



Bishop's Column

As the month of August begins, a group of around 30 young adults will travel to Lisbon to join World Youth Day (WYD).

The journey begins on July 31 and they will return on August 7. Together with hundreds of thousands – probably millions – of young people throughout the world they will join together with Pope Francis.

For this year's WYD's motto, Pope Francis has chosen a passage from Luke's Gospel: "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39), which opens the account of the Visitation, when Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth following the angel's announcement to the Blessed Mother that she would be the mother of the Son of God.



Pope Francis at World Youth Day in Panama – Photo by Cathopic

The Holy Father will arrive in Lisbon on Wednesday August 2. The next day he will attend a welcome ceremony for all those taking part in WYD. On Friday, in the evening, he will preside at Stations of the Cross with all the participants. He will join all the young people on Saturday at 8.45pm to begin the Vigil. The young people will spend the night at the Tejo Park in preparation for the Mass at 9am on Sunday morning.

Each day there will be catechesis in various languages for the young people around the theme of WYD this year. Our own group will have the opportunity to visit Fatima on Tuesday August 1.

It will be my personal joy to be able to accompany our group of young people throughout the whole week. Please keep us all in your prayers and I am sure you will read more about this wonderful event in next month's *Voice*.

+ Long

In blessed hope

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Hundreds gather to honour Martyr of the Moors

Around 500 people gathered in the open air to honour Blessed Nicholas Postgate and the martyrs of England and Wales at this year's Postgate Rally at Egton Bridge.

The figure was more than twice last year's congregation, with pilgrims travelling from all corners of the diocese, as well as from the local villages, on a blustery but sunny day.

Scarborough, York, Hull, Driffield and Middlesbrough were all represented, and Father William Massie organised a coach from Our Lady of Lourdes and St Peter Chanel Parish, Hull.

Bishop Terry was the preacher and principal celebrant at the Mass, assisted by the Abbot of Ampleforth the Rt Rev Robert Igo OSB and a large number of priests and deacons.

After Mass, queues formed for a special blessing with a relic of Blessed Nicholas.

Many families remained in the field to enjoy picnics afterwards, while others went to St Hedda's school for tea and cakes.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to plan the rally so we can continue to honour those who kept the faith alive during such a dark period in our nation's history.

Blessed Nicholas Postgate, known as the Martyr of the Moors, and whose home was in Egton Bridge, lived from 1596 to 1679, when he was executed at York as part of the anti-Catholic persecution in England.

He is one of the 85 martyrs of England and Wales who were beatified by Pope St John



Bishop Terry was the principal celebrant at the Postgate Rally, which saw around 500 people gather at Egton Bridge – Photo by Benedict McGeary

Paul II in November 1987.

Next year's rally, which will be in Ugthorpe,

will mark the 50th anniversary of this special event in our annual diocesan calendar.

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NEWS

Introducing our new candidate for the priesthood

We are delighted to report we will have a candidate for the priesthood at the Royal English College of St Alban in Valladolid, Spain next year, where he will undertake a course known as the propaedeutic year. He is Chris Carling, from Yarm, and this is his story so far...

One of the happiest and most transformative days of my life took place a few years ago, my reception into the Catholic Church.

I grew up in the Church of England and while I will be forever grateful for my Anglican past, it wasn't until I moved to London as a student that I came to know Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I was struck by his real and loving presence in the Eucharist, body and blood, soul and divinity. I started going to Mass and adoration, and for the first time in my life, I knew what friendship with the Lord meant.

It is the joy of my life to be a member of the Catholic Church. I have come to know Mary, our Mother, and the power of her loving intercession. I have developed a fond devotion to the saints, especially Joseph, Andrew and Nicodemus.

I enjoy meditating on the history of the Church, especially the lives of saints like Hilda and Wilfrid and martyrs such as Alban and Margaret Clitherow. I am also endlessly inspired by the devotion and fidelity of the many Catholics I have been fortunate to meet.

I attribute this call to enter seminary first and foremost to our Blessed Mother, Mary, but also to the powerful intercession of Blessed Nicholas Postgate. In July 2021, I was on pilgrimage to Walsingham. As I prayed before the tabernacle in Dowry House on my final night, it came to me that the Lord was asking me to consider becoming a priest, in this Diocese of Middlesbrough, the place I call home and where I had lived for the first 19 years of my life.

This was the first time I had felt called to the priesthood since becoming Catholic. It is a call that has taken root and grown. Only recently, I discovered that on the same weekend

as my pilgrimage to Walsingham, this diocese had come together for the Postgate Rally. I don't believe this is a coincidence but an affirmation that this call is truly thanks to your prayers to Blessed Nicholas. Thank you.

As I have learned more about the history of Catholicism in the area that makes up this diocese today, I have been struck by God's faithfulness. It is such a beautiful story of salvation. Nonetheless, the Church of the third millennium will inevitably look different to what has come before. We are being moulded into something new.

This is happening in a challenging context. We may not face violent persecution as Blessed Nicholas did, but Christianity is being challenged again. A secular ideology is taking root, not only in our diocese or even our country, but across the Western world. This ideology may be powerful, but as I reflect on the future of the Church, and my place in it, I am not afraid. I take such comfort from Jesus' words to his disciples as he calms a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Our Lord says: "Why are you frightened, you men of little faith?" It is only by God's grace that salvation came to us, and it will only be by God's grace that the Church will persevere in this storm.

This does not mean that we are to be inactive or even complacent in our faith. We are each called in different ways to share the Good News. I believe that in his mercy and love, God has asked me to begin training for the diocesan priesthood. If it pleases God, priesthood may in time be how I am called to take part in this shared mission. People across our society are crying out for God. God longs for them to know him and to nourish them in word and sacrament. I know from my own life the power of such heavenly food.

We live in a world where the dignity and value of the human person is ever more diminished. The Church is called to respond, to show people they matter. God cares deeply about them as do we in the Church. No one is to be excluded. Ours is an inclusive, welcoming, gentle message of love. A message that the saints preached and that is needed as much now as it was then. The beauty of Christian truth has transformed my



Chris Carling pictured at Walsingham

life and I am excited to join with you in this mission to share the Gospel.

I look forward to meeting you and people from across the diocese in the months and years to come. I am so grateful to God and to the diocese for this opportunity to enter the seminary. I will pray for you every day as I embark on this journey, and I ask that you spare a prayer for me.

- We also have four men in training to become permanent deacons. They are Rob Colombari, James Nevison, Tom Rolfe and Mark Dias. We hope to tell you more about each of them in the months to come.

Religious continue the synodal journey

The religious of the diocese met together for the fourth time since we began our synodal journey.

This time we gathered at the Bar Convent in York, at the kind invitation of Sister Ann Stafford CJ and community.

The resident sisters of the Congregation of Jesus, the Carmelite nuns of Thicket, the Corpus Christi Carmelite Sisters, the Benedictines of Ampleforth and Stanbrook, the Sisters of Mercy and the Daughters of Divine Love were all represented.

We had some excellent input from Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ who, by the marvels of modern technology, joined us live from Oscott College to speak about the synthesis of synod responses from religious congregations worldwide. We were encouraged that many of the same themes and concerns were raised around the globe and it seemed that something is emerging from the synod process that is truly the work of the Holy Spirit.

It was a joy to celebrate Mass together in the

Bar Convent chapel on the feast of the English Martyrs, mindful of its recusant history and also the presence of St Margaret Clitherow's relic.

After a buffet lunch and the opportunity for further sharing on the theme of the synod, we enjoyed a talk from Dr Hannah Thomas, the Bar Convent archivist, on the history of the building and some recent exciting discoveries – including evidence that the priest's hole in the chapel, previously thought to have been installed when the chapel was built in the 18th century, may in fact be Elizabethan.

The Bar Convent has had a resident religious community for over 330 years, making it the UK's oldest working convent.

We were given a tour of the wonderful heritage centre, which is well worth a visit to learn more about the reformation era and its martyrs, recusant Catholicism, the history of the Bar Convent itself, the life and charism of Mary Ward and the Congregation of Jesus, which she founded.

These meetings have helped our diocese's different religious congregations to get to know each other better and are always a source of mutual support. We are grateful to the Bar Convent community for giving us the space to meet and the opportunity to learn more about them and their home.

Sister Thérèse Wilkinson OCD

We apologise for the delay in publishing this article. This was because of an email issue that has now been resolved. If you have sent anything to the Voice that has not been used, please contact catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk.



Religious from our diocese gathered at the Bar Convent in York for their latest synod discussions

**BISHOP TERRY'S
AUGUST
ENGAGEMENTS**

1-7

Attends World Youth Day in Lisbon

13

Attends Annual Diocesan Assumption Pilgrimage at the Lady Chapel, Osmotherley 3pm

Lourdes family mourns loss of leader Mike

St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough was full to bursting point for the funeral of former executive director of our Lourdes Pilgrimage, Mike Boyes KSG.

Canon Paul Farrer was the principal celebrant, alongside Bishop Terry and priests from across the diocese, as well as Canon Turnham, who returned from the Diocese of Northampton for the service.

Mike, who would have turned 78 on July 28, passed away peacefully at home in the early hours of June 21, surrounded by his family, after a long illness.

The eldest of the four sons of long-time pilgrimage doctor Bill Boyes and his wife, Barbara, Mike first went to Lourdes in 1980 with his young son, Michael, who had a serious heart condition.

After 17 years as a brancardier, he became the first executive director, a job he did with distinction for 23 years before becoming a brancardier again.

His tireless work enabled thousands of people to go to Lourdes and led to his being appointed a Knight of St Gregory by the Pope in 2013.

As a young man, Mike worked with the Voluntary Service Overseas in Malawi before graduating in Law at the London School of Economics.

He was a successful solicitor, becoming senior partner at Goodswens in Redcar, but he still found time to devote to countless good causes.

For 19 years he was a governor of Newlands School FCJ, 11 as chair, he was on the management committee of Marske Cheshire Home for 18 years and was in the Catenian Association for more than 50 years, as well as being an active parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes in Saltburn, where he was a Eucharistic Minister.

In his homily, Canon Paul said: "All Mike's energy and enthusiasm, his gifts and talents, his health, his days, his love, care, concern

and passion are not used up, they have all been gifted by him to God and his people.

"Mike has worked for the common good, he has lived the Good News as far as he was able, he has been an agent of peace in his days, and he has been a witness to God's love."

Mike's daughter-in-law Angela delivered the reading and daughters Andrea and Hannah read the bidding prayers.

Reflections were given by his wife, Liz, their eldest daughter, Ali, and his brothers, Timothy and Dominic.

Liz said: "We are totally overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and respect in the many cards, texts and messages we have received.

"Mike accepted his death calmly and without anger, always trusting in those caring for him. All those candles, Masses and prayers, including all the Lourdes pilgrimage input, were certainly recognised."

"Mike was a larger-than-life character who loved life and all that it offered him – family, faith, friendship, music, sport, his career in law, but perhaps above all, laughter and fun," said Timothy.

"The experience of growing up with Mike and my other two brothers, David and Dominic, counts as one of the great blessings of my life."

Dom added: "His life was built on love, faith, hope and charity and he left the world better than it was when he was born in 1945.

"His greatest legacy is the love he gave to his family and the love he received from them was immense. He was so proud of every one of them.

"Many people have sent beautiful messages of support and sympathy, with so many positive comments about him being such a gentleman, an intelligent man, always kind and genuine. He worked hard, prayed hard and played hard. He used his skills for the benefit of others."



Mike enjoying a well-earned pint in Les Brancardiers bar



Mike in familiar pose, making announcements at one of our Lourdes services

Mike, who was predeceased by his son, Michael, and brother, David, leaves behind wife Liz, their four children, and 14 grandchildren.

*St Bernadette, pray for him.
Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for him.*

Could you support Mary's Meals' mission this summer?

International school feeding charity Mary's Meals is encouraging people to support its important work in countries such as Madagascar this summer.

The charity named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, provides a daily school meal to more than 2.4m hungry children in 18 of the world's poorest countries.

The promise of food attracts desperately hungry children into the classroom where they can gain an education and hope for a brighter future.

Mary's Meals has been serving school meals in Madagascar since 2019. Hunger and poverty affect millions of people living on the African island, with many communities struggling to find enough food to eat. Natural disasters over the years, including cyclones, floods and drought, have worsened the situation.

Pupils at Ambatolahy Primary School depend on the daily food they receive from Mary's Meals, which has attracted more children to attend class. Since the charity started serving meals at the school in 2019, the enrolment rate has increased and exam results have improved.

Nicholas, a pupil at the school, is one of 88,569 children receiving Mary's Meals in Madagascar.

The 11-year-old says: "Mary's Meals reduces my hunger because I'm always very full when I eat at school. Now we have lunch at school, we can have class in the afternoon, as well as in the morning.

"When I'm not hungry at school I can concentrate more, and I get a good mark!"

By donating their time, money, skills or prayers, people can help Mary's Meals reach more children like Nicholas.

A special way to support the charity's work this summer is by setting up a monthly Direct Debit.

Until September 29, anyone setting up a regular gift to Mary's Meals will have their first three donations tripled, thanks to a group of generous donors who have made funds available up to £150,000. This means donations will feed even more hungry children.

The certainty of regular gifts gives Mary's Meals the confidence to plan for the future, while keeping its promise to the millions of little ones it serves with a nutritious meal every school day.

It costs just £19.15 to feed a hungry child for an entire school year with Mary's Meals.

Fran Lawson, Mary's Meals supporter engagement officer for the North of England, says: "It is only through the little acts of love that people do for Mary's Meals that we can reach more than 2.4m little ones with the promise of a daily meal in school, giving them hope for the future.

"There are many ways people can support our work this summer, either by joining us in asking for God's continued blessings on our work, volunteering, or giving their support, if they can, through our regular giving campaign.

"Until September 29, the kindness of new regular givers will go three times as far – meaning your donation can feed even more hungry children with Mary's Meals."

To find out more about Mary's Meals, or to set up a regular gift, visit marysmeals.org.uk/tripled.

Mary's Meals is keen to build a network of church representatives across the country to raise awareness and grow support for its mission so it can reach more hungry children.

If you can help by volunteering as a Mary's Meals representative in your local parish, please email Fran Lawson at fran.lawson@marysmeals.org



Nicholas now has a full stomach in school and can concentrate in class

SCHOOLS

Seven schools united in Adoration

The St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust chaplaincy team and Father Richard Marsden celebrated the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in all seven of Hull's Catholic primary schools on the same day.

They began at St Thomas More VC Academy at 9am, finishing with St Richard's at 2.40pm.

Seven schools, 1,700 children, one priest, one chaplaincy team and one car ("The Monstrance-mobile") in just one day!

It was a remarkable day and the reverence shown by every child was inspiring. We sang, we prayed, we listened and we were silent.

Micki Coyle, Chaplain



Father Richard Marsden in one of the seven Hull schools where he celebrated Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Fatima statue welcomed in York

St Aelred's Parish in York was privileged and delighted to welcome the Fatima Visitation Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

On Friday, children at St Aelred's Primary School were given the wonderful opportunity to see the statue and take part in a liturgy of prayer and reflection led by Father Bill Serplus.

Custodian of the statue Patrick Cunningham, from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, gave a short history.

Saturday began with Exposition and the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary led by Chris Kelly and Barbara Cookson.

This was followed by the procession of the statue, carried by Anne and Dave Rochester, and then came the blessing of the statue and the crowning with flowers.

Members of the Carmelite Monastery from Thicket Priory carried the relics of Jacinta and Francisco. We were delighted they could join us.

Parishioners could then venerate the statue and relics and bring petitions to Our Lady of Fatima. The Angelus brought us together at noon.

After lunch, there was a screening of the film, *Fatima – The Ultimate Mystery*. We were delighted to welcome Deacon Andrew Philips, spiritual advisor to the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) for the Diocese of Leeds. Patrick and Andrew gave a brief history of the Fatima Message.

We then had Divine Mercy and enrolment and investiture of the brown scapula for the people who wanted to follow the pledge to Our Lady of Fatima.



Altar boys Patrik and Alex ready for the procession with the Fatima Visitation Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

After the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses, Patrick gave a brief talk and consecration for the people who could not be present earlier.

The day concluded with the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary led by John Carroll, who had helped organise the visit with Father Bill.

We extend our grateful thanks to Patrick for bringing the statue and giving us the opportunity to learn more about WAF and enabling us to buy books and leaflets.

May the blessings and graces from this visit be many for our parish, diocese and the world.

A big thank you to all who helped to make this such a wonderful occasion.

Kath Stubbs



Father Bill Serplus blesses the Fatima Visitation Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Pope declared fit for World Youth Day trip

Pope Francis will join a group from our diocese in Portugal for World Youth Day (WYD) after being given the all-clear by his doctors.

Bishop Terry, Father Phil Cunnah and Father Richard Marsden are taking 29 young people aged from 18 to their mid-30s for the five-day event that begins on August 2.

Started by Pope St John Paul II in 1985, WYD takes place in different cities around the world, usually every three years.

Groups of young people from our diocese have attended events in Brazil, Poland and Panama City, along with groups from every continent.

This has been possible thanks to the generosity of local benefactors and parishes.

In his video message to young people who will take part or follow WYD, saying: "Some think that because of illness, I cannot go, but the doctor told me I can, so I will be with you. Come on, young people!"

Showing the grey backpack with the kit that will be distributed to the pilgrims, he said: "I am ready! I already have everything. I can't wait to go!"

Pope Francis has been experiencing some discomfort after his recent laparotomy operation, but he was keen to reassure participants of his presence at the event.

Showing the grey backpack with the kit that will be distributed to the pilgrims, he says: "I am ready! I already have everything. I can't wait to go!"

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GOLD **MENTAL HEALTH**

Schools and parishes unite for first Postgate Sunday

Pupils, staff and families came together to celebrate Mass on the very first Postgate Sunday, an annual celebration of their trust's close bond with Blessed Nicholas Postgate.

Across Teesside and North Yorkshire, Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust schools commemorated our patron's devotion to Christ, dedication to the faith and martyrdom, with pupils ministering in various ways within Masses.

St Wilfrid's Primary School in York sparked curiosity with a white sheet hung over bushes to emulate the secret signal used by Father Postgate's parishioners to tell fellow Catholics he would say Mass in that household.

Social media has been filled with photos of Postgate Sunday, with families, governors and parishioners commenting on how wonderful it was to see families at Mass and taking a visible role in ministering.

Postgate Sunday coincided with the annual diocesan Postgate Rally, where pupils from St Hedda's Catholic Primary School, Egton Bridge, read bidding prayers.

The day was inspired by this year's NPCAT liturgical theme, "Guided by our patron".

Rochelle Nestor, trust strategic lead for primary Catholic standards, said All Saints in York becoming NPCAT's 38th school made this year the ideal time for the liturgical theme.

"The idea for Postgate Sunday was for children to attend a family Mass in their uniform and take a prominent role in the service," Mrs Nestor said.

"As schools we have a role in evangelising not only to our children but to their families, as well. We're not just relying on the old ways of doing things and are trying new initiatives to get our children and our families into church.

"That's the idea behind Postgate Sunday, an invitation for families to come into our parishes alongside their children."

Postgate Sunday is just one way the liturgical theme is being marked throughout the year.

Schools have been given a biography of Blessed Nicholas and there's a new Nicholas Postgate prayer written specifically with children in mind. Musician Joe Hammill is writing a trust anthem based on Nicholas Postgate's life, using words from the Postgate Hymn that was written by the martyr himself.

Trust CEO Hugh Hegarty, who attended the Postgate Sunday at the Holy Name in Middlesbrough along with children from St Edward's and Trinity Catholic College, said the day was a tremendous success.

"It was wonderful for our parish communities to celebrate Mass with our beautiful children," he said.

"There's a constant threat to faith schools in

today's ever more secular world. Blessed Nicholas Postgate professed the faith and engaged with people across North Yorkshire when it was so challenging to do so.

"While our challenges are significantly different, they are still there and we have to follow his example by being proud to live out our faith, both in school and in our engagement with the wider parish community."



Pupils from St Gerard's and Augustine's at St Mary's Cathedral



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Want to join the NPCAT family and work with us in forming lives ready to face the future?

Our new **NPCAT Recruit** social media account is now live! To be the first to hear about vacancies right across our trust's 27 schools and central team, follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

NEWS



Bishop Terry celebrated Mass at St Peter's Parish, Scarborough, to mark the church's 165th anniversary. The church was built in 1858 and consecrated on July 2 1908 – Photo by Aiden Clarke

Diocesan Choir joins birthday celebrations

Members of the Diocesan Choir headed to the seaside to celebrate the end of the academic year and continue the 165th anniversary celebrations of St Peter's Church, Scarborough, by singing sung evening prayer.

Members of the choir are drawn from all parts of the diocese and sing at major diocesan services at the cathedral such as the Rite of Election and the Chrism Mass. They rehearse monthly in York.

This service was the first time since the pandemic that the choir has sung at a service other than at the cathedral.

Diocesan director of music Steven Maxson, who directs the choir, said: "Members of the choir come from all parts of the diocese, but

usually sing at the cathedral.

"It was good that we could take some of our members to sing in Scarborough, not least to be able to join with the clergy and congregation in celebrating the anniversary of the beautiful St Peter's Church."

Choir members were warmly welcomed by Canon Gubbins and by Deacon Paul Griffin, who presided over evening prayer, which was followed by the congregation and choir enjoying tea and cakes in the parish rooms.

The choir is always looking for new members, and rehearses monthly in York, restarting in September.

To find out more, email Steven at musicdept@rcdmidd.org.uk.



The Diocesan Choir in Scarborough, with Deacon Paul Griffin back left and Steve Maxson back right



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Two couples from St Mary and St Joseph, Pocklington, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversaries and renewed their marriage vows at the evening Mass for the Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul. They are, from left to right, Frank and Anne Challoner and Rowan and Robert Blake James. Many congratulations to them and the four generations of their families. It was wonderful for us all to witness the double celebration and quite a coincidence that they all live in the same parish. Both couples received kind messages from King Charles III.

Children lead singing at feast day Mass



Diocesan choral director Andrea Maxson with children at St Mary's Cathedral

Pupils from St Augustine's and St Gerard's primary schools in Middlesbrough are no strangers to St Mary's Cathedral, regularly attending family and holy day Masses and marking important moments of the school and liturgical year there.

However, the morning Mass on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul was a little special. The children of the two schools joined to form a choir of about 300 to lead the rest of the congregation in the musical parts of the Mass.

As well as leading the four hymns, including two specifically for the feast, they sang the Mass Ordinary to the Lourdes setting, the responsorial psalm, gospel acclamation and even sang a motet during the distribution of communion, *I Am the Bread of Life*.

Diocesan director of music Steven Maxson said: "It is always wonderful to hear children

singing, particularly so in our churches and in the cathedral.

"What was particularly wonderful on this occasion, though, was that this was whole year groups singing, including every child, having learnt the music as part of the National Schools Singing Programme in their schools.

"There was no rehearsal on the day, all the work had been done in the schools in advance with our diocesan choral director, Andrea Maxson."

The National Schools Singing Programme is an initiative building upon the successful singing programme in our neighbouring Diocese of Leeds. It is now either in operation or soon will be in every diocese across England and Wales, courtesy of generous seed funding from the Hamish Ogston Foundation.

Within our diocese, around 1,300 primary school children every week receive sessions based on singing from diocesan music staff.

The sessions cover a very wide repertoire, both sacred and secular, singing music composed 1,000 years ago, and music composed this year from around the world. Through singing they are taught elements of music and musical notation, as well as performing skills.

The sessions cover most of the National

Curriculum for Music and much of the government's new National Plan for Music Education.

The hope is to expand the programme, sustainably, across the diocese in the coming years, according to demand.

Expressions of interest from schools wishing to join the programme as it expands, or to find out more, are warmly welcomed.

To find out more, contact Steven by emailing musicdept@rcdmidd.org.uk.



Some of our diocesan priests are pictured at their final evening meal with the monks of Ampleforth Abbey, where this year's clergy retreat took place, led by Bishop Terry. Our priests enjoyed excellent weather, warm hospitality from the community and inspiring input from Abbot Robert Igo OSB.



Come and join us on retreat this September



Individually Guided Retreat
Led by Ignatian Spirituality Centre Glasgow and Minsteracres Teams
£650 Friday 1st – Friday 8th September

This retreat is held in silence and will be led by members of the Ignatian Spirituality Centre from Glasgow in collaboration with the Minsteracres Team. Opportunities for reflection, spiritual direction and spiritual accompaniment are available throughout the retreat.

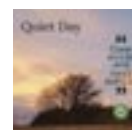
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Walking Retreat
£15 Saturday 9th September 10am-5pm

Walk through the beautiful countryside around Minsteracres for about seven to ten miles, making time for prayer and reflection, whilst absorbing the beautiful creation all around us. You will need suitable walking boots, warm, weatherproof clothing and a packed lunch.

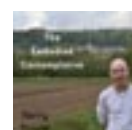
To book please visit <https://minsteracres.org/product/walking-retreat-9th-september-copy/>



Quiet Day
Minsteracres Team
£30 Thursday 14th September-10am-4pm

An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in Scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside here at Minsteracres. Lunch and refreshments included.

To book please visit <https://minsteracres.org/product/quiet-day-14th-september-retreat/>.



The Embodied Contemplative
Terry Doyle
£190 Friday 15th - Sunday 17th September

The Embodied Contemplative Retreat will explore finding inner stillness and peace through the practice of both Christian Meditation and gentle Tai Chi movement and breath work. It is suitable for all ages and abilities. Come with a beginner's mind and enjoy learning!

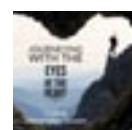
To book please visit <https://minsteracres.org/product/the-embodied-contemplative-retreat-with-terry-doyle/>



Who Was Mary, the Mother of Jesus? Come and See!
Fr Louis Maggiore
£190 Wednesday 20th-Friday 22nd September

We welcome Fr Louis in facilitating our Marian Retreat which explores the life, and Divine Motherhood of Mary. Adopting Franciscan perspectives on Mary, Fr Louis takes us on a journey which introduces us to the many dimensions of Mary as woman, mother and intercessor.

To book please visit <https://minsteracres.org/product/who-was-mary-mother-jesus-retreat/>



Journeying with the Eyes of the Heart
Celine Alexander-Brown
£190 Friday 22nd -Sunday 24th September

Over many years a secret has gradually been revealed to me that God can be found in various circumstances and situations in life. Sometimes God is found in darkness and suffering but also through beauty and creativity and when we discover joy, in the silence of our hearts. On this retreat, we will explore God's revelation of beauty, through the media of photography, creative writing, Scripture and prayer.

To book please visit <https://minsteracres.org/product/journeying-eyes-heart-residential-retreat/>

For information and bookings visit www.minsteracres.org,
Phone: 01434 673248 Email: info@minsteracres.org
Minsteracres Retreat Centre, nr. Consett, County Durham, DH8 9RT

NEWS

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE



Bishop Terry blesses the congregation at our opening Mass in the Rosary Basilica – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes



Middlesbrough brancardiers carrying the statue of Our Lady – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes



Preparing to start the Torchlight Marian Procession – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes



Some of our youngest pilgrims present gifts to Bishop Terry – Photo by Gerry Quinn



Trinity Catholic College pupils – Photo courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes



Young people before our Mass in the St Pius X Underground Basilica – Photo by Gerry Quinn

E 2023



Canon John Loughlin, Father Richard Marsden and Father James Benfield – Photo by Michael McGeary



Canon Michael Loughlin with two younger pilgrims – Photo by Brian Gleeson



Dom Pat Hartnett enjoying a cup of tea with one of the supported pilgrims – Photo by Naomi Bedworth



Dom Jones and Dawn Conway join in the singing – Photo by Naomi Bedworth



Our new head brancardier Chris Corcoran – Photo by Michael McGeary



Handmaids with our handmaids' banner – Photo by Gerry Quinn

LOURDES

Bishop appoints new team leaders

As you may be aware, Chris Tillotson, Tony Kirk and Tony Walton are now stepping back from their roles as head handmaid, head brancardier and deputy head brancardier. On behalf of our Lourdes family, I want to extend our warmest thanks and appreciation for all their hard work over the past years. From my perspective, it is good to know that the pilgrimage has been in safe hands and I will try to ensure this continues as I take over as director. I would also like to let you know that Bishop Terry has appointed the following people to these roles in readiness for the planning of our 2024 pilgrimage:
Head handmaid – Heather Garcia
Head brancardier – Chris Corcoran

Deputy head brancardier – Martin Thorpe
I'm sure you will join me in offering them your congratulations and continued support for future pilgrimages.

Mark Taylor, Chief Executive

Lourdes family mourns Hospitalité members

Our Lourdes family was deeply saddened to hear the sad news that long-serving handmaid Anne Cuff and brancardier Tom O'Hagan have recently passed away.

Anne, who worked as a nurse on the pilgrimage for many years, died on June 18 after a short illness, with her husband John beside her.

“After her retirement from nursing she worked



Anne Cuff, who passed away on June 18

on the handmaids’ team, still able to use and deliver all those skills she had to care for our supported pilgrims,” said outgoing head handmaid, Chris Tillotson.

There was a big turnout of Hospitalité members at Anne’s funeral arrangements at St Bernadette’s Church, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, on Wednesday July 5.

Tom, who was from Bridlington, died on June 26 after a long illness. His Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Church of Our Lady and St Peter, Bridlington.

Outgoing head brancardier Tony Kirk said: “Anyone who knew Tom would know what a kind, gentle and lovely man he was, and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. “He came to Lourdes as a brancardier for nine years, giving fantastic service during that time.”

Shortly before going to press we heard that Andrew Downs had passed away.

Andrew was with us in Lourdes this year with his daughter Marie, staying in the Accueil and had enjoyed the experience of Lourdes very much.



Tom O'Hagan, seen here receiving a medal from Bishop Terry, served as a brancardier for nine years

His funeral is at St Joseph’s Church, High Street, Loftus at noon on Thursday August 3.

We pray for the repose of their souls and for their families.

Come and join us for our tea party

All current, past and future Hospitalité members and their families are invited to a Lourdes afternoon tea party in the garden of Sacred Heart Church, Middlesbrough, on Saturday August 5 from 1pm to 4pm.

Tickets are £2.50 and are available on the day. Please bring your own seating if you have any and drinks if you wish, although tea, coffee, water and orange juice will be served.

Entertainment will be provided by our Lourdes musicians.

Please contact John Brown if you are coming to help with catering arrangements. Email headofhospitalite@rcdmidd.org.uk or call or text 07871 958412.

A Letter From Madonna House

Do these eyes of Jesus attract you? They do me. They remind me of the story in chapter ten of Mark’s Gospel of the rich young man who approached Jesus to ask how to gain eternal life.

One might tend to focus on the challenge in Jesus’ response:



The ikon by Madonna House staff member Patrick Stewart

“Sell what you possess and give to the poor ... then come follow me.”

His words seem very challenging, maybe impossible and can make us feel uneasy when we read “the young man went away sad”.

For me, it is helpful to reflect on what happened before the Lord said anything.

St Mark says: “Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him.”

I remember where I was when that line came alive for me. I was visiting an old convent in a small town on the Canadian prairies.

There was a scripture “bread box” sitting on a table and I randomly pulled out a verse, that verse. The words hit me personally. I was the rich young person and Jesus was looking at me!

This icon of Christ hangs in our Madonna House Robin Hood’s Bay chapel. When I look at it, I sense Jesus’ gaze of love and hear his words: “Come, follow me”, and his promise: “You will have treasure in heaven.”

But I see more as well. His gaze is not only an invitation to follow him in obedience to the Father’s will. It is also a plea: “Will you love me back? Will you believe in my love and risk opening your heart, mind and soul to let me live more fully in your life? I wish to give you my peace and joy.”

It was the story of the rich young man that catapulted

Catherine Doherty to begin the work of Friendship House in Toronto, which later became the Madonna House Apostolate, in the 1930s.

The opening lines of our Little Mandate: “Arise, go, sell all you possess. Give it directly, personally to the poor. Take up my cross, their cross and follow me, going to the poor, being poor, one with them, one with me” inspired me to join Madonna House.

Sometimes it seems too difficult to take Jesus’ words literally or personally. His apostles asked him “Then who can be saved?” when he said it was hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

He responded: “For people this is impossible, but nothing is impossible to God.”

I understand that to mean that as long as I trust in myself or my own efforts, or the so-called good things of this world, I will fall short of the fullness of life God has in mind for me.

In prayer before this icon of Christ I am reminded that Jesus is present to us, loving us and waiting to help us follow him.

Would you care to see the gaze of Christ in this icon for yourself? We welcome you to come to see, to pray, to visit. Give us a call on 01947 880169.

Carol Ann Gieske

Fountains Mass marks Feast of St Bernard

Canon Michael Loughlin will be the principal celebrant at Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Bernard at Fountains Abbey on Monday August 21 at noon.

Admission to the abbey is free to members of the National Trust, which has agreed to waive normal charges and allow free admission for those attending the Mass.

Entry is via the Visitor Centre, where there is ample parking, and a shuttle bus is available for those who might find the walk too much.

Access for people with disabilities is via the West Gate, where all parking is reserved for them. Special arrangements can be made for wheelchairs.

Fountains Abbey has been a place of religious worship for nearly 900 years.

This tradition is joyfully continued through the work of the Fountains Abbey Chaplaincy, an ecumenical group of ministers and lay readers of all denominations from local churches working as part of National Trust Volunteering.



Fountains Abbey, which will host Mass for the Feast of St Bernard

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	1938	Rev Gerard Collingwood	Middlesbrough
2	1997	Very Rev Canon Bernard Lovelady	Thorpe Thewles
3	1913	Very Rev Canon James Dolan	Scarborough
3	1945	Very Rev Canon Lawrence Doherty	Yarm
5	1947	Rev George Walsh	Market Weighton
6	1974	Rev Eugene Kennedy	Hayton
7	1994	Rev Francis Hack	York
8	1958	Very Rev Canon Thomas Wright	Whitby
10	1958	Very Rev Canon Thomas Wilson	Egton Bridge
11	2010	Rev J Anthony Barry	Middlesbrough
13	1924	Rev John Moore	York
13	1989	Rt Rev Mgr Patrick McEnroe	Mount Nugent
17	1918	Very Rev Canon Francis Callebert	Egton Bridge
18	2020	Rt Rev Mgr Canon J Raymond Charlton	Stokesley
20	1981	Canon Patrick McAniff	Malton
20	1985	Rev Geoffrey Power	Waterford
20	2011	Rev Daniel Cahill	Whitby
21	1936	Very Rev Canon Patrick Macken	Hull
21	1899	Very Rev Canon William Arnold	Brough Park
21	2005	Very Rev Canon John Mortell	Haxby
25	2008	Rev Peter Coleman	Whitby
26	1921	Very Rev Canon Thomas Murphy	Hull
27	1881	Rt Rev Provost Joseph Render	York
27	1944	Rev William Storey	Barnard Castle
27	1978	Rt Rev John Gerard McClean	Fourth Bishop of Middlesbrough
30	2007	Rt Rev Augustine Harris	Fifth Bishop of Middlesbrough

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NEWS

Out and About

1 Tuesday

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

7pm Knights of St Columba Council 29 meet at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, beginning with Mass at 7pm in the cathedral chapel.

2 Wednesday

Please note there will be no Vespers and Benediction at the cathedral during August. They will resume in September.

4 Friday

Events, articles and photographs for the September Voice are due by today.

5 Saturday

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

7 Monday

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

9 Wednesday

7pm Hull Circle of the Catenian Association meets at the Lazaat Hotel, Cottingham. Followed by a buffet meal and a talk by Deacon Robert Shakesby about his journey to being ordained and his experiences as a hospital chaplain. Email Charles Cseh at hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com for more details.

10 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.

13 Sunday

3pm Pilgrimage to celebrate the feast of the Assumption of our Lady at the Shrine of our Lady of Mount Grace. Rosary from 2.30pm.

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

14 Monday

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

22 Tuesday

Noon Healing Mass with anointing for Queenship of Our Lady at the Lady Chapel, Osmotherley. Rosary from 11.30am.

26 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

Cameroon priest speaks at Missio gathering

Missio supporters and volunteers from the Diocese of Middlesbrough celebrated a special Mission Mass at English Martyrs in York.

As well as getting to thank our supporters and volunteers in person, we also heard from Father Emmanuel Mbeh MHM on his life in mission.

Mass was celebrated by Missio diocesan director Canon Michael Loughlin and concelebrated by Father Emmanuel, our guest speaker.

Helena McGouran, diocesan director for Missio's children's branch, Mission Together, read the prayers of the faithful.

After Mass we gathered in the parish hall for refreshments and got to know supporters and friends from York, Middlesbrough, Hull and Yarm.

Father Emmanuel, one of the Mill Hill Missionary (MHM) appealers in the northern dioceses, spoke about his vocation, his mission and his presence in the UK.

His home parish in the Archdiocese of Bamenda in Cameroon is a vast rural area with about 20 mission stations and 30,000 people.

Like many parishes in the diocese and across Africa which were evangelised by the MHM, Father Emmanuel's hometown continues to be supported by Missio.

You can read more about the Mass at missio.org.uk/all-together-in-middlesbrough-a-special-mission-mass.



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 Thursday August 3 for our September edition – please note the earlier deadline because of holidays.

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.

Well-wishers gather for Father Pat’s golden celebrations

More than 250 people packed into St Hilda’s Roman Catholic church in Whitby to celebrate together.

It was a special occasion for parish priest Father Pat Keogh, with two celebrations falling together, the Feast of Corpus Christi and the golden jubilee of his ordination. His brother, Father Michael Keogh, parish priest of the Sacred Heart, Northallerton, gave the homily and Father Michael Weigl from Madonna House and Deacon Paul Griffin joined them on the altar.

Many people from Father Pat’s previous churches, including the Sacred Heart, St Joseph’s and St Thomas More in Middlesbrough, as well as Brotton, joined the celebration.

Father Pat is a well-known figure around Whitby, meeting and greeting all and sundry as he ambles along.

Always willing to chat, and interested in the people he encounters, whether they are officially parishioners or not, it is said you are lucky if it only takes an hour to get to the swing bridge from his church if you have Father Pat with you.

His charisma, his pastoral care and an occasionally wicked sense of humour, but most of all his deep faith, have attracted many to church and to encounter God in the ups and downs of their daily lives. Five people were received into the Church at Easter.

His warm welcome is to all who come to Sunday services, whether local or holiday maker – and come they do!

Father Pat was ordained in Tipperary, Ireland, in 1973 before coming to the Diocese of Middlesbrough where he has served for 50 years, in Grangetown, Brotton and Middlesbrough as a parish priest and as a hospital chaplain and chaplain to the crews at Teesport, before coming to Whitby in 2012.

Ever aware of people’s needs, Father Pat has



Father Pat Keogh celebrated the golden anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood

always supported people in every way, from encouraging his parishes to help asylum seekers to forming an Irish folk group known as the “Chancy Brothers” to play charitable events with three other priests (himself as lead singer and on tambourine).

His friendships with famous footballers have included Juninho of Middlesbrough and Brazil, Craig Johnston of Middlesbrough, Liverpool and England U21 and the late Jack Charlton of Leeds and England.

As Bishop Terry wrote in a congratulatory letter: “In our day and age, in a culture of living only for the moment, to have dedicated one’s life to the Lord and ministering to God’s people is a wonderful achievement. Fifty years of priesthood is no mean feat!”

Congratulations, Father Pat!

• A Mass of thanksgiving for the success of our 70th pilgrimage to Lourdes was held at St Mary’s Cathedral, followed by a celebration of chaplain to the sick Father Pat’s 50 years of priesthood. Many members of our Lourdes family attended the celebration and took the chance to thank Father Pat personally.

Angela Simek

Father Tom looks back on 50 years of priesthood

The parish of the Holy Name of Mary in Middlesbrough and friends and families came together to celebrate the golden anniversary of Father Tom O’Neill’s priesthood.

Father Tom was ordained at the age of 25 in Thurles, Ireland.

During the evening Mass to mark this wonderful occasion, Father Tom told a packed congregation his life story and described with passion the many people he has met in the different parishes he’s served at since his ordination.

He also described his love for the people in Africa, who he served during his time in the missions.

During the Mass, Father Tom was presented with gifts and donations from the parishioners of the Holy Name of Mary and St Gabriel’s, his previous parish.

Afterwards, a celebration party took place in the parish hall. It was a lovely community event.

Many parishioners donated their time to ensure it was a tremendous success.

Father Tom ended the evening by thanking people for all the “fruit” they had given him – and the bottles it had come in!

Sharon McIntyre



Father Tom O’Neill celebrating his golden jubilee

The Palm of My Hand

Parishioner IAN McLEAN wrote this reflection on his approach to receiving the Blessed Sacrament in St Paulinus Church, Guisborough.

As I approach the Throne of Grace
My eyes turn to the Holy Cross
Upon which arms outstretched, you offered up
Your body for all of humanity.

I see your wounds.
Your head,
Your hands,
Your feet,
Your side.

I see your precious blood poured out as expiation for my sin.
I see your eyes weeping for love of us,
For the burden of our sin gladly borne.
Hands held open, I walk to meet you.

I offer you my suffering and grief. I offer you my prayer for our precious world and for all people. I offer you my doubts and uncertainties. And I offer you my love.
Bartimaeus called out, “Jesus, son of David have mercy on me.”
“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked.

“Rabbi, I want to see.”
“Go,” said Jesus. “Your faith has healed you.”
Just as you gave sight to Bartimaeus, as you healed the sick, the lame, and those broken in body and spirit.
Grant that in this Blessed Sacrament, I too may be healed.

Hands outstretched I reach out for you.
O Lord, grant me the grace to know that I now hold you,
In the palm of my hand.



Image: Cathopic



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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.

NEWS

‘Baptised into Christ’ day explores our Christian ministry

This year’s Inspirational and Commissioning Day for Ministers of the Word and Holy Communion is at Scarborough Spa on Saturday September 16.

“Baptised into Christ” will help us explore how our baptism calls us to ministry and to realise our ministry is rooted in the call of God in our lives. It enables us to know we live on holy ground, and we are blessed. There will be music and clips from films and stories and reflections to help us on our way. Your parish priest or parish coordinator should have the booking information. If they haven’t yet spoken to you, then have a chat with them.

Once again, we will combine the Inspirational and Commissioning aspects. This means if you could not attend last year’s day, or if you are a new minister, you will be commissioned in your ministry during Mass. If you attended last year, please still come to this day. You won’t be commissioned again as your commissioning lasts five years.

Liverpool priest Father Chris Thomas will lead our day. Archbishop Patrick Kelly released him from parish work in 2002, and the Irenaeus Project was born.

The project is an attempt to highlight the

whole area of spirituality, and not just for those who can afford the luxury of a retreat centre.

Father Chris works all over the Archdiocese of Liverpool and further afield to help people to pray, explore the scriptures, reflect on what it means to be human and alive and know the truth that God is with us.

The project also outreaches to those with mental health issues, dementia, food poverty, those who struggle with loneliness, asylum seekers, refugees and anyone who just needs a listening ear.

Father Chris has spoken all over the British Isles and in mainland Europe and is the author of 12 books that are full of encounters with people and their spiritual journeys.

If you are a Minister of the Word or Holy Communion, come along and meet Father Chris!

The deadline for bookings is mid-August. Return booking forms by email to adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk or by post to the Curial Office, 50a The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough TS5 6QT.

David Cross
Adult Formation Coordinator



Father Chris Thomas of the Irenaeus Project is the speaker at this year’s Inspirational and Commissioning Day for Ministers of the Word and Holy Communion

Plans take shape for peace walk

Plans are moving ahead for the International Day of Peace Walk, which takes place in Middlesbrough on Saturday September 23, beginning at 10am.

The suggested route (subject to confirmation) is Trinity Centre, St Alphonsus Church and Hindu Temple, all in North Ormesby, Southfield Road Mosque and the International Centre, where there will be a display of other faith groups.

Lunch will be served by the charity Investing in People and Culture (IPC).

After lunch, the walk will continue to the Methodist Asylum Project (MAP) on Borough Road, as well as the Chinese Community Centre and Salvation Army.

Please register your intention to take part in the walk by emailing strategic cohesion and migration manager Jolande Mace at scm@middlesbrough.gov.uk.

Let’s make this a relevant occasion and create an annual event on this important issue.

John Hinman
Peace Walk Working Group

Environment Corner - Pope's appeal: ‘Let justice and peace flow’

An abridged version of Pope Francis’ message for the Season of Creation, which runs from September 1 to October 4...

Dear brothers and sisters,

“Let justice and peace flow” is the theme of this year’s ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: “Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (5:24).

The evocative image used by Amos speaks to us of what God desires. God wants justice to reign – it is as essential to our life as God’s children made in his likeness as water is essential for our physical survival. This justice must flow forth wherever it is needed, neither remaining hidden deep beneath the ground nor vanishing like water that evaporates before it can bring sustenance. God wants everyone to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to his laws and thus to enable life to flourish. When we “seek first the kingdom of God” (Mt 6:33), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that acting now with greater urgency means we will not miss our chance to create a more sustainable and just world. We can and we must prevent the worst from happening. “Truly, much can be done” (ibid., 180), provided we come together like so many streams, brooks and rivulets, merging finally in a mighty river to irrigate the life of our marvellous planet and our human family for generations to come. So let us join hands and take bold steps to “Let Justice and



Peace Flow” throughout our world.

How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life? We must do this by resolving to transform our hearts, our lifestyles and the public policies ruling our societies.

First, let us join the mighty river by transforming our hearts. This is essential for any other transformation to occur. It is that “ecological conversion” that Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator. Furthermore, we should realise that an integral approach to respect for the environment involves four relationships: with God, with our brothers and sisters of today and tomorrow, with all of nature, and with ourselves.

During the liturgy and personal prayer in “the great cathedral of creation”, let us recall the great artist who creates such beauty, and reflect on the mystery of that loving decision to create the cosmos.

Second, let us add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming our lifestyles. Starting from grateful wonder at the Creator and his creation, let us repent of our “ecological sins”, as my brother, Ecumenical Patriarch

Bartholomew, has urged. These sins harm the world of nature and our fellow men and women. With the help of God’s grace, let us adopt lifestyles marked by less waste and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable. Let us be as mindful as we can about our habits and economic decisions so that all can thrive – our fellow men and women wherever they may be, and future generations as well. Let us cooperate in God’s ongoing creation through positive choices: using resources with moderation and a joyful sobriety, disposing and recycling waste and making greater use of available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible.

Lastly, for the mighty river to continue flowing, we must transform the public policies that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow. Economic policies that promote scandalous wealth for a privileged few and degrading conditions for many others, spell the end of peace and justice. It is clear that the richer nations have contracted an “ecological debt” that must be paid (cf *Laudato Si’*, 51). The world leaders who will gather for the COP28 summit in Dubai from November 30 to December 12 must listen to science and institute a rapid and equitable transition to end the era of fossil fuels. According to the commitments undertaken in the Paris Agreement to restrain global warming, it is absurd to permit the continued exploration and expansion of fossil fuel infrastructures. I appeal to all people of goodwill to act in conformity with these perspectives on society and nature.

Another parallel perspective has to do with the Catholic Church’s commitment to synodality. This year, the closing of the



The Falls of Dochart – Photo by CAFOD/Carol Cross

Season of Creation on October 4, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, will coincide with the opening of the Synod on Synodality. Like rivers in nature, fed by myriad tiny brooks and larger streams and rivulets, the synodal process that began in October 2021 invites all those who take part on a personal or community level, to coalesce in a majestic river of reflection and renewal. The entire People of God is being invited to an immersive journey of synodal dialogue and conversion.

In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to “renew the face of the earth” (cf Ps 104:30).

You can find a guide for the Season of Creation containing information and ideas for holding a Creation Service at <https://bit.ly/443Q39G>.

Hospital volunteer shares birthday with NHS

As the NHS marked 75 years of providing exceptional care to its patients, a volunteer at James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough was celebrating 75 years of a life of giving.

Susan Gardiner, who volunteers within the chaplaincy team, looks after the spiritual needs of Catholic patients while also helping people from different faiths across various wards.

She joined the volunteering team in 2017 and has rejoined the team this year after a pause during the pandemic.

Susan has a special and heartfelt reason to volunteer at the hospital.

She said: “Volunteering at James Cook is my way of giving back to the community, as the staff here have nursed and looked after several members of my family with utmost care and love.

“It’s satisfying to make a difference in the community.”

Before her volunteering journey, she worked as a teacher for 40 years, primarily at the Newlands FCJ School, on the site of the current Trinity Catholic College in Middlesbrough.

Susan, who is also a Eucharistic minister at St Bernadette’s in Nunthorpe, offers Holy Communion at every opportunity to any faithful Catholics in the hospital.

Besides shining a spiritual light in the lives of our patients, she is also the president of the local unit of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, the international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms, including loneliness and bereavement.

She leads a group of volunteers who strive to foster diverse and inclusive connections while supporting individuals and families.

Susan added: “Volunteering is an opportunity to convert concerns into real actions and bring something positive to the person being helped.”



Susan Gardiner in the hospital chapel



Father Albert Schembri, of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parishes of Bridlington, Eastfield and Filey, celebrated his 50th birthday on the Solemnity of the Martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul. All the cards, messages, gifts and above all prayers made this day special and there was a wonderful celebration barbecue at Our Lady and St Peter’s Hall in Bridlington. The gift parishioners presented to Father Albert is an original statue of the Lamb of God, created by the renowned local artist Stephen Carvill.

Joyful celebration as cousins are christened together

Two cousins born in the same hospital just five hours apart were baptised together in a beautiful service at St Gabriel’s in Ormesby, Middlesbrough.

Aurora Mary Gardner was first to put in an appearance when mum Christianne gave birth in Middlesbrough’s James Cook University Hospital at 12.53am on March 27. Zephaniah Andrew came into the world at 5.28am the same morning to mum Eloïse, Christianne’s sister.

The two newborns were soon sleeping alongside each other in the same sideward. They were christened by Father Peter Ryan, assisted by parish priest Father James Benfield.

Christianne teaches at St Edward’s Catholic Primary School in Middlesbrough and her

husband, Andrew, is lead chaplain at Carmel College, Darlington. Aurora is Latin for dawn and has been linked to Our Lady in writings by St Bonaventure and Venerable Mary of Agreda.

Eloïse, who is married to Ryan Hall, is a sister in the A&E department of the hospital where the babies were born.

Zephaniah’s middle name is in honour of Christianne and Eloïse’s father, Andrew Lombard, who passed away in November 2021.

Father Peter said: “Our circle is incomplete, but Andrew is there praying you into your future.”

All four parents are dedicated members of our Lourdes Hospitalité team and the Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship.



Eloïse and Ryan with Zephaniah, Father Peter Ryan and Christianne and Andrew with Aurora and three-year-old Evangeline

From the Archives



40 Years Ago

(From August 1983 Catholic Voice)

Lourdes: a youngster remembers.

The best thing was going to church and seeing the Grotto and Our Lady. I saw lots of crutches and a little waterfall. I liked lighting the candles. I got my picture taken with Bishop O’Brien, that was the best thing. I loved the tweety song that we sang every night. I’ve brought my Nana some holy water and a Mary that lights up in the dark.

A.H. Whinney Banks, Middlesbrough

100 Years Ago

(From St Mary’s Cathedral Notice Book, August 5 1923)

In connection with the Cathedral Boys’ Club, it is proposed to organize a Cadet Corps. A meeting of all the boys of the parish between 14 and 20 yrs for this purpose will be held at St Mary’s School today (Sunday) at 6 p.m.

David Smallwood

NEWS

New display celebrates city's iconic landmarks

Work from young local artists celebrating York's most iconic landmarks has gone on display at the Bar Convent Heritage Centre.

Award-winning charity New Visuality helped artists aged five to 15 reimagine the city's heritage, visiting the Bar Convent and other heritage sites to find inspiration.

"We always love coming over to the Bar Convent Heritage Centre with groups of young people," says charity co-director Ails McGee.

"Many of our young participants initially report that heritage and culture are just not for them.

"The warm welcome they receive as soon as they come here helps dispel that notion, and it's our job, as a visual charity, to build on the groundswell of enthusiasm and encourage creative responses that we can then exhibit."

New Visuality spent some time working in the Bar Convent's archives, helping to realise the vision behind the display – which is called "COLOUR!" – by briefing the young artists to take photos, find photos and use AI technology.

"Heritage without innovation is just history," says co-director Greg McGee. "This project has brought so much joy to our young artists and is a microcosm of what the Bar Convent continues to do so well, which is to intersect tradition and technology. The future is indeed bright."

Special collections manager Dr Hannah Thomas said: "We are thrilled to be involved in this wonderful project that has enabled us to host these amazing and talented young people.

"Many young people feel museums are not for them, and perhaps have a perception of them being boring and dusty places. With the fantastic work done by New Visuality, we can begin changing that idea, and show that heritage is for everyone."

The combination of arts and culture continues in the convent's garden where an outdoor sketch space has been created with easels and drawing materials.

The new display is included in admission to the exhibition. They will be on show until September 23 and the last admission is 4pm.



Bar Convent Overgrown (with pink) by Ethan Wood, from the exhibition COLOUR!

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