned by a shopping tour.

David Smallwood

NEWS



Bishop Terry, Father Timothy Bywater and young people after 14 confirmations at St Leonard's, Malton

New series explores lives of the martyrs

A new TV documentary series exploring the lives of men and women who defended the faith during the English reformation is now available.

40 Martyrs of England and Wales, hosted by Monica Nash, has been produced by Shalom World TV, a Catholic media ministry and official partner with the Vatican.

The series displays the essential role of their martyrdom in building up the Catholic Church here. Through this series, you can experience their lives, learn their history, and be inspired to choose the faith.

“This important series will enable believers will get an opportunity to see the lives of these great martyrs who gave up their lives to defend our Catholic faith,” said a spokesman for Shalom TV.

“Of course, this is what helped all of us to attend holy Mass daily in our Catholic churches.

“It’s wonderful that young Catholics in our schools and working in various ministries throughout the country can now get authentic information on how and why these martyrs gave up their lives as faithful followers of Christ.”

Shalom TV is authorised to telecast papal liturgies directly via its free high-definition television channel.

Shalom World is committed to producing free, high-quality catholic content such as devotionals, shows, music, youth programmes, children's programmes, retreats and cultural exchange segments.

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