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## Bishop's Column

If you don't take advantage of the month of February then before you know where you are, you're already half way through the year. That might sound a bit odd. But what I mean is that you can't keep on thinking that you are still at the beginning of the year, and have plenty of time for whatever it is you have to do. If you have not taken things in hand by February, then you probably won't!

February is ushered in with the Feast of the Presentation. Together with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrated at the end of the Christmas Cycle, our focus is on Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, as the Father's ultimate word to us. He is the New Temple, the means by which God communicates his life and grace to us, by means of his body, the Church and the Sacraments. We are no longer wandering in darkness wondering where to find God and how to serve him. Jesus is truly the glory of Israel and the Light of the nations.

Listening to the Gospel of Mark, as we begin our journey through Ordinary Time, we are invited to repent and believe the Good News. Jesus shows us very clearly that he is the one who can cure all ills, even our sins. He demonstrates this by various examples and finally cures the Leper because he feels sorry for him.

Lent follows immediately from this episode and on February 18 we celebrate Ash Wednesday and begin our preparation to accompany Jesus as he enters Jerusalem, ready to suffer and to die for our Salvation. Here is our opportunity to take a grip on things before it is too late. Time is passing, opportunities are being offered to us. Will we accept them, take them, grasp them? We know this is the acceptable time, the Day of Salvation.

Oh, for a closer walk with God,  
A calm and heavenly frame,  
A light to shine upon the road  
That leads me to the Lamb!

Where is the blessedness I knew,  
When first I saw the Lord?  
Where is the soul refreshing view  
Of Jesus and His Word?

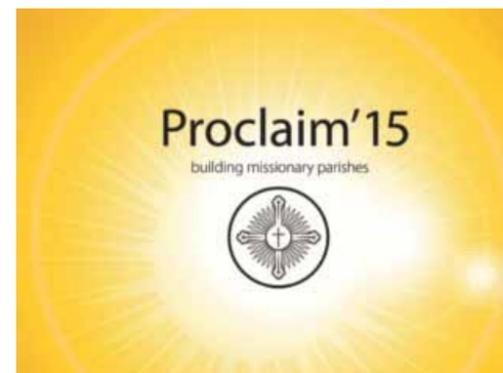
What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!  
How sweet their memory still!  
But they have left an aching void  
The world can never fill.

So shall my walk be close with God,  
Calm and serene my frame;  
So purer light shall mark the road  
That leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper 1731-1880

*W. Long*

# Called to Proclaim '15



Catholics throughout the Diocese of Middlesbrough are being urged to respond to the call of Pope Francis to help the Church embark on "a new chapter of evangelisation".

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have launched the Proclaim '15 initiative, which is designed to equip every parish with the support and resources they need to spread the Good News of the Gospel throughout their families and communities.

The "Proclaim '15, Building Missionary Parishes" plan has five key strands, including a major national conference in Birmingham on Saturday July 11, the first of its kind in a generation.

That night it is hoped parishes will unite to create a network of prayer vigils to ask God for the success of the mission to spread his word.

**Proclaim '15 involves...**

- 1. PREPARATION:** Parish small group sessions – three evangelisation-themed sessions are now available to download.
  - 2. PRAYER:** A network of prayer vigils - parishes are invited to host a simultaneous, nationwide evening of prayer on July 11.
  - 3. EVENT:** National Catholic Evangelisation Conference on July 11.
  - 4. LEGACY:** Local events - templates will be provided online to enable dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own Proclaim '15 gatherings this autumn.
  - 5. RESOURCES:** New Evangelisation resources developed out of the National Conference will be made available to parishes in autumn 2015.
- The inspiration for the initiative is the Pope's Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, in which he writes: "I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come."

Welcoming the launch of Proclaim '15, Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: "This pioneering initiative, inspired by Pope Francis, is for all clergy, religious and lay people."

**Continued on page 2**



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**NEWS**

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Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



"We all share the one mission – to proclaim the joy of the Gospel. The wide range of practical ideas offered for planning and carrying out fruitful parish evangelisation will help us all to be better missionary disciples.

"Please put July 11 in your diary and don't let this opportunity pass you by."

The conference, at Birmingham Repertory Theatre, is the first event of its kind in a generation, bringing together speakers, workshop leaders and representatives from every diocese to celebrate their Catholic faith and to explore how to share it.

Among the speakers will be Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop Bernard Longley and Reverend Nicky Gumbel, who developed the Alpha Course.

A quota of day passes has been equally assigned to each diocese, primarily for members of evangelisation teams and commissions, as well as those working in support of existing diocesan strategies and plans.

The programme includes workshop sessions, from which material will be produced to be made available to every parish, with the aim of building "missionary parishes".

Live coverage of the event will be carried on the Bishops' Conference Twitter and Facebook accounts.

For more information, please contact [adultformation@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk](mailto:adultformation@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk) or call 01642 850505, extension 241.

**Website:** [www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15)

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**Proclaim '15 Prayer**

Loving Father, You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in him and have eternal life. May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim" our faith with confidence. Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel by our words and actions. Help our parish to become more welcoming and missionary, so that you may be known and loved by all people. We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever,

**Amen**

**Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelisation, pray for us. Blessed John Henry Newman, pray for us. St Thérèse of Lisieux, pray for us.**

"The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented."

**His Holiness Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 28**

# Bishop Backs Social Action Report



Bishop Terry on the bridge near the Grotto at Lourdes

**Bishop Terry has welcomed a report highlighting action undertaken during 2014 by the social action arm of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, Caritas Social Action Network.**

CSAN's network of 42 Catholic member charities, including our Diocese through Caritas Middlesbrough, provides huge support to some of society's most vulnerable and marginalised people.

Members have been working for many years to respond to the needs of people in their communities including older people, children and families, refugees, asylum seekers, prisoners and the homeless.

Speaking in his new role as CSAN Chair of Trustees, Bishop Terry thanked his predecessor Bishop Terence Brain, for his support, wisdom and guidance of CSAN for the past 14 years.

"I am delighted to be taking the baton from Bishop Brain in supporting the work of this vibrant network of Catholic charities who are living out the Gospel in the spirit of Caritas and providing a lifeline to those people most in need in our communities.

"This report outlines the tremendous amount of work undertaken by the team this year and I thank them for their dedication in strengthening the voice 'of the poor and for the poor' on our doorstep."

Here is a summary of the report's main points...

**A strong Catholic voice on UK poverty**

CSAN's parliamentary work in 2014 focused on speaking out on rising levels of inequality and poverty. Throughout the year it drew on member charities' experiences to inform Westminster decision makers about the human impact of poverty.

Specific areas of concern included

- The impact the changes to the welfare system have had on the poorest and most vulnerable families and the increase in food poverty.
- Child poverty as families struggle to make ends meet due to the rising cost of living.
- Increasing poverty among those in work. CSAN supports the adoption of the Living Wage within the Church.

CSAN also campaigns to challenge negative rhetoric around people in poverty.

**A strong Catholic voice on trafficking, asylum and migration**

Together with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CSAN worked on the high profile Modern Slavery Bill, which aims to specifically address slavery and trafficking in the 21st Century.

It also lobbied ahead of the Immigration Bill, which became law in May 2014, highlighting the potential harm new restrictions on housing and NHS healthcare may cause to some of the most vulnerable people.

**A strong Catholic voice on criminal justice**

CSAN's Criminal Justice Forum, created last year, continued to bring together members who work in the criminal justice field.

CSAN has been involved in the Families Left Behind campaign, which raises awareness of the needs of children and vulnerable adults when a parent or carer is sent to prison.

CSAN opposes the blanket ban on prisoner voting, which has been the Catholic Church's position since 2004.

**Supporting our Catholic charities**

A central part of CSAN's work is providing political information, analysis and support to organisations involved in Catholic social action, ensuring they are aware of legislative changes affecting their service users and actively involved in formulating responses to Government.

CSAN has raised awareness about the effect of welfare cuts on the lives of the people Catholic charities work with through its Benefit Changes Impact Project.

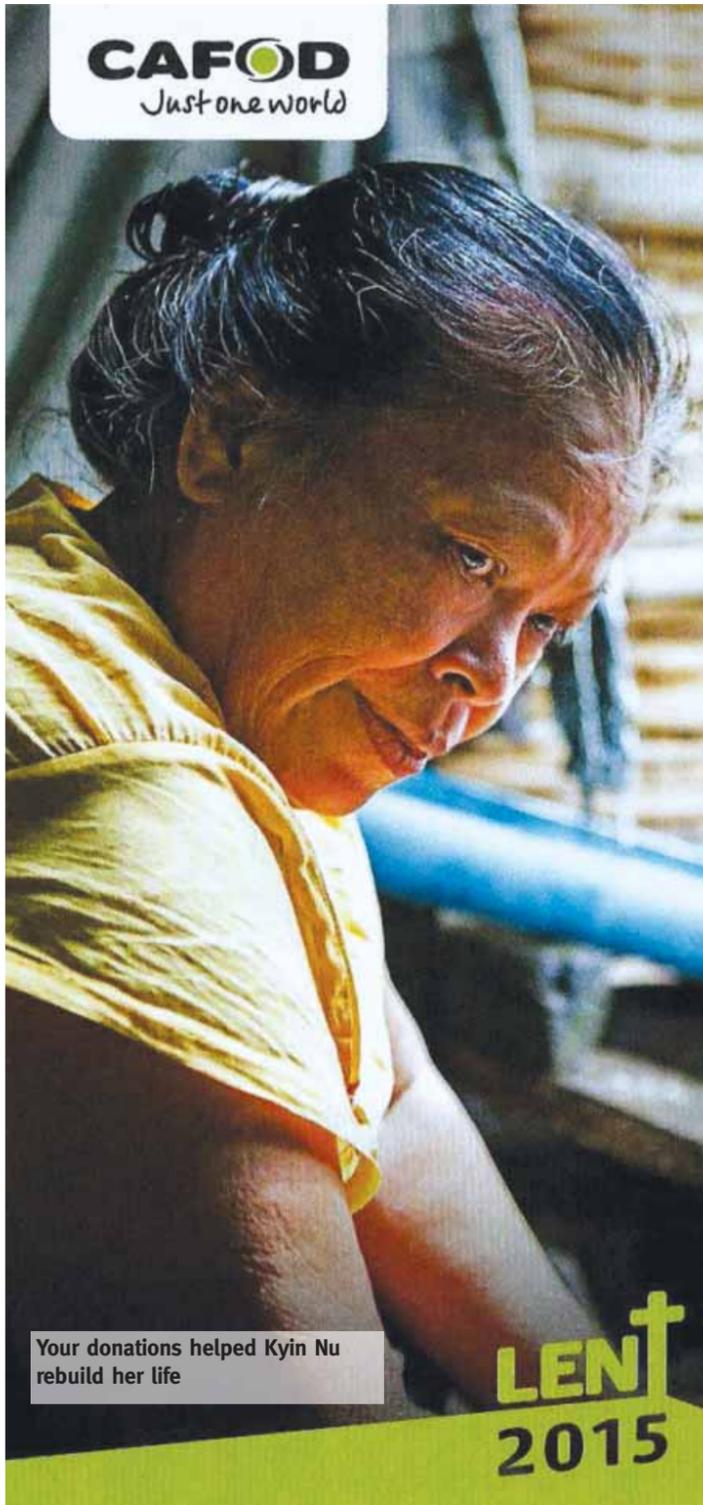
Last year's Parliamentary Reception took place on November 5 and enabled members to meet with parliamentarians to discuss their vital work. The reception was addressed by Cardinal Vincent Nichols and the Secretary of State and Minister for Faith, Eric Pickles.

**Summary**

During 2014 CSAN Public Affairs Team...

- Worked on four bills and draft bills.
- Made submissions to seven government and European Union consultations.
- Provided briefings for debates and committee appearances and Parliamentary Questions for MPs and Peers.
- Gave detailed responses to major government announcements including the Chancellor's Budget Statement, Autumn Statement and the Queen's Speech.

The report concludes that as circumstances have become harder for the poorest and most vulnerable people, CSAN has tried to tell their stories to decision makers, while providing a consistent Catholic response informed by the Church's social teaching and the experience of its charities.



# Government Scheme Aids Lenten Donations

The government has pledged to match the generous Lenten donations of the Catholic community to CAFOD, up to the value of £3.5m. This UK Aid Match scheme means your donations will go even further to help people in some of the poorest communities to live sustainably and tackle threats presented by natural disasters.

During Lent we are asked to consider our neighbours. This is not just those who live close by, but our global neighbours, such as 58-year-old Kyin Nu (pronounced Chin Noo), who lives in a small jungle village in Myanmar.

A few years ago, a huge storm ripped through her community. At 6pm on the evening of the storm, 400 men, women and children lived in the village. By 6am the following morning, only 200 were left. In the space of 12 short hours Kyin Nu had lost everything, including precious photographs of her family, hand-me-downs from her parents and her small bamboo home. Worst of all, two of her children were killed.

As the essential aid work got underway, your generous

support helped Kyin Nu to pick up the pieces, providing her with shelter and some chickens to make a living. The villagers desperately needed a new barrier to protect their crop - your support ensured that this was possible and that the villagers could feed themselves. You also helped Kyin Nu and her community plant trees that would grow and form a storm wall, protecting them from future cyclones.

Changing climates and increasingly extreme weather have the biggest impact on those who are least able to cope. But we can help our sisters and brothers around the world to prepare for the worst now. Please be as generous as you can this Lent so we can help bring about positive and lasting change for others like Kyin Nu.

Please remember to pray for our work and for the needs of our sisters and brothers around the world. Thank you on their behalf for your ongoing generosity. It makes a huge difference.

David Cross, CAFOD Middlesbrough

## Help Us This Lent Fast Day

Lent Fast Day takes place on Friday February 27. Why not hold a hunger lunch during Lent, or another fundraising event such as a sponsored walk, parish raffle or a CAFOD evening? We also invite all our Catholic schools to support CAFOD this Lent.

There are many opportunities to volunteer for CAFOD, from being a Parish Contact through to being an Education Volunteer. You can visit schools around the Diocese or help us to strengthen our Caritas Social Action Network. If you are interested, please get in touch, by emailing [middlesbrough@cafod.org.uk](mailto:middlesbrough@cafod.org.uk) or telephoning 01904 671767 for a friendly chat.

## Clergy Welcomed Into New Roles

**Monsignor Gerard Dasey** has become Associate Pastor at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough, living in the presbytery at St Clare's, Middlesbrough.

**Canon John Lumley** is now Parish Priest of St Gabriel's, Ormesby, and Parish Administrator of Corpus Christi, Middlesbrough. He is on sabbatical until the end of May and Father Simon Leworthy will supply at St Gabriel's until his return.

We recently welcomed **Father Simon Leworthy**, a priest of the Diocese of Armidale, Australia, to our Diocese. Father Leworthy has been working in Southwark Archdiocese in recent years.

**Father Patrick Hartnett** is now Parish Priest for Ingleby Barwick and will be taking on the role of Episcopal Vicar for Spirituality and Worship.

**Father Neil McNicholas** is now Parish Priest in Yarm.

**Father Patrick Day** has become Parish Administrator of St Alphonsus, Middlesbrough.

**Father James Benfield** will supply in Hornsea until February 21, while Father Anthony is in Nigeria.

We also welcome **Father Albert Schembri**, from Malta, to our Diocese for the next few years. He will initially stay at the Cathedral before taking up a more permanent post in Scarborough.

## Thanks For Helping Our CAUSE

The organisers of the CAUSE Christmas Hamper Campaign have thanked all who contributed to its success, including a large number of anonymous donors.

CAUSE (Catholics Against Unemployment And Social Evils) has been providing hampers for needy families at Christmas for many years.

They asked for particular generosity this year because of the additional need caused by high unemployment in our area.

"The enthusiasm and generosity of all the young people in our schools continued, with much time and effort given to raising funds and providing many beautiful hampers," said CAUSE treasurer Pat Wilson.

"We appreciate how much encouragement, time and resources the teachers and many others give to the campaign.

"Due to your generosity, many families will have enjoyed Christmas much more than they would have done otherwise."

This year's campaign reached 300 families, including some 1,000 children, and 80 people who live alone in Middlesbrough with little or no family support.

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# NEWS FROM ROME

## New Cardinals To Be Created

Fifteen new cardinal electors from 14 nations and every continent on earth will be formally inducted into the College of Cardinals on February 14. Pope Francis said they illustrate "the inseparable link between the Church of Rome and the particular churches present in the world."

Three hail from Asia, three from Latin America, two from Africa and two from Oceania. Of the five Europeans, three lead dioceses in Italy and Spain that have not traditionally had cardinals as bishops. The Pope also named five new cardinals over the age of 80, who are ineligible to vote in a conclave.

## Pope's Tribute To Mothers

Pope Francis told 4,000 people gathered for his regular General Audience in Rome that mothers are indispensable to society and the Church. He said they show the world what it means to generously give oneself for others, respect life and to display tenderness and moral strength, even in times of trouble.

## Still Finding The King In The Manger

Speaking on the Feast of the Epiphany, the Pope said that people of all ages have followed the example of the Three Kings by finding Jesus in the simplicity of the manger. "Led by the Spirit, they come to realize that God's criteria are quite different from those of men, that God does not manifest himself in the power of this world, but speaks to us in the humbleness of his love," he said.

## Recent tweets from the Pope's Twitter feed, @Pontifex

*May we try to listen and be silent in order to make space for the beauty of God.*

*If Jesus is to become the centre of our life, we need to spend time in his presence, before the Tabernacle.*

*The Lord put it clearly: you cannot serve two masters. You have to choose between God and money.*

*It is so important to listen! Husbands and wives need to communicate to bring happiness and serenity to family life.*

*Jesus came to save us: let us not reject this marvellous gift!*

*Lord, help us to recognize you in the sick, poor and suffering.*

*Christianity spreads through the joy of disciples who know that they are loved and saved.*

*How many innocent people and children suffer in the world! Lord, grant us your peace!*

*Today people are suffering from poverty, but also from lack of love.*

*Let us pray today for all those who are persecuted for their Christian faith.*

*With Jesus there is true joy.*

## AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

Schools! Please send us your good news stories and photos to appear in this regular section! Send them to the usual address: catholicvoice@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk

# St Gabriel's Community Reflects On Vocations



Councillor George Dunning at St Gabriel's School

Children and staff at St Gabriel's Primary Academy, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, have been reflecting on the question "What is God calling you to be?"

The responses have been varied, often depending on the mood of the day. The school's aim at St Gabriel's is to achieve excellence through Jesus in all things it does and to encourage pupils to become the best they can be.

In order to give them a flavour of the different paths they could choose in life, headteacher Michelle Ryan invited a number of guests to speak to the children during assembly.

The first visitor was Monsignor Gerry Dasey, who spoke about priesthood and how he was called by God to give his life to serving others in a very active way.

The children were very interested in how different each day could be in the life of a priest, from the sadness of funerals and hospital visiting to the joys of weddings and baptisms and, of course, sharing each day with the local community.

Monsignor Dasey spoke about the privilege of being involved in people's lives at crucial times and how he has been called to serve those within that community through the gift of the Eucharist.

The school was then visited by Sister Anne and Sister Dymphna, the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, who spoke

to the children about life in a religious community.

Sister Anne spoke of a very clear calling by God, and although trained as a teacher, she knew deep down that God wanted more from her.

Having lived a life devoted to God, Sisters Anne and Dymphna are now taking it slightly easier but are still busy with daily hospital visits and, of course, supporting our local schools.

Pupils then looked outside of religious vocation to the world of work. Councillor George Dunning, who is grandfather to some St Gabriel's pupils, spoke about his dedication to bettering and serving the local community in very practical ways.

He explained to the children how our local area is served by the council and kept clean and safe. The children had many questions about everything from bin lorries to traffic lights and finally to Councillor Dunning's job being a vocation: "Yes," he replied. "It's not without its ups and downs, but ultimately I love serving the community in which I live."

Finally, Diocesan Vocations Director Father Paul Farrer, of the MYMission Team, visited and spoke about working with the youth of our Diocese and choosing to live in a community.

## Mini Vinnies Come To Northallerton

Six pupils from Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School in Northallerton have been commissioned as Mini Vinnies, the SVP's children's section.

Father James Blenkinsopp led the ceremony as the school, parents and representatives from the Parish witnessed the children making their commitment to

serving the community.

Several projects are already underway, including making up food hampers for the less fortunate members of the community.

For more information about Mini Vinnies, visit [www.minivinnies.org.uk](http://www.minivinnies.org.uk)



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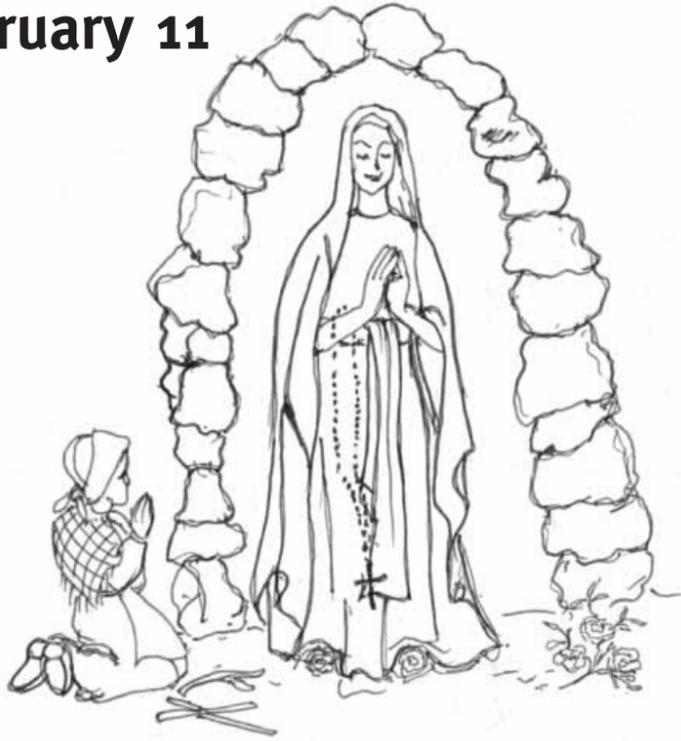
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**AROUND OUR SCHOOLS**

# The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

– February 11



Bernadette was gathering sticks for the fire when a beautiful lady appeared. She was dressed in a long white dress with a blue sash, and on her feet were two golden roses. The lady told Bernadette to go to the priest and tell him to have a church built at the grotto where she stood. The priest thought that Bernadette was making it up until she told him that the lady had said that she was "The Immaculate Conception", which is a special name for Our Lady. Today, thousands of people from all over the world travel to Lourdes in France to pray at the grotto where Our Lady appeared.

Word Search

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R	O	S	E	S	W	N	O	T	H
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BERNADETTE  
GROTTO  
GOLDEN  
PRIEST  
LADY  
SASH

BLUE  
CHURCH  
STICKS  
LOURDES  
TRAVEL  
ROSES

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**St Peter's Catholic Academy**

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**LOURDES CORNER**

# How Caring Brian Inspired Teesside Hero Tony

**Lourdes Head *Brancardier* Tony Kirk has dedicated his Teesside Hero award to the late Brian McGowran, the next-door neighbour who inspired him to take up voluntary work.**

Tony admits he did little in the community until attending Brian's funeral six years ago, where he was inspired to take up the mantle after hearing about his friend's extraordinary work.

"I had known Brian for many years as a great neighbour but not once had he told me about all the time he dedicated to volunteering to help others," said Tony.

"For many years he had been an integral part of taking up to 2,000 pilgrims on annual trips to Lourdes in France and was renowned for his incredible work. I was totally taken aback and thought 'Why don't I do more?'"

Tony now dedicates long hours to helping to organise the annual Middlesbrough Diocese pilgrimage to Lourdes.

He also volunteers at the Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship for those with physical and learning difficulties and organises an annual Christmas dinner for people across the town.

As a result of his generous endeavours, a shocked Tony received a Teesside Hero award from charitable movement Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Foundation.

Foundation patron Nick Mack, managing director of Macks Solicitors, made the surprise presentation to Tony at a meeting of the Fellowship's weekly youth club.

Along with a trophy, winners receive £1,000 for a Teesside good cause of their choice, with Tony choosing to share the cash

between the Lourdes Pilgrimage and the Catholic Fellowship.

As Head *Brancardier*, Tony gives more than two months of his time each year to the Lourdes pilgrimage, with planning and logistics of a taking around 100 sick pilgrims to France falling largely on his shoulders.

Tony leads a team of about 50 male helpers who spend a week caring for the sick and disabled at the hospital in Lourdes.

He said: "I'd gone to church all my life but until the day of Brian's funeral I had no idea what a *brancardier* even was and had never been to Lourdes.

"I went to Lourdes for the first time in 2009 and was transfixed by the place, as well as the way all those volunteers come together to help the sick pilgrims.

"I've been there every year since and want to repeat the experience on an annual basis for the rest of my life."

Having got involved in the Lourdes pilgrimage, he then volunteered to help out at the Catholic Fellowship's twice-weekly social meetings for local people with physical and learning difficulties.

"I went along once, fell in love with it and wouldn't dream of stopping," said Tony. "It's an amazing place.

"Just like the pilgrimage, an awful lot of effort goes into it behind the scenes from a lot of great people. I'm stunned and humbled to receive a Teesside Hero award because it could have gone to any one of those volunteers who give up so much of their time to help others."

Tony, who also slept rough for the night as part of the Big Tees Sleepout earlier this year, said: "It's another wonderful event that



Philanthropic Foundation patron Nick Mack (right) presents Tony Kirk with a Teesside Hero Award

I love to be part of as it brings together people from all backgrounds to enjoy a Christmas lunch and a sing-song together." Father Paul Farrer, who nominated Tony for his award, said: "Tony's a very unassuming man who immerses himself in voluntary work for the local community. He is a great leader who brings people together by his example and easy temperament.

"Since being inspired by Brian McGowran, he has had a complete change of lifestyle but he loves it and is determined to do the right thing, even in the face of occasional gentle criticism."

To nominate an unsung community champion for a Teesside Hero award, visit the Get Involved section on the Foundation's website, [www.teessidecharity.org.uk](http://www.teessidecharity.org.uk)

Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship is in need of more volunteers, particularly drivers who are willing to take those with physical and learning difficulties to and from weekly meetings. For more information, email [t.flaherty@ntlworld.com](mailto:t.flaherty@ntlworld.com)

If Brian and Tony's stories have inspired you to become a Middlesbrough Lourdes *brancardier*, contact Tony on [anthony.kirk@ntlworld.com](mailto:anthony.kirk@ntlworld.com)



Teesside Hero Tony Kirk and Philanthropic Foundation patron Nick Mack together with volunteers and members of Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship's weekly youth club

**LOURDES CORNER**

# Your Lourdes Stories...

Each month we're featuring stories in which Middlesbrough pilgrims tell their often deeply moving stories about the profound impact Lourdes had had on their lives.

Some of them will make you smile and others might make you cry. All reflect some aspect of what our Pilgrimage means and reveal how it has the power to transform lives. They were first heard at the Taizé service that has become part of our pilgrimage in recent years.

The stories are all collected in a book, where more can be added. If you have your own Lourdes story you'd like others to share, please email Mary Lombard at [thelombards@hotmail.com](mailto:thelombards@hotmail.com)

**A Friend's Tale**

Lourdes is a very special place to me. I've been going a lot of years now. The first time was with my very dear friend and neighbour, Mary Mendoza, over 25 years ago. She had been lots of times over the years as a handmaid. That was the first of many times with the Diocese on pilgrimage. I pushed Mary and my friend Teresa looked after her friend, Edith Carney. It was so very special, everywhere we went they went too - including the Irish Club!

One night they wanted to go to The Grotto before going to bed. We walked down and spent some special time there. What we didn't realise was the gates had been locked and we had to come back in and push them up the steep winding path - Our Lady was still with us, as half way up, with us almost on our knees, two big strong lads took over!

I only went one year when I didn't have somebody to look after. That was when I decided to become a handmaid. I feel even more part of the Lourdes family now. I love the whole experience of the hospital and being part of the wonderful work that goes on there.

I've always travelled with Monsignor Ricardo Morgan's group, by coach! It's a long journey, but Monsignor makes the journey part of the pilgrimage and it's a wonderful experience.



## Valentine's Date For Handmaids

Lourdes Handmaids are invited to a Handmaids meeting at St Mary's Cathedral, Dalby Way, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, on Saturday February 14.

Before the meeting, Mass will be celebrated in the chapel at 2pm for the success of our Pilgrimage, followed by light refreshments.

Head Handmaid Chris Tillotson will provide an update on changes taking place around the Grotto and information on the planned arrangements for our Pilgrimage.

"Even if you are unable to travel with us on this year's Pilgrimage, please come along if you can to what I hope will be a lovely afternoon catching up with old friends," said Chris.

"Alternatively, if you would like to find out a little more about the role of a handmaid, you would be very welcome. Anyone wishing to join us for Mass would be most welcome."

\*The Lourdes committee will be visiting the shrine in February to finalise the planning for this year's Pilgrimage.

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**NEWS**

## Cathedral Welcomes Visiting Choirs

Our Wednesday services of Benediction and Vespers at the Cathedral are always popular events and attract a regular following from churches across the region.

There is a rich variety of music, which is led alternately by our Ladies' Schola and Men's Schola. In addition to our own splendid choirs, we are pleased to welcome two fine visiting choirs this term.

On Wednesday February 4 at 6pm, the choir of St Chad's College, Durham, under their conductor Michael Haynes (who is also Director of Music at Hexham Abbey), will lead the music at Benediction and Vespers.

On Wednesday March 25 at 6pm (Solemnity of the Annunciation), we will be joined by the choir of St Nicholas Parish Church, Guisborough under their conductor Richard Bendelow.

For a full list of choral music at the Cathedral, please visit our music website at <https://sites.google.com/site/middlesbroughcathedralmusic>

We look forward to seeing you at our services.

**Tim Harrison,**  
Director of Music

## New Opera To Be Premiered At Cathedral

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the signing by King John at Runnymede of Magna Carta – one of the most important and influential bills of human rights.

Now an exciting collaboration between the Cathedrals of Middlesbrough and Durham has led to the creation and production of a brand new opera to celebrate this famous historical treaty.

The Great Charter will be performed in June by a huge cast, including children from schools in Durham and Middlesbrough, Middlesbrough Cathedral Boys' and Girls' Choirs, Durham Singers, students from Durham University and the Royal Academy of Music.

The opera, which will be conducted by Julian Wright, has been specially created and composed by Tim Harrison of Middlesbrough Cathedral, with libretto by P G Hodgson of Everyman Repertory Theatre Company, Maine, USA.

Two years ago, representatives from Durham Cathedral, Durham Singers and Durham Education Authority invited Tim to devise an entirely new work that would be suitable for actors and singers of different ages and standards.

The result is The Great Charter, a community opera that attempts, through entertaining and humorous music-drama, to convey the serious message of social justice as enshrined in the Magna Carta (1215) and UNICEF Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989).

The Great Charter is an opera for everyone, adults and children alike. We hope you will enjoy being part of it, either as an actor, singer, orchestral musician or member of the audience.

The opera The Great Charter was commissioned by Durham Cathedral and will receive its premier on Saturday June 13 at Durham Cathedral, with a further performance on Saturday June 20 at Middlesbrough Cathedral.

## Panto Time In York

English Martyrs Parish in York are sharing the traditional mix of wit, songs and merry mayhem with this year's pantomime.

Dick Wittington can be seen in English Martyrs Hall, Dalton Terrace, York, from February 5 to 8, with Thursday and Friday performances at 7.30pm and Saturday and Sunday at 2.30pm. Tickets are £7 and £4, with family tickets £20.

# Sharing The Gifts Of Hope, Peace, Joy And Love In York



Father Bill Serplus with members of the Crossing the Threshold team

As part of the Crossing the Threshold initiative, St Aelred's Church, York, held a series of four Sunday Advent services, with themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. They consisted of prayers, reading and poetry and were designed to be easily accessible to everyone, whether churchgoers or not. A short period of reflection was included and each service ended with a hymn. The services were well attended and numbers increased weekly. \*See page 12 for more Crossing The Threshold news.

Elizabeth Dunn

## Charity Hosts Suicide Awareness Events

**Suicide prevention charity POPYRUS is holding a series of events to raise awareness of what is a leading cause of death among young people.**

POPYRUS works with communities throughout the UK to tackle the stigma around suicide, promote mental wellbeing and save young lives.

The events will take place in Liverpool (March 6), Westminster

(March 19), Cardiff (March 25) and Bristol (March 26). Entry costs £10, and is free for members of Familias, the association for Catholic Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Ministry. The days will run from 10am to 3.30pm.

For more information, visit the POPYRUS website at [www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org) or call 01925 572 444.

Kath Stubbs



Father Bill Serplus presents St Aelred's, York, parishioner Elizabeth Dunn with the Certificate in Catholic Religious Studies after she successfully completed her course at York St John University.

# View From A Seminarian

One of the great joys that we have as Seminarists in Rome is when the College invites priests celebrating their 40th, 50th or 60th Jubilee of Ordination, from across England and Wales, to a celebration at the College. For all of us, it is a wonderful occasion to celebrate with the generation of priests who have spent many years in the vineyard of the Lord and this year, we were fortunate to be joined by a priest from our own Diocese, Father Vincent Docherty.

The jubilarians spend a week at the College villa, Palazzola, overlooking Castel Gandolfo in the Alban hills, attending the Papal Audience on Wednesday morning with Pope Francis.

On the Thursday evening they joined the College community for Mass and dinner. One of the great delights of the occasion is to see the sanctuary full of priests, a sight which is rare in recent times. In that one church we had more than 2,000 years of service to the Church.

The jubilarian Mass and dinner is one of the highlights of the year for the students. Away

from the busy schedule of class and exams, it is an opportunity to hear what it is like to spend your life in service for the Church and you only had to look around the room at dinner to know it is a life full of joy.

It is a great encouragement to all the seminarists to know that, for all its challenges, the priesthood has great joys. Speaking with those priests always gives me a great appreciation for all the priests who have been there at the important moments in my life, so it is good to take advantage of these times to thank those celebrating their jubilees for their dedication and devotion.

One thing that stuck in my mind in particular from that evening was something a jubilarian from Leeds Diocese said to me. He had just retired, and after the students had sung *Ad Multos Annos*, he turned to me and said: "This is like passing the baton on to the next generation." I pray that we can follow faithfully in their footsteps through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us.

Peter Taylor

## Sister Thomas Williams CJ



Sister Thomas Williams, who died on New Year's Eve, spent 41 of her 74 years of religious life in York. She taught in the Bar Convent Grammar School for two years before becoming headmistress, aged 30, in 1951.

She remained in that position until 1972, encouraging many generations of pupils not only to make the most of their academic potential but also to grow in love and understanding of their faith.

After some years in Cambridge, Ascot and Shaftesbury, during which, as well as teaching, she spent nine years as local superior, and five years in Sheringham doing retreat work, adult education and parish work, she returned to York.

For many years she worked in St Bede's Pastoral Centre, giving courses on the Bible and days of prayer, which were much appreciated. She died in her 94th year, remembered with affection and gratitude by friends and former pupils. As one of them has written, "Her life was well lived and touched many people."

## Sister Philippa Green IBVM

Sister Philippa Green, of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters), has died at her home in Llandudno at the age of 77. Sister Philippa will be remembered by many for her work in the Grassroots Ministry in The Clarendons and across the region between 1988 and 2004.

A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at Our Lady, Star of the Sea Church, followed by burial at Llanrhos Cemetery.

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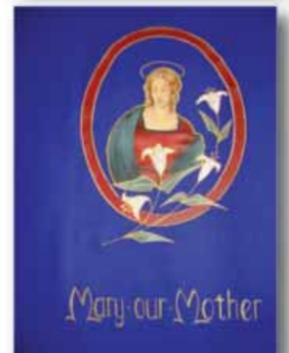
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NEWS



# End Of An Era As Carters Retire

It was the end of an era at St Aelred's Church, York, when Jean Carter retired as secretary-treasurer of APF Mill Hill Missions.

Mrs Carter first started emptying boxes in 1966 and took over as parish organiser in 1982, being ably supported by her husband, Bernard.

The Carters were synonymous with the "Red Boxes" to everyone at St Aelred's. This work has always been carried out efficiently, quietly and with no fuss as they have never sought the limelight.

To mark this wonderful record, Kath Stubbs spoke after Mass and Father Bill Serplus made a presentation.

Elizabeth Dunn

Father Bill Serplus with Jean and Bernard Carter

William Hague with Bini Araia, of Investing in People and Culture, which is based at Middlesbrough's John Paul Centre, at a constituency group meeting



# Christians Engage With Election Candidates

After reading in January's Voice that Caritas East Cleveland had been asked by Churches Together in Redcar to plan a meeting with prospective parliamentary candidates, John Hinman tells us how a similar group in Richmond operates...

The Catholic Constituency Group for Richmond has organised regular meetings with MP William Hague since the 1997 General Election.

In the pre-election period, we developed a series of set questions and interviewed each prospective candidate. We then published the results and responses and circulated these details to all parishes.

After the General Election we then hold regular meetings with the MP. We are not party political and our questions are firmly based on The Common Good, a document prepared by the Bishops of England and Wales ahead of the 1997 General Election, and other sources of Catholic Social Teaching.

This year, our group will become an ecumenical group. Over the years, the MP has helped the group with a wide variety of issues involving responses and support from many Cabinet ministers.

The Redcar model, and other models of engagement with candidates, is to be commended. Participation is the key to the realisation of The Common Good. We can help shape the kind of society we want and promote the wellbeing of all its members.

So, as we prepare for a very significant General Election, let us explore the many ways we can engage with prospective parliamentary candidates and, at the same time, strengthen the common interests we have with other faith groups.

John Hinman, Catholic Constituency Group, Richmond

\*Next month's Voice will include a four-page General Election special pullout.

## Parishioners Support Brother Michael

Generous parishioners raised £2,000 at a fundraising event in Christ the King Parish, Thornaby, in aid of Brother Michael Newman's missionary work in Malawi.

Brother Michael is a member of the St John of God order and a former parishioner of nearby St Patrick's.

Brother Michael's friend Brother Bonaventure, gave a first-hand account of the work in Mzuzu. This includes working with families, helping with the formation of novice brothers and assisting in a large mental health facility.

The evening, which was supported by parishioners of St Patrick's, Thornaby, Christ the King and St Patrick's, Stockton, was organised by Brother Michael's sister Kath Donegan.



# Celebrating National Youth Sunday

**To celebrate National Youth Sunday 2014, the Mission Team revived the Diocesan celebration of this special occasion.**

Traditionally, our secondary schools used to take it in turns to host a Diocesan NYS Mass. In recent years, celebrations have taken place in parishes, to avoid taking young people out of their own churches on this day.

Recognising that not all parishes have the young people nor resource to celebrate this day, MYMission invited young people to a Diocesan NYS Mass at Our Lady's Church in Acomb.

Young people from York, Middlesbrough and Scarborough were involved in the Mass through readings and bidding prayers and praying together as a Diocesan family.

Father Paul Farrer said: "National Youth Sunday is important on a prayer level because we recall the importance of young people in the Church. They are a gift to be cherished and the source and focus of such much joy in the Church.

"But the challenges they face are huge. They live in an age where personal gain and individuality are prized at the expense of healthy relationships, faith and an experience of what it means to have communal responsibility.

"Our young people are not a problem for the Church, the issues with which they grow up are the problem.

"Our young people hunger and thirst for what is right and so often the Gospel message is drowned by consumerism and a culture that sells false happiness after false happiness.

"National Youth Sunday is our chance to



celebrate the faith young people have despite all of the challenges they face.

"It is our chance to think again about how much time we give them and how we use the resources of the Church to reach out to them and help them know they are loved by Our Lord.

"We are really grateful that Canon John Lumley allowed us to use the Church at Our Lady's, Acomb. We were welcomed warmly by him and the parishioners who were around that Sunday evening.

"Young people did come together and for them, it was great to see that there were

other people who wanted to pray with them."

The takeaway pizza served after Mass proved so popular that we had to ring in a second order!

**Dominique Finn**

**EVANGELISATION**

# Crossing The Threshold News



Photos by Mazur/www.catholicnews.org.uk

It's estimated that at least two-thirds of the baptised Catholic community in England and Wales are non-churchgoing - approximately four million people. This huge group of people generally identify themselves as Catholic but rarely or never attend Mass. The Home Mission Desk in the Church's Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis has initiated a national project called "Crossing The Threshold" to reach out to these people. Here's a round up of how the project is progressing in some of our parishes...

sation programme by saying the parish prayer daily. The prayer is also being said at the end of Mass. The parish is using the project as an opportunity to make a new commitment to ensuring that the sick and housebound able to receive Holy Communion regularly.

## St Aelred's, York

The team chose a parish evangelisation prayer, which has been printed in the weekly newsletter and printed on a prayer card. As well as speaking about Crossing The Threshold every week at Mass, the team has been promoting it in the primary school, using the school newsletter to reach out to non-churchgoing families.

## St George's, York

Eye-catching banners have gone on display and special flyers have been printed for children to take home with their school newsletter. Much thought has gone into ways of improving the "welcoming" aspect of services - for example, experimenting by changing the venue for refreshments.

## St Mary & St Romuald, Yarm

A prayer card has been distributed to all parishioners, including the sick, housebound and the residents of care homes, along with a Christmas card prepared by the children of the parish. The parish worked with Yarm Traders on an Around Yarm Advent Calendar.

### St Aelred's Parish Prayer

*"And now, Lord, help your servants, here at St Aelred's, to proclaim your message with all fearlessness, by stretching out your hand to heal and to work miracles and marvels through the name of your Holy servant Jesus. Amen"*

## Christ The King, Thornaby

Every parishioner was encouraged to take one a prayer card and pray for the venture. The prayer has been said at Mass and ministers are taking copies to the sick and housebound, asking them to join their prayers and give vital support to the mission.

## St Thérèse, Ingleby Barwick

A prayer card is being distributed to all parishioners, who are being asked to pray for the success of the evangeli-

• **All the teams also ran special Advent and Christmas projects, encouraging as many people as possible from the local community to get involved.**

**JOE WALSH TOURS**  
PILGRIMAGE SPECIALISTS

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\*Lunch also included in Lourdes & Fatima

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## Quick Quiz

### Connections

1. Born in 1895, who was the last Emperor of India?
2. Which saint was Abbot of Rievaulx from 1147 until his death in 1167? He is the patron saint of bladder stone sufferers.
3. How are the Roman Catholic men and women who died for their faith between 1534 and 1680 collectively known?
4. Based on biblical texts, this show began with a short pop cantata at Colet Court School in London in 1968 and progressed to become a West End and school production favourite. What is it called?
5. Later nicknamed the Golden Boy, he is the most famous pupil to have attended St Peter's School, in South Bank, Middlesbrough. Who is he?

### Thinking Cap Question

Name the four Irish counties beginning with the letter W.



## Community Lunch At Trinity

**Around 75 local residents, parishioners and vulnerable young people attended at Trinity Catholic Sixth Form College's second annual Community Christmas Lunch.**

Guests came from local care homes, Eston Catholic Fellowship and surrounding parishes.

Students from the Chaplaincy Group cooked a tasty vegetable soup with direction from Mr Steve McNicholas and the kitchen staff prepared a delicious buffet lunch in the hall, which was decorated by Mrs Carolyn Day and the Chaplaincy Group.

Lunch was followed by bingo with Mrs Michelle Hawes and Mrs Jodie Longstaff, carols from Mr John Turver and the Year Seven choir and entertainment from the Sixth Form and Mrs Chrissy Gargett.

Santa Claus, in the form of Mr Dan Donnelly, ordered his Sixth Form elves to offer gifts of individually wrapped Christmas cakes to guests, courtesy of Mrs Tracy Cocker in Food Technology.

"It was truly moving to see students of all ages mingling and interacting with our guests in such a respectfully caring and loving way," said College Chaplain Reverend Andrew Bunce.

The event was sponsored by Julie Richardson of Key Stage Recruitment, Stockton, with donations from Jacks Coaches of Easington and Tony Woods, of KMB Recruitment Services, Middlesbrough. Boro Taxis offered their services at a reduced cost.

If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from attending next year's lunch, please email [bunce.a@trinitycatholiccollege.org.uk](mailto:bunce.a@trinitycatholiccollege.org.uk)

# Renewing The Vision

**As we begin 2015, the MYMission Team, founded by Bishop Terry, is halfway through the fifth year of its life. It is hard to believe, time really has flown.**

In those five years we have learned much. Youth Ministry, in any form, is a complicated animal. It is often a case of two steps forward and one step back. Much is based on forging strong relationships across the Diocese, with schools, parishes, teachers, chaplains, priests, trustees and colleagues in the Curial Office. Without their support, for which we are grateful, our efforts are in vain. Key to moving forward with confidence has been establishing a solid structure based on the experience we have gained over these five years and now a strategy for the next five years needs to emerge.

There are, of course, those events and programmes which are a regular part of the Diocesan Year - the Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage, which is so important to the young people of our Diocese, National Youth Sunday and The Little BIG Assembly, to name just a few.

However, other initiatives have found their way into the calendar of our work and are set to become permanent fixtures over the next few years. "Life in Christ" is a catechetical programme for young people. National Youth Friday is a school-based event for young adults two days before National Youth Sunday. Faith in Action is a National Catholic Award Scheme penned by the MYMission

Team and some school chaplains and teachers of our Diocese. And there's also a monthly Sunday evening Mass and meal for young adults who live close enough to the Mission House to join us.

Without a shadow of a doubt, on top of all of that, our missionary work with schools and parishes will continue as we willingly respond to the spiritual needs of the young people of our Diocese.

Of course, we can't do all of this alone and a growing number of people are part of the Team, formally and informally. We are drawing great strength and wisdom from the members of the Diocesan Youth Council too, themselves, all young people. We continue to look for volunteers who are willing to help us in our work. If you are aged over 18 by September this year and would like to know more about joining us, please email me at [frpaul@mymission.org.uk](mailto:frpaul@mymission.org.uk)

Father Paul Farrer



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# Out & About around the Diocese

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Every Sunday, 6pm, Sacred Heart Church, Lobster Road, REDCAR TS10 1SH.  
Low Mass

**BISHOP TERENCE PATRICK DRAINEY ENGAGEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2015**

- 1 Parish Visitation: Sacred Heart, Redcar All day
- 4 Attending meeting of Diocesan Trustees at Curial Office, Middlesbrough 10.30 am
- 6 Attending meeting of the CRC Department, Eccleston Square, London 11.00 am
- 9 Visit to Queen Mary's School, Topcliffe, and joining morning prayers 8.40 am
- 10 Attending meeting of Bishop's Council at Curial Office, Middlesbrough 11.00 am
- 12 Attending On-Going Formation Day focusing on Safeguarding at York Marriott Hotel 9.45 am
- 16 Visit to Durham University to meet with new Bishops and members of the Executive and Ushaw Trustees 8.45 am
- 17 Attending meeting of Caritas Working Group, Eccleston Square, London 11.00 am
- 18 Celebrates Mass of Ash Wednesday at Middlesbrough Cathedral 7.00 pm
- 19 Attending meeting of Northern Province at Leeds 10.30 am
- 22 Celebrates Rite of Election at Middlesbrough Cathedral 3.00 pm
- 24 Attending meeting at Oscott College 10.30 am
- 25 Attending meeting of Bishop's Council at Curial Office, Middlesbrough 11.00 am

- 1 Sunday**  
**11.30 am** Latin Mass in the traditional form at Sacred Heart Church, Lobster Road, Redcar, TS10 1SH  
**12.00 pm** Sung Latin Mass in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF  
**4.00 pm** Young Catholic Adults Sunday Mass and Meal for those aged 18+ at Mission House, St Thomas More Church, Kirkham Row, Beechwood, Middlesbrough. Contact: Dom Finn, E-mail: domfinn@mymission.org.uk for further details  
**6.00 pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF
- 3 Tuesday**  
**2.00 pm - 3.30 pm** 'Reflecting on Helen Luke's book Old Age' led by Rev Sheila Fletcher at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details  
**7.00 pm** The Knights of St Columba, Council 29, meet at St Mary's Cathedral, Dalby Way, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough commencing with Mass in the Cathedral Chapel
- 4 Wednesday**  
**6.00 pm** Benediction and Vespers at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough at which the choir of St Chad's College, Durham will lead the music. All welcome  
**6.30 pm** The Secular Franciscan Order meet every first Wednesday of the month at More House, Heslington, York. Contact: Mrs Lyn Bradbury OFS, Tel: (01904) 470041 for further details
- 5 Thursday**  
**1.00 pm - 2.30 pm** Ark, the Pastoral Support Group for people with mental ill health meets in Middlesbrough. Contact: Catherine Marshall, Tel: (01642) 877936 for venue and other details  
**2.00 pm - 4.00 pm** 'The Three That Go Together - a Look at the Synoptic Gospels: The Origin of the Gospel' led by Sr Patricia Harriss CJ at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details
- 5 and 6 Thursday and Friday**  
**7.30 pm** 'Dick Wittington' at English Martyrs Parish Hall, Dalton Terrace, York. Tickets: £7.00/£4.00, Family ticket £20.00
- 6 Friday**  
Dates of events and articles for inclusion in the March issue of Voice must be received by today  
**7.00 pm** First Friday Life Prayer Group meets at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact Tel: (01482) 342779 for further details

- 7 Saturday**  
**10.00 am - 3.30 pm** 'Prayer and Thought' led by Dr Sandra Bhattacharji at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details  
**2.00 pm** Pilgrimage for Life to the Lady Chapel, Mount Grace, Osmotherley. Meet at the first Station of the Cross at 2.00 pm to pray for Life and an end to our abortion culture. Concludes with Vigil Mass of Sunday at 4.00 pm. All welcome. Contact: Patricia Sammon, Tel: 07747 698553 or 0113 258 2745 or E-mail: patriciamarysammon@btinternet.com for further details  
**7.00 pm - 9.00 pm** First Saturday Rosary Prayer Group meets at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. All welcome. Contact Tel: (01482) 342779 for further details  
**7.15 pm** 'Two Coats Colder' in St Mary's Hall, The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. Doors open 6.45 pm. Tickets: £8.00. Contact Tel: 07872 613591 for further details and to purchase tickets
- 7 and 8 Saturday and Sunday**  
**2.30 pm** 'Dick Wittington' at English Martyrs Parish Hall, Dalton Terrace, York. Tickets: £7.00/£4.00, Family ticket £20.00
- 8 Sunday**  
**11.30 am** Latin Mass in the traditional form at Sacred Heart Church, Lobster Road, Redcar, TS10 1SH  
**12.00 pm** Sung Latin Mass in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF  
**6.00 pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF  
**6.00 pm** Mass in the Malayalam language at St Joseph's Church, Marton Road, Middlesbrough. Contact Tel: (01642) 818203 for further details
- 9 Monday**  
**7.30 pm** Justice & Peace meet at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact: Nan Saeki, Tel: (01904) 783621 for further details
- 9 - 11 Monday - Wednesday**  
National Conference for Rural Catholics at the Best Western Country Hotel and Golf Club, Garstang, Lancashire. Contact: Fr Robert Miller, Tel: (01747) 870228, E-mail: rwhm274@btinternet.com or visit www.ruralcatholics.org.uk for further details
- 10 Tuesday**  
**12.45 pm** Hull and District Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meet at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Hull when Mrs J Harrison will speak about 'My Adventure in Zambia'  
**2.00 pm - 4.00 pm** ASCENT Group, York West meets at Our Lady's, Acomb, York in the Fr Kelly Room  
**7.30 pm** The Knights of St Columba, Council 95, meet at the Council Chambers, English Martyrs Hall, Dalton Terrace, York
- 11 Wednesday**  
**10.30 am** The ASCENT Group at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hessle meet after the Morning Mass  
**10.30 am** The ASCENT Group at St Leonard and St Mary, Malton meet  
**2.30 pm** Prayer Group (second Wednesday of month) at The John Paul Centre, 55 Grange Road, Middlesbrough. New members welcome
- 12 Thursday**  
**7.30 pm - 9.00 pm** 'Life in Christ' - an opportunity for young people to explore their faith and deepen their understanding at St Thomas More's Presbytery, Kirkham Row, Beechwood, Middlesbrough. Contact: Fr Paul Farrer, E-mail: frpaul@mymission.org.uk for further details
- 13 Friday**  
**2.00 pm** Scarborough Medjugorje Prayer Group. Contact Joan Salt, Tel: (01723) 363321 for further details including venue  
**7.00 pm - 8.30 pm** Divine Mercy Prayer Group meets in the small chapel at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact: John, Tel: (01759) 380415 for further details  
**7.15 pm** Prepare for Easter with the 7 deadly sins? This Lent, the Our Lady's/English Martyrs Bible Group will be using the Framework of the '7 deadly sins' as part of its Lenten programme. Using passages of scripture the Group will be focusing on the corresponding 7 virtues. Sessions run weekly from 13 February in the Fr Kelly Room at Our Lady's from 7.15 pm. For more information, contact: Marek

- Lichtarowicz, Tel: 0791 7671610 or (01904) 795605, E-mail: olem.bible.group@gmail.com  
**7.30 pm** Medjugorje Evening at The John Paul Centre, 55 Grange Road, Middlesbrough - Rosary, Holy Mass, Talk, Witness. Contact: Marie Bedingfield, Tel: (01642) 530739 for further details
- 14 Saturday**  
**2.00 pm** Lourdes Handmaids meeting - Mass will be celebrated in the chapel at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough at 2.00 pm for the success of the Pilgrimage followed by light refreshments and a meeting for all handmaids. Those unable to travel on this year's Pilgrimage or wishing to find out a little more about the role of a handmaid would be very welcome to attend. In addition, anyone wishing to join the handmaids for the Mass would be most welcome
- 15 Sunday**  
**11.30 am** Latin Mass in the traditional form at Sacred Heart Church, Lobster Road, Redcar, TS10 1SH  
**12.00 pm** Sung Latin Mass in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF  
**3.00 pm** Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship Mass at Sacred Heart, Middlesbrough  
**6.00 pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF
- 16 Monday**  
**7.30 pm** The York Newman Circle presents a Talk by Dr Geoffrey Turner entitled 'The trial and death of Jesus: what really happened' at The Bar Convent, Blossom Street, York. Contact: Judith Smeaton, Tel: (01904) 704525 or E-mail: judith.smeaton@btinternet.com for further details
- 16 - 18 Monday - Wednesday**  
'The Shadow of the Cross' - Lent Retreat led by Fr Kieran Monahan. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766889 for further details
- 17 Tuesday**  
**2.00 pm - 3.30 pm** 'Reflecting on Helen Luke's book Old Age' led by Rev Sheila Fletcher at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details  
**5.30 pm - 7.30 pm** Ushaw Lecture in the Main Lecture Hall, Ushaw College, Durham, to be delivered by Dr Mark Nesti (Liverpool John Moore University; sports psychologist at Chelsea FC Sport, Religion and Psychology) as part of the Ushaw Lecture Series organised by the Durham University's Centre for Catholic Studies. Drinks reception at 5.30 pm, lecture commences at 6.00 pm. All lectures are free but you must register for your free ticket. Contact: James Kelly, Tel: 0191 334 1656 or E-mail: james.kelly3@durham.ac.uk for further details  
**7.00 pm - 9.00 pm** HENS Hull and East Riding New Stitchers meet at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact Tel: (01482) 342779 for further details
- 19 Thursday**  
**9.00 am - 12 noon** Back Care Group - Line dancing - at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact Tel: (01482) 342779 for further details  
**2.00 pm - 4.00 pm** 'The Three That Go Together - a Look at the Synoptic Gospels: According to Mark' led by Sr Patricia Harriss CJ at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details
- 20 Friday**  
**7.00 pm** The Knights of St Columba, Hull Council 45, meet after 6.00 pm Mass at St Stephen's Pastoral Centre, Hull  
**7.15 pm** Prepare for Easter with the 7 deadly sins? This Lent, the Our Lady's/English Martyrs Bible Group will be using the Framework of the '7 deadly sins' as part of its Lenten programme. Using passages of scripture the Group will be focusing on the corresponding 7 virtues. Sessions run weekly from 13 February in the Fr Kelly Room at Our Lady's from 7.15 pm. For more information, contact: Marek Lichtarowicz, Tel: 0791 7671610 or (01904) 795605, E-mail: olem.bible.group@gmail.com  
**7.30 pm** Aquinas Reading Group in the upper room at St Wilfrid's, York. A guided reading of the Summa Theologiae. Contact: Steve Evans, Tel: 07800 697975 or E-mail: steve\_evans21@tiscali.co.uk Further details at http://readingthesumma.blogspot.com/

**20 - 22 Friday - Sunday**

'The Truth Will Set You Free: The Parable of the Two Whistleblowers' - a retreat led by Ian Foxley, Paul Moore and Fr Terence Richardson. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766889 for further details

**21 Saturday**

**7.30 pm** Sacred Heart Parish Dance (Chris Ball) at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough. Tickets from Eddie White, Tel: (01642) 860227  
**7.30 pm - 10.30 pm** Irish Association meet at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact Tel: (01482) 342779 for further details

**22 Sunday**

March issue of Catholic Voice available  
**11.30 am** Latin Mass in the traditional form at Sacred Heart Church, Lobster Road, Redcar, TS10 1SH  
**12.00 pm** Sung Latin Mass in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF  
**3.00 pm** Rite of Election at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough  
**6.00 pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF

**24 Tuesday**

**10.00 am - 3.30 pm** 'Ety Hillesum's Thought and Spirituality: A Pathway to Hope and Freedom' led by Donna Worthington at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details

**25 Wednesday**

**12.45 pm - 3.00 pm** ASCENT Group, York Central meets at St Wilfrid's, York in the Upper Room after the 12.10 pm Mass  
**7.00 pm - 9.00 pm** ME and CFS Self-Help Group meets at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact Tel: (01482) 342779 for further details  
**7.30 pm for 7.45 pm** The Cleveland Newman Circle presents a Talk by Kathryn Turner on Pope Francis's Exhortation entitled 'The Joy of the Gospel' in the Cathedral Hall, St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough. Coffee at 7.30 pm. Contact Tel: (01642) 814977 or E-mail: tpj.egerton@virgin.net for further details. All are welcome  
**7.30 pm - 9.00 pm** 'Life in Christ' - an opportunity for young people to explore their faith and deepen their understanding at St Thomas More's Presbytery, Kirkham Row, Beechwood, Middlesbrough. Contact: Fr Paul Farrer, E-mail: frpaul@mymission.org.uk for further details

**26 Thursday**

**2.00 pm - 4.00 pm** 'A Little History of the English Churchyard' led by Sophie Weston at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel:

(01904) 464900 for further details

**7.30 pm - 9.00 pm** The Pastoral Support Group for carers especially of people with mental ill health meets in Middlesbrough. Contact: Margaret Jones, Tel: (01642) 865668 for venue and other details

**27 Friday**

**7.00 pm** Medjugorje Prayer Group meets at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. Everyone welcome. Contact: Pat, Tel: (01482) 802483 for further details  
**7.15 pm** Prepare for Easter with the 7 deadly sins? This Lent, the Our Lady's/English Martyrs Bible Group will be using the Framework of the '7 deadly sins' as part of its Lenten programme. Using passages of scripture the Group will be focusing on the corresponding 7 virtues. Sessions run weekly from 13 February in the Fr Kelly Room at Our Lady's from 7.15 pm. For more information, contact: Marek Lichtarowicz, Tel: 0791 7671610 or (01904) 795605, E-mail: olem.bible.group@gmail.com

**FIRST WEEK OF MARCH:**

**1 Sunday**  
**11.30 am** Latin Mass in the traditional form at Sacred Heart Church, Lobster Road, Redcar, TS10 1SH  
**12.00 pm** Sung Latin Mass in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF  
**4.00 pm** Young Catholic Adults Sunday Mass and Meal for those aged 18+ at Mission House, St Thomas More Church, Kirkham Row, Beechwood, Middlesbrough. Contact: Dom Finn, E-mail: domfinn@mymission.org.uk for further details  
**6.00 pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF

**3 Tuesday**

**2.00 pm - 3.30 pm** 'Reflecting on Helen Luke's book Old Age' led by Rev Sheila Fletcher at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details  
**7.00 pm** The Knights of St Columba, Council 29, meet at St Mary's Cathedral, Dalby Way, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough commencing with Mass in the Cathedral Chapel

**4 Wednesday**

**6.30 pm** The Secular Franciscan Order meet every first Wednesday of the month at More House, Heslington, York. Contact: Mrs Lyn Bradbury OFS, Tel: (01904) 470041 for further details

**5 Thursday**

**1.00 pm - 2.30 pm** Ark, the Pastoral Support Group for people with mental ill health meets in Middlesbrough. Contact: Catherine Marshall, Tel: (01642) 877936 for venue and other details  
**2.00 pm - 4.00 pm** 'The Three That Go Together - a Look at the Synoptic Gospels: According to

Matthew' led by Sr Patricia Harriss CJ at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details

**6 Friday**

Dates of events and articles for inclusion in the April issue of Voice must be received by today  
**7.00 pm** First Friday Life Prayer Group meets at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact Tel: (01482) 342779 for further details  
**7.15 pm** Prepare for Easter with the 7 deadly sins? This Lent, the Our Lady's/English Martyrs Bible Group will be using the Framework of the '7 deadly sins' as part of its Lenten programme. Using passages of scripture the Group will be focusing on the corresponding 7 virtues. Sessions run weekly from 13 February in the Fr Kelly Room at Our Lady's from 7.15 pm. For more information, please contact: Marek Lichtarowicz, Tel: 0791 7671610 or (01904) 795605, E-mail: olem.bible.group@gmail.com

**6 - 8 Friday - Sunday**

A Retreat for Expectant Parents led by Fr Kevin Hayden and Maaike Carter. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766889 for further details

**7 Saturday**

Flame 2 at Wembley Arena, London. £20 per person 'ticket and travel deal' for school and parish groups. Contact Dom Finn, MYMission Youth Service Co-ordinator, Tel: (01642) 825948 or E-mail: domfinn@mymission.org.uk for further details and to book tickets  
**2.00 pm** Pilgrimage for Life to the Lady Chapel, Mount Grace, Osmotherley. Meet at the first Station of the Cross at 2.00 pm to pray for Life and an end to our abortion culture. Concludes with Vigil Mass of Sunday at 4.00 pm. All welcome. Contact: Patricia Sammon, Tel: 07747 698553 or 0113 258 2745 or E-mail: patriciamarysammon@btinternet.com for further details  
**7.00 pm - 9.00 pm** First Saturday Rosary Prayer Group meets at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. All welcome. Contact Tel: (01482) 342779 for further details

**8 Sunday**

**11.30 am** Latin Mass in the traditional form at Sacred Heart Church, Lobster Road, Redcar, TS10 1SH  
**12.00 pm** Sung Latin Mass in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF  
**6.00 pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF  
**6.00 pm** Mass in the Malayalam language at St Joseph's Church, Marton Road, Middlesbrough. Contact Tel: (01642) 818203 for further details

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**ADVANCE NOTICES:**

**12 March:** 1.30 pm/2.00 pm, Victorian Tea at The Endsleigh Pastoral Centre, Beverley Road, Hull. Tickets: £9.00. Contact Tel: (01482) 342779 for further details

**14-15 March:** MYMission Taster Weekend. Contact: Fr Paul Farrer, Tel: (01642) 825948 or E-mail: frpaul@mymission.org.uk for further details

**25 March:** 6.00 pm, Benediction and Vespers at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough at which the choir of St Nicholas Parish Church, Guisborough will lead the music. All welcome

**THE ENDSLEIGH PASTORAL CENTRE**

**Mondays**  
 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm Yoga  
 7.30 pm Kingston Swing/  
 Lindyhop Dancing

**Tuesdays**

1.30 pm Padre Pio Prayer Group  
 7.30 pm Ballroom Dancing Group

**Wednesdays**

2.00 pm Prayer for the City  
 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm Karate

**Sundays**

6.00 pm St Vincent de Paul Group  
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**By Friday February 6 2015 for the March issue and Friday March 6 2015 for the April issue**

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**CATHOLIC WORLD NEWS**

# Bishops Celebrate Mass In Bethlehem

**Bishops from around the world taking part in this year's Holy Land Co-ordination celebrated Mass at the Carmelite Convent in Bethlehem.**

The Carmel was founded by Mariam Baouardy, Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified. Sister Mariam, a Palestinian Discalced Carmelite nun of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church, will soon be declared a saint.

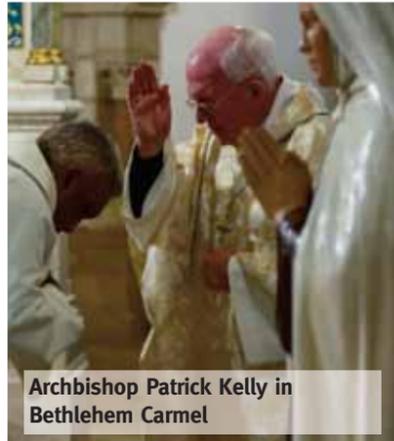
Pope Francis issued a decree in December recognising the miracles needed for her canonisation.

The Most Reverend Patrick Kelly, Archbishop Emeritus of Liverpool, gave the introduction and homily.

Unable to celebrate Mass with the Catholics of Gaza as they had hoped, the Bishops prayed in solidarity with the Gazans at the Erez crossing - the Israel/Gaza border. After six hours they were finally allowed into Gaza.

Since 1998, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has organised the annual Holy Land Co-ordination.

Mandated by the Holy See, the Holy Land Co-ordination meets every January, focusing on prayer, pilgrimage and persuasion with the aim of acting in solidarity with the Christian community there and sharing in the pastoral life of the local Church as it experiences intense political and social-economic pressure.



Archbishop Patrick Kelly in Bethlehem Carmel



Photos by www.catholicnews.org.uk

## Cardinal's Message To France

Cardinal Vincent Nichols wrote to his counterpart in Paris, Cardinal André Vingt-Trois, expressing condolences and offering prayers after the terror attacks in France. The letter followed the killings at the offices of French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and at a Jewish supermarket in the city.

**It read...**

Your Excellency, dear André,

I write with great sadness to offer my condolences to the people of France for the massacre carried out at the office of the Charlie Hebdo magazine. This dreadful and merciless attack has caused anguish throughout the civilised world and I add my prayers to those of many others from all faiths for the victims and their loved ones.

I know that the Church will continue its witness to reconciliation and peace-building during this terrible time for France and I assure you of my support and solidarity as you exercise your pastoral leadership to help heal a city wounded by violence and hatred.

Yours sincerely,

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster**

**Answers**

**Connections:** 1. George VI 2. Aelred 3. The English Martyrs 4. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat 5. Wilf Mannion (the five Catholic churches in York).

**Thinking Cap Question:** Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow

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