



Bishop's Column

One of the most important parts of our Mass is the reading of the word of God.

Therefore, to read well, and to proclaim well is an excellent way of serving the Christian community. It is almost like giving our voice to God so that he can speak to his people through us.

This is the reason why it is so important to proclaim and listen to the Word of God in our churches as best we can. Here are six basic guidelines for Ministers of the Word:

1. Before beginning the reading make sure the microphone is positioned just in front of your mouth, about a foot or so away.
2. Read the title of the reading, for example, "A reading from the Prophet Isaiah", then look at the congregation and wait a moment or two before continuing.



3. It is not necessary to rush. Most readers read too quickly. The important thing is not to finish as soon as possible but rather that the listeners are able to follow and put themselves into the reading.

4. To do this we must take note of the "traffic signs" contained in the reading: commas and full stops. The commas are like a "give-way sign" (a short pause) while the full stops are like a "stop sign" (stop for a couple of seconds).

5. If you read the reading beforehand (better if you read it twice) you will know how to proclaim it well. Read it with real sense. Make it easy for all to understand. For example: "God did not save a single people, but all the peoples of the world"; underline with your voice the most important words.

6. When you have finished the reading, wait two or three seconds, and looking at the congregation, say with real solemnity (it is an acclamation): "The Word of the Lord." And await the response before returning unhurriedly to your place.

So, all Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, don't forget the Inspirational Day at Scarborough Spa on Saturday September 16. Make sure you register with your parish priest as soon as possible.

In blessed hope,

+ Long

What's Inside

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Alongside Pope Francis for a week of blessings

FATHER RICHARD MARSDEN looks back on an unforgettable experience for thousands of pilgrims from all over the globe, including a group from our diocese...

Joyful pilgrims from across the diocese joined Pope Francis and a whopping 1.5 million young people to adore the Lord at World Youth Day (WYD).

Twenty-nine young adults were part of the huge crowd who camped out at Campo da Graça on the outskirts of the Portuguese capital for the night youth vigil, followed by the Sunday Mass of World Youth Day, both presided over by the Holy Father.

The unforgettable weekend was the culmination of a week of events, including catechesis sessions led by prominent English-speaking bishops, as well as the opening ceremony of WYD in the centre of the city at Parque Eduardo VII.

Emma Morrison, a parishioner of St Paulinus, Guisborough, said: "For me, the biggest blessing of World Youth Day has been the amazing experience of the Church – both as the universal Church and as a diocesan Church.

"The first moment that really took my breath away was when we walked to the opening ceremony and saw tens of thousands of young people and flags from so many different nations, and we saw just how huge our church is!

"However, I think the aspect of the week I am most grateful for has been the closeness and



One and a half million Catholics gathered for the event, which takes place every four years

friendship we shared in our group from the Diocese of Middlesbrough – especially in moments of prayer and discussions about our faith, and I am so excited to continue in these friendships as we return home."

Pilgrims lined the streets of Lisbon along the Pope's route to catch a glimpse of the Successor of St Peter.

After one of those moments of encounter with the Holy Father, Christopher Lovell, a parishioner of Sacred Heart, Redcar, said: "It was possibly the greatest thing to ever happen to me in my Catholic faith. In a world where it may be 'odd' or 'different' to be

someone of faith, I feel very blessed to be at World Youth Day."

At the beginning of the week, the group enjoyed a day pilgrimage to Fatima. After Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry, the young adults had a chance to spend some time in personal prayer at the Chapel of the Apparitions, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the Our Lady of the Rosary Basilica.

Back in Lisbon, for three mornings, the group attended catechesis sessions and Mass alongside thousands of English speakers at

Continued on Page 2

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NEWS

Alongside Pope Francis for a week of blessings

Continued from Page 1

a park near Benfica's football stadium. They heard talks from Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney and Bishop Robert Barron of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester and founder of the Word on Fire Ministry. Throughout the week, the diocesan group flew Yorkshire flags to keep everyone together through the vast crowds. Following the WYD custom of “swapsies” – the swapping of gifts between groups –

Middlesbrough pilgrims distributed single bags of Yorkshire Tea and Yorkshire rose badges to youngsters from across the world. The most challenging part of the week for the group was the 10km walk in the blazing heat to get to and from the WYD site back to their hotel. Pilgrims supported each other in the walk and were rewarded with the experience of profound moments, including the silence of more than a million young people in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Diocesan youth chaplain and group leader, Father Phil Cunah, said: “I'm so grateful for



Bishop Terry holds the World Youth Day logo at the centre of our 29-strong group

the prayerful and financial support that we have had to give these young people such a foundational experience of faith. I look forward to Rome 2025.”

Charismatic renewal team launches in our diocese

In 2018 Pope Francis instituted the Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service (CHARIS) as a single service to operate throughout the Church. The Holy Father entrusted CHARIS with a threefold mission to share baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone, to serve the unity of the body of Christ and to serve the poor and those in greatest need, whether physical or spiritual. In 2020, CHARIS England and Wales appointed coordinators who were called to form a service team to establish the mission in the life of the Church in every diocese. To prepare for our launch event, Middlesbrough's Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion (CDSC) team undertook a day of retreat and prayer at Madonna House in Robin Hood's Bay, supported by staff

members Father Michael, Carol Ann, Brother Mathieu and Jeane. Earlier this summer, the CDSC held its launch event at English Martyrs Church in York, supported by Canon Michael Loughlin. The theme was “Taste and See that the Lord is Good” (Psalm 34:8) and a range of age groups and nationalities from across the diocese attended. We were also blessed with a beautiful sunny day. We began with an explanation of CHARIS, its mission and the work of the diocesan service teams across England and Wales. Michael Coughlin, for the Sion community, and Joe Mishra, from St Joseph's Parish in Pocklington, led us in a powerful praise and worship session to open our hearts and minds to the Lord. Catholic evangelist and speaker Ros Powell gave us a powerful, inspirational testimony and shared the baptism in the Holy Spirit with those who had not already received it. We enjoyed lunch, generously provided by English Martyrs parishioners and members of the diocesan service team, in the church's beautiful garden. The afternoon session began with more praise and worship, and Ros and Karen Ladley led us in a healing session. We asked those who attended to place their name on our mailing list to be notified of future events and to join one of the

charismatic prayer groups already established in York, Hull and Driffield. We received some wonderful feedback and were encouraged to continue sharing our gifts and working towards renewal in our diocese. From this, the team has already begun planning for our next event – a day of reconciliation and healing in Hull in September. Some members of the York team ran *The Gift* course in English Martyrs Parish, again, supported by Canon Michael. It was a wonderful experience with much exploration and sharing of faith, culminating in the group praying for each participant's infilling of the Holy Spirit.

One lady said: “The course was a powerful experience of renewal, a deep realisation that the Spirit is working among us – a call to prayer, to intercession and to live life in a deeper way. It was a call to serve, maybe in a new way.” The CDSC team hopes to continue offering this course to parishes across the diocese in the future. We encourage those who could not attend our launch event to get in contact and join our mailing list to be notified of future events or talk about the possibility of a *Life in the Spirit* course in their parish. Call me on 07932 420809 or email cdscmiddlesbrough@gmail.com. Sharon Daniel, Coordinator



Middlesbrough's Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion team and Madonna House staff members during their retreat

BISHOP TERRY'S
SEPTEMBER
ENGAGEMENTS

2-3

Parish visitation to St Hilda's, Whitby

4

Attends Northern Church Leaders meeting via Zoom 4pm

5

Attends the Bishop's Council meeting via Zoom 10.30am

9-10

Parish visitation to St Aelred, York

12

Visit to St George's School, York 9am

13

Attends Friends of the Lady Chapel meeting, Middlesbrough 11am

14

Attends the Young Leaders Celebration at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 4pm

16-17

Parish visitation to St George, York

19

Attends Trustee Board meeting, Middlesbrough 10.30am

20

Visit to St Paulinus School, Guisborough 9am

21

Visit to St Aelred's School, York 9am

23-24

Parish visitation to St Paulinus, Guisborough

26

Attends Ushaw Trustee meeting at Hinsley Hall, Leeds 10.30am

27

Attends CSAN meeting at Romero House, London 1pm

28

Attends the Retired Priests Lunch, York 1pm

30 – 1 Oct

Attends Walsingham Pilgrimage



There was joy all around as parishioners, family and friends filled St Charles Borromeo in Hull to celebrate the First Holy Communion of 26 children from various local schools. Congratulations to them all.

How Tom is juggling career and the call from God

One of the four men now in training to become permanent deacons, TOM ROLFE, introduces himself and tells us about his journey so far...

It feels very appropriate to be writing this on the feast of St Anne, as my grandmother, Dotty, played such a vital role in my faith as a child and young adult.

Faith has always played an important part in my life. While growing up in St Bede's Parish, Marske, during my mid-teens I started to very gently think about the priesthood.

However, as time went on I developed a career in entertainment, mainly focused on variety (including juggling and unicycling). My first "gig" was at Middlesbrough Theatre for the diocesan talent show Pope Idol, closely followed by subsequent concerts Rocking in the Aisles.

Over the next few years I began working in theatre production, provided circus workshops for schools and toured the national holiday park circuit.

Although prayer has always remained an integral part of my life, the schedules of touring around the country at all kinds of unsociable hours slowly caused me to spend time away from practicing the faith physically

in Church.

It wasn't until the lockdown that I could sit back, reflect and discern where life was heading, or rather where it should be!

This time out from the busyness of life provided me with the space to think and take account of what was missing. I took a step back from the epic tour schedules and worked from home more in pre-production and writing, but something was still missing. After tuning in to Mass via live-stream for a week or so on the Blessed Nicholas Postgate's Facebook page, I attended the socially distanced periods made available for private prayer and exposition at Sacred Heart Church, Redcar.

This was the moment I realised what was missing! Seeing the Lord enthroned in the monstrance on the altar, combined with the quiet stillness and sanctuary of the Church, instantly made me feel at home again.

A short while later I felt the Lord in a way picking up from where he left off regarding the gentle nudging of a vocation. After initially discerning priesthood for around a year or so, when the time came to apply formally and move away to study, I felt fairly certain I wasn't being called to leave

everything I was already doing.

I felt more called to embrace what I was already doing but was very much aware of the gentle nudging to still serve the people of God. After taking this pondering to our vocations director, Canon Alan Sheridan, my spiritual director and to prayer, I felt much more confident I was being called to serve in our churches, places of work, schools and communities. I felt called to the permanent diaconate.

Within a few months of wandering down the path of discernment, again I felt the Lord calling with much more clarity that this was the right road for me.

Having completed the propaedeutic year of studies and year one I am looking forward to starting year two of formal studies in September and I look forward to serving our diocese in whichever way the Lord calls me to.

I'm extremely grateful for the support of the diocese, the parish, my friends and family and keep you all in my prayers. Please keep me in yours.

• If you feel you are being called to the priesthood, the permanent diaconate or the religious life, contact our vocation director



Tom Rolfe is one of four men from our diocese training for the permanent diaconate

Canon Alan Sheridan by emailing parish.priest@stthereseingleby.org.uk or calling 01642 751304.

Mothers enjoy pilgrimage to their 'place of peace'

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) members travelled from York, Scarborough and Middlesbrough for the organisation's 76th national pilgrimage to Walsingham.

The pilgrimage had the theme of Mary of Nazareth and began with a Service of Light in the Chapel of Reconciliation, followed by a torchlight procession back to the village.

On Tuesday morning we made our way to the shrine for the open-air concelebrated Mass, with the prayers being taken from the Mass of Our Lady of Nazareth.

After lunch we assembled for the procession to the priory. People who could not walk awaited the procession and Father Robert Dykes led a service of the sick. Once the procession reached the High Street the singing began and could be heard by everyone in the abbey grounds.

The statue was carried in by members followed by the national president Joan Hodge, Bishop Alan Williams and Bishop Mark Davies. Bishop Alan also led UCM prayers and a service of Renewal of Commitment.

We visited Wells-next-the-Sea on our last morning before the long journey back to our diocese. We had a wonderful pilgrimage in a peaceful and spiritual place.

Kath Stubbs



Middlesbrough president Barbara Cookson with the diocesan UCM banner

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NEWS

Benedictine monks launch podcast

The Benedictine monks of Ampleforth Abbey, North Yorkshire, have ventured into the world of audio media as they celebrate the release of the *Ampleforth Abbey Podcast*. Each week a different member of the monastic community will upload a new Home Retreat episode in which they will offer a challenging reflection for 10 to 15 minutes. Home Retreats are an opportunity to pause and reflect wherever you are. Podcasts have risen in popularity and the monks saw the perfect opportunity to spread God's word and insights from their journey of faith to listeners across the globe. Abbot Robert Igo said: "It's great to connect

with new and evolving audiences and we believe the podcast provides us with an important opportunity to reach many people with the good news of the Gospel." *Ampleforth Abbey Podcast* is available to listen to on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music and Google Podcasts. Ampleforth Abbey, which has been home to a community of Benedictine Monks since 1802, welcomes guests to visit the church and grounds and stay at a modern 29-bedroom Retreat Centre. A major renovation is currently taking place with a new Visitor Centre Experience, tea room and gift shop opening next spring.



Ampleforth Abbey in North Yorkshire

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GOLD

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Pupils say goodbye to devoted deputy head

The popular deputy head of St Aelred's School, York, Debbie Feehan has retired after 18 years in the role. All the pupils, staff and the wider community love Debbie. She has been an excellent classroom teacher and an inspiration to many with her love and enthusiasm for singing and music. In 2014, Debbie's love of music and her willingness to share it with pupils impressed the judges of the Community Pride Awards, who crowned her Teacher of the Year. Debbie has devoted so much of her own time to introduce the pupils to the joy of music, whether it be the recorder, singing in the school or church choir, samba drumming or the ukulele. So many pupils have developed their talents because of her support and guidance. Recently Debbie has been involved in the production of *The Wizard of Oz*, one of so many she has been involved in at St Aelred's.

The school choir has played a significant part in community concerts, including *Musical Connections*, which supports older, isolated and vulnerable people in care and community settings through singing and music. On Sundays, you will see Debbie in church with her guitar, leading the school choir and the music group. Debbie has given so many of the singers in the choir confidence to be soloists, and parishioners have certainly appreciated it. Headteacher Claire Hughes said: "Many generations of children have greatly benefited from Debbie's wonderful teaching, high levels of care and the love and kindness she bestows on all." Chair of governors Marie Howell said: "It has been a pleasure to know Debbie, as a parent, fellow parishioner and colleague." Past and present pupils, parents and everyone connected to the school would like to wish Debbie a long and happy retirement.



Former St Aelred's head David Houghton, retiring deputy headteacher Debbie Feehan, chair of governors Marie Howell and present headteacher Claire Hughes.

Fond farewells and new beginnings

Children, parents, carers and teachers from St Alphonsus' Catholic Primary School celebrated their Year 6 leavers' Mass with all children from Years 3-6 singing the Mass responses and a Motet they learnt in their Middlesbrough School Singing Programme Sessions (MSSP). Headteacher Angela McCann welcomed everyone to St Alphonsus Church, thanking parents and carers for their support and Father John spoke to the children about maintaining their Catholic faith and identity as they move on in life. Exciting developments in the MSSP include expansion into the central deanery, with St Aelred's and St Wilfrid's Catholic primary schools in York joining the scheme this September. Children there will benefit from the same high-quality, music tuition schools already taking part within parts of the northern and

coastal deaneries enjoy. The Diocese of Middlesbrough programme is part of the National Schools Singing Programme, which began in the Diocese of Leeds and has now been taken up by every Catholic diocese in England and Wales, enabled by generous seed funding from the Hamish Ogston Foundation. Evangelisation sits at the heart of the programme, supporting Bishop Terry's mission for young people within the Diocese of Middlesbrough. The teaching and the evangelisation are delivered through singing, with an emphasis on children enjoying what they do. The words of one of the MSSP headteachers make a fitting conclusion: "Thanks for bringing music to life in our school." Andrea Maxson, Choral Director



Children at St Alphonsus' Catholic Primary school's Year 6 leavers' Mass

LOURDES

Book now for our 2023 Lourdes Hospitalité Ball

Time is running out to book for the 2023 Lourdes Hospitalité Ball as we celebrate our 70th pilgrimage in the stunning setting of Gisborough Hall, Guisborough.

This glittering event takes place on Saturday September 30, with reception drinks from 6.45pm, dinner at 7.30pm and carriages at midnight.

The evening includes reception drinks, a delicious three-course meal and entertainment.

Tickets are £47 per person.

To book, email John Brown at headofhospitalite@rcdmidd.org.uk as soon as possible to allow us to make the arrangements. We will then invite you to submit your meal choices.

You can send payment to John Brown, 3 Eton Road, Middlesbrough TS5 5ER with cheques made payable to "Middlesbrough Lourdes Sick Fund", or pay by bank transfer

to Barclays, sort code 20-56-90, account 80003700, tagged with Lourdes Ball and your name as a reference. Please let John know as soon as you have paid.

If you want to stay overnight, rooms are available at a special rate of £150 per room for two people, including breakfast. Book directly with Gisborough Hall.

We also welcome donations for our bottle tombola, as well as raffle prizes.

Discovering the real meaning of faith in Lourdes

CHARLIE PERKIN, a student at T6 Trinity Catholic Sixth Form in Middlesbrough, talks about her experiences working as a handmaid in Lourdes earlier this year...

This was a slightly different Lourdes year for me as I was in the middle of my A level examinations, but there was no way I wanted to miss it.

From arriving at Teesside Airport, you could instantly feel the camaraderie and apprehensive excitement of what was to come. After a reduced pilgrimage last year, we knew this one was going to be special and it didn't disappoint.

The pilgrimage was non-stop, a constant flow of working in the Accueil, attending services, walking in procession and celebrating being in Lourdes in lots of different ways with old friends and new.

As soon as we landed at Tarbes Airport it was all systems go and we helped in any way we could, be it pushing wheelchairs, pulling

cases or just having a reassuring conversation with a friendly face.

It really didn't matter what you could or couldn't do, there was always someone willing and able to help.

Lourdes itself was much busier than last year, a constant buzz of people from many nationalities, all united in their faith, all with their own reasons for being there. For such a busy place, it's amazing how peaceful it feels.

I spent much of my time working in the Accueil, which was a fantastic opportunity to get to know so many people. I was working alongside other handmaids, brancardiers, doctors, nurses and young people, helping the supported pilgrims make the most of their week – and believe me, they did! Nothing stopped them from attending everything they could.

We walked in the Torchlight Procession, the Blessed Sacrament Procession, attended the Water Service, celebrated Mass at the Grotto and shared so many more wonderful services and experiences. We talked, we laughed, we

cried and we celebrated.

The Accueil was an amazing place. We are asked to care for those who need it, which we do wholeheartedly, without thinking.

But more important to me was how those same people had so much trust, faith and belief in us.

They willingly let us take care of them, opening their hearts and welcoming us without question. This meant more to me than anything else I experienced. It was truly humbling.

Lourdes shows you that faith isn't something you "have". You can go there thinking you have little or none, but in Lourdes you understand the real meaning of faith.

You see it lived out before you and understand that we all have faith. We just need to find and understand it.

Your faith blossoms and is strengthened by the love and support given in abundance by those around you.

Faith is a real leveller. It doesn't discriminate,

it doesn't judge and the more it is shared, the stronger it gets.

Faith is belonging and being part of a community. It's about giving of yourself for the benefit of others. We all have faith. We just need to allow others to see it.

The only way to conclude this is with a massive thank you to the youth and their leaders. Without them, we wouldn't be able to achieve half of what we do.

They work so hard but do everything with a smile, a laugh and even a dance! Nothing was too much trouble.

It was inspiring watching them having lovely conversations with our supported pilgrims, listening to them and allowing them to feel listened to. They were incredible.

I would encourage anybody to visit Lourdes, whether you have a strong faith or no faith at all, it really doesn't matter.

Lourdes is an amazing place and an experience you will not forget.



Charlie Perkin in Lourdes this year

Jesuit poet is subject of returning Newman talk

The Cleveland Circle of the Newman Association resumes its meetings after the summer break with a talk about the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins.

"Five sonnets of Gerard Manley Hopkins" examines the Jesuit priest's inspiration and spirituality.

The speaker is Monsignor Pat Kilgarriff, a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, who will come up from Worcester.

Monsignor Pat was formerly the rector of the Venerable English College in Rome and is the Newman Association's national chaplain and an excellent speaker.

The talk takes place in the hall at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, on Wednesday September 27 at 7.45pm, with coffee and tea available from 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Help us work together to leave a better world

We invite every parish in our diocese to send a group to a special event to look at how we can all play our part in fighting climate change.

“Don’t just pray – do something, for God’s sake! What can we do to leave a better world for future generations?” is the title of this full-day meeting, a collaboration between member agencies of the Caritas Middlesbrough Network.



Sister Margaret Atkins will speak to us about *Laudato Si'* and its links to Catholic Social Teaching

Wide-ranging and pressing issues related to climate change have once again sprung to the forefront during the summer months.

The displacement of people because of wildfires in some places and record levels of rainfall in others, resulting in floods.

There’s not a day that goes by when we don’t hear about some catastrophic or semi-catastrophic event linked to our changing climate.

This can all seem daunting and disempowering. We may ask ourselves, “What difference can I make?” or “What difference can we make in our parish?”

But we know the clock is ticking and we need to change the way we order our lives, the sooner the better!

Your actions, choices and decisions can make a difference. We won’t spend time going over old ground. The aim is to learn from each other, what we are doing and what we can do about climate change.

Sister Margaret Atkins, of the Canonesses of St Augustine, will speak to us about *Laudato Si'* and its links to Catholic Social Teaching.

Glenn Melvin, our diocesan environmental lead, will speak about his work seeking to lower the carbon footprint of our churches and parish buildings across the diocese. He will help us understand how best he can support us in taking this work forward.

We will hear from people who are already doing something, either as individuals or as a parish.

The event is all about what we can do. If you are interested, challenged or just curious,



Diocese of Middlesbrough environmental lead Glenn Melvin

come and join us and encourage some others in your parish to come along. You can then take back what you have learnt and find ways of putting it into practice.

The event takes place at English Martyrs Parish Hall, Dalton Terrace, York, on Saturday

September 30 from 9.30am to 3pm.

For further information or to sign up, email adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk or call 01642 850505, extension 241.

David Cross
Adult Formation Co-ordinator

Adoration returns at cathedral

“Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us.” So wrote St Alphonsus Liguori of one of the Church’s most beautiful and powerful devotions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Benediction with Sung Evening Prayer is sung at St Mary’s Cathedral every Wednesday evening during term time at 5.30pm.

The service opens with the Blessed Sacrament being brought from the tabernacle to be placed within the monstrance on the altar before Evening Prayer is sung.

It concludes with all present being blessed with the Blessed Sacrament before it is returned to the tabernacle.

The singing is led by a cantor, by the cathedral consort or upper voices consort, or sometimes by a visiting choir, and the congregation is encouraged to join in singing the office.

Evening Prayer itself is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, prayed daily by bishops, priests, deacons, and by many in consecrated life.

We are all encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, particularly Morning and Evening Prayer, and this beautiful service presents an

opportunity to do so together.

Benediction with Sung Evening Prayer resumes at the cathedral on Wednesday September 13. All are warmly invited to join the regular congregants in the cathedral for an oasis of calm and reflection in the presence of Our Lord.

With grateful thanks to the Knights of St Columba, the service is live-streamed on the diocesan YouTube channel each week, where it remains to watch afterwards.

We opened with a quotation from St Alphonsus Liguori, and conclude with a quotation from St John Vianney, displayed on-screen at the start of the YouTube live-stream each week: “We should consider those moments spent before the Blessed Sacrament as the happiest of our lives.”

Steven Maxson
Director of Music



Benediction with Sung Evening Prayer is sung at St Mary’s Cathedral every Wednesday evening during term time at 5.30pm

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NEWS

Missio's work showcased at national conference

Missio's diocesan director Canon Michael Loughlin and Mission Together's diocesan director Helena McGouran attended Missio's National Council in Herefordshire.

The conference, led by Father Anthony Chantry, Missio's national director, was an opportunity to meet other diocesan directors and trustees, including the chair, Bishop of Lancaster, Paul Swarbrick.

It was also good to meet several of the small team based at Ecclestone Square and representatives from Missio's partners, the Mill Hill Missionaries.

Father Chantry had recently attended the General Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Rome and provided an update from the Vatican and Pope Francis' clear vision for fostering God's mission through the Church and the spread of the Gospel.

Father Michael Corcoran, general superior of the Mill Hill Missionaries, spoke of the challenges facing missionaries today.

He stressed that current Mill Hill Missionaries continue to answer the call of their founder, Cardinal Herbert Vaughan, to work on the edges of many volatile territories and that this is the challenge of their mission – to go where the need is greatest.

We were also privileged to hear from Father Vincent Mwakhwawa, Missio national director of Malawi and Father Kizito Nhundu, Missio



Mission Together's diocesan director Helena McGouran

national director of Zimbabwe, who spoke eloquently on the challenges facing both these countries and the importance of Missio's spiritual and financial support, which is enabling local faith communities to reach out to the most disadvantaged in their communities and share with them God's compassion and love.

The challenge in England and Wales, as always, is communicating the need and purpose of Missio's work and how our Red Box donations are spent.

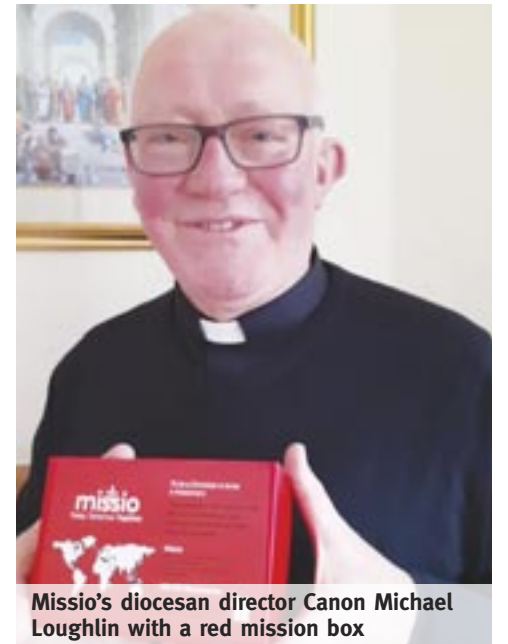
We concluded we need to continually improve how we explain the real impact of the work achieved here and overseas.

We will continue to do this, not only through the *Mission Today* magazine but also through the support of our wonderful parish and school volunteers.

During the meeting, Missio's impact report was brought to life through presentations and videos. It was encouraging and inspiring to see how much Missio achieves through our prayers and donations in spreading the Gospel, supporting the training of future priests and sisters, giving hope to the world's poorest children (via Mission Together) and creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future.

Many Middlesbrough Catholic primary schools will be familiar with Mission Together, as for decades, pupils have collected pennies in their Little Red Boxes to support the spiritual and human development of less fortunate children around the world.

Mission Together provides some excellent liturgical resources to support the mission of Catholic schools and to help pupils journey through the liturgical year.



Missio's diocesan director Canon Michael Loughlin with a red mission box

To find out more about the projects supported and to download free school resources, please visit missiontogether.org.uk. If you are interested in hosting a Mission Together assembly at your school, please contact missiontogether@missio.org.uk.

Helena McGouran

Coastal group twins with African parish

Last November, a small band of volunteers held the inaugural meeting of the Justice and Peace Group of Our Lady Star of the Sea (comprising the coastal parishes of Our Lady and St Peter's, Bridlington, St George's, Eastfield, and St Mary's, Filey).

We see our role as being a catalyst in our parish communities for justice and peace and have benefited from the encouragement, support and participation of our parish priest, Father Albert Schembri.

Each of our monthly meetings starts with a period of study and reflection to inform our action. Through this year and next we are working with two papal encyclicals, *Fratelli Tutti* and *Laudato Si'*. We found the CAFOD/SCIAF Study Guide "*Laudato Si'* - Caring for our Common Home" particularly helpful in guiding us.

We identified four areas for our efforts, each of which will develop and grow over time. They are Care of Creation, Human Rights, Refugees and Migrants and the twinning of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Parishes with a parish in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

At one meeting we reflected on human rights in the context of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching. From that reflection, we

developed a litany to God the Holy Spirit, which was recited at each Sunday Mass throughout our parish churches for the special day of prayer for those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights. Parishioners commented on how powerful this was. If you would like a copy, please email starofthesea@rcdmidd.org.uk.

The main activity to date has been establishing a twinning link with St Matthew Basa 11 Parish, in Basankusu Diocese, in the northwest of the DRC.

The Mill Hill missionary director for Africa introduced us to this parish and the relatively newly ordained parish priest, Father Frederick Yufela Botaka MHM.

Basankusu Diocese is 27,000 square miles – the size of Scotland, so a bit bigger than our diocese! St Matthew's is a newly formed parish. It's almost 40kms long, about the length of Our Lady Star of the Sea parishes. Here the similarities end, as the parish has no electricity, clean water and virtually no road infrastructure. Most of the people are engaged in subsistence agriculture, largely living in poverty.

The lack of opportunity for a better life has led some young people to a life of crime. Father Frederick quickly identified the



Father Frederick commissioning youth leaders selected by the young people of St Matthew Basa 11 Parish, which the new Justice & Peace group in Our Lady Star of the Sea is supporting

apostolate of the youth as a priority, although with nine chapels to support and 26 Christian communities, he obviously has many other priorities!

The internet is alive and well in the DRC and so Father Frederick has provided us with many photographs of his work with the youth, including seminars, football matches and choirs.

We asked how we could support him in his work and he said any support would be of great help, such as musical instruments for the choirs or football kits for the boys' and girls' teams (they currently have to hire these

and they are not always available).

We developed a display for the notice boards in each of our three parishes leading up to a special second collection on the Feast of Pentecost. We quickly exceeded our modest target of £500 with the generosity of our parishioners, so £1,100 is now on its way to St Matthew's.

Meanwhile, we are working on the next fundraising activity for St Matthew's, a sponsored run suggested by two altar servers inspired by the display boards.

Ray Foxton

New bishop for our northern neighbours

Bishop Stephen Wright was installed as the 15th Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle at a Solemn Mass of Installation in St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle.

The Mass was celebrated in honour of Our Blessed Mary Immaculate, a patron of the diocese who looks down from one of the cathedral's stained-glass windows.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, the apostolic administrator of the diocese, welcomed Bishop Stephen.

The apostolic nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía attended, as did Cardinal Vincent Nichols and many bishops, as well as senior clerics including Monsignor Gerard Robinson, vicar general of the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Bishop Stephen was previously an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Right: Bishop Stephen Wright during Mass for his installation as 15th Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle – Photo © Mazur/cbcw.org.uk



Sister Josephine passes away in 75th year of profession

Sister Josephine Barron FCJ, who spent many years in Middlesbrough as part of the Faithful Companions of Jesus community, passed away in Salford on July 15 aged 96, in the 75th year of her religious profession. Sister Elizabeth Ryan looks back on her life...

Mary Josephine Barron was born in Kilkenny, Ireland on May 16 1927, the eldest daughter of Thomas and Maureen (nee Galvin) Barron.

Maeve, as she was known in the family, was the second child of eight, with one sister Ann (Sister Mary Gabriel FCJ, Kersal) and six brothers, all of whom pre-deceased her.

Primary education and the first five years of secondary school were with the Sisters of Mercy, New Ross, County Wexford, from where, having obtained her matriculation, she had planned to go to university to study pharmacy.

Instead, she accompanied Ann to FCJ convent boarding school Newtownbarry in County Wexford, where she completed her Leaving Certificate in 1945.

Maeve joined the Society of the Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus on February 2 1946 at Broadstairs, Kent, to be followed five years later by Ann.

As Sister Mary Josephine, she made her first profession in Broadstairs on July 7 1948. She spent the next three years pursuing a Science degree at University College, Dublin, graduating with a BSc in 1951.

She renewed her vows on August 6 that summer in her alma mater, Newtownbarry. She completed her educational training at Sedgley Park FCJ College, Manchester, obtaining her Teacher's Certificate in 1953. The third year of formation followed at

Broadstairs where Sister Josephine made her final profession on July 27 1954. She was now ready to enter the years of her rich, apostolic life.

Her first missioning was back to Ireland, to Laurel Hill, Limerick, where she taught science and was class mistress to the girls in the boarding school. There was delight among them at the arrival of a beautiful young nun.

"Firm but kind" was the verdict, words that have been repeated often by past pupils. At the end of four years, Sister Josephine arrived at the Hollies FCJ Convent School in Manchester in September 1958.

Her tenure there was short, however, as the next year she was summoned to Gumley House School in Isleworth, West London, where she remained until 1983.

Suddenly, due to the unexpected death of the head, Mother Angela Carrollan, Sister Josephine found herself catapulted from the science lab to the headteacher's office with no preparation. That she was so successful is a testament to the woman she was.

It was a time of much change and turmoil as this small, successful convent grammar school morphed into a comprehensive school of double the student numbers.

Sister Josephine was determined to give this new school every chance to offer an excellent education. She knew more buildings had to be built and a new curriculum prepared, with the right staff training.

She was a pioneer in introducing computers into school and an advocate for technology to support the curriculum. Sister Josephine's reputation in Hounslow as a formidable head was widely known.



Sister Josephine Barron, who has passed away at the age of 96

She had taken Gumley from being a small grammar school of 500-plus students occupying two buildings to a large comprehensive school of 1,000-plus students occupying a campus of six buildings – a wonderful legacy for Catholic education.

The years from 1983 to 1998 saw Sister Josephine become provincial bursar in the British Province, moving to Salford. She brought the same dedication to this office and again ensured good stewardship of the province's goods and finances.

In 1999 she moved to the North-East, first as school officer at Newlands Convent FCJ in Middlesbrough and from 2002 as a governor of the newly amalgamated Trinity Catholic College.

Over the years she brought considered opinions and wise counsel to many governing boards.

Sister Moira Cashmore FCJ speaks of how easy Sister Josephine was to live within their onetime community, a relationship that continued when in 2017 they were missioned together to Kersal on the sad departure of the FCJ Sisters from Middlesbrough.

Diminishing sight and hearing ruled out all the daily pleasures the rest of us enjoy – watching television, listening to the radio or music, phone calls and the ability to see and enjoy family photographs.

She did, however, thoroughly enjoy walking in the garden and sitting in the shade on a sunny day.

She would sit in the sunroom for hours with her thoughts and prayers, always willing to share her knowledge and experience.

When ill health came, she was so grateful and gracious to our carers. The words complaint or self-pity were not in her vocabulary.

What enables a brilliant and successful woman to grow old so gracefully? Surely it must be the fruit of a deep spiritual life of prayer and service to her God and people over the 75 years of religious profession as a Faithful Companion of Jesus.

A Requiem Mass was celebrated for Sister Josephine at Kersal Hill Convent before interment at St Joseph's Cemetery, Moston. May she rest in God's deep peace.

New leadership for SVP in our diocese

As I finish my five-year tenure as president of the SVP in our diocese – a privilege as well as a challenge, as I was not expecting a pandemic in the middle of it – I thank Pat Nobbs, from St Aelred's in York, who has willingly taken on the mantle for the next five years.

We have eight conferences in the Hull area and beyond, ten in York and out to the coast and 13 in the north of the diocese, from Richmond and Northallerton out to Whitby and the North York Moors. Along with our practical work, we pray together regularly to sustain us in our work.

Befriending is what we do. Over this year,



Frances Gilchrist has handed over the reins at the SVP after completing her five years of service

members have made 11,123 visits or phone calls, mostly to elderly housebound. At the same time, support has been given to 565 refugees and asylum seekers and 41 homeless people.

Social action is important, as the aid we give is only a sticking plaster for the many needs of people in our country today. Along with other charities, we lobby our MPs and parliament to effect change in the government bills and decisions regarding immigration and the cost of living for those on benefits and in-work poverty.

Nearly all of our primary schools have Mini Vinnie groups and most of our senior schools have Youth SVP, an excellent way to introduce our young people to our work.

The cost-of-living rises hit the poorest most and some of our larger donors gave money to a national fund which is available for conferences to tap into in order to help those in need.

While our members themselves give regularly and church collections and donations from parishioners support us, to date our diocese has had £14,941 from this fund through 29 individual applications. It is sad to say we are the second highest in the country after the Diocese of Hallam.

While supporting our own beneficiaries, most conferences support a twinned conference in India or Sudan, along with student

sponsorships and support for small projects to help communities and individuals find a source of income for themselves.

As I move on, may I thank all our members who have given me so much support. Their enthusiasm has kept me going at times.

Without the support of our priests and parishioners we could not give the support

we do. Last but not least, thanks to our beneficiaries who have also become our friends and give as much to us in return as we are able to give them.

Please pray for the continuation of this vital work in the future.

Frances Gilchrist

Register for the peace walk

Everyone is invited to take part in the International Day of Peace Walk through Middlesbrough town centre, which we hope will help bring faith communities together.

Lunch will be served by the charity Investing in People and Culture (IPC), which has received support in the past from the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

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

Let's make this a special occasion and create an annual event on this important issue of peace and local cooperation.

The walk takes place on Saturday September 23, beginning at 10am.

John Hinman

Route

Meet outside the Trinity Centre at 10am
St Alphonsus Church
Hindu Temple
Southfield Road Mosque
International Centre for lunch and display of other faith.
Methodist Asylum Project (MAP), Borough Road, (also Chinese Community Centre)
Salvation Army

NEWS

Asylum seekers enjoy visit to the seaside

Father Pat Keogh and Whitby parishioners hosted a visit by 27 asylum seekers who live in Teesside.

The age of the visitors ranged from eight months to over 65 and all have sought asylum here from countries including Sudan, Uganda, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Two had only arrived here in the last few weeks and all are housed in temporary hostels with around 40 others, often for many years.

The day included snacks, drinks and playtime on arrival, followed by a day out in Whitby. Most of the younger visitors opted for the paddling pool, go-karts and ice cream, while many of the adults went for a walk around the town, checked out some of the charity shops and had a short boat trip around the harbour.

The showery weather, which had also disrupted Wimbledon and the third Test at Headingley that day, did not deter the group from having a successful day out.

They soon forgot the weather as they returned to the parish hall, where curry and rice, hot chocolate and more snacks were waiting for them. We presented the adults with gift bags of toiletries and food items to take back with them, while some tried on the donated clothes and went back with new outfits.

The visitors were very grateful and many left “thank you” notes. One wrote: “Thank you so much for everything you have offered us, from the food and clothes to emotional support. I came in with a heavy heart, very sad and depressed, but you gave me a lighter heart. Thank you so much. You have all truly been a blessing.”

Another said: “When I started out today, I



Some of the young visitors enjoying themselves in Whitby

was full of worries. Slowly over the day, the burdens have been lifted and I have felt lighter, then the rain came and just washed all those worries away.”

Thanks go to all the Whitby and Sleights parishioners, as well as the Goathland community, other faith communities and friends of no faith for their donations and time spent preparing for the day.

Excellent organisation by Liz Atkinson, Marie-Louise Fountain and their local team made the day so varied and joyful.

Thanks also to Mary Frankland for her help and advice in organising the event, and for her selfless support to asylum seekers in the Diocese of Middlesbrough over many years.

John Moran

A window into 150 years of learning at St John's

A commemorative stained-glass window marking 150 years of education at a Yorkshire specialist school was blessed during a special ceremony.

The window, at St John’s Catholic Specialist School in Boston Spa, near Wetherby, was blessed by Father Sean Molloy at a grand unveiling that saw current and past pupils join with staff from the school, families and loved ones.

St John’s (formerly St John’s Catholic School for the Deaf) supports children and young people who are hearing impaired, on the autistic spectrum or have complex sensory or communication challenges.

The school had been due to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2020. Because of the pandemic, however, many of its plans, including the creation of the window, had to be postponed.

Yorkshire glass artist Zoe Eady created the window, working for over a year in close collaboration with the school’s pupils and staff, including art teacher Emma Fowler, to ensure she included their ideas in its design.

As well as in-school workshops, children from St John’s visited Zoe’s studio, the Glass Garden in Leeds, for sessions.

Headteacher Ann Bradbury said: “The window is a true reflection of St John’s and represents how we have evolved over the last 150-plus years as a school and what we are – a place where every voice is heard and every voice is celebrated.

“That is absolutely represented in the stunning final window. The children expressed their views about what is important to them about St John’s, and Zoe has taken that input to create a window which perfectly represents those thoughts. The window is an important part of St John’s history.

“It has been a fantastic experience and we’re incredibly proud of our window.”



Art teacher Emma Fowler, Zoe Eady, headteacher Ann Bradbury and Father Sean Molloy at the commemorative stained-glass window marking 150 years of education at John’s Catholic Specialist School in Boston Spa

A Letter From Madonna House Accompanied in grief by Our Lady of Sorrows



A year ago, after my father died, I remained for a few weeks in America with my mother. Bishop Terry sent me his condolences, and in his message, he said, “While you are consoling your mother, you should try not to prevent yourself from grieving. The loss of a parent is a difficult moment in anyone’s life. No matter how spiritually we might feel we are prepared, it will always be a shock ... give yourself time.”

I am very grateful for these words. Grieving is important, and we do need time to grieve. But, we don’t always know when we will interiorly be in a space to allow ourselves to grieve or how to get ourselves there.

I have recently come to recognise a couple of situations/relationships in my life over which I had never grieved. I suspect that this is common. There are some losses that we may never have given ourselves permission to acknowledge as such. Other “losses” may be, rather, something we needed but had never received, such as a

particular aspect of nurturing. Probably many of us have losses that we have not grieved.

We are rightly told that grieving over such losses can be healing. But, more importantly for us Christians, it can open us up to a particular encounter with Jesus or with Mary, who know all that is grief-worthy within us. They know what it is to grieve. Isaiah prophesied that the Christ would be “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (53:3 RSV). The grief that enveloped Mary at the foot of the cross must have been well-nigh unbearable. They, more than anyone, know how to stand with us in our grief.

One of Mary’s most identified-with titles is “Our Lady of Sorrows”. We celebrate her feast on September 15, appropriately one day after the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross of her son. With Mary at our side, we can open ourselves up to whatever we need to grieve. It is so healing to allow her and her son to acknowledge our “losses” and

simply be with us. Mary and Jesus reverence these places of loss, for it is there that we participate in Christ’s passion, and it is there we can be particularly open to receiving the Father’s consolation and tender mercy. Within such understanding and love can be found the seeds of acceptance and forgiveness.

I don’t know exactly how it works that Jesus and Mary’s accompaniment is healing, but I know that it works. The particular way in which they bring consolation and grace will assuredly vary from person to person and from instance to instance, but Jesus and Mary do teach us acceptance and trust: trust that we can rely on our God to be our strength and to show us the way where we cannot simply “carry on” by our own resources.

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us and accompany us where we need to grieve.

Father Michael Weill

25 years, seven couples, five priests and counting!

One of the Catholic Church's best-kept secrets is "Teams", a number of small groups who belong to the international organisation Equipes Notre Dame.

The Middlesbrough Team recently celebrated our 25th anniversary at Sunday Mass celebrated by Father Phil Cunah, our chaplain.

We then enjoyed an excellent Sunday lunch at a local pub. Over our quarter of a century together, there have been five chaplains and seven couples.

One of our couples says: "Teams is very

special to us. It provides us with the support and energy to recharge our batteries, allowing us to cope with our busy lives."

Teams help to enrich married spirituality for couples. They provide opportunities to increase and improve prayer life, helping couples support each other and grow closer to God and to each other. They meet once a month over a simple shared meal.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about Teams, as new Teams are formed from time to time, see teamsgb.org.uk.

Peter and Di Wordsworth



The Middlesbrough Team celebrates its 25th anniversary with chaplain Father Phil Cunah at a lunch after Sunday Mass

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	1954	Rev Francis X Lynch	Scorton
4	1949	Rev Edward O'Rourke	Bridlington
5	1941	Very Rev Canon James Nolan	South Bank
6	1982	Very Rev John Currie	Hull
6	2019	Very Rev Mgr Anthony Bickerstaffe	Hull
7	1886	Rev Nicholas Rigby	Ugthorpe
7	1931	Very Rev Canon James Barry	Hull
10	1981	Very Rev Canon Thomas Slattery	Hornsea
11	1934	Very Rev Canon James Griffin	Hedon
12	1916	Very Rev Canon Silvester McMahon	Redcar
12	1978	Very Rev Canon Francis Connolly	Northallerton
12	2013	Rev Daniel McIver	Ballyhahill
13	1960	Rev Richard Fox	Hornsea
15	1962	Rev Francis Holland	Loftus
16	1969	Rev Arthur O'Connor	Holme-on-Spalding Moor
19	1911	Very Rev Canon James Brady	Holme-on-Spalding Moor
19	1971	Very Rev Canon Charles Clifford	Hull
20	1958	Very Rev Gabriel Redmond	Hull
21	1975	Rev David Quinlan	Hornsea
23	1890	Rev George Keasley	Yarm
24	1951	Very Rev Canon Cecil Farrar	Cheltenham
26	1973	Rev Gerard Croker	Pocklington
27	2001	Rev Charles Toner	Middlesbrough
30	1917	Rev Adrian Van Meerendonck	York
30	1953	Rev Michael Dillon	Driffield
30	1978	Rev Liam Noonan	Nunthorpe

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NEWS

Out and About

1 Friday

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

4 Monday

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

5 Tuesday

10am Christian Meditation Group meets online. For further information please email terry-doyle@live.co.uk. This takes place every Tuesday.
7pm Knights of St Columba Council 29 meets at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, beginning with Mass at 7pm in the chapel.

8 Friday

11.30am Birthday of Our Lady Rosary at the Lady Chapel, Mount Grace, followed by Mass at noon.

10 Sunday

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

11 Monday

2pm 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.

13 Wednesday

5.30pm Vespers and Sung Evening Song, St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

7pm Hull and Scunthorpe Circles of the Catenian Association will hold a joint meeting at 7pm at the Lazaat Hotel, Cottingham, followed by a buffet-style meal. If interested, email Charles Cseh at hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com.

14 Thursday

4pm CAFOD Young Leader Programme presentation of certificates by Bishop Terry and Bishop Stephen Wright (Hexham and Newcastle), at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.
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.

16 Saturday

Diocesan Inspirational Day for all Ministers at the Scarborough Spa Hotel.

17 Sunday

3pm Catholic Fellowship Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Middlesbrough.

20 Wednesday

5.30pm Vespers and Sung Evening Song, St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

23 Saturday

10am International Day of Peace Walk. Please register your intention to take part by emailing Jolande Mace at scm@middlesbrough.gov.uk. Meet outside the Trinity Centre, Market Square, North Ormesby.
7.30pm The Eddie White, Sacred Heart Irish Dance with Pat Jordan. All dances take place at Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB. Contact John Brown on 07871958412.

24 Sunday

3pm Interdenominational Service for people living with dementia, their carers and friends at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough. Followed by tea, coffee, and cake in the hall.

27 Wednesday

5.30pm Vespers and Sung Evening Song, St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.
7.45pm Cleveland Newman Circle meet at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough. Speaker is Monsignor Pat Kilgariff on "Five sonnets of Gerard Manley Hopkins: The Jesuit poet's inspiration and spirituality". Refreshments available from 7.30pm.

30 Saturday

9.30am to 3pm Diocese-wide Climate Change Event, "Don't just pray – do something, for God's sake! – What can we do to leave a better world for future generations?" English Martyrs Parish Hall, Dalton Terrace, York. For further information or to book a place email adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk or phone 01642 850505, extension 241.
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.

Online meeting looks at Harvest Family Fast Day plans

An online meeting will help CAFOD volunteers and friends find out how we can open our hearts to our sisters and brothers around the world through fundraising in our parishes this harvest time. Philippe Mougin, CAFOD's emergency response and support team leader, will talk about our response to last year's devastating floods in Pakistan, where Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help where it's needed most. We'll also share fundraising tips to help you bring your parish together for Harvest Family Fast Day on Friday October 6. The meeting is on Saturday September 16 from 10am to 11.30am. Register for the Zoom link at cafod.formstack.com/forms/harvest23.

- See next page for more details of the appeal



Dr Nasha's mobile clininc – Photo by CAFOD

Copy Deadline

Copy and photographs for inclusion in the *Catholic Voice* should be sent to: The Editor, Middlesbrough Diocesan Catholic Voice, Curial Offices, 50a The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QT.
Tel (01642) 850505, email catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk
Deadline Friday September 1 for our October 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.

How you can help Dr Nasha help others

Our Harvest Family Fast Day this year focuses on Dr Nasha and her mobile clinic. This is just one way the donations you give are helping CAFOD to help others.

Last year, when devastating flooding left more than a third of Pakistan underwater, Dr Nasha's mobile clinic hit the road.

Dr Nasha and her team travelled hundreds of miles, camping every night, to bring vital healthcare to people who had lost their homes and crops and been left isolated by the floods. In a village in Sindh province, they met Meera. She told them about a journey of her own.

Meera felt herself go into labour as the storm raged. She and her husband got their children to safety and then rushed to the hospital.

They borrowed a motorbike and rode through the darkness, battling against the rain and the rising water.

Thankfully, they made it, and Meera was overjoyed to hold her baby daughter, Marwi, in her arms. But when the couple brought Marwi back from the hospital, their home was gone – swept away by the flood.

The family moved into a temporary shelter at the side of the road. But with little food and nothing but contaminated water to drink, diseases spread throughout the camp, and Meera and her children soon became sick.

When Dr Nasha and her team arrived in her

village, Meera hurried to bring her children to the clinic and got them the life-saving medicines and treatment they needed.

Meera's baby is now a healthy one-year-old. Together, she and her husband have rebuilt their home and are working to recover what they lost in the floods.

"Dr Nasha's mobile clinic is a marvel. It's a motorised modern medical centre, packed with everything she and her team need to treat their patients, and wheels and an engine to get them where they're needed most."

The floods have affected thirty million people, with many of them left homeless.

Record monsoon rains and flash flooding across Pakistan have killed thousands of people, with millions more displaced from their homes.

Roads, crops, homes and bridges have all been washed away, in a situation described by Pakistan's climate change minister Shery Rehman as "a climate-induced humanitarian disaster of epic proportions".

In Sindh province, the worst-affected area, people are seeking whatever dry patches of ground remain along the area's narrow streets to pitch temporary shelter.

People had hardly started recovering from the shock of losing two seasons' worth of crops to the 2020 monsoons when their crops were again this year destroyed. Thousands of



Meera with her baby daughter, Marwi, who is now a healthy one-year-old thanks to Dr Nasha's mobile clinic – Photo by CAFOD/Louise Norton

livestock have also been killed in the flood waters.

People have lost their homes, cattle, lands and livelihoods, and urgently require humanitarian help. Affected communities need clean drinking water, food, emergency medical assistance and shelter.

We would like to thank you for helping us to

save lives. Donate today so doctors and other local experts can help families like Meera's when they need it most.

With extreme disasters such as flooding happening more and more, we need your love and support more than ever.

Carol Cross

The strange story of the ladder

Many visitors to Jerusalem will be familiar with the strange story of the five-rung ladder standing on a ledge above the entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Perhaps someone cleaning the windows forgot to bring it back in?

Actually, it's been there for nearly 300 years. An engraving from 1728 shows it in the same place. The trouble is, nobody knows who it belongs to and because there's no agreement between the different denominations inhabiting the church, it stays there.

Only once was it moved, by a rather arrogant tourist making a point about how ridiculous the whole thing was, but the ladder was found and returned to its long-favoured place.

Of course, at one level it is indeed ridiculous, but as a symbol of the divisions even among the tiny Christian population of the Holy Land, it serves to depict our fallen nature, able to distort and wound even the most sacred of places. It shows this is a place for people – earnest, damaged, well-meaning, wrong-headed people. Us.

It's also, for me, a symbol of something else. Ladders are used mainly for ascent and humanity seems universally addicted to the goal of ascent – achieving goals, competing to get to the top, growing our productivity and building bigger barns.

The ego is in command. We want the world to recognise our gifts and achievements. Ideally, we want the world to reward us and be organised around our desires. We want applause. We want to ascend the ladder.

But we follow a Saviour who was going in the other direction. From the incarnation onwards, Jesus was making his way down the ladder. He committed himself to the poor and marginalised. He gave his time, his skills and his healing to those the powerful ignored. He consistently gave his attention to those falling off the ladder.

Eventually, Jesus gave everything away – his dignity, his awareness of his Father, his very life. He couldn't go any further down. He fell right off the ladder into the abyss of Holy Saturday. And we waited.

We know the story. An empty tomb, death defeated, love vindicated, a new creation. Our hearts are full. But still, that ladder perches on the front of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. There's so much still to be done.

Bishop John Pritchard



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem

Tributes paid to Dr Jim

Bishop Terry has led tributes to Dr Jim Whiston OBE KSG, who died on Tuesday August 15.

"Jim was a faithful servant of the Church and, following a distinguished career with ICI, dedicated his retirement years to serving the diocese in a number of capacities, including as financial secretary and trustee," Bishop Terry said.

"He was also well known in the Church nationally and held a number of key positions over many years, most recently as a director of the Catholic National Mutual insurance company.

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

Jim rose through the ranks at ICI to become a director of the company, having obtained his doctorate and become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

He was awarded an OBE for his services to industry. After retiring, he worked for the diocese on a voluntary basis and was made a Knight of St Gregory (KSG) for his faithful service.

He will be sadly missed by everyone within the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

The news of Jim's death came shortly before we went to press. We'll have a longer obituary in October's *Catholic Voice*.



Dr Jim Whiston at the Chrism Mass in 2018 – Photo by Les Clark

NEWS

Reflecting on our decades of service

Following on from our recent series looking at some of the many roles laypeople perform in our parishes, here are two more, from different ends of the age scale...

My name is David Herd and I have been the parish bookkeeper at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hessele, for more than ten years.

I started after retiring from my job as financial secretary at the Diocese of Leeds, where I had worked since 2000. I have been a parishioner here since 1986, having moved from Leeds with my then career in the NHS.

Coincidentally, when I was interviewed for the job in Leeds, the chairman of the panel, Bishop David Konstant, asked me if I did anything in my parish.

A strange question, I thought, but I said I took the collection at the 8.30am Sunday Mass and was on the rota for the red



Mission Box collections – both jobs I have now done for more than 30 years.

The point he was making, and of which I became very aware once I started to work for the diocese, is that parishes rely on many volunteers doing a wide variety of things that all make things run smoothly.

I thoroughly enjoy my jobs, as I am sure many other unsung helpers do.

My name is Eoin Reilly and I have been an altar server at St Joseph's in Stokesley for ten years.

I love serving because it connects me to the Mass in a unique way – I can love and serve the Lord in an active role while also being given the time to deeply consider the readings and homilies given.

Serving also connects me to the parish community – altar servers know the celebrants best, and we make memories for a lifetime, especially on those stressful Easter evenings!

We have a great altar-serving community here as many of our team have been serving for long periods of time and know each other outside of Mass.

Altar serving has taught me so much about the Mass itself, as



well as how to engage and cooperate with others, and it has deepened and furthered my faith greatly.

I hope to stay involved with serving or another ministry when I go to university, as I think it has added a lot to my life and allowed me to add a lot to the lives of others. I am glad to have served and I hope this inspires others to do so too.

Parishioners gather to pray with nature

There are many churches with vaulted ceilings, but none as high as the vault of the sky. There are many long-carpeted aisles, but none as soft as a new mown path in a meadow.

There are many candles and decorative windows in our churches but none as bright as the summer sunlight over Aelred's Grange above Stean, in Nidderdale, in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

There are many church pews that are carved and polished, but none are so welcome as the bales of hay surrounding the sanctuary we created there.

The grange is where the old oak window frames of St Aelred's Church in York have been transformed into benches for weary travellers. Those benches are a little rickety now, but they live in a sanctuary that seems to become more beautiful and peaceful with each passing year.

When word went out that the guardian of the grange, Dianna



Father Chris Willis, Father Bill Serplus and Father Tony Lester at Aelred's Grange

Bowles, had once more invited us to celebrate Mass in the outdoors, the call was answered not only by members of St Aelred's congregation but others across the deanery who had heard of the delights of this sanctuary normally enjoyed only by the Herdwick sheep.

Local Catholics joined the travelling congregation, supported by their own priest, Father Chris Willis.

Mass was, therefore, concelebrated by three priests, as we had brought

Father Bill Serplus and Father Tony Lester from York.

Father Chris saluted the place in a touching sermon by adding it to his list of favourite places where he has celebrated Mass. The curlews provided the sanctuary bell. They may have been oyster catchers – opinion was divided in our gathering conversations. The post-communion silence was profound.

Barbara Cookson

Could ewe help Father Mario increase his flock?

A charity that supports vulnerable Christians in the Holy Land is looking for help to boost a successful project making Italian-quality cheese in Jordan.

The project began when Father Mario Cornioli came up with the idea of using local sheep and dairy milk to produce pecorino, mozzarella and ricotta cheese, to benefit the local economy and employing local women.

The charity Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) had worked on a previous employment project with Father Mario and agreed to fund training, the purchase of equipment for their factory and the salaries of six local women to get the project going five years ago.

Looking for a project manager, he recruited Ikhlas, a young and motivated agricultural engineer who had recently graduated from Mu'tah University in Jordan.

"The project really interested me and allowed me to stay with my family instead of moving to Amman to get a job," she said.

FHL's investment helped the initiative to flourish. The factory now covers its own costs, employs 14 local women and has led to the creation of a very successful pizza and pasta restaurant in nearby Amman that employs Iraqi Christian refugees.

To ensure consistent quality, the milk is supplied by their own flock of sheep and the project employs local shepherds to tend them.

As their reputation has grown, the demand for their cheese has increased, which means they need more sheep's milk than their current flock can produce.

Father Mario now needs to buy 50 additional sheep, which will allow them to ensure quality milk is being used in the cheese's production and will keep the overall costs lower.

Sheep are not cheap though – expanding the flock will cost about £160 per sheep. Can you help by purchasing a sheep?

You can donate online at friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate, adding a note to say your donation is for "Jordanian flock of sheep".

Ikhlas explains more about cheese making and the project's effects on her life at youtu.be/5nRe-2byMdU.



Father Mario, right, with one of the current flock of lambs

Piecing together the past

Can anyone help Carl Conway identify the two nuns in these pictures?

Carl writes: "I've come across this carte de visite of a nun and I'm wondering if she was local – it would be wonderful if we could give her her name back."

"I'm aware different orders had different habits, but not sure how to identify them. The photo of the older lady is Teresa Newcomen in her religious habit after becoming mother superior of the Sisterhood of the Good Samaritan, which I've taken from the Tees Valley Museums' website."

"I believe Teresa was involved with St Hilda's Convent on Coatham Road and I notice the similarity in the big white bow they both have, so I wondered if the younger nun belonged to the same order."

If anyone has any information, please email catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk.



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Children's food charity seeks volunteers to share story

When seven-year-old Michael attended church one Sunday, little did he know he would soon embark on an adventure to raise money for hungry children as part of the charity's Move for Meals campaign.

Inspired by a talk from a Mary's Meals volunteer, Michael told mum, Jennifer, he felt sad for the children who rely on the charity and wanted to help.

Mary's Meals serves nutritious school meals in some of the world's poorest countries, including Kenya, Haiti and Yemen. The promise of food attracts hungry children into the classroom where they can gain an education and hope for the future.

It costs just £19.15 to feed a child for an entire school year with Mary's Meals. Michael and his parents completed a 10K sponsored walk in two hours and 45 minutes. Setting out to raise enough money to feed two children for a year, Michael smashed his target, raising £800 for the charity – enough to feed more than 40 children for a school year.

Fran Lawson, Mary's Meals supporter engagement officer for the North of England, said: "Michael's incredible fundraising story shows the difference that sharing our story in churches can make to inspire people to get involved and help Mary's Meals bring hope to children living in some of the world's poorest communities.

"Our work is only possible because of our many dedicated volunteers – and we are currently looking for church representatives in Middlesbrough to help us spread the word about our work. The role requires only a small time commitment, with responsibilities including sharing leaflets and information and updates about our work with the parish community.

"If you would like to get involved and help us share our story with your parish, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you."

Mary's Meals is also encouraging people in Middlesbrough to get active, like Michael, and fundraise for hungry children.

Fran adds: "Michael's amazing fundraising is

a brilliant example of how you can support Mary's Meals by getting active. Whether you skip, walk, dance or swim – you can turn your moves into meals for hungry children around the world. Even just a little sponsorship can make a massive difference."

To start your own Move for Meals fundraiser, please visit

marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns/move-for-meals.

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 Mary's Meals' representative in your parish, email fran.lawson@marysmeals.org.



Michael raised £800 for Mary's Meals, enough to feed 40 children for a year

Special Sunday is a call to mission

In the first year of his pontificate, 2013, Pope Francis released an apostolic exhortation on the joy of the Gospel titled *Evangelii Gaudium*.

The document encourages the Christian faithful to "embark on a new chapter of evangelisation" while striving to find new paths to proclaim the Gospel in today's world.

Evangelisation is about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him.

Many of these quietly seek God, led by a yearning to see his face. Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel, excluding nobody.

This is the challenge and opportunity we take up on *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday. Formerly known as Home Mission Sunday, the Church celebrates *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday each year on the third Sunday in September (this year, Sunday September 17).

The work of encounter and evangelisation is promoted through the Directorate for Mission.

Through this directorate, the vision of the Holy Father is embraced in a fuller way and promotes the whole ideal of proclamation, evangelisation, dialogue and catechesis.

Pope Francis calls on the Church to embark on a fundamental change of direction in evangelisation, no longer relying on past structures and actions but reading the signs of the times and acting passionately in proclaiming the unique message of the Gospel that brings joy to all people who receive it with an open heart.

He says: "I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation."

Our parishes will hold a collection to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship.

School for Synodality seeks to meet Pope's challenge

The School for Synodality exists to help support the synodal conversion of the Church in England and Wales in our day-to-day practice.

Through conversations, the development of resources, webinars and parish and innovation programmes, it hopes to enable openness to the Holy Spirit in the Church through listening, sharing and discernment.

During the pandemic, Pope Francis presented us with a new image of Church, that no matter who we were, we were together in the same boat. The worldwide synod process came out of that desire to engage with our changing world and with those on the margins to regain a renewed sense of purpose and mission.

The School for Synodality, a partnership between the Diocese of Northampton and Synod Fruits, aims to help the Church regain

this sense of purpose and mission and build on the ways parishes and dioceses have engaged in experiences of encounter through the synod process so far.

Its resources aim to support the Church, embedding new synodal habits and practices, especially in how it approaches decisions, spiritual conversations and prayerful discernment in meetings.

The project is also launching two 15-month programmes, one for parishes wanting to take the next steps in responding to their synodal listening and the other for leaders creating new pastoral ventures that will support our parishes' synodal conversion.

A webinar series from October to November will look at developing synodal practice at a local level.

Find out more at SchoolforSynodality.org.uk.

From the Archives



40 Years Ago

(From September 1983 Catholic Voice)

Dear Fr. Nicholson,

Having been privileged enough to visit Lourdes several times myself, it was with a feeling of real joy and empathy that I read the letters describing the experience of Lourdes.

When I read of the peace, the love, the fellowship and the deep awareness of an ever-present and ever-loving God my immediate response was to praise and thank the Lord for giving us such a wonderful place. But then I was filled with even greater joy and understanding as I realised that all of these descriptions can also be applied to the experience of shared prayer as found in prayer groups and in the Life in the Spirit Seminars.

The experience of Lourdes is real and special but sometimes beyond one's means: the experience of shared prayer can be just as wonderful and is within the means of everyone.

Mrs M. McL

100 Years Ago

(From "St Mary's Notes" in Hull Catholic Magazine)

An open-air Whist Tournament was held on Aug. 11th on the lawn at "Eastholme", by kind permission of Dr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe. Great crowds patronised the event, and noticeably amongst those present from other parishes were the sons and daughters of St Patrick's. Amidst the scorching rays of the sun, with a rather light breeze, the many folks present enjoyed the novel pleasure of playing whist in the open air. Great excitement prevailed when the top scores were being called out by Canon English, for which twelve valuable prizes were awarded.

David Smallwood

NEWS

Pimms and Hymns unites churches in Hedon

Ss Mary & Joseph, Hedon, hosted a “Pimms and Hymns” afternoon for Churches Together in Hedon and Holderness.
The sun shone as people from all three twinned parishes of Hedon, Withernsea and St Charles,

Hull, along with many Anglican and Methodist friends, joined together to have a drink, get to know each other and join voices in praising God in the words of popular hymns.



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