

Bishop's Column

I sit down to write this column having just packed my case to set off on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome. We are going, of course, to take part in the Jubilee Year as "pilgrims of hope". We hope to be able to celebrate Mass in some of the "holy" places in Rome and to join in the Audience in St Peter's Square with Pope Leo XIV on Wednesday.

Part of the spiritual "must" during a visit to Rome during a Holy Year is to pass through the Holy Doors. At each of the major basilicas (St Peter, St John Lateran, St Mary Major and St Paul outside the Walls) we will pass through the Jubilee Doors.

Why a door? What's all the fuss about? My grandmother used to shout out when one of us had left the door open – "put th'wood in th'oill!" Well, some doors might just be a piece of wood, but they also have a significance. Doors can open before you; others can slam in your face. Some doors are left ajar so that you can push, and they will swing wide. Other doors are meant to be either a menacing or an impenetrable obstacle so that no one may pass or dare to knock. Some doors literally say, "Come in; Welcome". There are doors which intimate excitement and point to a future. When you leave by some doors you know you will never pass through it again. There are other doors which demand awe, fear and respect. But in the end, a door either lets you in or lets you out.

There are many references in the Scriptures to doors or gates. Adam and Eve are shown unceremoniously out of the Garden of Eden and the entrance is barred to them by an angel with a flaming sword (Gen 3.23-24). The animals went two by two into Noah's Ark in order to be saved from the rising waters of destruction (Gen 7.15-16). In the Song of Solomon, the beloved comes tapping on the door of his loved one so that they can be together (Song of Songs 5.2).

Jesus reminds his disciples to enter through the narrow gate which leads to life (Matt 7.13-14). He tells them to knock, and the door will be opened (Luke 11.9). And he also refers to himself as the gate or the door; "he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep." (Jn 10 1-2)

So, a door is a way in and a way out. And in this particular instance of the Holy Year and the Holy Doors, the imagery points us towards recognising that Jesus is really the Door, he is the way in and the way out. Jesus is the way to Hope, a Hope that does not disappoint.

Please be assured of our prayers for you all as we continue to journey on in hope through this Holy Year of Jubilee.

In blessed hope,

+ Long

What's Inside

**Remembering
Kitty's Jubilee
Year Adventure**
Page 5



**Lottery Joy for
Upper Room
Project**
Page 7



A warm welcome as Nicola takes up new role

Nicola Sweetman has been appointed as the new adult faith formation coordinator for the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Nicola brings with her over 18 years of experience in religious education, having worked as a secondary school teacher, as well as a background in evangelisation and adult formation.

She is passionate about supporting individuals and parishes in deepening their relationship with Christ and his Church.

"My role is simply to support people as they grow in faith," said Nicola, who began her new role in October.

"We want to build a culture of discipleship across the diocese – where each person is

equipped to respond to what God is asking of them, and where parishes are empowered to live out their mission in the local community."

A wife and mother, Nicola is enthusiastic about the adventure of faith.

"One of my favourite saints, St John Paul II, said, 'Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure.' That has certainly been true for me, and I look forward to sharing that journey with others throughout the diocese."

Nicola is keen to meet people in the coming months and looks forward to working closely with parishes to encourage faith formation at all levels.

Get in touch at
adultformation@rcdmidd.org.uk.



New diocesan adult faith formation coordinator Nicola Sweetman

Pilgrimage details and theme confirmed

Our 73rd Diocese of Middlesbrough Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from Sunday May 24 to Saturday May 30.

These dates have been chosen because the International Military Pilgrimage will once again overlap with our time in Lourdes.

Prices and booking information will be announced shortly.

This year's theme, which has just been announced, is "Hail, Full of Grace".

We're planning to update our Lourdes Memorial Book for anyone who wants to add their loved ones who have died.

Please send names and the date of their passing to
lourdes@rcdmidd.org.uk.



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NEWS

Packed congregation for dedication and consecration

Parishioners of all ages turned out in force for the dedication and consecration of altar and Church of Our Lady in Acomb, York.

Bishop Terry led a Mass of Thanksgiving that also marked the church's 70th birthday – and the packed congregation included some who were present when it was built.

As Bishop Terry anointed the altar, parish priest Father Tony Lester anointed the walls of the church, assisted by Deacon Peter Warren. Small wooden crosses were attached to indicate where the walls had been anointed.

An act of re-dedication of the parish to Our Lady was led by students from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs RC Primary School and All Saints RC Secondary School.

Afterwards, parishioners and guests enjoyed a buffet lunch in a specially erected marquee next to the parish hall and Father Tony and one of his predecessors as parish priest, Canon Michael Ryan, cut a birthday cake.

The church's story goes back to 1937 when York's spreading suburbs grew to include the village of Acomb. A new Catholic parish was needed and from 1941 Masses for the fledgling community were celebrated in a primary school on Front Street.

For over a decade parishioners of English Martyrs Church raised funds and in 1954 the parish of Our Lady's was established, with Father Edward Ward its first parish priest.

Acomb was then in the Diocese of Leeds and the foundation stone was laid by the then Bishop of Leeds, John Heenan, later to become Cardinal Heenan.

Ambitious architectural plans were curtailed by the post-war scarcity of building supplies. Nevertheless, the church opened on March 25 1955.

In 1982 the parish was transferred to the Diocese of Middlesbrough. It remains one of the largest parishes in the diocese.



Deacon Peter, Father Tony and Bishop Terry greet parishioners after the service – Photo by Johan Bergström-Allen

Father Tony said: “As we thank God for the blessings of the past 70 years, we recommit to living and spreading the Good News of God’s love as part of our wider diocesan family. As the liturgy reminded us, the church is built of living stones.

“Some people attending today have been parishioners of Our Lady’s since the very beginning. Over the years we’ve been joined by people from every continent, and Mass is now celebrated to serve the needs of the Polish and Italian communities. We also have

a longstanding connection with a parish in Lima, Peru. “The Covid-19 epidemic expanded our congregation to include ‘virtual parishioners,’ many of whom continue to join us for Mass every week via live-stream.”

Bishop leads centenary celebrations at St Hilda’s

Bishop Terry led a special service as St Hilda’s Parish in Whitby celebrated the centenary of their church’s consecration.

He was joined by parish priest Father Michael Sellers and many clergy who have a past association with the parish, including his predecessors Canon John Loughlin and Father Pat Keogh, plus Canon David Grant, Canon Michael Loughlin, Father Bill Charlton, Father Paul Dowling and Father Kieran Kilcommons from Madonna House.

The centenary celebration was a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the priests who built and cared for the building and the parishioners who have supported the upkeep and development of the parish.

It was also a tribute to the faith of former generations who had sacrificed themselves for the greater glory of God.

The 12 original consecration crosses with brass candle holders were lit and our patron’s own hymn Great Saint Hilda, Whitby’s Glory was sung during the entry procession.

Other hymns performed by organist Mark Edwards and the choir included the Gloria version used at Lourdes, Hail Queen of Heaven and a magnificent rendition of Mozart’s Ave Verum Corpus during Holy Communion.

Father Michael wishes to thank all the visiting clergy and parishioners who attended the service, and all those who helped prepare for the event or took part. We all look forward as a parish to the next 100 years.

John Moran



Bishop Terry and former St Hilda's clergy were among those who attended the celebration

Wishing Father Tom joy and peace in retirement

Many people from far and wide came together on October 4, appropriately the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, to celebrate Father Tom O'Neill's Retirement Mass.

Coincidentally, the Gospel message of the day referred to one of service. Father Tom spoke of his own ministry, regarding it as a true privilege, to serve and be with us in all the ups and downs, the high points and low points.

In 52 years, he has seen a real picture of the Church, acknowledging that he is not an island, not isolated. Priesthood, he said, means nothing, if not connected to the people, reminding us that we are all in this together.

Dr Peter Rowland, a parishioner of 60 years, made a special tribute and presentation to Father Tom. On our behalf, Peter offered heartfelt gratitude for all Father Tom has given to the people of the Holy Name of Mary, particularly recognising his spiritual leadership over the last 15 years.

Thanks to the many parishioners who worked so hard to prepare a wonderful celebration in the parish hall. A great time was had by all.

Father Tom was born in a place he refers to as the "Premier County", Tipperary, in 1948. Following his ordination at Thurles in 1973, he came to the Diocese of Middlesbrough where he served in a number of parishes in Hull, as well as spending time at St Stephen's Pastoral Centre.

From there he spent eight years in Kenya, an experience which impacted on him enormously and his ongoing ministry. He then returned to Middlesbrough in 1995.

Over the years Father Tom sought to bring the scriptures alive, making them accessible and relevant in our lives today.

His inspirational homilies guided us always to have a mature attitude and understanding of our faith and to embrace the positive theology of Vatican II. He emphasised the concept of each of us being a "Christ carrier" and for each of us to acknowledge this in our lives and actions.

Father Tom's continual message was for us to grow in an awareness of God's presence all around us in both people and the whole of creation.

He recounted tales of his daily walks in the area, observing the wonder and amazement of nature and people, reflecting on the presence, the mystery and the love of God. Father Tom shared Pope Francis' passionate message for the Church to be recognised and identified as a "field hospital".

He encouraged us to become a synodal community where we listen to one another. He reminded us always to be aware of the needs of others, reaching out to the housebound, the sick, the dying and the bereaved.

He has spoken often about all he has learnt and received from the people who, in his words, ordained him every day.

Without doubt we can say how much we have learnt and received from him. He has taught us through his simplicity, his wisdom and compassion, listening to us, mourning our losses, sharing our joys, present in so many ways in our lives.

Almost ten years ago, Father Tom underwent very serious surgery. We witnessed his enormous personal strength and quiet dignity as he dealt with the significant consequences of this, a true lesson to us all. He continues to embrace all aspects of life, witnessing the values of the Gospel.

From time to time, Father Tom would tell us he would be away for a few days "on a course". We soon came to know it was a golf course he was referring to! As well as being fully committed to his ministry, Father Tom's enthusiastic love of all sport is known to us all.

As we celebrate this well-deserved retirement, we do so with immense gratitude, love and appreciation for his tireless ministry over 52 years. Father Tom, we wish you a very happy and healthy retirement, assured of our continual love and prayer. God bless you every day!

A Holy Name of Mary parishioner

Hidden talents revealed as staff reflect and connect

Curial Office staff spent a day together in York, taking time to reflect, connect and strengthen their shared commitment to serving the diocese.

The morning featured team-building activities – revealing some unexpected talents, including a brown belt in karate and someone who once turned down a part in a Hollywood blockbuster! These light-hearted moments helped highlight the diverse gifts within the team.

The group also reflected on their roles and the values that underpin their work, taking

the opportunity to step back and recognise the importance of their service to the wider diocesan family.

In the afternoon, Father Richard Duffield led a very engaging walking tour of York, which concluded with a moving visit to the Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow – a powerful reminder of courage, faith and witness.

Warm thanks to the team at York Oratory for their generous hospitality. The day left everyone feeling refreshed, inspired and more deeply connected in their shared mission.



Father Richard Duffield with Curial Office staff at the Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow



Father Tom O'Neill is retiring after 52 years of service

New book focuses on pandemic reflections

Father Tom has published a book featuring the regular reflections he posted on his parish Facebook page to help hold people together during the pandemic.

The book, *Talking to Myself*, takes its name from the subject line for those reflections, which were based on thoughts that came to Father Tom as he spent time alone.

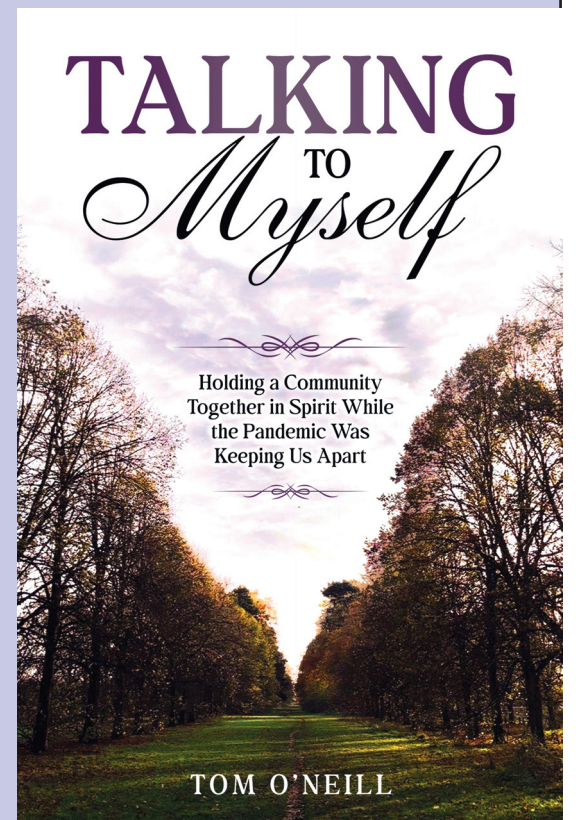
He also took his daily exercise by walking to popular local beauty spot the Avenue of Trees, which makes an appearance in a stunning cover photograph taken by Ryan Hall.

"This collection of reflections began during the pandemic as a way to stay connected with a parish community," says Father Tom.

"Each week, I sent out a short thought or two – simple reflections to offer encouragement and connection. What you find here is a compilation of those weekly messages.

"Each one stands alone and isn't part of a sequence, so I'm asking people to read them one at a time, as they were originally shared. Let the words settle, then turn inward. What are you thinking? What are you feeling? In this quiet space, a conversation begins – between you and God. This is the 'pearl of great price' Jesus spoke of: the place where he finds you, and you find him."

The book is priced £8 plus P&P and can be ordered in paperback from mcgearymedia.co.uk/books or as an ebook from Amazon.



Pope sends antibiotics for Gaza children

Pope Leo has sent 5,000 doses of antibiotics to Gaza for children affected by two years of conflict.

The aid, through the Office of Papal Charities, also known as "Pope Leo's first aid service", became possible after the reopening of crossings allowed humanitarian access to the strip.

Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, emphasised the importance of acting on the Church's mission by offering concrete support

to those in need, in line with the apostolic exhortation *Dilexisti*, which calls for closeness and welcome to the poor (see page 14).

The antibiotics have been distributed through the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, continuing the Church's efforts to provide food and fuel during ongoing conflicts.

He said: "It is necessary to act, to pay attention to those in need."

Thanks to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the antibiotics sent have already been distributed to those in need.

SCHOOLS

Trust opens first of four planned nurseries

St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust officially opened the first of four planned school-based nurseries when St George's VC Academy in Scarborough welcomed its first children in September.

Over the course of the opening two days, the new nursery received 14 two- and three-year-old children for their initial settling-in sessions.

The children began exploring the new purpose-built, play-based, indoor and outdoor learning environments and took part in learning activities including healthy snack times and group singing.

The nursery marks an important milestone in the trust's commitment to expanding high-quality early years provision across its schools.

By offering dedicated nursery settings, the trust aims to strengthen early foundations for learning, while providing families with greater access to Catholic education within their communities and wraparound childcare to

meet the needs of working parents and carers.

Headteacher Andrew Krlic said: "As a school recognised as Good by Ofsted and the Catholic Schools Inspectorate, we're so proud to be able to give our youngest children the very best start to their learning journey.

"They are settling in so well, making friendships and growing in confidence every day. This nursery is a real benefit for families in our community, helping children to flourish from the very beginning."

Early Years teacher Claire Grayshan added: "The opening of our new nursery setting has been an exciting journey.

"The children are already developing positive relationships with their teachers, which in turn will form a strong foundation for learning and development.

"This is a wonderful addition to the before- and after-school wraparound care we offer families."



Headteacher Andrew Krlic celebrates by popping some alcohol-free bubbles with staff

Head Helen's delight at St Mary's Ofsted success

A North Yorkshire primary school has been praised by inspectors as a happy place where friendships and learning flourish, all the way from nursery to the top class.

Ofsted has rated St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Malton as Outstanding for both Personal Development and Early Years provision and Good for Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes and Leadership and Management.

"St Mary's is a caring, nurturing school, where happy children enjoy learning," its report says. "Pupils' attitudes towards learning are very positive. Their behaviour in class and during social times is calm and sensible. As a result, friendships and learning flourish.

"The school makes sure all pupils can access a wide and balanced curriculum. Staff and families have high ambitions for pupils, including for them to do well in school and to be caring, well-rounded members of the local community."

Delighted headteacher Helen Davenport said the judgements are a huge achievement that reflects the dedication, care and hard work of every member of the St Mary's staff team.

She said: "The inspectors saw what we all know and feel about St Mary's – that it is a special place where children are happy, nurtured and excited to learn.

"At St Mary's, we pride ourselves on putting the children at the heart of everything we do. Visitors often leave with a strong impression of both the children's and staff's enthusiasm, happiness, supportiveness and kindness.

"They recognise that the children truly enjoy being part of the St Mary's community and we're so pleased the report reflects this."

Inspectors say children care about their community and enjoy supporting local causes, including collecting donations for Ryedale Food Bank and influencing traffic management near the school.

The school recently introduced a book vending machine to further encourage a love of reading, which the report says is "an integral part of everyday life".

The inspectors also praised the contribution of governors and positive relationships with Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT), a family of 38 schools throughout North Yorkshire and Teesside.

They said: "The governors, trustees and trust leaders work well together. They support and challenge each other, always putting the pupils' interests first."



Delighted St Mary's, Malton, headteacher Helen Davenport celebrates with pupils

Recent activities at St Mary's include rock and pop lessons, den building, football sessions with a York City coach and even forming a mini police team.

Last month the school welcomed younger children into the newly expanded nursery for the first time and Mrs Davenport said she was especially pleased to see Early Years provision recognised for the outstanding opportunities it provides.

Mrs Davenport said: "It's wonderful to see the inspectors recognise how our priority is to equip pupils in their personal development.

"This reflects our ongoing commitment to shaping confident, ambitious, caring members of our community, and how the school goes above and beyond in supporting our

children's wellbeing and character development.

"We're incredibly proud of this outcome – and especially proud of our children, who shone so brightly during the inspection.

"Thank you to every member of the St Mary's community, to staff, governors, trust colleagues and to our parents and carers for their continued support, encouragement and belief in our school."

NPCAT assistant CEO Nicky Jamalizadeh said: "We are so pleased for everyone at St Mary's and warmly congratulate the entire school community on their outstanding achievements."

St Mary's, which is on Highfield Road, Malton, has 219 pupils aged from three to 11.






Christ the King Primary School

A member of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

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Executive Head Teacher: Mr M Ryan
Head of School: Miss H Lickess

Tel: 01642 765639
Email: enquiries@ctking.npcat.org.uk




St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School

Part Of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

South Bank, Middlesbrough TS6 6TA

Tel 01642 835370

Headteacher: Miss C McNicholas
email: enquiries@smc.npcat.org.uk

Hull students write caring chapter in Pencil Case Project story

Sixth form students at St Mary's College in Hull have been drawing up ideas to support the Pencil Case Project charity.

Their efforts provided essential stationery and pencil cases to their counterparts at Kingston Junior Academy in Kilifi, Kenya, helping them access the tools needed for their education.

The initiative was made possible through the generous contributions of staff and the dedication of students from the Medical, Health & Social Care Academy and the Social

Justice Ambassadors, who ran the events.

Students enjoyed watching videos capturing the moment the stationery was received by the students in Kenya, which underlined their gratitude and enthusiasm.

St Mary's College is looking forward to continuing its collaboration with future projects, reinforcing its commitment to supporting education and social justice in communities throughout the world.



Some of the students who raised money for the Pencil Case Project charity

Remembering Kitty's Jubilee Year Rome adventure

Wilf Forster brought in these photographs of a Young Christian Workers (YCW) pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year in 1950 on behalf of his sister-in-law, Kitty Forster.

Pope Pius XII used the occasion to declare a new pontifical anthem for Vatican City and a complete indulgence was granted to those faithful who prayed in the four major basilicas, St Peter, St Paul outside the Walls, Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore and St John Lateran.

The intentions Pope Pius sets out in the Papal Bull for the Jubilee are still, sadly, just as relevant for our own times, especially the reference to fighting in the Holy Land.

He said: "Let petition be made to God in the first place that all, by prayer and penance, may expiate their sins, strive to reform their

lives and acquire Christian virtue, so that this great jubilee may happily prepare the general and universal return to Christ.

"Besides, the following petitions should humbly be made to God: That the loyalty which is due to the Divine Redeemer and to the Church He founded be maintained by all with an unshaken spirit and the vigorous determination to combat the intrigues, deceptions and attacks of the enemy;

"That all outside the Catholic Church, those who have wandered from the right path, even those who deny or hate God, may be illumined by the Divine Light and, under the influence of grace, be brought to obey the precepts of the Gospel;

"That everywhere, but especially in the Holy Places of Palestine, the tranquility of order,

founded on a just settlement, may be restored as soon as possible; That the various social classes, with hatreds banished and differences settled, may be united in justice and fraternal agreements;

"That, finally, the great numbers of those in want may be given work to earn an honest living and receive the necessary and opportune aid from those in better circumstances."

Kitty named the girls in the photo as Eileen McCarthy, Tess Watson, Kitty Forster (then Kitty Conley), Jean and Pat, along with a seminarian who was working as a waiter during the holidays while the group were visiting.

"I'm 92 now and I don't see anyone from this snapshot, as I'm housebound," says Kitty.

"Arrivederci, ciao! I still remember!"

The second photo shows Kitty near the French-Italian border during the train journey from Paris to Rome.

Seventy-five years later, another group from the diocese travelled to Rome last month for the current Jubilee Year.



Kitty enjoying her European adventure from her train carriage

Also known as Holy Years, jubilees take place every 25 or 50 years and celebrate God's mercy and the forgiveness of sins.

We'll have another trip down Memory Lane for former YCW members in next month's *Voice*.

Do you have any old photos you think would interest *Voice* readers? Email them to catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk or send them to Catholic Voice, Curial Offices, 50a The Avenue, Middlesbrough TS5 6QT.



The YCW group with a trainee priest who worked as a waiter during his holiday

Survey examines Church responses to abuse

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) is examining how dioceses and religious life groups respond to those who have suffered abuse.

As part of this work, the CSSA is inviting survivors to take part in a survey, sharing their experiences of engaging with a diocese or religious life group, including both recent and older experiences.

While the primary focus is on the period from July 2024 onwards, survivors are encouraged to share as much as they feel able.

The survey is an important step in ensuring that survivor voices are heard, valued and used to shape future safeguarding practice.

In the Diocese of Middlesbrough, our safeguarding team is strongly committed to supporting victims and survivors of abuse with sensitivity and compassion.

We hope to learn from survivors, walk alongside them in their healing journey and ensure safeguarding remains at the heart of diocesan life.

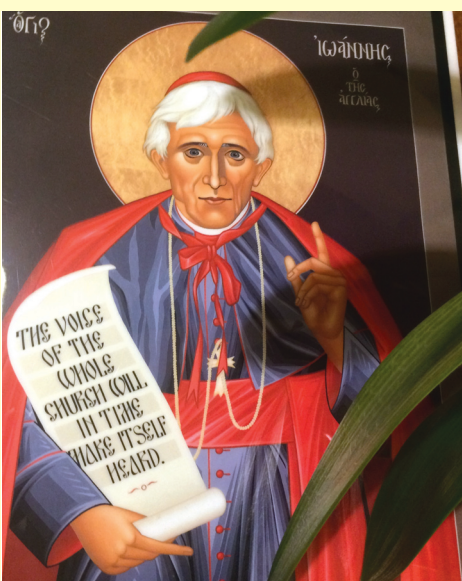
The CSSA is asking every diocese and religious life group to help share this important survey. We are eager to reach as many victims and survivors of abuse as possible, encouraging them to contribute to this survey so their experiences and insights can help shape a safer and more compassionate Church for all.

See this article on the diocese website, middlesbrough-diocese.org.uk, for a link to the survey.



A Letter From Madonna House – A guiding light

What do Saints Athanasius, Teresa of Avila, Irenaeus, Bede and Thérèse of Lisieux have in common with St John Henry Newman?



An icon of St John Henry Newman in Oxford

As of this year, Newman joins their ranks as Doctor of the Church, along with only 32 other saints who have been thus named in close to 2,000 years. We read this news with joy in the September edition of the *Voice*. What an honour this is for England, for the benefit of the whole Church!

The news awakened my curiosity. Although I had some knowledge of Newman, I had never read much of what he wrote. So I have begun reading a copy of the book John Henry Newman, Selected Sermons (Paulist Press, Copyright 1994). It has an excellent introduction by Ian Ker, which I find very helpful in understanding Newman's thought and spirituality.

Newman's sermons themselves are clear, thought-provoking and powerful. Becoming familiar with his life and especially his spiritual journey is important to understanding his writings.

Last autumn our Madonna House team in Robin Hood's Bay made a little pilgrimage to Oxford. There we were able to touch something of Newman's life (he lived in Oxford for about 29 years).

It was good to walk the streets he frequented and to get a feel for Oxford, its colleges, churches and enjoy the general ambiance. We visited St Mary's Church, where Reverend John Henry Newman preached most of his sermons as an Anglican, and we even climbed its tower.

But the real high point of that trip was our visit to Littlemore College, where Newman lived in the 1840s.

It was there that friends in the Oxford (Tractarian) Movement would gather with him regularly. It was there that Newman was received into the Catholic Church in 1845 by Blessed Dominic Barberi.

When we arrived, we were warmly welcomed by the Sisters of the Work, who gave us a tour. We spent time in what was Newman's Library and is now a museum. We saw his room and had Mass in the chapel (his oratory).

Throughout the visit, we were touched by a strong sense of Newman's presence, so much so that we all wanted to go back the next day for one more Mass in his chapel before leaving Oxford.

This trip was the beginning of an unexpected friendship.

It has been suggested that St John Henry Newman's new title (epithet) be Doctor of Friendship (Doctor Amicitiae). May he be for many of us a true friend, and a guiding light leading to that kindly light of which he wrote so eloquently...

Jeanne Guillemette

*Lead, kindly light, amid th'encircling gloom,
lead thou me on.*

*Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see the
distant scene; one step enough for me...*

*So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still
will lead me on*

*O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
the night is gone,*

*And with the morn those angel faces smile
which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.*

St John Henry Newman

NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

ADoRE celebrates fifty years with special day of renewal

The Alton Day of Renewal (ADoRE), which has helped thousands of people to renew their faith, held a special celebration to mark its golden jubilee. ADoRE is a monthly meeting of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, dedicated to the encouragement of a personal relationship with God, through Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Formed in 1975, it is one of the longest continually running charismatic days of renewal in Britain.

Bishop welcomes UK’s formal recognition of State of Palestine

Bishop Jim Curry, lead bishop for the Holy Land for the Bishops’ Conference, has described the UK government’s recognition of the State of Palestine as a “right and not a reward”. Bishop Curry said: “As the lead bishop for the Holy Land, I welcome the UK government’s decision to recognise the State of Palestine. This decision, which is a right and not a reward, affirms that the right to self-determination is fundamental to human dignity. It is right that the government has acted on this matter as originally intended by the Balfour Declaration of 1917.”

Walking pilgrimage unites hundreds in faith and prayer

The Pilgrimage of Hope national walking pilgrimage converged at Nottingham Cathedral before an evening of Irish music and ceilidh. Four Ways, named after the Evangelists, started from Catholic cathedrals in Cardiff, Leeds, Norwich and Southwark, with 20 perpetual pilgrims and more than 250 day pilgrims covering 641 miles over 45 days. The pilgrimage, led by the Hearts in Search of God project, emphasised faith, community, hospitality and reflection and was supported by clergy including Bishop Patrick McKinney. The event concluded with Mass and an apostolic blessing from Pope Leo XIV. Resources and reflections are available at pilgrimways.org.uk/national-jubilee-pilgrimage-of-hope.

Catholic specialist school celebrates Outstanding rating

St John’s Catholic Specialist School in Boston Spa has been graded “outstanding” in all areas in its latest Catholic Schools Inspectorate report. Inspectors praised its “exemplary” pastoral care and noted that the school placed religious education “at the core of the whole-school curriculum”. Headteacher Kevin Harrington said: “Faith and spirituality are incredibly important to us here at St John’s and we are thrilled to have been graded as outstanding.” St John’s offers learning spaces which support children who are hearing impaired, on the autistic spectrum or have complex sensory or communication challenges.

Teamwork and fun unite Mini Vinnies camp children

Our second Diocese of Middlesbrough Mini Vinnies summer camp saw a joyful return to Peat Rigg Activity Centre, where children came together for a week of adventure, discovery and friendship.

Building on the success of the first camp, we continued the tradition of offering young people a place to grow in confidence, learn new skills and create memories that last a lifetime.

Nestled on the edge of the North York Moors, Peat Rigg is set within more than 100 acres of beautiful countryside. This unique location gives children the chance to explore the outdoors, enjoy wide-open spaces and connect with nature in a safe and inspiring environment.

This year, 13 children from York took part, supported by seven dedicated volunteer helpers. Activities were led by skilled instructors employed by Peat Rigg, while camp volunteers took special responsibility for the pastoral care and wellbeing of each child.

This balance of professional instruction and caring support ensures that children are both challenged and nurtured throughout their stay.

The children enjoyed a wide range of exciting activities that tested their courage and teamwork, including tree climbing, canoeing, bushcraft, abseiling and orienteering.

Each activity was carefully designed to encourage cooperation, problem-solving and resilience, while giving children the chance to try new things in a safe environment. Throughout all activities, there was a strong emphasis on team building and leadership, with children encouraged to challenge themselves and support one another.

Life at camp also taught responsibility. Each child was expected to make their own bed, tidy their room and help keep communal areas clean. They also took turns clearing the dining room after mealtimes, learning the value of caring for shared spaces and



Young people at the second SVP summer camp

contributing to the camp community. One of the most powerful parts of camp is seeing children achieve things they never thought they would dare to try. This year, there was wonder and pride as children abseiled off a bridge for the first time, conquering their fears step by step. Others found the courage to jump into the lake, even if they couldn’t swim, knowing that skilled instructors and volunteers were there to keep them safe. Of course, there were also a few moans about making their own beds and cleaning up after others – but this shared responsibility is all part of camp life, and it helped children learn the importance of working together as a community. The impact of the camp reached far beyond the week itself. Children developed teamwork and leadership skills, strengthened their resilience, and formed lasting friendships. With the guidance of volunteers and instructors, every child was encouraged to shine in their own way – gaining confidence and personal growth that will stay with them long after camp ended.

We had hoped to bring 20 children to camp and this remains our target for Middlesbrough Vinnie Camp 2026. To achieve this, we need the support of local SVP conferences and primary schools to help identify children aged between nine and 11 years old who would benefit from this unique experience. The camp is a wonderful opportunity for young people across the diocese, and we are committed to maximising its impact in the years to come. We rely on volunteers to make camp a reality. They generously give up their time, but all would say they gain so much from sharing this unique experience with the children. Their support, care and enthusiasm are what make Middlesbrough Vinnie Camp so special. If you are over 18 years old and would like to consider volunteering for August 2026, please contact Middlesbrough SVP Central Council president Pat Nobbs at presidentc13@svp.org.uk. We’d love to hear from you!

Liz Foley, Camp Leader

How unwanted furniture reduces waste and supports the community

An appeal by the SVP and Laudato Si’ groups encouraged St George’s Church, York, parishioners to bring their small items of furniture to donate to York Community Furniture Store.

The furniture is recycled for use by those in need in the city. St George’s SVP often gets requests to help formerly homeless people and refugees to set up a home.

The Community Furniture Store is a registered charity that opened in York back in 1988 and over the last three decades it has worked hard to build relationships with the community.

It has become the go-to reuse store in York for buying and donating home furnishings. It accepts used furniture and appliances, complete with a free collection service, and offers them to the community at an affordable price – with a concession price available for those on means-tested benefits.

It works closely with City of York Council to deliver its Financial Assistance Scheme, ensuring those most in need can create a comfortable new home when they’re housed by the local authority.



The York Community Furniture Store van collects donations from St George’s Church

By donating to the Community Furniture Store you can support those in need while giving furniture and appliances a new lease of life and reducing waste going to landfill. To enquire about the collection service for

larger items, call 01904 426444. Please do not bring furniture directly to the church. There are also Community Furniture Stores in Selby (01757 291444) and Scarborough (01723 267177).

Lottery grant secures Upper Room project for next two years

The National Lottery Community fund has approved a grant that will enable our project to be secure for the next two years.

We were guided in this application by the experience of the SVP fundraisers. As we go into winter and there is a call for warmer sleeping bags and tents, this will enable us to reach out to more people.

We can use your donations to give the guests a more special Christmas and are asking them what they would find most useful in their gift bags in terms of food and other items.

Thank you to Father Steven and the three altar servers who completed the Thirteen 3K run in August and raised £2,770 for the Upper Room and to the Mini Vinnies from St Benedict's in Ampleforth for producing cookery books with proceeds to the Upper Room.

Our SVP helpline is receiving more and more calls from people who are being made homeless through the rising cost of living and getting into debt with rent and fuel bills, so the need is getting even greater.

Without our many volunteers giving of themselves and their time this would not be possible so we all owe a debt of gratitude to them too. That is often a bigger sacrifice than our donations. To find out more contact francesg@svp.org.uk.

Frances Gilchrist and Teresa Lyth



Upper Room volunteers celebrate the good news

Come and join the fun with the SVP!

Autumn is here and as we move forward into the colder months, please consider volunteering for the St Vincent de Paul in your area.

We can offer you all the training and support you need to make new friends and learn new skills. Please contact Teresa on 07554 336984 or email teresao@svp.org.uk for more information.

Just in case you were wondering, this is the fun we had at our Tea with the SVP event at the York shop, with resident manager Kevin – cakes, smiles and raising funds for the local community.

Teresa O'Hagan

Membership Support Officer (Middlesbrough)



Raising funds at the SVP's York shop

York parishioners visit a different Yorkshire minster

A full coach of 47 people set off from St George's Church after morning Mass for the annual SVP trip.

They were driven to lunch at Whiteheads award-winning fish and chip restaurant in Hornsea.

After a scenic drive along the seafront, the coach party headed to the historic market town of Beverley, where parishioners could spend free time exploring Beverley Minster, grab a coffee and, for some, enjoy their final ice cream of the summer.

Thank you to SVP members for organising such a successful outing.

The question asked most often when we arrived back in York was: "Where shall we go next year?"

David Harper



Some of the St George's party outside Beverley Minster

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cardinal welcomes new Archbishop of Canterbury

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has welcomed the announcement that the Bishop of London Dame Sarah Mullally will be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. He said: "She will bring many personal gifts and experience to her new role. The challenges and opportunities facing the new archbishop are many and significant. On behalf of our Catholic community, I assure her of our prayers. Together, we will be responsive to the prayer of Jesus that we 'may all be one' (John 17:21) and seek to develop the bonds of friendship and shared mission between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church."

Help your church benefit from free funding this autumn

Churches across the UK can benefit from limitless free money through easyfundraising. The platform allows congregations to raise money simply by doing their usual shopping online with retailers such as Tesco, eBay, Argos and more – at no extra cost. With Black Friday and Christmas approaching, it's an ideal time for churches to register, receive free support and start turning everyday shopping into valuable funding for their mission. Churches interested can sign up and access free resources at easyfundraising.org.uk/funding-for-faith.

Invitation to SVP's young adult service day

Looking for an opportunity to share kindness this autumn? If you're aged 18-35 and would like to support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society, you're invited to a young adult service day on Saturday November 1. Beginning at 11am, after an optional 10am Mass, the day will offer a chance to give back to the community with kindness via one of the SVP's community support projects. A travel bursary is available to support those who might want to get involved. To register, email KeziaH@svp.org.uk or call 07917923605.

Charity welcomes end to 'two-child' cap

Pro-life charity Right To Life UK has welcomed the announcement that the "two-child benefit cap" is to be scrapped, saying evidence suggests it has been a significant factor in many women's decisions to have an abortion. Chancellor Rachel Reeves is set to lift the two-child benefit limit in November's budget. The two-child policy was introduced in 2017 and prevents parents from claiming child tax credit or universal credit for more than two children. Data shows there has been a disproportionately large increase in abortions among mothers with two or more existing children since just before the cap's introduction.

NEWS

In the footsteps of Pilgrimage of Grace leader

A group of parishioners from Hull visited All Saints Church at Aughton, near Selby, where leader of the Pilgrimage of Grace Robert Aske lived and was baptised.

The event was organised by members of the St Charles and St Patrick conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

The Pilgrimage of Grace, which took place in 1536, was an uprising against the Suppression of Religious Houses Act of the previous year.

At its height, 50,000 people marched towards York, but after the Duke of Norfolk agreed to their demands, which included the reinstatement of the Pope's authority, Aske told his followers to return home.

However, Henry VIII tore up the agreement shortly after the rebellion and Aske was betrayed and martyred in York in 1537.

On arrival we were greeted by some of the Friends of Aughton Church, who served us coffee, tea and homemade cakes and made us feel very welcome.

Patrick Doyle led us in a short service during which he told us more about the pilgrimage and the 22 demands Aske presented to the Duke of Norfolk.

We then had time to look around the church, which is truly remarkable. The tower, which was built by Aske's family in his memory, and the amazing Norman chancel arch are in poor condition, and the Friends of Aughton Church are working hard to raise the money for repairs.

The church overlooks the flood plains of the



Parishioners in All Saints Church at Aughton, where Pilgrimage of Grace leader Robert Aske was baptised

River Derwent and is situated beside the ancient motte and bailey. The landscape around the church is a designated national nature reserve.

After the visit, we visited Selby Garden Centre for lunch before returning home. It was a most interesting and enjoyable day. Our thanks go to Patrick Doyle and Penny Dixie

for organising the visit and arranging the transport.

Chris Cuthill

Praying for healing at charismatic renewal event

Twenty-two people from Hull, York, Guisborough and Hartlepool joined attendees from other dioceses at a Catholic Charismatic Renewal teaching day on the subject of healing.

Jesus said: "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick.... freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10: 7-8).

He gives us a direct instruction with these words and each one of us is called by our

baptism to follow him. That's why we gathered at English Martyrs in York to pray for the gift of healing.

Each of us needs healing, and we can only be fully healed by our Lord Jesus Christ. As seen at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit continues to be the giver today. It is through baptism in the Holy Spirit that these gifts can be fully released in a person and brought fully to life.

As Jesus said in Luke 11:13: "How much more

will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Our inspiring teachers were Gerry and Ann Connor, from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

Having 40 years of experience in the healing ministry, they have wonderful gifts from the Lord and a wealth of experience.

Canon Michael Loughlin of English Martyrs

and Father Jose Michael from St George's talked about their personal experience of charismatic renewal.

If you would like to be involved with the Diocese of Middlesbrough Catholic Charismatic group and upcoming events, contact Sharon Daniels at cdscmiddlesbrough@gmail.com.

Frances Redmore



Attendees at the Catholic Charismatic Renewal teaching day

Interior prayer is subject of latest Newman talk

The Cleveland Newman Circle heard a thought-provoking talk by Father Steven Leightell on the Holy Spirit and interior prayer.

The first part of the talk was about what the Holy Spirit is and does. We heard about how the Holy Spirit and Jesus always work together and how we can be receptive to the Holy Spirit's inner workings within the Trinity. What could have been a very dense subject was made more accessible by drawing upon Sister Wendy Beckett's Story of Painting, which provided some excellent pictorial aids to understanding the unseen force the Holy Spirit can exert.

We explored the idea of the Holy Spirit as the breath of God, how he helped Jesus with his earthly mission, how he reveals God to us and how he inspires us to pray.

Quoting from St Gregory of Nyssa, Isaiah, St Luke, the Catechism and the papal encyclical *Dominum et Vivificantem* (The Lord and Giver of Life), Father Steven painted a rich picture of the Holy Spirit's role.

The second part of the talk was about interior prayer. Drawing upon the 14th-century classic *The Cloud of Unknowing* and moving on to the writings of St John of the Cross, St Thérèse of Lisieux, Dom Paul Murray and (again) Sister Wendy, Father Steven drew out some of the key strands of interior prayer.

We heard about realising our own weakness, moving away from a mindset of self-reliance, recognising that only God can fill the void within us and accepting that the Holy Spirit may fill that void in ways that we did not expect.

Noting the words of Pope John Paul II, "Within our own hearts is where the Holy Spirit lives and works", we studied some Carthusian perspectives on interior prayer.

Father Steven then invited us to discuss in table groups what prayer means to us. There was some discussion about how to pray better, and about how to move from prayers of petition to trying to discern what God wants for each of us and ultimately allowing him to change us.

The general buzz around the room confirmed that Father Steven had stimulated much



Father Steven giving his talk in the cathedral hall

thought in all of us. We concluded that prayer is turning to God and listening, and that spiritual reading can promote prayer.

For further information about the programme of the Cleveland Newman Circle, email p.egerton123@gmail.com or call 01642 645732.

Talks are held in St Mary's Cathedral Hall and all are welcome. Canon Emerita of Durham Cathedral Reverend Caroline Worsfold gives the next talk, "Meeting Martha of Bethany and Mary of Magdala in Luke and John's gospels", on Wednesday November 19 from 7.30pm. Please bring a Bible.

Dermot Roddy

Entries invited for public speaking contest

Province 5 of the Catenian Association is inviting schools to enter next year's Young Speakers contest, to be held at Trinity College, Middlesbrough, on Sunday March 8.

The contests have been running for nearly 20 years and each year produces an excellent crop of young orators presenting a diverse range of informative, persuasive and entertaining speeches.

Schools are invited to enter a contestant in each of three age categories: key stage three, key stage four and post-16.

The winner of the post-16 contest qualifies to represent the province at the national public speaking final in Manchester next September.

Catholic education trusts are also invited to nominate an entrant from their primary or junior schools in a contest for Year 6 pupils.

The winner and runner-up in each age category receive cash prizes and the winner's school and trust receive a trophy.

Headteachers of all secondary schools and trust leaders have been contacted with full details of the contests.

Entries should be submitted to chair of the organising committee Joe James at jjames9241@aol.com, 0191 2513740 or 0771 1584843.



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NEWS

Parishes come together for Jubilee pilgrimage

To mark the feast day of our patron St Vincent de Paul in this Year of Jubilee, members of York SVP made a special mini-pilgrimage.

Led by Tony Questa, of St George's Conference, we started from St Aelred's Church in Tang Hall and continued via several holy sites in the city to St Wilfrid's Oratory, a pilgrimage church for this significant year.

Our group included SVP members from St Aelred's, St George's, St Wilfrid's, St John the Evangelist, Easingwold and Ss Mary & Joseph, Pocklington.

Mass was celebrated by Father Daniel Seward, whose homily stressed the importance of witnessing to our faith and turning it into action in challenging times and places – a message as true today as when Jesus and the early Christians walked the earth, and when St Vincent was sent into slavery.

Members and friends enjoyed some further fellowship with light refreshments in the Upper Room.

Angela Breffit
St Wilfrid's SVP President & York District President



The York SVP walkers

Indian food and decorations brighten up Father Joseph's special day

A wonderful celebration took place in the St Anthony and Our Lady of Mercy parish in Hull to mark the silver jubilee of parish priest Father Joseph Pinakkattu.

The event was organised by the Indian members of the parish, but all parishioners were made welcome.

St Anthony's Church was decorated beautifully in the Indian fashion for 3.30pm Mass and was a joy to behold.

Afterwards, everyone made their way to the Marist Parish Hall, where his jubilee was celebrated in music, dance and song.

Several people spoke in praise of Father Joseph and the special contribution he is making to our lives.

A buffet meal was then served, but it was no ordinary buffet, featuring a superb spread of a variety of delicious Indian dishes.

Father Joseph's cousins had travelled up from Derby to be with him and their presence made it even more special.

The celebration lasted long into the evening, leaving those present with lots of happy memories of a truly special occasion.

Chris Cuthill



St Anthony's Church was decorated in traditional style for Father Joseph's celebration

'That they may have life': Gathering Paradise with Emily Dickinson

St Peter's, Scarborough, parishioner Andrew Carter continues his series of reflections on the close links between poetry and prayer...

Keen readers may recall references to hands in previous articles. In the August edition of Voice, there was Tennyson holding, "root and all, in my hand", the little flower he had plucked from a wall and, contemplating it, wondering if he might "know what God and man is".



And in September, Blake showed how we can "hold infinity in the palm of (our) hand" in a grain of sand or a wildflower. We Catholics have the astonishing privilege of holding the Creator of all things, the infinite Risen Christ, in the palm of our hand for a few seconds at Communion.

In this month's poem, the poet spreads open her "narrow Hands" to "gather Paradise".

Who was Emily Dickinson? She wrote more than 2,000 poems on the backs of envelopes and scraps of paper, gathering some into homemade booklets she gave to friends, but published only seven in her lifetime. She is now considered one of the greatest poets of the 19th century, and reading her, difficult at first, is a spiritual wake-up call.

She lived in the family home in Amherst, Massachusetts, almost a hermit. To a curious editor, she wrote: "You ask of my Companions, Hills – Sir – and the Sundown – and a Dog – large as myself".

Of her family she said: "They are religious – except me – and address an Eclipse, every morning – whom they call their 'Father'."

She was certainly not conventional, and is often playful, but her incisive, lyrical poems present rich religious experiences.

This explosive little poem shows several characteristics of her poetry: the use of dashes instead of normal punctuation; the rhymes that don't quite happen when you expect them (prose/doors, this/paradise) and carefully placed capital letters.

All of this guides the way we read, slows us down, keeps us alert, focuses our attention (the foundation of prayer according to Simone Weil – see July's Voice).

Is the house where she dwells the infinite possibilities of poetry, which can resonate so deeply in just a few words? This "house" with its many windows and doors, and rooms more numerous than the cedars of the forest (Jesus assured his disciples: "In my Father's house there are many rooms") is open to the world. Are the callers to her poetry-house saints, or maybe angels? She says her only work is "This" – to open her hands (in hope, in gratitude) and experience the fullness of life, here and now.

To someone who asked her to define poetry she said: "If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry."

Not a bad definition of those influxes of grace in prayer!



*I dwell in Possibility –
A fairer House than Prose –
More numerous of Windows –
Superior – for Doors –
Of Chambers as the Cedars –
Impregnable of Eye –
And for an Everlasting Roof
The Gambrels of the Sky –
Of Visitors – the fairest –
For Occupation – This –
The spreading wide my narrow Hands
To gather Paradise –*

62-mile walk follows journey of St Cuthbert

The St Cuthbert's Way pilgrimage is a 62-mile long-distance walking route that follows in the footsteps of St Cuthbert.

Beginning in the Scottish Borders town of Melrose, where Cuthbert started his monastic life in the seventh century, the trail winds through rolling hills and river valleys before ending at the Holy Island of Lindisfarne on the Northumberland coast, where Cuthbert served as bishop and where his shrine drew

pilgrims for centuries.

My wife Susan and I are keen walkers and we wanted to do a walking holiday, but walking St Cuthbert's Way is more than a physical journey; it's an invitation to reflection and renewal.

We spent six days on the pilgrimage, walking an average of 10 miles per day and staying in villages and towns on the route. Tip: get a

luggage courier to carry your bags from guesthouse to guesthouse for you!

The climax of the pilgrimage is the final crossing to Lindisfarne, when low tide will allow walking along the "pilgrim's route" rather than the causeway.

Pilgrims can walk barefoot across the sands, guided by tall wooden poles, retracing the route countless seekers have taken over

centuries. The island itself is a place of striking beauty, home to the ruins of Lindisfarne Priory.

If you want a walking pilgrimage that's not too challenging and goes through stunning scenery, then I would recommend journeying in the footsteps of St Cuthbert from Melrose to Holy Island.

Deacon Peter Warren



Deacon Peter Warren and his wife, Susan, during their St Cuthbert's Way pilgrimage

Bishop condemns massacre after 64 killed by jihadists

A bishop has condemned the "horrible carnage" after more than 60 people were killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In a message to Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), Bishop Melchisédech Sikuli Paluko of Butembo-Beni condemned the brutal attack carried out by Islamist extremists in Ntoyo village, in St Joseph of Maguredjipa parish, North Kivu, on September 8.

The slaughter has been attributed to the armed group Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), which is affiliated with Daesh (ISIS).

Local sources told ACN that the massacre left at least 64 dead, including many who were killed while taking part in a wake.

The attackers used firearms and hammers, and some homes were set alight.

Local authorities have begun to bury the victims and implement new security measures.

Bishop Paluko told ACN: "To all the families affected by this umpteenth and horrible carnage... and to all the faithful of the parish, we express our spiritual closeness.

"May God, the Master of Life, strengthen us through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, consoler of the afflicted, and lead us beyond the desert of present-day suffering to lasting peace."

The ADF Islamist insurgent group, which is originally from Uganda, has been responsible for massacres in eastern Congo, characterised by their extreme violence against civilians, especially Christians.

The attack in Ntoyo follows several recent atrocities. In July, at least 40 people, including many young people, were murdered during a prayer vigil in a church in Komanda, Ituri.

In February, more than 70 corpses were found in a Protestant church in Lubero. Many of them had their hands bound and had been decapitated.

ACN is asking people to pray for the victims of this atrocity, for their families and for the entire Christian community.

The charity is also calling for urgent action by the international community to protect civilians, ensure religious freedom and work for a lasting peace in the DRC's eastern provinces, including Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika, where more than 120 militias operate.

Nathalie Raffray and Maria Lozano

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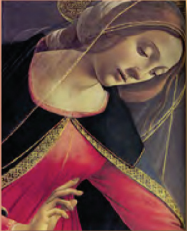
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Tel (01642) 850505, email catholicvoice@rcdmidd.org.uk

Deadline Friday November 7 for December 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.

NEWS

Out & About

1 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.

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

3 Monday

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

7pm Catholic charismatic prayer group meets on first Monday each month at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. For more information, contact Sharon on cdscsmiddlesbrough@gmail.com or 07932 420809.

4 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. This takes place every Tuesday.

7pm Knights of St Columba Council 29 meets at St Mary's Cathedral, beginning with Mass at 7pm in the cathedral chapel.

5 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.

7 Friday

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

8 Saturday

4.30pm Come and Sing Fauré's Requiem at St Mary's Cathedral. Rehearsal 4.30pm-6.30pm with performance at 7.30pm. Tickets from ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral.

9 Sunday

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

10 Monday

2pm Music for the Mind, an hour of fun and music for people living with dementia, their friends and carers with Trish McLean. All welcome.

11 Tuesday

12.45pm Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meets every second Tuesday of the month at the 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@ymail.com.

6.30pm An Evening for the Bereaved at St Mary's Cathedral, with Mass at 7.30pm. Please bring a photo, light a candle, and join us in worship as we celebrate together those who have gone before us marked with the sign of peace.

12 Wednesday

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

13 Thursday

7.45pm Middlesbrough Catenian Circle, sharing faith and friendship with kindred spirits throughout Teesside. Meet at Middlesbrough Cricket Club, Green Lane, Middlesbrough TS5 7SL. Call Peter Carey on 01642 317772 or Chris Rhodes on 01642 319161.

15 Saturday

Irish dance with Brian Mann at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough TS5 6JB. Contact John Brown on 07871 958412.

16 Sunday

3pm Catholic Fellowship Mass with Canon Paul Farrer at St Clare's, Middlesbrough.

19 Wednesday

7.45pm Reverend Caroline Worsfold, Canon Emerita of Durham Cathedral, speaks on "Meeting Martha of Bethany and Mary of Magdala in Luke and John's gospels" at Cleveland Newman Circle. All talks at St Mary's Cathedral Hall TS8 oTW. Light refreshment 7.30pm for 7.45pm start. Please bring a Bible.

21 Friday

7.30pm Fleetwood Bac at St Mary's Cathedral. Tickets from ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral.

29 Saturday

Noon LGBT+ social gathering at the Bar Convent, York. All welcome.

7pm O Holy Night with Newcastle University Chamber Choir at St Mary's Cathedral. Tickets from ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral.

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

John Bramwell in concert at St Mary's Cathedral last month – the autumn-winter season continues throughout November

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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.

Pilgrims visit Walsingham for Feast of the Assumption

A group of 12 took part in the second Easingwold SVP pilgrimage to Walsingham in a week that included the Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady.
Although the weather wasn't as clement this year, we avoided any heavy downpours, processing with our banner and always arriving at the shrine just before the heavens

opened!
We attended daily Mass at the Chapel of Reconciliation and each afternoon the Rosary was offered, followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for anyone who wanted to stay. Some visited the abbey ruins and we enjoyed picnic lunches in the grounds of the Catholic

and Anglican shrines, which both have good tea rooms.
Our meals at Elmham House were also good and we had two social evenings there, enjoying drinks and snacks along with games and conversation.
We said morning and evening prayers in the

Church of the Annunciation next door. Many thanks to Michael, who was always there to help and guide us.
Everyone enjoyed the pilgrimage and came home feeling spiritually renewed from our visit to England's Nazareth.
Lizzie Stewart



The Easingwold SVP group at Walsingham

Join us for Global Day of Action for the Climate

“We must also pray for the conversion of many people, both inside and outside the Church, who still do not recognize the urgency of caring for our common home” – Pope Leo
The United Nations climate talks, COP30 are approaching. World leaders will meet in Belém, Brazil, from November 10 to 21 and this conference is a particularly critical one for the world.
Many of us desperately hope this will finally be the year that countries come together to submit ambitious national climate plans that put the world on track to meet the Paris Agreement's temperature ceiling of 1.5 degrees of warming.
The impacts of climate change are being felt across the globe, but they are most damaging to the poorest countries, where communities

have the fewest coping mechanisms. If we are serious about tackling poverty, we must also tackle climate change.
COP30 will take place in this Jubilee year, a time for the renewal of faith, forgiveness of debts and praying for conversion.
It's vital that we call for strong and decisive action at COP30. CAFOD is inviting parishioners to join in with the Global Day of Action on Saturday November 15 when events will take place around the world.
This day was founded in our diocese in 2019, by academics at York Law School at the University of York.
Creative ways people have got involved in previous years include
Litter picks
Eating vegan for a day

Writing a report
Doing research and presenting it to relevant authorities
Volunteering for environmental charities
Social media campaigns
Signing the day's climate justice pledge
Art installations
Upcycled fashion shows
Monitoring air quality
Taking legal action
Designing legal toolkits to help take action
A strong presence of people of faith will add to the diversity of voices, signalling to our representatives that tackling the climate crisis is a priority for all of us.
So please talk to your family, friends and other parishioners and spread the word about

this day.
You can register your interest to find out where events are happening at cafod.org.uk/dayofaction.
Rachel Blaylock



Bishop of Salford John Arnold taking part in a climate change demonstration

NEWS

Bishop welcomes Pope Leo’s first papal document

Pope Leo XIV has released the first document of his pontificate, an apostolic exhortation called *Dilexi te* – “I have loved you”.

Underpinned by scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and the teaching of his predecessors, *Dilexi te* focuses on the Church’s love for the poor and God’s special concern for those living in poverty. It affirms the ways in which the magisterium should inform our pastoral practice in accompanying the poor and vulnerable to serve the common good.

In continuity with Pope Francis’s final encyclical, *Dilexit nos* on the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ, Pope Leo makes a clear link between this document and the new Exhortation:

“I share the desire of my beloved predecessor that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ’s love and his summons to care for the poor,” he writes in the opening paragraphs. “I too consider it essential to insist on this path.”

As the first Augustinian Pope, it is perhaps unsurprising that a key teaching of St Augustine is offered in *Dilexi te*:

“In a Church that recognises in the poor the face of Christ and in material goods the instrument of charity, Augustine’s thought remains a sure light.

“Today, fidelity to Augustine’s teachings requires not only the study of his works, but also a readiness to live radically his call to conversion, which necessarily includes the service of charity.”

Bishop Richard Moth, chair of the Department for Social Justice of the Bishops’ Conference, welcomed Pope Leo’s first Apostolic Exhortation and encouraged its application across England and Wales.

He said: “I welcome the publication of *Dilexi te* and, as with Pope Francis’s first encyclical *Lumen fidei*, the hands and hearts of two popes can be seen in this document.

“As followers of Christ, Christian charity should animate our daily lives. Jesus told the early Christians, ‘I have loved you’ (Rev 3:9), and we are called to show the same love that God has for us in our love for others, especially the poor.

“As *Dilexi te* stresses, each of us has a social responsibility to consider how we behave when it comes to the acquisition and



Pope Leo’s first papal document is on the Church’s love for the poor

consumption of worldly goods: the world’s resources are meant for all. We cannot serve both God and money.

“I echo Pope Leo when he writes: ‘Charity has the power to change reality; it is a genuine force for change in history.’ Catholic charities such as CAFOD and those under the umbrella of the Caritas Social Action Network in England and Wales have long exercised a preferential option for the poor.

“As many countries continue to face acute poverty and with a continuing cost-of-living crisis domestically, this exhortation is a timely reminder to renew our efforts to stand in solidarity in word and deed with the poor and marginalised.

“We must not be indifferent to the suffering of others; we must work for the common good and to rebuild solidarity between people. Of course, not all poverty is material, and we must be equally mindful of the spiritual, moral and relational poverty that

can afflict our society, even in times of material wealth.
“I look forward to reading *Dilexi te* in more

detail in the weeks ahead to better consider how its teaching fortifies our work, and I urge the faithful of our countries to do the same.”

Pope to travel to Turkey and Lebanon

The director of the Holy See Press Office, Matteo Bruni, has announced that Pope Leo will travel to Turkey and Lebanon in late November and early December.

The visits will be the Pope’s first apostolic journeys abroad.

In a statement, Bruni said that the Pope had “accept[ed] the invitation of the head of state and ecclesiastical authorities” in both Turkey and Lebanon.

The trip to Turkey would “include a pilgrimage to İznik on the occasion of the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea”, Bruni said, adding that the itinerary of the apostolic journey to Lebanon “will be announced in due course”.

Raising hope for climate justice

As the Season of Creation ended, Pope Leo hosted an international three-day conference that brought together more than 400 faith leaders, climate experts and society representatives.

The event, at Castel Gandolfo, was organised by the *Laudato Si’* movement and aimed to chart the next steps in implementing the “ecological conversion” called for in *Laudato Si’*. It was a truly international and diverse gathering.

Pope Leo continued the powerful message of Pope Francis, fully supporting the call for ecological justice and pledging to work with groups responding to issues raised in *Laudato Si’*.

He referred to this month’s COP30 UN Climate Conference and the international UN conferences on food and water, saying: “There is no room for indifference.”

There were moving symbolic actions during the conference – including the blessing of a large block of ice from a glacier in Greenland that slowly melted over the duration of the conference, representing

“the cry of the earth”.

Victims of environmental disasters brought up water, which was poured into a “vessel of tears”. Delegates returned home with water from the melted glacier – estimated to have been there for 20,000 years – to take back to their home countries.

The focus of the conference was on “Building hope” – to better cherish God’s creation, working for a more sustainable future at all levels.

An inspirational talk was given by South African Kumi Naidoo, president of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, who said 86% of climate change is caused by fossil fuel pollution.

“We have been in a flooded room mopping the floor instead of turning off the taps,” he said.

However, he highlighted that populations in the global south, who pay the highest price of the climate crisis, are also leading with solutions.

He suggested that “hope is a verb and a mission and every one of us has a role”.

“What do we stand for?” he asked.

“What is our dream?”
Barbara Hungin

Delegates took home water from a melted Greenland glacier – Photo pxHere

Big Prayer Walk aims to raise £70,000 for HCPT

A North-East priest has set off to walk the distance from his Newcastle parish to Lourdes to raise money for the HCPT.

Father Damian Cassidy, HCPT's chaplain and a member of the charity's board of trustees, plans to walk 1,070 miles to mark the charity's 70th anniversary pilgrimage.

The goal of Father Damian's Big Prayer Walk is to raise £70,000 for the charity, which takes thousands of children and adults with disabilities and life-limiting conditions to Lourdes on life-changing pilgrimages each Easter.

Father Damian will log miles locally, walking, praying and sharing reflections, until he reaches the virtual finish line in Lourdes at Easter 2026, when he will join HCPT's 70th anniversary pilgrimage.

"HCPT has brought hope, joy and faith to so many

children and families over the past 70 years," says Father Damian.

"By walking the 1,070 miles to Lourdes in prayer, I want to give thanks for their work and help more children experience this beautiful pilgrimage. I will be praying for everyone who supports me along the way."

HCPT chief executive Tricia Macfarlane said: "We are thrilled that Father Damian is undertaking this extraordinary challenge to celebrate 70 years of HCPT. Every donation will help us continue to bring joy and hope to children who most need it."

Throughout the walk, Father Damian will post weekly updates and video reflections on HCPT's social media, inviting others to join him in prayer as he journeys towards Lourdes. Donations can be made at justgiving.com/campaign/thewalkingpriest.



Father Damian hopes to raise £70,000 with his Big Prayer Walk

Bishop dodges bullets to serve indigenous communities

A bishop has spoken of the danger of his ministry in one of the most menacing states in Mexico.

Bishop José de Jesus González took charge of the Chilpancingo-Chilapa Diocese, in Nayar, Guerrero, 12 years ago.

He told Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) that 11 months into his ministry he suffered an armed attack.

Despite the risks he has continued to work in the line of fire to support indigenous communities.

He said: "There were three of us in a van and they shot at us. They aimed for our heads, not for the tyres."

"But when they saw that we were priests they apologised and offered to pay for the shattered windows."

"But what is important is that they didn't send us to sing in the heavenly choir."

On the contrary, when the criminals realised that he was a bishop, they asked for his blessing.

Bishop González said the incident was an important moment where he understood that his mission was not only to stand up for his faithful, but also to look with compassion on those embroiled in violence.

He added: "They are also my children, even though they are misguided."

The bishop said the situation in Guerrero is as that of a state "hijacked" by organised crime.

Armed groups administer their own justice, run their own deals to make money and rule over large regions according to their own laws – violence has become

institutionalised.

Roads are under the control of gangs and extortion, disappearances and murder are part of daily life, he told the charity.

But using his voice has come with a price. Priests and community leaders have been murdered for defending and advocating justice and human dignity.

Bishop González has not shied away from the risks that come from the violence despite knowing he could be next.

It has not stopped him celebrating Masses, visiting families and, when necessary, standing up to the danger.

Along with other bishops and priests, Bishop Gonzalez has opened listening centres for mothers in search of their missing children, offering human compassion, legal support and a warm embrace to all those who feel alone.

He said: "They want to feel part of the Church, protected. We can't leave them to fend for themselves among the wolves that devour. If we are not brave, the people cry... and God weeps."

"Prayer makes us brave to enter the fray. Pray for us. God does not abandon us, but we need to feel that you are close in order to move ahead."

ACN has been supporting the Diocese of Chilpancingo-Chilapa for several years with projects, including the provision of Mass stipends for priests, repairs to a convent for religious sisters and support for the formation of clergy.

Nathalie Raffray



Bishop José de Jesús González presiding over Mass in Mexico's Chilpancingo-Chilapa Diocese (Image: © ACN)

Dates for your diary

Saturday November 29: York Pre-Christmas Party, St Aelred's, Fifth Avenue, 2pm start, no Mass. Everyone welcome. If you have ever been to Lourdes, ever wondered about Lourdes or would like to support us, you will be made very welcome.

Saturday December 6: Hull Christmas Party at Sacred Heart, 2pm start, no Mass.

Saturday December 13: Middlesbrough Christmas Party, St Gabriel's, Ormesby, 2pm start, no Mass.

Saturday January 31: Lourdes Ceilidh, Holy Name of Mary Parish Hall, Middlesbrough.

Saturday March 7: Hospitalité Formation Day, Trinity Catholic College, Middlesbrough.

Tuesday May 5: Hospitalité Formation Day, Trinity Catholic College, Middlesbrough.

Fierce fighting reignites in Aleppo

The Church in Syria has been sheltering families during renewed violence in Syria following the recent election.

Speaking to Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), Father Hugo Alaniz, who has been a missionary in Aleppo for more than a decade, said it had been a harrowing time for the city's Christian community.

He said: "There were intense clashes until 3am. Explosions were heard everywhere. Now the situation is somewhat calmer, but people are very afraid."

"We have been receiving families in the basement of our church, where we usually do community activities."

Father Hugo's church, Our Lady of the Assumption, has become a makeshift shelter for residents seeking protection from attacks and shelling.

He said: "Two missiles have fallen near us, one 300 metres from our church. Others landed in another part of the city, near the Latin bishopric."

The priest told ACN that: "There was a lot of movement of people, internal displacements – the streets are now half empty."

Adding: "People are very afraid, we don't know what is going to happen".

The parliamentary elections on October 6 were the first since the fall of Bashar Al-Assad's regime.

The vote took place despite ongoing tensions between the central authorities and Kurdish forces in the north who wish to maintain autonomy.

Direct fighting between the two factions has been taking place in parts of Aleppo, where two neighbourhoods of the city are administered by Kurdish forces.

Father Hugo, a member of the Institute of the Incarnate Word (IVE), is in charge of the pastoral and humanitarian care of hundreds of families not only affected by the war but also by the economic crisis.

Aleppo, which for centuries was considered the economic and cultural heart of Syria, was one of the cities hardest hit by the civil war.

Father Hugo told ACN that his mission, along with other priests and religious sisters, is "to be close to the people, to console, listen and help in whatever way we can."

"The only thing we ask is that you pray for us. On a day like today, when the Holy Father has asked us to pray the rosary for peace, do not forget Syria."

Maria Lozano and John Newton

NEWS

Latin Patriarchate reacts to Gaza peace deal

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem welcomed the news that Israel and Hamas have agreed to the first phase of a peace plan with a view to ending the war in Gaza.

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa OFM said he hoped the accord would be fully and faithfully implemented and marked the beginning of the end of the war, with no more attacks on Gaza and the release of hostages.

He also stressed the urgency of immediate humanitarian relief and the unconditional entry of sufficient aid to Gaza's suffering population.

Above all, the Patriarchate prayed the step might open a path of healing and reconciliation for both Palestinians and Israelis.

Cardinal Pizzaballa said: "It is good news, and we are very happy. It is a first step, the first phase. Of course, there are many others, and surely there will be other obstacles. But now we have to rejoice about this important step that will bring a little more trust for the future and also bring new hope, especially to the people, both Israelis and Palestinians.

"Now we finally see something new and different. Of course, there will also be a new atmosphere for the continuation of negotiation, also for all the life inside Gaza that will remain terrible for a long time.

"But now we are happy and we hope that this is just the beginning of a new phase where we can, little by little, start thinking not about war, but about how to rebuild after the war."

The Patriarchate commended the work of all involved in the negotiations and expressed appreciation for their tireless efforts.



Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa OFM – Photo © Mazur/cbcew.org.uk

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