



## Bishop's Column

**Happy New Year, or perhaps, happy feast of the Motherhood of our Blessed Lady.**

On January 1 we are reminded of the role Mary played in the salvation of humankind. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". Mary being chosen by God, the Father, to bring Jesus Christ into this world, and her willingness to do so is great cause for celebration.

This is followed by the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 (in our calendar it is on the weekend of January 4-5). The word epiphany comes from another Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "showing". The feast also commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles/non-Jewish people.



**The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord is on Sunday January 12**

The Baptism of the Lord occurs on the Sunday after the Epiphany and is notable because it marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God. This event is documented in all the gospels except John.

In a way it means back to business for Jesus as we begin again to focus on his public ministry as described in the Gospels.

And it also means the same for us, the glory and joy of Christmas now begins to give way to the comings and goings of everyday life.

But just as we pass the midpoint of January, we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is an ecumenical observance in the Christian calendar celebrated internationally.

It is kept annually between January 18 and January 25. The theme for the Week, chosen by the community of Bose, an ecumenical monastery of brothers and sisters in northern Italy is, "Do you believe this?"

And finally, from a personal point of view, on January 25 it will be 17 years since I was consecrated the Bishop of Middlesbrough. How time flies. Please pray for me and I will pray for you.

In blessed hope,

*+ Long*

## What's Inside

**Joy as Father  
David is ordained**  
Page 3



**Bishop visits  
for Driffield  
celebration**  
Page 9



# Jubilee Year is time for reflection and action

**"During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind" – Pope Francis**

In this year of prayer we have been preparing for the 2025 Jubilee Year which began on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on January 6 2026.

We are invited to come back in right relationship with God, with one another and with all of creation, offering hope in the world. The Jubilee Year is an opportunity to respond to God's call to turn to him and to pursue justice.

This month we are reflecting on what hope we can bring to the poor in our broken world. We are thinking of those in poor health in mind, body and spirit, as well as those living in poverty without the basic needs of food, clothing, heating or shelter.

In the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee, Pope Francis speaks to us at length, expanding on these situations of poverty. He challenges us to see where hope is needed and inspires us to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

*I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life. Before the constant tide of new forms of impoverishment, we can easily grow inured and resigned. Yet we must not close our eyes to the dramatic situations that we now encounter all around us, not only in certain parts of the world. Each day we meet people who are poor or impoverished; they may even be our next-door neighbours. Often they are homeless or lack sufficient food for the day. They suffer from*



**Pope Francis says the best response to the love of Christ is to love our brothers and sisters**  
– © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

*exclusion and indifference on the part of many... Let us not forget: the poor are almost always the victims, not the ones to blame.*

*Signs of hope should also be shown to the sick, at home or in hospital. Their sufferings can be allayed by the closeness and affection of those who visit them. Works of mercy are also works of hope that give rise to immense gratitude. Gratitude should likewise be shown to all those healthcare workers who, often in precarious conditions, carry out their mission with constant care and concern for the sick and for those who are most vulnerable.*

*Inclusive attention should also be given to all*

*those in particularly difficult situations, who experience their own weaknesses and limitations, especially those affected by illnesses or disabilities that severely restrict their personal independence and freedom. Care given to them is a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope that calls for the choral participation of society as a whole.*

What is the significance of Jubilee 25 to each of us and are we prepared? As individuals, when responding to Catholic Social Teaching

**Continued on Page 2**

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NEWS

Jubilee Year is an opportunity for reflection and action

Continued from Page 1

through justice and peace work, it is timely to reflect on what Pope Francis says and ask what more hope can we bring.

Are we doing enough for the sick, older people, those in need in our own families, parish communities and around our common home?

How can we respond to this vision of hope that Pope Francis reveals to us and respond to the challenge of giving witness?

We are called to put our faith into action, to look around and see what is happening, what is needed, and to reach out where we can.

We cannot do it alone but work together as a community to deliver hope to those struggling with energy bills, to put food on the table and to meet all essential household needs.

Hope also to those living with poor health, loneliness, dementia, disability and homelessness. Each of us is essential in this wheel of action (choral participation), those who visit the sick, housebound and lonely, donate money and goods, fundraise, offer their expertise, provide the governance necessary for this work, pray and deliver the care and love.

Together we help with food parcels, respond to emergency requests for household white goods and furniture, chat and sing along with those living with dementia and their carers, bring some comfort with food, warmth and foot care to those homeless and destitute on our doorsteps and provide affordable, good food through eco-shops, preventing some of this going to waste.

The Jubilee year is also an opportunity to review our care for the environment and to learn more of how our activities affect those living in other parts of the world and suffering severe effects of climate change.

We regularly see images in the press and on TV of countries experiencing famine, drought, floods and other events that threaten their livelihoods.

There is much we can do, both as individuals and as communities, to stand in solidarity with those who are struggling, to pray and to advocate, to increase our knowledge and to change our lifestyles.

We need to keep our eyes open to what is happening around us in our community and our common home, to see where hope is needed today.

In *Dilexit Nos*, speaking of Christ's love for us, Pope Francis reminds us that the best response to the love of Christ's heart is to love our brother and sisters.

*There is no greater way to return love for love. This love then becomes service within the community.... I never tire of repeating that Jesus*

*told us this in the clearest terms possible: "Just as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). He now asks you to meet him there, in every one of our brothers and sisters, and especially in the poor, the despised and the abandoned members of society. What a beautiful encounter that can be! We are encountering him in another way. Whenever we try to help and care for another person, Jesus is at our side. We should never forget that, when he sent his disciples on mission, "the Lord worked with them" (Mk 16:20). He is*

*always there, always at work, sharing our efforts to do good. In a mysterious way, his love becomes present through our service. He speaks to the world in a language that at times has no need of words.*

These words of Pope Francis highlight that this is also a journey of joy, a journey in community, a partnership with our Creator – that we may truly become Pilgrims of Hope.

Teresa Lyth and Barbara Hungin

Hearing the voice of Christ in the silence

Time spent in contemplative prayer and in silence is an invitation to deepen our relationship with God in ways we might not have expected. Father Tony Slingo, parish priest at St Teresa's, Norris Green, Liverpool, discovered what the Oasis of Silence at St Hilda's Priory in Whitby meant to him...

"Listening" is the in-thing these days of Synodality.

The current conversations in the Spirit demand the growth of skills in listening well to each other. Recently added to this for me and a growing number of Christians was a profound learning time of "listening within" ourselves, listening for the Spirit to show the Word of God.

Such was how the work of contemplative prayer was taught to us on the Gries Path retreat at St Hilda's Priory, Whitby. Listening with the heart is enabled by the disciplined practice of awareness through the senses – and it works if we do! Because it does mean work, but so lovingly presented we gave ourselves up to it! I knew I was listening through attending, being interested in, intending from my faith to be with God wholeheartedly.

And as the silence within me extended and deepened, I "heard" – mysteriously and marvellously outside the meditation times themselves, the Word of Christ could get through to me from within!

For many years now, as Catholic and then priest for thirty years-plus, I have engaged in contemplative prayer through silent meditation, but never have I found such a serious, thorough and loving retreat opportunity as this one, led with a firm and light touch by Angela Simek, extensively nurtured in this way by Father Franz Jalics SJ, the founder of this path.

The theology grounding it proclaims God as "speaking" to us always, through all the



Father Tony Slingo, third from left with others taking part in the Tasting the Silence retreat

senses into our souls; so our prayer was awareness rooted in those senses and the faith to be open in listening with the heart. We were directed to such awareness prayer in nature at some times, and others in meditation sessions.

Steps and stages of slowly deepening the silence helped me, amazingly, to lay aside thinking, and planning, and be faithful to being now, in the present – where the Presence of Christ is given!

So simple – and so lovingly were we encouraged that we marvelled that we actually did it to the extent we did! I have come to call this the way of "unthinking... unplanning..." to serve the traditional spirituality of the cloud of unknowing.

Formal prayers, scripture and inspirational reflections surrounded the assigned meditation times, and good food in silent company was a revelation of taste.

The companionship of others with the faithful desire for such prayer enabled a true communion, joyfully celebrated at the end. A beautiful "Taste of Silence", which might well be called "The Song of Silence". I am still singing as I return gratefully to parish life, ably equipped anew for our synodal times.

• The increasingly popular one-day retreats in contemplative prayer at St Hilda's Priory in Whitby are continuing monthly in 2025, starting on Saturday January 18 (February 8, March 15) from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

In addition, the four-day Tasting the Silence retreats will again be held in both spring (Thursday May 1 to Sunday May 4) and autumn (Monday October 20 to Thursday October 23) and a 10-day silent retreat in summer, from Monday June 30 to Thursday July 10. Please contact Sister Helen for more information via email [hospitality@ohpwhitby.org.uk](mailto:hospitality@ohpwhitby.org.uk) or call 01947 899600 or 07595 215083.

BISHOP TERRY'S  
JANUARY  
ENGAGEMENTS

5

Celebrates Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany at St Mary's Cathedral. 10am

14

Attends Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales meeting via Zoom. 10am

15

Attends the Diocesan Trustees Education Committee meeting at the Curial Office, Middlesbrough. 10.30am

18-19

Visits the parishes of St Joseph's, Stokesley, St Margaret Clitherow, Great Ayton and St Mary's, Crathorne.

21

Attends Bishop's Council meeting via Zoom. 10.30am

22

Visits St Margaret Clitherow Primary School, Middlesbrough. 9am

29

Visits St Peter's Primary School, Scarborough. 9am

Scroll honours Alan's 40 years of Catenian membership

Brother Alan Henderson was presented with a scroll to mark his 40 years as a member of Middlesbrough Circle of the Catenian Association.

Middlesbrough president Chris Rhodes and brother Peter Carey met up with Alan's wife Gillian at the care home where he lives.

Alan was delighted at the visit and the presentation and Gillian pinned on his 40-year ribbon.

Alan has been in the care home for a couple of years because of a debilitating illness that prevents proper speech and movement.

While Chris and Peter were there, staff came and secured the framed certificate to a wall in full view of Alan's bed.

It looked particularly good above a vase of flowers Gillian had picked from a patch in their garden Alan had planted years ago.

Alan, who is 83 and a parishioner of St Bernadette's, Nunthorpe, joined the Catenians on October 1 1984 and held several positions, including circle president in 2003.

Martin Lodge



Alan Henderson with the scroll he received to mark 40 years as a Cetenian



# Tributes paid to priest with ‘thirst for God’s kingdom’

**Tributes have been paid to Father Peter Keeling, who served communities throughout the diocese and was the last parish priest of the “Old” St Mary’s Cathedral in Sussex Street, Middlesbrough.**

Bishop Terry was principal celebrant at Father Peter’s Requiem Mass at a packed St Francis of Assisi Church, before burial in Acklam Cemetery.

Born on the town’s Grove Hill estate on March 18 1938, Father Peter served on the altar at St Joseph’s, where the curate, Father Anthony Storey, inspired him to become a priest.

He studied at Ushaw College in Durham and was ordained at St Thomas More’s Church, Middlesbrough, on June 8 1963.

From 1963, he served as curate at St Hilda’s, Whitby, until 1968 when he moved to St John’s Parish, Beverley. In 1972 he was appointed chaplain at Hull University, following his mentor Father Anthony.

During his eight years there Father Peter further progressed his correlation between the Gospel and politics and with Catholic Social Teaching.

At a Seeds of Liberation conference he met American Jesuit and peace activist Father Daniel Berrigan, who told him about Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Benefitting from the university holiday, Father Peter spent it working with Dorothy at her House of Hospitality for the homeless in New York.

On the same trip he also did Poustinia at

Combermere, the mother house of our friends in the community at Robin Hood’s Bay.

In 1980 he moved to St Joseph and St Francis Xavier Church in Richmond and from 1983 he spent a year as a “worker priest”, being warden of an ex-prisoners’ hostel in Hull where he organised a project for the distribution of furniture to needy families. He also celebrated Mass for the sisters of Rise Hall convent.

In 1984, he became parish administrator to the Old Cathedral. It was during his time there, on Ash Wednesday 1987, that he marked a Ministry of Defence (MoD) building in London with a cross of blessed ashes during the annual Pax Christi anti-nuclear protest.

Father Peter was convicted of criminal damage and fined. When he refused to pay he was sent to Durham Jail for five days. He believed that his action was not criminal but that the crime, or sin, belonged to the MoD. His actions received the full support of his bishop, Augustine Harris.

Father Peter was parish priest of St Joseph’s Church, Pickering, from 1993 to 1997 when he moved to St Francis, Middlesbrough, until he retired in 2013.

During his retirement, he supplied in parishes in and around Middlesbrough, and especially at St Mary’s Cathedral, St Clare’s and St Francis.

He was a past chair of the diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and remained a member.

Father Peter always had an open house in his presbyteries and often had people in need living with him there.

When he preached, he would place his watch on the lectern and never exceed ten minutes – a time limit recently recommended for all priests by Pope Francis!

He would tell a story – a parable from everyday life – and reflect on it in the light of the Gospel.

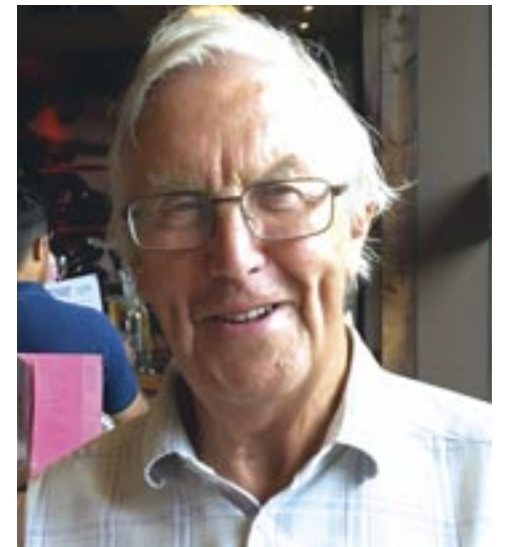
He always concluded on an uplifting note because he felt that most people had hard enough lives and came to Mass for encouragement.

Father Peter passed away in James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, on November 9.

His niece, Elaine, has received many cards of condolence, of which this, from a past parishioner, is typical: “He was greatly loved by people far and wide. His great sense of justice, incredible memory, sense of humour and his ability to welcome and include everyone, particularly the marginalised and suffering, made him unique.”

In his homily at Father Peter’s funeral, Father Tom O’Neill said: “He inspired so many young people to build the kingdom of God both in this world and in the next – a kingdom of justice and a kingdom of peace.

“He was a man who was thirsty for that kingdom, and especially for all matters to do with justice, which has to be the foundation of true peace.



**Father Peter Keeling, who has died at the age of 86**

“Peter had compassion on the world, on the planet, on the whole human race.

“While he was in jail he spoke so highly of the prisoners there, how they looked after him while he was in prison, and of the love and the charity that was in them.

“He was a man who believed in the incarnation. There was a presence about him, something he had. And he had the something all of us have. He had the risen Christ going around in his flesh.”

# Joyous day as Father David is ordained to priesthood

**The feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Saturday November 9) was a joyous day for the Oratory of St Philip Neri in York.**

Not only was it the anniversary of the community’s canonical erection by Pope Francis in 2019, but it was also the celebration of the ordination to the priesthood of one of its members, Father David Chadwick Cong Orat.

Father David, who has been a member of the York Oratory community since 2015, was ordained in a Mass at the Oratory Church of St Wilfrid, celebrated by Bishop Terry.

More than 400 parishioners and friends attended the ordination Mass, including Father David’s parents and extended family.

The ordination was truly a family celebration. However, that celebration was not only for Father David’s family, but for the entire Catholic family, as was evidenced by the number of those who attended from York and beyond.

Bishop Terry was joined in the sanctuary by priests from the diocese, other oratories in England and priests from across England.

In his homily, Bishop Terry admonished Father David to provide “nourishment for the people of God and let the holiness of your life be a pleasing fragrance for Christ’s faithful, so that you may build up by word and example that house which is the Church of God.

“You will also exercise in Christ the office of sanctifying; for by your ministry the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful will be made perfect: in the celebration of the mysteries, it is united to the Sacrifice of Christ, which is offered, through your hands and in union with them.”

Father Richard Duffield Cong Orat, provost of the York Oratory, and Father John Twist SJ, who was Father David’s chaplain at Stonyhurst College, vested the newly ordained priest in the stole and chasuble, the vestments of the sacred priesthood.

The deacons were Brother John Church OP



**Bishop Terry and priests at St Wilfrid’s in York for the ordination of Father David Chadwick Cong Orat – Photo by Lars Karlsson**

and Thomas Duchesne, a seminarian for the Diocese of Fréjus-Toulon in France.

In his remarks to those who attended the ordination, Father Richard wrote: “The call to the priesthood will be recognised and will bear fruit among priests who give heroic witness to the challenge and power of the priesthood to make God present to the world; among people who love and appreciate their priests, not as mere administrators or facilitators, but as people on whom they depend for the life-giving presence of Christ

among them in the sacraments; and in a world in which all of us, priests and people, have a measure of detachment from the passing things of the world, so as to remain undistracted from hearing and responding to the calls God makes to each one of us.”

The Oratory of St Philip Neri was invited by Bishop Terry to minister in the Diocese of Middlesbrough in 2013. Since that time, the community has had pastoral oversight of St Wilfrid’s Parish in the city centre and St Joseph’s Parish in Clifton.

Father Richard was appointed Catholic Chaplain to the University of York in 2021.

Father David joins the fathers of the Oratory in ministering at St Wilfrid’s and St Joseph’s. His first Mass, a Requiem Mass for Remembrance Sunday, was celebrated on Sunday November 10.

Father Gregory Beckett of the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia, a university contemporary of Father David, was the homilist.

**Brother Paul Murray**



SCHOOLS

# ‘Outstanding’ verdict for historic York school where pupils flourish

School leaders have welcomed a new Ofsted report rating the historic All Saints Catholic School, York, as Outstanding and saying “pupils are immensely proud to attend”. Inspectors highlighted the caring nature of the school where “everyone is accepted for who they are”.

They described a school environment where: “Pupils care deeply for others. They exude tolerance, respect and compassion in all that they do. The school’s values of faith, love and unity underpin every aspect of school life. Pupils, including students in the sixth form, thrive at All Saints Catholic School.”

Headteacher Sharon Keelan-Beardsley said she was delighted the inspectors saw the “real All Saints”.

“Our young people are our greatest ambassadors, and they are why we, the staff, love working here,” she said.

“The comments made about the meticulously planned curriculum, unstintingly high expectations of achievement and extraordinary personal development, to name but a few of the areas that were highlighted in our report, are fantastic.

“But it is how the inspectors talked about our young people that really makes me so extremely proud.

“They were described as having incredibly mature attitudes to learning and a strong moral compass. These are the young people who will make a real difference to our society in the future, and it is a real privilege to work with them.”

The school’s sixth form was highly praised, with students described as learning “with fervour”.

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said the trust is delighted with the report.

“Congratulations to all staff, whose hard work, commitment and passion have made this success possible,” he said. “Together, we continue to set a high standard for excellence.

“The work to ensure a culture of vigilance and effective safeguarding will continue to provide everyone with a deep level of confidence as we continue to acknowledge the range of challenges faced in our ever-changing society.”

Chair of governors Stephanie Garthwaite added: “We are incredibly proud of All Saints and the Outstanding judgement awarded by Ofsted is a testament to the dedication, talent and commitment of our staff, students and community.

“Ofsted has acknowledged that until recently the trust and members of the local governing body did not work together as productively as



Headteacher Sharon Keelan-Beardsley with pupils in York Minster during the school's Mass to celebrate its patrons' feast day – Photo by David Harrison

they could. Implementing the new interim advisory board (IAB) has provided a breadth of experience and expertise to the local governing body, enhancing its effectiveness. “This recognition highlights the hard work and shared vision that make All Saints an exceptional place for learning, growth and opportunity.”

Ofsted say pupils develop independence and an understanding of responsibility through leadership roles and have helped redesign the

outside landscape and a new dining area and organise a world cultures day and coffee morning for local charities.

The 11-strong team of inspectors say extracurricular activities including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, debate club, orchestra and escape room club also help build pupils' character.

All Saints was named the top non-selective school in the north in the 2023 Sunday Times Parent Power Guide.

# Father Clifford shares his story with eager pupils

St Richard's VC Academy in Hull was delighted to welcome new parish priest of Sacred Heart and St Bede's churches Father Clifford Gavina to our school family.

At one of Father Clifford's first visits, he celebrated a beautiful Mass for the beginning of the school year with everyone present.

The children were so attentive in listening to his sermon and he was equally impressed by the children who read beautifully and by the children's joyful singing and dancing.

His arrival has brought a renewed sense of spirituality, joy and dedication to the school. Father Clifford has also spent some time in school with Year 6 pupils to prepare for their vocations and commitment topic – they were very keen to find out more about him!

Explaining he had moved to the UK from the Philippines, Father Clifford told them how he was ordained in 2002 after studying for 10 years.

Father Clifford spoke about the importance of prayer and how this time had helped him develop his relationship with God.

He also shared his favourite quote from scripture: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” – (John 3:16).

Pupils enjoyed hearing all about his life in the Philippines, including how he had supported street children and more vulnerable adults too, creating schools and safe places for them.

The children were amazed to hear that Father Clifford had left his family behind in the Philippines, but he explained that this was his calling as priest – like the apostles – to go wherever he was needed to serve Christ's people.

We look forward to many more visits from



Father Clifford Gavina talks to children on his first visit to the school

Father Clifford and to deepening the connection between the school community

and our new parish priest.

Emma Cook, Head of School

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# Welsh getaway for travel club members and friends

The Travel Club at the parishes of St Joseph's and St Thomas More in Middlesbrough took 48 passengers including friends on our annual holiday.

This year the group spent a week in Llandudno, Wales. We even stayed in a hotel with a Catholic Church, Our Lady Star of the Sea, at the end of the road.

We visited the city of Chester and its cathedral and shops on the way and Peter and Gerry Campbell organised excursions to Llanberis, Betws-y-Coed, Portmeirion Village, Caernarfon, Beaumaris, Aber Falls Distillery and Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch, thought to be the second-longest one-word place name in the world.

We all had a wonderful time – thank you again to Peter and Gerry.

Ian Stubbs



Parishioners of St Joseph's and St Thomas More, Middlesbrough, during their annual holiday



# Report praises ‘transformative’ journey at Trinity

**The headteacher of Trinity Catholic College has warmly welcomed a glowing report that says “authentic Catholic leadership is genuinely witnessed at every level” at the Middlesbrough school.**

A Catholic Schools Inspection (CSI) inspector observed lessons and collective worship and spoke to school leaders, governors, staff and pupils.

The report says: “The school has worked tirelessly hard to embed significant and profound change to the school’s Catholic life and mission, religious education and collective worship in terms of its outcomes, provision and monitoring and evaluation.

“There has been a vast transformation across all areas and faith is deeply rooted at the heart of this school.

“The curriculum leaders of religious education have brought dynamic passion and drive to improve the quality of teaching and learning at Trinity.

“The school is living out its mission ‘to follow Jesus, build families and fulfil potential’ across all key stages.”

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said: “The Catholic life at Trinity Catholic College is at the heart of everything we do, inspiring our students and staff to live out Gospel values daily.

“Through our vibrant collective worship and deeply rooted Catholic traditions, we foster a community where faith, hope and love flourish, shaping young people to lead lives of service and purpose.”

Uptake of A-level Religious Education has tripled and a new RE programme is inspiring students and staff to live out Catholic Social Teaching in their community.

The inspector described the impact of social action initiatives such as the CAUSE Hamper project and fundraising for the SVP and CAFOD as “humbling”.

“Significant effort has been given to develop stronger links with the local parishes,” his report says.

The report praised headteacher Andy Rodgers as a “servant leader who is respected and valued by all staff and students”.

“They know his door is always open and he exemplifies Christ’s call not to be served, but to serve. Staff feel happy at this school, cared

for and are inspired to live out the Gospel values.”

Mr Rodgers said he was delighted to see the work put in to create a wonderful school community had been acknowledged in this way.

“This report clearly acknowledges the changes that have taken place here at Trinity over the past two years,” he said.

“While we are constantly evolving and improving our provision, we are confident Trinity will be rated at least ‘good’ at the next full inspection.”

The CSI visit took place because the school had received a judgement of Requires Improvement in June 2023. Ofsted also found dramatic improvements at Trinity in its most recent monitoring visit.

Mr Hegarty added: “It is a testament to the strength of our Catholic community that an ever-increasing number of students are choosing to further their education at T6 Catholic Sixth Form in Middlesbrough.”

Mr Rodgers spearheaded a brand-new leadership team at Trinity when he was appointed along with three new deputy headteachers in January 2023.



Trinity Catholic College headteacher Andy Rodgers

## St Mary’s achieves ‘remarkable’ score in latest Progress 8 figures

**St Mary’s College in Hull achieved a “remarkable” Progress 8 score of +0.63 in figures released by the Department for Education.**

The figures are based on average and provisional data scores for 2024 and calculated using the most recent Attainment 8 averages.

They reflect the achievements of young people at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2023-2024 academic year.

St Mary’s score makes it the highest Progress 8 score in Hull, East Riding and York and places the college in the top 5.5% of all secondary schools.

The college has also been ranked once again as the top placed comprehensive school in the North of England by the Sunday Times Parent Power supplement and third among all grammar and comprehensive schools in the region.

Head of School Maria Stead said the results were “remarkable”.

She added: “The spirit of St Mary’s College shines through in this achievement. We are a school where no child is left behind and nothing is left to chance.

“We know what an outstanding education can give to a young person and our staff are deeply committed to providing this, day in, day out. We place our students at the heart of everything we do.”

# Consultation announced for revamped York hub

**Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) is undertaking a consultation with headteachers from its York-based schools to plan the operational requirements of a new permanent hub set to open in September.**

This initiative is part of a strategic revamp of the current hub provision, ensuring a long-term solution the trust believes better serves the needs of its schools, staff and pupils in the region.

The trust says the development reflects its commitment to delivering exceptional Catholic education by equipping schools with the resources and services they need to thrive.

The York Hub will provide a permanent base for enhanced operational support, collaboration and professional development.

The current hub is being converted into additional facilities for St Wilfrid’s Catholic Primary School.

NPCAT CEO Hugh Hegarty said: “We recognise the importance of a robust and efficient support system for our schools in York.

“The new hub will not only provide a permanent home but will also address the evolving needs of

our schools, enabling them to focus on delivering the best possible outcomes for their pupils.

“It will also account for misinterpretation in some quarters that NPCAT is a Middlesbrough trust, rather than a diocesan trust within the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

“This consultation is a vital step in shaping a hub that truly reflects the aspirations of our school communities.”

The revamped hub provision will focus on:

- Streamlined operations: Enhancing efficiency in administrative and support functions.
- Professional development: Creating opportunities for staff training and collaboration.
- Community engagement: Strengthening connections with families, parishes and the wider community.

The trust’s York headteachers will play a central role in shaping the hub’s development, ensuring it meets the unique requirements of NPCAT schools throughout the city and neighbouring communities and parishes.



Pupils and members of the wider community at St John of Beverley VC Academy in Beverley raised £162 for the Macmillan Nurses at a joint event at the school



SCHOOLS

# Blessings as Bishop Terry visits St Wilfrid's

**Bishop Terry visited St Wilfrid's Catholic School in York to bless the nursery and school.**

He was accompanied by Father Daniel Seward and Brother Paul Murray from the school's parish, York Oratory.

They stayed for Stay and Pray, led by Year 5 and 6 pupils with the theme of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary and then visited classes to speak to children and staff.

The blessing of the nursery was a special moment in the life of our school, as we welcomed new families and children into our community this term.

Bishop Terry was impressed with how articulate and respectful our children were as he went into classes to meet with them and answer their questions.

What a memorable day we had!

**Helen Keith, Headteacher**



Bishop Terry visiting St Wilfrid's Catholic School in York with Father Daniel Seward and Brother Paul Murray

# Inspectors highlight ambition and inclusive culture for all pupils

**Our Lady and St Peter's (OLSP) Roman Catholic Primary School in Bridlington, part of the St Cuthbert's RC Academy Trust, has been praised in its latest Ofsted inspection.**

The school was judged to be Good in all areas, a testament to the dedication of its staff, the enthusiasm of its pupils and the support of the community.

embraced and celebrated throughout the school. This focus on literacy has contributed to a rich and supportive learning environment where pupils thrive academically and personally.

The report also commended the school's inclusive culture, where equality of opportunity is embraced.

Inspectors noted that pupils warmly welcome differences, creating a respectful and harmonious environment. Expectations are clearly communicated to pupils, and they respond by following them diligently.

Trust CEO Rachel McEvoy added: "I'm delighted the inspection team recognised the vision of the governors and trustees and how the trust supports the school."

"The staff have worked hard to ensure reading is a priority and this shines through in the report. All our schools are either Good or Outstanding in all areas of the inspection framework and this is testament to the team."

"Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition of your hard work and success".

Headteacher Angela Spencer said: "We are delighted with the Ofsted report and the comments that acknowledge the wonderful, kind children we have at OLSP."

"Respect and kindness are at the centre of our school and this is due to the continued support from parents and the ongoing full commitment of our staff and trust team."

Inspectors highlighted the school's high ambitions for pupils, who are supported by a broad and well-sequenced curriculum. They praised the staff for ensuring the curriculum is not only thoughtfully designed but also tailored to meet the specific needs of all pupils.

Reading was another area celebrated in the report, with inspectors observing how it is



Our Lady and St Peter's (OLSP) Roman Catholic Primary School in Bridlington has been praised in its latest Ofsted inspection

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# Retreat day completes parish Alpha journey

**Parishioners at St Aelred's Catholic Church in York gathered for a retreat day led by Father Emmanuel Mansford CFR.**

The group have been exploring their faith together on the Alpha Course, which began at Holy Trinity, Brompton, London, in 1977 and has since spread across the world.

The course is designed for those who are new to Christianity, but it is also an excellent opportunity for those who have been on the journey for a while to get back

to basics. Each session asks a question from "Who is Jesus?" to "How and why should I pray?"

The retreat day focused on who the Holy Spirit is and was an opportunity to learn, discuss and pray together.

The group have now finished the course and are looking at ways to continue to grow in faith. St Aelred's is hoping to run the course again in the new year.

Nicola Sweetman



Father Emmanuel Mansford CFR with Father Bill Serplus and parishioners at the Alpha Course retreat day



# Jubilee is chance for world to press 'reset' button

Christmas Eve marked the beginning of the Church's Jubilee Year, which has the theme Pilgrims of Hope.

Hope is one of our core values. Our hope is based on scripture and God's promise, but also on the daily living out and witnessing to hope by our partners and the communities they serve, amid conflict, oppression, injustice and environmental degradation.

Many might associate the word "jubilee" with our late Queen, but in the Old Testament it meant a radical reset every 50th year.

Land and property that had been sold was returned to the original owner or their descendants, debts were cancelled and enslaved people and prisoners were freed.

As a year of restoration, freedom and celebration, it was the most sweeping system of social reform in the pre-Christian era.

Today, jubilees usually happen every 25 years. You might remember the Jubilee at the turn of the millennium, when many thousands of people campaigned and acted for debt relief.

This secured more than \$130bn of debt cancellation for developing countries between 2000 and 2015 – money they could spend on health and education instead of paying crippling interest bills.

Today, about 3.3bn people live in countries where debt-related payments are greater than their expenditure on health or education.

This debt burden also leaves countries less able to cope with the increasing effects of the climate crisis. Most developing-country debt is owed to private banks rather than other governments or multinational institutions.

If we can use our influence to get these lenders to ease the burden on developing countries, it would give hope to millions of people.

Over the last century we've seen amazing strides forward in our struggles against poverty, but the last couple of years since Covid-19 have seen more people in poverty around the world, more people displaced from their homes and more people affected by war.

The impact of continued debt, the ongoing effects of the pandemic and the increased threats to the climate can add to a feeling of hopelessness.

Yet there is always reason to hope. A couple of years ago I visited Marsabit in Kenya, which was suffering from the worst drought for many years.

We were supporting Caritas Marsabit in emergency food distribution. I went with their resilience officer, Bante, to see a huge water collection site.

He had worked with this community to fix it up – clearing channels, fixing the cracks with concrete, mending the iron bars to stop animals and children from falling in.

There was no sign of rain, though, and there was laughter because some people in the community felt it was all a waste of time.

For another few months it seemed those people were right. Then the rains came, and the facility was filled to the top. While in most places the land had been baked so dry that the water ran off and created flooding, this community had the water they needed to recover.

Our supporters and volunteers within the Catholic community here give us huge hope too. They show the same steadfastness in supporting us, raising money, raising awareness, taking campaign action, baking cakes, doing walks – and, of course, praying for our work.

This Jubilee year is an opportunity for people to recommit to standing together with our brothers and sisters around the world.



CAFOD director Christine Allen – Photo by Amit Rudro, CAFOD

Perhaps we can even engender a pandemic of hope!

I think the Church can provide a moment to step back and think about the sort of changes we can make so that all have a fair share in our common home. Our schools have some fantastic plans for doing this.

A better world needs all of us, and there are some very simple things we can do:

- Make a regular gift to CAFOD in solidarity with people who are doing all they can to overcome poverty and injustice.
- Work together to ensure those in power take action on cancelling unfair debt: there is a lot of energy and momentum around this for next year, and I am hopeful we will see change.
- Recognise and reflect on the signs of hope in the world around us. Pray for a world transformed and use our reflection guide to explore the meaning of the Jubilee Year.
- Volunteer with us during the Jubilee Year.

Pope Francis tells us that this year we must look towards the next 25 years, "marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require ... in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation" – Spes non Confundit, 25.

The Holy Father reminds us of the scriptural basis. In the Gospel of St Luke, Jesus outlines his own mission to bring Jubilee – to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. This means good news to those who are poor, freedom from oppression and the restoring of sight.

In this scripture we can see what God's kingdom of justice, compassion and freedom looks like. We are called to join him in that Jubilee and play our part in making that good news a reality.

For we know what good news means today. It means enough food, the opportunity to thrive and the chance for peace. It means a fairer, better world. I hope and believe this is possible.

Join us for our online introduction to the Jubilee Year, A Year of Hope, on Saturday January 18 from 10.30am to noon. To sign up and for more information and resources, visit [cafod.org.uk/jubilee](http://cafod.org.uk/jubilee).

Christine Allen, CAFOD Director



Food being distributed by Caritas Marsabit – Photo by Louise Norton, CAFOD

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## NEWS

# A new year and a new chance to help the SVP

**Have you made your new year's resolution yet? If not, please consider helping the SVP. You probably know that SVP is the abbreviation for the St Vincent de Paul Society in England and Wales.**

You may even have read some articles written for this paper by the conferences in our diocese, but do you know exactly what the society is and does?

The SVP is a registered charity with a national team providing support and governance for a network of over 8,500 volunteers.

Within each diocese, the local organisational structure comprises a central council, covering an area equivalent to the diocese, district councils roughly equating to the deaneries and local groups known as conferences to reflect our French heritage.

Conferences are usually based within a Catholic parish but not always, and members don't have to be Catholics, they just need to be willing to participate in the prayers that start and end each of our meetings.

Our motto is "Turning Concern into Action", following the example of St Vincent de Paul by working person-to-person.

The SVP was started by 19-year-old Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and a group of his fellow students in Paris in 1833. It came to England in 1844. Then, as now, SVP members befriended anyone in their area, not just Catholics.

We provide a hand of friendship and a listening ear, someone to talk to for those who feel they have no voice in our society. We visit individuals or families, often their own home. As our new friends speak, their needs become clear.

At our conference meetings we discuss confidentially what practical help we can best provide. People may need a friend to listen, or support to pay food or fuel bills. Some conferences run their own food banks while others work in partnership with the Trussell Trust.

Many conferences support refugees and

asylum seekers either as individuals or in partnership with others, such as the work done in Welcome House in Hull.

Hull District Council also produces a talking newspaper on cd for distribution across our diocese to people who are housebound or have a visual impairment.

Most of our conferences are twinned with a conference in India, supporting them with correspondence and prayers and funds.

You may have a Mini Vinnies group in your parish primary school or Youth SVP in your secondary school. These younger SVP groups also volunteer to turn their concern into action, often working in partnership with the adult conference.

We also have two successful St Vincent's shops in the diocese, one in Marton Road, Middlesbrough and the other in Micklegate, York.

Each shop is run by a paid shop manager and an army of volunteers. Any profits are returned to the central council to spend locally.

The Upper Room is an SVP community support project staffed by volunteers who provide food and a place of safety and support for more than 50 homeless in central Middlesbrough each Saturday.

This year we ran our first Vinnie Camp at Peat Rigg Outdoor Activity Centre. Nineteen children from Coulby Newham, Hemlington and Redcar spent the last week of August in the care of six volunteer SVP members and the Peat Rigg staff.

The experience was free to the children's families. The children took part in exceptional outdoor educational experiences while developing their social skills during the week.

So how can you help the SVP? Firstly, by becoming a member. New members are always welcome as bringing fresh ideas and often a younger perspective to our work.

The variety of SVP activities allows each member to use their own unique skills and



Father Bill Serplus at the opening of the SVP's York shop

abilities to help those in need. If you don't have the time to make a regular commitment to visiting just now, then why not become an auxiliary member? You will still be able to take part in group activities or help us as conference secretary or treasurer in your own time.

Maybe you or someone you know could help with the Vinnie Camp for 20 children aged nine to 11 years at Peat Rigg from Monday August 25 until Friday August 29 this year or you could support your local Mini Vinnies or Youth SVP.

If the time commitment seems too much you

can support your local conference with any money you can spare, ideally gift aided to increase your donation. But just as important are your prayers for our work.

To find out more about the St Vincent de Paul Society in England and Wales, visit our website [svp.org.uk](http://svp.org.uk).

If you would like to help but you're not sure who to contact, feel free to email me, at [presidentc13@svp.org.uk](mailto:presidentc13@svp.org.uk). I look forward to hearing from you soon.

**Patricia Nobbs, Middlesbrough SVP Central Council President**

## United by friendship, food and fond memories

**Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship's monthly Mass is a wonderful opportunity for members and helpers to join with a parish community to worship, celebrate, share food and enjoy each other's company.**

The November Mass, however, is a deeply touching and emotional occasion. In keeping with the Church's liturgical calendar, the group remembers with sadness its deceased members.

During the Mass, the names of all deceased members are read solemnly and lovingly, with fondness and warmth. A respectful silence pervades a congregation who are often uninhibited in their worship during Mass.

Hearing the names of former friends read out in an atmosphere of soft music and candlelight evokes memories, some tears and a few smiles.

Offering its members as many experiences as possible to express and work through their feelings is very much a part of the Fellowship's activities.

Monthly Masses are always followed by a lively sharing of party food, which encourages noisy and enthusiastic interaction among members and parishioners.

Fellowship members and helpers appreciate the generosity and commitment of the people of every parish who provide all the wonderful food and offer such warm hospitality.

Of course, no Catholic event is ever complete without a raffle, and the drawing of tickets gives rise to much oohing and aahing, followed by boisterous congratulations for every winner!

Having enjoyed an enriching experience, members do not go away empty-handed, as they make their way back to cars and buses with foil wrapped parcels from the abundance of food to share with their family and friends at home.

The monthly Mass is just one of the many activities organised by the Fellowship's dedicated helpers over the last 60 years.

**Danny Corey, East Cleveland Group**



Members and helpers of the Fellowship's East Cleveland Group after their November Mass, which this year was celebrated at St Bernadette's, Nunthorpe



# Bishop helps parish celebrate transformation

**Bishop Terry saw the impressive transformation of the church, hall and grounds during a parish visit to Our Lady & St Edward's in Driffield.**

While Storm Darragh raged outside, he celebrated Mass with Father David White and then chatted with parishioners.

Over the last few years, the parish has worked hard to make our church more accessible.

In the summer of 2022, we completed a ramp to provide access to the church for all and the next year we started work on our church hall, which was in a very sorry state, requiring a full refurbishment.

Improvements included building an inside accessible toilet with baby-changing facilities and a new kitchen, plastering of walls, new plumbing and electrics and insulated flooring. This year we completed the main part of the hall, again ensuring all areas had new electrics and were fully insulated, adding new doors and floor.

We used local tradespeople for much of the work and a small group of volunteers who look after the maintenance of the church and gardens also tackled many of the jobs, including stripping all walls to prepare us for

doing the insulation and plaster boarding before the professionals came in. Many of us learnt new skills along the way and we saved money where we could.

We had financial support from Tesco in Driffield, the Dewhirst Foundation and Horace Taylor Trust, while parishioners worked hard and imaginatively to raise additional funds.

We have also been fortunate to have been supported by Our Lady & St Peter's School in Bridlington, who raised funds so we could have matching chairs in our hall for the first time.

Children and parents also came during the summer holidays to help us with our gardening. Some pupils also entered a competition to design Our Lady's peace garden, which we have started developing opposite the entrance to our church, and where our new statue of Our Lady is now in place.

We are a truly active and supportive church community and although the maintenance team are taking a break we will be back next year to tackle our car park and repairs to our church when appropriate permissions are granted.

Julia Lidster



Father David White at the front alongside Bishop Terry, with volunteers who helped with the improvements at Our Lady & St Edward's in Driffield – Photo by Mike Hopps

## Parishioners join residents for afternoon tea

**Members of St George's, York, SVP were invited to join residents at Connaught Court Nursing Home in the parish to share in an afternoon tea.**

Visiting members of our community who live in nursing homes and residential homes is a key part of what the SVP does.

In the last year, St George's SVP members carried out more than 550 visits to nursing and residential homes and people in their own homes.

Our picture shows SVP members Jim Sunney, Seamus O'Neill and Tony Questa with care home resident David.



## Parishioners support homeless charity dinner

**Parishioners representing the SVP and Laudato Si' groups from St George's, York, attended a dinner in aid of Restore York.**

The charity provides homes for people who have suffered homelessness but we learned that providing a roof is just the start for many homeless people.

New parish administrator Father Jose Michael and his predecessor Canon Jerry Twomey were among the St George's party.

The Restore team explores the root causes of each person's situation, enabling them to flourish, restoring lives and dignity.

The food was cooked and served by Yahala Mataam, a social enterprise restaurant and cookery school in the city.

Yahala Mataam's mission is to provide opportunity, build confidence and instil dignity in the lives of refugees, asylum seekers and those who are marginalised because of conflict through food projects.

St George's SVP is keen to continue to support Restore York clients throughout 2025.

David Harper



Members of St George's SVP and Laudato Si' groups, including Father Jose Michael and Canon Jerry Twomey, at the Restore York dinner



NEWS

# Knights honoured for dedication to the diocese

**Knights of St Columba in Middlesbrough are celebrating after winning the Charles Ferro Trophy for their dedication to serving the diocese.**

The trophy is awarded for its achievements over the year out of all councils in England, Scotland and Wales.

Council 29 Middlesbrough plays an active role in the diocese, with work such as fundraising, live-streaming Masses and maintaining the cathedral.

It also provides marshals for diocesan events such as the Postgate Rally and Assumption Pilgrimage and special occasions such as ordinations.

Brothers also help distribute the *Catholic Voice* to parishes throughout the northern and coastal deaneries of the diocese.

Many brothers are involved in the Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship, including the group's chair, Tony Kirk.

Council 29 also has a strong relationship with the Middlesbrough Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes and has provided three of the last four head brancardiers and the previous pilgrimage director. Many brothers travel to Lourdes each year to help look after supported pilgrims.

Other roles carried out by brothers include being school governors, running the local SPUC branch and serving on the committee of the Postgate Society.

Grand Knight Keith Tillotson said: "This honour reflects the hard work and dedication of all our

brothers in serving the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

"We are grateful for the opportunities we have to support our community, and we remain

committed to serving Bishop Terry and our diocese in any way we can."



Brothers of the Knights of St Columba Council 29 ready for work in Lourdes

# Ian's inspirational message of hope to others

**We were saddened to hear of the death on November 24 of St Paulinus, Guisborough, parishioner and *Catholic Voice* contributor Ian McLean.**

Our prayers and condolences go to Ian's wife, Maureen, and all his family. We published some reflections Ian wrote, many while he was suffering from the long illness that eventually claimed his life.

This month we repeat one of those reflections in tribute to Ian.

**He wrote it hoping others in a similar position would find it uplifting...**

The morning sun roused the boy from sleep and upon looking around he found his father already awake and preparing for the day's journey.

"How far must we travel today?" asked the boy.

"It is not far my son, today will be our last day on this road, for we are very near to the Holy City where you will find peace and much to bring you comfort and indeed much joy."

"That would be wonderful Father, for I am tired and have found this road so very long and arduous."

Having eaten their frugal meal they packed their meagre possessions

and continued walking together along the dusty, potholed road.

As they crested a hill, they could see in the near distance a light burning with such fierce intensity that the boy had to shield his eyes.

"What is that light, Father?" asked the boy.

"It is the Holy City, my son, the New Jerusalem, where every tear shall be wiped away and there will be no more death, crying, sadness or pain.

"It is the end of our long journey, and the start of our new life together. I have to leave you now, as I must go to prepare a place for you in the Holy City, but do not be afraid, I shall still be walking beside you and will meet you at the gates."

The boy walked on towards the gates feeling his father's loving hand, still, yet guiding him. As he reached the gates he was imbued with such an awareness of overwhelming love, and saw that his father was, just as he had promised, waiting for him with arms open in love.

"Come with me now my precious, precious child, for today I have made a home for you in paradise."



Ian McLean, who has died at the age of 75

# A Letter From Madonna House – Embracing the journey in this Jubilee Year

**It's the new year, which means many people have made new year's resolutions and are looking for new beginnings and the possibility of change and renewal.**



I stopped making new year's resolutions some years ago. The Lord's words were impressed upon me: "Today has enough troubles of its own."

What a thought! It means that in a given day I have more to deal with than I can handle. How am I supposed to reform my week, my month, much less my year?

As I contemplated that each day has so much trouble I was also impressed with the overwhelming presence of God in each moment. Yes, too many troubles for me in the day, but not for God! Hurray. Our blessed faith offers us many ways to allow the powerful presence of God into these daily troubles (and triumphs – yes, God wants to be all in all).

Pilgrimage is one powerful way to learn to be present to the moment, the moment of grace, the now of our daily lives in which God brings his love.

Why pilgrimage? It is a spiritual work we

accomplish with our bodies. It is a work that requires us to move step by step towards a place in time, which requires us to bring all we are carrying and maybe worrying about, to that place, with our whole self.

Yes, to make a pilgrimage, to be a pilgrim, puts us in the hands of God, and thus all that is in us, our desires, our cares, our worries, hopes, dreams, disappointments, hurts, loves, all are brought to God in a very physical yet spiritual way. It is a very wholesome act.

This is a Jubilee Year, with many graces attached to the way of the pilgrim. Just being a Christian makes me a pilgrim moving towards the absolute, our God who is absolutely God.

But in this Jubilee Year I have the advantage of destinations close to me – St John of Beverley, Ampleforth Abbey, St Mary's Cathedral.

And there are many ways of making my pilgrimage. I can walk, but not too much for me, more for the younger and the stronger. I can bike – that may be more my speed. But in these modern days where people expect you to be available "the next day", it is more likely that I will get in a car and drive most of the way.

Whatever way I find to go to a place with a holy door, the Lord will be waiting. Well, he will be travelling with me and my friends and waiting at the destination with a word, with a grace.

I look forward to journeying with my friends, or alone, to these places where I can bring the Lord my whole self. I know he is waiting for me to do it then, and even now and each day as I pilgrim around Madonna House and Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby. Happy pilgriming, friend.

Father Kieran Kilcommons



# Value of restorative justice ‘must be recognised’

**Bishop Richard Moth has launched a new report that says restorative justice can offer healing to the victims of crime and rehabilitation for offenders.**

The document, published by the Department for Social Justice of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, encourages Catholics to play an active role in caring for the needs of victims and supporting the rehabilitation of offenders.

Writing in the foreword of the report, *Remember Me: A Catholic Approach to Criminal Justice*, Bishop Moth said: "This document offers clear calls to action for the Catholic community, wider civil society and the UK government and its criminal justice agencies."

"There is a call, too, for the whole community to remember and accept the opportunities to enable those leaving our prisons to be resettled and reintegrated into society in the hope of finding, perhaps for the first time, a healthy sense of belonging, community and self-esteem."

Speaking about restorative justice – where someone who has committed a crime meets the person who was affected – Bishop Moth said: "In particular, the value of restorative justice must be recognised, for it can be an effective path to both healing for the victims of crime and rehabilitation for offenders."

*Remember Me* argues that care for victims of crime must be an "essential pillar" of the criminal justice system and that the Church and the faithful can play an important role.

"There is a clear opportunity for the Catholic Church in England and Wales to provide for the spiritual, psychological and physical needs of victims."

"The way in which we do this should be deepened by our understanding of the reality of suffering and enriched by our hope in the redemption of any person or situation through human co-operation with the grace of God."

The document also highlights the crucial work of Catholic chaplains and the important role parishes can play in helping ex-offenders reintegrate into society and in supporting



Bishop Richard Moth © Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk.jpg

their families.

"Catholic chaplaincy within prison, and Catholic parishes outside prison, offer opportunities for offenders to come to a deeper understanding of both the reality of their actions and the truth of their human dignity."

"The voluntary experience of prayer, formation and fellowship can have a deeply transformative effect on the thoughts and actions of those who have committed crimes,

helping them to atone for their past mistakes and believe in the possibility of a better future."

"This is the experience of our prison chaplains and the very large number of volunteers who assist them."

Bishop Moth said current prison conditions are not conducive to rehabilitation.

"Effective rehabilitation is important not just for those serving sentences but also for the benefit of the wider community."

"The condition of our prison estate continues to demand attention, for it is very difficult to discover dignity and purpose in conditions that are, in some cases, not fit for purpose."

Bishop Moth also reiterated that effective criminal justice must have at its centre the inherent dignity of all involved.

He said: "Remembering that every person has an innate God-given dignity is a key step on the path to effective criminal justice."

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Deadline Friday January 3 for  
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Where possible please send  
articles in Word and  
photographs as jpegs. Please  
confirm when you send in your  
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appear in them have given their  
permission for publication.

**NEWS**

# Out & About

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

**4 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](mailto:catholicwomenmdl@gmail.com) for Zoom link.

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

**6 Monday**  
**9.45am-10.25am** Beverley Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from [christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:christianmeditation.beverley@gmail.com). This takes place every Monday.

**7 Tuesday**  
**10am** Coffee at the Cathedral. Tea, coffee and treats every Tuesday after 9.30am Mass. A

warm welcome and friendly atmosphere. Make new friends and enjoy some fellowship. Those who are alone especially welcome.

**10am** Christian Meditation Group meets online. Further information from Terry Doyle [terry-doyle@live.co.uk](mailto: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.

**8 Wednesday**  
**5.30pm** Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction at St Mary's Cathedral. Join us every Wednesday for a time of prayer and quiet reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

**7pm** Hull Circle of the Catenian Association's monthly meeting at Lazaat Hotel, Cottingham, followed by a buffet-style meal. Email Charles Cseh at [hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hullcirclesecretary@gmail.com).

**9 Thursday**  
**7.45pm** Middlesbrough Catenian Circle meets at Middlesbrough Cricket Club, Green Lane, Middlesbrough TS5 7SL. Call Peter Carey on 01642 317772 or Chris Rhodes on 01642 319161.

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

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

**14 Tuesday**  
**12.45pm** Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Kingston Square, Hull. Lunch at 1pm. All ladies in the Hull and East Riding area welcome. Call 01482 446565 or email [jayne.wilson24@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.wilson24@gmail.com).

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)

## Music sessions examine lectionary changes

Diocesan director of music Steven Maxson has led a series of sessions on Responsorial Psalms in the new lectionary for Mass. Sessions in Hull, Middlesbrough and York attracted more than 50 attendees, with people coming from all four deaneries and even from neighbouring dioceses. The sessions identified changes in the psalms for the new lectionary and the reasons for them, along with singing through some of the available settings. The new lectionary includes the Abbey Psalter instead of the Grail Psalter used in the previous lectionary. Although the Abbey Psalter is based upon the Grail Psalter, it has been updated in line with

modern biblical scholarship, and there are several changes to familiar psalm refrains, verses and even to the numbers of lines in some verses. Although some of the musical settings from the previous lectionary will still fit the new psalter, others won't. Several are available, either modified or newly composed for the new lectionary. There is also a transition period for sung responsorial psalms, lasting until Advent Sunday 2027 as: "It is recognised that for some communities the need to change settings ... may require review and planning" (Composers' Guide, paragraph 144). The music pages of the diocesan website

include links to various settings of the Responsorial Psalms, many of which are available as downloadable files and others as printed books. There are new versions of the familiar McCrimmon Responsorial Psalter and of Sing Psalms Simply, as well as settings by familiar composers well known to Catholic musicians. There is also a set of psalms composed specifically for the diocese, which is freely available via an online folder, most of which are composed by Steven. Over time, these will include settings for all Sundays, all holy days of obligation and some additional feast days, and recordings of some of these will be added to the Diocesan Music YouTube channel. Have a look at the music pages of the website and contact Steven with any queries or to look at options for renewing the music for singing the psalms. If your parish doesn't already sing the psalms, perhaps the new lectionary offers an opportunity to start!

## New history tool captures centuries of Catholic heritage

A fascinating online resource has been launched that take users on a journey through hundreds of years of Catholic history. Much more than just a list of dates, the Catholic History Timeline is an educational tool for all but has also been created to help history undergraduates seeking to understand a particular period of Catholic history. Beginning with the arrival of Christianity in England and Wales and ending at the present day, each of the significant moments in the Timeline features an in-depth article. Not fixed at the present time, the Timeline will continually develop as more articles are added and as new academic research results in the further development or replacement of the existing articles. Sources are identified for each of the articles

that make up the Timeline and suggestions for further reading are offered. The Timeline has been developed for the English Catholic History Association (ECHA) by their vice chair and editor of their newsletter Dr Margaret Turnham, whose academic interest is Catholic history. The Timeline forms a key part of the ECHA website. Pope Francis said in his letter "Renewal in the Study of Church History" (November 21 2024) that such study is a way to preserve memory and build the future, as well as the best way to interpret the reality that surrounds us. He quotes from St Philip Neri that "if [people] do not know history, they will eventually no longer know the faith." These comments echo the ECHA's vision and are what it hopes to achieve with the Timeline project.

The Timeline is divided into five periods to enable ease of access:

- The early Medieval period AD313-1066
- The later Medieval period 1066-1536
- The Reformation in England and Wales 1536-1559
- The Penal Times 1559-1850
- The Modern era 1850-2019

The period covered runs from AD313 when Christianity was recognised as an official religion in the Roman Empire, swiftly followed by the first mention of the Church in England and Wales in the record of a group of bishops who attended the Council of Arles in France in AD314. It ends with the canonisation of St John Henry Newman in 2019. The ECHA encourages interest in the Catholic history of England and Wales, organising visits to places associated with the faith and arranging lectures. It also supports research into subjects of Catholic interest and the preservation of Catholic archives. The programme of lectures (given more recently via Zoom) and visits is organised throughout the year. It also publishes a newsletter three times a year. Visit [echa.org.uk/timeline](http://echa.org.uk/timeline) to see the Timeline.



# English Dominican elevated to College of Cardinals

**English Dominican Father Timothy Radcliffe OP has been named by Pope Francis as one of the newest members of the College of Cardinals.**

The formal consistory for the creation of new cardinals took place at St Peter's Basilica in Rome on Saturday December 7.

As a member of the College of Cardinals, Father Radcliffe will serve as an advisor to the Pope and assist him in the exercise of his responsibilities for the Catholic Church throughout the world.

Father Radcliffe first rose to international prominence within the Catholic world in 1992 when he became the first Englishman in the 800-year history of his order to be elected master, overseeing the work of the friars in more than 100 countries.

He was a popular leader, chiefly remembered for his inspiring rearticulation of the monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

A willingness to draw traditional ideas into dialogue with contemporary experience has been characteristic of Father Radcliffe's teaching, preaching and writing.

He has consistently encouraged the Church to go beyond the ideological divisions of wider society and find unity in a common search for

truth.

Pope Francis chose him to act as Spiritual Father to the recent Synod on Synodality in Rome and some commentators have detected his influence in the Synod's final document.

Upon finishing his term as master in 2001, Father Radcliffe dedicated himself to preaching and writing.

His publications include *What Is the Point of Being a Christian?* (which won the Michael Ramsey Prize for theological writing), *Why go to Church?* and *Alive in God: A Christian Imagination*.

Father Nicholas Crowe OP, provincial of the English Province of the Order of Preachers (also known as the Dominicans), said: "I have always been inspired by Father Timothy's confidence in the power of good conversation – even with those we disagree with – to heal division and build friendship. His elevation to the College of Cardinals is a moment of profound joy for all."

Father Radcliffe said: "I am deeply grateful for this totally unexpected honour. I hope to be at the service of the Holy Father in whatever way he wishes, as a Dominican brother, rooted in the fraternity of the order."



Pope Francis with Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe during the consistory for creation of new cardinals at St Peter's Basilica – © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

## Colourful display helps mark golden anniversary

**Parishioners braved the remains of Storm Darragh to join Father Dominique Minskip and Father Pat Keogh in celebrating the 50th birthday Mass of St Thomas More Church, Beechwood, Middlesbrough.**

Pupils from the school took over the large notice board to create a colourful display of handmade birthday cards and photos showing the first marking out of the building's boundary to the large, whalebone like frames that support the roof, walls and the huge windows.

There were also some pictures taken by Canon Dan Speight at midnight on the eve of the blessing and the first Mass by Bishop Gerard McClean on December 8 1974.

After the Gospel, Father Dominique gave a brief history of the parish and talked about former clergy and people.

He explained how determined the community had been, from the initial idea of a church on Beechwood to acquiring the land for the first building (now the parish hall), then creating a school in a small building adjoining the first church (the old small hall), to Canon Bernard Lovelady inviting the Daughters of Mary and Joseph sisters to build a convent.

A new, larger school was then constructed in Easterside and the parishioners eventually carried out fundraising to build the new church we see today, including Canon Lovelady's idea of a brick fund.

Mark Gallagher



Father Dominique Minskip, right, celebrating Mass with Father Pat Keogh

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The Diocese of Middlesbrough would like to point out that while every care is taken with advertisements placed in the *Catholic Voice*, publication does not suggest an endorsement of any views expressed.

Sometimes emails go missing. If you have sent an item for the Voice and it has not been used, please email the editor at [communications@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:communications@rcdmidd.org.uk).



NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former PM supports Warm Welcome Campaign

A project that aims to provide warm spaces through the UK has announced the former Prime Minister Gordon Brown as its founding patron. The Warm Welcome Campaign supports around 120,000 guests every week in a network of more than 4,500 Warm Welcome Spaces. You can find your nearest Warm Welcome Space at [warmwelcome.uk/find-a-space#map](http://warmwelcome.uk/find-a-space#map).

Ushaw wins historic houses award

Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Garden has won the Frances Garnham Award for Education. The award shines a light on innovative examples of learning and outreach. Ushaw, a former Catholic seminary in County Durham re-opened for tourism and the local community in 2014. Ushaw has welcomed hundreds of children to engage in a range of arts and well-being activities plus a healthy meal, all free thanks to the “Fun and Food” funding initiative.

Missionaries launch schools competition

Columban Missionaries in Britain has launched its 2024-25 Schools Media Competition, titled “Jubilee: Pilgrims of Hope”. Encouraging creativity and faith engagement with issues in the world today, this year’s competition, for students aged 13 to 18, welcomes both written and image entries until February 7, with a £300 top prize available. Visit [columbancompetition.com](http://columbancompetition.com) for details.

Assisted suicide vote ‘seismic and concerning shift’ fears

Archbishop of Southwark John Wilson says the Assisted Dying vote could lead to a “seismic and concerning shift” in how we care for the vulnerable. After MPs voted to support the progress of a bill that will enact assisted suicide for the first time in the UK, Archbishop Wilson said: “This represents a seismic and concerning shift in our nation’s approach to caring for the most vulnerable among us.” He said countries where assisted suicide has been introduced should serve “as a grave warning” because “promised safeguards are eroded over time, leaving the elderly, disabled, and seriously ill at risk of feeling their lives are a burden to others”.

Million Minutes launches accompaniment programme

Catholic youth agency Million Minutes has launched a project that aims to explore the art of accompaniment. Adventurous Accompaniment will use research-based, high-quality resources and bespoke facilitation. After personal experiences of the need for accompaniment during lockdown, Million Minutes and friends commissioned research to better understand how accompaniment was practiced within Catholic spaces. This research highlighted a need for a renewed vision of accompaniment that allowed both the accompanier and the accompanied person to work side by side and be led by the Holy Spirit on an “adventure”. Accompaniment can lead to community-building, participation and mission in dioceses, schools, parishes or organisations. To find out more, visit [accompanier.co.uk](http://accompanier.co.uk).

Bouquet presentation marks couple’s diamond celebration

Middlesbrough Catenians presented a bouquet to celebrate the diamond wedding anniversary of long-serving member John Gough and his wife Sharron.

The couple first met in 1959 while attending the same college, Sharron in the arts and John in the science department.

Although John thought Sharron was very attractive, they didn’t get on and went their separate ways.

By Christmas 1962 John was working. His friends took turns to host parties and when it was his turn, he passed the word around that his party would be on January 6.

His friends Pat and Dave asked John who he was inviting as his special guest. When he said he didn’t have a girlfriend at the time they suggested Sharron, so he asked her and she agreed to come.

When the party was over, John realised he had fallen for Sharron. He asked her out again and she eventually accepted and became his girlfriend. Just 39 days after his party they attended the Middlesbrough Little Theatre Valentine Ball and John asked Sharron to marry him. She said yes and that providing they still felt the same way in September, they would announce their engagement on her birthday.

They were married by Father Pat Grant in Corpus Christi Church, Middlesbrough, on



The couple pictured in 1964

October 17 1964. In the 60 years since, the couple have become the proud parents of Damian and Nicola, proud parents-in-law of Jody and Andy and proud grandparents of Cameron, Liam and Hayley.

They have had many happy times and a few challenges, but it has all strengthened their love for one another.

“Sharron is my rock, who has supported me through thick and thin and never lost faith in me,” John said. “I’d like to thank her for everything she’s done.”



John and Sharron with their bouquet

John says the Catenians had given them a wonderful social life and provided them with many good friends.

He joined in 1977, becoming a member of Middlesbrough Circle and later, a joint member of Redcar and Cleveland and Hambleton Circles. He was founder chair of Hambleton and has served as president of all three circles, as well as serving as provincial president in 2001. The couple are now parishioners of St Bernadette’s, Nunthorpe.

Chris Rhodes


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# Inspirational speaker to address Formation Day

**Catholic author and inspirational speaker David Wells will be the special guest at this year's Lourdes Formation Day.**

David began his career as a teacher before working for the Catholic Education Service in London and then becoming an adult education adviser.

He is a guest lecturer at three universities and has spoken to groups as big as 8,000 young people at Wembley and similar numbers of teachers in the USA, as well as small groups at parish meetings.

The Formation Day, which also includes all the usual talks and training, takes place at Trinity Catholic College in Middlesbrough on Saturday March 22 2025 from 9.30am.

All members of our hospitalité must attend if they wish to work in Lourdes this year, so please make a note in your diary.



David Wells will speak at this year's Lourdes Formation Day

# Bookings open for next year's pilgrimage

**Bookings are being taken for our 2025 pilgrimage (Saturday May 24 to Friday May 30). Visit [joewalshtours.co.uk](http://joewalshtours.co.uk), email [info@joewalshtours.co.uk](mailto:info@joewalshtours.co.uk) or call 0808 189 0468 for more details.**

Application forms for supported pilgrims are available from Lourdes secretary Pat Ling by calling 01642 760105 or emailing

[lourdessecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:lourdessecretary@rcdmidd.org.uk).

Could you be interested in joining our pilgrimage as a helper? Volunteer doctors, nurses, handmaids (women) and brancardiers (men) are always welcome!

Executive director Mark Taylor will answer questions you may have. Email [pilgrimagedirector@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:pilgrimagedirector@rcdmidd.org.uk).

# Helpers come together for Pat's Requiem Mass

**The Lourdes community was saddened to hear of the death of former head nurse Pat Cowell.**

Pat served in the position for four years from 2002 and attended the pilgrimage for many years both before and after.

"Pat loved Lourdes and she was held in such affection by supported pilgrims and all those who worked alongside her, who will remember her fondly," said head of

hospitalité John Brown. "Please pray for the repose of her soul."

Many Lourdes helpers past and present attended Pat's funeral at St Francis Church, Middlesbrough, on Monday December 2 and gathered in the hall afterwards to share stories of Pat and Lourdes.

*Our Lady of Lourdes pray for her  
St Bernadette pray for her*

# Join us for a night of dancing and fun

**Tickets are on sale for our Lourdes ceilidh at the Holy Name of Mary Church Hall, The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough on Saturday January 18.**

Last year's dance was a fantastic evening full of laughter. Please book as soon as possible,

as numbers are restricted.

Tickets are £5 each – please bring your own drinks and nibbles. Contact John Brown on 07871 958412 or [john.brown160@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.brown160@ntlworld.com) for details.

# Dates for your diaries

**Lourdes ceilidh:** Saturday January 18 at the Holy Name of Mary Church Hall, The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough.

**Formation Day Training:** Saturday March 22, approx 9am-4pm

**Formation Evening Training:** Tuesday May 6, approx 5.30pm to 10pm

Both take place at Trinity Catholic College, Middlesbrough. More details will follow nearer to the time.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage:** Saturday May 24 to Friday May 30

# Maureen steps down

**After working as the Lourdes Pilgrimage head nurse over recent years, Maureen Piggott has decided to retire from her position.**

On behalf of the organising committee and the hospitalité team, I would like to thank her for her work during this time.

I know she has put in many hours to ensure our supported pilgrims have had the best nursing care and our nursing teams have benefited from her guidance and support. I'm

sure you join me in wishing her all the best for the future.

Bishop Terry has appointed Marie Kelleher to replace Maureen in the position of head nurse.

Marie will do a fantastic job and I want to wish her all the very best as she takes on this role.

Mark Taylor



The Torchlight Procession in Lourdes, with Maureen Piggott third from the left of the three nurses in dark blue uniforms

# Nurses invited to an unforgettable Lourdes

**To be called to work in Lourdes as a volunteer is such a spiritually fulfilling and rewarding experience – one you will never forget.**

This is why I am reaching out to ask nurses to consider working alongside other volunteers in caring for supported pilgrims, who require

nursing and additional cares.

If you are interested or require any further information, please contact me at [headnurse@rcdmidd.org.uk](mailto:headnurse@rcdmidd.org.uk) or 07743 551206.

Marie Kelleher, Head Nurse



Our new head nurse, Marie Kelleher, receives her medal for 25 years' service in Lourdes



NEWS

# Charity committed to helping Christians in Syria

Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has assured Syria's Christian community of its continued support after insurgent groups toppled the country's government.

Regina Lynch, executive president at ACN (International), said that the organisation has remained in close contact with its project partners in Syria and is continuing to provide emergency aid and other help, while also calling for prayers.

Ms Lynch said: "The fall of the Assad regime and the rebel takeover of Damascus mark a historic moment.

"While religious minorities have largely been respected during this transition, our past experiences remind us how religious freedoms can be severely restricted during times of instability in the region."

She added: "We call on both the international community and the new authorities in Syria to ensure the protection of the fundamental rights of all religious communities, guaranteeing their freedom of worship, education and their right to live in peace.

"We are grateful that both our numerous project partners and ACN staff are safe and have not suffered any harm. We are in continuous contact with them."

ACN support in Syria has included emergency aid, medical assistance and food supplies for Christian families.

The charity has also helped with the rebuilding of homes and provided support for pastoral activities and the installation of solar panels for Church buildings and schools to help reduce energy costs amid a crippling financial crisis.

ACN has launched an urgent appeal to help it support Christian schools in Aleppo and provide medical assistance, food supplies and other emergency aid to the estimated 25,000 Christians remaining.

Visit [acnuk.org/get-involved/donate](http://acnuk.org/get-involved/donate) if you like to help.



Children praying in Eastern Ghouta, Syria – Photo © ACN

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