



Bishop's Column

As I am writing this column for July, the sun is beating down and nature is trumpeting the beginning of what actually feels like summer. We have hopes for long sunny days and light, balmy evenings. Despite our experience of past summers, let's hope for the best.

Amid the summer activities can I just mention three? One might very well have already happened by the time you read this month's *Voice*.

On Sunday July 2 we celebrate our annual Postgate Rally in honour of Blessed Nicholas Postgate, our own diocesan priest and martyr. This year it will take place at Egton Bridge, at 3pm.



Bishop Terry preaching at the 2019 Postgate Rally – Photo by Johan Bergström-Allen

A few years ago, I can remember meeting some good people who had come all the way from the USA to take part in our rally. One of them bore the name "Postgate", hence their desire to travel such distances to take part.

Can I urge as many as possible to come along? Blessed Nicholas is our local martyr, and we should be loyal to him and the tradition he gifted us with his life's blood. Numbers have been getting low over the last ten years or so. We don't have to travel as far as our American friends. It will be good to see you all there.

Towards the end of the month and the beginning of August, a group of young people will be setting off to Lisbon to join our Holy Father (health permitting) at World Youth Day.

I would expect they will be among a huge crowd of at least a couple of million young people from all over the world. Just keep them all in your prayers.

You might take note of how much media coverage there will be from the main news

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Hundreds take part in our 70th Lourdes pilgrimage

Around 750 people from across the diocese helped make our 70th pilgrimage to Lourdes an overwhelming success.

The party included 49 supported pilgrims in the Accueil Notre Dame and another 20 staying in hotels in the town.

They were looked after by seven doctors with varying experience from junior doctors to consultant status, 12 nurses of all grades and 99 handmaids and 60 brancardiers, both these groups coming from all walks of life, ages and skills.

There were also 107 young people from across the diocese, including 12 youth leaders, plus 25 musicians and choir members, who enhanced our celebrations throughout the week.

Pilgrims travelled in two specially chartered planes flying from Teesside Airport, with others coming by train, coach and car for our first seven-day pilgrimage since the pandemic.

There was warm sunshine throughout the week, with a couple of dramatic thunderstorms failing to dampen pilgrims' spirits.

Services took place in venues including the Rosary Basilica, the Basilica of St Pius X, the St Bernadette Centre and the Grotto. There was also Stations of the Cross and a midweek trip to the Lac de Lourdes.

Speaking after the Thanksgiving Service, Bishop Terry, who led the pilgrimage, said: "It's been unique and special for me, especially to be present at the International Mass at Pentecost,



Bishop Terry and our diocesan banners leading the Torchlight Marian Procession – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes

where we had people of every language and nation gathering together and praising God in one voice. That's a miracle in itself.

"At the Service of Reconciliation, where the people went before the Lord asking for mercy.

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NEWS

Bishop’s Column

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outlets in our country. I suspect very little. I wonder is it because they don’t want our young people to know that the vast majority of people of their age in other countries are people of faith? I wonder...

Then on Sunday August 13, we will celebrate our Assumption Pilgrimage to Mount Grace. This is our principal local Marian Pilgrimage, and we are so blessed to have such a historic shrine in our diocese.

Again, weather permitting it should be a focal point of our summer activities as well as the focal point of our devotion to Our Blessed Lady. As we believe that Jesus was the first to rise from the dead, so we believe that he has also received his mother into eternity.

Yours in blessed hope,

+ Tony

Lourdes 70 is resounding success

Continued from Page 1

At the Anointing of the Sick, you could feel the Holy Spirit in that chapel. It was palpable that the Spirit was truly there.”

Asked about what people could take back home, Bishop Terry said: “I hope they take back that the pilgrimage is about beginning the journey, it’s not the end. We’ve been sent on a mission to construct and build the Church and we take the Grotto and the peace of this place in our hearts wherever we go.”

Bishop Terry also took the opportunity to remember those who laid the foundations in the early years and kept the flame burning so brightly.

He said: “This didn’t just happen out of thin air. We got here on the shoulders of all sorts of other people.

“There’s been a long, organic growth of this pilgrimage over the last 70 years and so many people have contributed in the past, just as they continue to do in the present day.

“Please God, when we look around at the

younger ones here, we pray that the next generation will contribute and in another 70 years will be grateful for the work we’ve done.

“Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving for all these years of blessing and God’s grace working in and through us.

“We also remember all those people who have gone before us and we thank God for their example, for their work and for all that they left for us.”

Head of hospitalité John Brown thanked all those who worked so hard to make the pilgrimage go smoothly.

“We had a fantastic week, and our supported pilgrims were very complimentary of how they had been well looked after during the week,” he said. “As always, it’s a great privilege to represent you all.”

Medals for long service were given out at the closing ceremony and there was also a moving standing ovation for Keith Tillotson, who is stepping down as pilgrimage director, to be replaced by Mark Taylor.

Afterwards, Keith said: “Lourdes is a special place and for some people, returning for the first

time in four years, this week would have been emotional and difficult, but we were all there as a family to support them.

“It never ceases to amaze me how people put to one side their personal issues and feelings to come together as one to support each other and care for our supported pilgrims. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work alongside you all.

“On a personal note, as I move into a supporting role, I hope you will give Mark the same support and assistance you have given me over the years.”

Keith’s wife, Chris, is also stepping down from her role as head handmaid, while head brancardier Tony Kirk and his deputy Tony Walton also served in these roles for the last time.

“We thank Chris, Keith and both Tonys for their immeasurable contribution to our pilgrimage and their tireless work over many years,” said Bishop Terry.

“We know they will all continue to support the pilgrimage in many ways and give us the benefit of their wealth of experience.”

- We’ll have a picture special from Lourdes 23 in next month’s *Catholic Voice*.

BISHOP TERRY'S JULY ENGAGEMENTS

2

Attends 165th anniversary of the founding of St Peter's, Scarborough 11.30am
Celebrates Mass at the Postgate Rally at Egton Bridge 3pm

4

Attends meeting of the Diocesan Trustee Board at the Curial Office, Middlesbrough 10.30am

5

Attends AGM at Madonna House, Robin Hood’s Bay 4pm

6

Visit to Full Sutton Prison, Pocklington 1.30pm

8-9

Parish visitation to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Middlesbrough

11

Attends Bishop’s Council meeting, Middlesbrough, via Zoom 10.30am

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Fond farewell to ‘wonderful’ parish priest Father Antony

St Anthony and Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Hull came together to bid farewell to Father Antony Chundelikkat at a packed Sunday morning Mass.

Father Antony was celebrating his final Mass as our parish priest before moving to a new parish in Cheam.

It was a celebration that was tinged with sadness as we were saying goodbye to a truly wonderful priest.

Father Antony arrived in 2014 and was only meant to stay for a year, but in the end, much to everyone’s delight, he stayed for eight!

He brought such happiness into our lives. When he spoke to you, or greeted you in the street, he had a unique gift of making you feel very special.

Going to Mass was a joy because he was full of life and fun and made it a real celebration. He brought everyone together as a parish family.

In addition to his duties as parish priest, he is also the pro-vicar general to the Indian community throughout the United Kingdom.

This entails a great deal of responsibility and travel. How he managed it all and still looked after his parish is a wonder to us all.

There was a buffet reception after Mass during which speeches were made and Father Antony was presented with a cheque, a specially commissioned mini statue of St Anthony and a stole with his name embroidered into it.

We wish him every happiness in his new parish and we welcome Father Joseph Pinakkattu as our new parish priest.

We are truly grateful that he has chosen to come to us and look forward to giving him all our help and support in the years to come.



Father Antony with his former parishioners at St Anthony and Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Hull

Building the Kingdom of God in our parish

Parishioner **MICHAEL COUGHLAN** reflects on the Life in the Spirit seminars that recently took place in the community of St Paulinus, Guisborough...

For most of my adult life I have been blessed to be surrounded by faith-filled Catholics who had a deep sense of their call to holiness and to reach out to family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours.

They have a lived experience of, as Pope Francis says, the Jesus “who loves us; gave his life to save us; and is now living at our side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free us.”

This has had a profound effect on how I have lived my life and the choices I have made. I spent seven years in priestly training. However, I decided not to go on to ordination. Instead, I worked as a teacher and lay chaplain.

I have been a member of the Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism since 2003. This is the first time as an adult that I have been fully involved in parish life. I have always been aware of how fragile life can be and that having faith doesn't exclude you from sin, brokenness, fear, anxiety and loneliness.

This has taught me to reach out for help and open my heart. When we let the Lord into our struggles, the very things that cause us pain become a source of hope and healing for others.

What I see now rising up in the Church amid a messy and increasingly fragmented and

polarised world that has lost its sense of beauty and God-given identity, is many people, young and old, who are hearing the Gospel afresh.

They are discovering a God who says, “You are my beloved child. Do not be afraid I have redeemed you. Follow me. Build My Church.”

Here in Guisborough, it has been so beautifully expressed in the many who have joined us for the Alpha Courses, Youth Alpha, the Big Picture Bible course and now the Life in the Spirit seminars. Here's what some of the team and those who have participated said.

“A wonderful response from all the people recognising the Lord calling them to worship and to the openness of being moved by the Spirit.”

“A whole new experience of our worship.”

“The Spirit is moving, the Word is spreading.”

“The living presence of the Holy Spirit within those present at the seminars was both beautiful and deeply uplifting.”

We continued in our purpose of building up the body of Christ within St Paulinus and our wider parish. For me, this is the essential building block for the Spirit to manifest his gifts, building up the kingdom in our parish and in our area. And for me, no instant revelation but a slow profound unfolding of the loving kindness of our God, stretching far into the future. New beginnings. Every day of our lives the Father is looking for us.

What are we saying in all of this? Luke in the Acts of the Apostles puts it like this: “This



Father Philip Cunah, left, with participants in the Life in the Spirit seminars at St Paulinus, Guisborough

promise is to you, to your children and to those far away – all who have been called by the Lord our God.”

So there is an invitation to come, taste and see that the Lord is preparing his Church once again to be that messenger of Good News.

For the broken-hearted, the poor, those who grieve, the sick, those struggling with addiction and depression and mental illness. He wants to give that same fullness of his presence to us as he gave to the early Christian communities.

The invitation is to be open to and pray for the “more” the Lord has for us. To be that

Spirit-filled community that others are drawn to.

“I came that you might have life and life in all its fullness.” – John 10:10

So when you hear of the next Alpha course or Life in the Spirit course, take courage and dive in.

We are deeply grateful for the ministry of the Sion community members, Karen, Alice, Michelle, Peter and Canon John Udris, Maggs and Bill, who shared, encouraged and spoke with such wisdom. Thank you for your ministry, love and support.

Bryan Adams and the Holy Spirit

St Paulinus, Guisborough, parishioner **IAN McLEAN** wrote this as an encouragement to those approaching the Sacrament of Confirmation and especially his grandson, Ethan, who has decided he wishes to receive this Sacrament.

Having been received into the Church as an adult, I am still able to recall the expectation of that day of my Confirmation.

Would I experience the anticipated and much prayed for dynamic outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Alas, the honest answer to that question was no.

The passing years have, however, led me to the knowledge that on that day a seed was indeed sown, but the cares of the world, and the whole panoply of family life, caused it to remain untended and unnourished.

That seed had lain dormant within me for so long, but now, somewhat strangely, in the winter of my years, it has finally burst into life and borne fruit.

I cannot recall exactly when I first came to know the all-consuming presence of the Holy

Spirit in my life, but I do know that in this, our 21st century, it is so easy to be caught up in the tumult of everyday life that we can so easily lose sight of the beauty that surrounds us, and how the Holy Spirit moves within our world and within each of us.

While at prayer; during the Eucharist; a mother gently carrying her baby in her arms; the sun rising over Highcliff, the colours of the dawn spread out across the sky like a Turner painting; a smile from a stranger; the song *Scars* by I Am They; Jesus embracing Nicodemus in the film, *The Chosen* – all have nurtured and nourished the Holy Spirit within me.

All of this brings me somewhat convolutedly to Bryan Adams and the theme music to *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves*. It's a pleasant song, but was listened to by me, relatively unmoved, countless times until this particular morning when walking the dog at sunrise in Guisborough Woods.

Despite not being on my Number 1 hits of the '60s playlist, *Everything I Do* unexpectedly

sounded in my ear.

“Look into my eyes, you will see, what you mean to me. Search your heart, search your soul and when you find me there you'll search no more. Don't tell me it's not worth trying for, you can't tell me it's not worth dying for. Everything I do, I do it for you.”

I knew with total conviction that the Lord was speaking to me through the words of the song. I felt the Holy Spirit move within me, a spirit of love so sublime, so all-consuming, filling me with incomparable joy – a joy that truly does surpass all understanding.

So, as the Christian songwriter Bill Fay would say, “There are miracles in the strangest of places, there are miracles everywhere we go” (*Cosmic Concerto*). We just need to open our eyes to see them.

Oh Lord, let the fire of your Holy Spirit live in me.

Oh Lord, let the fire of your Holy Spirit grow in me

Oh Lord, let the fire of your Holy Spirit fill me



Bryan Adams' star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame — Photo by Hackman (Depositphotos)

Oh Lord, let the fire of your Holy Spirit pour forth to fill the hearts of all mankind with the ineffable power of your love, to heal our broken, fractured world and to create a new earth, the New Jerusalem.

Pope praises work of Catholic women's organisation

I was privileged to be invited to participate and listen to Pope Francis' words in a special audience with the World Union of Catholic Women Organisation (WUCWO).

The Holy Father affirmed that “the identity of women is in danger” due to cultural policies and ideologies that “ignore the beauty with which they were created.”

He stressed the need for greater appreciation of their capacity for relationship and giving and encouraged us to recover the elements that characterise their identity and role in the

family and in society.

“Where there is no woman, there is loneliness... that breeds sadness and all manner of harm to humanity.”

Pope Francis also spoke about the urgent need to find peace in the world, a peace that “begins within the heart”.

He encouraged us to live like Mary, generating and protecting life, relating with others with tenderness and compassion and combining three languages – that of the mind, that of the heart and that of the hands.

He invited us to live the fullness of being women, with the awareness of feeling chosen and protagonists in God's work in union with Jesus, a union that “must manifest in the communion with the Church, with my family or my organisation... We must ‘pray’ deeds and put ‘prayer’ to work”.

In his concluding words, the Pope mentioned “the essence of synodality, what makes us feel co-responsible for the wellbeing of the Church, to know how to integrate differences and work in ecclesial harmony.”

He then expressed his gratitude for our work in WUCWO, encouraging us to go forward “listening to the cries of our world and being docile to the voice of the Spirit”.

WUCWO was formed in 1910 and today reaches eight million Catholic women in parishes, dioceses and at national and international level in 50 countries, bringing them together and giving them a voice.

Margaret Clark

NEWS

A month of celebrations at St Andrew's

Parishioners in St Andrew's, Teesville, have had four reasons to celebrate – a diamond wedding, a 90th birthday and the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Michael and Margaret Clark celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary and received a congratulations card from Buckingham Palace, signed by King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen Consort.

They were married in St Peter's Church, South Bank, on April 15 1963 by Father Terence Gilgallon. Michael's Best Man was Donald Pickering, his brother-in-law, while Margaret's chief Bridesmaid was Anne Pickering, her sister-in-law (Michael's sister). She was attended by five other bridesmaids.

Sixty years later to the day they were presented with a bouquet from St Andrew's parish priest, Father Michael Sellers to celebrate reaching the milestone.

They celebrated the achievement with a meal with family and friends.

The next big occasion came when Tessie Ferguson celebrated her 90th birthday.

Born Theresa Best in South Bank in 1933, Tessie was one of three children and was brought up in the town's Warwick Street.

On the day of her birthday, Father Michael visited Tessie and presented her with flowers on behalf of the parish.

Tessie and family members celebrated her

milestone achievement with afternoon tea in Great Ayton.

Five parishioners then received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Terry at a deanery service at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

Congratulations to Adaeze, Patience, Charles, Chikamso, Kosisochi. May God bless them and their families for their efforts to bring them up in the faith.

Father Michael told them that when they received the sacrament they were sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which will bring them the strength and guidance they will need.

We pray that God will bless them with the courage to be faithful to Jesus Christ and his Church throughout their lives, and give them the wisdom to make good and right choices in life.

Finally, 17 children received Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time.

In his homily, Father Michael thanked parish catechists who have given generously of their time and efforts since last October to help the children grow in their knowledge of Jesus and the teachings of his Church.

May God bless them all and their families and through them the whole parish.

Paul Terry



Michael and Margaret Clark received flowers from Father Michael



Tessie Ferguson presented with flowers as she celebrates her 90th birthday



Five parishioners who received the Sacrament of Confirmation are pictured after the service in the cathedral



Children pictured after receiving the Eucharist for the first time

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Stunning win sees Trinity girls lift major national silverware

Trinity Catholic College returned to Teesside with the ESFA Under-18 Girls' National Cup after a stunning victory at Stoke City's Bet 365 Stadium.

Trinity saw off Surbiton High School from London with a comprehensive 4-0 win thanks to two goals in each half.

The game got off to a sensational start when striker Daisy Swash opened the scoring after just 15 seconds, latching onto a superb through ball from Rose McCarthy.

Daisy Swash then doubled Trinity's lead five minutes before the break, getting to the ball ahead of the opposition keeper and prodding home.

Second-half goals from Fran Ward and Maddie Myers ensured the cup was destined for the Lacy Road school's trophy cabinet.

Estelle Clark was named Player of the Match in what was a fine all-round team display.

Trinity smashed in 43 goals in eight wins in the competition, conceding just six times.

Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) PE curriculum lead and team manager Gemma Gibson said the girls were a credit to the school.

She said: "This group of girls is just phenomenal. They've been exemplary throughout this competition. I couldn't ask for a better bunch."

"It was a very noisy journey home, but no

group of girls deserve this more than they do.

"Apart from being very talented, they're also a fantastic group. Our captain, Ruby Forster, leads by example, but although she wears the captain's armband, I have a team of captains."

Rose McCarthy is already part of the England set-up, while several players are hopeful of pursuing careers in football, inspired by the Lionesses' success in last summer's Euros.

Gemma said: "Quite a few England players come from the North-East. Beth Mead, Jordan Nobbs, Steph Houghton are all from our region – why shouldn't our girls have the same aspirations as them?"

"We've always had a strong girls' football programme at Trinity, but bringing the national cup home is a truly remarkable achievement."

The 17-strong squad comprises Year 11, 12 and 13 players from Trinity Catholic College and Sixth Form, which boasts the superb new T6 Football Academy, where highly talented male and female footballers can continue their academic studies alongside elite soccer training on world-class facilities.

"We work closely with T6 and they have been exceptionally accommodating with their equipment, facilities and kit," said Gemma.

"If pupils in any of NPCAT's secondary

schools or any other schools in the Teesside and North Yorkshire area are good footballers, they should know they have an opportunity to be part of this."

The victorious squad is: Ruby Cook, Amber Rodgers, Charlie McMann, Paige Bennett, Ruby Forster, Rose McCarthy, Emilie Onions, Fran Ward, Estelle Clark, Maddie Myers, Daisy Swash, Farron McPherson, Jocelyn Kilkenny, Mackenzie Gibson, Maddie McCormick, Amy Calvert and Abbey Harland.



The victorious Trinity Catholic College team – Photo courtesy of English Schools FA @schoolsfootball, @353photo

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NEWS

A happy hat-trick of celebrations in Redcar

The social calendar at Redcar's Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish has been much busier than usual, with not one, not two, but three special events.

Kicking off the trio, we welcomed Teesside Apollo Male Voice Choir for an evening of magnificent singing at the Sacred Heart Church.

Joined by a wonderful soprano and talented keyboardist, they performed songs including a selection from the musicals.

At the interval, everyone adjourned to the fairy light-adorned marquee in the garden, and what was billed as wine and cheese turned out to be a small feast!

Two days later, we welcomed the Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship for a lovely afternoon Mass, before again using the garden and marquee for refreshments.

It was a glorious day and it was a wonderful

way to spend a Sunday afternoon, with plenty of food and enjoyment for all. Our final event was the celebration of Father Jose Michael's 50th birthday, which we couldn't let slip by.

Father Jose was banned from the meeting rooms the day before so we could secretly decorate it with big banners and balloons, and we were blessed with good weather for the third time.

Father Jose celebrated Mass before morning tea in the garden. The garden was soon filled with music and laughter, before the cutting of the phenomenal cake featuring a mini-me of Father Jose.

After three brilliant events, it was time to dismantle the marquee and we could finally put our feet up!

Heather Gittins



Teesside Apollo Male Voice Choir performing at the Sacred Heart Church, Redcar



Father Jose Michael's 50th birthday celebrations

Come and join us for Rosary Rally

Middlesbrough's second annual Rosary Rally, organised by the Men of St Joseph, takes place on Saturday July 29.

You're warmly invited to join us for a public profession of our faith, starting at St John the Evangelist Church on Marton Road.

We'll meet at 11.45am with the Angelus and Litany to Our Lady at noon.

At 12.15pm we will process through the streets with a Crucifix, a statue of Our Lady, an image of the Divine Mercy and a first-class relic of St Faustina to the intersection between Newport Road and Linthorpe Road in the town centre.

At 12.30pm we will pray the Joyful Mysteries and Divine Mercy Chaplet before processing back to church for tea, coffee and snacks at 1pm.

All are welcome and we're hoping for a good turnout as a public witness of faith to the people of Middlesbrough.

For more information contact Ben on 07867 472979 or Terry on 07549 068226.

Ben Corbett



Last year's Rosary Rally in Middlesbrough

Leading has been an honour and a privilege

What a privilege it has been to look after our pilgrimage over the last 30 years or so.

I still remember Teresa Harrison (Matthews as was) asking if I would be interested in taking over from the late John Brown as treasurer to the Lourdes sick fund. Little did I know or realise it would be the journey of a lifetime.

I had not visited Lourdes and was treasurer to the fund which allowed sick people to attend the pilgrimage. This was pointed out to me by Father Paul Farrer, who suggested I should go and see what it was like!

My first pilgrimage visit was some 27 years ago and I remember it was an experience, sharing with Eamonn McClurey and working alongside the legends of Brian McGowran and Mike McCullagh. What could go wrong? That was an understatement!

I continued to travel to Lourdes as treasurer and working as a brancardier, until I was appointed head of the newly formed Diocese of Middlesbrough Hospitalité in 2007, which was an enormous task.

Over the years, we have developed our training programme and introduced the day of formation, which is now a compulsory part of the pilgrimage preparation. We have also introduced specialised training for those delivering personal care.

Bringing the spirit and message of Lourdes to the diocese for the other 51 weeks of the year is also an integral part of the hospitalité constitution.

This has been achieved successfully, but it took a lot of hard work and effort. Our hospitalité members continue to build on those strong foundations with Masses, social events, visiting our primary schools delivering the water gesture and supporting our pilgrims through our prayers.

In 2013 I was appointed executive director of the pilgrimage, taking over the helm from Mike Boyes and working alongside our pilgrimage director Father Paul until Canon Derek Turnham was appointed. I was appointed the first lay pilgrimage director, in 2016, succeeding Canon Derek.

The organising committee has worked tirelessly to make the pilgrimage what it is today, a professional, caring and successful pilgrimage admired and respected by Lourdes Sanctuary and other pilgrimages.

It has not been without its dramas and low points, but we have survived all these – and even two years of Covid – to bring the pilgrimage back to Lourdes in 2023 as strong as ever and laying a strong foundation to push on.

Holding the position of pilgrimage director gave me the opportunity to be instrumental in bringing the Relics of St Bernadette to the UK.

This was agreed by the Bishop's Council in 2021 and in 2022 I was privileged to be on the organising committee for the Tour of St Bernadette's Relics to Middlesbrough and Hull.



Outgoing head brancardier Tony Kirk, incoming pilgrimage director Mark Taylor, Tony's deputy Tony Walton and Keith Tillotson at the Lac de Lourdes this year

I am now handing over the helm to Mark Taylor, who I have no doubt will continue to guide and strengthen the pilgrimage in the future.

I will support Mark over the next 12 months and beyond to guide him as and when needed.

It has been an honour to work with such caring and loving people as you.

I hope the Lourdes family will keep Chris and me in your prayers as we continue to join you on the pilgrimage. Thank you all once again.

**Keith Tillotson
Pilgrimage Director**

Archbishop meets Pope during Rome visit

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, has been to Rome for his first official visit to the Holy See.

His official visit includes meetings with different departments of the Vatican connected with evangelisation and ecumenicalism.

He met with officials from the Dicastery for Evangelisation, the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Archbishop Stephen, accompanied by his wife Rebecca Cottrell and his chaplain, the Reverend Dr Jenny Wright, also shared an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis.

He also met Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-prefect for the section of evangelisation of Dicastery for Evangelisation, at a conference entitled The Ecumenical Impact on Evangelisation.

Archbishop Stephen said: "Coming to Rome and meeting with sisters and brothers from within the Roman Catholic Church has been so encouraging.

"My prayer is that Christians of all denominations can work together more and be united in our desire to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit as we look to share the love of God as seen in Jesus with the many in our world who long for hope and meaning in their lives.

"It is my experience that it is when we, the Church of Jesus Christ in all its manifold shapes and sizes, reach out together in mission, in service of the world and in proclamation of the gospel, that our unity is strengthened and revealed."

Archbishop Stephen's visit was organised by Archbishop Ian Ernest, director of the Anglican Centre and the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See. The Anglican Centre is a vital link between



Archbishop Stephen meets Pope Francis – photo courtesy of Vatican Media

the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church, working on shared projects as well as offering opportunities for study, hospitality and encounter.

Archbishop Ian Ernest said: "This first official visit of the Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell, to the Anglican Centre and to the Holy See comes as an affirmation of the longing of the Anglican Communion to diligently and constantly work for the visible unity of Christians.

"The personal commitment of Archbishop Stephen, in the different callings he has exercised, to encourage a collaborative spirit among different groups of people, in spite of cultural, denominational and religious differences, inspires and encourages us to carry forward with love the mission entrusted to the Anglican Centre in Rome.

"His meeting with The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has further consolidated the strong bonds of friendship between our two World

Communities and we are now looking forward for further cooperation between the dicasteries of the Vatican and the Anglican Centre in Rome as we seek to bear witness of the Love of God, together, to our broken world."

Archbishop Stephen preached at All Saints Church and the Anglican Centre as well as visiting the Sant'Edigio Community, San Gregorio Magno al Celio and the Venerable English College.

NEWS

WE COME TO DO YOUR WILL

This month we hear from more of the people throughout the diocese who have responded to the invitation to get involved in one or more of the many parish ministries available to us...

These are challenging times for the Church. As clergy are getting older and there is a lack of vocations, tasks that lay people can do should be encouraged.

We need a laity that is trained and given the skills to continue building the Kingdom of God. With this in mind, the diocese is training parishioners to lead funeral services, either in a church, a cemetery or crematorium, where a priest is not available to do this.

One of our parishioners, Gill Almack, is currently undertaking the training programme and will be commissioned by Bishop Terry in a few months' time.

Gill will work closely with me, visiting families, helping them to plan the funeral and giving post-funeral support.

Father Pat Keogh, St Hilda's, Whitby



Training – Gill Almack

My life has been enriched by carrying out my ministry as a catechist, being involved with others and exploring and echoing the Word of God.



Enriched – Eleanor Garrity

Occasionally I think I've been doing this long enough, but something urges me to continue. Then I think that I am not worthy but a quote from George Bernard Shaw that I have used when meeting enquirers at the first meeting comes to mind – "I am not a teacher: only a fellow traveller of whom you asked the way, I pointed ahead – ahead of myself as well as you."


The process of belonging to a small house group, learning together and sharing our faith, seems to have the shape of the early church, when Christians began to spread their faith.

Modern technology has a place, but I am mindful of keeping the human touch. I like seeing people develop and become confident in the small group, sharing scripture or leading spontaneous closing prayers.

I enjoy preparing for sessions and the participation of others, who never cease to astound us as we experience so many "God-incidences" along the way.

The atmosphere is one of reverence, respect and acceptance. The bonds formed are more than friendship – this is proved by people returning to the group the next year to help others who are asking questions about the Catholic faith. The whole group enjoys listening to the Church's teaching, sharing scripture, reflecting on their life events, prayer and fellowship.

Eleanor Garrity, catechist at Holy Name of Mary, Middlesbrough



DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH

**ANNUAL
PILGRIMAGE TO
WALSINGHAM**

Led by Bishop Terry

Saturday September 30 to
Sunday October 1 2023

If you wish to express your interest in booking a place or receive further information about the pilgrimage, email Dawn Cummings at bishopsecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk.

Please advise on your room and travel requirements. As usual, it is anticipated there will be coach pick-ups in Middlesbrough and York (not Hull).

"He who sings prays twice." I am a lifelong parishioner of St Patrick's in Thornaby, at the northern tip of the diocese. The church is more than 130 years old and within this impressive building is an equally impressive pipe organ, which many will be surprised to learn was not part of the original build. My understanding is that the organ arrived around 1920.

I consider myself fortunate to have been the parish organist since the age of 16, some 26 years ago. My ministry is greatly assisted by the support of the parish choir. When I took on the role I was nervous – most of the choir were long-term members (with several boasting over 80 years' service!), but they were most welcoming and supportive. Sadly, over the years, most of my original choir have passed away, although two or three remain with me, week in, week out.

In time, numbers dwindled, although a hardcore remained. Thankfully, numbers have risen once again since the pandemic, and we now boast a multinational choir aged from seven to 70-plus.

In 2022 I became a governor of St Patrick's Primary School, where I have shared my music ministry. We have had several occasions when the church choir and school choir have sung together at Sunday morning Mass, to the delight of parishioners.

I am often enthused by parishioners' kind words, and I look forward to playing each Sunday morning. The choir always welcomes new members and, thankfully, I feel I have at least another 25 years of playing in me!



Music – Dan Woodgate, back left

Dan Woodgate, Organist, St Patrick's, Thornaby

NEWS

Until 1991 I was quite happy going to Mass each week, never giving a thought to what goes on behind the scenes. One Sunday I was asked to become a Minister of Holy Communion. I had often thought what a privilege it would be to assist the priest at communion. I accepted and was commissioned that autumn.

In 1993 I was too slow to step back when a volunteer was required to take over coordinating the ministers' rota and developing a list of sick and housebound, so I took on that task. Thirty years later I'm still in that role, which has become more difficult since Covid, as many of our commissioned ministers feel uncomfortable going out or have not come back to Mass. The people we visit are so grateful to receive the sacrament once again.

My role also includes the training of new ministers, refreshers for established ones and reminders of health and safety issues. I am also involved with stewarding, RCIA and am registered as an appointed person for weddings (registrar), being coordinator for weddings at the cathedral, St Francis and St Clare's parishes, as well as the Lady Chapel.

There are so many ministries you can get involved in. If you feel you can help, I encourage you to talk to your parish priest. Don't be shy – go for it!

Paul Bowen, St Mary's Cathedral Parish, Middlesbrough



Privilege – Paul Bowen

My role as Eucharistic Minister is the simplest, yet most profound, ministry I perform (my others are music and RCIA Catechist). When I was commissioned, I remember Bishop John saying people performing this ministry often found it brought them closer to God. That has certainly been the case for me.

It led me to find the confidence to become a catechist, then a musician at the weekly Mass and finally a brancardier in Lourdes. I have definitely received much more than I have given.

My role is largely what you see – I assist the priest and deacon in the distribution of Communion during Mass. There is a further role in taking Communion to the sick and housebound. This is a part of the ministry that you volunteer for, as it may not be for everyone.

I enjoy being part of a team bringing the Blessed Sacrament to the faithful.

Although on the surface a simple role, we always need more Eucharistic Ministers. The response when someone is asked to consider if it is for them is, "I'm not good/holy/devout enough".



Assistance – Keith Broadhead

The reply we give is, "None of us are, but God has to start somewhere."

Keith Broadhead, Eucharistic Minister at St Anthony and Our Lady of Mercy, Hull



Volunteer – Bridie Taysom

I have been a parish safeguarding representative for about seven years, following my retirement from teaching modern languages, which I enjoyed immensely.

I have used many of the skills in this role that I developed over the years as a teacher. The safeguarding representative is the link between the parish and the diocese and it's their responsibility to promote safe practices in all activities that involve children, young people and vulnerable adults. The safeguarding representative facilitates the DBS disclosure process in the parish.

Before taking up this voluntary role, I was given some training by one of the Curial Office staff from the diocese, which was very useful. Since then, as systems within the safeguarding area have evolved, such as inputting information online, training has been updated. I have also attended conferences organised by the diocese, which focus on issues such as modern slavery.

I believe strongly being a safeguarding representative is a really important role because ensuring the safety of parishioners, be they young or old, is both rewarding and vital.

Bridie Taysom, Our Lady and St Edward, Driffield, East Yorkshire

Once again, thank you to all those who have contributed to this article. We hope you find their short stories inspiring and that you feel moved to offer yourself for ministry in your parish.

Deacon David Cross, Adult Formation Coordinator

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NEWS

Father Pat returns for funerals of parish stalwarts

St Alphonsus Parish in North Ormesby, Middlesbrough, has said farewell to two of its oldest parishioners.

Jimmy Duffy, who was 100, died on March 24 and his wife Chrissie, who was 95, passed away just six weeks later, on May 5.

The Berwick Hills couple married at St Francis Church, Acklam, 73 years ago and were devout Catholics, attending Mass at St Alphonsus Church every day until the Covid lockdowns.

Parishioners said you could set your watch by them going to Mass every morning, Chrissie in front, walking faster than Jimmy could keep up!

Former St Alphonsus parish priest Father Pat Day came over from Ireland to officiate at both funerals.

The couple attended Lourdes several times and also Medjugorje, while Chrissie went to Walsingham and Mount Grace and was always helping out in the church in her younger days.

They will be sadly missed by all who knew them, but they are together again with son Joseph and daughter Christine, who died in the 1970s.

They leave behind a heartbroken family of seven children, 13 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.



Jimmy and Chrissie Duffy are pictured with Father Pat Day at a Mass to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary

How SVP applies principles of social justice



When the voice of the poor calls, we listen. Our grassroots approach to advocacy engages individuals, communities, organisations, faith groups and government.

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We apply the messages of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) to our work by placing human dignity, fairness and the collective good of society at the centre of our work.

We seek to enable people, through on-the-ground support as well as our social justice work, to become their own spokespeople and hold those in power accountable.

We advance social justice by working with people affected by poverty and disadvantage, not on behalf of them, to influence

policymakers to effect changes that have a genuine impact on their lives.

Visiting and befriending people who may be isolated, in need or in prison is at the core of our work.

This work provides an insight into the complex issues people face every day and helps us raise awareness about the things that really matter to them and to identify solutions which can make a tangible difference to their lives.

We work closely with other Catholic and secular organisations to maximise our impact and strengthen our voice.

In the past year we have collaborated with the Jesuit Refugee Service, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Caritas International.

Frances Gilchrist

A Letter From Madonna House – Hearts of compassion in a place of miracles

Flickering candles... wheelchairs advancing along sloped paths... swathes of colour-coordinated pilgrims processing together... the buzz of many languages... immersion into swarming crowds... the periodic silence of quiet interludes... faces absorbed in prayer...



Madonna House staff Carol Ann Gieske, Jeanne Guillemette, Father Michael Weigl, Mathieu Dacquay, in Lourdes, along with their parish priest, Father Pat Keogh

These are some images of Lourdes that greeted us as we arrived. The story began with a humble girl named Bernadette Soubirous and continues with us.

For the four of us from Madonna House, the privilege of assisting at the 70th Middlesbrough Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (our first such experience as a team) has left deep impressions.

It is one thing to go to Lourdes “on your own” (I had been twice before) and another thing altogether to help facilitate this experience for pilgrims needing assistance. The sheer magnitude of the preparations undertaken by so many to coordinate such an event is staggering! How beautiful it was to see the loving care with which everything was carried out.

A pilgrimage is a journey, both interior and exterior, where we bring ourselves and all that we carry in our hearts to a holy place, seeking grace and assistance for our lives.

In following the different activities planned – beautiful Liturgies (Mass, Anointing of the Sick, the Sacrament of Reconciliation), social gatherings, an evening of Taizé music, processions, visits to the Grotto and the Baths, something begins to stir in our hearts.

This was evident especially during the water gesture experience at the Baths. Our Lady had asked Bernadette to drink and wash with the water from a spring that Bernadette discovered by scratching the ground with her hands.

This spring of water has been a source of grace for millions

of pilgrims over the years. Our group waited our turn in the long lineup to get in. I was with two women – a mother in a wheelchair accompanied by her adult daughter.

Arriving at the baths, we followed the invitation to wash with the Lourdes water and drink of it. There was a moment of intense silence after which the mother began to weep. The daughter turned to me and softly spoke of her mother’s grief at losing a young-adult son and later her husband.

I was deeply touched to have been invited into their intimacy, and I too found myself in tears. I felt Our Lady’s presence consoling them. When we left the baths we saw many other people in tears, the waters of grace apparently as abundant as the waters of the spring!

They say that Lourdes is a place of miracles, many of them small, though who can judge what is “small”? The greatest miracle that I experienced was the charity growing among us, and the sense of God’s presence at work in our midst.

It is true that there were challenges to face, problems to work out, medical complications, trips to the hospital, hard work and certainly fatigue for all of us who served. But my overwhelming impression was that the Diocese of Middlesbrough has a heart, and that this heart was beating strongly, with love and compassion.

Jeanne Guillemette

Bishop John joins Holy Communion celebrations

Bishop Emeritus John Crowley was the special visitor for First Holy Communion celebrations in the newly restored Church of St Mary's in Crathorne, North Yorkshire.

Three young parishioners, Josephine, Benjamin and Spencer, made their First Holy Communions.

It was a wonderful occasion for the parish, enhanced by the presence of Bishop John, who was staying with parish priest Monsignor Gerard Robinson for the weekend.



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	1967	Very Rev Canon Michael Deehan	Grangetown
1	1984	Rev Geoffrey Cooper	Middlesbrough
1	2020	Rev William East	Maidenhead
2	1928	Very Rev Canon Thomas O'Connell	Scarborough
2	2004	Very Rev Canon Garvan O'Hara	Whitby
2	2021	Rev Andrew Smith	Muston
3	1958	Rev Christopher McCormack	Filey
3	1986	Rev Patrick O'Hara	Pocklington
5	1927	Rev Henry O'Rourke	South Bank
5	1953	Rev Arthur Mercer	Scorton
6	2001	Rev Christopher Keating	Redcar
6	2006	Rev Edward Scales	Middlesbrough
7	1885	Very Rev Canon Joseph Molloy	Whitby
9	1898	Rev Francis Nelson	Brough Park
12	1880	Rev Thomas Middleshurst	Malton
12	2021	Mgr Seamus Kilbane	York
13	2021	Rev John Wood	Sheffield
14	2005	Rev Tom Hunter	Middlesbrough
16	2000	Rev Philip Keily	Co Tipperary
21	1900	Rev Lawrence McGonnell	Thirsk
21	1925	Rev Patrick McKernan	Malton
21	1999	Rev Gerard Smyth	Middlesbrough
21	2004	Very Rev Canon Joseph O'Mahony	Scarborough
22	1967	Rev James Cormack	Middlesbrough
23	1934	Very Rev Canon Albert Gryspeert	Redcar
27	2001	Rev Michael Boyd	Newry
28	1935	Rev Prosper Coppin	Hull
29	2014	Rev Thomas O'Connell	Scarborough
30	1979	Rt Rev Mgr John O'Mahoney CBE	Scarborough
31	1940	Rev Robert Currie	Brough Park

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STELLA MARIS

10th July is Sea Sunday.

Please pray for seafarers and support the Catholic charity ministering to them: Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea).

To donate, go to www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate

NEWS

Out and About

1 Saturday

11am Catholic women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion, including mediation, via Zoom. Email catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com with your mobile number and email address to be added to the WhatsApp group.

2 Sunday

Postgate Rally at Egton Bridge. Meet at 2.30pm for Mass at 3pm.

3 Monday

9.45-10.25am Beverley Christian Meditation Group meet online. Further information from christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com. This takes place every Monday.

4 Tuesday

10am Christian Meditation Group meets online. For further information email Terry Doyle, Terry-Doyle@live.co.uk. This takes place every Tuesday.

5 Wednesday

5.30pm Vespers and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough. This takes place every Wednesday.

7 Friday

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

8 Saturday

10am Annual CAFOD pilgrimage to Holy Island. Meet at Purdy Lodge café on the A1.

9 Sunday

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

10 Monday

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

11 Tuesday

1pm The Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meets every second Tuesday of the month, apart from August, at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Kingston Square, Hull. We gather at 12.45pm. All ladies in the Hull and East Riding area welcome. Call 01482 446565 or email jayne.wilson24@gmail.com.

12 Wednesday

7pm The Hull Circle of Catenian Association meets in Lazaat Hotel, Cottingham. Email Charles Cseh at 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 for further information.

15 Saturday

7.30pm The Eddie White Sacred Heart Irish Dance with Dermot Hegarty at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB. Contact John Brown on 07871 958412.

16 Sunday

3pm Middlesbrough Fellowship Mass at St Hedda's, Egton Bridge with Father Roger Guiver.

29 Saturday

Noon LGBT+ social gathering in the café at the Bar Convent, York. All welcome.

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

New bishop for our neighbours

Pope Francis has appointed the Rt Rev Stephen Wright as the 15th Bishop of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: "Bishop Stephen brings a wealth of diocesan pastoral experience to his new role.

"With the publication of the CSSA report, and with this appointment, the people, priests and religious of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle can look forward with hope and confidence. Please remember the new bishop in your prayers."

Bishop Stephen said: "I will be serving in an area I am not familiar with, and I am painfully aware that you have suffered hurt and shock in recent months.

"But I trust that God's grace is indeed enough for us all when we accept it into our hearts and minds, co-operate with it and serve."

Bishop Stephen, who recently became chair of CAFOD's board of trustees, will be installed at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, on Wednesday July 19.



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 July 7 for our August 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.

Friendship is key to cycling challenge success

Father Bill Serplus, parish priest of St Aelred's, York, reports on his sponsored bike ride in aid of Christian Aid...

It was a very warm day when I and ten other riders set off on an epic 113-mile charity ride around the abbeys and priories of the North York Moors.

When I went up to Guisborough Priory for the start I was met by ten very slim and obviously very fit riders. I took a deep breath and set off, slipping to the back so as not to hold people up!

Through Great Ayton, Ingleby Greenhow and the climb to Clay Bank Top was tough but Chop Gate and on to Rievaulx for the first coffee stop went fairly well.

Surely St Aelred would see me through to the next stage and the break at Fountains Abbey for food and water top-ups?

The climb out of Rievaulx drained any energy gained by the coffee stop and the next 20 miles were to prove the most difficult challenge I have ever faced for charity.

Dropping down to Bylands via the White Horse road was terrifying, with steep, tight bends and having to stay on the brakes.

However, it was the climb up to Fountains that nearly saw me call in the backup car,

throw my bike in the boot and call it a day! I have never felt so weak and drained.

The organiser and my guardian angel for the day, Nick, somehow got me to Fountains Abbey and explained I needed to take on a lot of food and drink, as this often happens to cyclists who cover a lot of miles. They simply have not taken on enough fuel on board and run out of energy.

Filled with lots of water, flapjack and bananas, I set off once again. I was like a new person and the rest of the ride was a real joy. The only incident was a flat tyre just above Pickhill.

Riding through such beautiful scenery and keeping off the main roads, it was just a case of keeping going through Northallerton onto Swainby and back to Gisborough Priory.

We completed 113.1 miles in 11 and a half hours, including stops. That might not break any records, but as a personal achievement, it felt wonderful.

And the following day or two? I felt absolutely fine, with no stiff legs or particular soreness.

Sunday Mass at St Aelred's and the Poor Clares followed by a baptism in the afternoon, were all fine.



Father Bill Serplus, second from the right, during his sponsored bike ride in aid of Christian Aid

Thank you to all the riders who supported, encouraged and helped me in so many ways, especially Nick – I could not have done it without you.

Thank you to all who have donated to Christian Aid, your generosity astounds me. The total will be about £3,500.

St Aelred of Rievaulx was certainly right when he wrote in *Spiritual Friendship*: “No medicine is more valuable, none more efficacious, none better suited to the cure of all our temporal ills than a friend to whom we may turn for consolation in time of trouble, and with whom we may share our happiness in time of joy.”

Nominations open for National Church Awards

Nominations have opened for the National Church Awards, with churches across the UK now able to enter in categories for architecture, volunteering, tourism and more.

Organisers say that with the future of many churches uncertain, there has never been a more important time to celebrate the UK's churches.

National Churches Trust chief executive Claire Walker said: “Churches are the beating hearts of communities. They contribute £55bn of economic and social good each year, bringing communities together to help them to thrive.

“We are excited to host an awards ceremony that showcases their importance, as well as the many other wonderful ways they contribute to society.”

Churches can nominate themselves at nationalchurchestrust.org/awards23.

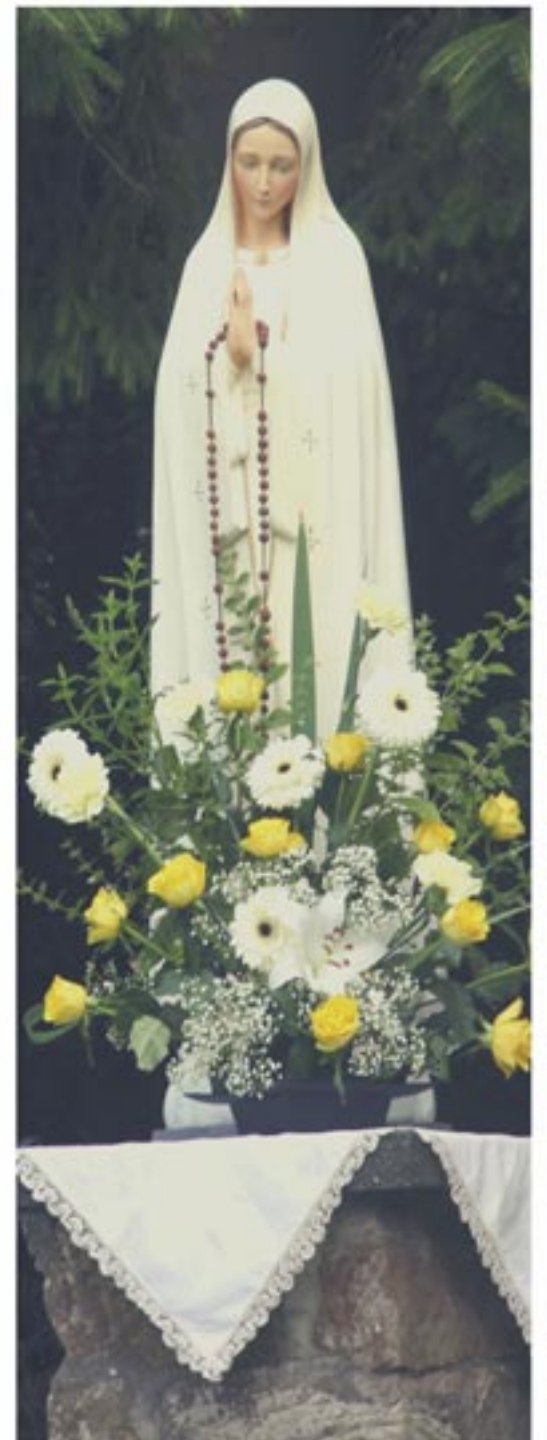
Nominations close on July 23 and the awards ceremony is at Mercer's Hall, London, on Monday November 6.

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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.

CAFOD

Storey lecture focuses on signs of hope

“Signs of hope in a troubled world” was the theme for CAFOD director Christine Allen’s Anthony Storey Memorial Lecture this year.

Here you can read the opening paragraphs, and if this whets your appetite, you can see and hear the lecture in full on the CAFOD Middlesbrough Facebook page.

It’s easy to feel overwhelmed in the face of so much that is wrong in our society.

We rarely see good news stories on our news, and yet there is so much witness and hope out there.

Perhaps we also forget we are signs of hope. As someone who deployed the mantra of build love and plant trees, Father Tony was very much a man of hope.

I want to reflect on what it means to be a sign of hope at different levels and how they are connected.

I will give some illustrations based on CAFOD’s work but do remember that the Church as a whole is a huge witness to hope.

I particularly want to reflect on the challenges Pope Francis has laid out to us in his most recent letter, *Fratelli Tutti* – brothers and sisters all – providing you with some insights from that document into what being a sign of hope might mean.

Our world is troubled. At local level we might think of crime and violence, especially towards our young people – gangs and drug cultures.

We might worry about poverty and the increasing numbers of people who struggle to get by.

My two local churches (one Catholic, one Anglican) organise food distribution. More than 300 packs of food are given out

between them every week.

At work, as part of the Caritas Network, I get updates on emergency responses and situations every day. The conflict in Sudan is very worrying, causing significant movement of people out of the conflict areas and out of the country into neighbouring countries that already face severe food crises.

Across East Africa more than 30 million people face a food crisis – in some places it is famine conditions.

The international community has really only funded about half of what is needed for the region.

The war in Ukraine continues, and colleagues in Caritas SPES provide the essentials as well as support and accommodation to people in some of the most war-torn areas.

The floods in Pakistan, the earthquake in Syria/Turkey – I could go on. You don’t need me to tell you we have a troubled world.

The underlying causes are structural – climate change, conflict, economic inequality. The way our world is structured and organised is based on a set of values that frankly are at odds with the Christian values of human dignity, of integral human development: that holistic and profoundly spiritual sense of development that Paul VI outlined in 1965’s *Populorum Progressio*.

He didn’t just talk about people having the basics, he talked about how people should be ‘artisans of their own destiny’. This, along with another idea, an ‘ethic of solidarity’ that Francis has developed further and both of which are so essential in the Christian conception of the human person.

So, in the face of all that is wrong with the world, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. To

perhaps cower in fear in a locked room like the disciples did on the first Pentecost. Whether physically hidden or mentally feeling unloved and unworthy, it is an easy place to be.

CAFOD has ‘hope’ as one of our values, that guides our work and informs our strategic framework. This is what we say about it:

Hope transforms despair, feeds love and fuels our work. We are profoundly hopeful, inspired by Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and the resourcefulness and strength of our supporters, volunteers, local partners and the people and communities we seek to serve. Hope joins us in confidence with others to act for the common good.

Inspired by Scripture, CST and the community we are a part of – there is much in that community to give us hope!

The people who raise money for us. Our volunteers. Our partners. You will know the people who inspire you – many of you are those people. Whether it’s food banks or local Caritas agencies around the world, as a Church we are bringing that hope, in buckets.

But for us as Christians this is something more than us just doing nice things – as important as they are. Don’t forget that Pope Francis reminded us that ‘no act of love however small, is without meaning’!

We are witnessing a different understanding of the human person as our brother and sister, as us all being siblings. For us, we are obeying the imperative of Christ to be as love to one another.

Pope Francis was at the recent Caritas Internationalis General Assembly and said:

‘There is no better way to show God that we understand the meaning of the Eucharist than by giving to others what we ourselves have received when, in response to Christ’s love, we make ourselves a gift for others.’

He reminded us we aren’t just another set of NGOs, we are Church. We are witnesses, we are the embodiment of love. It’s not just heroic service or activism. It’s not narrow interests, it’s love. Love is what makes us ‘to be.’

When we embrace God’s love, and love as God loves, and remain in God’s love, we understand the meaning of our own lives. We find life only when we give it away. We find our own life important, when we recognise how totally precious is the life of every other.

Love opens our eyes and enables us to recognise that the neighbour in need is my sibling, with a name, a story, a drama, unique and never to be duplicated. Yes, our sibling neighbour’s needs question us, disturb us and challenge us to respond. As they should! For this is Christ questioning, disturbing and

challenging us. And God’s love gives us the strength to respond.

These were the words that Cardinal Czerny reminded us, words Pope Francis had talked about. Being a sign of hope in the world is all about love, and how we show that love, which is easy to say but much, much harder to do in practice.

In our world, self-interest and indifference are not only tolerated but justified and indeed imposed. Solidarity is sidelined as optional, the common good reduced to an abstraction, and people deprived of their proper hope.

So, our expressions of love, our practice of solidarity and the common good is a counter-cultural witness to hope.



CAFOD director Christine Allen meets Pope Francis



Photo by CAFOD/Carol Cross

Bishop Terry is seen here signing Salina’s letter to the World Bank that we are asking parishioners to sign over the summer.

Resources are available from the CAFOD shop, including a short talk and an A2-sized copy of the letter.

We hope you will sign it and show our solidarity with Salina and all farmers who are fighting to be able to choose the seeds they grow, while being threatened with legal action by multinational corporations.

Environment Corner - Mighty river is Season of Creation symbol

“Let justice and peace flow” is the theme chosen for Season of Creation 2023, the celebration we hold each year from September 1 – World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation – to October 4, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

The theme is taken from the Prophet Amos: “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5:24)

We are called to join the river of justice and peace in whatever way we can – and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

A mighty river is the symbol chosen to go with this theme, representing biodiversity at risk.

When we join the river of justice and peace together with others, it creates hope instead of despair. A mighty river can move mountains!

Our individual actions during the Season of Creation are important. Celebrating creation during our liturgies, focusing on Care for our Common Home, including those affected by climate change in our bidding prayers, participating in cleanups, planting trees and any activities that reduce our carbon footprint are important and can be a means of fostering community and having fun!

As the Season of Creation begins at the start of the school year, it can be good to begin planning activities now. Children and young people are particularly focused on caring

for the planet and enjoy the challenge.

The focus of last month’s World Environment Day was on plastic pollution. There is an excellent presentation on the issue of plastics on worldenvironmentday.global.

There are resources on the Season of Creation website at seasonofcreation.org and the Journey to 2030 website, journeyto2030.org.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead

Barbara Hungin

Can you help Sharon in her new CAFOD role?

My name is Sharon Matthews and I've recently started a new role as CAFOD's local education coordinator for the Diocese of Middlesbrough, working alongside Carol Cross, who now focuses on parishes.

Having enjoyed working as a primary school teacher in the Diocese of Hallam for 25 years and as RE coordinator for the last five years, I'm now delighted to be part of the CAFOD team.

For those who aren't familiar, CAFOD is the official overseas aid agency of the Catholic

Church in England and Wales, reaching out to people who live in poverty, so that every woman, man and child can live a full and dignified life.

CAFOD provides our schools with resources and sessions that are delivered by our school volunteer visitors.

As an RE coordinator, I very much valued CAFOD's visits – their mission and values were integral to our school.

Our school volunteer, Rita, was a regular

visitor. The children knew her and what she represented, and they looked forward to her visits.

It is here that I ask for your support, as we are in need of a few more visitors in this diocese.

Could you be a CAFOD schools volunteer, to help children and older pupils learn about our work?

Could you help your local school deliver assemblies and/or workshops that encourage

young people to put faith into action to help others?

It would only require a few hours of your time each term and you would be assisting your local community to work together for the common good.

No experience is necessary and full support and training will be given.

For more information, please email me at smatthews@cafod.org.uk or call me on 07748 514641.

Inter-faith walk will chart pathway to peace

Earlier this year, United Nations secretary general António Guterres posted this message on the countdown to the International Day of Peace (Thursday September 21)...

"Our world needs peace – now more than ever. Yet conflict, rising inequalities, persistent injustices, humanity's war on nature and a global financial system that is outdated, dysfunctional and unfair, are blocking the path to peace.

"This year's International Day of Peace will focus on Actions for Peace and how sustainable development goals are essential to preventing conflict and maintaining peace.

"Together, let us take action now to build a more inclusive, sustainable and peaceful world for all."

In last month's *Voice* we reflected on the words of Pope Francis and Bishop Terry about

working with other faiths in the pursuit of peace.

The inaugural Inter-Faith Peace Walk will take place in Middlesbrough two days after the International Day of Peace, on Saturday September 23.

It will begin in North Ormesby at 10am, visiting local places of worship before moving on to other places of worship in the centre of the town.

The full programme will be published in August's *Voice*.

Please join us as a participant or observer for a very special day, celebrating faith and community in Middlesbrough.

For more information please contact me on 01642 700075 or email jnhinman@gmail.com.

John Hinman

Whist evening helps Edna and friends stay young

Catholic author Edna Hunneysett and her husband, Ray, have set up a whist evening in Middlesbrough for players aged from 18 to 80-plus, including many who live alone.

Edna recently returned to live in the Holy Name Parish, where she was first commissioned as a Minister of the Eucharist more than 40 years ago when Father Jim Walsh was parish priest.

She has also served as a Minister of the Eucharist and a Minister of the Word at St Francis, Acklam, St Anne's, Ugthorpe, and St Alphonsus, North Ormesby.

"My husband and I set up the whist evening around 21 months ago, as Covid was subsiding," said Edna.

"We struggled to get eight players at first – we now have more than 16 regular players, half of whom live alone. It's a community-spirited endeavour, bringing people together.

"Playing whist is good mentally and stimulates the brain, especially for us older players. Our latest enquirers are a Japanese lady and an American lady, both beginners." Players meet on the first and third Friday evenings of the month at Linthorpe Community Centre, Middlesbrough, and there are also practice sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Edna, whose work sometimes explores mental health issues, is in the running for an



Catholic author Edna Hunneysett, who has started a whist evening with her husband, Ray

award for her semi-autobiographical book, *Greener Horizons*.

Readers can vote for her by sending a postcard to the Book Dragon book shop, 6 West Row, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1BT, including a very short paragraph on what they enjoyed about the book.

Call Edna on 01642 813277 for more details of the whist drive. To find out more about her books, go to YouTube and enter her name in the search bar.



From the Archives



40 Years Ago

(From July 1983 *Catholic Voice*)

A group of generous young people spent a very wet but beneficial day on 22nd May taking part in the Cleveland Fun Run. Michael Fox, 13, from Greenlands Road, Redcar, said that "Despite the rain and hailstone half an hour before the start, I think the run was a success". He ran with his brother Ian from start to finish without stopping, and completed the course in 1 hour 47 minutes. He said there was great crowd encouragement all the way.

103 Years Ago

(From the Log Book of Sacred Heart Elementary School, Redcar)

July 21st 1920. Miss M. Duffy 11 yrs & Miss J. Grierson have just received word of the award of 5 yrs free places tenable at Newlands Secondary School Middlesbro'.

July 26th 1920. Master J. Smallwood & Master E. McClean (10 yrs) have been awarded free places at the Marist College, Linthorpe.

[John Smallwood was my dad, John Reginald Smallwood; E McClean was Edward Alphonsus McClean, later head of Selfridges in London and an elder brother of the future Bishop McClean. Does anyone know who Misses M Duffy and J Grierson were? Email archives@rcdmidd.org.uk.]

David Smallwood

NEWS

Priests celebrate special jubilees in Lourdes

A special celebration took place in Lourdes to mark the jubilees of three of our diocesan priests.

Father Peter Keeling was celebrating 60 years since his ordination, while Monsignor Ricardo Morgan and Father Pat Keogh reached their golden jubilees.

Bishop Terry gave a short speech, saying: “Many, many congratulations and may the Lord reward you in the way only he knows how.”

Father Peter responded: “On behalf of all the jubilarians, thank you for your customary generosity to us all.

“It’s been a pleasure working for 60 years in the diocese. There have been many more ups than downs and it’s been a very supportive experience, but it’s you who keep us going.

We all have great love for the parishes and the people in them and we thank you all for everything that you do to support us and to spread the faith.”

Also celebrating half a century of priesthood this year is Father Tom O’Neill, who was ordained the same day as Father Keogh.



Bishop Terry watches as Father Peter Keeling and Father Pat Keogh cut their celebratory cake



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