



Bishop's Column

As we move into April, we bathe in the light of the Risen Lord as we celebrate Easter not just for a day, or a week, but for a whole season. Not only is the light increasing as the days lengthen, but everything is very much springing back into life all around us. At times our world can seem dark, but there are lots of signs of hope all around. I was reflecting on this the other day and these thoughts went through my mind. Let me share them with you.

I visit our schools on a regular basis. I never cease to be amazed at the wonderfully vibrant atmosphere which greets you as soon as you walk through the door. Going round the classes and speaking to different groups – pupil chaplains, Mini-Vinnies, Eco Champions, prayer leaders – the enthusiasm and aspiration is so evident. Parts of the Diocese of Middlesbrough are among the most deprived in the country and the child poverty level is the highest, especially in Middlesbrough itself, Hull and parts of the coastal area. Despite that, or maybe because of it, our schools in these areas are true beacons of hope and a source of joy for others beyond the school community.

Every year we have our Pilgrimage to Lourdes. For a small diocese our numbers are pretty good. On my first *Ad Limina* (report) visit as bishop, Pope Benedict commented on this and especially on the number of young people who form part of the caring team. It is wonderful to see the young people literally blossom during the course of the pilgrimage – from standing around on the sidelines to eventually entering fully into the joy of the pilgrimage at every level, spiritually, physically, emotionally. It is a privilege to witness, and they fill my heart with genuine hope.

The same could be said about the World Youth Day events over the years. There I have had the great experience of accompanying many of our young people and young adults on the wonderful journey that we call World Youth Day. To see the depth of prayerful engagement with the Gospel, to be involved in the honesty of discovering the importance of their faith, to walk alongside them as they discern the hope that God's call holds for them is a wonder and a true gift of encouragement.

There are many groups and individuals within the diocese who have taken the "Social Gospel" to heart and who live out Catholic Social Teaching, day by day. I could mention many by name but will refrain from doing so lest I miss out some and embarrass others. However, a few years ago we did a "census" of all the different organisations and groups within the diocese who base their action on Catholic Social Teaching either knowingly or intuitively, and I was amazed and uplifted at the number and the quality. How could one not be filled with Gospel hope and joy?

In blessed hope

+ Long

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Prayer bears
arrive in Hull
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Wave of prayer for peace, justice and freedom

Women from different Christian denominations gathered for World Day of Prayer services, creating a powerful global wave of prayer.

This year's theme was "I beg you, bear with one another in love" from Ephesians 4: 1-7 and was prepared by a group of Palestinian women, who invited people to pray for peace, justice, freedom of religion and freedom of movement.

Using materials these women prepared, we prayed, worshipped and shared their inspiring stories.

Catholics and Methodists joined parishioners at St Mary Magdalene Church of England in Yarm, where we relit the ecumenical flame and prayed for Palestinians. This was followed by sharing olives, Palestinian Fairtrade oil, bread, figs and citrus fruits.

Cacti and jasmine adorned the table and Barbara Hungin brought burbura, a Palestinian porridge.

We prayed especially for refugees, the homeless, the sick, dying and grieving and will continue to remember the Palestinian women in our prayers.

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice, inspired by the motto "Informed prayer and prayerful action".

**Margaret Clark Catholic Representative
WDP National Committee**

Easter Schedule 2024

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

PALM SUNDAY

Blessing and distribution of Palms

Lady Chapel

Saturday evening Vigil Mass 3pm

St Clare

Saturday evening Vigil Mass 6pm

St Francis

Sunday 11am Mass

Cathedral Sunday 10am* & 5pm Mass

Monday, 25 March

Cathedral 9:30am Mass*

Tuesday, 26 March

Cathedral Only

No 9:30am Mass today

Chris Mass 12 midday*

Wednesday, 27 March

Cathedral

9:30am Mass*

St Francis

12 midday Mass

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Cathedral

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper with Bishop Draineay*

9:50pm Night Prayer

Watching till 10pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Cathedral

10am Morning Prayer

3pm The Passion of the Lord with Bishop Draineay*

Lady Chapel 10am Way of the Cross

St Francis 3pm The Passion of the Lord

St Clare 3pm The Passion of the Lord

HOLY SATURDAY

Cathedral

10am Morning Prayer

8pm Vigil Mass with Bishop Draineay*

EASTER SUNDAY

St Clare 9am Mass

Cathedral 10am Mass with Bishop Draineay*

5pm Mass

St Francis

11am Mass

EASTER MONDAY

Cathedral 9:30 am Mass*

*Live stream available on the Diocese of Middlesbrough Youtube Channel

Canon Paul, Fr Peter, Fr Regi and Rev David wish everyone a very Happy and Joyful Easter

THE BAR CONVENT
Living Heritage Centre

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NEWS

Upper Room offers food, compassion and community

A steady group of guests, men and women and from different ages and difficult life situations, has made use of the Upper Room project in Middlesbrough since it opened in February.

Thanks to kind donations of bread buns from Tesco and the efforts of our four teams of nine volunteers, guests are served a sausage bun, toast and treats, as well as a hot drink. They also receive a bag to take away.

But just as important is the welcome and conversations held around the table with the volunteers and among themselves. They appreciate a meal being available on Saturdays – it's a long weekend when you are hungry.

"A core of visitors come back each week, a friendly group appreciating the warmth, food and the opportunity to talk about their situation," said one volunteer.

"Some look out for each other and enjoy meeting up. They are very willing to include those who are alone."

Once every six weeks a team of volunteer podiatrists from the Forgotten Feet charity will visit to distribute nearly new trainers and new socks and offer treatments to those who want one.

The support received from many groups means we will be able to sustain the project



Volunteers at the Upper Room project in Middlesbrough

for the foreseeable future. These include Stokesley Rotary, Tees Valley Community Foundation and their supporters,

the SVP and personal donations, while further funds are in the pipeline awaiting approval.

For more information, contact francesg@svp.org.uk.

Frances Gilchrist

SVP seeks part-time membership support officer

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is a Catholic lay organisation which started in Paris in 1833.

In January 1844, several Catholics met in London and agreed to form the first conference in England.

An inaugural meeting followed on February 12 1844. From that first conference the society spread across all England and Wales. You can read on this page about St Mary and St Romuald SVP celebrating 100 years of volunteer activity.

The beating heart of the SVP is its membership, with volunteers working in parishes across our diocese turning their concern for those in need into action.

Supporting these volunteers and recruiting new members is an essential aspect of the society's work, which to date has been done

by our brilliant Diocese of Middlesbrough membership support officer Sharon Pemberton.

Sadly, Sharon has had to step away from this role and SVP is keen to recruit a replacement. This is a paid, part-time, home-based role (15 hours per week – two days equivalent) working as part of the SVP membership team

to support member recruitment and development, provide general support for members and be the link between groups and the charity's national office.

It requires the ability to travel around the diocese to make recruitment appeals, work with existing groups, attend meetings and meet with interested parties where

appropriate. Having your own transport is essential. Travel expenses are also paid. For further information and details of how to apply, contact head of membership Lance Philpott at lancep@svp.org.uk The closing date for applications is Sunday April 28.

BISHOP TERRY'S APRIL ENGAGEMENTS

- 12-19 Bishops' Plenary Meeting and Retreat – Buckfast Abbey
- 22 Safeguarding sub-committee, 10.30am to 1pm
- 23 Diocesan Study Day
- 25 School visit St John of Beverley Primary, 6pm to 8pm
Recommitment to the ecumenical covenant of the Chaplaincy at York University
- 27-28 Parish visitation – St John of Beverley, Beverley and Sacred Heart, Hornsea
- 30 DTEC meeting
Northern Church Leaders meeting

Special guests help commemorate SVP centenary

The SVP conference in St Mary and Romuald Parish, Yarm, was delighted to welcome Bishop Terry and Father Michael Keogh along with parish priest Canon Alan Sheridan, members, friends and parishioners to celebrate its 100th birthday.

St Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederick Ozanam and Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity, began "turning concern into action" in Paris in 1833.

Then in London in 1844 a group of men started the first group in Britain. Eighty years later a conference began in the small village of Yarm, with only men initially allowed to join.

In the 1960s things changed and women were included, creating the equality we see today in SVP.

Concern and care for the poor have remained the same through the years, with their cries heard in every sector.

This may be in different forms today, but the need for turning concern into action remains with us.

Middlesbrough Central Council president Pat Nobbs presented the work of SVP in a new session called Lighting the Flame.



Canon Alan Sheridan and Bishop Terry cut the cake to mark Yarm SVP's 100th birthday

An invitation as Sacred Heart Church turns 100

All past and present parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate the centenary of the Sacred Heart Church in Middlesbrough this summer.

Bishop Terry will celebrate Mass at the Linthorpe Road church at 7pm on Friday June 14, with all clergy who have served or were ordained there invited to concelebrate.

Mass was celebrated from 1906 in St Philomena's School on nearby Ayresome Street by priests from St Mary's Cathedral.

In 1910 a small tin church was built next to the school and this became the first parish church on August 10 1924, when the parish was officially separated from the cathedral, with Canon Jules Claus as the first parish priest.

On January 18 1932, the first Mass was celebrated in the new church, with Bishop Thomas Shine as celebrant. Archbishop of Liverpool Dr Richard Downey preached at the opening Mass.

Monsignor Nathaniel Dunne became parish priest in 1942 and was succeeded by Father Mark Crowley in 1951. During his thirty years as parish priest, Father Crowley had the church decorated with stained glass and mosaics. The church was consecrated in 1954 and in 1962 the church became officially known as the Sacred Heart. From the beginning, the parish was officially the Sacred

Heart and St Philomena, but probably because of the school, it was only ever known as St Philomena's.

Bishop John Gerard McClean served in the parish at different times under the first three parish priests until his appointment to Richmond in 1961.

Father Crowley retired in 1981 and was succeeded by Father (later Canon) Bill Madden. Monsignor Gerard Dasey was ordained in the church in 1982, followed by Canon John Loughlin in 1984 and Canon Michael Loughlin in 1985. Three parishioners being ordained in three years is a record that sadly will probably not be beaten.

Father Tom Brophy became parish priest in 1995. Sadly, he died four years later. On his death the parishes of the Sacred Heart, St Patrick's and the "old cathedral" were amalgamated under the care of Father (now Canon) Derek Turnham.

In 2006 the school celebrated its centenary and in 2007 the 75th anniversary of the opening of the church was celebrated.

Since 2022 the parish has been looked after by the Oblates of Virgin Mary, parish priest Father John Idio O.M.V., Father David Kueter O.M.V. and Father Mike Songu O.M.V.

Official invitations will be going out soon.

Peter Loughlin



The Sacred Heart Church in Middlesbrough is celebrating its centenary this summer

Goan Catholics gather for patron's feast day

The large and thriving Goan community within St George's Parish in York commemorated the Feast Day of St Francis Xavier with a special Mass celebrated by Canon Jerry Twomey.

This was a very special day for the community, as St Francis Xavier is the patron saint of the Indian state.

St Francis Xavier is honoured for his missionary accomplishments and was instrumental in the establishment of Christianity in Goa.

As a Jesuit, Francisco led others through the Spiritual Exercises of his great friend, St Ignatius Loyola. He worked in hospitals in Italy, caring for the sick and downtrodden, before setting sail for India as the papal nuncio and reaching Goa on May 6 1541. There he walked through the streets ringing a bell and inviting everyone to hear him preach the Word of God.

He died in a straw hut in 1552 on Sancian

Island, off the southern coast of China, and his body lies in a silver casket in the 400-year-old Basilica of Bom Jesus.

St Francis Xavier was canonised by Gregory XV on March 12 1622 and ranks among the greatest missionaries in Christian history.

Every ten years thousands of pilgrims from all over the world visit Old Goa, where relics of St Francis Xavier are venerated. The next such event is from November 21 2024 to January 5 2025.

To commemorate the feast day in St George's, a statue that had been specially shipped from Goa last year was blessed and installed on the altar between St Theresa and St Anthony, while a hymn was sung in Goan mother tongue Konkani by the Goan chorists.

Members of the Goan community provided light refreshments for all parishioners after the Mass.

Ines Gracias and David Harper



The thriving St George's Parish Goan community with Canon Jerry Twomey at the Mass for the Feast of St Francis Xavier

Bishop responds to assisted suicide report

Bishop John Sherrington, lead bishop for life issues for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, issued this statement on the publication of a report by the Health and Social Care Select Committee on Assisted Dying/Assisted Suicide...

Given that parliament has already rejected any changes to the law on assisted suicide in 2015 and 2021, I welcome the decision of the select committee not to recommend the legalisation of assisted suicide.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales opposes its legalisation out of concern for the good of every person in society, the protection of this good in law and the spiritual and pastoral care of the sick and dying.

The act of assisted suicide violates the dignity inherent to every person's life, which is to be cherished and cared for at all stages until natural death.

As highlighted in the committee's report, experts have noted that there have been

major problems in safeguarding the vulnerable and those without full mental capacity when assisted suicide and/or euthanasia have been introduced in other jurisdictions.

Recognising the distress and suffering of those who are sick and vulnerable, I welcome the committee's recommendation that the accessibility and provision of palliative and end-of-life care needs to be improved – something the Catholic Church has consistently called for.

For Catholics and many others, consolation and support in times of terminal illness can be experienced through prayer, the sacrament of the sick and the caring and compassionate presence of loved ones as a person prepares for eternal life.

As Pope Francis has written: "Human compassion consists not in causing death, but in embracing the sick, in supporting them in their difficulties, in offering them affection, attention, and the means to alleviate suffering."



Bishop John Sherrington – © Mazur/catholicchurch.org.uk

SCHOOLS

Paws for prayer as school welcomes special bears

Pupils and staff at St Charles' VC Academy in Hull wanted to focus even more on prayer as a time to grow ever closer to God during Lent.

One way they supported prayer at home was through the four "Prayer Bears", Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Canon Stephen Maughan kindly took six of the school's Mini Vinnies ambassadors to the city centre to build the bears, knowing they would be even more special if they had been chosen and formed by the school's children.

Each bear has been filled with love and blessings, which the pupils take into each home they visit.

Class prayer diaries have included some beautiful responses that show just how special prayer time is when you have a prayer bear to share it with.

The bears have been such a popular tool for family prayer that St Charles Church now also has a bear called Charlie who works with the children's liturgy group at weekend Mass.



A fifth Prayer Bear, Charlie, is helping with children's liturgy at St Charles



Canon Stephen took six Mini Vinnies to build the prayer bears

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Piecing together the meaning of our community

At St Mary's College in Hull, being a member of a Catholic community means so much more than just being a student.

Every young person and member of staff feels a true spiritual part of the school. A wonderful recent example is the installation of the jigsaw cross on the side of the school library, visible for all to see from the road outside.

The premise for the jigsaw cross, as well as being a clear emblem of faith, was for every student and staff member to design their own jigsaw piece with an image and word of what our Catholic school represents to each of us.

They chose words such as love, resilience, faith, friendship, justice, peace and soulful. Images drawn included links to *Laudato Si'* and many of the vast enrichment clubs available.

Everyone created their own jigsaw piece that was personal and meaningful to them, helping to build a wonderful symbol of our Catholic faith.

This latest religious iconography shows how we all have a part to play in the mission of the school and of the St Cuthbert's Trust, how we all belong and how we are all invited on our individual spiritual journeys to meet Christ.



The jigsaw cross created by students at St Mary's College in Hull

Maria Stead
Head of School

Outstanding verdict beckons for Thornaby school

A school where behaviour and attitudes to learning are “exceptional” might be rated as outstanding if a full inspection was held today, Ofsted says.

Inspectors who visited for an ungraded inspection described Christ the King Catholic Primary School in Thornaby as “positive and welcoming” and that pupils feel “happy and safe”.

They said: “The evidence gathered suggests that the inspection grade might be outstanding if a graded (section 5) inspection were carried out now.

“Behaviour and attitudes to learning are exceptional. Pupils take care of one another and their school community with pride.

“Pupil groups, such as sports leaders and eco-warriors, plan purposeful opportunities to help and enhance the whole school community.

“Leaders have developed an ambitious and well-connected curriculum. It carefully sets out what pupils need to know and remember over time. Well-chosen and purposeful learning activities bring the curriculum to life.”

Executive headteacher Mark Ryan said the report reflects the school’s many strengths and how well we prepare children for their next stages in life, both academically and socially.

“This is wonderful news for the school community and is a clear reflection of all the hard work from the pupils, parents, carers, staff and governors,” he said.

“Christ the King is a hidden jewel in Thornaby and there are many comments in the inspection report that parents and carers will be rightly proud and pleased to read.

“We are very grateful for the benefits that come with being part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust and the support we receive.”

Head of school Helen Lickess added: “There are no recommendations or areas for improvement from Ofsted. However, we want to continue to improve and we will work hard collectively with our parents, carers and pupils to do so.

“We are delighted for the pupils, parents, carers, teachers and governors. They have every right to be proud of their school.”

Christ the King is one of 38 schools throughout Teesside and North Yorkshire, including the city of York, that make up Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust.



Christ the King Primary School in Thornaby is on track for excellence

CEO Hugh Hegarty said: “I’m so pleased for the leadership team, staff and governors of Christ the King, who I know work so hard every day to make the school such a special

place.

“The report is yet more evidence of the high standards we set across all our schools. We

are all determined to continue raising standards even further to make sure all our children benefit from the very best in Catholic education.”

Canon John booked for St Richard’s visit

Year 2 children at St Richard’s VC Primary in Hull were delighted when their parish priest Canon John Loughlin used one of his regular visits to tell pupils about the books he uses at Mass.

The reason was to enhance their curriculum RE learning about the local church, based on the topic of books.

Canon showed the children the Book of Gospels, the Roman Missal and the Lectionary and said they are special and important because they contain the words of God.

The children had an opportunity to ask questions and were very keen to find out how Canon John carries such heavy books and how much they cost him!

They asked him which book was his favourite and he chose the Book of Gospels. Canon John’s visit really brought their learning to life and made it much more memorable for them. Thanks to Canon John and all the local clergy for supporting schools in the St Cuthbert’s Trust.

Emma Cook
Head of School



Young singers hit the right note

The choirs from St Pius X Catholic Primary School in Park End and St Mary’s Catholic Primary School in Grangetown had an exciting opportunity to sing at the Shine Festival at Middlesbrough Town Hall.

The children performed with their conductor, Ruth Bancroft, on a huge stage in front of a large audience made up of lots of other schools and parents.

A panel of professional musicians gave the singers fantastic feedback and encouraged the children to continue to showcase their singing in the community.



SCHOOLS

Pupils and staff at schools throughout the diocese dressed up in style for World Book Day. Our photos show some of them dressed up as their favourite literary characters.



St George's, Scarborough



Staff in St Mary's College, Hull's Humanities Department



St Aelred's, York



St Margaret Clitherow's, South Bank, Middlesbrough

Confirmation candidates focus on forgiveness

A group of Year 9 pupils from St Patrick's Catholic College in Thornaby are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In their first session they looked at the spirit of freedom and talked about how God forgives when we tell him our sins. The picture shows an apple in water, representing the original sin, and how this separates us from God.

Pupils poured substances into the water, representing things that we do that could

separate us from God, resulting in the murky water.

They then reflected on the nature of God – offering forgiveness, no matter what we do.

In our closing prayer liturgy we used dissolvable tablets and while watching the bubbles, we could all name something in our hearts we are sorry for

**Alison Fisk
Chaplain**



One of the St Patrick's pupils at the Confirmation preparation session

Two houses tell story of York's forgotten women

A new joint exhibition has been launched between two of York's most iconic historic houses.

With a shared history of strong Catholic women, Fairfax House and the Bar Convent have announced the collaborative project – Two Houses, One Story: York's Forgotten Women – to mark International Women's Day and Women's History Month.

Exhibitions at the formerly illegal Catholic houses will explore their intertwining stories.

One was a secret convent operating a pioneering school for girls, while the other belonged to a prominent Catholic family.

Dr Hannah Thomas, special collections manager at the Bar Convent, said: "The histories of the Bar Convent and Fairfax House are so closely intertwined that a joint exhibition makes perfect sense.

"Not many people are aware of the links between the houses, but both Anne and Mary Fairfax attended the school here and Lady Hungate lived with the sisters for 29 years."

Sarah Burnage, curator at Fairfax House, said: "The exhibition tells the story of women living in York in the 18th-century and offers a fascinating glimpse into the little-known world of Catholicism in York."

The exhibitions include recently discovered documents, beautiful portraits and intriguing artefacts that give new insight into the women's lives.

It explores how they navigated their faith during an era of persecution and suspicion, and how some were linked to dangerous underground activity that ultimately aided the survival of the Catholic faith in York and beyond.

At the Bar Convent, you can discover the early years of the Fairfax daughters, why their grandmother Lady Hungate lived at the house for 29 years and the significance and legacy of this alliance.

At Fairfax House you can learn more about the limited life choices women such as Ann Fairfax faced and discover how a clandestine community of Catholic networks in the city supported each other.

The Bar Convent was established in secret in 1686, when it was illegal to be Catholic.

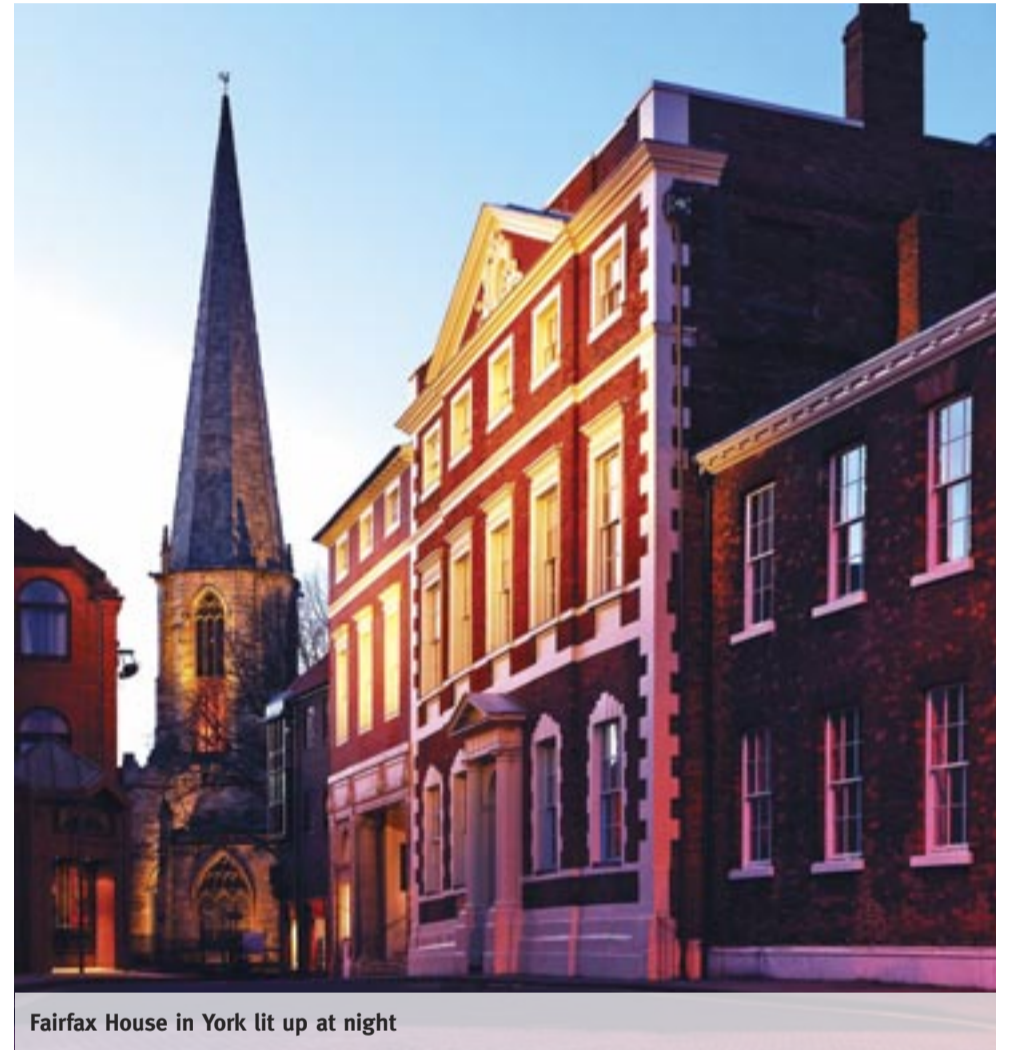
The centre has an 18th-century chapel, which houses the relic of St Margaret Clitherow, a fascinating modern exhibition, an award-winning 22-bedroom guest house, a café and a gift shop.

Fairfax House is a Georgian townhouse museum located in the heart of York, open from 11am to 4pm every day.

The exhibitions run until Saturday April 27 and visitors to one house receive a 30 per cent discount on admission to the other with proof of receipt.



Dr Hannah Thomas with a reproduction of Lady Hungate's unofficial will with items left to the Bar Convent – Photography courtesy of the Bar Convent



Fairfax House in York lit up at night

Marriage charity seeks new board members

The board of Catholic Marriage Care is seeking new members to help it continue offering vital relationship support services to the Catholic community and beyond.

The largest faith-based relationship support charity in the UK, Marriage Care provides marriage preparation, support and low-cost relationship counselling to those in need, making the world of difference to couples and families.

Marriage Care has active volunteer centres across the country, including a centre in the Diocese of Middlesbrough, where its teams prepare around 13 per cent of couples each year who are getting married in Catholic churches.

Since the pandemic, the charity has seen longer wait times for counselling, despite increasing the number of counsellors via two current internal training programmes.

This has been a catalyst for the implementation of an initial appointment for couples waiting for counselling.

"The initial appointment will help couples whilst they wait for a counsellor to become available," said head of relationship counselling Michelle Hayes.

"We know the first session alone can have a huge positive impact on couples and we

wanted to provide that benefit as soon as possible in their journey. It will also help to ensure we match clients with the right kind of support."

There are also changes on the marriage preparation front, with more in-person courses being available and couples now having a choice between preparing online or face to face. Marriage Care provides two marriage preparation options – Preparing Together, an interactive group course that provides couples with the tools and knowledge they need for a healthy marriage, and FOCCUS – a tailored, questionnaire-based marriage preparation service for couples to attend one to one with a facilitator.

All facilitators are fully trained and receive ongoing support and training on topics such as Natural Family Planning and the Sacraments.

Speaking of his experience of volunteering as a trustee, chair Reverend Roger Carr-Jones said: "For me, being a trustee has been as much about receiving as it is about contributing my skills and experience.

"I have learnt much about myself as I have of my fellow trustees' giftedness. It is a role in which you discover your own hidden talents and nurture those of others.

"This has enabled us, as a board, to arrive at solutions, which working singularly would not be achieved. Being a trustee requires commitment and a willingness to put in some hard work in order that the organisation can grow and flourish. As the chair, getting the right combination of skills and acknowledging contributions is key."

If you could be interested in joining Marriage Care as a trustee, visit marriagecare.org.uk/get-involved/trustee.

To find out about other roles, such as marriage preparation course facilitator, qualified relationship counsellor and helping with admin and support, go to marriagecare.org.uk/get-involved.

Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations in York

Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations will take place at St Aelred's Church, Fifth Avenue, York on April 7.

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

A Holy Hour of Great Mercy takes place from 3pm to 4.15pm, with blessing and veneration of the Divine Mercy image, diary readings and individual consecration to the Divine Mercy, with the lighting of candles.

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

All are welcome and tea and biscuits will be served afterwards in the community centre.

Holy Week Mass Times

Ampleforth Abbey
St Laurence's Abbey Church
Maundy Thursday
 8.30pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday
 3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
Holy Saturday
 9pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday
 10am Mass of Easter Sunday

Ampleforth
Our Lady & St Benedict
Holy Thursday
 7.30pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday
 3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
Holy Saturday
 9pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday
 10am Mass of Easter Sunday

Cottingham
Holy Cross
Holy Thursday
 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday
 10am & 7pm Stations of the Cross
 3pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday
 7pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday
 10am Easter Day Mass

Hessle
Our Lady of Lourdes
Holy Thursday
 10.00am Morning Prayer
 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper and watching until 11.00pm
Good Friday
 10.00am Office of readings & Morning prayer
 11.00am Parish Stations of the Cross
 3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday
 9.30am Office of readings & Morning prayer
 8.30pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday
 8.30am Mass
 10.30am Mass
 No evening Mass

Hull
OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST PETER CHANEL, with Hull University Catholic Chaplaincy
HOLY THURSDAY 28th March
 7:30pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
GOOD FRIDAY 29th March
 8:45am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
 3pm SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
 7pm Stations of the Cross
HOLY SATURDAY 30th March
 8:45am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
 7pm EASTER VIGIL – FIRST MASS OF EASTER
EASTER SUNDAY 31st March
 10am EASTER MASS
 6.30pm EVENING MASS

Lealholm, Egton Bridge, Ugthorpe
Our Lady, Lealholm St Hedda, Egton Bridge St Anne, Ugthorpe
Palm Sunday
 6.30pm (Saturday) Vigil - Lealholm
 9.30am Mass - Egton Bridge
 11.00am Mass - Ugthorpe
Holy Thursday
 7.00pm Mass of the Last Supper and watch until 9.00pm - Egton Bridge
Good Friday
 9.00am Stations of the Cross - Lealholm
 10.00am Stations of the Cross - Ugthorpe
 3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion - Egton Bridge
Holy Saturday
 7.00pm Easter Vigil Mass - Lealholm
Easter Day
 9.30am Mass - Egton Bridge
 11.00am Mass - Ugthorpe

Stokesley, Great Ayton
St Joseph's Catholic Church
PALM SUNDAY 24 March
 5.30pm (Sat Eve) Mass (St Margaret's, Great Ayton)
 9.00am Mass (St Mary's Church, Crathorne)
 10.30am Sung Mass (St Joseph's, Stokesley)
Monday of Holy Week 25 March
 9.15am Mass (St Joseph's, Stokesley)
Tuesday of Holy Week 26 March
 12.00noon The Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral
Wednesday of Holy Week 27 March
 9.15am Mass (St Joseph's Stokesley)
THE SACRED TRIDUUM – THE GREAT THREE DAYS
MAUNDY THURSDAY 28 March
 7.00pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper (St Joseph's, Stokesley)
 Watch at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm
GOOD FRIDAY 29 March
 9.00am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (St Joseph's, Stokesley)
 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion (St Joseph's, Stokesley)
HOLY SATURDAY 30 March
 9.00am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (St Joseph's, Stokesley)
 8.00pm The Paschal Vigil & First Mass of Easter (St Joseph's, Stokesley)
EASTER SUNDAY 31 March
 9.00am Easter Sunday Mass (St Mary's Church, Crathorne)
 10.00am Easter Sunday Mass (St Margaret's, Great Ayton)
 10.30am Easter Sunday Mass (St Joseph's, Stokesley)

Whitby and Sleights
St Hilda's, English Martyrs
Monday of Holy Week 25th March
 10.00am Mass at St Hilda's
Tuesday of Holy Week 26th March
 12 noon Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough
Wednesday of Holy Week 27th March
 10.00am Mas at St Hilda's
Thursday of Holy Week 28th March
 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Hilda's
Good Friday 29th March
 3.00pm Celebration of The Passion at St Hilda's
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross at English Martyrs
Holy Saturday 30th March
 8.00pm Easter Vigil at St Hilda's
Easter Sunday 31st March
 9.00am Mass at English Martyrs
 10.30am Mass at St Hilda's

Middlesbrough
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH
Saint Gabriel's Church - Sacred Triduum
Maundy Thursday
 7pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday
 3pm - Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday
 8pm - Easter Vigil
Corpus Christi Church
Easter Sunday
 9.30am - Mass of the Day of Resurrection
Saint Gabriel's Church
Easter Sunday
 11am - Mass of the Day of Resurrection
 (Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated at the following Sunday's Masses, all at usual times.)
[website - ourladybro.org](http://www.ourladybro.org)

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

Lord's Prayer course served up at St Aelred's

Never ones to refuse a dare, the parish of St Aelred's in York took on the We Dare to Say course on the Lord's Prayer, provided by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, during Lent.

We decided to take it as a dessert course after our Lenten soup lunch in support of CAFOD, which in its turn follows Stations of the Cross and daily Mass.

We are very economical in York and thought getting Lent started with a healthy dose of prayer, almsgiving and fasting would be a good combination. So it proved, with a healthy turnout and many taking part in all the disciplines.

Sustained with tasty bowls of vegetable or mushroom soup, we entered the unknown course, which was lay led, with parish priest Father Bill Serplus in attendance.

Some were familiar with Lectio, and we all prepared to listen to the Word in Session 1 (1 John 3 1-6, 11, 16-24) together.

As instructed, we listened hard and tried to pick on a word or phrase that resonated with us. After two readings and, perhaps influenced by the CAFOD material, many of us alighted on "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need".

After some shared echoes and discussion, we did indeed go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

The beautiful resources provided include pictures and echoes from the Church fathers and references to the catechism. They are worthwhile reviewing at home or in a parish group at any time ahead of the Year of Hope in 2025.

Barbara Cookson



Volunteers serving the Lenten soup lunch at St Aelred's in York

Canon Michael marks 54 years since ordination

Canon Michael Bayldon came out from retirement to mark his 54 years to the day since his ordination as a priest.

Canon Bayldon concelebrated Mass at St

Paulinus Church, Guisborough, with present parish priest Father Phil Cunnah, and afterwards attended the regular coffee morning in the church hall for special cakes

with parishioners.

Canon Bayldon MA MTh was born in Bridlington and ordained at St John of Beverley by Bishop John Gerard McClean on the Feast of St Peter's Chair, February 22 1970.

He has a Master of Arts degree in Catholic Theology from Maynooth College in Ireland and an Open University Foundation Studies in Social Sciences degree.

He began his priestly career at St Alphonsus in Middlesbrough as assistant priest for two years. He was assistant priest and hospital chaplain at St Peter's Scarborough until 1984, when he moved to St Mary and St Romuald, Yarm as parish priest and prison chaplain, then to Thornaby in 1995.

Canon Michael came to the old St Paulinus Church in Guisborough in 1997 as parish priest and immediately set about the task of the building of a new church in Guisborough.

The previous building in Park Lane was in a very poor state of repair and Bishop John

appointed Canon Michael with the express purpose of making sure the expanding town would have a suitable facility for the new millennium.

This dream was achieved in May 2010, when the new church on The Avenue was opened and dedicated by Bishop Terence.

Canon Bayldon was appointed Canon of the Cathedral Chapter in 1998. He remained at St Paulinus until ill health brought about his retirement in 2020.

Canon Michael has published various works on theology, history and education, as well as preparing and presenting religious programmes on TV and radio and being involved in journals such as *Catholic Education Today*.

He was director of adult formation for the diocese and spent more than 20 years involved in schools, including as director of education.

Brian Gleeson

<p><i>Ingleby Barwick & Yarm</i> St Therese of Lisieux and St Mary & St Romuald Palm Sunday 5pm St Therèse, 6.30pm St Mary and St Romuald. 9.30am St Mary and St Romuald and 11am St Therèse Holy Thursday 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Good Friday 12 noon Stations of the Cross (St Therese only) 3pm Celebration of the Passion and Death of the Lord Easter Saturday Vigil 7pm Easter Sunday 9.30am St Mary & St Romuald Yarm 11am St Therese Ingleby</p>	<p><i>York</i> The York Oratory PALM SUNDAY - 24 March Saturday 5pm: Vigil Mass 8.30am: Low Mass 9.30am: Mass at St Joseph's 10am: Procession & Sung English Mass 12 noon: Procession & Sung Latin Mass 4pm: Vespers & Benediction MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK 8.15am: Latin Low Mass 12.10pm: English Low Mass Weds, 9.15am: Mass at St Joseph's MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28th March Confessions 11.30am - 12.30pm 6pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper until 12: Watching at the Altar of Repose 11.45pm: Compline GOOD FRIDAY - 29th March Confessions 11.30am - 12.30pm 9am: Matins & Lauds 11am: Children's Stations of the Cross 12 noon: Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's 3pm: Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 6pm: Stations of the Cross HOLY SATURDAY - 30th March Confessions 12 noon - 4pm 9am: Matins & Lauds 9pm: The Easter Vigil EASTER SUNDAY - 31st March 8.30am: Low Mass 9.30am: Mass at St Joseph's 10.30am: Sung English Mass 12 noon: Sung Latin Mass 4pm: Vespers & Benediction</p>
<p><i>York</i> St George Palm Sunday 10.30am, 6.30pm Holy Thursday 7.00pm Good Friday Stations 12noon The Passion 3.00pm Holy Saturday Vigil 7pm Easter Sunday Mass at 10.30am</p>	



Canon Michael and Father Philip at the coffee morning after Mass – Photo by Brian Gleeson

NEWS

Death of Ampleforth monk Father Adrian

Father Adrian Convery OSB, Benedictine monk of Ampleforth Abbey, died in the monastery infirmary on 8 February at the age of 92 and in the 75th year of his monastic life.

He was born in Newcastle in August 1931 and educated at Gilling Castle and Ampleforth College. He joined the monastic community in 1949 and was ordained priest in July 1960.

For more than 30 years, Father Adrian held positions within the monastery and school. His passion for music and plainsong led to him being monastic choirmaster from 1957 to 1976 and again from 1996 to 1999.

He began teaching in Ampleforth College in September 1957 and was housemaster of St Oswald's House from 1964 to 1981, when he was appointed headmaster of Gilling Castle.

Father Adrian retired as headmaster in 1987 and became monastic guestmaster and school guestmaster.

In September 2005 he was appointed chaplain to St Benet's Hall, which was a permanent private hall at the University of Oxford.

After four years he returned to Ampleforth Abbey as monastic guestmaster (2009 to 2012) and chaplain to St John's House in Ampleforth College (2009 to 2012).



Father Adrian Convery OSB, who has died at the age of 92

From 2012 to 2013 Father Adrian was also chaplain to the high sheriff of Cambridgeshire.

Father Adrian's funeral Mass was celebrated in the Abbey Church, before burial in Monks' Wood.

New booklet to help Catholics protect against evil

The Catholic Truth Society (CTS) has published a new booklet offering a treasury of prayers drawn from scriptures and sacred tradition that Catholics can use to protect themselves from the powers of darkness.

Deliver Us from Evil does not provide a formula of words to be prayed over others, it is a set of useful prayers and supplications, humble requests for the Lord's help, that can be used by Catholics in times of fear, distress or temptation.

Father Robert Taylerson, a member of the Spirituality Committee for the Bishops' Conference and spiritual director at Oscott College, said while it is important to acknowledge the forces of evil in the world, Catholics must also maintain a sense of hope.

He said: "We are not centrally a people who are overawed by evil. We are centrally a Eucharistic people of thanksgiving. The evil which we see, which distresses us and causes us to lament, prompts us to renew our efforts and our journey of prayer."

He said evil must be viewed in the light of Christ's death and resurrection, so it is not

overwhelming.

The booklet includes prayers of protection, prayers of thanksgiving, and prayers of faith and confidence.

"Prayer of its essence always renews hope," Father Taylerson said. "The ideal prayer is also to have one's heart in union with the heart of Christ. And that's something that both unites God's people as the body of Christ and enables the full power of God's spirit to work through us, who are the body of Christ, and to see it all as a great privilege."

"One of the good ways to approach the presence of evil is to understand it as the corruption of something that is good. That's most easily seen in things like virtue."

"And if one goes back to the ancient Greek philosophers, they would see moral virtues as being somewhere between two vices."

"So if you're talking about the virtue of courage, you would see if you go too far one direction, you get to recklessness, and if you go too far in another direction, you get to cowardice."

Dementia Friends session for Curial Office staff

Staff at the Curial Offices in Middlesbrough recently attended a Dementia Friends Awareness session led by Marie Kerr, a project development officer with Dementia Action Teesside.

This interactive session challenged some preconceptions of the reality of living with dementia (note, not suffering with dementia).

At the end of the session attendees were invited to think about what action they would take into their communities, parishes and workplaces to promote a better understanding of dementia and to make our communities welcoming places for those affected by dementia.

If your parish would like to hold a Dementia Friends Awareness session, further details can be found at dementiafriends.org.uk.



Curial Office staff at Dementia Friends awareness session

A Letter From Madonna House - Christ lives!

"Easter – the Resurrection of Christ – the final proof of Christ's divinity. We celebrate Christ's resurrection as something absolutely, fantastically beautiful that has happened and is still happening. What can be more beautiful

than this passage from death to life, real life?"*

I love the Easter Vigil – the flaming fire, the lighting of the Easter Candle and the darkened church slowly bursting into light!

The movement from darkness to light stirs up my gift of faith received at baptism. The Easter candle is a symbol of the Risen Christ offering his light and love to hearts open to receive him.

It burns now during every Mass until after Pentecost and on special occasions such as baptisms and funerals. Why? To remind us that Christ, the Light of the World, is truly risen and alive.

We all have times of darkness: personal and communal. Our world has always been battered by humanity trying to live independently of God.

When I was a Madonna House guest many years ago, I asked the 87-year-old Catherine Doherty (our foundress), "What is the most important thing to pray for?" She thumped

the table and shouted, "Faith! Pray for the gift of more faith!"

Faith can enable us to move from "maintenance to mission" in our walk with God. I find that my faith needs constant "stirring up". For example, I meet someone who looks sad or lonely. Am I willing to give a greeting that might lead to conversation? Listening often provides opportunity for prayer. Do I offer to pray for the person? That's good (please God, help me remember to do so).

But I long for the day when my faith will be strong enough to also ask, "Would you like to pray together now?"

Catherine liked to say, "Expect a miracle". And Christ did say to his disciples, "You will do greater things than these."

Visible miracles can encourage and increase faith. However, the greatest miracles are interior – the lifting of burdens such as anxiety, fear, unforgiveness and, best of all, the change of heart from the darkness of

self-idolatry, to God. Then the light of Jesus Christ can shine in and through the troubles that beset us.

Catherine again: "On this day of Christ's resurrection, we resurrect; and so we can grow in love of one another. Love dwells with us. We are to love one another as Christ has commanded: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

"We ordinary human beings are lifted up in some fantastic, incredible, incomprehensible, mysterious way in this feast so that we may do so... His resurrection, when we look at it, opens the tombs of our hearts. You and I are transfigured and resurrected in an inner resurrection that is like a fire, like an exploding sunrise."*

That makes my heart sing! Together, let us celebrate Easter every day of our lives!

• Quotes from Catherine Doherty in *Season of Mercy* (available at Madonna House)

Carol Ann Gieske



The paschal candle at Madonna House

Catholic Union claims Budget success

The Catholic Union welcomed Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's decision to scrap the high-income child benefit charge as part of his Budget statement.

The policy, which was introduced in 2013, restricts the amount of child benefit that can be received by certain households. Under plans announced by the chancellor, the threshold of the policy will rise this year and be abolished altogether in 2026.

The Catholic Union has consistently called for the policy to be scrapped, in large part because of the disproportionate impact it has on single-earner households.

As the Catholic Union has highlighted in previous Budget submissions, the current policy has meant that a household where two people earn £40,000 a year each can retain their child benefit allowance, but a household where one person earns £50,000 a year is penalised.

The chancellor said the changes "will benefit nearly half a million families, saving an average of £1,300 next year". Crucially, the change will see child benefit allowance calculated based on household rather than individual income – another change the Catholic Union has called for.

The Catholic Union has highlighted the case for a fairer tax and benefit system ahead of almost every fiscal event in this parliament.

Ahead of this year's Budget, the Catholic Union worked with Catholic bishops along with CSAN and CAFOD to make the case for a Budget focused on poverty reduction.

While the Catholic Union welcomed the chancellor's announcement on child benefit, it said there was "a long way to go" in seeing measures that support all families across the country.



Chancellor Jeremy Hunt

The chancellor was also silent on international measures, such as aid spending and debt relief, which had also been called for by Catholic groups.

Catholic Union director Nigel Parker said: "For years we have been making the case for a fairer tax and benefit system for families. These changes to child benefit do not address all our concerns, but they are a step in the right direction.

"We will look to build on this and encourage all parties ahead of the next election to set out how their policies will support family life in this country. There is still a long way to go in getting all families the support they need.

"Policies like the two-child cap are deeply unfair, and clearly we need to see action on the international level as well, but this is a



Margaret Clark, Barbara Hungin and Avril Rhodes at St Mary Magdalene Church of England in Yarm for a World Day of Prayer service (see front page story).

Catholic women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion, including mediation via Zoom at 11am on Saturday April 6.

This month's theme is "Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it".

Text Barbara on 0779 611774 with your mobile number and email address so she can add you to the WhatsApp group, or email catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com for a Zoom link.

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NEWS

Out & About

1 Monday

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

2 Tuesday

10am Coffee at the Cathedral every Tuesday after 9.30am Mass. Join us for tea, coffee and treats. A warm welcome and friendly atmosphere is guaranteed. Make new friends and enjoy some fellowship. We especially welcome those who are alone.

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

7pm Mass for Knights of St Columba Council 29, followed by a meeting at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

5 Friday

Events, articles and photographs for the May edition of the *Voice* are due by this day.

8 Monday

2pm Music for the Mind at St Mary's Cathedral for people who enjoy singing and connecting memories. There is no charge, and everyone is 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.

9 Tuesday

12.45pm The Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Kingston Square, Hull. Gather at 12.45pm for lunch at 1pm. All ladies in the Hull and East Riding area

welcome. Call 01482 446565 or email jayne.wilson24@gmail.com.

10 Wednesday

5.30pm Exposition and Sung Evening Prayer, St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

11 Thursday

7pm Hull Circle of the Catenians annual dinner at Lazaat Hotel in Cottingham. Three-course meal followed by dancing and tombola. For further details, including dress code and menu, email hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com.

7.45pm Middlesbrough Catenians meet at Middlesbrough Cricket Club, Green Lane, Middlesbrough TS5 7SL. Call Peter Carey on 01642 317772 or Chris Rhodes 01642 319161.

13 Saturday

6.30pm Candlelight: Hans Zimmer's Best Works. Enjoy the music of Hans Zimmer performed by a string quartet surrounded by candlelight at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

9pm Candlelight: Coldplay vs Imagine Dragons. Enjoy the music of Coldplay and Imagine Dragons performed by a string quartet surrounded by candlelight at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

14 Sunday

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

17 Wednesday

5.30pm Exposition and Sung Evening Prayer, St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

7pm Hull Circle of the Catenian Association's AGM at Lazaat Hotel in Cottingham, followed by monthly meeting and a buffet-style meal. Email Charles Cseh at hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com.

20 Saturday

6pm Mass in Italian in the Father Kelly Room at Our Lady's in York, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

7.30pm The Eddie White Sacred Heart Parish Dance with Sally Glennon at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB. £5 on the door. Contact John Brown on 07871 958412.

21 Sunday

3pm Fellowship Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

24 Wednesday

5.30pm Exposition and Sung Evening prayer, St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

7.30pm Cleveland Newman Circle talk on Living Ecumenism by Father Tony Curren in St Mary's Cathedral Hall.

27 Saturday

Noon LGBT+ Ministry Social at the Bar Convent café in York. All welcome to come for coffee or a meal, and friendship.

7.30pm Band of the Royal Yorkshire Regiment at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough. Tickets free, with collection for the Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Fund and the upkeep of the cathedral as you leave.

If you have any events you would like including in the Out and About section, email heidi.cummins@rcdmidd.org.uk.

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'Loneliness' at heart of Pope's Grandparents Day theme



Catholics around the world will be invited to take time on Sunday July 28 to reflect on the great heritage and wisdom passed on by their grandparents and the elderly.

In preparation for the 4th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life released the theme for 2024 – "Do not cast me off in my old age" (cf Psalm 71:9).

The idea is "to call attention to the fact that, sadly, loneliness is the bitter lot in life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throwaway culture".

In his message, Pope Francis draws on the verse from Psalm 71 that depicts the plea of an elderly person who reflects on the story of their friendship with God.

"By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to the life of the Church, the World Day seeks to support the efforts of every ecclesial community to forge bonds between the generations and to combat loneliness, in the awareness that – as Scripture states – 'It is not good for man to be alone' (Gen 2:18)," he says.

The 2024 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly takes place in the Year of Prayer, which Pope Francis has called to help Catholics prepare for the 2025 Jubilee.

The Pope established the World Day in 2021 to take place on the fourth Sunday of July, near the liturgical feast of Ss Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

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 April 5 for our May edition.

Where possible please send articles in Word and photographs as jpegs. Please confirm when you send in your photographs that those who appear in them have given their permission for publication.

Conference looks at role of contemplative communities

Reverend Doctor Sarah Bachelard is the main speaker at a two-day gathering organised by the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) and Meditatio.

Rev Sarah founded and leads Benedictus Contemplative Church in Canberra, Australia, which explores what it means to be a contemplative worshipping community engaged with the needs of the world.

“We long for communities that nurture and seed different possibilities for being pools of grace from which gifts may flow for all,” said a WCCM spokesperson.

“What might such communities look and feel like? How might they truly engage the needs of our time?”

“The 2024 UK National Gathering of the WCCM explores these questions with a focus on the gift and call of contemplative Christian communities, or contemplative church.

“Everyone is welcome. Those exploring the possibilities of initiating and enabling contemplative forms of church and community may find it particularly relevant.”

Pools Of Grace: The Gift and Call of Contemplative Church takes place at Minsteracres, Consett, from June 7 to 9.

For more information email uk@wccm.org or to book your place visit buytickets.at/wccmukconf24/1051290.



Reverend Doctor Sarah Bachelard

Brothers enrolled in Guild of St Stephen

Brothers Daniel, Joseph and Luke Holtby became the first altar servers from St Vincent de Paul Parish, Hull, in a century to be enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen.

The three all serve at mass each Sunday and have done so now for 10, eight and one year respectively.

Our assistant priest, Father Richard Nwagwu, performed the ceremony, thanking the boys' parents and grandparents for their encouragement and for the important role they all play in parish life.

Father Richard encouraged other young people, both boys and girls, to step up and join the team.

Adrian Crummay



The Holtby brothers with Father Richard

Pope's anguished call: 'Enough! Stop the war!'

“Every day, in my heart, I carry the pain and suffering of the populations in Palestine and Israel due to the ongoing hostilities,” said Pope Francis in yet another heartfelt appeal for a ceasefire in Gaza.

“I carry the pain and suffering of Palestinians and Israelis in my heart.”

Expressing grief for “the thousands of dead, the wounded, the displaced, the immense destruction that wreaks pain and suffering on the small and defenceless who see their future compromised,” Pope Francis called on all men and women of goodwill to raise their cry for peace.

Speaking during the Angelus in St Peter's

Square, he asked: “Do we really think we are building a better world in this way?”

“Enough, please. Let us all say: Enough, please!” he repeated: “Stop the war.”

The Pope appealed to continue negotiations for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and throughout the region “so that the hostages may be freed and return to their anxiously awaiting loved ones, and so that the civilian population may have safe access to necessary and urgent humanitarian aid”.

He added: “Don't forget tormented Ukraine, where many people die every day. It is a place of great sorrow.”

Pope Francis' appeal is just the latest in many

he has issued since the beginning of the war between Israel and Hamas last October.

There are still 130 Israeli hostages in the hands of Hamas, with many of them feared dead.

The death toll of Palestinians killed by Israeli

strikes on the Gaza strip has surpassed 30,000, with thousands more missing. At the same time, more than 1.3m people have been displaced and are facing a catastrophic humanitarian situation. Two-thirds of them are women and children.



Pope Francis has made another impassioned appeal for a ceasefire in Gaza – © Mazur/catholicchurch.org.uk

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NEWS

Clergy showing strain after two years of war

Desperate Ukrainian families torn apart by two years of war look to the Church for support – but the clergy also need urgent help, according to a bishop.

Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church's Pastoral Council and Bishop of the Eparchy of Holy Family of London, told Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) that an initiative called Healing the Wounds of War is a priority for Ukrainian bishops around the world.

Bishop Nowakowski said supporting displaced and broken families is the Church's primary focus – but the "clergy family" providing pastoral care also needs assistance. He added that the Church is developing training programmes for clergy in Ukraine and beyond "who, day in and day out, have to be dealing with funerals and having to counsel" victims of war.

He said seminaries do not prepare clergy for the highly demanding trauma counselling duties that are now required of many of them.

He added: "We cannot make priests psychiatrists or psychologists in six easy lessons."

"But we can at least prepare them to be able to direct people to the right places to receive help and assist them to cope with the effects of hearing these stories and having to deal with so many deaths – not just ordinary, normal deaths but people dying in war."

He said his Church has been training clergy to be able to "assist in family break-ups and separation".

It is also working with other organisations, such as the Association of Ukrainian Women



An Ecumenical Interreligious prayer service at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in London to mark the second anniversary of Russia invading Ukraine – © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

in Great Britain, to provide mental health support for refugees – mostly women with dependent children.

There are more than 6.3m Ukrainian refugees around the world – about 170,000 of them in the UK – and up to 3.7m internally displaced people in Ukraine, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Bishop Nowakowski is in regular contact with eparchies throughout Ukraine and abroad, and common challenges include supporting "children who have been separated from their parents, from their home for what seems like half a lifetime for them".

He added: "In the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in London we have a Sunday programme attended by about 250 children.

"We also have a Saturday programme through [St Mary's] Ukrainian School with almost 2,000 children involved."

ACN has supported 600 projects in Ukraine in the last two years, including 11 counselling and pastoral centres, as well as summer camps for children and heating systems for Church buildings sheltering displaced people.

All Saints welcomes new altar servers

It seems such a long time since the pandemic when we had to be so careful as we came to Mass and keep our distance from each other.

Here in All Saints, Thirsk, we have finally been able to open up the altar to the laity in the form of Eucharistic ministers and altar servers.

We aren't a parish blessed with many young people, but those we have are supported by their parents to take an active part in church

life. So we would like to share with the diocese our joy in welcoming brothers Cyril and Hilary Ibeziako as altar servers.

They are pictured serving at their first Mass, supported by Father Anil, and as you can see, were committed to their role.

We are hoping this will open the doors to other children to take part in our services.

Cathryn O'Donovan



Brothers Cyril and Hilary serving for Father Anil

Bishop praises court's commitment to justice

The president of Pakistan's Catholic Bishops' Conference has welcomed a Supreme Court decision to reject a government report into the authorities' response to attacks described by Church leaders as the "worst incident against Christians" in the nation's history.

Speaking to Aid to the Church in Need, Bishop Samson Shukardin praised Pakistan's highest court, which threw out the report on the attacks in Jaranwala, where in a single day last August a mob torched more than 25 churches and up to 100 homes belonging to Christians.

Qazi Faez Isa, the chief justice of Pakistan, who headed the court's three-member bench, described the report as being worthy of "being thrown in the dustbin".

The court alleged the report lacked relevant information, including details of arrests and

court cases and that the investigation agencies lacked determination to bring the perpetrators to justice.

A Punjab law officer said that after 304 arrests only 22 cases had been registered, with just 18 charge sheets collected.

The court ordered a fresh report to be submitted within two weeks, warning the authorities they may face suspension if they fail to carry out their investigations thoroughly.

Evidence in *Persecuted Yet Again*, a report into the Jaranwala incident produced by Pakistan's Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace, suggests the atrocity was pre-planned and the police were slow to react and recounts incidents where local Muslims defended Christians against attackers.



The aftermath of the Jaranwala attacks – Photo © ACN

Hull turns out in force for the annual Lourdes Rally

A large congregation gathered in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall for the annual Lourdes Rally organised by Hull Lourdes Sick Fund committee.

The rally was preceded by Mass celebrated by parish priest Canon John Loughlin as we prayed for the success of this year's pilgrimage and for all pilgrims, past and present.

The final hymn, Immaculate Mary, was sung with such enthusiasm it must have been heard in every part of the city!

Afterwards, stalls had been set up in the hall to entice everyone to spend money to support the Lourdes pilgrimage and at the same time to enjoy themselves and meet up

with old friends.

It was lovely to see students from St Mary's College, who are going on this year's pilgrimage, setting up their own stalls.

We enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee and cakes and took the chance to sit and relax and have a good chat.

Committee chair Micki Coyle thanked everyone for coming and all those who had helped organise the morning.

The main stalls, raffle and tombola raised £756 and the students stalls £164.

All in all, a most successful event.

Chris Cuthill



Volunteers on one of the stalls at the Hull Lourdes Rally

Seats filling up on May's chartered flights

Bookings are still open for this year's Diocese of Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

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

Joe Walsh Tours is our official travel agent and pilgrims we will 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 hospital, 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.

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.

You can book now at joewalshstours.co.uk.

Application forms for supported pilgrims are available from Lourdes secretary Pat Ling by calling 01642 760105 or emailing lourdessecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk.

All helpers are reminded they must have DBS safeguarding clearance and attend a Formation Training Day.

The final session is at Trinity Catholic College in Middlesbrough on Tuesday May 7 from 6pm to 10.30pm.

Pre-pilgrimage Masses in Hull and Middlesbrough

Everyone connected with the pilgrimage is invited to two Masses to be celebrated as we prepare to travel to Lourdes.

The first is at Sacred Heart Church, Southcoates Lane, Hull, at 2pm on Sunday May 5.

The second is at St Gabriel's, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, on Sunday May 19 at 3pm.

Tea and coffee will be served in the hall after both Masses, where there will also be updates for those coming on this year's pilgrimage.

New date fixed for Lourdes race night

Our Lourdes race night will now be held on Saturday May 4 at St Francis Social Club, Middlesbrough.

Please email John Brown on john.brown160@ntlworld.com or text 07871958412 if you would like to join us. Tickets are £5 each (includes pie and peas).

Environment Corner – 'The gospel imperative for climate action'



Lord Deben at Ampleforth – Photo courtesy of the Catholic Union

Former chair of the Committee on Climate Change Lord Deben says there is a clear Gospel imperative for looking after our natural environment and moving away from fossil fuels.

Giving the first ever Catholic Union Ampleforth Lecture, with the title the Gospel Imperative for Climate Action, his message was powerful and urgent.

"It's a Gospel demand, to be stewards of creation – creation, which is ours as a gift, not as something we can take any credit for having manufactured ourselves," he said.

We need to act to recover a situation we're losing. And because of approaching tipping points, we need to act fast. All together. Nobody can escape from the duty – it's not optional.

Lord Deben, who served as environment secretary before being appointed a Conservative peer, praised the Catholic Church's contribution to the discussion around climate change.

He described Pope Francis's encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, as a "remarkable document" and encouraged the audience of pupils and guests to consider the individual actions they could take to reduce energy consumption, including only boiling as much water as they needed and turning the heating down.

Lord Deben said, "We are supposed to be stewards of what we have been given" and yet he claimed Britain had seen the biggest decline in biodiversity of any country in the world.

We need to balance speaking up about the undoubted urgency of issue such as flooding, food security and drought, against bringing on fear or paralysis in doing so.

Young people, many of whom care so deeply about this need to urge their elders to act. Don't let your MP say, "Nobody ever asks about climate", as most MPs do.

Lord Deben encouraged us to take young people to an MP's surgery and ask the MP if they are personally committed to net zero by 2050 and to reducing emissions by 68 per cent by 2030 and 77 per cent by 2035? (Climate Change Committee recommendations).

In this election year, many constituency boundaries are changed. More seats will be marginal and lots of voters are undecided. Candidates will be listening. This is a real opportunity.

We need to make it irresistible for politicians to take Britain into the lead. At COP26 in Glasgow, Britain led the world, but now China and the EU are ahead of us. We need to accelerate our actions. Where one leads, others follow.

"We all have something we can do by way of example to others, even if it's only filling a kettle no fuller than we need. Have confidence. Act urgently."

The talk was organised in partnership between the Catholic Union, Ampleforth College, and the Ampleforth Society, who hope it will become an annual event.

Barbara Hungin

NEWS

Ampleforth's new visitor centre opens its doors

The refurbishment of Alban Roe House at Ampleforth Abbey has been completed, with the building ready to open in time for Easter.

After an extensive refurbishment programme, the Alban Roe House Visitor Centre contains the tearoom, abbey shop and visitor experience.

The new visitor experience encourages people to come and see the long history of the monastery at Ampleforth and learn how the current community serve God according to the Rule of St Benedict.

Visiting school groups will be based at Alban Roe House, with the upper floors having comfortable dormitory and ensuite accommodation for residential groups.

Alban Roe House also has several larger spaces suitable for exhibitions, training, corporate events or community groups to use.

Andy Slingsby, director of commercial and operations at Ampleforth Abbey, said: "The new facilities will allow us to strengthen our connections with local communities as well as offering visitors from further afield an insight into modern-day monastic life."

Alban Roe House was blessed by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Entry to Ampleforth Abbey is free and the visitor centre is open seven days a week from 10am to 5pm.



Alban Roe House at Ampleforth Abbey has undergone a major refurbishment



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May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds' especially that caused by war in the Holy Land, and may you help us bring Hope and Healing to our brothers and sisters this Eastertide.

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