



Bishop's Column

Over the summer we witnessed some disturbing events alerting us to the fact that climate change is definitely a reality and that it is affecting us all.

Record temperatures across Europe, forest fires here there and everywhere which quickly get out of control, flash flooding even in our country. (I write this column just as temperatures above 30 have been recorded for seven days somewhere in the UK.) We saw the devastation caused in Maui, Hawaii by fire, destroying whole communities and killing more than 100 people. We have heard of the terrible conflagrations happening in Northwest Territories and British Columbia in Canada where thousands have had to be evacuated.

Christianity following on from Judaism in the Old Testament has always insisted that we give great respect and value to the world in which we live. In the story of the creation of the world found in the book of Genesis, one of the most important truths is that the physical world was made by God and for that reason it is found to be "good". So, the real meaning of the account of creation in six days is not that the world was created in a week but that the one universe was created by the hand of the one good and loving God and so all must be good. Human beings are described in Genesis as "very good". The relationship of humans to the material world is described as one of "stewardship". Our first parents, called in Genesis "Adam and Eve", were to "till and keep" the earth entrusted to them.

St Francis had a deep love and reverence for creation. And he had a love for all the works of God's hand through which the Creator could be praised. To paraphrase him, "If such is the gift, how great the Giver." In *The Canticle of Brother Sun*, one of the few surviving writings of St Francis, the little friar addressed God directly, "Most high, all-powerful, all-good Lord!" and praised him not just for the material world but actually *through* the material world, which is the work of God's hands. Creation itself is a sign of God's real presence to us. And so, St Francis famously calls the elements "*Brother Sun... Sister Moon and Stars... Brother Wind and Air... Sister Water... Brother Fire... Sister Earth, our mother.*"

What follows from this is the call for Christians to be protectors both of creation and the human person. While holding firm to the dignity of humankind, we must also recognise and value the entire material creation. Its very function of serving the needs of the human race calls for a deep respect and management so that the material world is not exploited to the point of being destroyed by one generation or one group of wealthy nations, and therefore not then available to future generations of peoples.

The climate is in crisis, and it affects us all. But it is the poorest communities who are suffering the most. Sure, it is such a global problem that bodies like the UN and the governments of all countries have to take it seriously. But, like most things in life, it has to begin with me. I have to change. You have to change. So the question is; will I? Will you?

+ Long

What's Inside

Funeral for 'man of prayer' Jim
Page 3



Medic Robert finds new mission
Page 10



Saints' relics venerated during visit to cathedral

Members of the congregation queued to venerate the relics of St Columba, St Andrew and St Margaret after a special Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough.

The visit was part of a tour organised by the Knights of St Columba and brothers from Council 29 of the order attended, wearing their regalia.

St Columba of Iona was born in County Donegal. He is one of the 12 Apostles of Ireland and carried Christianity to the farthest corners of Scotland.

St Andrew the Apostle, the elder brother of St Peter, was called by Jesus to become a "fisher of men".

Although born in Hungary, St Margaret of Scotland was an English princess and a Scottish queen who married Malcolm III of Scotland. Pope Innocent IV canonised her in 1250.

In his homily, Canon Paul said all the saints point us towards God.

"You might wonder why we have saints," he said. "Well, there are lots of reasons, but the one I want to put forward of these three great saints is this.

"Imagine we're invited to a party that a big Hollywood star like Tom Hanks is attending. He's late, but lots of other stars are there, so you ask them what he's like and they tell you. By the time Tom Hanks arrives you feel you already know him.

"That's a really good image of what the



Chaplain Canon Paul Farrer and brothers from Council 29 of the Knights of St Columba with the relics at St Mary's Cathedral

saints do for us. Their lives tell us a little bit about God and give us a glimpse of what God is like and how he interacts with us as human beings.

"All three of the saints whose relics are with us today have a historic tie to Scotland, even though none of them were Scottish. They were far from perfect. We honour saints who were missionaries who started off in one place and took the light of Christ somewhere else."

Father Brian Nicholson concelebrated along

with Canon Paul.

The relics tour aimed to bring communities together, foster spiritual growth and celebrate the rich heritage of the Catholic faith.

The Knights of St Columba is a lay Catholic organisation dedicated to promoting and defending the Catholic faith, fostering charitable works and supporting the spiritual growth of its members.

Last year Council 29, based in Middlesbrough, celebrated 100 years of faithful service to the diocese.

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NEWS

Stunning windows inspire prayer at St Peter’s

St Peter’s Church in Scarborough is celebrating its 165th birthday this year.

In August 1858, as the town grew in popularity as a fashionable resort and spa, Cardinal Wiseman came and blessed the new church.

It’s a mystery that the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster himself should have been on hand for the occasion, but perhaps he had seized the opportunity to escape the “Great Stink” in London that summer, when the Thames became an open sewer, so noxious that parliament had to close. Where better to take refuge from the terrible smell than the seaside?

St Peter’s is a Victorian jewel, not least in its remarkable windows, many of which came from the Birmingham workshop of the Catholic John Hardman, who created stained glass windows for among others, “God’s architect” Augustus Pugin.

His work is in the House of Commons and as far afield as the Roman Catholic cathedral in Sydney. This was the height of the Gothic Revival, a cultural movement that looked for inspiration in the art and architecture of the Middle Ages, and Hardman’s designs are some of the best of the period.

Parish priest Canon Eddie Gubbins decided it was time we paid proper attention to these artistic treasures and asked me to do some research and write something about them.

There were no records to be found in the county, parish or diocese, but the York

Glaziers Trust pointed me toward the Stained Glass Museum at Ely Cathedral and they confirmed the Hardman connection.

Even more helpful, the museum found in its archive an 1858 article from *The Builder* (whose editor, coincidentally, was Joseph Bazelgette, the architect of the magnificent sewage system that eventually saved London from its own stink), which accurately described St Peter’s at the time of its opening, and identified the sources of the windows already in place.

A unique feature of the 46 individual lights (in 17 windows) is that, with only one exception, they are all depictions of saints.

The exception is a superb illustration, somewhat unusually, of an incident from the Book of Tobit. The parish congregation is literally surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, as the author of the Letter to the Hebrews puts it.

Many of the saints have interesting local connections, such as St Chad and St Hilda of Whitby. St Helena, discoverer of the True Cross, appears twice, probably because she was the mother of Constantine, the first Christian emperor, who was crowned in York and founded his New Rome at Constantinople.

The windows are full of glorious, colourful detail, particularly in the riot of flora around the feet of the saints, an aspect of their design possibly influenced by the pre-Raphaelites, who were to produce the windows in St Martin’s-on-the-Hill Anglican Church on South Cliff five years later. But the artistic features of St Peter’s windows easily stand comparison with those.

Now we have produced a 32-page booklet as an introduction to the windows, for parish and visitors alike. It is richly illustrated with photographs and has been beautifully put



The book’s author Andrew Carter with Canon Eddie Gubbins in front of a window of St Anne with the young Mary reading from the Hebrew Tanakh

together by local designer Declan Murray, with the help of his creative family, members of the parish.

These windows are not just works of art, beautiful in themselves, but aids to prayer. The text briefly outlines the basic details of each saint’s life (and death, in the case of martyrs) but also focuses on the spiritual character and wisdom of each one, as prompts to meditation.

In his book *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Benedict XVI wrote that “the saints are the true

interpreters of Holy Scripture” because they live out the meaning of the Biblical text in their lives.

“Scripture is full of potential for the future, a potential that can only be opened up when someone ‘lives through’ and ‘suffers through’ the sacred text,” he writes.

So there is plenty of inspiration in the windows of St Peter’s with which to respond to the universal call to holiness in today’s world.

Andrew Carter

BISHOP TERRY'S OCTOBER ENGAGEMENTS

1	Attends Walsingham Pilgrimage
3	Attends the Bishop’s Council meeting via Zoom 10.30am
4	Meeting with Father Martin Alukka, Provincial Superior, Missionaries of Faith 9am
8	Celebrates installation to candidacy at St Thérèse, Ingleby Barwick 11am
10	Attends the AGM Prison Chaplains’ meeting, Bishop’s House, Middlesbrough 10.30am
12	Visit to St George’s School, Eastfield, Scarborough 9am
13	Visit to Our Lady & St Peter’s School, Bridlington 9am
14-15	Parish visitation to Bridlington, Filey and Eastfield
16	Attends Department of Social Justice meeting in London 10.30am
	Attends meeting of Northern Church Leaders via Zoom 4pm
17	Attends Trustee Board Meeting, Middlesbrough 10.30am
18	Visit to St Augustine School, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough 9am
19	Attends meeting of the Northern Province, Bishop’s House, Leeds 10.30am
20	Visit to St Gerard’s School, Hemlington 9am
21-22	Parish visitation to St Mary’s Cathedral, SS Francis and Clare’s, Middlesbrough
24	Visit to St Clare’s School, Middlesbrough 9am
25	Visit to Sacred Heart School, Northallerton 9am
26	Attends Safeguarding Sub Committee meeting, Middlesbrough 10am
28-29	Parish visitation to Northallerton and Bedale
31	Attends DTEC meeting, Middlesbrough 10.30am

Fun and sun for the Big Day Out

There’s nothing better on a summer’s day than having fun at the beach. It’s something many of us may take for granted but sadly is out of reach for many low-income families.

In Teesside, one of the most deprived areas in the country, up to half of all children are increasingly unlikely to enjoy this simple holiday activity in the face of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

But thanks to a fantastic partnership between Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland, Brakes’ Meals & More and Whitby Seafoods, children and families from across Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland could do just that this summer.

More than 100 children, youths and parents enjoyed the Summer Big Day Out. The fun took place in Saltburn over two days and was hosted by Hope 4 East Cleveland and Caldicotes Primary Academy.

The Big Day Out is part of the Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland’s Feast of Fun school holiday programme, but chief officer Kate Jeffels says: “It couldn’t happen without the funding, support and hard work from all of our dedicated partners.”

On each day, Whitby Seafoods brought along their famous Scampi Camper providing more than 100 fabulous lunches.

Brakes’ Meals & More funded door-to-door return transport from convenient pickup locations and there was even enough left over for every child to have an ice cream treat after their fish and chips. Whitby Seafoods also brought amazing age-appropriate goody bags for every child, including fun stuff like a stick of Whitby rock, sunglasses, a beach ball and a water pistol – though we think they may have regretted that last one!

All agreed that all had a brilliant time, with the Scampi Camper a firm favourite.

One child said: “We had a great day out, thanks so much!” and a group leader added: “It was a great day, and the older ones enjoyed it just as much as the families.”

The families who took part could enjoy a day out with no worries about the cost.

For these two days at least, they could put their money worries aside and enjoy precious family time.

And the big question, what did the weather do? Well, of course, it stayed sunny and warm for both of these special days.

**Kate Jeffels, Chief Officer, Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland
John Hinman, Volunteer, Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland**



Families enjoying a delicious lunch at the Big Day Out

Funeral takes place for ‘authentic man of prayer’

Three bishops and 26 priests concelebrated the funeral Mass for former Diocese of Middlesbrough financial secretary Dr Jim Whiston KSG OBE at St Mary's Cathedral.

Principal celebrant Bishop Terry was joined by Bishop Emeritus John Crowley and Bishop Peter Brignall, chair of the Catholic Trust for England and Wales.



Jim Whiston, who has died at the age of 87

Other clergy present included vicar general Monsignor Gerard Robinson, cathedral dean Canon Paul Farrer, Canon Christopher Thomas, general secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, and Canon Derek Turnham, who had travelled from the Diocese of Northampton.

In his homily, Monsignor David Hogan said: "Jim was, in the best meaning of the words, a son of Middlesbrough – or to be more accurate, a son of Catholic Middlesbrough, of which he was throughout his life hugely indebted to and proud of.

"One of the realities of Jim's life with its many accomplishments and pattern of service was that he was an authentic man of prayer. When Jim told you that you were on his list of prayer, that was not a pious cliché because he was authentic. It was true,"

Jim was born and brought up in St Patrick's Parish, Middlesbrough, and was educated by the Marist Fathers. He obtained a first-class honours degree in chemistry and a PhD in radiation chemistry at Durham University and was on the teaching staff at Newcastle University for two years.

Jim married Teresa Boylan at St Patrick's Church on September 12 1964 and they had two children, Clare Catherine and John Patrick.

He joined ICI's research department at Billingham and spent the rest of his working life with the company, based in the USSR,

USA and the UK and eventually at ICI's London headquarters as group vice president responsible for safety, security, health and environmental affairs worldwide.

He served on the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Substances and the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations, both UK government appointments, and was awarded an OBE for services to the chemical industry in 2007.

In retirement Jim served the Catholic Church nationally in various key positions and the Diocese of Middlesbrough as financial secretary, trustee and chair of governors for several schools.

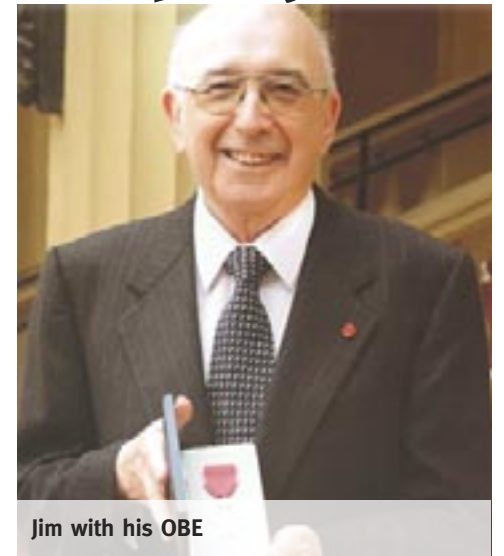
He was also a visiting management teacher at two seminaries, the Venerable English College in Rome and the Royal English College of St Alban, Valladolid, of which he was also a trustee.

He was made a Knight of St Gregory for services to the Catholic Church in 2004.

Jim was a lifelong supporter of Middlesbrough Football Club and his passion is shared by his two grandchildren in Melbourne, Thomas, aged seven, and Tessa, five.

Staff and teachers from St Francis Xavier School in Richmond, where Jim was chair of governors, joined mourners for the funeral.

Prayers of intercession were read by past and present curial office staff, while parishioners from St Oswald's, Gainford, where Jim



Jim with his OBE

worshipped, bought up the offertory gifts.

Journalist Michael Morrissey paid tribute, saying: "Jim was diocesan press and communications spokesman for many years and did a good job. His work in this field was voluntary, like his work as finance chief. God rest his soul."

Jim passed away on the Solemnity of the Assumption, August 15, aged 87. His funeral took place on the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, which was also the anniversary of his wedding to Tess, who died in 2014.

How your money helped after devastating floods

I have been privileged to work with CAFOD for many years, supporting our emergency and humanitarian work and our partners in places such as Darfur in Sudan, South Sudan, Niger and Pakistan.

I am responsible for a nine-strong team that supports CAFOD's country teams and partners in their emergency work before, during and after a crisis.

This is often as physical deployments but also through remote technical support and expertise, water and sanitation hygiene, cash transfers, protection and general project management support.

The team also manages response programmes where CAFOD does not have a country programme.

One such country, Pakistan, ranks fifth in the world as most affected by natural hazards and 90 per cent of the population is exposed to floods.

Last year, however, the monsoon rains season started early, in June, and Pakistan faced torrential downpours and devastating flooding that led to an unprecedented disaster. Rainfall was nearly three times higher than the country's 30-year average.

More than 33 million people have been affected, with more than 1,700 deaths – one-third of them children – and nearly 13,000 injured.

A third of the country was under water at some point in August, as most of us saw on our television screens. More than a million animals perished, and two million homes were destroyed or badly damaged.

Almost eight million people were displaced, and eight million acres of crops were impacted. Water supply systems were contaminated, spreading diseases.

All parts of the country were affected, but Sindh and Baluchistan provinces were the worst hit.

Sindh is largely centred on the Indus River valley, with much of its agricultural area irrigated by an extensive canal system. Agricultural production is threatened by climate impacts, including increased threat of flooding, drought, erosion, crop diseases and pest attacks.

Severe climatic events such as cyclones and torrential rains are more frequent, as are floods, not just in Pakistan but in the whole of South Asia.

The impact of climate change is multi-faceted. Before the floods, the country had dry conditions for months, which made the soil hard, exacerbating the floods' impact, as the soil could not absorb the water.

The disaster coincided with a political and socio-economic crisis, with sky-high inflation and people struggling to meet their basic needs.

We worked with our new partner Community World Service Asia (CWSA), with which we began working one year earlier, assisting Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

CWSA is a strong, Church-based organisation and a member of ACT Alliance. It can respond to disasters at scale, working in education, health, livelihoods, climate action and disaster risk reduction.

The organisation already operated in Sindh, allowing us to respond quickly, with a first grant in September 2022.

Our focus has been on emergency assistance to families and communities affected by the floods.

The first step was for our partner to coordinate with the governmental disaster management authorities and others, including international NGOs.

It was then decided that CWSA would focus its emergency response on two districts in Sindh's south and one in the north – all among the worst affected areas.

CWSA conducted rapid needs assessment and access to water, health, shelter and food were confirmed as priority needs.

There were serious concerns about the spread of water-borne and vector-borne diseases, diarrheal diseases, skin infections, malaria and dengue fever.

Also, there were major concerns about acute respiratory tract infections – many people had to sleep in cold, temporary shelters.

Such diseases remain a key public health challenge in flood-affected areas, especially among children and older adults.

Two major projects were started in September 2022, one supported by our CAFOD Appeal and Caritas Australia and one using funds from the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal.

This rapid response was made possible thanks to generous donations from CAFOD supporters early in the crisis.

Through these interventions, CWSA has provided free healthcare to 72,000 patients for 12 months by establishing five mobile health units to treat common ailments, as well as offering antenatal and postnatal care.

We have also provided cash help to 2,650 families for food and other essentials.

The staff of each unit, who include a doctor, sometimes see up to 150 people in a day. Efforts have been made to recruit female medical doctors for four of the units. They also offer awareness and counselling sessions.

During the first nine months, 95,000 patients received treatment and around 30,000 attended health awareness-raising sessions.

I would like to express our grateful thanks to everyone who supported our emergency appeal for the Pakistan floods last year.

CAFOD's Harvest Family Fast Day on Friday October 6 focuses on our ongoing work in



Philippe Mougín – Photo by Claire Mougín/CAFOD

Pakistan, which you have enabled us to do through your generosity and kindness.

Philippe Mougín
CAFOD Emergency Response and Support Team Leader

NEWS

Free uniform giveaway provides new term boost

The cost-of-living crisis and rising cost of school uniforms have made the start of the school year more expensive than ever for hard-pressed families.

To help, we asked primary schools in Middlesbrough if we could take the left-behind uniform at the end of term.

What we thought would be a couple of bags

of lost property items turned out to be a full carload of uniforms donated by parents.

And after an appeal, even more new and pre-loved uniforms were dropped off at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

The uniform was to be offered alongside the food bags organised by the parish's Justice and Peace group, but there was so much

more than we expected.

A pop-up shop giving away pre-loved uniforms had closed in the Parkway Centre nearby, and after a phone call to the centre manager, we could use the empty unit to give away the pre-loved clothing.

Volunteers came forward after a post on Facebook and joined others from the Justice and Peace group and local SVP conferences.

Twenty volunteers offered their help over three consecutive Tuesday mornings, sorting, folding, and organising the clothing. But most of all they were the friendly face of the store and welcomed everybody in.

We kitted out children from three to 16 years who were more than willing to look through and try on the uniforms.

They knew they were helping their parents and carers by taking pre-loved clothing, as well as the effect reusing and recycling the clothing has on the planet.

As we gave away stock, more was being

kindly donated. Anything left was delivered to the Methodist Asylum Project in Middlesbrough and the Genesis Project, which runs from St Oswald's Church, Grove Hill, Middlesbrough. Stock that couldn't be worn was taken by the SVP shop in Middlesbrough to be weighed in for cash.

Children grow out of their clothes so quickly. Could this be something that can be repeated throughout the year, if we have the space and volunteers? Could schools be encouraged to run a "Swap Shop" for the clothing children have grown out of?

This shop was opened in a very short space of time. It's the collaboration between community and charity groups that makes initiatives like this a success.

A massive thank you to the Parkway Centre staff and everyone who donated clothing or volunteered their time. And special thanks to the young eco-warriors who are wearing their pre-loved uniform with pride!

Sharon Pemberton



The pop-up uniform shop at the Parkway Centre in Middlesbrough

SVP initiative helps keep children fed all summer

Members of St Wilfrid's SVP Conference in York are heavily involved with the food bank outlet in St Joseph's Hall.

We were concerned about how parents already struggling to put food on the table each week would manage through the summer holidays when free school meals were not available.

We turned our concern into action and offered free lunch packages to our school pupils every Thursday before the opening of our food bank session.

Each package would contain non-perishable items for simple meals for one child throughout that week, such as pasta and sauces, tuna, hot dogs, baked beans, plus fresh bread and fruit. They cost at least £10 to put together.

Thanks to the positive reaction of our priests, the extreme generosity of our parishioners, who boosted our coffers with cash donations to the total of £1,800, the prayers of children in St Wilfrid's School, 37 children benefitted at the first session alone.

Thanks also to the hard work of SVP members and supporters, planning, shopping, transporting, packing and distributing the packages.

We were richly blessed that one new member, Mark, thought to nominate our project to his employer, Simpson Associates, who then chose it as their charity of the quarter.

Staff were encouraged to bring food donations to work and the company matched the value, enough for another £300 worth of goods.

The scheme continued through the summer and proved invaluable to the many families we serve in Clifton, York.

Angela Breffit



Honorary Diocesan Archivist

(Part Time/Flexible)

Honorarium: £400 pa
Based: Curial Office, Middlesbrough
Starting: October 2023

The Diocese of Middlesbrough seeks to recruit an enthusiastic and appropriately qualified person for the role of Honorary Diocesan Archivist.
The Archivist will largely work unsupervised and hours are work will be flexible.

Key duties:

- Ensure the safe storage of all material kept in the archive
- Maintain up-to-date catalogue of all material kept in the archive
- Source new items for the archive and add them to the catalogue
- Answer correspondence from third parties looking for material from the archives and conduct research where appropriate
- Scan and transcribe documents for our digitisation programme.

Although no formal archival qualifications are initially required, the successful candidate would be expected to acquire some knowledge of archival theory and practice by undertaking in-service training through participating in the activities of the Catholic Archives Society.

The successful candidate is expected to have an interest in both church and community history and have good IT skills.

For a job description, person specification and application form, please email bishopsecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk.

Closing date: Monday October 9 2023



SVP volunteers at St Wilfrid's in York provided summer holiday lunches for families to help them manage when free school meals aren't available

New board will help schools train future workforce

TV's *The Apprentice* candidate and entrepreneur Bradley Johnson returned to his old classrooms for the launch of an ambitious partnership between business leaders and 38 Catholic schools.

The NPCAT Industry Partnership Board – which will be headquartered at St Peter's Catholic College, South Bank, where Bradley once studied – aims to help schools equip Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) pupils with the skills and qualifications needed for the jobs of the future.

Bradley, MD of Ingleby Barwick-based Garden Rooms, was one of the speakers at a launch event at St Peter's.

Eye-catching advances in Artificial Intelligence are just some of the changes currently taking place, and NPCAT head of careers Lisa Hegarty wants the 38-school trust to stay one step ahead.

The initiative, which builds on the success of the pioneering FUTUREPROOF careers programme, is designed to forge stronger links between the trust and employers.

The board comprises curriculum directors, employers and pupils.

Mrs Hegarty said: "The partnership is about us as an organisation ensuring our curriculum is fit for purpose. For too long, education professionals have not been sufficiently

familiar with current thinking in other sectors.

"That's why it's imperative that employers challenge us through the Industry Partnership Advisory Board.

"We need to be progressive in our thinking. We want to engage with parents and carers directly. If they're in any way unsure how they can best assist their child in these key life decisions, we're here to support them.

"They can also access our FUTUREPROOF website and see what's out there."

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty says the partnership will help the parties get to know each other better and truly understand each other's needs and what they can offer.

"We want to create ongoing relationships that break down potential barriers to young people considering employment pathways," he said.

"We can sometimes have misunderstandings about what a role involves. We want to give young people a first-hand understanding of what these industries actually do, the opportunities that exist and what qualifications, skillsets and personal qualities employers are looking for."

High-quality work experience opportunities are just one way the partnership is expected to bear fruit.

Employers will be able to access more than

15,000 pupils, helping to ensure a constant flow of talented young people who have the secondary education their sector needs.

They will also be offered free use of the facility as a training venue so they can also upskill existing staff.

Visit futureproof.npcat.org.uk to find out more.



Hugh Hegarty, executive headteacher Michael Burns, Lisa Hegarty, headteacher Stephanie Garthwaite and *The Apprentice* star Bradley Johnson

OPEN DAYS

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ST PETER'S

College,
Middlesbrough

Tuesday
3rd October

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Middlesbrough, TS6 6SP

17:00 - 19:00

ALL SAINTS

Secondary,
York

Tuesday
3rd October

Mill Mount, York,
YO24 1BJ

18:30 - 20:30

TRINITY

College,
Middlesbrough

Tuesday
10th October

Lacy Road,
Middlesbrough, TS4 3JW

16:00 - 19:00

For more information:

npcat.org.uk

01642 529200

NEWS

Colourful end to Oasis of Silence retreat

A spectacular rainbow filled the skies above the Oasis of Silence at St Hilda's Priory in Whitby at the end of a ten-day retreat.

The retreat was described as a time of great blessing and deep encounter with Christ for everyone involved.

For over a year, groups and individuals have been visiting the centre for residential retreats of varying lengths, all based on the practice of contemplative prayer.

Even more people have made use of monthly Saturday retreats, individual days spent listening to God in the present moment, both outside in the priory gardens and praying in the meditation room.

“The programme of contemplative prayer retreats, offered by an ecumenical team at the Anglican retreat house, has been taken up by many people, mostly Catholic, but also of other denominations and none,” said Angela Simek.

“With great joy, we have also noted how many so-called ‘lapsed’ Catholics have come and discovered a new encounter with Christ and his Church through the contemplative prayer practice offered. Others have come from a Zen-like practice of meditation but have been called in this way to discover the contemplative side of Christianity and to discover their own spiritual heritage anew.”

The aim of the Oasis of Silence is to share the richness of the Christian tradition with anyone who would like to.

Angela says it is linked to our own northern heritage through the contemplative practice of the Celtic saints and medieval mystics, as well as the modern contemplative tradition of

the many religious houses in North Yorkshire.

“Everyone interested in spending time in the silent practice of contemplative prayer is welcome to come to the Oasis of Silence,” said Angela.

“It is open and, we hope, helpful to anyone whatever method they are familiar with, as the focus is always on entering the silence of the present moment and being open to Jesus Christ as the centre of our lives.

“Coming as we do usually from busy, noisy lives, most find the guided meditations at the beginning of the retreats helpful to calm the mind and bring them gently to rest in God.

“Following the suggestions made by Franz Jalics SJ, known as the ‘Gries Path’, the Oasis leads into and centres on the simple form of the Jesus Prayer, listening to the name of Jesus within us.

“If other prayer words are preferred, this remains an invitation. What matters is the opportunity to respond to God’s call, to be open to the encounter with God and to take the time to do so.”

A four-day Tasting the Silence retreat will be offered again as a midweek retreat from Monday October 23 to Thursday October 26.

It is designed particularly for anyone who would like to make a contemplative retreat but is unsure about spending long periods of time in silence.

The centre’s popular one-day Saturday retreats restart on October 14 and are repeated on November 11 and December 16.

Angela said: “We are doing everything we can to make the Oasis of Silence programme



A rainbow above participants at the end of their ten-day retreat at the Oasis of Silence at St Hilda's Priory in Whitby

better known, as it’s something many Catholics are seeking – and we always get good feedback from participants.

“Everyone is welcome. We are all beginners in contemplative prayer!”

For further information and registration, contact Sister Helen Stout, St Hilda's Priory, Castle Road, Whitby YO21 3SL, email hospitality@ohpwhitby.org.uk or call 01947 899600.



The Assumption Mass at Mount Grace – Photo by Josh McGeary

Worshippers gather to honour Our Lady

The faithful from across the diocese gathered for the annual Pilgrimage to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady.

The Rosary was recited before an outdoor Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace.

Membership of the Friends of the Lady Chapel is by donation and members are remembered in an annual Mass and daily prayers and also receive newsletters and invitations to events. Individuals, families and schools are all welcome to join. Visit ladychapel.org.uk/friends for more information.

Resources teach how giving can transform lives

Primary school pupils can learn how the promise of a school meal is transforming the lives of some of the world's poorest children, thanks to new educational resources from school feeding charity, Mary's Meals.

The charity, named after Our Lady, 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 these children into the classroom where they can

gain an education and hope for a brighter future.

The charity has launched two new free learning resources for primary pupils, downloadable from its website. The resources include easy-to-follow lessons, discussion questions, cross-curricular links and photo packs, which children's liturgy groups can also use to highlight the charity's work.

Fran Lawson, Mary's Meals supporter

engagement officer for the north of England, said: "By sharing our new resources with local schools, churches and teachers, people can help young people in the region learn about the challenges faced by children in some of the world's poorest countries.

"It also helps Mary's Meals reach the next generation of supporters so we can keep transforming the lives of desperately hungry children into the future."

To download the educational resources, visit marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/childrens-resources.

- Could you raise awareness and grow support for Mary's Meals' mission by volunteering as a representative for the charity at your local parish? For more information on how you can get involved and help feed more hungry children, email fran.lawson@marysmeals.org.

The power of porridge

This World Porridge Day (Tuesday October 10), you can support Mary's Meals by celebrating the major difference a simple mug of porridge can make to hungry children around the world.

In Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, a steaming mug of Mary's Meals' vitamin-enriched porridge is helping thousands of little ones to learn and grow and look to a brighter future.

You can transform more young lives by holding a Porridge Party within your local community and raising funds to help Mary's Meals reach the next child. Maybe a "Porridge Breakfast" after Mass or in school? To find out more about how you can mark World Porridge Day, visit marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns/world-porridge-day.

New Marian Garden at Ampleforth

A new Marian Garden, a place of devotion dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, has opened to the public in the grounds of Ampleforth Abbey.

A generous donation has made this place of prayer and reflection possible. A central path lined by an avenue of cherry trees leads visitors through an informal garden towards a statue of the Virgin Mary, which stands at the garden's head.

The statue is surrounded by trees, flowers and semi-closed seating orientated towards the statue for peace and privacy. Gates made from oak grown on the Ampleforth estate mark the entrance to the garden.

The monastic community gathered in the garden for midday office and to hear Abbot Robert Igo bless the garden and thank all those who helped bring the project to fruition.

The community encourages visitors to experience this place of tranquillity and hopes to inspire a deeper devotion to Our Lady, Mother of Hope.

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.

- Ampleforth Abbey is hosting a "Monastery Day" on Saturday October 21 as part of an event organised by monasteries throughout the UK and YouCAN, a group for Catholic young adults. This is a unique opportunity for young people to pray together, attend bible study with a monk or nun, attend Mass and enjoy social time together. For more information contact rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk.



The blessing of the new Marian Garden at Ampleforth Abbey

Talk seeks out modern prophets

Austin McCarthy, former chair of the Catholic Social Teaching group in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, is the speaker at Cleveland Newman Circle's next meeting.

The title of his talk is "Do we still have prophets today?" and it takes place on Wednesday October 18 in St Mary's Cathedral hall.

The talk begins at 7.45pm, with tea and coffee from 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more details call 01642 645732 or email p.egerton123@gmail.com.



Eleven-year-old Failo is one of 420,896 children in Zambia who receives a daily meal in their place of education

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NEWS

Event to help us continue our Synod journey

People still ask, “What’s happening with the Synod?” Many feel they did their bit by being involved in their parish consultation groups back in 2021/22, while others very much want to build on that work by turning their parish discussions into practical action.

You may recall that from all the parish submissions to the Synod process, along with every other diocese across the planet, we produced a synthesis of all the feedback we received (this is still available from Adult Formation).

The synthesis outlined the hopes and aspirations of parishes in our diocese to shape the Church.

It may be worth recapping one or two key messages regarding the Synod process and where we are as a Church in our “synodal journey”:

A synodal Church in announcing the Gospel “journeys together”. This is our mission!

· What conversations has the Spirit inspired in your sharing?

· What steps does the Spirit invite us to take to grow in our “journeying together”?

These two questions, along with the short mission statement above, are topics that need to be regularly revisited. Synod consultations are not meant to be a “one-off” event.

Pope Francis tells us Synodality is the way of being Church.

The characteristics of being a synodal Church involve...

- Listening to one another in a manner open to other people’s ideas, vision and needs
- Prayer
- Scripture reflection
- Discernment in the light of the Holy Spirit and our faith tradition

Where we are

For the first time, the Synod will include lay women and men among the voting members. From the worldwide consultation process, which intended to involve the whole people of God, three broad areas for further discernment have been identified and offered as a set of guiding principles for the work of the First Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome from October 4 to 29. They are:

1. A Communion that radiates: How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?
2. Co-responsibility in Mission: How can we better share the gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?
3. Participation, governance and authority: What processes, structures and institutions are needed in a missionary, synodal Church?

These signposts to guiding the synodal discussions each have five detailed topic-

related papers for discernment and producing the next part of our synodal journey. The full document can be viewed and downloaded free from the Vatican website – vatican.va – by clicking on the synod tab at the foot of the page.

As part of our ongoing diocesan Synodality formation, we will hold a day of prayer and reflection using the synodal process, along with some worksheets the General Assembly will be considering.

The event aims to affirm people in their current ministries and actions and help them reconnect with the Synodal journey.

Pope Francis reminds us we are a people on the move and the characteristic of a synodal Church is the ability to manage tensions without being crushed by them.

Come and join us at the cathedral for a day of prayer and reflection using some of the latest Synod resources.

Our event – Responding to the Synod: Becoming a Missionary Parish – takes place in the Northern Deanery but is open to anyone who wants to attend.

The venue is St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough, from 10.30am to 3.30pm on Saturday November 11.

Father Chris Hughes, a parish priest from our neighbouring Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, will facilitate the day.

Tea and coffee will be provided, but we ask



Father Chris Hughes will speak at Responding to the Synod: Becoming a Missionary Parish

people to bring their own packed lunch. Those who wish to attend are asked to register with adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk or by calling me on 01642 850505 or 07507 768303.

**Deacon David Cross
Adult Formation Coordinator**

Altar servers renew their VOWS

Altar servers at Sacred Heart, Middlesbrough, renewed their vows and welcomed their newest member, Emmanuella, to the Guild of St Stephen.

Certificates were given to Joshua, Owen, Harriett and Oge for five years’ service, Elizabeth and Wilf for seven years and Sabrina and Rosine for nine years.

They are pictured with Peter Loughlin, who has been a member of the Guild of St Stephen for 57 years.

Sandra Cross



Back row: Sabrina, Harriett, Joshua, Elizabeth, Oge, Peter and Wilf. Front row: Emmanuella, Sarah, Rosine, Abraham, Owen and Laura and chaperone Kathy Bell – Photo by Simone Chisena

39 step out for fun and prayer at Ampleforth

Thirty-nine children from across the diocese and beyond attended the annual Summertime at Ampleforth residential camp.

The camp, for young people aged 10 to 15, has taken place at Ampleforth Abbey every July for over two decades.

This year, a small group from Kilsyth in Scotland led by Father Scott Deeley also joined them.

Several young priests and teachers cut their teeth over the years, giving talks and testimonies.

The programme also included talks, daily Mass, informal cricket, football and rounders, an afternoon at Flamingo Land theme park and swimming at the St Alban’s Sports Centre in the abbey grounds.

The group, led by Father William Massie and Father Richard Marsden, also joined the monks for compline (night prayer), which always makes an impression on the children.

Abbot of Ampleforth Dom Robert Igo came over for a Q&A session on the final morning.



The group at this year’s Summertime camp

Bishop stands in solidarity with Pakistani Christians

Extremists targeted Christian homes and church buildings in the Punjab region of northern Pakistan after a Christian cleaner was accused of desecrating the Qur'an and insulting the Prophet of Islam.

Hundreds of Christians fled their homes to avoid the violent mob attacks.

Bishop Tom Neylon, lead bishop for Asia for the Bishops' Conference, has written to Bishop Joseph Indrias Rehmat of Faisalabad, where the wave of attacks took place, to assure the Catholic community of prayers and support.

"The Catholic community in England and Wales is greatly moved by the suffering of our sisters and brothers in Faisalabad and concerned for the safety of Christians throughout Pakistan," he wrote.

"Please be assured of our prayers and unwavering fraternity as you face the immense challenges of protecting those innocent families who have been affected and repairing the harm caused."

Bishop Neylon made a week-long trip to Pakistan in March, visiting projects in the major cities of Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Lahore and Faisalabad.

"During my visit to Faisalabad earlier this year, I was privileged to experience the generosity, joy and resilience of the Christian community," he said.

"I also witnessed the deep respect for other faiths and tireless efforts to build bridges

between communities. It is therefore extremely troubling to receive reports of Christians being targeted by violent extremists once again."

He concluded his letter with a prayer for peace.

"May you and all those working for justice and peace in Pakistan draw hope from the solidarity of our universal family."

Speaking later, Bishop Neylon stressed that some local Muslims helped Christians out of the firing line.

"Some reports from the country suggest that local Muslims helped Christians escape by warning them ahead of the attacks by extremists. We are deeply thankful to all those who risked their own safety to help protect others."

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) reported that almost 1,000 panic-stricken Christians spent a night in fields of sugar cane, having narrowly escaped rampaging mobs who destroyed their homes at Jaranwala, near Faisalabad.

The Catholic charity said 21 places of worship were attacked, many of them torched.

Archbishop Benny Travas condemned the violence and criticised the authorities' record on justice for Christians suffering acts of violence.

Describing how the riots were sparked by allegations of blasphemy in Jaranwala, Archbishop Travas said: "I just cannot



Bishop Indrias Rehmat of Faisalabad presiding at Mass outside the torched St Paul's Church, Jaranwala – © Caritas Pakistan Faisalabad

comprehend how my people would show disrespect to any religion or to any religious books."

The head of the Church in Pakistan, Archbishop Joseph Arshad of Islamabad-Rawalpindi Diocese, said false accusations of blasphemy against Christians and other vulnerable minorities can only be prevented by improving education.

There were tears of sadness and fear as a crowd of 700 attended Mass outside their burnt-out church.

Amid tight security, Bishop Indrias Rehmat of Faisalabad presided at the Mass held in the streets of Jaranwala. Although more than 30 police were in attendance, there was fear among the congregation.

Help build bridges of hope this Prisoners' Sunday

Prisoners' Sunday falls this year on October 8, when parishes across England and Wales are invited to bring people in prison and their families before the Lord in prayer.

Pact is the national Catholic charity supporting prisoners, people with convictions and their families.

This year marks 125 years since the charity's formation as the Catholic Prisoners' Aid Society. Today Pact supports people of all faiths and none, working in more than 60 prisons, in courts and in communities across England and Wales.

In our diocese Pact works at Askham Grange women's prison near York and at the probation hub in Middlesbrough, helping people recently released from prison to make good choices, nurture relationships and learn to rebuild their lives.

Askham Grange is an open prison for women reaching the end of their sentence. Many women go out to work or on visits to see their family, but they often find leaving prison daunting, perhaps even frightening.

Pact helps women prepare for release by learning new skills and by supporting them to feel positive about themselves.

Our work helps women to be restored to the community and live good lives.

Pact can sometimes give small welfare grants, often funded by the generosity of donors. Women receive vouchers, which are often used for food and clothes and perhaps a mobile phone. By receiving basic items on their release they have some help to begin their journey and make a fresh start.

Pact's member of staff at Askham Grange, Claire, said: "The women and families I work with have benefited enormously from these vouchers. It gives them peace of mind that they can meet their basic

needs on release and is a lifeline to many while waiting for initial benefits payments."

More than 85,000 people are in prison across England and Wales today. We incarcerate more people per capita than any other country in Western Europe. About 97,000 children in our communities have spent their summer holidays knowing their mum or dad is in prison.

This Prisoners' Sunday, Pact urges every parish to consider how they can make a difference.

Every Catholic parish should have received a Prisoners' Sunday pack with a poster, bidding prayers and a message from Pact president Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

The charity encourages all parishes to mark the day or another nearby Sunday, requesting a second collection for those who choose and can donate. The money raised will help Pact to do more in the year ahead to support women and men in prison and their children and families.

Find out more about how you can help at prisonadvice.org.uk/donate/prisoners-sunday-appeal.



Catholic charity Pact is urging people to support its important work in prisons

NEWS

Medic Robert finds new mission in the Church

Continuing our series focusing on the four men in our diocese who are training to be permanent deacons, we hear from Robert Colombari...

I've been asked to write a few lines to introduce myself to those who I haven't already met.

I live in Hornsea, East Yorkshire – and before anyone asks, yes, it is the place where they made the pottery! I'm married to Denise and have three sons who are all grown men now and have children of their own, so I'm a grandad to four little delights. I work full time for Yorkshire Ambulance Service as a medical technician.

I grew up in a secular household where no religion was practised. My father was in the Royal Air Force, so as a child we spent a lot of time moving from place to place.

I then continued this by leaving school and joining the Army to train as an engineer. This plan didn't come to fruition due to injury. I've worked over the years in factories, on building sites and in retail as a salesman until finally joining the ambulance service 15 years ago.

My faith journey started some years ago. My wife, Denise, was born into the Church and although she was not practising when we met, she always held her faith close to her heart.

I was intrigued and tentatively explored, but at the time in the area we lived in I didn't get much of a welcome.

Years later, having learnt a lot from life and having experienced the suffering of others, I felt the pull of faith and explored again.

It felt as if I was being pulled towards the Catholic faith and when I knocked on the presbytery door, I was almost dragged in by the parish priest. Anyone who ever met the late Father Peter Egan will know what a character he was.

As time went on, I attended church regularly and was gifted Sister Susan Taylor (now sadly passed) as my

guide through RCIA programme. I was baptised by Father Amadi, who had taken over as PP because of Father Egan's failing health, but to my joy, Father Egan was able to concelebrate.

At one point I was the youngest altar server in our parish at 42! I have always felt that for an organisation to flourish, everyone should be encouraged to participate, so when I was asked if I would attend the training to be a Eucharistic minister, I was very happy to accept.

The call to enquire into the diaconate came in 2019 and meetings were made with Canon David Grant and Father William Massie. But then, as we all know, Covid-19 struck and the world changed. Obviously, being in the ambulance service we saw a lot of the worst of it, but this not only confirmed my faith but made the call to the diaconate much clearer.

I was accepted onto the diaconate formation programme in 2021 and enjoy it hugely. The programme consists of some academic work, both online and in person at Hinsley Hall in Leeds, and more local sessions in Wetherby, as well as local mentorship.

I am lucky enough to be mentored by Bob Shakesby from St Anthony's in Hull, and guidance is always available from our parish priests when needed.

The parable in Matthew 13 where Jesus teaches, "Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain" is the perfect analogy for the formation programme.

I feel blessed to hope I have fallen onto fertile soil and pray that I will produce a good harvest.

• If you feel you are being called to the priesthood, the permanent diaconate or the religious life, contact our vocations director Canon Alan Sheridan by emailing parish.priest@stthereseingleby.org.uk or calling 01642 751304.



Robert Colombari, one of our candidates for the permanent diaconate

The vagrant Lazarus and the Levite

Ian McLean, a parishioner at St Paulinus, Guisborough, wrote this reflection, which is based on a personal experience, after hearing a reading from chapter 16 of St Luke's Gospel in Mass during Lent.

He was lying across the pavement on Linthorpe Road, at the corner that will forever be for me Woolworth's corner, or "Woolies," as we used to call it fondly in days now long past.

So often then, in the flower of my youth, that first tentative yet expectant meeting place, where hope and dreams of love and desire

could perhaps unite. "That would be nice. Where should we meet then?"

"On Woolie's corner. Say, about seven o'clock."

Does any such hope or love still abide in these desperate, desolate streets? I watched him from across the way, where Boots the Chemist now stands.

He was wrapped in a grimy sleeping bag, plastic-covered, to protect it from the rain. His scarred and tattooed hands clenched hard against the cold, rolling a cigarette with

baccy from the ubiquitous Golden Virginia tin. He was wearing on his head a black beanie, upon which I could just make out the letters LFC and what looked like a liver bird.

Was he from Liverpool? Or had he simply picked it up off the street somewhere? Perhaps I should walk over and ask him?

But no, he has a dog with him, and he has a blackened eye, although I struggle now to recall which one. Was it left or right? I didn't want to get too close. Probably inflicted during a beating from some late-night drunk.

Why do they always have dogs when they

struggle to feed themselves? I suppose the dog must love him. It lies quietly asleep in his tender lap.

My unsoiled hands reach for my wallet. But the rain, and look at the time! The X93 is due, and it's a five-minute walk to the Bus Station...

I sit quietly, content in the warmth of my room. My hands reach out to take my Bible from the walnut shelf. Which of the Gospels shall I choose to read tonight?

And I weep.

A Letter From Madonna House - Ordinary miracles



I've recently been reflecting on the extraordinary presence of God in our ordinary lives, little miracles found in the humdrum and the mundane that elude our sight and perception, except for when we quieten our hearts and minds and open ourselves up to see the world through the eyes of Christ.

When we are sweeping the floor, doing the washing up or even tidying a room, we can join our Lord Jesus Christ who would have done these things growing up in Nazareth and surely would have done them as well during his ministry.

Over the years I have begun to learn of the beauty of labour and work, beginning with the satisfaction of a tidy room, and progressing to the comfort of a clean bathroom.

On the Madonna House farm in Ontario, Canada, I've often helped to clean the pens of sheep and cattle. They were so excited to return to their tidy home that they nearly toppled me over in haste.

When I was a child, I used to resist and resent doing these little, menial and necessary chores, as they took time away from my otherwise free weekend.

But as I began to mature spiritually, I started to see that God was present in even the mundane necessities of life. Christ can be present to us as we walk the dog or weed the garden, just as he promised: "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" – (Matthew 28:20b RSV).

Later, I learned the joy of visiting the sick and the dying at their homes or in the hospital. There is nothing quite like receiving the appreciation of those who long for the solace of a human face in the presence of their loneliness, suffering and pain.

In fact, our Lord speaks of this in his parable about the sheep and the goats: "I was sick and you visited me..." (Mt 25:35b RSV).

We could also say the same of meeting up with an old friend or a new parishioner. We

can find ourselves touched by God's grace in such moments and maybe even discover that we bring Christ to all we meet.

On the farm that I mentioned above, I decided to plant a small garden around one of our buildings. After three years I still only managed to grow a few poppies, marigolds and zinnias.

Yet despite its small, unimpressive size, people really appreciated the beauty it brought to that little corner of the property. We used those flowers in our chapel and our dining room. God can use even the smallest act to bring grace, joy and even wonder to others.

I am very grateful that God is present to us in the normal affairs of every day, since much of our life is lived there. But still, I need the eyes of Christ to recognise his grace in these moments, and so I pray to God for his vision to see his hand in all things that come my way, even the ordinary.

Mathieu Dacquay

Siblings’ generous donation to the missions

Generous Middlesbrough siblings Laura, Abraham, Sarah, Oge and Elizabeth took over their parents’ little red mission box after hearing an appeal from a visiting Mill Hill Missionary.
Nine-year-old Laura started the saving and recruited her siblings to help, while their parents pledged to double whatever they raised.
“We donated pounds, pennies and notes, even change from when we buy things from shops,” she said.

Big sister Elizabeth, 15, added:
“It brings joy to my heart to know we are helping to make a difference, supporting those who can’t afford to support themselves unfortunately because of how the world is. Every penny helps.”

Missio’s Mission Together diocesan director for our diocese Helena McGouran met the family, who are parishioners of the Sacred Heart Church, to thank them for their £21.17 donation.
“It was lovely to meet Laura and her family on Sunday at their parish church,” said Helena.
“What a tremendous effort in fundraising for Mission Together. The little red box couldn’t hold the money and it had to be transferred to the bigger red box!

“Laura and her family are committed to helping Missio through their prayers and having a red box in their home. Thank you.”



Missio’s Mission Together diocesan director for our diocese Helena McGouran with the generous children

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.

2	1935	Very Rev Canon Sidney Calvert	Leyburn
4	1986	Rev Edward Taylor MCCJ	Leeds
6	1937	Rt Rev Mgr Canon Francis Hall	Hull
9	1930	Rev John Murphy	Market Weighton
9	2012	Rev Keith Hutchinson	Ampleforth
11	1998	Rev Maurice Hardy	Hornsea
12	1941	Rev Peter Kennedy	Whitby
14	1996	Rev Adrian Poole	Pocklington
14	2013	Rt Rev Mgr Canon Kevin Coughlan	Hessle
15	1921	Rev John McCabe	Pocklington
16	1881	Rev Jeremiah Murphy	Middlesbrough
16	1971	Rev Fredrick Bird	York
16	1986	Rev Patrick Fitzgerald	Middlesbrough
17	1969	Rt Rev Mgr James McMullan	Scorton
17	1977	Very Rev Canon Austin Wood	York
19	1937	Rev William McGlone	Loftus
20	1957	Rev Thomas McEntegart	Cottingham
20	1935	Rev John Cronin	Bedale
21	1919	Rev Jeremiah O’Leary	Brough Park
21	2017	Rev Patrick Cope	Hull
21	2021	Rev John James “Jack” McKeever	Ardee
25	2008	Rev Michael O’Connor	Hedon
27	1951	Rt Rev Mgr Canon Nathaniel Dunne VG	Middlesbrough
27	1958	Rev Maurice O’Regan	Driffield
27	1969	Very Rev Canon Stephen O’Brien	Beverley
27	1993	Rev Stephen Kitchen	Lealholm
27	2017	Rev Michael White	Cappawhite
31	1978	Very Rev Canon Gerald Quirk	Scorton
31	1992	Rev Bernard Hawksworth	Market Weighton

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NEWS

Bishops approve new Lectionary to be launched for Advent 2024

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the approval by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for the new Lectionary.

The Lectionary, which includes the scripture readings for Mass and the sacraments, will come into use in Catholic parishes in England and Wales from Advent 2024.

Cardinal Arthur Roche, prefect of the dicastery, wrote to Cardinal Vincent Nichols, president of the Bishops' Conference, confirming the new translation of the Lectionary, which has been completed in collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

He said: "The use of the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition, already in use in India, along with the Abbey Psalms and Canticles will help to ensure that the Word of the Lord reaches God's holy people without alloy.

"The collaboration of the Episcopal Conference with the Bishops' Conference of Scotland is another notable feature of this project which highlights the importance of different episcopal conferences within a small geographical area working together for the overall good of the Catholic population in the British Isles.

"What has now been achieved ensures that a

stable version of the Lectionary will endure in Great Britain for years to come. Both conferences are to be commended for this cooperation."

The Lectionary was revised after the Second Vatican Council. Paragraph 51 of Second Vatican Council document *Sacrosanctum Concilium* said: "The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word."

The Lectionary will be in use from Advent 2024 and will be published by the Catholic Truth Society.

Monthly Pope Video reaches 200m global views milestone

The Pope Video has broken a record by reaching 200 million views across all the Vatican networks.

Since 2016, when the first Pope Video was published, on inter-religious dialogue, 90 monthly videos have been released, covering topics that express the challenges facing humanity and the Church's mission.

The Pope Video is published simultaneously in 23 languages and reaches five continents through multiple digital channels.

About 24,000 news articles have been published, reaching more than 100 countries.

In less than two minutes, each edition condenses the concerns, prayer intentions and topics the Holy Father wants to share with the Church and with the world.

They cover the challenges the Pope believes are facing humanity and the Church, from the need for religious vocations and religious movements to the

abolition of human trafficking and modern forms of slavery.

Over the last seven years, the Pope Video has built a rich collection of audio-visual bytes that synthesise a large part of the Holy Father's social, religious and human magisterium.

All this material is available on the Pope Video's official website and makes up a free

online collection that can be useful to parishes, congresses and work meetings, as well as for education, formation, catechesis and many other purposes.

The site has a user-friendly search engine to help find topics of interest and complementary material, such as supplemental information and infographics, that help summarise each month's intention.



For World Youth Day
August 2023

A still from The Pope Video, which has now recorded 200m views

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.

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Deadline Friday October 6 for our November 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.

- Out & About will return next month

Choral concert raises funds for children

Guisborough Bridge Organisation promoted an evening of choral music at St Paulinus Church with the Erimus Singers.

Proceeds will support its children's activities, such as Bridge2Youth, Food and Fun across the holidays and Parents2Bridge.

The Bridge also runs two food-stop sessions and a community shop to support those in financial need in Guisborough.

During the week, the Bridge holds luncheon clubs and support groups. In 2022 the charity was presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The Erimus Singers is a small chamber choir established in 2018 by conductor John Dixon and administrator Rebecca Johnson.

Nicola Tayler, from the associate programme of the Royal Ballet School in Newcastle, accompanied the singers on the piano.

The first half of the concert featured German and Austrian composers as the singers

explored the music of 19th-century Germany, including Bruckner *Christus factus est* and Mauersberger's *Wie Liegt die Stadt*, written bemoaning the destruction of his church in Dresden and the death of all his choirboys in the bombing raids of 1945.

The second half included Benjamin Britten's *Hymn to St Cecilia*, the patron saint of music. The choir finished with the *Gloria* by Bob Chilcott, an uplifting and jubilant work with a majestic *Domine Deus*, a lyrical *Qui tollis* and culminating in a page of exultant *Amens*.

This was a polished and professional performance by the 14-strong choir, several of whom also sing with the Guisborough Choral Society.

The crescent-shaped auditorium of St Paulinus meant all the audience had a good view and could enjoy the acoustics.

Brian Gleeson



Conductor John Dixon and the Erimus Singers in St Paulinus Church in Guisborough

Lunch offers morale boost in Cottingham

Cottingham Section of the Catholic Women's League got together for their annual members' lunch.

We know some members don't like turning out for evening meetings, so once a year we hold a lunch, giving all our members a chance to get together.

And what could be better for morale than sharing a meal and chatting away about

anything you want? Four members provided the meal and the cost was shared.

Like all organisations in the Church, we need more members.

The national president's project for her term of office is PACT, which supports prisoners' families and helps support prisoners on their release from prison.

Elizabeth Rodgers, Branch President



Members of Cottingham Section of the Catholic Women's League enjoying their annual members' lunch

Hull group take part in March for Life

A group of 11 led by Father William Massie and Father Richard Marsden travelled from Hull to London for the annual March for Life.

Starting at the Emmanuel Centre, the march went to Westminster along Horse Guards Parade, past the entrance to Downing Street and finished on Parliament Green.

Police estimated the attendance at 7,000 and the overwhelming response was positive from onlookers as we passed by.

If you would like to be more involved in the pro-life movement, contact Frances at frances-redmore@hotmail.co.uk.



The hull group at the March for Life in London

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Outing marks Season of Creation start

"But let justice flow like water, and righteousness, like an unfailing stream" – Amos, 5:24

To begin the season of Creation, St George's, York, Laudato Si' group invited parishioners to immerse themselves in nature and enjoy creation.

The idea was inspired by the *Laudato Si'* Movement's desire to fall in love with creation again. From this springs a fierce desire to care for and protect what we have.

What better way than a walk and/or swim in a beautiful landscape and chat about ideas over food and drink afterwards?

It was a joyful day, beginning with Mass and ending with soggy towels, muddy feet, much-appreciated snacks and a sense of creativity and freedom.

David Harper



Parishioners from St George's, York, on their day out inspired by *Laudato Si'*

NEWS

Ulma family a ‘symbol of values that must not be betrayed’

A Polish Catholic family who were murdered in March 1944 for aiding Jews have been beatified in Markowa, where they lived.

Pope Francis praised the Ulma family's collective witness of faith in giving their lives to protect persecuted Jews during World War II.

The beatification Mass was celebrated on 10

September with 1,000 priests and 80 cardinals and bishops from Poland and abroad, more than 32,000 faithful and the Chief Rabbi of Poland all present.

“May the sacrifice made by the family of Józef and Wiktorja Ulma and their children, who did not hesitate to give their lives to help eight people of Jewish origin, be for us and future generations a symbol of faithfulness to

values that must never be betrayed even under threat of death.”

The beatified family members are Jozef and Wiktorja Ulma and their children Stanisława, Barbara, Władysław, Franciszek, Antoni, Maria and an unnamed child.

- Pope Francis has expressed his desire for the Rosary to be dedicated to peace and

reconciliation in Ukraine during the month of October, especially in Marian shrines.

The appeal came during a two-hour meeting with the Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Rome. Pope Francis told them he remembers the Ukrainians every day in his prayer before an icon of Mary.

Source: vaticannews.va

Pope reveals he is writing Laudato Si' II

Pope Francis has revealed he is writing a second part of his *Laudato Si'* encyclical to update it to “current issues”.

Speaking to a group of lawyers from Council of Europe member countries, the Holy Father expressed his appreciation for their commitment to developing a legal framework aimed at protecting the environment.

“We must never forget the younger generations have the right to receive a beautiful and liveable world from us, and that this implies that we have a grave responsibility towards creation we have received from the generous hands of God,” said the Pope. “Thank you for your contribution.”

Director of the Holy See press office, Matteo Bruni, said the updated version will focus on the most recent extreme weather events and catastrophes affecting people across five continents.

Published in 2015, *Laudato Si'*, on the “care of the common home”, is Pope Francis’ second encyclical and draws its title from the

incipit of St Francis’ *Canticle of Creatures*.

“Taking care of the environment means having an attitude of human ecology,” the Holy Father later said. “That is, we cannot say that humankind is here and Creation, the environment, is there. Ecology is total, it’s human.”

Source: Vaticannews.va

Blue sapphire anniversary

St Joseph’s, Scarborough, parishioners Chris and Pat Scutt celebrated their blue sapphire anniversary, 65 years of marriage, on August 23.

They were presented with a bouquet of flowers from parish priest Canon Eddie Gubbins. The couple were married by Father O’Regan at Our Lady and St Edward’s Church, Drifffield.



Choir puts on magical autumn concert

You’re welcome to come along to a fundraising concert in St Mary’s Cathedral on Saturday October 21, featuring magical performances of a wide variety of music.

The cathedral’s Junior Choir will perform, alongside talented singers and

instrumentalists. Tickets cost £7 and accompanied children go free.

There will be a chance to socialise at the interval over a glass of wine or soft drink, which is included in the ticket price.



The audience enjoying a choral concert at the cathedral

UCM gathers for annual meeting

The diocesan AGM of the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) will be held at St Mary’s Church, Filey, on Saturday October 14.

Mass will be celebrated at noon, followed by lunch and the meeting.



Environment Corner – Helping churches become environmental

As we come to the end of the Season of Creation, I am highlighting an important resource that can be of significant use and help to parishes.

1. The Guardians of Creation project, an initiative of the Diocese of Salford, in collaboration with St Mary’s University and the Laudato Si’ Research Institute, has launched a series of materials to provide decarbonisation guidance for dioceses.

The project comprises five reports, each focusing on a different aspect of the diocesan response to reduce our carbon footprint and promote environmental stewardship.

Alongside the reports presented, the project also shared an additional guide, Environmental Stewardship in Places of Worship: A Guide to

A photograph of a person standing on a rocky mountain peak at sunset or sunrise, with a dramatic sky.

Photo by Giovanni Bartolomei/Cathopic

Reducing Our Carbon Footprint.

This guide serves as a valuable resource for reducing the carbon footprint of churches and other sacred spaces. It offers practical suggestions and best practice for:

- Energy efficiency
- Waste management
- Sustainable purchasing
- Engaging your congregation in eco-conscious actions.

By implementing the recommendations in this guide, places of worship can become beacons of environmental stewardship, inspiring their communities to follow suit.

You can access the guide from dioceseofsalford.org.uk/diocese/environment/guardiansofcreation.

Barbara Hungin

Finding the strength to carry the cross

This is a story about my being a brancardier in Lourdes for the first time. I hope it inspires others to consider joining our hospitalité.

The duties are varied and fulfilling and the harder you work the more fulfilled you feel. The spiritual rewards are immense.

One duty I was assigned was carrying the cross on behalf of our diocese at the front of the Torchlight Procession. Being picked for this assignment was both a duty and an honour.

This story is only about the practical aspects of carrying the cross. I can't write about the symbolism or the immense spiritual feelings I experienced that evening. These are private.

It was Sunday May 28 and I had just completed my daily shift on the 70th Diocese of Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Finished for the day. No more duties until tomorrow. Time off for good behaviour. Then head brancardier Tony Kirk appeared in front of me and the conversation went something like this.

Tony: "Will you be walking in the Torchlight Procession tonight?"

Me: "Yes. We're walking as a diocese and I wouldn't miss that for the world."

I'd carried our diocesan banner in the previous night's procession and had half an idea of trying to carry it again, but I knew others had the same aspirations.

Tony: "Do you have a white shirt and dark tie?"

Me: "No. Why?"

Tony: "Would you like to carry the cross at the front of tonight's procession?"

Mw: "Yes, of course."

Tony: "Well if you had a shirt and tie I'd like

you to carry the cross on behalf of the diocese."

Me (for once in my life lost for words): "OK. Thank you. Yes. I'll find a shirt and tie."

Tony: "Be on the Basilica steps at 8.15pm for instructions. If you're late, someone else will get the job."

And off I went. To buy a white shirt in Lourdes on a Sunday afternoon. And I did. I borrowed a tie from one of the hotel waiters, but Tony Kirk gave me ("lent", he stressed later) a Lourdes Hospitalité tie. (I assume I'll have to pay for it one day!)

And at 8.15pm the rehearsal for that night's Torchlight Procession started.

I had no idea of the precision under which it operates every night. I picked up the cross for the rehearsal and put it down at 9.30pm when for me the procession ended.

Every minute, every step, every direction change is planned. I was following a route of dots and crosses painted on the ground. Invisible to everyone during the day. Obvious when it has been pointed out to you.

The cross-bearer leads the procession. Everyone else follows at his speed and timing. So he has help. A Lourdes Sanctuary employee is by his side all the way, with a two-way radio passing on information on speed. "Slowly, slowly" to avoid gaps. "Faster, faster" to ease the concertina effect. It's all carefully managed.

Immediately behind me were six members of our youth group as candle-bearers who mark the turning points for the "snake" at the end of the procession. They did a stunning job, doing everything they were asked without fault. I was proud of them.

The cross itself is a work of art. It is twice as

heavy as our diocesan banner, with a long, slippery metal pole and no yoke to spread the weight to the shoulders.

The cross-bearer has a motorcycle battery strapped to his side to power its LED lighting. Not the easiest of jobs. Not for the faint-hearted.

There is a countdown to the start of the procession – three minutes, two, one, then the last five seconds in beeps. You have to know it's there to hear it.

And at precisely 9pm the procession started. Or I started, and various groups of people fell in behind me. It can take over 20 minutes before the tail moves off.

And once I started, I couldn't stop for anything, following the precise route and timing. Towards the end of the procession I pulled over to the right and waited for the statue of Our Lady to pass me. I then fell in behind the statue and followed the big white line painted on the ground.

This is where the procession splits, with the wheelchairs going off to the left and the walking pilgrims following me into the snake.

Halfway through the snake I left the main body pilgrims, climbed the basilica steps and turned to face the oncoming procession. My position was determined by a small white painted dot on which I placed the bottom of the cross pole. Precisely. Then I stood still for 30 minutes until the procession and prayers were over.

Job done? Not yet. After the final blessing, they ushered me and the six members of the youth group into the basilica vestry for a small prayer ceremony in thanks for a job well done. It was very moving and greatly appreciated.



Kevin Twyman carrying the cross at the front of the Torchlight Marian Procession

Would I do it again? Yes. Of course. Why? Because it wasn't my idea. I doubt it was Tony's idea.

Our Lady of Lourdes is our guide and our inspiration for what we do in Lourdes, with help from St Bernadette.

Once again, they placed me in front of Tony when he needed a willing body. They gave me the strength and determination to carry that cross. If it happens again, it happens.

• If you'd like to join our team of brancardiers in Lourdes next May, please email the head brancardier at headbrancardier@rcdmidd.org.uk

Kevin Twyman

2024 pilgrimage details unveiled

The organising committee has announced arrangements for the 71st Diocese of Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Because of a clash of dates with the Military Pilgrimage, we have altered our normal week and we will be in Lourdes from Sunday May 26 to Saturday June 1 2024.

We have appointed Joe Walsh Tours as our official travel agent and pilgrims will again travel in two direct chartered flights from Teesside Airport to Tarbes Airport, Lourdes. Prices for the flight, transfers and six nights' accommodation with full board range from £845 to £895, depending on your choice of hotel. Single rooms are available for an additional charge.

A flight-only option is available for £575, while there is a charge of £50 for infants under two years on the date of return.

The price for supported pilgrims staying in the Accueil de Notre Dame is £825.

Travel insurance for pilgrims up to 79 years on the date of return is £49, with an additional £49 charge for those aged 80 or over on the date of return.

Pilgrimage director Mark Taylor said: "The Military Pilgrimage taking place in the week we go to Lourdes has made planning for 2024 especially difficult.

"Adapting our pilgrimage to Sunday to Saturday has enabled us to ensure we're able to book the hotels we need for everyone who wants to travel with us.

"We'd ask people to book as early as possible so we can continue putting plans in place for what we all hope will be another hugely successful pilgrimage."

As usual, there will be a full programme of services and a guided walking tour of Lourdes, visiting places associated with St Bernadette, guided visits to the sanctuaries, Grotto, baths and basilicas.

An online booking system will be up and running from Tuesday October 3 at joewalshstours.co.uk.

Application forms are also available from Lourdes secretary Pat Ling from October 3 by calling 01642 760105 or emailing lourdessecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk.

Dates for your diary

Saturday March 2: Main Formation Day for our Hospitalité members, Trinity College, Middlesbrough

Tuesday May 7: Evening Formation Day at the same venue

Saturday March 9: Youth Training Day, All Saints School, York

Sunday May 26 to Saturday June 1: 71st Diocese of Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Mass celebrates years of Lourdes service



Tony Kirk, Mark Taylor, Tony Walton and Keith Tillotson at the Lac de Lourdes this year

A special Thanksgiving Mass has been arranged to celebrate the years of service given by outgoing members of our Lourdes committee.

Pilgrimage director Keith Tillotson, head handmaid Chris Tillotson, head brancardier Tony Kirk and deputy head brancardier Tony Walton all stepped down after this year's pilgrimage.

We will also remember past and present clergy who have supported the organising

committee over the years.

The Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, at 3pm on Saturday October 14 and will be followed by finger buffet refreshments in the hall.

Donations of cakes and scones would be appreciated and volunteers are also needed to help set up and help in the kitchen.

Contact John Brown by emailing headofhospitalite@rcdmidd.org.uk if you can help.

NEWS

Stella Maris is charity partner for Tall Ships

Stella Maris had the honour of being a charity partner for the iconic Tall Ships 2023 event held in Hartlepool in July.

The Catholic charity's chaplains, ship visitors and volunteers from the North-East region turned out in force to provide support to crews from the ships and raise awareness about the fantastic work it does.

They set up a Stella Maris stall offering information about its ministry, with plenty of giveaways available, which proved popular, especially with youngsters.

Stella Maris' chaplains and ship visitors also helped to manage a crew welfare centre set up by the organisers and provided free mobile internet connection for the visiting sailors who needed to communicate with their families back home.

On the penultimate day of the event, Stella Maris proudly received a special flag from Hartlepool Borough Council, signed by all the captains of the Tall Ships – a testimony to the charity's amazing contribution and ability to engage with the crews and all those who had attended Tall Ships 2023.

It was exciting to be part of such a huge and well-known event with tremendous support from volunteers, supporters and the local community.

Many visitors expressed their interest in becoming volunteers for Stella Maris or in helping in other ways.

To find out more about Stella Maris' work or to learn about volunteering, visit stellamaris.org.uk/take-action/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/ or contact me at

peter.barrigan@stellamarismail.org or 07713 924 504.

Deacon Peter Barrigan



The Stella Maris delegation at the Tall Ships 2023 event

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