



## Bishop's Column

In his column this month, Bishop Terry has some suggestions to enhance our Holy Week observations...

### PALM SUNDAY

We begin our Holy Week celebrations. The procession Gospel sets the scene. Then Isaiah tells us of the suffering servant. Jesus now fulfils this role. The second reading is from St Paul's letter to the Philippians. As the reading is proclaimed you experience the Kenosis/Christ's self-emptying, then the upward movement of Jesus to the glory of the resurrection. The Gospel is the Passion reading. The different voices add to this drama. We enter the scene. Perhaps we could imagine which character we identify with as we continue our journey through this Holy Week.

### HOLY THURSDAY

The Passover is proclaimed at this Mass. It relays the Exodus event, full of drama and details of how to prepare, cook and eat this meal. This is celebrated each year and Jesus celebrated it at the Last Supper. It reminds us of a journey, being fed and nourished and led by God's actions. In the second reading, St Paul gives us the first account of what Jesus did at the Last Supper. We are set free from the slavery of sin. "He took, blessed, broke and gave." All these actions we encounter in the Eucharist. The Gospel is St John's account of the washing of the feet. This action offers us the challenge to do the same. Then the transfer of the Blessed Sacrament helps us experience that emptiness. Spending time in prayer helps us enter more deeply into this celebration.

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# New Catholics 'will make a difference in Church and world'

Twenty-four people, along with their sponsors, godparents, families and parish priests, joined Bishop Terry in the cathedral for the annual Rite of Election.

Our diocesan choir led music and helped create a prayerful atmosphere. Along with this prayerfulness, a great spirit of joy could be felt and was reflected in the way those present participated in the service.

This year, we welcomed 16 adults who are already baptised and preparing to be received into full communion with the Church in their parish during the Easter Vigil. The other eight adults will be baptised and received into the Church at the same time.

Bishop Terry preached a thought-provoking homily that is also a wonderful Lenten reflection for all of us. Here is an extract:

*You have been following that "one man, Jesus Christ". He has been calling you to follow him even more closely until now you want to join all his followers in the Church.*

*You make a difference for the Church, and with the Church, you make a difference in the world. Together and individually (but especially together) we are a sign of God's love for the world, particularly for those who suffer.*

*The ceremony we are celebrating today is called the Rite of Election. In our particular cultural context, we may think of an election as the result of a vote by a certain number of people. There is always an election or two going on somewhere in the world. In*



The Rite of Election at St Mary's Cathedral – Photo by Paul Bowen

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## Easter Schedule 2023

Holy Week St Mary's Cathedral, St Clare and St Francis of Assisi and the Lady Chapel

### PALM SUNDAY

Blessing and distribution of Palms  
**Lady Chapel**  
Saturday evening Vigil Mass 3pm  
**St Francis**  
Saturday evening Vigil Mass 6pm  
Sunday 10.30am Mass  
**St Clare** Sunday 9am Mass  
**Cathedral** Sunday 10am\* & 5pm Mass

### Monday, 3 April

**Cathedral** 9:30am Mass\*

### Tuesday, 4 April

**Cathedral** No 9:30am Mass today  
Chrism Mass 12 midday\*

### Wednesday, 5 April

**Cathedral**  
9:30am Mass\*  
7pm Reconciliation Service for the Deanery\*  
**St Clare** 9:30am Mass  
**St Francis** 12 midday Mass

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Cathedral**  
7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper with Bishop Draine\*  
Watching till 10pm

### GOOD FRIDAY

**Cathedral**  
10am Morning Prayer  
3pm The Passion of the Lord with Bishop Draine\*  
**Lady Chapel** 10am Way of the Cross  
**St Francis** 3pm The Passion of the Lord  
**St Clare** 3pm The Passion of the Lord

### HOLY SATURDAY

**Cathedral**  
10am Morning Prayer  
8.30pm Vigil Mass with Bishop Draine\*

### EASTER SUNDAY

**St Clare** 9am Mass  
**Cathedral** 10am Mass with Bishop Draine\*  
5pm Mass  
**St Francis**  
10.30am Mass

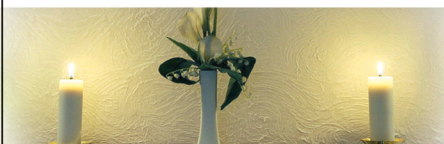
### EASTER MONDAY

**Cathedral** 9:30 am Mass\*

\*Live stream available on the Diocese of Middlesbrough Youtube Channel

Canon Paul, Fr Anil, Fr Xavier, Rev Bernard and Rev David wish everyone a very Happy and Joyful Easter

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NEWS

New Catholics ‘will make a difference in Church and world’

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that kind of election, candidates run against one another and the one who receives the most votes is elected.

The word election comes from the Latin – *eligire* – to choose. The one who is elected is chosen. In the election we celebrate, we say you are chosen – not by a vote among a certain constituency, not because you win over another candidate, but because you have been chosen by God. God chooses you – God claims you, as his very own. I will be your God, you will be my people.

For those of you who present yourselves to the Church for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – we call them the Sacraments of Initiation into the life of the Church – we believe that God is at work in your life. There are clear signs.

And for each one of you, those signs may vary. Everyone's story is different, and we can also say that every story is the same. No matter, it is true that everyone has a

story – and your story is known by your sponsor, by your priest, perhaps by the group of people with whom you are preparing for the Sacraments, and it is known by God. Your story, and every story, must be told.

That is what this time we call Lent is all about – it is an intense time of preparation for you to recognise just how God does call you, does claim you, does choose you. For those of us who are already followers of Christ, Lent is a time to be reminded that he calls us so that we can renew our response and deepen our commitment.

At this ceremony, the Church accepts your request to be Baptised, Confirmed and to receive the Eucharist – to become a fully-fledged member of the Roman Catholic Church. Following this ceremony, you have only a few weeks remaining to finalise your preparation for this lifelong commitment.

We believe that God calls you by name, that God knows you intimately, that God loves you personally. That is why your name is so important – yours is a personal response to a personal invitation – and his invitation has

brought you right here to this community where your love for him and his for you will be nurtured and fed. That is why we inscribe your name in the Book of the Elect.

It is my privilege and my duty to make the declaration that you are members of the Elect. You will no longer be called Catechumens. You will properly be called the Elect.

We do all of this on the First Sunday of Lent – when we remember that we carry Adam's sin. Adam and Eve were tempted by the serpent to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that was in the middle of the garden – because when they ate it, so the serpent, the tempter said, they would be like God.

Because we are human, we carry that same sin – we long to be like God, making God-like decisions about our lives and others. The remedy for that sin is Jesus Christ, who becomes human like us and makes us truly God-like because we share in his Resurrection. And by his life, he teaches us what it means to be truly "like God"!

The sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation,

and Eucharist make us "more like Christ". That is what they do. In these sacraments you will receive a new dignity – you will be made like him so that you might live like him, and so that you might live with him in the fullness of life and love.

My dear friends, thank you for the commitment you make today. Thank you for the commitment you will make at the Easter Vigil in your parishes. The Church, the Diocese of Middlesbrough, your parishes, and your fellow Christians, are strengthened and enriched because of what you are doing. Thank you for your strong witness!

What God has begun in you, may he bring to fulfilment!

We also say a big thank you to all those catechists and priests in our parishes who put so much time into holding meetings and sessions to help people realise we are all continually called to conversion.

**Deacon David Cross**  
Adult Formation Coordinator

**BISHOP TERRY'S APRIL ENGAGEMENTS**

- 2 Celebrates the Mass of Palm Sunday at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 10am
- 3 Attends Northern Church Leaders meeting via Zoom 4pm
- 4 Celebrates the Mass of Chrism at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough Noon
- 6 Celebrates the Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 7pm
- 7 Celebrates Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 3pm
- 8 Celebrates the Solemn Easter Vigil at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 8.30pm
- 9 Celebrates the Mass of Easter Day at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 10am
- 23-27 Attends Bishops' Plenary at Hinsley Hall, Leeds
- 30 Celebrates Mass and Confirmations at Ampleforth

Bishop's Column

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**GOOD FRIDAY**

The day we remember in our liturgy that Jesus died on the Cross. The main parts are – Liturgy of the Word, Solemn Intercessions, Adoration of the Cross, Holy Communion. The reading from Isaiah is taken from the Canticle of the Suffering Servant. This reading reminds us of the sacrificial Lamb as we were similarly reminded on Holy Thursday. Jesus is the Lamb of God, a common reference throughout Lent. The Letter to the Hebrews is about Jesus' Priesthood, showing us how he lived that out through his ministry. We listen to St John's account of Jesus' Passion. It is Jesus who is in control. It is a dramatic reading showing betrayal, abandonment, Jesus reflecting, but finally putting his faith in his Father's will.

**EASTER VIGIL**


Our Lent has been progressing to the Vigil. In order to experience the beauty of this celebration it should begin in darkness. The wonder of

the Liturgy is most effectively proclaimed when we use the symbols to the fullest. The fire reminds us of Moses encountering God in the burning bush, the charcoal fire at Jesus' trial, the fire to cook breakfast on the shore of Galilee. The Easter fire needs to show the light dispelling the darkness. The Paschal Candle represents Christ rising from the darkness of death to the newness of life. The Exsultet is our joyful, exulting song of the Resurrection and our redemption. It is in the light of the Paschal Candle that we now listen to the Old Testament readings. This can lead to an encounter with Jesus as he breaks open to us the message of our salvation. In the light of the Risen Jesus, we can see how all these readings prefigure him. The reading from St Paul to the Romans is proclaimed and then we sing the Easter Alleluia. An account of the empty tomb is proclaimed leading to the faith in the Resurrection. The Baptismal liturgy follows, or the blessing of the Easter water. Eastertide begins!

**EASTERTIDE**

The 50 days of Easter celebrate the joyful news of the Resurrection. Easter Day has so much meaning in the life of the Christian faithful that it takes 50 days to celebrate it well. One week is not enough. Nor even a week of weeks. Rather it takes seven times seven days, plus one. A fullness of time observes the fullness of Easter. Alleluia!

In blessed hope,



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Three honoured for service to the Church

**Pope Francis has honoured three dedicated St Mary's Cathedral parishioners by awarding them the Benemerenti medal.**

Bishop Terry presented the medals after concelebrating morning Mass with cathedral dean Canon Paul Farrer and his predecessor, Monsignor Gerard Robinson.

Teresa Lyth, Bernard McCaffrey and Paul Bowen have all given long and distinguished service to the Church.

"It was a great privilege, not just for the three of us, but also for the parish and the diocese," said Paul, who, together with Teresa, organises stewarding at the cathedral.

"Our thanks must go to Pope Francis, the papal nuncio Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, Bishop Terry and Monsignor Gerard for sanctioning the award and also to our fellow parishioners and especially to our families, who have all supported us as we carried out our various ministries."

Teresa chairs the parish Justice & Peace group and is also involved with organising food parcels for underprivileged families.

Bernard has been a steward since the cathedral opened and is now sacristan.

Paul is a registrar for weddings at both the cathedral and the Lady Chapel, among many other roles.



Monsignor Gerard Robinson, Teresa Lyth, Bernard McCaffrey, Bishop Terry, Paul Bowen and Canon Paul Farrer



# Why synodality is not just a one-off event

**Over the last 12 months or so, the theme of the Synod on Synodality has been continually running through our faith lives, at both parish and diocesan levels.**

You may recall that last May we held a day in our cathedral in which we shared our synthesis of all the parish consultations held with clergy and lay people across the diocese.

Those present were invited to take the synthesis back and explore how they can make the issues raised become reality in their parish communities.

Some of those points were already being taken forward, while others needed to be fleshed out or worked into a plan. It was clear from the parish consultations that people wanted “more”.

The other aim of these consultations was to help the Synod General Secretariat in Rome to plan the format of the Synod of Bishops in Rome this October.

To help remain within the spirit of the Synod, the General Secretariat, based on all the syntheses from around the world, sent back to us a Working Document for the Continental Stage entitled “Enlarge the Space of Your Tent” (Isaiah 54:2).

The document is much more than a simple account of what has happened so far during the synod process. It profiles the

synodal experience, presenting both the difficulties faced, and the fruits gathered by those who took part.

In February, the seven Continental Synod Assemblies were asked to meet to help to finalise the *instrumentum laboris* (working document). These assemblies were to be ecclesial, not just episcopal.

In other words, they included representatives of the whole people of God – bishops, priests, deacons, religious and lay people.

We are part of the European Ecclesial Assembly which met in Prague and included some people joining online. From our diocese, Dr Johan Bergström-Allen and I were online participants.

It's easy for us to think we've done our bit – let's leave it up to the bishops now!

But Pope Francis is calling us to much more than a one-off project.

Synodality is about a way of “being”. It's not so much about something we do, but more about the way we are.

The synodal approach calls on us to be a listening and discerning Church. We are called to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

How might we do this? The Church offers us several lenses, for want of a better word, to help us:

- Holy Scripture
- The teachings of the Church and tradition
- Each other

These lenses are the tools that can help us both hear and reflect on the voice of the spirit.

We can see an excellent model of this in practice on a YouTube video made by Father John Dardiss SJ, entitled “Spiritual Conversation”.

Our diocese promoted the use of this model with our parish priests and synod parish coordinators and was well received by those who were involved.

### So where do we go from here?

Adult Formation in our diocese will look over the next year to develop the growth of:

- Pastoral parish councils. Bishop Terry is asking that every parish in our diocese should have one, if possible.
- Continue to develop the synodal approach, with training on how to use the model of spiritual conversation.
- Working closely with the Sycamore and other adult formation programmes to deliver formation on Catholic Social Teaching, types of Christian Prayer and so on.

- Formation for catechists and ongoing formation for all adults.

- Ways of reaching out to the marginalised in our communities.

We already have some resources if you want to make a start, including:

- A model template for establishing a pastoral parish council.
- A parish ministries framework, which outlines all the ministries needed in a parish.
- Our diocesan synthesis, which can provide us with an excellent start for an action plan.
- A SWOT analysis template to help plot out the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in your parish.

- Our current Sycamore online programme. If you haven't been involved in the live streamings, you can watch edited recordings on our diocesan website.

Synodality is a way of life. It's how we are to be Church. Let's keep it going!

**Deacon David Cross**  
Adult Formation Coordinator

- You can read Dr Johan Bergström-Allen's reflections on the European Ecclesial Assembly in May's *Voice*.

# Catholics are journeying on the road together

**Dr Greg Ryan described Pope Francis' vision of Catholics journeying together as “a synodal Church” in an informative and challenging talk to the Cleveland Newman Circle.**

Stockton-born Greg, who attended St Mary's Sixth Form College in Middlesbrough, is now assistant professor at the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University.

Pope Francis sees synodality as expressing the Church as the people of God. This style of coming together should express the ordinary way that the Church lives and works.

Historically, bishops have gathered in councils and synods to discuss and decide different issues. But now Pope Francis expects the whole people of God to gather in an ongoing process of local, regional, national and international synods to discern the way forward for the Church.

The continental stage was this spring when the Church in each continent gathered to pray, consider and discuss.

The Holy Father sees no difference between the teaching Church and the learning Church – he wants everyone involved in “mutual listening”. He regards tensions as creative challenges and learning opportunities.

Five “generative tensions” have been identified.

1. *Listening as openness* requires the dignity of all the baptised to be taken seriously (does the Church work this way in practice?).
2. *Orientation to mission* involves a commitment to more credible witness in the world.
3. *Radical inclusion* is controversial, but also urgent. The Church must be more inclusive. Hopefully, inclusive listening will develop into inclusive hospitality and expanding opportunities for young people,

LGBTQ+ people, women and others.

4. *Institutional reform* suggests we need pastoral councils at all levels. These will combat clericalism. Synodality does not rush to provide answers – laypeople and clergy need “formation”.

5. *Liturgy*: there are risks of passivity in congregations when the priest is the main or only protagonist and preaching quality needs improvement.

After Greg's stimulating talk, some anxieties were expressed. He said not all

parishes or dioceses have been involved in the initial stages of talking and journeying together.

Certain people, such as priests who have resigned from their ministry and Catholics who rarely attend Mass have had little realistic opportunity to contribute. The exciting promises of Vatican II have not all been realised – will synodality bear fruit?

Greg encouraged us to hope. Pope Francis' vision is clearly in the spirit of Vatican II, where the whole Church, universal and

local, is engaged together in a potential reform of hearts and structures. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit for its success.

For information about Cleveland Newman Circle, email p.egerton123@gmail.com or call 01642 645732.

At our next talk, Angela Wills will speak on “Dorothy Day, a new saint for our times?”. It takes place in St Mary's Cathedral Hall, Middlesbrough on Wednesday April 19 at 7.45pm.

**Patricia Egerton**

# Catenian celebration returns at last

**Middlesbrough Circle of the Catenians hosted its 92nd annual charter dinner and clergy night at Middlesbrough FC's Riverside Stadium after a three-year break caused by the pandemic.**

The event aims to recognise the inauguration of the circle's charter in 1916, bring together Catenians and their guests, celebrate and nourish relationships with the clergy and raise charitable funds.

More than 80 brothers and their guests attended, as well as clergy from around the diocese, including Bishop Terry.

Guests were entertained by speeches from circle president Paul Healy and principal speaker Peter Barron MBE, the former editor of the *Northern Echo*, who reflected on his career in journalism.

Paul will hand over a cheque for £1,000 raised in the raffle to his chosen charity Zoe's Place Baby Hospice.

Our picture shows the principal guests, front row left to right: Province 5 director Ian Calvert, president Paul Healy, Bishop Terry and Andrew Gardner, grand knight of Council 29 of the Knights of St Columba.

Back row, left to right: Peter Barron, Province 5 president Kevin Dawson, Canon Paul Farrer and former Province 5 director Brendan Leer.





## SCHOOLS

# PM faces questions as he goes back to lessons

**Pupils from St Francis Xavier School (SFX) in Richmond had some tough questions for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak when he dropped in for a visit.**

Mr Sunak, who is also the town's MP, took part in a year 11 maths class learning about Pythagoras' theorem, donned an apron for a food technology class making tuna pasta bake and joined an art group preparing tiles for screen printing.

The visit ended in the library, where members of the school council subjected him to an intense cross-examination on a wide range of subjects.

One pupil asked what it was like to speak in the House of Commons. Mr Sunak said that

while the combative sessions during Prime Minister's Question Time often featured on television, many of their discussions were less dramatic.

They also asked him about his plans to require maths teaching for all pupils up to the age of 18.

Mr Sunak admitted that his own two daughters, aged 10 and 11, were "appalled" when they heard about the idea.

However, he said that maths up to 18 was mandatory in most advanced countries and that data and statistics were becoming vital to more and more careers.

Head boy Andrew, who introduced the PM to

council members, said: "His answers were really informative and it was a great experience."

Head girl Amelie, who chaired the Q&A session, added: "It's not daunting to speak to him because of how soft-natured and kind he is. He has young daughters and knows how to speak to younger people."

Mr Sunak said he had found the visit inspirational.

He said: "This is a very good school. I was most impressed with the positive attitude and sense of purpose of all the pupils I met and their enthusiasm for the subjects they

were studying.

"The student leaders had a varied range of questions for me which demonstrated their keen engagement in current affairs."

SFX headteacher Jackie Prime said: "This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our pupils. Those who took part in the Q&A felt privileged to have this chance to put their questions to the Prime Minister."

SFX, part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust, is a joint Roman Catholic and Church of England school and was rated Outstanding in its most recent inspection report.



Rishi Sunak joined a food technology class at St Francis Xavier School in Richmond



The Prime Minister answers questions from the school council

## New library bus is just the ticket

**Did you hear the story about the generous businesses who rallied round to create an amazing school library out of an old bus?**

St Margaret Clitherow's Catholic Primary School in South Bank is so popular it's bursting at the seams and its old library is often called into use for other purposes, including an after-school club.

Reading lead Melissa McCarthy wanted to find somewhere more suitable for children to read and came up with the brainwave of writing to local bus companies.

Gary Chisholm, from Stagecoach North East, replied instantly with the offer of a bus. The problem then was how to adapt the bus for its new purpose.

Fortunately, St Margaret's teacher Helen Adams' husband Alex is the UK operations manager of Titan Trailers, one of the world's largest manufacturers of trailers for the logistics and recycling industries.

"At first I said we'd be able to put in some bookcases and shelves and a few plant pots," said Alex.

"But when I thought about it, I realised we had the skill set to do a bit more and take

it on as a community project. I told our guys on the shop floor and said we would appreciate any help they could offer out of hours.

"We then contacted various suppliers who help Titan Trailers. Everybody was happy to chip in, and with the skill-set of our staff, we could fill the gaps."

PPG Paintline, Jack Mannix Carpets, Park Electrical and Render Alarms all offered their products or services for free.

Some of the workers involved joined parents, carers and the school's pupils – who had dressed up to celebrate World Book Day – for the official opening of the library bus.

Headteacher Claire McNicholas was full of praise for the amazing team of volunteers Alex put together.

"Reading is paramount for children's development. We want children to be passionate about reading and become lifelong readers," she said.

"It's at the core of our curriculum and we want them to enjoy it and we think this will ignite that passion and interest."



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Middlesbrough FC mascot Roary Lion and club captain Jonny Howson with St Margaret's children on their new library bus – Photo by Sally Thurrell



# St Benedict's says fond farewell to Canon Derek

**Pupils presented gifts and delivered warm messages of thanks as they said farewell to a much-loved priest.**

Canon Derek Turnham has moved to Buckinghamshire with his wife Margaret, to be nearer to their children and grandchildren.

For the last decade he has been parish priest of Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish in Redcar, which includes St Benedict's Catholic Primary School.

Children planned a special Mass, including Canon Derek's favourite hymns, and one pupil, Masie, read out a touching tribute.

"You have told us being a priest is the best job in the world because of the privilege of being with people during very special moments in their lives and being able to offer help and support.

"Father Derek, you are a very special person, and we are privileged to have had you as our parish priest. You will always be a part of St Benedict's and in our hearts."

Headteacher Kendra Sill said: "Father Derek has been a

wonderful support to St Benedict's School community through his work with the children and our strong links with Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish.

"His care, guidance and support over the past 10 years has ensured we have developed as a truly Catholic community, ensuring our children can be the best they can be.

"Every member of St Benedict's will miss him, and we wish him well as he moves to spend time with his family."

Canon Derek told the children: "Thank you for letting my last Mass in St Benedict's School be such a great reminder of just what we can achieve together.

"I always go away after I've celebrated Mass with you feeling extra special and that I've been very close to God, because of the way you pray and how reflective you are."

Parents, governors, parishioners and representatives from Sacred Heart Catholic Secondary School and Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) were also present.

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty thanked Canon Derek for his work in schools across the trust, including his service on the NPCAT board.

"Canon Derek has been at the forefront of the trust's development at both strategic and operational levels," he said. "It has been our privilege to witness his charismatic, warm and genuine presence, not only in those schools within his parish but across the family of NPCAT schools.

"We pray that Blessed Nicholas Postgate will bless Canon Derek and all his family."

Canon Derek was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1975. He was received into the Catholic Church in 1994, together with Margaret and their three children, and he was ordained a Catholic priest in 1996.

Three years later he moved to our diocese, initially at St Patrick's and then the Sacred Heart in Middlesbrough and St Joseph's, Stokesley, before moving to Redcar.



He has also carried out several senior roles in the diocese, most recently as Episcopal Vicar for Missionary Communities, and he was editor of the *Catholic Voice* for many years.



Canon Derek celebrating his farewell Mass  
– Photos by Stuart Boulton



St Benedict's staff with Canon Derek

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- Anyone who is interested in finding out more about teacher training in a Catholic primary or secondary school.
- Anyone who is already teaching in a non-Catholic primary or secondary school.

To find out more information about our Open Door events, please contact [enquiries-ittrainingprimary@npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-ittrainingprimary@npcat.org.uk) or [enquiries-ittrainingsecondary@npcat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-ittrainingsecondary@npcat.org.uk) and kick start your journey in forming lives ready to face the future!

Visit <https://npcat.org.uk/current-vacancies/> to find all current vacancies.

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SCHOOLS

# The Guisborough school where love is all around

Ofsted inspectors have praised the loving environment at St Paulinus Catholic Primary in Guisborough as they reaffirmed its status as a good school.

“Pupils at St Paulinus School embody the school’s mission statement, ‘Love one another as I have loved you,’” the report said. “They know it means to love and help everyone around them.

“The basis for the curriculum is one word from the school’s mission statement, ‘love’. Each letter of the word ‘love’ represents a driver for the curriculum: learning, opportunity, values and excellence. These drivers shape the curriculum well and encompass the school’s aims.”

Executive headteacher Simon Geaves and head of school Rachel Bircham, who have been part of the school’s leadership team for 10 years, warmly welcomed the report.

“We are proud to read such a positive report that captures the school beautifully,” said Mr Geaves. “It is a ringing endorsement of everything that is good at St Paulinus.”

Mrs Bircham added: “The report identifies that our renewed curriculum, including mathematics and foundation subjects, is having a positive impact on our pupils’ learning experiences.

“We have worked hard to ensure a consistent approach to phonics lessons, as we know this is the key to helping our pupils be successful and confident readers.”

Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) also comes in for praise in the report, as do the school’s governors.



St Paulinus Catholic Primary School in Guisborough has retained its good Ofsted rating

“The trust provides leaders with a balance of support and challenge that helps the school to improve,” the report says. “They recognise the school has implemented several new initiatives in recent years that

need time to embed and flourish. “Governors hold leaders to account in meetings. For example, they ask probing questions about pupil premium funding to ensure that it is spent effectively.”

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said: “The entire community can be rightly proud of all the wonderful work undertaken by staff and governors to ensure we have a highly ambitious offering for every child.”

# St Edward's award for living simply

Pupils and staff from St Edward’s Catholic Primary in Middlesbrough have achieved the LiveSimply Award for showing they are living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the world’s poorest communities.

The award, championed by CAFOD, was presented after the school implemented projects highlighting the importance of caring for people and the planet.

Their actions had a positive impact on their school community and also reached out to embrace the local community and global community too.

Over the last year, all pupils, the parish and families worked together to promote Catholic Social Teaching and follow the call in Pope Francis’ letter, *Laudato Si’*. Parents and children have written their own LiveSimply pledge to work towards these goals and a particular highlight is the new Prayer and Sensory Garden, currently under construction.

One of the Year 6 *Laudato Si’* leaders commented on why they took part in the LiveSimply Award.

“We are fighting for justice for a worthwhile cause. This award helped us to inspire our school to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. We are really proud of ourselves.”

Another Year 6 *Laudato Si’* leader added: “We would really encourage other schools to start their LiveSimply journey because more people working for the Common Good means we can help God’s environment and His people more and more. If it’s not good enough for everyone, it’s not good enough!”

Executive headteacher Mary Brown said: “I am so thrilled at the school achieving the LiveSimply award. The achievement is very much the hard work of Mrs Gardner and also of the pupils themselves.

“I am very proud of our pupils and their commitment and passion to do what is so right and good for all. This is truly the icing on the cake.”

CAFOD LiveSimply Award assessor Siobhan Farnell said: “It’s clear the LiveSimply ethos is firmly embedded within this school.

“The pupils and staff passionately shared how they are inspired by their faith to take actions to care for others and for the planet, at school, local and global levels. The award



St Edward’s *Laudato Si’* leaders with the LiveSimply Award

is very well deserved.” To find out more about the CAFOD LiveSimply award, visit [cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award/livesimply-award-for-schools](http://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award/livesimply-award-for-schools) or email [schools@cafod.org.uk](mailto:schools@cafod.org.uk).

## Simon

He left Cyrene to journey east  
By the desert shore  
Of tribal routes and wilderness  
And ancient lands of war.  
Where Bedouin and nomad caves  
Did hide the sacred scrolls  
Tombs of sand for centuries  
The silent catacombs.  
By Sinai dunes in solitude  
Days of fast and prayer  
Blessed by God  
Led by God  
For purpose unaware.

On that day and on that Way  
Of the Dolorosa hill  
A chill to still the breath of God  
And a mission to fulfil  
A falling,  
And a calling unforeseen  
To bear the cross  
To share the cross  
Of the holy Nazarene.

Judith Brown



# The woman who represents a Catholic monastery

**To mark International Women's Day, Ampleforth Abbey's Jenny Share spoke about her experience being a woman leading the charitable trust that represents and supports the all-male community of Benedictine monks.**

Jenny arrived at the abbey as director of governance in 2018 after a long career in university administration, and she became CEO in 2022.

Her job involves shaping the work of the charitable trust that runs the day-to-day operations of the abbey and building the team tasked with ensuring a sustainable future for its resident monks.

She enjoys a close working relationship with Abbot Robert Igo OSB.

Jenny says she was welcomed from the moment she joined, being received as an equal despite being the first woman in the post.

She said: "I never felt I was considered a stranger or an outsider, even though the new environment was very different for me and sometimes a little bewildering.

"You might think in this position, I'd be a woman in a man's world more than anywhere else, but I'm still very much made

to feel part of the community, though I'm not a member."

Asked if she feels equity for women is embraced at Ampleforth Abbey, Jenny explains that outside the all-male monastery the abbey employs a mix of staff with a wide age, gender and skills profile.

She said: "The members of the monastic community here appreciate each person for the skills they bring to help this place thrive and I've never even felt that my gender has been part of the equation for them. Above all, the Benedictine values we seek to uphold here at the abbey lead to a great sense of teamwork and community which supports and includes everyone."

Abbot Robert said: "Working with Jenny is a pleasure and I have the utmost admiration for her skills and leadership. Her work towards ensuring a sustainable future for the monastic community is deeply valued.

"It is a great blessing that strong, dedicated women of all ages work at the abbey alongside us in our journey in faith."

Asked what message she'd send to other women, Jenny said: "If you want to progress, choose your place of work carefully. Aim to go somewhere that is a

good fit (you for it and it for you), work hard, try to be selfless and you will flourish.

"Some traits which have benefited me most in my career – such as being people-focused and able to bring others together around a common aim – are often seen in women, so I would hope that my experience can show others you don't have to change who you are to succeed."

Ampleforth Abbey has been home to a community of Benedictine Monks since 1802. The monastic community in residence live by

the Rule of St Benedict, which inspires the abbey's core values of attentiveness, hospitality, respect, integrity, stewardship and equilibrium.

The abbey's grounds cover 1,600 acres of Yorkshire countryside, sitting at the foothills of the North York Moors National Park.

Ampleforth Abbey welcomes guests to a modern 29-bedroom retreat centre and a major renovation is currently taking place to expand its retreats offering for groups, including a new visitor centre.



Ampleforth Abbey CEO Jenny Share with Abbot Robert Igo OSB – Photo by Gary Lawson

## SVP answers singing group's call for help

**The SVP answered a call for help to provide much-needed Vinnie Packs and toiletries to members of the North East Opera (NEO) singing group.**

NEO is made up of people from the margins of society and some members have been struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

The donations were gratefully received by Terry Doyle, who helps run NEO, who stunned the audience when they performed at St Mary's Cathedral for our World Day of the Poor event last year.

"Many thanks to the SVP conference at Ss Mary and Romuald, Yarm, for the toiletries and to the SVP for the Vinnie Packs," said Terry.

"It's great to see this aspect of outreach to those in need, in line with Pope Francis' synodal vision of the Church becoming like a "field hospital" for the most in need.

"It's all about helping people to live with more dignity."



SVP Middlesbrough president Frances Gilchrist and Margaret Clark from Ss Mary and Romuald Parish present the donations for Terry Doyle to take to the NEO Group.

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# Holy Week Mass Times

## Ampleforth

### Our Lady & St Benedict Holy Thursday

7.30pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper

#### Good Friday

3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

#### Holy Saturday

9pm Easter Vigil

#### Easter Sunday

10am Mass of Easter Sunday

## Ampleforth Abbey

### St Laurence's Abbey Church

#### Mundy Thursday

8.30pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper

#### Good Friday

3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

#### Holy Saturday

9pm Easter Vigil

#### Easter Sunday

10am Mass of Easter Sunday

## York

### English Martyrs Church HOLY THURSDAY

7pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Followed by a Service of Watching until 10pm

#### GOOD FRIDAY

3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

#### HOLY SATURDAY

8.30pm The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

#### EASTER SUNDAY

### Sunday of the Resurrection

10.30am Mass of Easter

## Middlesbrough

### OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

#### Saint Gabriel's Church

#### - Sacred Triduum

#### Mundy Thursday

7pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

#### Good Friday

3pm - Passion of the Lord

#### Holy Saturday

8.30pm - Easter Vigil

#### Corpus Christi Church

#### Easter Sunday

9.30am - Mass of the Day of Resurrection

#### Saint Gabriel's Church

#### Easter Sunday

11am - Mass of the Day of Resurrection

(Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated at the following Sunday's Masses, all at usual times.)

website - [ourladymbro.org](http://ourladymbro.org)

## Hull

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST PETER CHANEL, with Hull University Catholic Chaplaincy

#### HOLY THURSDAY 6th April

7.30pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### GOOD FRIDAY 7th April

8.45am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer

3pm SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

7pm Stations of the Cross

#### HOLY SATURDAY 8th April

8.45am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer

8.30pm EASTER VIGIL - FIRST MASS OF EASTER

#### EASTER SUNDAY 9th April

10am EASTER MASS

## Thirsk

### All Saints Palm Sunday

10.30am

#### Tuesday

12noon Mass of Chrism at Cathedral

#### Holy Thursday

7pm including washing of the feet and adoration at the altar of repose concluding with Night Prayer at 10pm

#### Good Friday

Offices, Readings and

Morning Prayer 10am

Celebration of the

Lord's Passion 3pm

Burial of the Body Ceremony 7pm

#### Holy Saturday

Offices, Readings and Morning

Prayer 10am

Easter Vigil 8.30pm

## Nunthorpe

### St Bernadette's Maundy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm with watching until 9pm

#### Good Friday

10am Morning Prayer

3pm Celebration of

the Lord's Passion

7pm Ancient Service of the Burial

of the Lord

#### Holy Saturday

10am Morning Prayer

8.30pm. Easter Vigil

#### Easter Sunday

9.30am Mass of the Resurrection

## Cottingham

### Holy Cross

#### Holy Thursday

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

#### Good Friday

10am & 7pm Stations of the Cross

3pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

#### Holy Saturday

8.30pm Easter Vigil

#### Easter Sunday

10am Easter Day Mass

## Whitby and Sleights

### St Hilda's, English Martyrs Monday of Holy Week 3rd April

7pm Mediation of Holy Week in

Words and Music at St Hilda's

### Tuesday of Holy Week 4th April

6.15pm Confessions at

English Martyrs

6.40pm Stations of the Cross

followed by Mass at 7pm

at English Martyrs

### Wednesday of Holy Week 5th April

10am St Hilda's

#### Holy Thursday 6th April

7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

at St Hilda's

#### Good Friday 7th April

3.00pm, St Hilda's

#### Holy Saturday 8th April

10.30am Confessions at St Hilda's

8.30pm, St Hilda's

#### Easter Sunday 9th April

9.00am, English Martyrs Sleights

10.30am, St Hilda's

## Stokesley, Great Ayton and Crathorne

### St Joseph's Catholic Church

#### Palm Sunday 2nd April

5.30pm (Sat Eve) Mass

(at St Margaret's, Great Ayton)

9.00am Mass

(St Mary's Church, Crathorne)

10.30am Sung Mass

(St Joseph's Stokesley)

#### Monday of Holy Week 3rd April

9.15am Mass

(St Joseph's Stokesley)

#### Tuesday of Holy Week 4th April

12.00 noon The Chrism Mass

at St Mary's Cathedral

7.00pm Mass

(at St Margaret's, Great Ayton)

#### Wednesday of Holy Week 5th April

9.15am Mass (St Joseph's Stokesley)

### THE SACRED TRIDUUM - THE GREAT THREE DAYS Maundy Thursday 6th April

7.00pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's

Supper (St Joseph's Stokesley)

Watch at the Altar of Repose

until 10.00pm

#### Good Friday 7th April

9.00am Office of Readings

& Morning Prayer

(St Joseph's Stokesley)

11am Stations of the Cross

(St Margaret Clitherow Great Ayton)

3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the

Passion (St Joseph's Stokesley)

#### Holy Saturday 8th April

9.00am Office of Readings and

Morning Prayer (St Joseph Stokesley)

8.30pm The Paschal Vigil & First

Mass of Easter (St Joseph Stokesley)

#### EASTER SUNDAY 9th April

9.00am Easter Sunday Mass

(St Mary's Church, Crathorne)

10am Easter Sunday Mass

(St Margaret Clitherow, Great Ayton)

10.30pm Easter Sunday Mass

(at St Joseph's Stokesley)

## York

### The York Oratory

#### PALM SUNDAY - 2nd April

Saturday 5pm: Vigil Mass

8.30am: Low Mass

9.30am: Mass at St Joseph's

10am: Procession

& Sung English Mass

12 noon: Procession

& Sung Latin Mass

4pm: Vespers & Benediction

#### MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

8.15am: Latin Low Mass

12.10pm: English Low Mass

Weds, 9.15am: Mass at St Joseph's

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY - 6th April

Confessions 11.30am - 12.30pm

6pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper

until 12: Watching at the

Altar of Repose

11.45pm: Compline

#### GOOD FRIDAY - 7th April

Confessions 11.30am - 12.30pm

9am: Matins & Lauds

11am: Children's Stations

of the Cross

12 noon: Stations of the Cross

at St Joseph's

3pm: Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

6pm: Stations of the Cross

#### HOLY SATURDAY - 8th April

Confessions 12 noon - 4pm

9am: Matins & Lauds

9pm: The Easter Vigil

#### EASTER SUNDAY - 9th April

8.30am: Low Mass

9.30am: Mass at St Joseph's

10.30am: Sung English Mass

12 noon: Sung Latin Mass

4pm: Vespers & Benediction

## Lealholm, Egton Bridge, Ugthorpe

### Our Lady, Lealholm St Hedda, Egton Bridge St Anne, Ugthorpe

#### Palm Sunday

6.30pm (Saturday) Vigil - Lealholm

9.30am Mass - Egton Bridge

11.00am Mass - Ugthorpe

#### Holy Thursday

7.00pm Mass of the Last Supper and

watch until 9.00pm - Ugthorpe

#### Good Friday

9.00am Stations of the Cross -

Lealholm

10.00am Stations of the Cross -

Egton Bridge

3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion -

Ugthorpe

#### Holy Saturday

8.00pm Easter Vigil Mass - Lealholm

#### Easter Day

9.30am Mass - Egton Bridge

11.00am Mass - Ugthorpe



# Fire of faith burns brightly at Flame gathering

Thousands of young Catholics from around the country came together for the annual youth gathering Flame 23, at the OVO Arena, Wembley.

Guest speakers included Cardinal Vincent Nichols and there were performances from musicians including award-winning rappers Guvna B and Faith Child.

Pope Francis sent a message urging participants to “dare to be different”, embracing ideals of generosity, service, purity, perseverance, forgiveness, prayer, the pursuit of justice and love for the poor.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was a highlight of the day, with the arena falling silent as we venerated the sacred host before us and contemplated the mystery of the Eucharist.

St Mary's College, Hull, student ELEANOR GUIVER, tells us about her experience of the day...

**In our increasingly secular society, it is sometimes easy to forget that you are one of many Catholics spread out across the UK and the rest of the world.**

However, walking into the OVO Arena with fellow students from Hull and seeing 8,000 young people touched by the Holy Spirit, worshipping, praying and adoring the Lord is a welcome reminder.

Flame makes worship and faith more accessible to young people, who are encouraged through the event to express our faith in any way that feels right for us.

Music, especially, has always been significant for religion, with people throughout history using their God-given musical talents to express their love for and devotion to the Lord.

By including genres preferred by the younger generation, such as Guvna B' and Faith Child's upbeat rapping and One Hope Project's soulful melodies, Flame reinforces the importance of music for worship, using contemporary artists to move the young people in attendance.

Flame was, of course, not just about the music. All the guest speakers present made a powerful impact on me and the people around me, from Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle's call to seek the angels in our lives, to Jenny Garzón Saavedra's inspiring passion for protecting our common home.

It was a true blessing to be surrounded by people of such faith, such love for God and all his creations, that led perfectly to Adoration. We sat for ten minutes just being in the presence of Jesus, praying and worshipping and loving him.

It was intense and tears were shed. Being in his presence and knowing he was there with you, individually, even when you were surrounded by 8,000 other people, was such an amazing experience that I cannot wait to take part again at the next Flame.



Members of the Hull contingent at Flame 23

## Film showing inspires new climate change group

The newly formed *Laudato Si'* Group at St George's Church in York organised a screening of *The Letter*, the moving and thought-provoking climate change film by Pope Francis.

“Encouraged”, “shattered” and “enlightened” were just some of the words parishioners used to describe how the film made them feel.

We all agreed there is a lot that we can do as a parish to respond to the climate emergency call from our Holy Father and that each parish in the diocese has a part to play.

From greening up our church surroundings to make them more welcoming to wildlife to encouraging more parishioners to car share or even walk or cycle to Church, there is so much we can do.

We can all play a part in protecting our common home.

Thank you to St Lawrence Parish Church, York, for the use of their excellent facilities.

Dave Harper



A screening of *The Letter* has inspired a new *Laudato Si'* group in York

### Ingleby Barwick

#### St Therese of Lisieux

##### Palm Sunday

Mass Saturday 5.30pm,  
Sunday 11am

##### Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm  
followed by watching till 11pm

##### Good Friday

Stations of the Cross 12 noon  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm

##### Easter

Easter Vigil 9pm  
Easter Sunday Mass 11am

### Hessle

#### Our Lady of Lourdes

##### Holy Thursday

10.00am Office of Readings  
& Morning Prayer

7.30pm Mass of the  
Lord's Supper

##### Good Friday

10.00am Office of Readings  
& Morning Prayer  
11.00am Stations of the Cross for  
Children

3.00pm Liturgy of the  
Lord's Passion

7.00pm Reflection on the Passion

##### Holy Saturday

9.30am Office of Readings  
& Morning Prayer

8.30pm Easter Vigil

##### Easter Sunday

8.30am Mass  
10.30am Mass  
No evening Mass

### York

#### St George

##### Palm Sunday

10.30am, 6.30pm

##### Holy Thursday

7.00pm

##### Good Friday

Stations 12noon

The Passion 3.00pm

##### Holy Saturday

Vigil 8.30pm

##### Easter Sunday

Mass at 10.30am

**Wishing all our readers a  
Holy and Happy Easter from all  
at CathCom and the Diocese  
of Middlesbrough**



NEWS

# CAFOD welcomes Sharon to take on schools role

Since the beginning of March, there have been some changes to my role, and I will no longer be responsible for schools and school volunteers in the diocese.

My new colleague, Sharon Matthews, will take over our relationships with schools in the Middlesbrough, Hexham and Newcastle, Leeds and Hallam dioceses. I know you will give Sharon a warm welcome.

I would like to thank all members of staff, young people and children in our schools for the support and help they have given to me over the last 16 years. I can honestly say it has been a great pleasure and privilege to work with you all.

I have taken over the responsibility for managing volunteers in half of the parishes in the Diocese of Leeds with my colleague Angela, from Hallam, taking over the other half. This is alongside continuing to work with parishes and volunteers in our own diocese, so I will still be around!

It has been good to get out in the diocese recently, meeting some of our volunteers in person and hearing about all they have been doing.

The CAFOD group at Ss Mary and Joseph's in Pocklington have been busily working away making delicious jams and cakes and selling them after Mass on Sundays – they have stopped during Lent but will start again after Easter.

The CAFOD groups at Ss Leonard and Mary in Malton and St Joseph's in Pickering have organised liturgies and used our Stations of the Cross resource in the parish.

I was at St Aelred's, York, last month showing the *Laudato Si'* film, *The Letter*.

For anyone who hasn't seen it yet, I would certainly recommend it. It gets people engaged in discussions. Thanks to the new CAFOD group for their hospitality and energy!

If you would be interested in screening the film in your parish, get in touch with me for more details by emailing [ccross@cafod.org.uk](mailto:ccross@cafod.org.uk).

I have also been visiting parishes that are holding Friday Soup lunches during Lent and sharing a video of my colleague, Richard Sloman, who is CAFOD's country programme manager for Bangladesh. Dristy and her mother, Rupali, feature on our Lent Fast Day materials.

Having lived in Bangladesh for two years and then working there for CAFOD for seven years, Richard has gained an excellent knowledge of the people and communities we work with.

He has recorded a 10-minute video, in which he shares his wisdom and understanding of the problems people are facing and the impact changing climate, cyclones and sea-level rises are having on their lives.

Last month, Canon Stephen Maughan celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St Charles Borromeo Church in Hull.

My colleague Maggie Mairura, from our legacy team, invited Candlelight Fund holders to join her as she represented CAFOD and thanked people on my behalf for their faithful support during and since the pandemic, which has enabled our work to continue through the donations we have received from our Catholic communities in the diocese.

Supporters can start a Candlelight Fund in memory of a loved one. Often people like to remember their loved ones on their birthday or the anniversary of their death and they make a donation to our work as a legacy – and, of course, it helps others too.

I was warmly welcomed at the Sacred Heart Church in Middlesbrough by Father John Idio OMV and Father Mike Songu OMV when I visited to give the Lent Family Fast Day appeal.

As you know, I am always looking for parish volunteers and I am happy to report I have recruited five new volunteers, so thanks to them for their generosity in offering their time and energy to promote our work.

They are in English Martyrs, York, Sacred Heart, Middlesbrough and St Charles Borromeo and Our Lady of Lourdes and St Peter Chanel in Hull.

If you would like to join our CAFOD team, just email me at [ccross@cafod.org.uk](mailto:ccross@cafod.org.uk) or call me on 07779 804253.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has supported our emergency appeals for the Turkey and Syria earthquakes, Ukraine, East Africa food crisis and Pakistan floods, as well as our recent Family Fast Day collections in parishes around the diocese and online.

Your help is greatly appreciated, and your kind generosity is humbling. May God bless



Candlelight Fund holders at St Charles Borromeo, Hull

you. We are planning our annual pilgrimage to Holy Island with the Romero Trust for Saturday July 8.

I'm happy to tell you we will be joined by our Latin America manager, Clare Dixon, former CAFOD director Julian Filochowski, Father Jim O'Keefe and Father Chris Hughes.

There will be a pilgrimage across the sands for those who are hale and hearty, and a service in the Catholic Church for those who are not crossing the sands. More details to follow.

Carol Cross  
Community Participation Coordinator

## Pope's International Women's Day message

**Pope Francis thanked women for their commitment to building a more humane society during his general audience on International Women's Day.**

He said: "A special blessing for all the women in the square. And a round of applause for women! They deserve it!"

The Holy Father later greeted the sick, the elderly, newlyweds and young people.


"In these days of Lent, walk even more courageously in the footsteps of Christ, seeking to imitate his humility and faithfulness to the divine will," he said.

He also continued to pray for the people affected by the war in Ukraine.

"Please, dear brothers and sisters, let us not forget the pain of the battered Ukrainian people, they suffer so much... let us always have them present in our hearts and in our prayers."

The Vatican has announced that Pope Francis will make an Apostolic Journey to Hungary from April 28 to 30.

## A Letter From Madonna House – Resting in Christ's obedience



**daily liturgical fare throughout all of Passiontide.**

Does the obedience of Christ resonate with you? Of course, on some level I accept it readily enough – the disobedience of our first parents didn't go so well (understatement), and who among us would consciously argue that his or her own will was objectively better than God's?

But, when I am honest with myself, a radical trust in the plans and desires of our heavenly Father is a disposition that is rather foreign to my innate impulses.

Something inside of me not only hesitates but stops dead in its tracks when confronted with the call to trust the Father so fully as to joyfully surrender everything, without exception.

Perhaps such a struggle is common to all of humanity, but it seems to me that in our western society, we are particularly nurtured with a heavy dose of self-reliance and self-determination.

We also know countless instances of betrayal of trust by those in authority. So, is it any wonder that, when we hear Christ's call to follow him, imitating his obedience to the Father even unto death, something inside of our gut pulls back, in spite of whatever act of surrender we try to muster up as "good" Christians?

Fundamentally, this is a struggle to trust the Father. Christ trusted the Father so fully that no self-offering was too much to ask, trusting him unto death, death on a cross.

Our minds may know and believe that the Father is trustworthy, but that doesn't mean that our gut will follow suit.

Our (or at least my) self-reliant side feels far more comfortable trusting in the "self." Thanks be to God, though, that time and again, the "self" proves to be utterly incapable of bringing self-fulfilment.

The "self" alone is, in fact, not trustworthy at all. I can't even trust in my own strength to conjure up greater trust in God!

While my efforts to coax myself to trust God prove to be exhausting, I can still choose, at any moment, to turn to Christ and rest in his obedience to his Father.

No matter what my struggle with trust may be, I can take refuge in Christ's trust of the Father.

Journeying through Passiontide with a gaze of admiration and wonderment on Christ's free obedience is so much more restful than begrudgingly trying to force such an obedience from myself.

And, from that place of rest in him, the freedom of Christ's obedience beckons me. It fans the flames of my own desire to trust the Father more. And, by resting in Christ's obedient heart, I actually begin to participate in his own obedience and trust.

This Passiontide, and into Easter, let us take refuge in Christ's obedience unto death (and Resurrection).

Father Michael Weill



NEWS



Bishop Terry met parishioners including Mary and her friend, Peter Campbell, who takes her to church every Sunday, during a visit to St Joseph's in Middlesbrough – photo by Ian 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.

1	1975	Canon James Lindley Hall	Hull
1	1988	Rev Richard Van de Pitte	York
4	1988	Rev Anthony Wade, MCCJ	York
5	1900	Very Rev Canon William Sullivan	Hull
6	1956	Rev John Potts	Pickering
7	1978	Very Rev Canon Francis O'Hara	Middlesbrough
8	2021	Rev Ross Thompson	Port Chalmers
10	2017	Very Rev Canon William Madden	Cork
10	1894	Very Rev Canon Edward Pearson	Leyburn
10	1977	Rev William Bury	Middlesbrough
11	1929	Rt Rev Richard Lacy, first Bishop of Middlesbrough	
12	1946	Rev Bernard Costello	Hull
14	1897	Very Rev Canon Benjamin Randerson	Whitby
15	1999	Very Rev Canon Donal O'Byrne	Scarborough
16	1962	Rev James Murphy	York
18	1982	Very Rev Canon Daniel Ryan	Bridlington
19	1986	Rt Rev Mgr Provost Thomas Breen	Thornaby
21	1912	Rev David Smith	Holme
21	1886	Very Rev Canon William Fisher	Bridlington
22	2006	Rev John A Treacy	York
25	1928	Rev Alphonsus Wannyn	Hull
25	2009	Rev Austin O'Neill	Limerick
26	1990	Rev James J Gilligan	Ballyagran
26	2014	Rev Clement Pattison	Middlesbrough
28	1935	Rev James Skehan	Howden
29	1915	Rev Patrick Finn, CF	Houghton Hall
29	1932	Rev Patrick O'Regan	Drifffield
30	1995	Rev John Jenkinson	Hull

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NEWS

# Out and About

- 1 Saturday**  
**11am** Catholic Women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion, including meditation, via Zoom. For more information, email [catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com](mailto:catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com).

**3 Monday**  
**9.45-10.25am** Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from [Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com).

**4 Tuesday**  
**10am** Christian Meditation Group meets online. For further information, email [terry-doyle@live.co.uk](mailto:terry-doyle@live.co.uk).  
**Noon** Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough. All welcome.  
**7pm** Knights of St Columba Council 29 meet at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, beginning with Mass at 7pm in the cathedral chapel.

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

- 7 Friday**  
Events, articles, and photographs for the May edition of the Voice are due by today.

**9 Sunday**  
**3pm** Mass for LGBTQ+ Catholics, family and friends at the Chapel of the Bar Convent. Doors open from 2.30pm.

**10 Monday**  
**9.45-10.25am** Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from [Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com).

- 11 Tuesday**  
**10am** Christian Meditation Group meets online. For further information, email [terry-doyle@live.co.uk](mailto:terry-doyle@live.co.uk).  
**12.45pm** Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meets at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Kingston Square, Hull. All ladies in the Hull and East Riding area are most welcome. Lunch at 1pm. Call 01482 446565 or email [jayne.wilson24@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.wilson24@gmail.com).

**12 Wednesday**  
**5.30pm** Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.  
**7pm** Hull Circle of the Catenian Association meets at Lazaat Hotel, Cottingham, for AGM, which will be followed by a buffet-style meal. To join, email the circle secretary at [hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com).

- 13 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.

- 15 Saturday**  
**7.30pm** The Eddie White Sacred Heart Irish Dance with Sally Glennon, at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB. Contact John Brown 07871 958412.

**16 Sunday**  
**Noon** Divine Sunday Celebrations at St Aelred's Church, Fifth Avenue, Tang Hall, YO31 OPN, starting with Eucharist Adoration. All welcome, tea and biscuits afterwards in the community centre.  
**3pm** Middlesbrough Fellowship Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough celebrated by Bishop Terry Draine.

**17 Monday**  
**9.45-10.25am** Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from [Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com).  
**2-3.30pm** Music for the Mind, for people who enjoy singing and connecting memories. Venue is St Mary's Cathedral Hall, Middlesbrough. No charge, and everyone is welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits/cake followed by fun. You can also join in on the Diocese of Middlesbrough YouTube page. For details call 01642 710179.

- 18 Tuesday**  
**10am** Christian Meditation Group meets online. For further information, email [terry-doyle@live.co.uk](mailto:terry-doyle@live.co.uk).

**19 Wednesday**  
**5.30pm** Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.  
**7.30pm** Cleveland Newman Circle – “Dorothy Day, a new saint for our times?” Speaker Angela Wills, from the Spirituality Formation Team, Diocese of Portsmouth. Middlesbrough Cathedral Hall TS8 oTW. Tea and coffee available, all welcome.

- 24 Monday**  
**9.45-10.25am** Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from [Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:Christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com).

- 25 Tuesday**  
**10am** Christian Meditation Group meets online. For further information, email [terry-doyle@live.co.uk](mailto:terry-doyle@live.co.uk).

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

- 29 Saturday**  
**Noon** LGBTQ+ social gathering in the café at the Bar Convent. All welcome.

If you have any events you would like including in the Out & About section, please email [Heidi.Cummins@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:Heidi.Cummins@rcdmidd.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](mailto:catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk)

**Deadline April 7 for our May 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.**



# New film commemorates St Bernadette relic tour

The St Bernadette Relic Tour team have released a film commemorating last year’s visit, which included stops at Middlesbrough, Hull and Ampleforth.

The tour reached one in four UK Catholics, with thousands of people taking part in the visit.

The relics of St Bernadette began their 11,500-mile journey from the sanctuary in Lourdes to churches, cathedrals, a hospital and one prison, offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to people of all faiths and none to visit the saint’s sacred relics at one of 52 public venues.

The tour marked the first time the relics had visited the UK and people journeyed in prayer to be part of the experience.

Organisers say a quarter of a million people attended the two-month tour, with many more taking part online in prayer services, vigils and special Masses.

The life and legacy of St Bernadette has

touched the lives of many millions of people across the world.

More than 150 years after the first pilgrimages began, Lourdes remains one of the busiest Christian pilgrimage sites in the world, and the Catholic Church acknowledged 70 miracles as having taken place there.

More than 500kg of prayer cards written by UK pilgrims visiting St Bernadette’s relics were delivered to the Grotto in Lourdes by relic tour drivers Bob Lavery, from St Aelred’s Parish, York, and Gerry O’Malley at the close of the pilgrimage in October.

To commemorate the visit and to offer a small glimpse of the many graces made possible during the pilgrimage, the team behind the tour have released a special legacy film.

A spokesperson from the relic tour team said: “The arrival of St Bernadette’s relics to the UK was a great blessing, particularly



Bishop Terry incenses the relics of St Bernadette at St Mary’s Cathedral – Photo by Chris Booth

after the Covid-19 pandemic, offering a spiritually enriching opportunity for people to gather at churches and cathedrals across three nations.

“We hope this short film encourages people to reflect on the message of St Bernadette

and consider visiting Lourdes themselves in the future.”

You can watch the film at [youtu.be/3HY8iT2GioM](https://youtu.be/3HY8iT2GioM) or search “St Bernadette UK”.

# Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations in York

Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations will take place at St Aelred’s Church in York on April 16.

The event begins with Eucharist Adoration from noon and the Sacrament of Reconciliation follows at around 1.30pm.

There will be a Holy Hour of Great Mercy from 3pm to 4.15pm, with blessing and veneration of the Divine Mercy image, diary readings and individual consecration to the Divine Mercy, with the lighting of candles.

The day also includes the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, a Eucharist procession and a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

The chief celebrant is Father Bill Surplus, who will be hearing confessions along with two other priests.

All are welcome, and tea and biscuits will be served afterwards In the community centre. St Aelred’s is on Fifth Avenue, York YO31 oPN.

# Life in the Spirit seminars in Guisborough

All are welcome to prepare for Pentecost and explore what it’s like to live Life in the Spirit with parishioners at St Paulinus Church in Guisborough.

Life in the Spirit seminars are an established series that helps people journey together and grow deeper in their faith.

The sessions will be Spirit-filled and engaging opportunities to explore the topics below with anointed worship, inspiring speakers and small group time.

- Monday April 17, 7-8.30pm: God’s Love
- Monday April 24, 7-8.30pm: Salvation
- Monday May 1, 7-8.30pm: The New Life
- Monday May 15, 7-8.30pm: Receiving God’s Gift
- Saturday May 20, 11am-4pm: Praying for Baptism in the Holy Spirit
- Monday May 22, 7-8.30pm: Growth and Transformation

The prayer times will be joyful and help those attending to encounter Christ in a deeper way. Whether you are a practising Catholic or someone who is curious, you are welcome. Speakers include Michelle Moran, from the Sion Community, and Father John Udris, a well-known retreat giver.

Booking is not necessary, but you can register your interest by emailing [contact@stpaulinusguisborough.org.uk](mailto:contact@stpaulinusguisborough.org.uk).

# Bishop: Migration bill treats refugees as ‘problem’

The lead bishop for migrants and refugees Bishop Paul McAleenan says the government’s Illegal Migration Bill treats migrants and refugees as a problem, instead of as our brothers and sisters.

“Everyone who makes a dangerous journey across the Channel to build a better life here has a name, a face, and a story,” he said.

“People are driven from their homes by poverty, conflict, persecution, natural disasters, or other factors that prevent their flourishing. Many have links to the UK or family members already living here. Yet far too often, there are no safe routes open to them.

“While we all wish to end dangerous Channel crossings, this new legislation treats migrants and refugees as a problem to be solved rather than brothers and

sisters towards whom we have responsibilities.


“Establishing more safe routes and genuinely understanding people’s individual circumstances are essential to meeting these.

“As Christians we call for the human person, made in the image and likeness of God, to be put at the heart of public policy.”

The bill, proposed by home secretary Suella Braverman in March, aims to reduce or end “small boat crossings” in the English Channel.


It has been met with opposition from human rights groups and others who say it is against the spirit of international law.

- We’ll have more on the Church’s response to this issue in May’s Voice.



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



LOURDES

# English-language Lourdes formators meet in York

Our Lady's Parish in York hosted the annual meeting of English-language Lourdes formators.

Every year some seven million people come to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in the French Pyrenees.

The mission of welcoming and accompanying these pilgrims is entrusted by the local bishop to an organisation called the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes (HNDL).

HNDL comprises 15,000 volunteers from around the world, who serve for a week in the sanctuary's famous grotto and churches, welcoming fellow pilgrims at the airport and railway station, and maintaining the houses of welcome for sick and disabled people.

In their initial years, these volunteers receive practical training and spiritual formation in one of the HNDL's six languages.

The English-language formation team currently includes men and women from the UK, Ireland, Malta and the USA.

Every year they meet shortly after the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes to pray together and plan for the coming pilgrimage season.

In recent years, this annual meeting has alternated between London and York.

If you would like to know more about HNDL, please visit [hospitalite-nd-lourdes.com](http://hospitalite-nd-lourdes.com).



A small group of pilgrims from York

volunteer with HNDL the week before the Middlesbrough Diocesan Pilgrimage. If you

would like to know more, please contact [bergstromallen@gmail.com](mailto:bergstromallen@gmail.com).

# Garden opening raises £5,000 for earthquake appeal

**Hundreds of nature lovers helped raise £5,230 to support earthquake victims in Northern Syria at the two annual Snowdrop Open Weekends at Tudor Croft Garden, Guisborough.**

Owners Mike Heagney and his sister Gel said not only did everyone seem to enjoy the snowdrops, but they also gave generously to the appeal.

The funds raised at Tudor Croft have already been sent to Jacob's Well, a Yorkshire charity that has been sending trucks

of humanitarian and medical aid into the war-torn nation for years.

Even before the earthquake, around 60 per cent of hospitals were destroyed in Syria, leaving 12 million people with no healthcare provision.

Mike, who also runs landscaping and maintenance business Garden Revitalised, said: "We have supported Jacob's Well for 40 years, and we know we can trust them to get aid directly to the victims."

The Tudor Croft collection of rare and beautiful varieties now numbers about 300 different snowdrops and is thought to be the biggest in the North-East.

Mike and Gel have raised thousands of pounds for charity over the years with the biannual garden openings.

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

## Environment Corner - Making connections with nature

***"When we speak of the 'environment', what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it."* – Laudato Si' 139**

**How can we reconnect with nature? The Journey to 2030 material poses some thoughtful questions.**

Are there some simple actions we can do to enhance the areas around our parish churches and schools to encourage wildlife?

Churchyards and cemeteries are possible havens for biodiversity, especially if parts are left unmown.

Developing even a small patch of land can help – even a pot of sunflowers can make a difference to bees, butterflies and birds.

These projects are also very popular with the younger members of our congregations and can often be included in children's liturgies. They combine fun with a significant educational aspect.

Such first steps will create homes and food sources for wildlife in the parish. The creatures you attract may only be small in size, but they are the foundation of the food

web on which we and all other species depend.

There are many simple actions that you can take to enhance the outside space for wildlife in your parish.

Is there an area where you could plant flowers for pollinators, fruit and nut-bearing shrubs and trees for small mammals and birds?

Could you pile up logs or leaves or create a compost heap for winter hibernation, hang up bird feeders, nest boxes or bee hotels, or create passageways for wildlife to move easily between the church ground and neighbouring gardens?

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

As all life is interconnected, caring for wildlife is an extension of caring for ourselves and each other. Actions that benefit wildlife benefit us too.

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

What more creative way is there to practise love of ourselves and our neighbour than to plant sunflowers or to pile up logs?

**Barbara Hungin**



**There are many simple actions that you can take to enhance the outside space for wildlife in your parish**



# Signs of the kingdom in land of the Holy One

A reflection by the Right Reverend John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick, for Friends of the Holy Land...

*'And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.'* Revelations 22.2.

Those of us who have been to the Holy Land – or the land of the Holy One, as many of us now describe it – can never forget it. This is as it should be. We should never forget it.

Why? Not only because it is the land where God chose to become human, and lived and died and rose again, not only because of the ancient stones which witnessed our salvation history. Nor only because it was the land of the first living stones, the first followers of Christ but also, and crucially, because of our brothers and sisters in Christ now living there. Our family.

For me, personally, I cannot forget not only because of the many occasions I have been privileged to visit our family but also because whenever I look at my right hand, I see an episcopal ring that was created and engraved for me by a jeweller in Ramallah, whom I visited with Bishop Suheil in 2007.

This was just a few days after I and some others visited the Arab Evangelical school in Ramallah. We were invited to plant sapling olive trees in the grounds around the school.

The scripture hung around the olive tree I planted was: "And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

There is, perhaps, no scripture more pertinent for the land of the Holy One and the peoples who live there today. When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalms 122.6), it is surely this for which we pray, salaam, shalom, peace. We pray for the healing of the nations.

In medieval maps, notably the Mappa

Mundi, Jerusalem is placed at the centre of the world. Similarly, in early Jewish writings, for example, the Book of Jubilees, Jerusalem has been described as the "navel" of the earth.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was seen (and perhaps still can be) as the spiritual and cosmological centre of the world. Today many would agree that in many respects, Jerusalem is a microcosm of the tensions, divisions and conflicts of the wider world.

In the light of this, Archbishop Hosam says: "If peace is possible in Jerusalem, peace will be possible across the world."

Jerusalem, it is clear, matters to God. Jesus weeps over the city saying. "If only you had known this day the things that make for peace." (Luke 19.42).

And so, we must never forget, and we continue to pray for the city of peace in the land of the Holy Land. Our destiny as humanity is wrapped up in it.

Yet amid the (currently escalating) tensions and conflicts, it has been and continues to be a place where heaven touches earth, a place of faith and hope and love, a place where there are so many inspiring examples of those reaching out and crossing the boundaries of faith, of culture, of ethnicity, working for peace and reconciliation and expressing what is possible in God's good purposes.

There are those who, following Christ, in the manner of the Tent of Nations, "refuse to be enemies".

The enemy of the healing of the nations is tribalism – the "othering" and judging those who are different – and religious tribalism can be the worst of all. It exists within faiths, and it exists between faiths.

The challenge for Christians in the land of the Holy One and in all lands is to live out and express that the God who is with us and for us is at the same time the God who



A Palestinian flag near the site of the Baptism of the Lord – © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

is with and for the whole of humanity.

This was a huge learning curve for those first (Jewish) Christians, not least St Peter and St Paul. Paul writes: "For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named" (Ephesians 3,14).

The divine trajectory in which we as Christians participate is fulfilled when "God shall be all in all" (1 Corinthians 15.28) and "the Kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our God" (Revelation 11, 15).

Despite alarming headlines of raised tensions and acts of violence, in and around Jerusalem, there are so many signs of the kingdom, unheralded in the media, where Christians are living out the call to reconciliation amid many insecurities.

St Paul, in his writings, emphasised the need for solidarity among Christians across all cultural and ethnic divides. "When one suffers, all suffer" (1 Corinthians 12, 26).

Friends of the Holy Land offers us a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate this solidarity in Christ with our brothers and sisters in the land of the Holy One, through prayer, through pilgrimage, through giving.

So, no matter what the media headlines may tell us, let us continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the healing of the nations in faith and hope and love.

To find out more about the work of Friends of the Holy Land, please visit [friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk](http://friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk).



Children from St Mary's Ukrainian School lit some of the 52 candles – one for each week of the war in Ukraine – during an ecumenical prayer service at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in London.

Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski conducted the service, which included a speech delivered by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan.

The cathedral was decorated by 461 paper angels, one for each child who has died in the past year according to the official statistics.

– Photo courtesy Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

## From the Archives



### 40 Years Ago

(From April 1983 Catholic Voice)

Mgr. J.L. Carson writes: A Cleveland County Education Report, published in February, indicates that in five years' time there will be over 4,000 surplus places in Catholic Secondary Schools in County Cleveland.

The two dioceses concerned (Hexham & Newcastle and Middlesbrough) have been asked to consider steps to take out of use about 40% of these surplus places.

In some areas it will be possible to take out of use parts of school buildings but in Middlesbrough, where in 1988 there will be over 1,200 surplus places, Cleveland County has suggested that consideration should be given to the closure of an entire school.

The views of parents whose children are currently in primary schools, of the governing bodies of the four secondary schools and of teachers have been sought. The views of the Professional teachers' organization have also been asked for.

When these views have been collated, definite proposals will be made to all interested parties.

It is hoped that these consultations will be completed well before the end of the summer term so that the diocesan authorities will be able to make some firm recommendations on the future pattern of Catholic secondary education in Middlesbrough without delay.

### 100 Years Ago

(From Hull Catholic Magazine)

St Wilfrid's Notes – Miss Winifride Canty, who during the war stepped into the breach created on the organ stool, has in the past month relinquished that position to make way for the return of our former organist Mr J. E. Staves.

It is gratifying to know that her services will not be altogether lost to the Church, but that she will continue to play at the week-night services.

David Smallwood



## NEWS

# Display reveals new research on Pearl of York

**A new display invites visitors to discover new research on St Margaret Clitherow and the mystery behind how the Bar Convent became custodians of her relic.**

Using unseen documents from the Bar Convent's archives, students from York St John University have been investigating the unsolved questions: How did the relic come into the convent's possession? When was it taken there? Why is it there?

This research will be shared alongside archive material that has never been on display before, as well as a new interpretation of the significance of St Margaret Clitherow to York, Catholicism and women's history.

Special collections manager Dr Hannah Thomas said: "St Margaret Clitherow, also known as the Pearl of York, is one of the most significant martyrs, particularly in terms of the nature of her execution.

"Her death was seen as so brutal by her contemporaries that Queen Elizabeth I is said to have written to the city officials to condemn their actions, and a sentence of this nature was never passed again as punishment for Catholics in this country.

"We receive many questions from visitors about why St Margaret Clitherow's relic is housed at the convent, and how it came to be here.

"York St John University students Jessica

Diamond, Benjamin Stringer and Mia Skinner, who are second-year history students, were given access to our archives and have carried out research into these questions for the first time.

"They have been working with material that has never been made public before, including a pocket-sized engraving depicting her execution, several books about martyrs compiled by the English Catholic community and probably read by the earliest members of the Bar Convent community, and a very rare handwritten biography of Margaret Clitherow.

"All were made in the 17th century and designed for covert circulation among the hidden Catholic community in York and will go on public display for the first time in the Bar Convent exhibition."

The new interpretation will also explore St Margaret Clitherow's fellow women of the Catholic underground and other influential women who have contributed to the Bar Convent story.

Relics are physical objects which have a direct association with the saints or with Christ. The word comes from the Latin terms for "remains" and "to leave behind". Catholic scripture teaches that God acts through relics, especially to heal.

The display continues until July 1.



York St John University student Jessica Diamond with a 17th-century engraving of St Margaret Clitherow's death

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