



## Bishop's Column

**The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a Year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years.**

The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of Covid-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

"Jubilee" is the name given to a particular year. A time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. In the Catholic Church, the concept of Jubilee or "Holy Year" was used to declare special years for forgiveness and reconciliation.

The first Jubilee was declared by Pope Boniface VIII on February 22 1300 (Feast of the Chair of St Peter), to mark the beginning of that century. He later recommended it occurring every 100 years. Various other popes changed the length of the interval between the observances. But Pope St Paul II set the present 25-year interval in the 1500s. So Holy Years are "ordinary" when they occur at regular intervals (25 years in these modern times) and "extraordinary" when they are proclaimed for a very special reason.

More recently a Great Jubilee was declared in 2000 by Pope St John Paul II to celebrate the new millennium. That Jubilee year brought the total number of universal Jubilee years to 28 that so far had been celebrated by the Church. Intended as a time of conversion and emphasis on God's mercy and forgiveness of sins, Jubilees begin with the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica. Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas in Rome are destination points for pilgrims, who pass through seeking special graces.

In his letter announcing the Holy Year back in February 2022, Pope Francis says:

*We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.*

Hopefully, during the course of the year there will be opportunities to deepen our faith as individuals and communities. Pilgrimage is also part of the landscape of a Holy Year and added to the annual round of pilgrimages, there will be a special one to Rome – soon to be advertised. If you want more information about the Holy Year, please look on the Vatican website: [iubilaeum2025.va/en.html](http://iubilaeum2025.va/en.html) and the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales website: [cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/](http://cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-2025/)

In blessed hope,

+ Long

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is sell-out success**  
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# Cardinal Roche: 'Keep praying for gift of your very own saint'

**Hundreds of Catholics who gathered to honour Blessed Nicholas Postgate were urged never to give up praying until the Martyr of the Moors is declared a saint.**

The Catholic Church's most senior Yorkshireman, Cardinal Arthur Roche, made the appeal during his homily at the 50th annual Postgate Rally, at Ugthorpe.

Despite intermittent rain, more than 700 people gathered in a field for the Mass, with coaches coming from Hull, Middlesbrough, Redcar and York and many more travelling by car.

Blessed Nicholas ministered on the North York Moors for nearly half a century before being hanged, disembowelled and quartered on the Knavesmire, York, in 1679, when he was 82.

One of the last Catholics to be put to death for their faith, he was beatified – the last step on the path to sainthood in the Catholic Church – by Pope St John Paul II in 1987.

Cardinal Roche, who is prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, said Blessed Nicholas gave an example for all Catholics to follow.

He said: "He lived simply, humbly. The description of his hut on the moors would make anyone feel the cold, even on a day like this. He knew that one day the intolerance of the age would seek him out – and it did.

"Nicholas did not condemn any of them.



Cardinal Roche leads clergy to the altar for the Postgate Rally

Indeed, he died praying for them. A feature of his last days was that he greeted everyone with the open arms of charity and joked they had done him a great favour by giving him such a 'short-cut' to heaven.

"Blessed Nicholas and our English and Welsh

martyrs give us the courage not to lose our footing by taking the high road of indifference and superiority, but instead the

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## NEWS

# Faithful urged to pray for Father Postgate's canonisation

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track of life trodden by Christ that keeps us sane and close to reality.

"Blessed Nicholas, the great-grandfather of those of you in these parts who share the faith he lived and died for, whose legacy then is still with you today, remains with you. His faithfulness our model; his tenderness of soul our guide.

"Let us call upon his intercession in times of real need so that one day his memory may be celebrated at the altars in this land – someone not dismissed or forgotten but cherished by you as your very own saint! Keep his memory alive throughout the diocese.

"Keep asking God, through his intercession, for the gift of that miraculous sign and do not rest until you get it!"

Cardinal Roche came over especially for the rally, staying with his friend, Bishop Terry, who was the principal celebrant. Twenty-seven priests concelebrated, including the Abbot of Ampleforth, Dom Robert Igo.

Postgate Society chair Monica Ventress said: "Our 50th anniversary Postgate Rally went very well, despite the poor weather. It was

good to see so many of our priests and people from across the diocese who all came to share this special day. Our special guest, Cardinal Roche, had flown from Rome especially for the occasion.

"His homily reminded us that many of the virtues practised by Blessed Nicholas Postgate are still very relevant today. May we soon see the day when Blessed Nicholas is canonised."

The Postgate Rally takes place in Ugthorpe and Egton Bridge, two villages closely linked to the life of Blessed Nicholas, on alternate years. Numbers have been rising in recent years, with last year's 500 in attendance doubling the 2022 figure.

The Postgate Society exists to spread knowledge of Blessed Nicholas and promote interest in Catholic history during penal times. Find out more at [postgatesociety.org](http://postgatesociety.org).

- A special 50th anniversary badge is available for £3 including postage from Monica Ventress, The Postgate Society, 53 Ceremony Wynd, Clairville Grange, Middlesbrough TS4 2WG.

- Read Cardinal Roche's homily in full at [middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk](http://middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk).



Abbott Robert Igo blesses a pilgrim with a relic of Father Postgate

## Walkers honour our ancient Christian heritage

This year, for the 50th anniversary of the Postgate Rally, the annual vocations walk was also revived.

In a change from previous years, the walk took place from Whitby Abbey to Ugthorpe, partially to avoid crossing the busy A171, but also to honour some of our more ancient Christian heritage and the patronage of one of our great female diocesan saints, St Hilda.

A wonderful group composed of pilgrims preparing to walk the Camino and some of our young adults from across the diocese rose to the challenge of walking the eight miles.

We were blessed that the weather held out all the way until the Mass itself. We look forward to continuing this walk in future years.

Emma Morrison



The group who revived the annual vocations walk, which was organised by Emma Morrison (front left)

## Time to reflect on Praying the Rosary

A large group gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes in Hull for a reflection on Praying the Rosary led by Father Richard Ounsworth, prior and parish priest of Leicester Priory.

The morning began with Mass celebrated by Father Richard, before we moved to the church hall for the reflection.

Father Richard explained the close bond that exists between the Dominican Order and the Rosary. Tradition has it that St Dominic first received the Holy Rosary from Our Lady herself in the 13th century.

He explained different methods of praying the Rosary and how we should each choose the best way for us. He then led a question-and-answer session before blessing Rosary beads people had brought with them.

Our thanks go to Father Richard for leading the day and to the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes for making us so welcome and providing refreshments throughout the morning. We must also thank St Charles SVP conference for organising the event.

Chris Cuthill



Father Richard Ounsworth blesses Rosary beads people brought with them to the Praying the Rosary reflection in Hull

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# The Priests delight capacity cathedral audience

A capacity audience packed St Mary's Cathedral as award-winning classical singing group The Priests played the only mainland UK show of their farewell tour.

The emotional evening – the first of an ongoing concert series – saw the three Northern Irish clerics bring the house down with a programme that included religious, classical, Irish and pop songs.

The Priests' self-titled debut album became the fastest-selling debut album for a classical act in the UK when it was released in 2008 and went gold and platinum around the world.

After 50 years of singing together they are now hanging up their microphones, and music lovers from all over the country snapped up all 640 tickets for the special one-off Middlesbrough show.

Cathedral dean Canon Paul Farrer said: "The concert was a delight from start to finish and reminded us of what we can do when we come together as a community. We are called to be joyful witnesses to the joy of a life lived in relationship with God. Hundreds of us did that on the night.

"I'm deeply grateful to the priests who gave their free time to sing for us before flying back for weekend Masses in their parishes.

"I'm equally thankful to the guys on sound and light and those who helped with hospitality – they made the cathedral the spectacular venue we know it to be.

"We couldn't have managed without the Cathedral Choir, Cantabile, the Knights of St Columba and our growing Cathedral Events Team."

As the audience streamed out after the concert, they agreed they had experienced a very special occasion.

Retired teacher Sheila Moore, from Middlesbrough, said: "My Irish roots came to the fore and I was crying my eyes out for my dad, who used to sing some of those songs."

Adele Gittins, from Redcar, said: "It was wonderful. I have their CDs already but to see them live was just incredible."

Jean Reeve, from Acklam, added: "It was a brilliant performance. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Others emailed their praise for the concert, which raised at least £6,000 for cathedral funds.

Heidi Cummins wrote: "They were fantastic and left us all smiling and on a high."

Anne Healy emailed to say: "A huge thank you to all involved. It was a truly wonderful and uplifting evening."

And James Barry wrote: "Thank you so much for all your organisation behind this most superb concert."

Canon Paul praised the army of around 50 volunteers who worked hard to prepare the cathedral and help on the evening.

"This event is the first of many," he added.



The Priests sang to a sell-out audience at St Mary's Cathedral – Photo by Joe Harrison

"From September, we have a full programme of musical events catering to all tastes. We'd love to see you as we do our best to open the cathedral doors to all."

The Priests are Father Martin O'Hagan, his brother, Eugene, and school friend Father David Delargy, all full-time priests in the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Forthcoming cathedral events include folk favourites Plumhall and Pete Davies on Friday September 27 and indie legend John Bramwell (I Am Kloot) on Saturday

September 28.

This will be followed by the Cathedral Series of concerts from the cathedral choirs and a packed Christmas programme, including Cantabile and a special 45-minute panto that's suitable for younger children, as well as a series of Candlelight concerts.

Tickets for all events are on sale from [ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral](https://ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral). For more information, call 01642 597750 or email [cathedralevents@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:cathedralevents@rcdmidd.org.uk).



DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH

## ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Led by Bishop Terry

Saturday September 21 to  
Sunday September 22 2024

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Please return to: Walsingham Pilgrimage 2024  
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A non-refundable deposit of £30 per person is required with this application, cheques should be made payable to: Diocese of Middlesbrough (Walsingham)

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: FRIDAY AUGUST 23 2024**

If you have any queries telephone 01642 850505 ext 257



SCHOOLS

# St Cuthbert’s welcomes new CEO

**St Cuthbert’s RC Academy Trust has welcomed Rachel McEvoy as its new CEO.**

Chair David Laws said Rachel brings a wealth of experience to the role, having dedicated 32 years to the field of education.

“With a career spanning three headships, she holds a track record of effective leadership and innovative educational practices,” Mr Laws said.

“Her extensive experience also includes a pivotal role as an education director in two multi-academy trusts, where she oversaw curriculum development and implemented strategic initiatives to enhance educational outcomes and faith-based learning.

“Most recently, she served as interim CEO, successfully steering a multi-academy trust in the Diocese of Leeds. This blend of hands-on leadership and strategic oversight uniquely positions Rachel to drive the organisation forward, fostering a culture of excellence and continuous improvement.

“Rachel holds a profound commitment to the values and mission of Catholic education and believes that all children, regardless of need, circumstance or background, deserve a quality education which can be achieved with the high expectations that outstanding teaching and leadership bring to a school.

“Her strategic vision also includes a strong focus on ‘mission into practice’, curriculum development, continued professional development and inclusion, which aligns perfectly with St Cuthbert’s Trust’s



New St Cuthbert’s RC Academy Trust CEO Rachel McEvoy

commitment to excellence and holistic education.

“Rachel is committed to living out her faith through service and leadership and looks forward to the future in Catholic Education with a desire to do what is right for children, ensuring they receive the best and most rewarding educational experience possible.”

St Cuthbert’s is a family of 15 Catholic schools in an area that stretches from Scarborough in North Yorkshire through the East Riding of Yorkshire and into Kingston Upon Hull.

# Young singers cheer housebound group

**The choir from St Richard’s RC Academy in Hull wowed parishioners at the Sacred Heart Church housebound and elderly leisure day with a wide range of songs.**

The children got to meet some beloved former teachers from St Richard’s and chatted with the parishioners, who all gave a warm

welcome and words of encouragement, many sharing their own experiences of singing in school choirs.

The parishioners thoroughly enjoyed the concert and even shouted for more.

Thank you to Margaret Merrison for allowing us to entertain you all.



Children entertaining at Hull housebound group.

# Inspectors praise school that’s ‘built on love’

**Inspectors have praised a North Yorkshire school that is “built on love” as they rated it good in all areas.**

Ofsted says All Saints Catholic Primary School in Thirsk is a place where “everybody is made to feel welcome”.

“Highly effective leaders have led the school through a period of rapid change,” their report says. “The trust has provided training and support to improve every aspect of the school since it opened as part of the trust.”

Delighted executive headteacher Paul Conway said: “We are grateful to the knowledge and expertise from our trust team and governors for supporting us in our ambitions to build a faith school Thirsk can be proud of,” he said.

“We are also grateful to our loyal families for being a steadfast support to us throughout this period of change.

“Most importantly, we are proud of our staff and children for embracing our culture of love and high expectations. We are pleased our reputation is recognised locally and would continue to welcome new families of all faiths to our school family.”

Ofsted says All Saints offers lots of after-school clubs for all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged.

“Pupils particularly enjoy the different sporting competitions they can take part in,” it says. “There are also opportunities to celebrate pupils’ achievements in music, for example, by singing at a local cathedral.

“Governors and trustees know the school well. They provide excellent support and challenge to help leaders continually improve the school.”

Trust associate senior lead Amanda Hick said: “As a school family, we are extremely proud of all our children, our community



Children from All Saints Catholic Primary School in Thirsk, where everybody is made to feel welcome

and our staff.

“It has been a real team effort to achieve such a positive Ofsted outcome. It’s thanks to the dedication and support of all our stakeholders that we are where we are today.”

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said: “We have taken this once failing school and turned it around. Today, the entire community can celebrate, but most importantly, our wonderful pupils are experiencing such a rich and nurturing learning environment with high

expectations.

“This vision being realised is the result of a significant deployment of resources and the work of our fantastic team at All Saints, the governors and the entire NPCAT team.”



# Mayor quizzed on visit to open school's play area

**Children at St Thomas More Catholic Primary in Easterside, Middlesbrough, gave the town's mayor Chris Cooke a tough grilling when he visited to talk about his role and open their new play area.**

Mr Cooke was one of a group of people from a wide range of jobs who were invited to talk to pupils about what they do. They asked him how he got into politics, why he felt he had the right qualities for the role and even how much he earned!

"They were very well-informed," said Mr Cooke. "It's great to be invited and important to find out what's happening in the local community."

Later, Mr Cooke opened a new play area. The equipment is part of a multi-million-pound capital investment programme this summer by Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT), which runs 38 schools across Teesside and North Yorkshire.

Work on new allotments and an outdoor relaxation area will continue during the summer.

Ofsted inspectors who visited recently judged the school to be good overall and good in all areas, saying children are proud to be part of

the community.

"This is a welcoming and inclusive school," the report said. "There is a strong sense of belonging here shared by pupils, staff and leaders. Leaders are tenacious in supporting pupils and their families."

Executive headteacher Liz King said the new facilities will help the school offer children even more opportunities.

"Ofsted said one of our strengths is the personal development element of the opportunities we provide for our children," she said. "We are in the top five per cent most deprived areas in the country, so we try to ensure that our children get every opportunity they can."

"The inspectors picked up the school's family feel straight away and said the children are proud to come to St Thomas More and proud of Easterside."

"We're also proud to be part of the community of Easterside and proud of the children and the families we serve. We just want the very best for them."

NCPAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said: "The ongoing enhancement in our schools is a powerful illustration of the multiple benefits of being



Middlesbrough mayor Chris Cooke with the head boy and head girl at St Thomas More Catholic Primary

part of NPCAT.

"Part of that mission involves raising aspirations by bringing in visitors from similar

backgrounds who have been successful in a wide range of fields to meet the children."

## Where football dreams from tiny acorns grow!

**A soccer team that started when two asylum seekers asked if they could have a football to kick around is providing hope and uniting people from across the world in sport.**

Acorn FC – Welcome House is based in the Hull centre of that name, where team members had been receiving support.

The "Football Family" WhatsApp group now has 104 members with players training at the Goodwin Centre twice a week.

They can't play in a league, but recent friendly opponents have included a team backed by Leeds United, which was covered by both ITV and the BBC.

The game saw Hull and Leeds become the first cities to come together as part of the Active Through Football project supported by Foundation Football (Wembley).

We lost the match, but it was such an experience playing on the indoor pitch at the Hull City Arena.

SVP members and parishioners are the assistant managers, kit washers and food organisers.

We began as volunteers, never dreaming we would soon be where we are now. The SVP bought two footballs for a group of five boys to kick around in the park. Now their dream of having a football team has come true.

Not only do we have a ready-made family for all the young men who are sent to Hull, but a home to gather in, Welcome House, and a reason for getting up in the morning and out of their small hotel room or lonely house.

Thank you to the SVP for supporting us and to the Marist Fathers, Sported, the Tigers Trust, Active through Football and the East Riding FA for their continuing support and encouragement.

More recently we beat a team of doctors from Castle Hill Hospital 7-2 and Humberside Police invited to us to play a showcase charity match alongside Hull City legends, which we won 4-1.

During Refugee Week in June, 40 players were involved in a five-a-side tournament at Hull University and we have been invited to take part in a mini-World Cup tournament.

As a result of our football fame, Foundation Football commissioned a film crew to make a



The Acorn FC – Welcome House football team

film called "Anei's Story".

Anei is a young asylum seeker who came to England from South Sudan after he had watched his brother and his father, a Catholic Church gatekeeper for 40 years, being shot.

His mum was raped and later killed after being accused of delivering a baby from an opposing tribe. He was imprisoned and electrocuted, with wires attached to his legs.

We always accept invitations wherever they come from because this team has been guided by divine providence from the beginning.

We grab with both hands and then wait as donations come from parishes, individuals, the SVP, Marist Fathers, grant applications and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School.

The finance always appears, and we know

these young men, through football, will continue to grow in confidence and be ready to work when and if they are allowed to stay and they can start believing they can follow their dream.

As a referee said, "Where else would you see twelve languages, twelve nations so united?" It can only happen in football.

Maureen Mulligan

## Theme chosen for World Day of Prayer

**"I made you wonderful" is the theme of the World Day of Prayer 2025, which will be led by women from the Cook Islands.**

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation that seeks to listen to the thoughts of women from all parts of the world, including their hopes, concerns and prayers.

People will gather across the world on Friday March 7 to celebrate the service, prepared by the women of the group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean that have a rich Maori heritage and a deep

connection to nature.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in more than 120 countries. Beginning in Samoa, prayer in native languages travels throughout the world, through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, visit [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)



NEWS

# Why music-loving Len is a Diamond of a deacon

**Deacon and Neil Diamond fan Len Collings celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination to the permanent diaconate in style.**

Blessed Nicholas Postgate parishioners weren't going to let the occasion slip by unnoticed, and organised surprises for Len and his wife Liz throughout the week.

On the anniversary itself, a beautiful morning Mass was said in his honour, followed by a celebratory breakfast of surprise sausage sandwiches, together with a rousing rendition of For He's a Jolly Good Fellow.

On Sunday, nearly 100 parishioners came together to celebrate with an afternoon tea in the social club. The room was adorned with stunning floral arrangements and silver decorations, and we were presented with a sumptuous afternoon tea.

Father Paul Dowling then took us on a trip back in time to 1999, recounting sporting success, the fear of the millennium bug and snippets of what various members of the parish team were up to.

Some had already started out on their path to ministry, while another was just visiting Lourdes for the first time. The youngest two, however, had barely started primary school, making everyone feel old.

We also heard about Deacon Len's time in parish communities within the diocese, as well as his work at the hospital. His countless acts of selflessness and kindness have brought comfort, guidance and support to so many over the years.

The afternoon ended with the cutting of a stunning cake and a heartfelt speech from Deacon Len.



Deacon Len Collings, who is celebrating 25 years since his ordination to the diaconate, with his wife, Liz

As he was up on stage with a microphone in his hand, he then gave an impromptu performance of Neil Diamond's hit Sweet Caroline, which had the whole club singing

and dancing along. He was then presented with his final surprise – a framed Neil Diamond record! The coincidence was so remarkable, you'd

have thought it was planned. It was a truly wonderful celebration for our diamond of a deacon.

Heather Gittins

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## Catenians hand over Zoë's Place cheque

**Generous Middlesbrough Catenians have presented Zoë's Place Baby Hospice in Normanby with a second £1,000 cheque in a year.**

The charity offers short breaks, palliative and end-of-life care to babies and children aged up to five years who are living with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.

Zoë's Place was chosen by the circle's past president Paul Healy as his 2023/24 charity.

He was joined by fellow Catenians for a quick tour to hear about the hospice's amazing work before they handed over the cheque. Much of the money was raised by Catenians and friends who attended Middlesbrough Circle's 93rd Annual Charter and Clergy night in January. A similar-sized cheque was presented to Zoë's Place last year.



Middlesbrough Circle 2023/24 president Paul Healy is accompanied by current president Gavin Robinson (right) and vice president Chris Rhodes as he presents Tracy Bowstead of Zoë's Place with a cheque on behalf of Middlesbrough Catenians



# Warm wishes for Canon Jerry’s golden jubilee

**Bishop Terry and priests from across the diocese joined St George’s parishioners in York to celebrate the 50th jubilee of Canon Jerry Twomey’s ordination to the priesthood.**

Canon Jerry grew up in Knocklong, County Limerick, and was ordained at Thurles, County Tipperary, on June 8 1974.

His ministry in the Diocese of Middlesbrough began that year at the Sacred Heart, Middlesbrough, and has since included the parishes of the Holy Name, Hull; St Patrick’s, Thornaby; Our Lady’s, York; St Peter and St Paul, Leyburn; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Market Weighton; St Aelred’s, York; St Mary’s, Filey; St Joseph’s, York; All Saints, Thirsk, and his current parish, St George’s.

An uplifting and inspiring Mass was followed by a gathering of about 100 people, including relatives from Ireland and America, at a local hotel, which proved to be an excellent opportunity for reminiscing and sharing memories.

“I want to express my sincere thanks to all who made my jubilee such a marvellous occasion,” Canon Jerry said.

“I was really overwhelmed by your enthusiasm and goodwill, not just on the evening, but in the lead up to the celebration and beyond. My family have now returned home with hearts full of joy and amazement – a bit like the Transfiguration for the Apostles.

“I am truly thankful to St George’s parish and all the other parishes who were represented



Bishop Terry and priests who gathered to help Canon Jerry celebrate his golden jubilee – Photo by Venith Torres

for your cards and kind gifts to me.”  
Canon Jerry, who celebrated his 75th birthday on Yorkshire Day, August 1, will retire later in

the month.  
We all wish Jerry a long and happy retirement in Yorkshire – which some in these parts refer

to as God’s Own County!

David Harper

# Nick celebrates 60 years of service

**Nick Cox started serving at St Charles, Hull, on June 14 1964, and he is still serving Holy Mass, now at Our Lady of Lourdes & St Peter Chanel in the city.**

Here he is pictured with his wife, Carol, and some of today’s altar servers, parish priest Father William Massie and Marist Fathers, Father Noel Wynn and Father Gerard Burns, who used to run the parish.

Father William commended Nick not only for 60 years altar serving but also for being a great example of prayer, not only to the young altar servers but to the entire congregation.



Nick with his presentation



Nick Cox with fellow altar servers and Father Noel Wynn, Father Gerard Burns and Father William Massie

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# Pope reveals theme for Care of Creation prayer day

**“Hope and Act with Creation” is the theme of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, on Sunday September 1.**

The theme is from St Paul’s Letter to the Romans (8:19-25), where the apostle explains what it means for us to live according to the Spirit and focuses on the sure hope of salvation that is born of faith – newness of life in Christ.

**Here is part of the Pope’s message...**

1. Let us begin with a question, one perhaps without an immediately obvious answer. If we are truly believers, how did we come to have faith? It is not simply because we believe in something transcendent, beyond the power of reason, the unattainable mystery of a distant and remote God, invisible and unnameable.

Rather, as St Paul tells us, it is because the Holy Spirit dwells within us. We are believers because the very love of God “has been poured into our hearts” (Romans 5:5) and the Spirit is now truly “the pledge of our inheritance” (Ephesians 1:14), constantly prompting us to strive for eternal goods, according to the fullness of Jesus’ authentic humanity.

The Spirit enables believers to be creative and proactive in charity. He sends us forth on a great journey of spiritual freedom, yet one that does not eliminate the tension between the Spirit’s way of thinking and that of the world, whose fruits are opposed to each other (see Galatians 5:16-17).

We know that the first fruit of the Spirit, which sums up all the others, is love. Led by the Holy Spirit, believers are children of God and can turn to him with the words “Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15), just as Jesus did.

Moreover, they can do so with the freedom of those who no longer fall back into the fear of death, for Jesus has risen from the dead. This is our great hope: God’s love has triumphed and continues to triumph over everything.

Indeed, even in the face of physical death, future glory is already assured for those who live the new life of the Spirit. Nor does this hope disappoint, as was affirmed in the recent Bull of Indiction of the forthcoming Jubilee.

2. The life of a Christian, then, is one of faith, active in charity and abounding in hope, as we await the Lord’s return in glory. We are not troubled by the “delay” of the Parousia, Christ’s second coming; for us the important question is whether, “when the Son of man comes, he will find faith on earth” (Luke 18:8).

Faith is a gift, the fruit of the Spirit’s presence in us, but it is also a task to be undertaken freely, in obedience to Jesus’ commandment of love. Such is the blessed hope to which we must bear witness.

Yet where, when, and how are we to bear that witness? Surely by caring for the flesh of suffering humanity. As people who dare to dream, we must dream with our eyes wide open, impelled by a desire for love, fraternity, friendship and justice for all.

Christian salvation enters into the depths of the world’s suffering, which embraces not only humanity but also the entire universe, nature itself, and the oikos, the home and living environment of humanity. Salvation embraces creation as an “earthly paradise,” mother earth, which is meant to be a place of joy and a promise of happiness for all.

Our Christian optimism is founded on a living hope: it realises that everything is ordered to the glory of God, to final consummation in his peace and to bodily resurrection in



The Year of Creation symbol – reproduced by courtesy of the Laudato Si’ Movement

righteousness, as we pass “from glory to glory.” Nonetheless, in the passage of time we are not exempt from pain and suffering: the whole creation groans (Romans 8:19-22), we Christians groan (verses 23-25) and the Spirit himself groans (verses 26-27). This groaning expresses apprehension and suffering, together with longing and desire. It gives voice to our trust in God and our reliance on his loving yet demanding presence in our midst, as we look forward to the fulfilment of his plan, which is joy, love and peace in the Holy Spirit.”

You can read the full message on the Vatican website.

## Theme and symbol for the Season of Creation

The theme for Season of Creation this year is “To hope and act with Creation” and the symbol is the firstfruits of hope, inspired by Romans 8:19-25. The biblical image pictures the Earth as a mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22).

St Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of Creatures.

The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used.

“Creation is groaning” (Romans 8:22) because of our selfishness and our unsustainable actions that harm her. Along with our sister, Mother Earth, creatures of all kinds, including humans, cry out because of our destructive actions causing climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and human suffering as well as Creation’s suffering.

The day is inspired by Pope Francis’ landmark encyclical *Laudato Si’*, which calls on “every person living on this planet” to care for our shared Earth.

In his message for the World Day of Prayer 2024, Pope Francis reminds us how the Holy Spirit “keeps the believing community alert and calls it to conversion in lifestyles, to resist human degradation of the environment”.

The Holy Father calls us, with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, to seek to live “a life that becomes a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and that finds its fullness in holiness”.

There are many ways to respond to Pope Francis’ call to care for the gift of God’s creation – why not take some time out of your day on September 1 to walk in your local park or take a few moments to thank God for the flowers growing in your garden? Have a look at our online prayer resources on the care of creation on our website:

## TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

### SEASON OF CREATION 2024

[cafod.org.uk/news/uk-news/celebrate-world-day-of-prayer](https://cafod.org.uk/news/uk-news/celebrate-world-day-of-prayer)

You can pray the joyful mysteries of the Rosary for the care of creation. Despite the challenges we face in caring for our common home, we are called to hope and joy and so we offer these reflections on the joyful mysteries to nourish our commitment to care for the Earth.

If you have young children, you may also like to explore our family prayer resources on the wonders of creation and our responsibility to nurture and protect it.

We also have a novena to St Francis of Assisi, which you could begin today, or you could pray it in the nine days leading up to St Francis’ feast at the end of the Season of Creation. These beautiful prayers are based on St Francis’ Canticle of the Sun and guide us to care for the Earth and our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.

The World Day of Prayer is another opportunity for us to connect with our creator God and allow the Lord to redefine our relationship with the environment: from one of consumption and control to one of care and protection.

In parishes or groups, you could celebrate Mass with a focus on the climate and care of creation. We have some special intercessions you may wish to use. Or get together with others from your parish and reflect on the themes of *Laudato Si’*. This encyclical reminds us we have a responsibility to our Earth, each other and generations yet to come. Use our *Laudato Si’* resources.

If you cannot mark the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation itself, you could use these resources at any time during the Season of Creation (September 1 to October 4).

**Carol Cross**  
Community Participation Coordinator

## A delicious way to raise money

**You can get more than a cup of tea or coffee after Sunday Mass at Saints Mary & Joseph’s Church in Pocklington – they have a delicious selection of sumptuous cakes, jams and preserves on offer too!**

There’s always a welcoming smile from Catherine and Denise as they serve your cuppa, and then you can choose a delicious treat lovingly prepared by Philippa and Joanna and her daughters to go with it or take home and enjoy later.

The lovely ladies of the parish CAFOD



**A tempting array of refreshments after Mass in Pocklington – Photo by Philippa Bosworth**



# The story of North Yorkshire’s great bible scholar

**Catholic Bible scholar Father George Haydock, who was born 250 years ago, on April 11 1774, served and did some of his most important work at St Anne’s Catholic Church, Ugthorpe. JOHN PEARSON tells us more...**

**My old New Jerusalem Bible, which I have had since my teens, is now in tatters, though still in regular use.**

The Douai-Rheims Bible was the first printed in the English language in 1582. If you were fortunate to have a copy in the 17th century, it would be kept hidden, as these were difficult days for Catholics.

By the mid-1600s things were improving, albeit slowly. Revised versions followed, including commentaries based on early Christian writings that helped to explain the text.

One of the leading Catholic bible scholars of his time, Father George Leo Haycock served at St Anne’s from 1803 to 1827.

Born in Lancashire in 1774, he came from a recusant family and his namesake was an illustrious ancestor, Blessed George Haydock (1556-1584), a martyred seminary priest who was beatified along with Nicholas Postgate in 1987.

During Father Haydock’s time at Ugthorpe he repaired and improved the thatched roof structure that served as a Catholic chapel and began planning a new one.

He completed his new chapel and presbytery in 1810 and later added a school, which still stands today.

There was still a prominent anti-Catholic culture, fuelled by magazines and other

writings.

Father Haydock saw a need to meet this challenge. Since interpretations of Scripture were a significant part of the anti-Catholic law repeal effort, he set out to complete what would become his greatest work: commentary for a new edition of the English Catholic Bible (Douai-Rheims version), later to be known as the Haydock Bible.

George’s brother, Thomas, published the Bible in a large folio edition in 1814. As was common, it was sold by subscription, a few leaves at a time.

Subscribers would accumulate the sets of leaves over the years and ultimately have the completed Bible bound. English Catholics enthusiastically welcomed this impressive volume that symbolised a reinvigorated Catholicism on the verge of winning its long fight to repeal the Penal Laws. At least 1,500 copies of the first edition were sold.

Father Haydock’s next assignment was at Whitby, where he published prayer books, responding to an increasing desire by Catholic congregations to increase participation in the Mass.

One, A Key to the Roman Catholic Office, includes a detailed list of the duties expected of a Catholic priest. Father Haydock continued to serve Ugthorpe until 1827 when a permanent successor was assigned, Father Nicholas Rigby.

Through my family history research, I discovered that Father Haydock married John Gallon and Catherine Roe on January 27 1827. John’s father was Luke Gallon (1771-1849). My mother, Bette Pearson (nee Gallon), was born in Ugthorpe in 1918 – making John and



Catholic Bible scholar Father George Haydock who served at St Anne’s Catholic Church, Ugthorpe

Catherine my great-great-grandparents. I had heard stories of the Gallon family bible but never laid eyes on it. In the last couple of years it came to light, having been carefully looked after by a family member.

Imagine my excitement the day I held that bible. Not just any bible, but a Haydock bible. A weighty book in much more than its physical size.

Turning the pages, I could see the words of

scripture and the commentaries written by Father Haydock. Then, to cap it all, a page entitled “Family register and children’s names”. Seventeen names, beginning with John and Catherine’s children and down to my mum’s brother Luke, born in 1916.

Faith seems to be part of our genes – we can try to ignore it, but it finds a way through. Discovering the Gallon bible was a great joy. However, what is the use of having such a treasure unless we read it?

## Children fill the cathedral for Our Lady’s feast

**To celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, patron of the diocese, 300 children from schools in the Diocesan Schools’ Singing Programme came together to sing Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral.**

Bishop Terry was the principal celebrant and all but one school involved attended, with children and staff coming from across Middlesbrough, Marske-by-the-Sea and York.

Priests from many of the parishes represented by the schools joined Bishop Terry on the altar.

The children sang four traditional hymns, the Lourdes Mass setting and all joined to sing Simon Lindley’s Ave Maria in Latin.

Children from schools who sing with one of the cathedral’s choirs robed and sat together, performing some sections by themselves, with one Year 4 chorister singing a brief solo.

All the music was prepared in whole-class singing sessions led by either choral director Andrea Maxson or diocesan director of music

Steven Maxson as part of a structured curriculum delivered all year round.

We were blessed with fine weather between the rehearsal on the day and the Mass and the children enjoyed their lunchbreak outside, with the Google Street View car coming to take photographs and ensure that the event lives on!

In his homily, Bishop Terry said the children filled the cathedral with “a wall of sound” as he left the sacristy. He remarked how their singing ranged from music written this year to traditional plainsong written many centuries ago, with singing in English, Greek and Latin.

The first lesson and the bidding prayers were beautifully read by children from attending schools, and the altar servers were also drawn from several schools.

The Diocesan Schools’ Singing Programme is part of the National Schools’ Singing Programme.



Some of the singers who came to the special Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral

## Sun shines on Holy Island pilgrims

**Warm sunshine greeted pilgrims taking part in the 20th anniversary Stella Maris pilgrimage to Holy Island.**

Stella Maris promoter and bishop of the armed forces Bishop Paul Mason was joined by Father Pat Keogh, along with organiser Teresa Davies.

Father Pat has been closely involved in the Stella Maris organisation, ministering to seafarers in Tees Port and taking part in many visits to Lindisfarne over the years.

They were accompanied by Father Kieron from Madonna House in Robin Hood’s Bay, along with priests from other areas.

Stella Maris provided a free coach for pilgrims and after prayers and hymns on the green we enjoyed a buffet in the village hall.

There was plenty of time to explore the village before Mass. After the final blessing and words of farewell, the clergy and congregation were piped out of the church.

They then made their back to the waiting coaches and headed for Seahouses for late afternoon fish and chips before heading home to Middlesbrough.

A wonderful, inspiring day was enjoyed by all.

Mark Gallagher



Father Pat Keogh with Bishop Paul Mason during the Stella Maris pilgrimage to Holy Island



NEWS

# Last but not least as Debra raises cancer funds

Diocesan health and safety advisor Debra Butler raised £218 for Cancer Research UK by completing the 5k Race for Life in memory of her mam and dad, who both died of cancer.

Some of the money was donated by Debra's colleagues in diocesan central services, based in the curial offices.

Debra, who works with parishes in the northern and coastal deaneries, said: "The race was important to me because my mam had cancer twice. The first time, which she beat, was when I was in my early 20s, meaning I still had her in my life until my 50s.

"The extra time my family had with her was down to the important work the people in cancer research do.

"The disease did eventually catch up with her, sadly, and then a few years later claimed my dad. My hope is that this awful disease can be eradicated.

"The race for life is an upbeat occasion, with many people remembering loved ones or completing the walk/run for and by people currently fighting their own battle with the disease.

"Many stories are swapped, but they are told with hope for the future.

"My friend, Paula, did the race with me, also in memory of my parents. Even though she struggles to walk and needs the aid of two walking sticks, she completed the whole 5k. "The only complaint she uttered was that she didn't want to be last over the line – we did come in last, but it was absolutely fine.

"The last few steps were the hardest for her, but we were greeted by a wonderful crowd who instead of heading home stayed and cheered us over the finishing line to ring the bell."



Diocesan health and safety advisor Debra Butler completed the Race for Life with her friend, Paula

# Mission is theme for Bishop's Study Day

The Bishop's Study Day is a well-established annual event enabling educationalists and clergy to gather to reflect upon aspects of the faith and support and nurture our schools, colleges and parishes.

Almost 130 delegates attended, including school and trust leaders, governors, directors and clergy.

The day began in a wonderfully uplifting manner, with prayers and music led by a group of students from All Saints School in York.

This was followed by a welcome address from Bishop Terry and Kate Bailey, director of schools for the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

The key themes of the day centred around reflecting upon our Catholic mission in schools and chaplaincy.

The morning session was led by renowned guest speaker David Wells, a former headteacher and now author and speaker.

As ever, David spoke with great insight, humour and, at times, poignancy, covering subjects linked to the Bishop's vision for Catholic education – "To make Christ known and loved".

Chaplaincy was the theme of the afternoon session, which was led by Susan Elderfield, advisor for chaplaincy and staff formation in the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Susan's presentation theme of Chaplaincy –

"The Ministry and the Mission" – was inspired by a quote from Isaiah 54:2, "Enlarge the place of your tent".

The key message was a reminder that chaplaincy is led and lived out by all who work and volunteer in our schools and parishes.

Susan also spoke about the need to move and enlarge our "tent" of chaplaincy to adapt to an ever-changing world and the challenges presented.

Kate said: "Our Bishop's Study Day has gone from strength to strength over the past few years and is a real celebration of Catholic education in our diocese.

"It is lovely to see our parishes, schools, trust leaders, governors and directors come together.

"The day is a reminder of our core purpose – to make sure our young people are given opportunities to encounter Christ and flourish, knowing they are loved by him abundantly and unconditionally."

A word of thanks must go to all those who helped organise and lead the day, as well as all those who attended. Work will soon begin in earnest to plan the next event, in June 2025.

Martin Macaulay  
Deputy Director of Schools



David Wells speaking at the Bishop's Study Day

# A Letter From Madonna House - Jesus and the little girl

"OK Jesus, stay right there. Don't move. You look perfect. Now...stay!"



The little girl gave Jesus a pat on his hand and a stern look as she slowly walked away, looking back to make sure he didn't move.

She had put on him a big, red velvet cloak and a crown of gold. She'd set a sceptre in his hand and made him sit on a big, old, metallic throne. He looked like a king; just like she thought he should. She rubbed her hands together.

"Now," she said, "I'll get to work."

She marched out to the street, where the people were hurrying by.

"Hello," she said to one man. He didn't even glance at her.

"Excuse me. I'd like you to meet someone"

Her voice was an echo in the wind as he breezed by, bumping her aside. She tightened her fists and tried harder.

All day she coaxed, pleaded, shouted and stomped her feet, trying to make people come to meet her king. She imagined herself putting chains around the crowd and roping them in, but she was far too little.

Why wouldn't they come? Why couldn't they see? She didn't understand. Exhausted and near tears, she fell in a heap. She felt so discouraged, broken, empty. She had failed her Jesus.

Suddenly, she felt a warm hand on her shoulder. Startled, she looked up. There he was. No cloak, no crown, no sceptre. Jesus stood before her clad in the simple clothes he always wore. He looked so ordinary, so commonplace.

Yet, there was nothing ordinary about his eyes, so filled with love for her. There was kindness in his face, strength and mercy. He gazed at her for a moment and then, with a soft smile, he spoke.

"My daughter, I have a better way."

He held out his hands to her, and while helping her up, knelt down to her size. Now face to face, he put his arms around her and explained: "You see, I want to walk with you. I want to be with you. It is so simple, my little one."

Looking at her tenderly, he said: "If I take your hand in mine and walk with you, then wherever you go, I will go, too.

"Whoever you meet will meet me also. I wish to journey with you. Will you let me, my child?"

He sat back and, with a twinkle in his eye, awaited her response.

There was a moment of silence as she processed this. This wasn't how she thought it should be. It hadn't turned out as she had planned. But then...so what?

She made up her mind. Looking at him with a twinkle of her own, she gave him her hand and her heart. Together they stood and off they went on their way – his way.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Adapted by Carol Ann Gieske from a fable by Melanie Murphy of Madonna House



# A new stand for Malton church's paschal candle

**PHILIP WESTMACOTT** tells us the story of the new paschal candle stand he has made for St Leonard and St Mary's, Malton...

In its guide, *Celebrating the Mass*, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales makes only a brief reference to the stand for the paschal candle.

"Although the focus should always be the candle and not the stand, the design and the decoration of stand merits consideration."

The design brief I set myself was to echo the other furniture on the sanctuary, particularly the lectern, beside which it is placed at the Easter Vigil.

The lectern is dark oak, has an octagonal base with four short sides and a weighty base to ensure stability.

The new candle stand also has its base formed as an octagon with four short sides. This lower third of the base clearly follows the form of the base of the lectern.

By having a large, compact base, stability is ensured without needing a widely spread triangular or cruciform base, which could present a trip hazard.

The second section (moving up) reproduces the concave second section of the lectern's base but, whereas that reduces to an equilateral octagon, on the candle stand the ratio between short and long sides becomes more extreme.

It is only on the third level that the cross section of the base resolves, through its convex faces, to an equilateral octagon at its top.

This design has the effect that the eight faces appear to diminish and then grow as they rise up the base of the stand. Those with a vivid imagination might see a suggestion of the flames of the new fire from which the

candle is lit for the first time at the Easter Vigil.

The octagonal pillar is deliberately simple so it does not distract from the candle itself. The stand was fumed (exposed to ammonia) for four hours, which darkened the oak and brought out the grain. It was polished with beeswax.

The design and manufacture would not have been possible without the guidance of master carpenter John Apps. Not having had any woodworking lessons since I was 13, I joined John's Monday class at Slingsby and mentioned the candle stand as a possibility, although I doubted my ability to undertake such a complex project.

John, who has made many church pieces, helped me realise my original design concept with minor modifications, taught me techniques and an understanding of wood and helped me through the trickier stages of the manufacture.

The design of the brass candle holder (socket) and flower tray was agreed by James Morris of manufacturer Sculpsteel, of Terrington, in collaboration with our chief flower arranger, Philomena Hemesley, John and me.

Sculpsteel charged a fraction of their usual prices and cheerfully adjusted the design to include two removable stainless-steel troughs with dividers to support the flowers and hold water.

Both Slingsby and Terrington are within the parish boundaries, so the candle stand is very much a parish-based endeavour.

Perhaps the best tributes to the stand are from those who said they didn't notice it, saying it fits in so well that it looks like it has always been in the Church.



Philip Westmacott with the lectern and the new paschal candle stand he made

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### Forthcoming Events at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough

**Friday September 27, 7pm**  
Plumhall with Pete Davies  
£15+ booking fee

**Saturday September 28, 7.30pm**  
John Bramwell (I Am Kloot) solo  
£22.50

**Thursday October 10, 7.30pm**  
The Cathedral Series: Relaxing Classics

**Saturday November 9, 7.30pm**  
The Cathedral Series: Fauré Requiem

**December 1, 3pm**  
Advent Carol Service

**Tuesday December 3, 6pm**  
Christmas Wreath-Making Workshop

**Saturday December 14, 7.30pm**  
Christmas at the Cathedral with Cantabile

**December 17 & 18, various times**  
Santa and the Race to Save Christmas  
Visit [middlesbroughrccathedral.org/whats-on](http://middlesbroughrccathedral.org/whats-on) for more details.

## NEWS

# Out & About

#### 2 Friday

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

#### 3 Saturday

**11am** Catholic women are invited to share an hour of feminine communion including meditation, via Zoom. Text Barbara on 07796 117704 with your mobile number and email address so she can add you to the WhatsApp group, or email catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com for Zoom link.

#### 4 Sunday

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

#### 5 Monday

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

#### 6 Tuesday

**10am** Coffee at the Cathedral. Tea, coffee and treats every Tuesday after 9.30am Mass. A warm welcome and friendly atmosphere.

#### 8 Thursday

**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.

#### 11 Sunday

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

#### 12 Monday

**2pm** Music for the Mind is an hour of fun and music for people living with dementia, their friends and carers. Trish McLean provides music and fun every second Monday of the month at St Mary's Cathedral. All welcome.

#### 13 Tuesday

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

#### 14 Wednesday

**7pm** Hull Circle of the Catenian Association meet at the Lazaat Hotel in Cottingham, followed by Mass and a buffet-style meal. Email Charles Cseh at hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com.

#### 17 Saturday

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

#### 18 Sunday

**3pm** Annual Assumption Pilgrimage. Join us as Abbot Robert Igo OSB celebrates Mass for the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Ruebury Lane, Osmotherley DL6 3AP.

If you have any events that you would like to include in the Out and About section, please email [heidi.cummins@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:heidi.cummins@rcdmidd.org.uk)

# Our mission is great – but so are you!

This is the 180th anniversary of the St Vincent de Paul and as one of its newest recruits, I would like to introduce myself as the membership support officer for our diocese.

I became involved when my dad, Thomas O'Hagan, passed away last June. He was president of the SVP in Bridlington and would organise lunches, visits to the isolated and parties (cake was usually involved!).

He was also a brancardier in Lourdes and would come back with wonderful stories of the miracles that cure sick people in the baths and springs.

As we took his ashes to Ireland in April, I came across the SVP in the newsletter advertising for a membership support officer. I was so happy to be offered this position and have met wonderful, caring people and attended the three-day national meeting, which is held every year for SVP members and staff.

Dad would be proud but equally, I feel God is guiding through his spirit so that we can all do our bit to make this world a better place (with cake included!).

As we find ourselves in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis at home and with the wars around the globe, it's more important than ever to help those in need.

The SVP mission is to seek out those who need that support and with community and partnership working we can make a difference to so many lives.

I can help form a new SVP conference in your parish or develop existing ones with training, fundraising ideas and recruitment.

If you are interested in starting a new SVP conference or would just like to chat and learn about what the SVP does, please contact me on [TeresaO@svp.org.uk](mailto:TeresaO@svp.org.uk)

The need is great, but so are you!

**Teresa O'Hagan**



New SVP membership support officer Teresa O'Hagan

# 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](mailto:catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk)

Deadline Friday August 2 for September 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.



# Pope sends special blessing to anti-poverty charity

**Pope Francis has sent a papal blessing to all members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) to celebrate 180 years of its work in England and Wales.**

His message was read out at the society's national meeting in Staffordshire, where on display was the minute book from the very first conference meetings, which took place in London in 1844.

We call our groups conferences to reflect our French heritage, as the SVP was founded in Paris by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and a group of fellow students at the Sorbonne University in 1833.

One of these students was George Wigley, who was born near Manchester but brought up in Boulogne after losing his parents.

He wanted to start a conference in England and Frédéric advised him to write magazine articles. Helped by Father Ignatius Spencer CP (Winston Churchill's great-uncle and great-great-uncle to Diana, Princess of Wales) they published articles about the SVP in *The Tablet*.

In January 1844, a group of Catholics met at the Sablonniere Hotel in Leicester Square and agreed to form the first conference in England.

An inaugural meeting took place on February 12 1844. *The Tablet* editor Frederick Lucas was elected president but declined and Charles Pagliano, the owner of the Sablonniere, was

then elected.

By 1845, four conferences had been formed in London. The SVP quickly spread beyond the capital, with eight in total by the end of the year.

We have 32 conferences in our dioceses, all based in parishes, although, as SVP conferences are lay groups, we could be based anywhere.

We are part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical help to people in need.

With a network of 8,000 volunteers there are more of us across England and Wales than there are special constables.

The essence of our work is person-person contact and we joyfully extend the hand of friendship to individuals and families who need our support.

During the national meeting we had presentations from various external speakers who knew of our work and described SVP as "the Church's ninjas" and "the blue army".

If you would like to be part of this network, please contact your parish SVP conference. If you are not sure if you have one, email [presidentc13@svp.org.uk](mailto:presidentc13@svp.org.uk) or visit [svp.org.uk](http://svp.org.uk) to discover how you can help our work.

**Patricia Nobbs**  
Middlesbrough SVP Central Council President



Pope Francis has sent a special blessing to mark 180 years of service from the SVP in England and Wales – Photo © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

## Youth SVP members help homeless people

**Members of St Bernadette's, Nunthorpe, SVP conference have been supporting Youth SVP pupils at Trinity Catholic College in their projects this year.**

Their final project was to collect hygiene and comfort items to be given to the guests at the Upper Room with Middlesbrough SVP Saturday morning cafe.

Items included toothpaste and brushes, hand sanitiser, wipes and warm hats and socks. The photo shows Susan and Frances receiving the bags. Well done to all at Trinity for a successful year, turning concern into action in the footsteps of St Vincent de Paul.

**Susan Gardiner**  
President, St Bernadette's SVP



Trinity Catholic College pupils with donations for the Upper Room project

## Singers hand over cash for Upper Room treats

**We are grateful to Bridget McLaughlin and the Seasonal Singers for their kind donation of £300 from their charity concerts over the year to help provide treats for our guests at the Upper Room with Middlesbrough SVP project.**

The Saturday sessions are supporting more than 40 people who come through the doors with food, company and so much more.

The Seasonal Singers will sing at any event to help raise funds for good causes.

**Frances Gilchrist**



Bridget McLaughlin from the Seasonal Singers hands over a cheque to Frances Gilchrist of the SVP

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NEWS

# Whitby welcomes asylum seekers and refugees

**Father Pat Keogh and parishioners welcomed 23 asylum seekers and refugees to the parish hall at St Hilda's, Whitby, supported by friends from other churches and from the local community.**

We had been given many generous donations of food, toiletries, household goods and clothes, which were received with gratitude by those who have so little.

Three ladies from different African countries have been waiting eight years for a decision on their requests for asylum, having witnessed or experienced violence and assault and being unsure whether family members had survived.

A family with five children from Afghanistan has been given permission to stay, as the mother had been a translator for the British forces, as well as a teacher of English.

The father was an orthopaedic surgeon and shared pictures of knee operations he had performed. They had to flee as women aren't allowed to work and girls are prevented from attending school, even though the two teenage daughters expressed a desire to become doctors. They now face the onerous task of passing the English exam, before taking medical or teaching exams.

We heard many tough stories, but they are all determined to succeed, contribute and

become a part of their communities. After the initial welcome and a lunch of sandwiches, fruit and cakes donated by the convent and kind parishioners, the children and their parents went for a paddle at the beach, followed by an enjoyable half hour at the playground.

The adults and teenagers were taken around the town by parishioners and friends, many climbing the 199 steps or walking around the harbour. A few even enjoyed a short boat trip. They were all impressed by our beautiful town and returned to enjoy a cooked meal, donated by parishioners, friends and the Indian restaurant.

Mary Frankland, from Thornaby, who organised the group, says the most precious gift we give the visitors is the warm, friendly welcome. The gifts of food and toiletries are the icing on the cake.

None of this would be possible without those who kindly give their time on the day and the generous donations we receive. Whatever your contribution, you helped to lift the spirits of every one of our visitors.

**Liz Atkinson and Marie-Louise Fountain**

**Right: Some of the younger visitors to Whitby enjoy a trip out to sea**



Sunday August 18  
2024

at the Shrine of Our  
Lady of Mount Grace

PILGRIMAGE TO  
CELEBRATE THE  
FEAST OF THE  
ASSUMPTION  
OF OUR LADY

- 2.30pm Rosary
- 3pm Mass

## Ampleforth is venue for Flame of Love meet-up

**This year's annual conference for the Flame of Love of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Movement UK takes place in the beautiful surroundings of Ampleforth Abbey from Friday August 2 to Sunday August 4.**

The conference is an opportunity to learn more about the movement and hear from speakers including Colombian missionary Marino Respreto talk about their love for Mary and Jesus.

The Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Movement in the UK has grown from strength to strength since a cenacle (faith sharing) prayer group started in Birmingham in 2022.

More than 300 people attended last year's conference and thousands of Flame of Love prayer cards have been given out at events across the UK.

You can learn more about the Flame of Love in the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Spiritual Diary, available from Amazon.

For further information and to book a place on the conference contact Liz Ansah on 07800 983085 or Christine Langston on 07582 708711.

## Bishop will start new season of talks

**Cleveland Newman Circle is enjoying a summer break but will return on Wednesday September 25 when Bishop Terry will open a new season of talks.**

He will speak about "St John of the Cross: A journey from darkness into light, absence to presence, through the Cross to Resurrection".

Bishop Terry first spoke to the Newman Circle shortly after his appointment to the diocese. His subject was St Teresa of Ávila and her writings on the Christian soul's journey to God.

St John of the Cross (Juan de Yepes y Álvarez) was mentored by and corresponded with St Teresa and is also known for his writings, particularly the Spiritual Canticle written during his imprisonment and torture.

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# Keith honoured for decades of love and service

Members of our Lourdes family, friends and relatives gathered at St Mary's Cathedral as our former pilgrimage director Keith Tillotson received a special honour for his dedication and service to the Church.

In the citation for the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award, Keith, who has stepped down after 10 years in the role, is described as a tireless worker for the good of the Church in our diocese.

Keith had previously been pilgrimage treasurer, increasing funds and ensuring they were spent on the neediest of our people. With the support of his equally committed wife, Chris, who served as head handmaid, Keith ensured everything was done to prioritise the sick and vulnerable for more than 20 years.

He was also our first head of hospitalité, building strong bonds among volunteers and ensuring the young people of the diocese played a central role.

Keith has been a Knight of St Columba for decades and now serves as grand knight of Council 29 and is a regular helper at diocesan celebrations and youth events for decades.

A St Mary's Cathedral parishioner, he is also an extraordinary minister of holy communion and minister of the word.

"His presence and ministry enhance the spiritual and liturgical life of the cathedral parish," the citation reads.

"Together with his wife, Keith builds relationships with those marginalised by health conditions and advancing years, ensuring they are not lonely or left alone in the midst of parish life.

"Keith's professional work is in finance, and



Keith Tillotson has been honoured with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award for his years of dedicated service to the Church

he is well disposed to putting his skills to work in support of the Church. "He is ready to say 'yes' to anyone in need and, most significantly, because of his faith. Keith is a son of the Church, supportive of the clergy and, more importantly, ready and willing to serve all the People of God as far as he is able."

Dean of the cathedral Canon Paul Farrer said Keith was a worthy recipient of the award, which is conferred for distinguished service to the Church by lay people. "Keith's tireless efforts and selfless commitment have truly enriched our parish and diocesan communities," he said.

"His exemplary service of our Lourdes pilgrimage and especially his deep care for our supported pilgrims reflect the true spirit of compassion and love we are called to embody as followers of Christ. "We are blessed to have Keith and Chris as beacons of faith and service among us and I am very proud to call them my friends."

## Communions and confirmations in York

It's been an especially busy time at Our Lady's Church in Acomb, York. Two First Holy Communion Masses were celebrated this year because there were so many children – 38 in all! One of them was also baptised. Our picture shows children at one of the Masses. Bishop Terry then visited to confirm young people from four York parishes – Our Lady's, Acomb; English Martyrs; St Aelred's and St Wilfrid's.



Photos by Johan Bergström-Allen

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NEWS

# Friends gather to help Monsignor David celebrate

A packed congregation gathered in St Joseph's Church, Stokesley, for Monsignor David Hogan's golden jubilee celebrations.

They included former parishioners from throughout the diocese, friends and family and 15 brother priests, including a tutor from his seminary days and, of course, Bishop Terry.

Monsignor David was principal celebrant and Father Bill Charlton gave a fantastic homily full of memories, amusing anecdotes and facts about Monsignor David's life.

Being the Feast of St Thomas More and St John Fisher, Monsignor David wore the striking red chasuble he wore on his ordination day.

The Mass was relayed live to the hall and is also available to view on YouTube.

Just before the final blessing, Bishop Terry made a surprise This Is Your Life-style contribution, amusing us with more stories about Monsignor David's time as a priest. He also read out a personal message from Pope Francis.

After Mass, the congregation and clergy were invited to join Monsignor David in the hall and gardens for a buffet on a pleasant day with blue skies and lots of sunshine.

There he was greeted by friends and well-wishers, reminiscing and wishing him all the very best. Monsignor David then cut a cake adorned with a golden cross before more chats and photos.



Monsignor Hogan with priests who came to help him celebrate his golden jubilee

Mark Gallagher

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