



Bishop's Column

"Journeying in dignity" is the theme of the ninth International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking, celebrated around February 8 2023.

Pope Francis reminds us, "Human trafficking is an open wound of contemporary society. A scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity."

With the present economic/energy crisis, and coming so soon after the Covid-19 pandemic, many people across the world have become still more vulnerable to both labour exploitation and sex trafficking.

Crime networks are looking to further exploit and profit from them, becoming ever more inventive in their illicit endeavours.

There are many serious labour violations against workers from the Philippines, and in the Middle East; in various countries, such as in Ethiopia, domestic workers are abandoned and deprived of their passports with their past year's wages unpaid. Some are also subject to sexual abuse and violence. This happens in many places, including our own country. So, on her feast, February 8, we pray:



Saint Josephine Bakhita

Saint Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured unspeakable hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O Saint Josephine Bakhita, assist all those who are entrapped in slavery; Intercede on their behalf with the God of Mercy so that the chains of their captivity will be broken. May God himself free all those who have been threatened, wounded or mistreated by the trade and trafficking of human beings. Bring comfort to survivors of this slavery and teach them to look to Jesus as an example of hope and faith so that they may find healing from their wounds. We ask you to pray for us and to intercede on behalf of us all: that we may not fall into indifference, that we may open our eyes and be able to see the misery and wounds of our many brothers and sisters deprived of their dignity and their freedom, and may we hear their cry for help. Amen. (Prayer of Pope Francis)

In blessed hope,

+ Liz

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Patrick**
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Benedict's writings a 'treasure' to the Church

Bishop Terry joined senior clergy and dignitaries from all over the world in paying his respects to Pope Emeritus Benedict, who died on New Year's Eve at the age of 95.

"Over the last few days we have heard the news of Pope Emeritus Benedict's deteriorating health," Bishop Terry said.

"Even so, it is with sadness that we heard of his death. He has returned home to his Father and we pray that he will rest in peace.

"He will be remembered for many things, not least his abundant writings. They are a legacy and a treasure into which the Church will delve and from which it will profit for ages to come.

"Nor can we ignore his courage and integrity when he resigned from the Petrine Ministry on account of his health and physical vulnerability, the first pontiff to do so in 600 years.

"We pray for his eternal repose, the intentions of Pope Francis and for the whole Church.

"Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen"

Bishop Terry offered Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on the Feast of the Epiphany for Pope Emeritus Benedict.

Pope Francis became the first pope to preside at his predecessor's funeral, in



The Popemobile passes some famous London landmarks during Pope Benedict's visit in 2010 – Photo © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

St Peter's Square on Thursday January 5.

The body of the Pope Emeritus had been lying in St Peter's Basilica so the faithful could pay their respects.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols also paid tribute to Pope Emeritus Benedict, who served as supreme pontiff from April 2005 to February 2013.

He said: "I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of Pope Benedict. He will be remembered as one of the great theologians of the 20th century.

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**New Retreats
for 2023**
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NEWS

Benedict’s writings a ‘treasure’ to the Church

Continued from Page 1

“I remember with particular affection the remarkable papal visit to these lands in 2010. We saw his courtesy, his gentleness, the perceptiveness of his mind and the openness of his welcome to everybody that he met.

“He was through and through a gentleman, through and through a scholar, through and through a pastor, through and through a man of God – close to the Lord and always his humble servant.

“Pope Benedict is very much in my heart and in my prayers. I give thanks to God for

his ministry and leadership.”
In 2010, Pope Benedict became just the second pope in history to visit the UK. Speaking in Westminster Hall, Pope Benedict spoke about “the legitimate role of religion in the public square” and pressed the idea that “the Church and the public authorities can work together for the good of citizens”. He was applauded by then-Prime Minister David Cameron and his predecessors Gordon Brown, Tony Blair, John Major and Margaret Thatcher. The Pope received a standing ovation as he walked down the great length of the hall.
The central purpose of the visit was to beatify the great 19th-century English theologian Cardinal John Henry Newman.



The Body of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI lies in state at St Peter’s Basilica ahead of his funeral – Photo © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

Cathedral parish says fond farewell to monsignori

Monsignor Gerard Robinson and Monsignor Gerry Dasey said a fond farewell to parishioners at St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough at the evening Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany.

Father Brian Nicholson, Father Xavier Santhiyagu, Father Anil Kumar Nariseti and Father Jose Michael were all there to offer their support, along with Deacon Bernard Morgan, Deacon David Cross and the new dean of the cathedral, Canon Paul Farrer. Presentations were made to Monsignor Gerard, who has now become parish priest of St Joseph’s, Stokesley, and Monsignor Gerry, who is finally retiring after continuing to offer pastoral support in recent years

while living at St Clare’s, where he will continue to reside.
Parishioners gathered for refreshments in the hall afterwards as they took the opportunity to thank both monsignori in person.
Canon Paul, Father Xavier, Father Anil, Father Jose, Deacon Bernard and Deacon David have now formed a new ministry team for the joint parishes of St Mary's Cathedral, St Francis, St Clare's and the Lady Chapel.
Canon Paul is returning to the diocese from the Royal College of St Alban in Valladolid, where he served as rector for six years.



Monsignor Gerry, second from the left, and Monsignor Gerard, centre, celebrating their farewell Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral – Photo by Paul Bowen

**BISHOP TERRY'S
FEBRUARY
ENGAGEMENTS**

| | |
|-------|--|
| 3 | Attends Safeguarding Sub-Committee Meeting, Middlesbrough 10.30am |
| 6 | Elections at Thicket Priory All Day |
| 7 | Attends Trustee Board Meeting, Middlesbrough 10.30am |
| 8 | School visitation to St Edward’s School, Middlesbrough 9am |
| 11-12 | Parish visitation to Holy Name of Mary, Middlesbrough |
| 14 | Attends Council of Priests Meeting, Middlesbrough 1.30pm |
| 15 | Attends Friends of the Lady Chapel Meeting, Middlesbrough 11am |
| 18-19 | Parish visitation to SS Mary & Romuald, Yarm All Day |
| 21 | Consecration of Bishop Elect Philip Moger – St George’s Cathedral, Southwark 10am |
| 22 | Attends pre-meeting with the annual school members via Zoom Mass of Ash Wednesday, St Mary’s Cathedral, Coulby Newham 7pm |
| 23 | Attends meeting of the Northern Province, Bishop’s House, Leeds 10.30am |
| 26 | Rite of Election, St Mary’s Cathedral Coulby Newham 3pm |
| 28 | Attends the Academy Trust Members meeting, Middlesbrough 9am |

Father Phil to direct new coastal ministry team

Bishop Terry has announced that Father Phil Cunnah is to direct a new ministry team that will eventually work across five churches in three parishes in the diocese's coastal deanery.
Father Phil will be joined by Father Jose Michael, Father Paul Dowling and Deacon Len Collings in forming the new team.
All three priests will live in Redcar and Father Phil will be the parish priest of Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish, which comprises the churches of Sacred Heart and St Augustine’s in Redcar and St Bede’s in Marske. He will also be the administrator of St Paulinus in Guisborough, where he is currently parish priest.
The move comes as Canon Derek leaves after serving for nine years in Blessed Postgate Parish, as well as fulfilling many other roles in the diocese, most recently as Episcopal Vicar for Missionary Communities.
Later in the year, Father Phil will also become administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes in Saltburn, when Monsignor Ricardo Morgan, who has also served the diocese in senior roles for many years, retires from pastoral ministry.
In a letter to parishioners, Bishop Terry said: “This is a new venture, and each priest has offered his services willingly and with enthusiasm.
“It will take time for things to settle, and they will certainly have to adapt their ministry. Similarly, I ask that you enter into this new venture with equal enthusiasm and a spirit of adaptability.”
Canon Derek will move at the beginning of Lent with his wife Margaret to be closer to their children. He will continue to offer ministry in the Diocese of Northampton.
Monsignor Ricardo, who will celebrate the golden jubilee of his priesthood in March, will step down in late summer. He will continue to live in Saltburn.
Bishop Terry thanked both Canon Derek and Monsignor Ricardo for their long and faithful service to the diocese.



Father Phil Cunnah will direct a new ministry team serving five churches in three parishes – Photo by Chris Booth

New look at prayer that has everything we need

March 2 this year will mark 100 years since Cardinal Basil Hume was born. In the second of our two-part feature, we continue Bishop Emeritus John Crowley's moving homily from Cardinal Hume's funeral Mass at Westminster Cathedral on June 25 1999.

As the homily continues, Bishop John, who was Cardinal Hume's private secretary for six years before coming to Middlesbrough, talks about the fresh understanding of the Lord's Prayer Cardinal Hume came to in the last days before his death...

Here tugging at my sleeve again he would want to strike a note of agonised caution, if a false idea of religion, as detached and purely spiritual, upset him, so too did the opposite mistake, the one made by those who would leave God out of the picture.

How else to explain his provocative reading from the Book of Wisdom? Its strong meat, echoing the Cardinal's growing concern that the final judgement on our age might be we were clever but not wise.

"If they had the power to know so much that they could investigate the world, how did they fail to find sooner the Lord of these things?" (Wisdom).

For 35 years as a monk and for 23 years as Archbishop, Cardinal Hume centred himself on God. And from that store of wisdom, he fed us. He addressed head-on the God-shaped emptiness which is within everyone. Without ever seeking it he became a reassuring light for perhaps millions of people in this country and beyond. And all the while his deeply Benedictine soul guided him towards balance – the middle ground, the common good, but he did it without ever compromising truth, whether it be in the dialogue between churches, between different faiths, or within his own Church.

In their two very different ways, Archbishop Worlock and himself kept our Church out of the clutches of extremists, to right and left, and far away from those who, by harsh judgements, might easily crush the broken reed. Both pastors were so conscious of those on the outside, of those feeling abandoned by the Church. Their Christ-like instinct was to count the stragglers in, and never out.

You will surely be glad to hear a little more about the Cardinal's last weeks in hospital. Great credit is due to the staff and chaplain at St John and St Elizabeth's, as well as to the other hospitals which had cared for him previously. The story of those final days is of someone almost entirely at peace, preparing himself most carefully for that "new future", as he called it in a farewell letter to his priests. When the doctors first told him of

his advanced cancer, he went straight to the hospital chapel where he sat praying for half an hour.

"I had preached so often on the seven last words of Jesus from the Cross," he said, "now it was wonderful to find they were such a part of me."

All during that initial period of waiting for death, he found, to his delight, that his prayer was amazingly sweet, full of consolation. But then to quote him, "The curtain came down," and it was back to the darkness of faith.

"But I wasn't worried," he said, "because I knew what was behind that curtain."

In those last few days here on earth, he came to a fresh understanding of the Our Father.

It was, he said, like discovering its inner meaning for the very first time.

"It's only now that I begin to glimpse how everything we need is contained right there in the Lord's own prayer."

In the presence of a friend, he then prayed the opening three sentences of the Our Father, adding each time a tiny commentary of his own. To sit there with him and to listen to what he said was to understand afresh all that he stood for. It was to be the recipient again in a wonderfully privileged way of his most special gift. As few others have done, he raised our minds and hearts right up into the presence of God.

He began...

"Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name..." He then paused for a moment before giving this thought: "To sing the praises of God; it is that for which we were made, and it is that which will be, for all eternity, our greatest joy."

"Thy kingdom come: The gospel values of Jesus – justice, love, and peace – embraced throughout the whole world and in all their families."

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven: That's the only thing which really matters. What God wants for us is what is best for us."

It was utterly marvellous to be there for that moment.

In those final weeks, curtain up or curtain down, the Cardinal's one prayer was simply this: *"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."*

Humanly speaking, it would have been so lovely to have him lead us into the Millennium. It would also have been the golden jubilee of his priesthood. But that was not to be. Someone else will now break



Bishop John at the annual Assumption Pilgrimage at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace – Photo by Dan Woodgate

open the jubilee door into this cathedral. Someone else will celebrate the Christmas Mass which ushers in the Great Jubilee of Christ's birth, 2,000 years ago.

He won't begrudge them that, because for him now, a new future beckons. All his life he had been a pilgrim, searching restlessly for glimpses of God.

"It is your face, O Lord, that I seek. Hide not your face" (Psalm 26/27)

Now that journey is over. He is safely home behind the curtain, face to face. Our deep love for him and our enormous sense of gratitude for the gift he was provokes a final question: If such were the gift, what must God be like, the giver of that gift?

• You can read the homily in full at middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk/remembers-cardinal-hume-100-years-on.

Snowdrop lovers head for Guisborough

Tudor Croft Gardens in Guisborough will soon be open again for visitors to enjoy its collection of rare and beautiful snowdrops.

The collection now numbers about 300 different snowdrops and is thought to be the biggest in the North-East.

The opening weekends are Saturday February 11 and Sunday February 12 and again on Saturday February 18 and Sunday February 19, all from 11am to 3pm.

As usual, there will be free parking, weather permitting, plus homemade hot soup, refreshments and, of course, snowdrops and spring bulbs and plants to buy.

Admission is £7.50 for adults and free for children. Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome and most of the gardens are accessible by wheelchair.

Owners Mike and Gel Heagney have raised thousands of pounds for charity by opening their gardens to visitors twice a year.

This summer's open weekends are June 17 and 18 and June 24 and 25.



Mike Heagney with some of the early blossoming snowdrops at Tudor Croft Gardens



The statue of Cardinal Hume in his home city, Newcastle – Photo by Les Bessant, creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/

MUSIC

Elgar classic promises memorable night of music

A performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* will take place at the Sage Gateshead on Sunday February 26 at 5pm.

The words, written by St John Henry Newman, tell the moving story of the death of a man of faith, the journey of his soul in the company of his guardian angel, an encounter with the demons of hell and his meeting, for a moment, with God.

Cleveland Philharmonic Choir and Durham University Choral Society join forces to form a 200-strong choir, taking the roles of friends of Gerontius praying for his soul, the sneering demons and angels around the throne of God.

The excellent Mowbray Orchestra, which selects musicians from all over the north, partners the singers.

The conductor is the outstanding choral trainer, John Forsyth MBE, who is the director of both choirs.

Tenor Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts sings the role of Gerontius, with mezzo-soprano Anna Huntley as the Angel. Morgan Pearce takes the two commanding baritone roles of the Priest and the Angel of the Agony.

These soloists have been chosen for the thought they put into their performances and the reverence and drama of the work are in safe hands.

Tickets are priced £22 for adults and £10 for students (plus booking fee) and are now on sale from sagegateshead.com/whats-on/elgar-the-dream-of-gerontius.

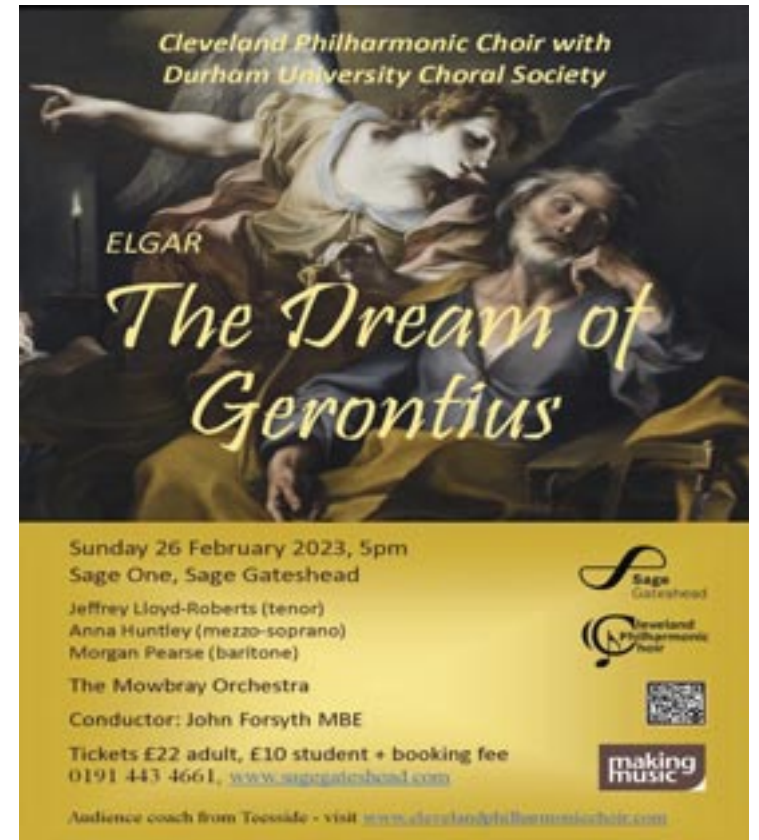
To book coach tickets from Teesside, visit clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com/concerts.

This great work is rarely performed in this region, so an opportunity to experience it is to be treasured.

As Elgar wrote on the last page of the score: "This is the best of me... this, if anything of mine, is worth your memory."



Cleveland Philharmonic Choir, which will perform *The Dream of Gerontius* at Gateshead



Parish musicians gather for meetings

Parish musicians in the Southern and Northern Deaneries responded to an invitation to meet each other and hear what's going on in their surrounding areas.

The meetings were also an opportunity to look at needs and inform future training resources and sessions.

Each session resulted in a mailing list and a WhatsApp group. Attendees included cantors, organists, singers, pianists, guitarists, parishioners and priests.

The hope is for similar sessions to take place in the Central and Coastal Deaneries in March, with the enthusiastic support of the deans, Father Serplus and Canon Gubbins.

At the time of writing, dates were to be confirmed, but look out for information coming your way, as it would be wonderful to have a good turnout at these sessions.

Equally, if you are a parish musician anywhere across the diocese and would like to be added to the mailing lists, please contact Steven Maxson using the details below.

In his first year in post, our new diocesan director of music has also supported parishes, priests and musicians on a variety of topics, including Mass settings, responsorial psalms, and organ repertoire for pianists playing the piano, among other areas.

He is always happy to provide support, advice or help wherever possible.

You can contact him by emailing musicdept@rcdmidd.org.uk or calling 01642 597750.

Follow the Music Department on Facebook and Twitter @musicdiocese.

Come and join our Diocesan Choir!

Our Diocesan Choir is always looking for new members.

The choir, which is non-auditioning, rehearses monthly in York and sings at major diocesan liturgies, including the Rite of Election and Chrism Mass.

Singers are drawn from all points of the diocesan compass, with some from the coast, from Hull, from Middlesbrough, as well as those who can walk to the rehearsal from York – we even have some members who live just outside the diocese but sing with us.

If you are interested in joining the choir or in finding out more about doing so, please contact diocesan director of music Steven Maxson by emailing musicdept@rcdmidd.org.uk or calling 01642 597750.

St Peter’s celebrates Good Ofsted rating

A secondary school described by its headteacher as “the rock” of a famous Teesside community is celebrating after Ofsted inspectors rated it Good in all areas.

St Peter’s Catholic College in South Bank had been told it still required improvement in 2019 after previously being judged to be Inadequate.

But after a new leadership team led by headteacher Stephanie Garthwaite brought in a series of sweeping changes, and a £1m investment from Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT), the 547-pupil school has bounced back in style.

The report says: “St Peter’s is an inclusive school and leaders are proud to serve the pupils who attend.

“Leaders are ambitious that all pupils should access an aspirational curriculum.

“There is a vision, shared by all staff, to provide a high-quality curriculum for all pupils. This vision is being realised. It is making a positive difference to pupils’ education.”

Mrs Garthwaite, who took over the reins in September 2020, said everyone at the school is determined to continue improving.

She said: “Working here is not just a job for our fantastic staff, it’s a vocation, and they go above and beyond every day. They work in St Peter’s because they genuinely want to make a difference to the life chances of the children of South Bank.

“St Peter’s is the rock of South Bank and one of the most positive things in the area.

“Our pupils know all about our famous alumni and many of their parents and grandparents came here and are extremely passionate about the school.”

Mrs Garthwaite said there have also been significant changes in staffing across all areas, with many joining from Good and Outstanding schools.

St Peter’s has introduced a raft of new rewards initiatives to celebrate pupils’ achievements and there is a new mission statement – “One faith, one family, one future”.

The building has been significantly enhanced with just under £1m investment from the trust, including new fitness facilities, PE changing rooms, an exhibition centre and a superb VR suite, as well as a comprehensive programme of cosmetic improvements.

“It’s all about instilling a culture of high standards and high expectations,” said Mrs Garthwaite

NPCAT was formed in September 2018 and now includes 37 Catholic schools across Teesside and North Yorkshire, including the city of York.

One of its five secondary schools, St Francis Xavier in Richmond, is rated Outstanding by Ofsted. Three others – St Patrick’s Catholic College in Thornaby, Sacred Heart Catholic Secondary in Redcar and now St Peter’s – have been upgraded to Good in the last 15 months.

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said Ofsted’s judgement marked a significant milestone for the trust.

He said: “Only a few years ago NPCAT had no secondary schools judged to be Good by Ofsted. Today three of our schools are Good and one is Outstanding, and in March another Outstanding secondary school will join us, All Saints Secondary School in York.

“Mrs Garthwaite and her team are determined to ensure the very best for every pupil and I want to congratulate her on the manner in which she has led the school, both as head of school and headteacher.

“The staff at St Peter’s are magnificent advocates for this old and cherished school, and their tireless work has now been rewarded. My congratulations to them all.”



Headteacher Stephanie Garthwaite celebrates St Peter’s Good Ofsted rating with pupils





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SCAN ME



LOURDES

Bob's reflections on the journey of a lifetime

Bob Lavery, from St Aelred's Parish, York, had the honour of being one of two drivers who transported the relics of St Bernadette during their UK tour.

Bob set off to collect the relics from Lourdes at the end of August together with Gerry O'Malley, an Irishman living in Surrey.

During the tour, media outlets photographed and interviewed them and variously described them as British officials, guardians of the relics and even venerable removal men!

Here Bob tells us more about this amazing experience...

At around noon on Sunday October 2, the relics of St Bernadette moved from St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle to St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough.

This was to be venue 26 out of 52 on a tour that was to last some 66 days and included all the Catholic cathedrals in England and Wales, one Anglican cathedral, some parish churches, the Scottish national shrine at Carfin, two diocesan shrines, two convents, three monasteries and a prison.

It was a great privilege to be asked to drive the relics, but it also gave a unique insight into the Catholic life of the three countries, on so many levels.

If anyone was going to choose a person to deliver a message from Our Blessed Lady to the world, it is highly unlikely that their first choice would have been an illiterate, poor nobody from a small remote town in the French Pyrenees.

However, as we are often reminded, God's ways are not always our ways, and, of course, Bernadette Soubirous proved to be the perfect messenger.

Once Bernadette delivered her message from Our Lady, she expected and hoped to drop back into obscurity, as she put it, "to be put back behind the door... (like a used sweeping brush)".

However, as we all know, her world was turned upside down. Bishop Terry spoke about this at length during his homily.

What would Bernadette have made of the UK Relic Tour of 2022? There is evidence to suggest she would have hated all the attention, veneration and other general fuss.

Some 164 years after she experienced the apparitions at Massabielle, Bernadette



Bob Lavery, right, with his fellow driver Gerry O'Malley

continues her mission today, as a messenger for Mary.

The crowds are drawn towards her, which in turn brings us to the Blessed Virgin and through her to her son, Jesus.

Our diocesan schools were well represented at the cathedral. Young people are especially attracted to the story of Lourdes – it helps them discern a mission of service for others.

Indeed, we should also remember that Bernadette was most comfortable in the company of children.

The Diocese of Middlesbrough, like many others, had two annual pilgrimages cancelled because of the pandemic before returning in 2022, but it's estimated that as many as 4,000 people from across the area made a mini-pilgrimage to venerate the relics of St Bernadette as Lourdes came to Middlesbrough last October.

The splendid organisation at Middlesbrough, Ampleforth and Hull was among the best of the entire tour.

At the cathedral and Our Lady & St Peter's Church in Hull, the Lourdes Hospitalité team, led by Keith Tillotson, were particularly

impressive, reflecting how they also operate during the pilgrimage every spring.

Our Lady asked Bernadette to "...tell the people to come here in procession", and so many people who visited the relics also reflected on the possibility of making a pilgrimage to Lourdes themselves in the future.

For some, this would be their first time, while the sight and proximity of the relics had others reminiscing about previous pilgrimages and thinking now is the time to return.

The cost of the pilgrimage is not insignificant, and it's never been a cheap or easy option for a holiday. For most of us, it requires some financial sacrifices.

It's not too late to book for 2023, and the graces and blessings we receive by making a pilgrimage are always just enough to sustain us spiritually until the next time.

After the pandemic, there is a great need for Catholics to re-engage with their faith first-hand by returning to Mass in person and receiving the sacraments.

It's estimated that around a quarter of the

Catholic population of Britain may have seen the relics as they toured, but some could have just been curious to see what all the fuss was about.

A more interesting figure is the number of people who went to the Sacrament of Reconciliation – it's an impossible number to calculate, but clergy at every location were encouraged by the numbers who came to confession, and many were optimistic that through the visit, people were actively re-engaging with their faith.

The tour finished at the Ukrainian Church in London on November 1. We then delivered the relics, along with the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes and all the petitions from all over the UK, to the shrine.

The return journey to London with a relatively empty van could have been such an anti-climax, but we decided to have one last overnight stop, this time at the Convent of St Gildard in Nevers, where St Bernadette's incorrupt body lies in a glass casket.

It was the perfect end to the journey of a lifetime.

Book now for our platinum pilgrimage

Our 70th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be led by Bishop Terry from Friday May 26 to Friday June 2 2023.

The organising committee have been working hard to negotiate the best possible prices, conscious of the cost-of-living crisis.

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 demand for the pilgrimage is 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 help from the designated hotel to the services and return. Because of 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.

Besides 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.

Formation Day dates confirmed

This year's Formation Day, the mandatory training we need to cover so we can work safely in Lourdes, is on Saturday March 25.

There will also be a Formation Evening on Tuesday May 16. Both events are at Trinity Catholic College, Middlesbrough.

Digital giving comes to Lourdes

You can now donate to the Diocese of Middlesbrough Lourdes Sick Fund via your mobile phone.

Simply scan this QR code into your phone and select how much you would like to donate.

The money raised pays for dozens of our supported pilgrims to go to Lourdes every year, staying either in the Accueil or in one of the many hotels in the town.

Thank you for your generous support for this very worthwhile cause.



Tributes paid as Patrick becomes city freeman

Warm tributes were paid to former leader Hull City Council leader Patrick Doyle when he was installed as an honorary freeman of the city at a glittering ceremony in the Guildhall.

The honour was “in appreciation of the eminent and valuable service rendered by him to the city as leader of Hull City Council, his charitable and humanitarian work and in recognition of the high esteem in which he is held.”

Patrick's wife, Janet, was present together with their children and grandchildren.

Past and present councillors paid tribute to Patrick, speaking warmly of the great work he had done for the city during his 22 years as leader.

Of all his many achievements, he is especially proud of the building of the KC Stadium, which saved Hull City Football Club and Hull FC rugby league club from almost certain financial disaster.

Many tributes highlighted his role as an international ambassador for Hull, including his leadership in making Hull the first UK city to start a twinning arrangement with an African city when it teamed up with Freetown in Sierra Leone.

He was also directly involved in rebuilding relations with Iceland after the cod wars by twinning with Reykjavik.

In recognition of these achievements, Iceland awarded him Order of the Falcon and Sierra Leone awarded him the Order of the Republic.

Several councillors referenced Patrick's Catholic faith, which they respected as essential to his life. In his acceptance speech, Patrick said this faith guided him in all he did and how serving others and listening to their concerns – especially if they opposed his policies – was of paramount importance.

In 1999, he presided over Hull's 700th anniversary of being awarded its royal charter and inaugurated a series of Wilberforce lectures given by distinguished people, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu. He also invited Archbishop (now Cardinal) Michael Fitzgerald, who was then the Papal Nuncio to Egypt and delegate to the Arab League and who spoke about modern-day slavery.

Another was Dom Timothy Radcliffe, master of the Dominican Order, who spoke about hope, and Bishop John Crowley led a service of thanksgiving in St Charles.

Patrick worked closely with Sister Catherine Ryan to establish the former Endsleigh Convent as a conference venue and retreat centre.

He was widely respected for his unwavering commitment to the Church, for which the Pope awarded him the Papal Order of St Gregory in 2009.

Since retiring from frontline politics in 2001, he has devoted his time and energy to charity.

He became president of the St Charles St Vincent de Paul conference and ran the drop-in centre for the homeless, a cause close to his heart. The centre opened twice a week and often fed more than 60 people each time until it had to close after a fire in 2018.

Patrick realised a more sustainable answer to homelessness was needed and in the early 2000s he began the process of bringing the Emmaus charity to Hull.

He enlisted the support of others who shared his vision, notably Sir Chris O'Donnell, and, finally, after many years of highs and lows, the Orchard Centre opened in 2014.

This brand-new, purpose-built facility gives a home to up to 30 formerly homeless people and offers them training and hope for the future. There is also a large furniture store and workshops.

Patrick has always been a committed, active Catholic. While he was council leader, you could see him serving on the altar at daily Mass in St Charles, where he was also a reader and Eucharistic minister. He served as a governor of the Marist College, St Richard's, St John Fisher, Endsleigh and St Mary's College and was secretary of the University of Hull Catholic Chaplaincy and chair of Hull Pastoral Council, as well as serving on the ecumenical Yorkshire Churches Regional Council. He is a lay member of the Leicester branch of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) and was provincial president from 2006 to 2012.

Janet was also active in the Catholic life of the city, working alongside Patrick in many of these activities.

Patrick and Janet recently moved to Lincolnshire, where they edit a monthly parish magazine for the Church of Our Lady and English Martyrs, Spilsby.

Their enthusiasm for and commitment to the Catholic faith is undiminished. Patrick remains president of St Charles SVP and is always full of ideas about how to make things better for people.

He is generous with his time and will go out of his way to help anyone.

Honorary alderman and former councillor Ann Stanley, who has known Patrick for 50 years, spoke for many in her tribute.

“I do not think I have heard anyone say a bad word about Pat in all that time,” she said. “He was always courteous with all those whom he dealt with and treated them as if they were his own family. Above all, he is a family man, and he fully deserves this honour.”

Chris Cuthill



Patrick Doyle with his wife, Janet, at Hull's Guildhall – Photo by Chris Cuthill

Synod in focus at talk

Dr Gregory Ryan, from Durham University's Centre for Catholic Studies, is the speaker at Cleveland Newman's Circle's next meeting.

He will reflect on the focus for the continental synodal assemblies in his talk, “A bigger tent for a synodal Church”.

The title refers to the passage in Isaiah (54:2) that begins, “Enlarge the space of your tent” and is used in the working document for the synod's continental stage.

The talk takes place at St Mary's Cathedral Hall, Middlesbrough, on Wednesday February 15.

Tea and coffee will be served from 7.30pm, with the talk beginning at 7.45pm.

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

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NEWS

Boats and planes begin Brigitte’s next chapter

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

It’s time for little Brigitte’s return to Kinshasa for a check-up.

You may remember the little girl we took to Kinshasa for medical treatment. She had multiple infections, including TB, as well as a genetic condition called sickle cell disease. Kinshasa is the only place in the Congo with a specialist centre for this illness.

Brigitte stayed at our house in Basankusu for six weeks before her journey. Her parents had been struggling to give her the special treatment she needs because they have three other children, and we could see that she’d gone downhill a little. At our house, we could spoil her.

Her treatment for TB was complete. This time, in Kinshasa, she would get medicine for her blood disorder.

“The Vanity” is an old wooden riverboat. Judith and Brigitte took a doorless cabin and slept on a raffia mat on the floor. I was in England, with more visa problems, so Judith messaged me.

“We’re leaving at 6am, Friday morning, for Mbandaka,” she said.

And sure enough, true to Congolese style, after sitting there all day and night, they set off at Saturday lunchtime!

The River Lulonga is huge. The giant trees of the rainforest on either side create a silence, save for a few screeches from passing birds. The noise of the engine goes on, night

and day, as the water laps the sides of the boat – chugga-chugga-chuggachugga!

Early Monday morning, they entered the mighty Congo River, and by midday they were opening their bags in a cheap hotel in Mbandaka. This city sits right on the Equator. It’s also where we buy our stocks of beans, rice and milk powder.

On Tuesday morning, Judith took little Brigitte along to the wholesaler to buy stock for the malnutrition centre.

“Come back on Thursday,” she was told. “Our stock will arrive by river then.”

Time was running out.

Having failed to buy stock, they then walked across to the Congo Airways office. Mbandaka to Kinshasa is 370 miles by plane.

“Sorry,” they said, “all seats are taken for Saturday’s flight.”

She managed to get seats on a cargo plane and will travel on Saturday after all. She has two days to buy stock and get it loaded onto a riverboat, back to Basankusu. It might just work out!

I will meet them in Kinshasa. We’re looking forward to the next chapter in little Brigitte’s treatment. Thanks to those who’ve helped so far.

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



Brigitte and Judith on the riverboat from Basankusu to Mbandaka

Santa’s generous gift for malnourished children



Santa Claus delivered a five-figure donation to Francis and Judith’s Malnutrition Centre in the Democratic Republic of Congo this Christmas

Santa Claus – who is often mistaken for George Robinson, of Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish in Redcar – is pictured here with Francis.

Santa has been travelling around Teesside and North Yorkshire visiting children and some adults with special needs as well, in schools and at parties.

After seeing 1,110 children and adults this year, Santa raised an amazing £7,469, including donations from St Bede’s School in Marske, St Benedict’s School in Redcar, SGP

Holdings in Stockton-on-Tees and Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish.

The money has already been delivered to help Francis and Judith continue their vital work with malnourished children.

Over the last 25 years, Santa has seen some 50,500 children during the last 18 years and raised more than £40,000 for children’s charities.

Francis was back on Teesside to see his family and get his passport renewed before he returned to the Congo.

Boxing Day Mass at the Lady Chapel

Our photo shows Father Jose Michael preaching at the traditional Boxing Day Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace. Father Anil Kumar Narisetti, seated, concelebrated.

The Lady Chapel now has a “digital collection plate”, enabling worshippers and visitors to contribute financially to the upkeep of the shrine with a tap of their debit card or mobile phone.

You can also donate to the Friends of the Lady Chapel by scanning this QR code into your mobile phone.

Bishop Terry set up the Friends of the Lady Chapel to raise money for maintenance and development, as well as increasing interest in the Marian shrine, both within the local community and further afield.

To join, or for more details, visit ladychapel.org.uk/friends.



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Diocesan LGBT+ Ministry celebrates fifth anniversary

December marked the fifth anniversary of Bishop Terry's establishment of the diocesan ministry to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) Catholics, their families and friends.

Presiding at the monthly Mass held in York's historic Bar Convent chapel was Canon John Lumley, who was joined at the altar by the new parish priest of English Martyrs Church (in whose parish is the Bar Convent), Canon Michael Loughlin, along with his brother, Canon John.

Reflecting on the five-year milestone, ministry coordinator Father Tony Lester said: "We thank God that this pastoral outreach to the LGBT+ community continues to grow and flourish.

"The synodal process in our own diocese, across the country and around the world strongly demonstrates that this is something wanted and needed."

A development unexpected when the ministry was established, but welcome nonetheless, is that LGBT+ asylum-seekers

regularly attend the Mass, travelling from across Yorkshire to take part.

"Many asylum-seekers come to the UK seeking refuge after suffering significant persecution by people because of religion," Father Tony said.

"LGBT+ women and men are often astonished to discover that the Church here welcomes them, and the ministry provides a much-needed opportunity for them to hear the Good News that they are loved by God."

At the December Mass, the congregation took a special collection to help buy winter clothes for asylum-seekers.

The Mass, which is held at the Bar Convent thanks to the hospitality of the Congregation of Jesus Sisters, takes place at 3pm on the second Sunday of every month.

The ministry also holds a social gathering at the Bar Convent café at noon on the last Saturday of each month.

For further details, visit lgbtmiddlesbroughcatholic.org.uk.



December marked the Middlesbrough Diocese LGBT+ Outreach Ministry's fifth birthday

Podcast series is companion on synod journey

A new podcast series has been produced to support and inspire those travelling on the synodal journey.

"Renewing Church and Neighbourhood – the Synodal Way" has been created by Together for the Common Good, a national Christian charity dedicated to the renewal of the civic ecology by bringing covenantal thinking into church and civic life.

In the series, presenter Sean Ryan asks Jenny Sinclair, founder-director of Together for the Common Good, about what the synodal process means for grassroots Catholics and how it can inspire action at a local level.

"The focus for us as parishioners should always be on our continuing synodal journey in our own parishes," says Jenny, who was the keynote speaker at our diocesan synod day last year.

"It's clear to me, from my own experience of the Synod, that God is working within us, and that lasting change will come from what's happening at the grassroots, more bottom-up than top-down. I actually believe the national synodal team expect that to be the case too."

Synodality means "walking together" and refers to both a new, and ancient, way of being church, based on listening to the Holy Spirit.

It is intended to foster the vocations of the whole People of God, refresh mission and revitalise the relationship of the local church with the neighbourhood.

Adopting the "see-judge-act" framework, the podcast is designed for individual reflection or to be within a parish or prayer group setting to prompt conversation and develop action on a local level.

You can listen to the podcast by visiting togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/resources/synod-podcast-series.

- The Synod of Bishops' meetings in the Vatican – originally scheduled to be held next October – will now also take place in October 2024, as part of the same Synod but held in two sessions. Pope Francis announced the extension of the Synod on Synodality when speaking to pilgrims in St Peter's Square at the Angelus address. The Pope said there are already many first fruits from the ongoing Synod but that more time is needed for them to become fully mature.



Together for the Common Good founder-director Jenny Sinclair with Canon Derek Turnham at our diocesan synod day at St Mary's Cathedral



MIDDLESBROUGH DIOCESE LGBT+ OUTREACH MINISTRY

Masses giving an explicit welcome to LGBT+ Catholics, their families, and friends, take place on the **second Sunday** of each the month at 3pm in the chapel of

The Bar Convent, York
17 Blossom Street, YO24 1AQ

just outside Micklegate Bar, 5 minutes' walk from York Railway Station; car parking nearby

followed by refreshments

All are welcome



lgbtmiddlesbroughcatholic.org.uk



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NEWS

A weekend of encounter and dialogue at Ushaw

Delegates gathered from all over England and Wales for the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) conference at Ushaw College.

This year’s conference – which had the theme of “Women at the periphery taking centre stage” – was a response to the Synod of Bishops’ express statement of the fundamental importance that the poor and excluded are heard (Preparatory Document, no 31).

The Vatican’s synthesis of responses from 112 conferences of bishops around the world states: “In every area of their lives, women ask the Church to be their ally ... [and address] the social realities of impoverishment, violence and diminishment faced by women across the globe” (Document for the Continental Stage, no 62).

Attendees wore orange poppies to show support for the UN’s Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women and 16 days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence, which took place at the same time.

They were reminded of co-responsibility and resources available through Catholic and other faith-based organisations, including the NBCW’s domestic abuse booklet, which it has made available to each parish in England and Wales.

Dr Clare Campbell introduced the concept of Faith in Art Clubs that utilise art therapy for the traumatised and Dr Anna Casson highlighted the need for spiritual and pastoral care in less privileged areas.

Professor Anna Rowlands explained that many are encountering new people and ideas in the synod process. She said in the first phase, listening and discernment are needed. Now there is a call for the Church to draw closer to the ordinary lives of women and to be a powerful ally of women. She said new missionary models of accompaniment and new forms of community are required.

Sister Marie Kolbe Zamora, a member of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, acknowledged the reality of change.

“It is a painful time while we refocus,” she said, adding that change requires a review of Canon Law and a consensus among the Church hierarchy.

While all movements toward women’s call for equality may seem like appeasement, change is rapidly happening in the Vatican,



A panel including Abbot Hugh Allan answering questions during the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) conference at Ushaw College

with the appointment of more women. There have also been calls for the further involvement of women in roles of ministry and Church governance.

The Vatican is listening to the people, she said, and all 2,000 Individual contributions received from English-speaking episcopacies were read and heard.

Sister Marie spoke also of her desire for evangelisation to be concerned with the communication of Gospel life, love and experience. We need to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who lives in our deepest place, in our desires and in our hearts.

Julian Paparella, who works with Sister Marie as the voice of youth and the married, said women have a key role to play in achieving a more synodal church.

He said we should find out what young people need for the next 60 years and work for those changes, as renewal cannot happen without the young.

“Walk with young people in joy, in the love of Christ, with a maternal heart that beats with love of God for the world,” he said.

Throughout the conference, the often-unheard voices of the young and of women were emphatically heard in a Spirit-filled and lively environment.

On the final morning, Professor Karen Kilby

spoke of the desires expressed for returning to the basics of a pilgrim Church, with people of God living out Gospel values, using kind communication and unconditional love and building a new community through the sharing of gifts, wisdom and compassion, working across the generations. Other speakers included Abbot Hugh Allan, representing the Catholic Bishops’

Conference. Reverend Diane Ryan, Dr Wendy Momen MBE, of the Baha’I faith, Dr Pat Jones, SVP CEO Elizabeth Palmer, CAFOD CEO Christine Allen and Nikki Dhillon Keane, of NBCW’s Violence Against Women and Girls Committee and founder of safeinfaith.org.uk.

Margaret Clark, President, National Board of Catholic Women

‘Big’ and Mini-Vinnies unite to host carol concert

A carol concert at St Andrew’s Church, Teesville, Middlesbrough, raised vital funds for a food bank.

The event was organised by the parish SVP Conference and supported by Mini-Vinnies from two primary schools, St Margaret Clitherow’s, South Bank, and St Mary’s, Grangetown.

Those attending were asked to bring along donations for the food bank instead of an admission fee.

Each carol was followed by a Gospel reading read by an adult and a bidding prayer read by one of the children.

Some children signed *Away in a Manger*, while there was also the spectacular sight of *Silent Night* sung in a darkened church illuminated by mobile phone lights.

The organisers hope this enjoyable and successful event will become an annual fixture.

A Letter From Madonna House – An assignment in the land of saints



In June, I was sent from the main centre of Madonna House in Canada to our house in Robin Hood’s Bay for a four-month assignment.

As I landed in Gatwick, suddenly words arose in my heart, “*Glory to God in the highest and peace to people on earth,*” and I wondered, “What is this supposed to mean?”

During my stay here, my eyes were slowly opened to the fact that, as some say, this is a holy land. Those whom we now call saints walked this land. We visited several monastic ruins, yet my strongest image is connected with a visit to Scarborough Castle, from which I didn’t expect much. We went to the ruins of a chapel at the edge of the cliff, and I thought, what a great place to celebrate Mass! Castle, city, England behind you, and the sea with Europe and the whole world in front of you ... the hands of a priest lifting the Eucharist above the world day after day ... in nice weather, with a calm sea

and a magnificent view, and on dark days, when the sea is rough, dangerous, and scary. And the Eucharist above it all, at all times. *Glory to God...*

Gentleness is a word that our foundress, Catherine Doherty, gave to our house in Robin Hood’s Bay when it opened in 1985. During my stay, I met gradually the gentleness of God – through my brothers and sisters, through our neighbours, our friends, the people of Yorkshire, God’s creatures great and small (sheep, badgers, seals, you name it!) and the nature around our house.

It can be painful when all this gentleness touches something in you and you realise the harshness of your heart. And yet, when the “harshness melting process” starts, there is not only tears, but joy as well, as there is more room for God. *Glory to God...*

I still don’t know what to make of the “*Gloria in excelsis Deo ...*” that came to me

while landing at Gatwick. I know that our world has many problems, and the UK is not exempt. There are many wars: the “close” one in Ukraine, the battles in our hearts, etc. Maybe we are really created to give glory to God. And since we don’t do it, maybe that’s why the world looks like it does.

Angels were praising God when there was a baby wrapped in swaddling cloth in a manger in Bethlehem. I think angels are still singing it when Christ comes through the hands of a priest at Mass. Maybe we need to join them... To live for the Glory of God... To join all those who through the ages have given him glory with their lives. To help each other get up again and again. Despite the wars and the darkness of the rough sea, to believe and expect that the one who came, is coming and will come again, can do *anything, anytime.*

Blanka Pavlickova

Online sessions explore Catholic practices and beliefs

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith or interested in becoming a Catholic?

You may be a catechist or active in one of the many parish ministries in your parish. Then these online sessions could be for you.

The Sycamore programme looks at the central practices and beliefs of Catholic Christianity and the most common questions people raise.

Working closely with the Sycamore team, Adult Formation has put together a series of online monthly sessions facilitated by Sycamore.

Thursday February 2, 7pm-8.30pm: Introduction to Sycamore and choosing a "pathway". How to set up and run a group using the Sycamore Programme and resources

Thursday March 2, 7pm-8.30pm: Speaking and listening to one another in the Holy Spirit

Thursday March 30, 7pm-8.30pm: Reflecting on Scripture for Holy Week and Easter

Thursday April 27, 7pm-8.30pm: Christian prayer and how to pray

Thursday May 18, 7pm-8.30pm: The Church's best kept secret – An Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching

Thursday June 29, 7pm-8.30pm (if face-to-face, the event will move to Saturday June 24 or Saturday July 1, TBC): How are we using Sycamore in our parish or community grouping? An opportunity for people to share how they have been or are using Sycamore, what has worked well or not so well and ask what else could we do to support people.

To register for the programme, email your name, parish and email address to adultformation@rdmidd.org.uk, who will send you a link for each session.

You can find out more about Sycamore at sycamore.fm.

David Cross, Adult Formation Coordinator

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.

| | | | |
|----|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 1919 | Rt Rev Mgr Canon Gerald Shanahan | Thornaby |
| 1 | 1937 | Rev Edward H Bryan | Pickering |
| 1 | 1973 | Rev Michael Barry | Market Weighton |
| 2 | 1920 | Rt Rev Mgr Provost Charles Dawson | York |
| 2 | 1982 | Rev Francis Gresham OP | York |
| 2 | 1989 | Rt Rev Mgr J Liam Carson | Teesville |
| 3 | 1912 | Very Rev Canon Joseph Dodds | Leyburn |
| 3 | 1981 | Canon Gerard T Rickaby | Guisborough |
| 3 | 1999 | Rev Thomas Burke | Scarborough |
| 3 | 2018 | Rev Thomas Ryan | Caherconlish |
| 5 | 1978 | Very Rev Canon W Hughes | Hull |
| 5 | 1979 | Rev Dan Breen | Scarborough |
| 7 | 1985 | Mgr T Alban Nolan | Billingham |
| 7 | 1988 | Very Rev Canon Robert Carson | Redcar |
| 8 | 1991 | Rev John Shanahan | Knocklong |
| 9 | 1975 | Rev Joseph Bickerstaffe | Connah's Quay |
| 9 | 2011 | Rev Sean O'Donnell | Falcarragh |
| 10 | 1933 | Rev Richard Lewis | York |
| 10 | 1970 | Rev Leonard Cornwall | Hull |
| 12 | 1947 | Rev Thomas Reilly | Skirlaugh |
| 12 | 1965 | Rev Gerard Culkin | Ushaw |
| 14 | 1897 | Very Rev Canon George Brunner | Wycliffe |
| 15 | 1931 | Rev William Kirkham | Ulshaw Bridge |
| 16 | 1999 | Rev John Joseph Ryan | Scorton |
| 17 | 2003 | Rev Francis Daly | Middlesbrough |
| 18 | 1995 | Rev Desmond Cush | Richmond |
| 18 | 1938 | Rev George Kiernan | Thornaby |
| 18 | 1942 | Rev Bernard Wilson | Staithe |
| 23 | 2015 | Very Rev Canon Gerald Cox | Hull |
| 23 | 2018 | Rev Patrick Grant | Thurles |
| 27 | 1963 | Rev Joseph Blake | Hull |
| 27 | 1900 | Rev James Atkinson | Middlesbrough |
| 27 | 1981 | Rev James O'Brien | Staithe |
| 28 | 1988 | Rev John MacDonnell | Middlesbrough |

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NEWS

Out and About

- 1 Wednesday**

5.30pm Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.
- 3 Friday**

Events, articles and photographs for March edition are due by today.
- 4 Saturday**

11am Catholic Women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion including meditation, via Zoom. Text 07796 1177004 with your mobile number and email address so she can add you to the WhatsApp group. This month, Candlemass Reflections, speaker and meditation, Jeanne Guillemette, Madonna House. All welcome. Zoom ID: 896 4054 1070, passcode: 765718. For more information, email catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com.
- 6 Monday**

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

- 7 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.
- 8 Wednesday**

5.30pm Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.
- 9 Thursday**

7.45pm Middlesbrough Catenians meet at Middlesbrough Cricket Club, Green Lane, Middlesbrough TS5 7SL. Contact Peter Carey on 01642 317772 or Chris Rhodes on 01642 319161.
- 11 Saturday**

Nurturing Our Spiritual Life – a retreat day for Catholic women within the Diocese of Middlesbrough, St Bede's Pastoral Centre, 21 Blossom Street, York. Email: programmemail@stbedes.org.uk or call 01904 464900.

- 12 Sunday**

3 pm Mass for LGBT+ Catholics, family and friends at the Chapel of the Bar Convent. Doors open from 2.30pm.
- 13 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 all 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.
- 14 Tuesday**

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

12.45pm Hull and District Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meet at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Kingston Square for lunch at 1pm. Everyone is very welcome. For details call 01482446565.

- 15 Wednesday**

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

7.45pm Cleveland Newman Circle: Dr Gregory Ryan (Durham University's Centre for Catholic Studies), "A bigger tent for a synodal Church". Tea and coffee from 7.30pm. St Mary's Cathedral Hall, Middlesbrough. All welcome. For more details call 01642 645732 or email p.egerton123@gmail.com.
- 18 Saturday**

7.30pm The Eddie White Sacred Heart Irish Dance with Michael Coyne at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB. Contact John Brown 07871 958412.
- 19 Sunday**

3pm Middlesbrough Fellowship Mass, St Andrew's, Teesville, celebrated by Father Peter Ryan and Father Michael Sellars.

- 20 Monday**

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

10am Christian Meditation group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle, email terry-doyle@live.co.uk.
- 26 Sunday**

Social gathering at noon in the café at the Bar Convent for LGBTQ+ Catholics, family and friends. All welcome.
- 27 Monday**

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

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

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

Marriage Encounter unveils new programme

Marriage Encounter is a national Catholic organisation that offers experiences to enrich relationships and strengthen family bonds.

The gatherings are available in two formats, either live experiences held at hotels or online. They all seek to bring God to the heart of your marriage and family.

Its forthcoming programme includes Marriage Enrichment: Marriage Encounter on March 3 and 5 in Swindon and May 13 and 14 online.

There are also Marriage Preparation: Engaged Encounters on February 11 and 12 at St George's, Sudbury, and online on March 11 to 12 and April 22 and 29.

For further information or to book, visit wwme.org.uk or engaged-encounter.org.uk.

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 February 3 for our March 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.

Discovering the remarkable woman who started the fire

I have never known life without the Mission Box.

As children, we were brought up putting pennies into the APF wooden Mission Box, now the Missio little Red Box, and it is still part of the furniture. We always felt the missionaries were part of our family.

When we were married and moved to a new area, house-to-house collections were a good way of getting to know parishioners.

My husband and I have collected for more than 40 years, counting the contents of the boxes on kitchen tables and chatting. Donations now include standing orders, giving online and gift-aiding when possible.

It's always exciting to see what is happening throughout the world in the Mission Today magazine, through stories and media.

How important this is to reach out to all, especially those who are housebound and still have devotion to Missio and its work, keeping them in touch – a sheer delight.

Father Frank Graham has always been a welcome visitor when coming to give a parish promotion, either in our

own parish or others in the area, relating tales of his life, work and travels and motivating us all. We miss him.

We think of Blessed Pauline Jaricot, this incredible woman with remarkable faith who, at such an early age, devoted herself to mission and with female passion created the APF mission, which continues today.

She is a great example to us all and especially as she is a woman whose light has been hidden under a bushel for so long.

It was a great joy to hear at Darlington of Blessed Pauline Jaricot and her Beatification with Father Greg Price, Father Robert, director Father Anthony Chantry and his team.

How had we missed Pauline Jaricot for so long? Her Feast Day, January 9, is a date we will always keep in the diary now, as she inspires us to keep on giving to Missio and spreading the word with faith and hope.

She lit the match that lit the fire.



Margaret Clark

Margaret Clark says Blessed Pauline Jaricot is a great example to us all

Celebrating 30 years of Rainbows

Members of the Rainbows family from all over Great Britain gathered to mark their 30th year of service to children and young people who are grieving a significant a devastating loss in their lives.

From its initial beginnings in 1992, Rainbows has become a highly respected national charity, supporting children and young people in more than 1,500 schools, besides offering high-quality training in bereavement and loss to all schools throughout the country.

The celebration, in the chapel at Maricourt Catholic High School in Maghull, paid tribute to all those who have been involved in offering support to children and young people for the past three decades.

Chair of trustees Jan O'Neill, from Christ the



King Parish, Thornaby, acknowledged the unique contribution made by members of the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, better known as the Sisters of Mercy.

Members of the board of trustees, the management committee and registered directors shared their memories of the great work Rainbows has undertaken across the country, highlighting the contribution made by many leading lights, including Frank and Sue McDermott, the charity's retired chair and executive national director.

Here's to the next 30 years!



The programmes for Rainbows Bereavement Support GB are available for all schools.

If you would like more information about the work of Rainbows please contact

Susan Wass, Regional Development Worker

Email: suewass.rainbowsgb@gmail.com

Website: www.rainbowsgb.org

Or

Sharon Melia-Craven, National Director

Email: sharon.rainbowsgb@btconnect.com

Website: www.rainbowsgb.org

Mobile: 07764431536



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Join the fight against climate change this Lent

This Lent, CAFOD is supporting families with the skills and tools they've asked for to fight the climate crisis.

In Bangladesh, one of the most at-risk countries from the effects of the climate crisis, 14-year-old Dristy and her mum Rupali are building seedbeds and planting palm trees to protect their crops from flooding and cyclones that used to devastate both their homes and crops.

Now, she passes these techniques on to her friends, some of whom have planted saplings of their own.

Thanks to local organisations supported by CAFOD that have worked alongside the village and shared innovative techniques, Rupali teaches her daughter how to plant diverse crops, build seedbeds, use discarded household items to grow saplings and plant palm trees that protect their crops from the impact of regular cyclones and seawater flooding.

They are doing what they can to help themselves, but so many others are still in need without the resources or training they need.

Could you help us this Lent Family Fast Day – Friday March 3?

Many of our long-serving parish volunteers stepped away from activities in their parishes during and since the pandemic, and while I am working to find new volunteers to take over the role, it would be great to hear from people who would be willing and able to help this year by...

- Giving the fast day talk in your parish at Masses on the weekends of February 25 and 26 or March 4 and 5?
- Helping distribute the collection envelopes that are sent to your parish?

- or
- Using one of our Zettle devices or QR lanyards to collect online payments in parishes that no longer take cash donations?

There may be young people in the parish who would help with this – could you ask them?

I can send you the talk and other information if you can help. Call me on 07779 804253 or email me at middlesbrough@cafod.org.uk. Thanks!

Carol Cross, Community Participation Coordinator



Dristy and her mum, Rupali, planting their crops – Photo courtesy of Amit Rudro/BASD, Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development

New site for Catholic photography platform

Cathopic, a Catholic platform that provides free, high-quality stock photography, has launched an improved version of its website.

It includes a new interface and search engine and a simplified design, making it easier for parishes and other groups to search, find, and download high-quality Catholic digital resources to meet their ministry needs.

The platform is free, with a paid-for premium option offering unlimited downloads of higher-resolution Catholic stock photography, videos, illustrations, clip art, icons, graphic designs and more.

Images can be used for newsletters, bulletins, promotional videos, social media content.

In recent months, several parishes in our diocese have had to pay after inadvertently using copyrighted images from unauthorised sources on their website or newsletters.

For more information visit cathopic.com or email hello@cathopic.com.



An image taken from the Cathopic website

Let's tell poverty to jog on!

We're excited to invite you to take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk, our newly relaunched challenge to walk 200km over 40 days and help people overcome poverty.

That's right – that's 5km a day, and you're in good time to get in plenty of training! You can walk, run, skip, or stroll your 200km, when and where you choose, alone or with friends.

You'll be among thousands of people up and down the country conquering your 200km targets in time for Easter.

Last year, many of our schools, individuals and some parishes took part during Lent in our walking challenge, Walk Against Hunger.

This year we're asking you to join us in our Big Lent Walk. I have signed up to do it again myself and you can sign up at walk.cafod.org.uk.

The money you raise will help people as they overcome poverty. Remember, every step you take is a step closer to a fairer world.

Let's tell poverty to jog on!

Carol Cross, Community Participation Coordinator



Crucifix that survived Gunpowder Plot raids goes on display

The Bar Convent has revealed new research into the personal crucifix belonging to York priest Father Edward Oldcorne, who was hanged, drawn and quartered in the aftermath of the Gunpowder Plot.

Special collections manager Dr Hannah Thomas carried out the research and discovered that the crucifix is the only item known to have survived the raids on the Catholic houses in the wake of the Gunpowder Plot in 1606. Dr Thomas said: “This is one of the most remarkable items in our possession and on display in the Bar Convent’s exhibition.

“We have been working closely with experts such as Michael Hodgetts, who has painstakingly researched the history of all known priest’s hiding holes in England and Wales. We are now confident in believing this is the only item surviving from a series of raids that took place at the houses of known Catholic associates across the Midlands in 1606, following the discovery of the plot in November 1605.

“The search at Hindlip lasted an incredible 12 days, and for most of that time Father Oldcorne remained hidden in a tiny, concealed room, in fear for his life. This little object is now the only surviving witness to those terrifying days, which ended with the public executions of Oldcorne and his

colleagues.”

The crucifix, dated from the late 16th or early 17th century, was discovered in the priest’s hole where Father Oldcorne was hiding. It is on permanent display in the exhibition at the Bar Convent, the oldest living convent in England. The foundress of the order was Mary Ward – niece of Gunpowder Plotters Thomas Percy and John and Christopher Wright. Father Oldcorne was friends with Gunpowder Plotters Guy Fawkes and the Wright brothers at St Peter’s School, York. He had worked secretly as a Catholic chaplain at Hindlip Hall, Worcester, for 14 years. In December 1605, Father Henry Garnet and lay brother Nicholas Owen, who were also suspects, also sought refuge at Hindlip Hall, said to be the safest Catholic house in the country as it had so many concealed hiding places. Along with Father Oldcorne’s servant, Ralph Ashley, all four men went into hiding in two separate priest’s holes and, although the house was raided several times, they were never discovered. However, conditions in the priest’s hole became unbearable and, after eight days, they surrendered. There was no evidence to link Oldcorne to the Gunpowder Plot, so they instead put him to death for his Catholic faith, on April 7 1606. Ashley was executed alongside him and both were beatified in 1929. Nicholas Owen worked in



The personal crucifix belonging to martyred York priest Father Edward Oldcorne – Photo by Anthony Chappel-Ross

the service of Father Henry Garnet and is said to have masterminded Father John Gerard’s escape from the Tower of London in 1597. He spent 18 years of his life building priest’s holes in the homes of Catholic families, despite ill health and injury and without payment. It is said that his work was so ingenious that many of his hiding places still remain undiscovered. He died while being tortured during the night of

March 1 and 2 1606. He was declared a saint in 1970. Father Henry Garnet had been told of the plot some months before, but in confession, so canon law forbade him from revealing it. However, he did protest the plan and attempted to deter the plotters. Despite this, he was found guilty of treason and was hanged, drawn and quartered on May 3 1606.

Process to make wartime chaplain a saint opens

Bishop of Meath Tom Deenihan has officially opened the canonisation cause of First World War Jesuit chaplain Father Willie Doyle.

Father Willie volunteered as a military chaplain and served from late 1915 until his death in August 1917.

He accompanied his men through the horrors of war and was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery at the Battle of the Somme.

He was killed during the Battle of Passchendaele while rescuing two wounded Anglican soldiers from Ulster.

His heroism during the war, as well as the holiness of his life, led to an outpouring of devotion to him in the years after his death.

By the early 1930s more than 50,000 letters testifying to devotion to him were received, over 6,000 of which alleged favours and healings through his intercession.

President of the Father Willie Doyle Association Patrick Kenny said: “The opening of Father Willie’s cause is a response to the wishes of many people, over many decades, who have wanted to see him recognised as a saint in the Catholic Church.

“We want to thank Bishop Deenihan for accepting our formal petition to open Father Willie’s canonisation process. We also want to thank the Society of Jesus for their support and encouragement.



First World War Jesuit chaplain Father Willie Doyle is on the path to sainthood

“The association is privileged to take on the role of actor for Father Willie’s Cause.”

The association announced the appointment of Father John Hogan of the Diocese of Meath as diocesan postulator for the cause.

Father Hogan said: “Only one Irish person – St Oliver Plunkett – has been canonised in the last 500 years. Ireland has many great candidates for sainthood, and Father Willie Doyle is one of the most fascinating of all.

“His attractive personality, and his love for God and for others, shines through his writings. He is also a tremendously relevant figure for the Church today, especially in Ireland.

“By offering his life to save wounded Anglican soldiers he became an ecumenical martyr of charity and is an icon of

reconciliation and unity amid religious and political division.

“He explicitly offered his life to God in reparation for the sins of priests. This offering has a greater resonance with us now than it did at the time of his death.

“Willie Doyle also suffered a breakdown as a novice when he was caught up in a fire in his novitiate building. Yet, 20 years later, he was admired by all who met him as a rock of courage in the trenches of World War 1.

“His example is one of hope for many. I am privileged to act as postulator for Father Willie’s cause and look forward to helping to make him a new saint for the Jesuits and a new saint for Ireland.”

From the Archives



40 Years Ago

(From February 1983 Catholic Voice)

Groups from all Cleveland’s Christian Churches responded to a request from the County Council’s Chairman, Councillor Cooke, to meet and pray together in Middlesbrough Town Hall during Unity Week. The service, prepared by Cleveland Council of Churches, under the leadership of their Chairman, the Rev. Arthur Temple, was very well attended.

Rev. Geoffrey Kemp (Superintendent of Teesside Methodist Circuit) preached the sermon, whilst prayers and readings were led by Bishop O’Brien, the Bishop of Whitby, Canon Carson, Joan Thornton (Society of Friends), Major Dorothy Mason (Salvation Army) and the Rev. R. Whittington (Council Chairman’s Chaplain).

Middlesbrough’s Salvation Army Band provided rousing music, and for the first occasion in the Town Hall, the Jesus Folk Group of young salvationists sang some modern folk hymns.

100 Years Ago

(From Hull Catholic Magazine)

A Purity Campaign Week begins in Hull on February 29th and continues till March 7th. Fr Bernard Vaughan and the Abbot of Ampleforth were both invited to speak at the great public meeting in the City Hall on Sunday night. The Men’s and Women’s Confraternities, the Girls’ and Boys’ Guild in each Parish are asked to make this matter the effort of their prayers, and by word and example promote the spread of this Angelic Virtue.

David Smallwood

NEWS

Teams of Our Lady enjoy seaside retreat

Teams of Our Lady is a worldwide Christian movement for married couples. Our aim is to grow in love and faith.

Our Middlesbrough team of four married couples has been together for 24 years and normally arranges a weekend retreat once a year.

Because of Covid we have missed out on this special time together. Supported by our chaplain, Father Phil Cunnah, we arranged to spend a Friday at Madonna House, Robin Hood's Bay.

Sunlight bathed the quaint cottages as the team arrived at this quiet haven. Father Michael, Jeanne, and Mathieu, the staff of the Madonna House community, welcomed us. At this point, we did not know what the theme of the day would be.

We discovered the house had many rooms, some for meeting and some for resting, tables were pushed together for eating, and the small chapel was simply divine.

Other spaces, inside and out, were set aside as poustinia – places for solitary prayer and contemplation. The community, based in Canada, has been in the Diocese of Middlesbrough since 1985. You can find out more at madonnahouse.org.

I was eager to know where the day was heading and what we would learn. My Bible, pencil and notebook were waiting in a carrier bag.

We gathered in a room that doubled as a library. How I wanted to look and see what they had. After introductions, the community shared their experience and the ethos of Madonna House, which was founded by Catherine Doherty in 1947.

Father Michael began with a profound statement, that Jesus spent nine-tenths of his life in Nazareth, keeping the Jewish and Roman law, living as a family, His working material was wood – something he was to die upon.

There is an important shift here, to see the effectiveness of prayer through the ordinary tasks of life, such as washing, ironing and chopping wood.

The prayer that rises through the acceptance of these tasks as a joyful undertaking will rest as blessings somewhere in the world where they are needed – which does not require our choosing.

Our joy was to be immersed in the ethos of this simple community. Retreating from the busyness, to encounter holiness in the ordinary – a mystery that may be experienced, but not easily explained.

It was a blessing to be received and lived. There was an opportunity for confession, and Mass together in the Chapel was most special.

Each one of us took away something different. Some fruits of the day are in the



Father Michael Weigl of Madonna House and Father Phil Cunnah with Teams of Our Lady couples on their retreat

following words:

It is I, Lord

It is I, Lord, in the quiet of my cell

The place where heart and soul do dwell.

Searching for me, and finding you

Seeing my desires, in all that you do.

Listening, not speaking

Often, not thinking.

Actively resting in life's busyness

Without fear, or shyness.

Knowing You are there with no need of my wake

Though taking delight in each step that I take.

To find out more about Teams of Our Lady, visit teams.gb.org.uk.

John Pearson

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