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## Bishop's Column

During the course of this month, some of us will be travelling in pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. Allow me to share some thoughts on this year's pilgrimage, both for those who are able to physically travel there and everyone who will remain at home in the Diocese.

If you went home from Lourdes and didn't want to tell people about it, then I would have to wonder what you were doing there in the first place! While it is not always easy to explain to others what happened to us in Lourdes, precisely what we saw and experienced in Lourdes, what we witnessed in Lourdes, the joy and the intensity of our time there overflows and pours out of us and others can see that it was a genuine and unique moment in our lives.

That is why it is important for us to take time to reflect on everything that happens to us in Lourdes; from the moment we arrive, our times in prayer, our conversations – wherever they might take place; walking, talking, helping, socialising, relaxing – moments on our own, celebrating the Liturgy, taking part in the processions, at the baths, wherever. Lourdes is a special place, a special time, a special opportunity for all of us who go.

The Pastoral Theme for our pilgrimage this year is "Lourdes, the Joy of Mission." An essential quality of being a missionary is that the missionary is one who is sent. In this particular case we are sent by the Lord himself, just as he sent his apostles and the disciples to spread the Good News to the ends of the earth. In a very special and privileged way we are given the opportunity in Lourdes of experiencing the Good News played out in front of our very eyes. By sharing the gifts that each of us is given by God we can experience the joy of the Gospel. It is this joy that we are being sent to bring to all those we meet. And it is not just for the time spent in Lourdes but for the whole of our lives. Neither is it just the task of those who go to Lourdes; it is the mission entrusted to each of us at our Baptism and Confirmation. All of us then, with Our Lady's help, are to be missionaries of joy to all we meet. Not only are we sent to bring Good News, we are to be good news ourselves.

Please remember the intentions of all the pilgrims going to Lourdes in your prayers and the intentions of all the Diocese will be remembered in Lourdes by all the pilgrims there.

Our Lady, Cause of our Joy: pray for us.  
Our Lady of Lourdes: pray for us.

St Bernadette: pray for us.

# NUMBERS UP FOR LOURDES PILGRIMAGE



**The organisers of this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage are expecting one of their busiest ever weeks at the French shrine after a big surge in bookings.**

Each year since 1953 hundreds of people from the Diocese have visited the site where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St Bernadette in 1858.

They include a large number of sick,

disabled and elderly pilgrims, many of whom are looked after by volunteer helpers in a hostel known as the *Accueil*, which is designated for supported pilgrims who need 24-hour care.

This year 63 supported pilgrims will be in the *Accueil*, with a further 22 staying with family and carers in some of the many hotels dotted around the small town in the

foothills of the Pyrenees.

There will also be around 200 young people travelling with local schools and colleges, more than 160 helpers, including doctors, nurses, handmaids (female helpers) and *brancardiers* (male helpers), around 15

**Continued on page 2**



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NEWS

# Big Year For Lourdes Pilgrimage

Continued from page 1

clergy and up to 300 pilgrims.

“The numbers are very encouraging and it looks as if our pilgrimage this year will be busier than ever,” said the pilgrimage’s executive director, Keith Tillotson.

“Bookings are well up on previous years and we expect around 800 people to be with us in Lourdes, travelling by plane, train, coach and car.

“A large number of our supported pilgrims are new to our pilgrimage and we also have some who have accompanied us for a number of years and are looking forward to returning to Lourdes.

“We have currently two flights, a Titan Airways B757 with

202 seats and a Denim Air Fokker 100 with 100 seats. Both are due to depart Durham Tees Valley Airport on the morning of May 22, with flight times to be confirmed as soon as possible.

“Our use of Durham Tees Valley Airport as a departure point is important for us. We have a very good working relationship with them and hope this continues.”

The helpers – who give up their holidays and pay their own flight and accommodation costs to be part of the pilgrimage – must attend training sessions, as well as obtaining DBS clearance.

A total of 93 helpers attended the first training day held

this year, with a similar number expected on the two remaining days.

Sessions include lifting and handling, personal care and personal reflection on why they go to Lourdes and sharing their own personal stories about what it means to them.

Bishop Terry will lead the pilgrimage, which is based around processions in the Rosary Basilica and a programme of daily church services, with hymns led by a thriving music group. There is also an enjoyable social side to the pilgrimage.

This year’s pilgrimage has the theme The Joy Of Mission and takes place from Friday May 22 to Friday May 29.



Pictures courtesy of Lacaze, Lourdes

## Faith Leaders Unite For Election Statement

**Bishop Terry joined faith leaders from different religions and denominations to sign a statement affirming their common principles ahead of the General Election.**

“Working in the spirit of love and justice every day can make a difference to so many people’s lives,” said Bishop Terry. “At this election, we are called to transform our faith into action for positive change. Now

is our opportunity to challenge the candidates for election to answer our questions on how they intend to respond to the pressing social issues affecting our families and our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.”

The Right Reverend Paul Ferguson, Bishop of Whitby, said: “There are some people who say that religion shouldn’t mix with

politics. But much of faith concerns how we should treat others, and much of politics is about that as well.

“In the Bible, God says we must love our neighbour as ourselves. And there’s a lot in the Bible about justice and fairness too. Using our vote and getting involved in how our community is governed is one way to do that.

“The statement I and other faith leaders have signed sums up how we’d like people to be treated, and how we want our society to grow. I hope it encourages people of all faiths to use their vote in the forthcoming General Election, and encourages politicians to consider how they can make our society stronger and healthier.”



### The Statement

**We affirm:**

**The sacredness of all human life as the basis of how we think and behave**

**That we share a commitment to seek the common good as the basis for a just society**

**That people who are poor and at risk are specially deserving of fair treatment, protection and dignity**

**The right of every person to decent standards of food, shelter and clothing, health care, employment and education**

**That workers should be safe and have fair wages**

**Our responsibility to care for the environment and hand it on in the best state possible to the next generation**

**Our duty to promote peace as the fruit of justice, to honour people of all cultures and faiths, to serve those who have experienced injustice or persecution and to welcome people who are in need of a safe refuge**

**That we stand together against all harm and abuse motivated by hate and prejudice**

**That it is important for us all to take our part in building society, including voting in accord with our conscience.**

# New Church For Ingleby Barwick

**After holding services in a school and other venues for 20 years, the Roman Catholic parish of St Thérèse of Lisieux in Ingleby Barwick is to get its own church at last.**

The distinctive design includes a large number of windows, creating a bright area for worship. There will also be a space for parish celebrations and areas for meetings and children's liturgy.

Parish priest Father Pat Hartnett spoke of his delight after the plans were given the go ahead.

"Since our parish was officially founded in 1994, the parishioners have worked and prayed tirelessly to realise our dream of having our own church building," he said.

"Working closely with the Diocese, we are now very close to seeing that dream turn into reality.

"We're grateful for the support over the years from the school and the other venues and now look forward to celebrating Mass and the other sacraments in a church of our own.

"We also look forward to sharing our facilities with the wider community of Ingleby Barwick.

"Having a building designed for the purpose will help us worship in a more fitting way.

"It will give us a place where we can celebrate all the sacraments and continue to build the wonderful community we already have here in Ingleby Barwick."

The Diocese of Middlesbrough will build the church, social space, altar and lectern, while the parish will be responsible for fitting out the church, which will be in Blair Avenue.

Bishop Terry said: "Now the parishioners can share in the joys of a new church and I know they will work closely with Father Pat to fit it out suitably for worship.

"I look forward to the formal opening of the church, which will be a



An artist's impression of the new church

day of celebration both for me as Bishop and for all the parishioners."

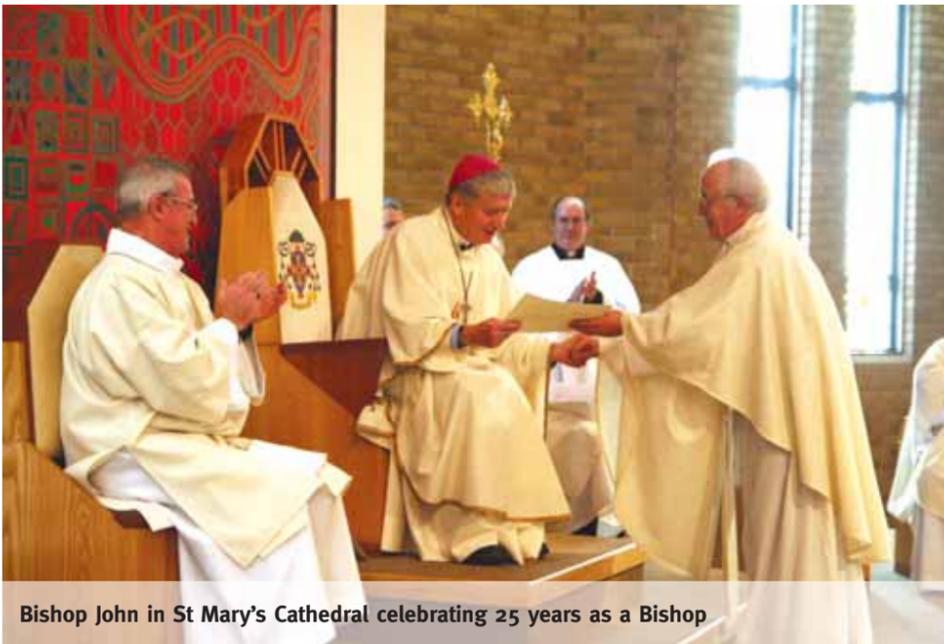
An appeal has been launched to raise an initial £100,000 towards the parish's part of the cost.

An open meeting will be held at St Thérèse of Lisieux

Primary School in Lamb Lane on Tuesday April 28 to allow local people to see the plans. Work is due to begin on May 25.

If you would like to help with the fundraising effort, please call 01642 751304 or email [fundraising@stthereseingleby.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stthereseingleby.org.uk)

# An Invitation From Bishop John



Bishop John in St Mary's Cathedral celebrating 25 years as a Bishop

**Dear Friends in Christ**

I am so much looking forward to being with you at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday June 13 for the celebration of my golden jubilee of priesthood. In thanking Bishop Terry for inviting me, I am aware that he too will be celebrating his ruby jubilee of priesthood this year, as also will Father Michael Keogh. Marking his silver jubilee will be Father Roy Lovatt, and most striking of all, Canon Pat Harney will be celebrating 60 years as a priest, a truly diamond jubilee.

When last I had the joy of being with you at the Cathedral in December 2011, it was to celebrate 25 years as a bishop, the great majority of which had been spent in the glad service of the Diocese.

On that occasion I was accompanied by a

few family members and by Sisters Kitty and Sheila, who had served the Diocese so generously during my years at the helm. I am happy to say that both of them hope to be with me again on June 13 together with my sister, her husband and their eldest son.

Another happy feature of that forthcoming celebration is that everyone who is able to attend the Mass of Jubilee Thanksgiving will also be invited to join us for the reception afterwards in specially erected marquees within the Cathedral grounds. To have the double opportunity of praying together and then sharing food and drink together as a Diocesan family will make it, please God, a day to long remember.

Until June 13, then, with every good wish and blessing to each one of you and in union of prayer and affection.

+ John

Photo: Carol Rowntree



The lighting of the Paschal Candle at the beginning of the Easter Vigil at St Mary's Cathedral



Bishop Terry breathes over the Vessel of Chrism at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week at St Mary's Cathedral

# CATHOLIC WORLD NEWS

## An Easter Message Of Peace

Peace in Iraq and Syria was the focus of the Pope's traditional Easter message and Blessing, *Urbi et Orbi* – to Rome and to the World. Tens of thousands of people gathered in Saint Peter's Square for Solemn Mass. Afterwards, the Holy Father urged Christians to serve one another – to be the "seeds of another humanity."

He prayed that the Risen Lord would "lighten the sufferings of our many brothers and sisters who are persecuted for his name, and of all those who suffer injustice as a result of ongoing conflicts and violence." The Pope remembered those affected by humanitarian tragedies in many other parts of the world, including Nigeria, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ukraine, and those who died at Garissa University College in Kenya.

## Bishop Praises Wall Ruling

Bishop Declan Lang of Clifton has welcomed a decision by the High Court of Justice in Israel that the extension of the separation wall through the Cremisan Valley "violated the rights" of the people of Beit Jala. Speaking in his role as Chair of the International Affairs Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, Bishop Lang said he opposes all walls that separate communities from each other.

"This judgment rightly puts paid to any attempts to weaken the status of Christians in this southern part of Palestine," he said. "Separating walls create difficulties in movement, access to worship and to education." The wall threatened to separate the 19th Century Salesian monasteries and a convent school. The Court has instructed the Israeli government to plan a new route, although it has set no timeframe.

## Proclaim '15 A Sell-Out

In the first event of its kind in living memory, a full capacity city-centre venue will welcome Cardinal Vincent Nichols, around 20 bishops, ecumenical guests and more than 800 evangelisation leaders from across England and Wales, for a national event focusing on Catholic evangelisation.

The event is part of Proclaim '15, a Bishops' Conference initiative that aims to support the building of missionary parishes through promoting prayer and offering practical resources in support of parish evangelisation. A highlight of the year will be the National Catholic Evangelisation Conference at Birmingham Repertory Theatre on July 11, for which a number of dioceses already have a waiting list.

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

*Lord, help us to live the virtue of generosity, to love without limits.  
The Cross of Christ is not a defeat: the Cross is love and mercy.  
As disciples of Christ, how can we not be concerned for the good of the weakest?  
May every Church and Christian community be a place of mercy amid so much indifference.  
Life is a precious gift, but we realise this only when we give it to others.*

## NEWS

# Altar Servers' Years Of Service Rewarded



Altar servers at the Sacred Heart, Middlesbrough, have been enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen. The congregation applauded warmly as servers Peter Loughlin and Tony Dasey were recognised for their many years of devoted service at the altar with the Guild Medal of Merit.

# Legal Eagles' Court Success

Legal eagles from St Peter's Catholic College in South Bank, Middlesbrough, have reached the regional finals of the prestigious Citizenship Magistrates Mock Trial Competition. It was the first time St Peter's have taken part in the event, which was held at Teesside Magistrates Court.

Head Teacher Pamela Hanrahan said: "Our students prepared their case thoroughly, worked very hard and learned how to take on all the roles in a real court as barristers, solicitors and magistrates and it was a real triumph to come first.

"The team was supported by many parents, family members, staff and governors. When the results were announced, after two very well fought, tense rounds, our supporters cheered their approval of the judge's decision

to the rafters."

The team will now represent Teesside at the North of England regional final at Kendal Court in May. Team captain Harry Twohig said: "This competition has changed my life and those of other team members. I am now seriously considering a career as a barrister and the possibility of going to Oxford University to read Law. We are going to Kendal to represent our school, families and community and we are very determined."

Mrs Hanrahan added: "We go to Kendal knowing we face a significant challenge competing against some of the best schools in the region, but our team will be up for any challenge and thoroughly prepared by English teacher, Andy Murray, and Mike Teate of Teesside Magistrates Court."

# Strangers Are A Gift To Us

Chair of Middlesbrough Diocese's Justice and Peace Commission Barbara Hungin gave an informative and challenging talk to the Cleveland Newman Circle, entitled *Who Is My Neighbour?*

The Commission covers areas including ethical investments, development aid, conscientious objection and modern day slavery, but this talk focused on human migration, particularly the situation of asylum seekers and refugees in Teesside. Barbara strongly believes that strangers are a gift to us and that when people get to know immigrants, they realise they are new neighbours.

A refugee is not a passive recipient of handouts, but a bearer of the Gospel in their own right – and we can learn from them about courage in moving forward, caring support for others and relying on God. Teesside houses about 1,700 asylum seekers, due to the government's dispersion programme. Most are well-educated people seeking sanctuary and desiring work, not trying to abuse the welfare state.

Overall, Britain is welcoming to immigrants and many of the perceived problems are down to scaremongering press coverage and careless language. Most families, including those of leading politicians, have migrant roots. People migrate for many reasons, as the Bible stories of Moses and Mary and Joseph illustrate.

But human nature cannot be fully understood without thinking about God's nature: whereas people generally migrate with a view to upward mobility, when God "migrated", at the Incarnation, it was a case of downward mobility – he chose to serve and to experience the pain and rejection of marginalised human beings. People draw borders, but God crosses borders and challenges us to do likewise.

Barbara commended the work of local churches and recent inter-faith initiatives in affirming the Common Good and protecting human dignity. We do have resources to build a more just world, but must apply the politics of hope, where everyone is valued.

The Cleveland Newman Circle meets monthly at Middlesbrough Cathedral Hall. For more information



Chair of Middlesbrough Diocese's Justice and Peace Commission, Barbara Hungin

please contact Judith Brown on 01642 814977 or email [tj.egerton@virgin.net](mailto:tj.egerton@virgin.net)

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# Mini Vinnies Are Champion Fundraisers

Children from St Aelred's Primary School in York raised £116 for a charity supported by the St Vincent de Paul Society to help feed vulnerable babies in Sudan and South Sudan. The pupils are members of Mini Vinnies, the SVP's junior section, formed in the school at the invitation of SVP president Pat Nobbs.

This was a magnificent effort and they are a group of young people of whom we can be very proud. It is hoped that they will take the message of the Mini Vinnies with them when they go on to All Saints Secondary School.

Sarah Sheils

Ten children from years four to six were enrolled and have taken up several causes already, including writing Christmas cards for elderly or housebound parishioners. They also organised a sponsored run, giving out sponsor forms, setting up a course around the school field and collecting donations.

The picture below shows new Mini Vinnies from St Gerard's School, Middlesbrough, with their head teacher, Ian Walker, and staff and parents. For more information about Mini Vinnies, contact coordinator Bernadette Murray at [bernadette.murray2013@gmail.com](mailto:bernadette.murray2013@gmail.com)

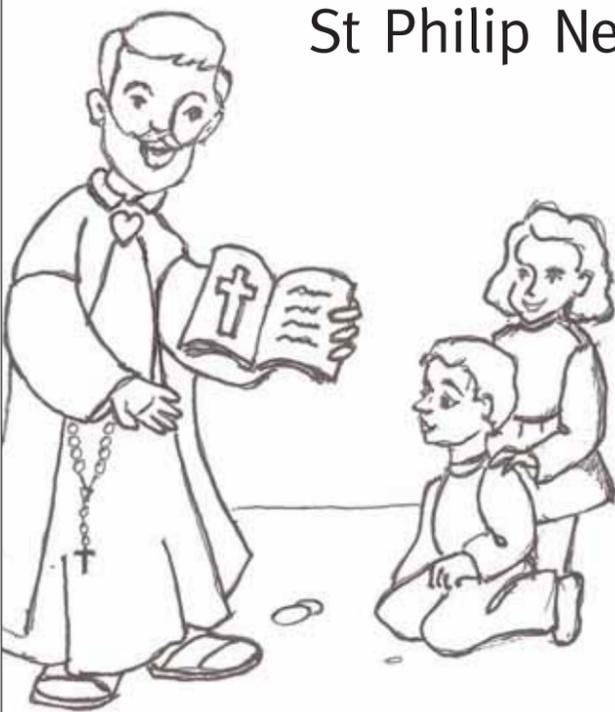


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K	D	S	I	O	T	E	I	O	N
C	L	T	E	W	M	O	D	P	U
I	J	H	Q	U	Y	E	V	G	I
R	S	C	F	I	L	L	E	D	P
T	Y	L	D	N	I	K	N	U	A

PHILIP	FILLED
TRICKS	PLAYED
UNKINDLY	JOY
ROME	POOR
PEOPLE	HAPPINESS
PRIEST	WANTED

## St Philip Neri, May 26



Philip was born in Italy. When he was little he was full of fun. He sometimes played tricks on his sisters, but never unkindly. When he grew up he felt God wanted him to go to Rome to work with the very poor people. He became a priest and loved God so much that it filled him with joy. His happiness spilled out on to the poor people, and they came to love God too.

## Celebrating Our Schools

### St Margaret Clitherow's Primary School

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Tel 01642 835370

Headteacher Mrs N Jamalzadeh  
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## Ged's Quick Quiz

with Quiz Champion Ged Askins

### Connections question

1. Which is the first book of the New Testament?
2. Who was the founder of the Christian Science religious movement?
3. What was the name of Basil Fawlty's wife in Fawlty Towers?
4. Which famous singer was nicknamed the Little Sparrow?
5. Who wrote the book *The Bourne Identity* and created the hero Jason Bourne?

**Thinking cap question:** How many of the ten different categories on the Bullseye darts board can you name?



### St Peter's Catholic Voluntary Academy

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## LOURDES CORNER

# Your Lourdes Stories...

Lourdes has had a profound impact on thousands of lives since the Middlesbrough Pilgrimage began in 1952. Each month some of those people tell their often deeply moving stories. 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. Some were first heard at the Taizé service that has become part of our pilgrimage in recent years and are 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)

### Martin's Story

I did the Great North Run in October 1995 and knew something wasn't right. I put off going to the doctor until afterwards and went thinking I had a hernia. He referred me to North Tees Hospital, where I was told I had cancer.

Within a fortnight the tumour was removed and I was told I'd be going to Newcastle for chemotherapy. By the time they'd found the cancer it was in my legs and chest and everywhere. At the end of February I got a chest infection and I was put in an isolation unit. Our parish priest, Father Tom Brophy, came and comforted me, saying that these were the dark days but there will be light days to come. He later died of cancer himself.

When I came back I was as weak as a kitten. I'd never had anything to do with Lourdes, although I knew the story. One day out of the blue I said I wondered who was going to Lourdes from our parish. Mam said another priest, Canon Spaight, had asked if I would go. I had no hesitation – I just said, 'Yes'.

My monthly check-up in March 1996 revealed things were starting to grow again in the lung. The bad news was I needed an operation. I came straight home with a cloud hanging over me. I was thinking to myself that at the end of the month I was due to go to Lourdes, should I go? Only four days before the trip I decided I would. When we arrived in Lourdes on the Friday it was absolutely throwing it down and the hospital was very austere. I didn't know what to expect from this Lourdes place at all. I didn't feel I was in a special place. But it was like a fuse had been lit and soon things started falling into place.

The feeling developed as the week went on. I'd see Julie about in the hospital and the music group and I thought what a special girl, to come here and do this. I had my Boro towel on the bed, just so people knew it was my little space, I suppose. Along came Julie one morning with a cup of tea and she started talking about football. Chauvinistically, I thought she'd think it was a Man United towel!

Julie went on to describe where she sat in the East Stand Upper at the Riverside. It turned out that we were about 30 seats away from each other! That was an ice-breaker and we became friends. We got on very well for the rest of the week, and when Julie's coach left I felt the spirit of the pilgrimage went with her.

When I came home I bored everyone talking constantly about Julie and the pilgrimage. My sister was a bit sceptical about the wonderful feeling I'd come back with. But I told her that if Julie was as nice at home as she was in Lourdes, I'd marry her! At home the letter with the operation date had arrived. I thought about the lung biopsy and just said to myself, 'So what? I've been to Lourdes now and I'm going to be okay.' I don't know if it



was just bravado. The operation was on the Monday and I don't remember anything until waking on the Tuesday. I remember my sister and Mam being around the bed. Then in came Julie Walton...

### Julie's Story

I just bundled in and said, 'Move over' and sat on the bed. I took his oxygen mask off, gave him a kiss and put it back on again. I'd promised I was going to bring some photos round to Martin's house but his Mam rang me to say he was going into hospital. I was thinking, 'If Martin had a wife, she would surely have said.'

I asked if I could see Martin after the operation and she said yes. I visited again on the Thursday and then on the Sunday. Then Martin rang to say he was out. He sent me a huge bouquet of flowers in Lourdes blue and yellow with a beautiful message on the card. 'Thank you for bringing the spirit of Lourdes home and sharing it.' It was lovely.

I still didn't really know what was wrong, I only knew it was cancer. I said to him, 'From now on we're in this together.' And that was it, from then on we were a couple. Ten days later he proposed. He said, 'Us boys with cancer can't hang around, will you marry me?' I said yes straight away, we both knew. But we didn't tell anyone.

It was a great relief when the lung biopsy result came and was clear of cancer. Then in the August we got news that there were cells growing in his stomach which they would need to investigate with surgery. We got engaged in November, while Martin was trying to get stronger to face the operation.

He went into hospital in the April, the night Boro got to the FA Cup final. They'd decided to take the cells out and do another biopsy. He was in theatre for 11 hours altogether. We went to see him that night in intensive care but he wasn't really aware. I came back and he just held my hand and said, 'I'm frightened, don't leave me.' It turned out the cells were clear, they weren't cancer.

Martin stayed in hospital for a week, then he came out and his aim was to get fit and well for our wedding on October 7 1997. People talk about that momentous season for Boro fans but for us it was two cup finals, a relegation, an operation and a wedding! Since then Martin has never looked back, he's gone from strength to strength.

Martin and Julie, who now have a son, Adam, have since returned to Lourdes as helpers. They were determined to return as a way of giving something back.

"We wanted to do our bit because of what had happened. Martin was an inspiration to everyone," says Julie.

Martin's reason for going back was to offer his own experience to others.

"I wanted to be there in case someone needed pushing like I did. Hopefully there will always be people to push. Now we don't think anything can happen to us that we won't be able to handle. Every life has heartache and I don't expect not to face anymore just because we've been through so much."

Martin is certain a miracle happened in Lourdes. "Was the growth in my lungs cancerous before I went? We'll never know for sure. All I know is when I came back it wasn't. But I believe it was a miracle."

### Could You Help With Cake?

While we're in Lourdes looking after our supported pilgrims in the *Accueil*, there's nothing nicer than a piece of cake or a biscuit to go alongside a cup of tea. If you can help, please bring your cakes or biscuits along to one of our pre-pilgrimage Masses. Alternatively, please give me call on 01642 324043 and I will arrange collection. Thank you for your support as always!

Chris Tillotson

### Music Day

Anyone interested in helping to provide music for the Lourdes Pilgrimage is invited to attend our practice on Sunday May 17 in the side chapel at the Cathedral from 10.30 am, concluding with the pre-pilgrimage Mass at 3pm.

There is Mass in the Cathedral at 10am, so unless you are attending that, please use the side door directly into the side chapel. Drinks will be available but please bring a packed lunch.

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# Lourdes Diary Dates

### Pre-Pilgrimage Masses

Sacred Heart Church, Southcoates Lane, Hull HU9 3AP, May 10 at 2pm. After Mass we will have the opportunity to meet the supported sick pilgrims travelling from the Hull area on this year's pilgrimage.

St Mary's Cathedral, Dalby Way, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, May 17 at 3pm, followed by a cup of tea in the hall.

### Extra Training Date

An extra training day has been organised for anyone who may have been unable to attend the other dates. It takes place on Monday May 18 at 6.30pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough.

This is in addition to the session on Saturday May 9, also at the Cathedral. Registration for this session is 10am for a 10.30am start. Please remember that attendance at one of the training sessions is mandatory for all helpers.

NEWS

# Twentieth Birthday For Catholic History Day

**York Catholic History Day will celebrate its 20th anniversary at the Bar Convent on Saturday June 6.**

The first History Day was held at the same venue in 1996, sponsored by the Catholic Record Society, the Postgate Society and the Catholic Family History Society.

The programme, including talks on the dissolution of the nunneries in the 16th Century, Yorkshire Catholics in the 18th Century and the Church in 20th Century Leeds, proved extremely popular.

The meeting room at the Bar Convent was packed and the audience was so enthusiastic that what began as a one-off became an annual event.

As well as the 20th anniversary of the History Day, there are other anniversaries this year. It's 300 years since the Great Rebellion, the Jacobite uprising of 1715, and it is hoped to include a talk on that subject in this year's programme.

In February 1865 Cardinal Wiseman died and was succeeded by Manning, who was consecrated Archbishop of Westminster on June 8 that year. Professor Alan McClelland will give a paper on The Early Life and Religious Development of Henry Edward Manning.

Commemorations of the Great War, 1914 to 1918, continue this year and following Roger Thompson's paper last year, this year's programme will include a paper by Doctor James Hagerty on *Notes from the Front: Ushaw College in the Great War*.

The 2015 History Day, sponsored by the Catholic Family History Society, the Postgate Society and the English Catholic History Association, will follow the pattern

established in 1996, beginning with registration and coffee at 10am and ending at about 4.30pm with Mass in the historic Bar Convent Chapel.

The day costs £15 (students £7.50), including coffee and tea but not lunch. Lunches are available at the Bar Convent Café, bookable on the day.

If you're not already on the mailing list,

please email [judith.smeaton@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.smeaton@btinternet.com) or telephone 01904 704525 for more information.

The event is taking place in spite of the refurbishment work which will be taking place during the next few months and we're very grateful to the community and staff who are making this possible.

Judith Smeaton

## Speak Out Against Climate Change

**CAFOD is inviting supporters to join them in London and speak out against climate change on Wednesday June 17. There will be a simultaneous ecumenical service at St Margaret's in Parliament Square and Emmanuel Church in Marsham Street at 11am, followed by lobbying MPs in Parliament from 1pm to 4pm.**

There are lots of ways you can get involved...

- Ask people in your parish to come along on the day. You could hire a coach or make a group booking on the train.
- Write to your MP or visit them at one of their constituency surgeries. Find out more about For The Love Of campaign by visiting [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)
- Hold a CAFOD One Climate One World card signing event (order your cards from the Middlesbrough Office or by phoning 0303 303 3030 or emailing: [campaigns@cafod.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@cafod.org.uk)).
- Hold your own For The Love Of event, involving young people in your parish. Carol and I at the CAFOD Middlesbrough Office will do everything we can to support your efforts to make the lobby a success. If you're interested in going along or doing something locally, please get in touch!

Deacon David Cross

# St Patrick's Day Celebration

Symbols representing the Irish community and Gaelic culture were brought to the altar during the offertory at a St Patrick's Day Mass in York. The Mass was organised by Canon Michael Ryan, who is seen here receiving a violin.

The celebration took place in St George's Catholic Church, built in 1850, largely to meet the needs of Irish immigrants to the city. The homily was preached by Carmelite friar Father Kevin Melody, who is originally from County Mayo and moved to York at the start of 2015 to take on the role of parish priest at Our Lady's Church in Acomb.



## MUSIC NEWS

### Lunchtime Summer Recital Series

Join us at Saint Mary's Cathedral for a cup of tea and a sandwich while you enjoy an exciting series of Tuesday lunchtime recitals this summer. All begin at 12.45pm and last for around 45 minutes.

#### MAY RECITALS

**May 5:** Acclaimed trumpeter Simon Desbruslais performs baroque masterpieces accompanied by organist Clive Harries.

**May 12:** Organist Peter Swift from St Chad's College, Durham, performs popular baroque organ works.

**May 19:** Leading classical guitarist Jonathan Richards gives a thrilling programme packed with music from the Americas, including Gershwin's *Summertime*.

Admission is free and voluntary donations are welcomed (suggested minimum donation, £3).

For more information, visit our Cathedral music website at <https://sites.google.com/site/middlesbroughcathedralmusic>

### The Great Charter, The Opera

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

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

*The Great Charter* receives its premiere on Saturday June 13 at Durham Cathedral, with a further performance on Saturday June 20 at St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough.

The huge cast includes 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 Great Charter*, which will be conducted by Julian Wright, is an opera for everyone, adults and children. We hope you will enjoy being part of it, either as an actor, singer, orchestral musician or member of the audience.

Tickets are available online from the Gala Theatre, Durham at <http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase>

For further information, visit <https://www.dur.ac.uk/palace.green/whatson/events/magnacarta/>

### Choral Stations At Osmotherley

Father James Benfield led a procession of the Stations of the Cross on a windy afternoon at Osmotherley. The procession was accompanied by singing from the chamber choir *Vox Dicentis*. It ended with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Lady Chapel while the choir sang Bach's powerful, contemplative Lenten motet *Jesu, Meine Freude*.

Tim Harrison, Director of Music

### Tyneside Visit For Malton Choir

Malton-based Chanticleer Singers will perform a charity concert at St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle on Saturday May 16 in aid of the work of the Cathedral and the Youth Village ministry. The choir, conducted by their director Jane Sturmheit, will sing a wide variety of sacred and secular music, including favourites by Parry and Faun, and more recent composers including Will Todd, John Rutter and York's own Andrew Carter.

Geoffrey Coffin, under organist at York Minster and the organ-builder who rebuilt the Minster Organ, will accompany the choir. Tickets for the concert, which begins at 7pm, cost £5 and are available from the Cloister Cafe and from Chanticleer's usual suppliers.

Rosemary Brydon

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# Crossing The

Last autumn a number of parishes responded to Pope Francis' call for us all to become "missionary disciples" by signing up to take part in a diocesan project called Crossing The Threshold. This project is coordinated by DEACON VINCE PURCELL, our Diocesan Adviser for Evangelisation, with support from Clare Ward at the Home Mission desk of the Bishops' Conference in London. Here Vince updates us on what's been going on...



## The story so far...

After a number of initial meetings, each parish agreed an action plan designed to

increase the number of opportunities for people to experience a more personal encounter with the Lord. These plans were underpinned and supported by the prayers of the whole parish – indeed, the first action



Jan O'Neill gets involved in discussions at Christ the King parish in Thornaby

point was to compose and print a parish prayer card. These cards were then distributed as widely as possible, not least among those who were sick and housebound but whose prayers could support the project nonetheless.

Advent – the beginning of the Church's year – was the ideal time to begin and each parish involved in the project came up with different ways of reaching out to their own local area. For instance, Christ the King in Thornaby designed and built their own illuminated nativity scene for the external wall of the church – a stunning contribution to the town's Christmas lights and a visible sign that the church was open for people to come in, light a candle and say a prayer. Local shops were asked to display posters in their windows to let people know when the church was open. Parishioners organised refreshments for those who came to spend time in prayer during Advent and offered them further invitations to all the Christmas Masses.

All the parishes involved recognised the need to offer hospitality to visitors and also understood the needs of people who might be unfamiliar with liturgical celebrations. The parish of St Thérèse of Lisieux, in Ingleby Barwick, produced a special booklet to help meet those needs – every bit as important as mince pies and mulled wine for people who might be coming to church for the first time or after a period away!

In the same spirit of hospitality and welcome, the parishioners of St Mary and St Romuald in Yarm used the occasion of the lighting of the town's Christmas tree as an opportunity to invite bystanders to their Carol Service. The parish also worked with Yarm Traders to participate in an "Around Yarm Advent Calendar" and a special picture made by the Children's Liturgy Group was displayed in church. This was also the day of that parish's candlelit Carol Service and so it provided another opportunity to invite people to attend.

Meanwhile, in York, St Aelred's Parish decided to involve their school children in the project by inviting them and their families to celebrate the Sundays of Advent at special afternoon services. St George's parish aimed to welcome extra people to their annual carol service through much



Deacon Vince Purcell

wider publicity than usual by sending out invitations to anyone who had celebrated the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation and Matrimony in the parish over the year. Flyers were sent out to all the primary school families and the team also contacted local media to ensure the event was advertised widely.

Both these York parishes invested in banners to be displayed outside their churches as a way of encouraging more people to "cross the threshold." This investment paid off – at St George's several people mentioned that they lived locally but had never been into the church before. They came for that evening's service, they said, because they saw the banners and realised they would be made welcome.

## The story continues...

After a short break, each parish evangelisation team began to focus upon activities for Lent and Easter. St Aelred's Church decided to keep the parish church open each Friday afternoon during Lent. Again, they used banners outside the church and in the school to show that anyone could come in for quiet prayer or to light a candle, while soft music played in the background. The parish set up a prayer tree for petitions and Father Bill Serplus and members of the team were in the church if anyone wished to ask a question or just needed to talk. Even in the first couple of weeks, the parish received some promising enquiries – one from a lady asking about Baptism for her four children and another from a lady who

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Father Bill Serplus with parishioners of St Aelred's, York

# Threshold



Tim Stevens, from CaFE, a Catholic charity that produces many resources designed to help people to understand their faith more deeply, Clare Ward, of the Bishops' Conference's Home Missions desk and Deacon Vince Purcell

said she was "testing the water for a friend." With lessons learned from the Carol Service, St George's Parish set about publicising the Easter services by again using banners and postcard invitations. As part of the preparation for Easter, an hour of meditation and reflection was held, consisting of readings, music, silence and prayer. All Saints Secondary School students sang beautifully, as did the parish choir. At the end of the service delicious homemade soup was served and there was an opportunity to socialise. A number of people commented on how much they had enjoyed the service and hoped that the parish would organise it again next year.

Homemade soup also featured prominently at Christ the King in Thornaby, with Lenten lunches organised by different parish groups each Friday. Again, the church was open for private prayer and invitations to the services for Holy Week and Easter were offered to all comers.

Meanwhile, parishioners in Yarm seem to have taken very seriously Jesus' words about the city on the hill that cannot be hidden! Their church stands in a very prominent position above the market place and is illuminated each evening so it shines out, showing a Christian presence to all who pass by. The church is open from after morning Mass until the evening, with new notices outside inviting people to enter and say a prayer. For practical purposes and for the sake of security, there is now the additional reassurance of a CCTV system in place. Like many parishes, Yarm celebrated Holy Week with an open air ecumenical service on Good Friday before people returned to their own places of worship.

The parishioners of Ingleby Barwick took a slightly different approach to marking Lent. Everyone who comes to Mass was offered a loop of purple ribbon to wear in their lapel as a visible sign for the whole of this important season. The hope was that other people – friends, neighbours, colleagues – might ask what the ribbon signified and that this would provide parishioners with an opportunity to explain about Lent as a time of preparation for Easter – and, of course, to invite them to come along and see for themselves!

## So does any of this actually "work"?

That's not an easy question to answer! We do know that Jesus promised that wherever two or three people were gathered in his name, he would be there. In one sense, then, our responsibility is simply to gather those two or three people together and so create the opportunity for the Lord's presence to be felt.

We might find we don't get huge numbers of additional people coming to these times of prayer, but that should never stop us trying. After all, the "success" of a project like this cannot be measured by how many people *come*. It can, though, be measured by how ready we are to *invite*. That much is certainly our responsibility because it is the only thing over which we have any control.

We can choose to "cross the threshold" ourselves and reach out to others or we could just sit and wait for them to come to us. In our heart of hearts, though, we know which of these Jesus is really asking of us. It's up to each one of us to play our part in inviting as many people as we can to experience the joy and peace that comes from knowing the Lord.

Later this year, all our parishes will have the opportunity to become more focused upon mission as we celebrate Proclaim '15. This is a national initiative designed to respond to Pope Francis' call for us all to grow as "missionary disciples."

More information on this will be sent out to all parishes in the autumn – but if you are interested in making an earlier start, please do not hesitate to contact Deacon Vince at the Curial Office. His phone number is 01642 850505 or email [adultformation@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk](mailto:adultformation@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk)

In *The Joy of the Gospel* Pope Francis writes;

"I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world..."

Let's do all we can to make that dream a reality!

## What people say about Crossing The Threshold...

Elizabeth, from St Aelred's, York: "Although we started slowly, it has proved very worthwhile and we are already making plans for future events. I know some people will feel unsure and might think that you need an in-depth knowledge of theology, but I would encourage anyone to join if asked to do so."

Kathy Warrick, from St Thérèse of Lisieux, Ingleby Barwick, said Crossing The Threshold had brought to mind a saying of St John Vianney – "Private prayer is like straw scattered here and there; if you set it on fire it makes a lot of little flames. But gather these straws into a bundle and light them and you get a mighty fire, rising like a column into the sky; public prayer is like that."

Christine Allen, from Yarm, said: "After attending the introductory meetings, and talking to people from other parishes, I realised there were lots of small, gradual steps we could take to encourage people to come back to church or just to be aware of our presence and what we believed."

The parish prayer from Yarm reads: "Come oh Holy Spirit and fill our hearts with the joy of the risen Lord. Help our Church Family in Yarm to be a warm and welcoming community offering the hand of friendship and love to all we meet, both in our Church activities and in our local community. As a result, Lord, may we grow as a family of Faith."

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## NEWS



### An Afternoon With Teresa Of Avila

**An Afternoon With St Teresa of Avila was held in York as part of the "Teresa 500" celebrations, marking the fifth centenary of the birth of the Carmelite nun and reformer.**

The event was organised by the various branches of the Carmelite Family in York, with support from the Teresa 500 group of the Carmelite Forum of Britain and Ireland, and was well attended.

The afternoon began in St Wilfrid's Catholic Church with a talk on Teresa by Peter Tyler, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Spirituality at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

He was introduced by Bishop Terry, who has

had a personal interest in St Teresa and her companion, St John of the Cross, since his time living in their native Spain as Spiritual Director at the Royal English College in Valladolid.

The second part of the event took place in York Minster. By kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, an ecumenical celebration of Evensong was held, attended by the Lord Mayor of York and his civic party.

A very special guest for the Carmelite participants was Most Reverend Father Fernando Millán Romeral, O Carm, prior general of the Carmelite Order, who travelled from Rome to take part and give the homily.



### Silent Walk Of Witness In Guisborough



**More than 150 people from churches in Guisborough, including St Paulinus Roman Catholic Church, held a special silent Walk of Witness along Westgate on Good Friday morning to commemorate the Passion and Death of Jesus.**

Meeting at the Salvation Army Citadel, the service began with prayers, a reading and a hymn led by Major Antony Mugford of the Salvation Army, accompanied by the Guisborough Citadel Band.

The walk stopped outside the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church to hear short reflections, prayers and hymns, led by Donna Moore and Reverend Isabel Stuart. The walk was led by Roger Jackson from St Nicholas Church, who carried a cross.

It culminated at Guisborough's ancient Market Cross, where final prayers and reflections were read by Canon Michael Bayldon from St Paulinus and Reverend Alison Phillipson, Rector of St Nicholas Church.

The walk was followed by refreshments, including hot cross buns, served in the Methodist Church Hall.

Brian Gleeson

## Together In 'The Joy Of The Gospel'

**It's just two years since the election of Pope Francis, but there's little doubt about the profound impact he has already made upon many aspects of the Church's life.**

This impact is certainly being felt in the way we work alongside other Christians. Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury, for instance, have met twice in the short time that they have been in office and have both expressed their determination to collaborate ever more closely on the Three Ps – Prayer, Peace and Poverty.

Pope Francis repeats this commitment in *The Joy of the Gospel* and challenges all Christians to overcome their divisions when he writes:

"We must never forget that we are pilgrims journeying alongside one another. This means that we must have sincere trust in our fellow pilgrims, putting aside all suspicion or mistrust, and turn our gaze to what we are all seeking: the radiant peace of God's face."

Perhaps it was this passage that inspired the Right Reverend Paul Ferguson, the Anglican Bishop of Whitby, to suggest a Lenten Day of Reflection on *The Joy Of The Gospel* for the

clergy of the Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough and the Anglican Archdiocese of York.

Bishop Terry was delighted to accept this suggestion and Tuesday March 3 saw 120 men and women from the clergy and religious orders of both denominations meeting for a day at St Andrew's Conference Centre in Teesville.

The day began with a time of prayer and words of welcome from Bishop Terry, who then spoke of his own reaction to the Holy Father's Apostolic Exhortation and to the challenges it sets before us. He then invited all those present to reflect more deeply upon these challenges in the course of the day, with the help of three speakers who drew out some of the important themes of the document.

Reverend Gavin Wakefield spoke first of all about the necessity of a personal encounter with the Lord. He recalled Pope Francis' desire that we should all seek this grace daily, gratefully calling to mind all that the Lord has done for us.

Sister Brenda Matterson then spoke about

the privileged place of the poor, stressing the Holy Father's call for the Gospel to be preached in actions as well as words.

Finally, Deacon Vince Purcell outlined some of the qualities that Pope Francis describes as being essential for would-be "spirit-filled evangelisers."

There was time for personal reflection and small group discussion after each talk, before the day ended with another time of

prayer and an inspiring final address from Bishop Paul.

He and Bishop Terry then joined together to bless all the participants, sending them back once more to all corners of the two dioceses, inspired by the words of Pope Francis to proclaim anew "with boldness" the Joy of the Gospel.

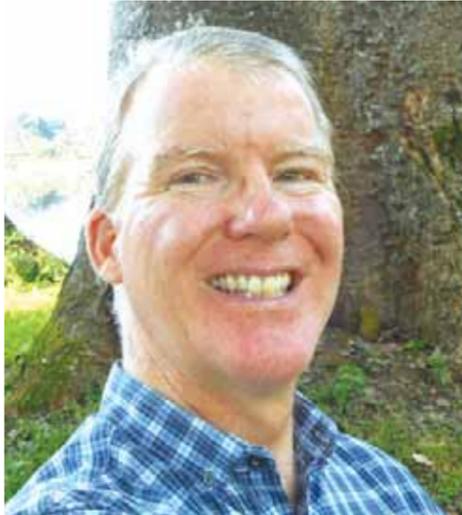
Deacon Vince Purcell



A moment of silent prayer for clergy at the Day of Reflection

**VOCATIONS**

# Daily Life in Basankusu



**Francis Hannaway, from St Gabriel's Parish, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, is keeping us updated on his work in Basankusu Diocese, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as a lay missionary with Mill Hill Missionaries. This month he talks about isolation in Congolese daily life...**

Basankusu sits in splendid isolation, a rural idyll. Bright yellow weaver birds busy themselves weaving their nests each evening, filling the air with cheerful chirping, as women come home from their vegetable gardens with heavy baskets on their backs. There's no TV and no newspapers – just the sounds of the birds, the frogs and the crickets.

But isolation brings its own dangers. I will tell you about a lovely woman from Basankusu. I'd spent time during the last couple of years working with her older sister, in Kinshasa. Her mother had also been a respected teacher here.

This lady was a well-known nurse who had selflessly helped so many in the community of Basankusu. She was a proud mother of four children and was ready to give birth to her fifth. Unfortunately, there were complications. A little boy was born, but she herself died a few hours after giving birth.

All who knew her were devastated – but in some sense resigned to the fact that giving birth here is always a risk. The hospitals do their best, but they lack basic equipment and medicines. What would be unthinkable in a



developed country has become commonplace in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A young mother and nurse – and not yet 30 years old.

I went to the funeral this morning. She lay there in an open coffin under a canvas canopy, but otherwise in the open air. It looked like she had fallen asleep. I went to find her mother, to give my condolences. She was sitting just inside one of the houses, on the floor, with the women of the family. I told her I knew another of her daughters and would like to pay my respects. She told me about both daughters and then began to cry, so did all the other women sitting with her.

The funeral continued for some time and I returned home. After half an hour, Alain, the young man who organises schools for orphans came to visit me. I told him about the young woman who had died – but he already knew. "She helped me when I was sick," he said. "She helped my children, too. Everybody knew her – she was so kind. But now, Francis, you can see why we have so

many orphans in Basankusu – it is because of the problems women face when they are giving birth."

An hour later, I heard singing and rhythmic clapping. The funeral procession was passing our house. They carried the coffin high and half ran along the road, others following on bicycles. They were doing a circuit of the town – before taking her for burial on the other side of town.

I'd like to say that this was an isolated case – but unfortunately there have been several repeats since then.

Isolation also makes it difficult to train health professionals and local medical centres often lack the expertise or the latest knowledge. Equipment is also hard to come by. Everything in the DR Congo is imported, and the journey up the river only adds to the already unaffordable prices for medical equipment.

Next month, I'll tell you about a wonderful group of people who visit Basankusu each year and change people's lives forever.

## Father Michael Murray

**Bishop Draine was the principal concelebrant at the funeral Mass for Father Michael Murray at Christ the King, Harraby, on Thursday March 26.**

He was joined by priests from the Lancaster Diocese, as well as Monsignor Gerry Dasey and Father Paul Dowling. A number of parishioners from Market Weighton joined the local community for the funeral Mass.

At the start of Mass, Father Michael Docherty, the parish priest, offered the sympathy of Bishop Michael Campbell to the family and friends of Father Michael and his apology for being unable to attend the Mass.

Bishop Draine thanked Father Michael's twin sister, Anne Marie, and all the family for the support they had given to Father Michael and for giving him as a priest to the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

In his homily, the Bishop spoke of Michael's pastoral work, initially as a Brother of the Order of St John of God and then as a priest of the Diocese of Middlesbrough from October 1975.

He served in Hessle and St Francis,



Middlesbrough, as an assistant priest and then as parish priest in Market Weighton and St Anthony's, Brotton. In his retirement, Father Michael kept contact particularly with Monsignor Dasey and the late Canon Cox, as well as doing supply work in the Carlisle area.

Father Murray was buried in his local cemetery by Father Jim Allen, who had attended Michael during his last illness in hospital. As the Bishop left the church he was escorted by the local Knights of St Columba Council, led by the Grand Knight.

**Doctor Jim Whiston**

## Father Joe Brennan

**More than 30 Diocesan priests joined Bishop Terry for the funeral Mass for Father Joe Brennan, held at St Hilda's Church, Whitby, on Monday March 23.**

Father Joe died on Saturday March 7 after a long period of ill health. At the start of Mass, the Bishop thanked Mary and Joe Hodgson for the way they had so carefully looked after Father Joe in his declining years, for which the Diocese was most grateful.

He also welcomed Father Joe's two nephews, who had come from Enfield, County Meath, and who read the lesson and led the bidding prayers.

In his homily the Bishop focused on justice and mercy and their importance. He reminded us that Father Joe was initially ordained as a Holy Ghost Father in 1950 but was incardinated into the Diocese of Middlesbrough in 1963.

He outlined Father Joe's many contributions to the Diocese over his time as a priest, his service both as a hospital chaplain and as a drugs counsellor.

He also pointed out Father Joe had built a new school, Sacred Heart Primary in

Northallerton, when he was parish priest there. He described him as a true pastoral priest, dedicated to his people.

Father Joe's mortal remains were taken to Enfield, County Meath, and he was buried with his parents in Jordanstown cemetery. May he rest in peace.

**Doctor Jim Whiston**



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**VOCATIONS**

# Football Fan's Good Friday Protest

**Catholic football fan Joe Watson made the headlines in the local press when he objected to a match clashing with Good Friday Passion services.**

In common with a number of Football League clubs, Middlesbrough staged their Championship game against Wigan at 3pm on Good Friday.

Trainee lawyer Joe, 23, was forced to choose between his faith and his love of football – and decided to miss his first game in ten years.

"I've been a season ticket holder for 15 years and haven't missed a home match since I was in primary school," he said.

"I go to the match with a group of 12 season ticket holders. Seven of us had to miss the game and I know at least 20 other season ticket holders who were in the same position. I would guess there must have been hundreds of others who had the same dilemma.

"The football authorities have quite rightly clamped down on football fans who don't show respect to minorities who are of different race or sexuality. It's a shame they won't show some respect to the substantial minority of their lifelong fans who are practicing Christians and are genuinely offended at this kick-off time."

Father Paul Farrer, Middlesbrough Diocesan youth chaplain and vocations director

agreed with Joe's stance.

He said: "It's easy to be cynical about the place of faith in modern day society. Especially the place it has in the lives of the younger generation.

"My experience tells me there are many young people who are as passionate about their faith as they are about the football teams they support.

"In this context it is a genuine shame that we had a full football fixture programme at 3pm on Good Friday.

"I recognise that we now live in a diverse cultural setting and would always celebrate all of the good that this brings. At the same time, I would want to point to the strong Christian heritage that helps form who we are as a nation."

Bishop Terry also expressed his disappointment that the game had been staged at exactly 3pm on Good Friday, calling the timing "unfortunate."

"There are only a few days in our calendar that are recognised and respected by the whole country as important days, Good Friday, Christmas Day and Easter Sunday being the main ones," he said. "It's a pity that by putting on a football match at 3pm on Good Friday people are being asked to make a choice between respecting their faith and following their local team, which are both good things to be passionate about."

# Good Friday Witness In Malton



Some of the worshippers at Malton's Good Friday service

**Around 300 people braved chilly and damp weather to attend an open air service in the centre of Malton on Good Friday. This year's service – Together at the Cross – was organised by St Leonard & St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, under the auspices of Churches Together in Southern Ryedale (CTSR).**

Held outside St Michael's Church, it included hymns, Bible readings, prayers and drama enactments depicting the Last Supper, the crucifixion of Jesus, played by Miles Duncan, and the resurrection. Clergy from different churches led the readings and prayers, while hymns were accompanied by members of the White Star and Salvation Army bands.

Prayers were said in support of police trying to solve the disappearance of York University chef Claudia Lawrence,

who hailed from Malton but was living in York when she disappeared just over six years ago.

Father Tim Bywater, of St Leonard & St Mary, spoke of the death of Londoner Jimmy Mizen, who was murdered the day after his 16th birthday. His parents recently visited Ryedale to give a talk on their work helping others. They said forgiveness was not about wanting revenge and they now help violent young people before they ended up in prison.

"It was anger that brought Jesus to the scaffold and he, too, was innocent," said Father Tim. "The only answer to anger and violence is a peaceful response coupled with a sense of justice." Refreshments were served in St Michael's Church after the service.

# Celebrating The Year of Consecrated Life

**Amazingly, there are more than 150 people living consecrated lives in the Diocese of Middlesbrough. They work in all kinds of places and situations, each with a special care for the poor, hospitality, prayer and community living.**

Pope Francis dedicated this year of Church life to them. He asks us all to remember them in prayer as they spend this year, "Looking to the past with gratitude, living the present with passion and looking to the future with hope."

All those living consecrated lives have joined forces with the Vocations Team, MYMission, The Salesians of Don Bosco, Rise Theatre and the Cathedral Team to plan two days of celebration at St Mary's Cathedral in September. We'd like you to set the time aside to join us for as much of the celebration as you can. The idea is to celebrate and pray together, but also to allow people to find out more about those who are living such lives in our Diocese.

Over the two days there will be something for everyone. A core team is working hard already on the content, which will include a celebration Mass with Bishop Terry, a flower festival, the Prayer of the Church led by different religious orders, events for school groups and a time of celebration and witness. Each day will end with a time of adoration.

The Salesians, together with Rise Theatre, will lead a celebration to mark the 200th anniversary of the Birth of Don Bosco and there will be a chance to venerate the relics of Blessed Nicholas Postgate. The fifth centenary of St Teresa of Avila will also be marked by a special presentation.

A full diary of events over the two days will be published soon. In the meantime, please keep those dates as free as possible and join us for as much as you can.

Father Paul Farrer

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# Father Patrick Meets The Queen

**Father Patrick Cope is pictured meeting the Queen when he was invited to a Buckingham Palace reception in recognition of his work as prison chaplain and a Winston Churchill Trust Fellow.**

Father Cope is England and Wales Senior Catholic Prison Chaplain, based at the Ministry of Justice Prison Headquarters in London, and is also chaplain to London's Tyburn Convent Shrine of the Martyrs, at Marble Arch.

While talking about his prison work, he took the opportunity to tell the Queen about Tyburn Convent and how the contemplative Benedictine nuns have a plaque inscribed *For The Queen and England* on one of the main altar candles. The Queen showed great interest, sending her greetings and asking him to convey her thanks to the nuns for their prayers. The site of the convent is where 105 canonised and beatified Catholics were martyred during the Reformation.

**VOCATIONS**

# Helping Those At Sea

Port chaplain to Hull Docks Anne McLaren gave a fascinating insight into the work of the Apostleship of the Sea when the Diocesan Women's Commission met in York.

Using photographs and stories to illustrate her talk, Anne explained how many of the seafarers she works with are far from home for months at a time.

Part of Anne's mission is to help them link with home and family through Skype, phone

calls or internet access, but the quick turnaround of today's giant container ships doesn't give the crew much time for such communications.

If there are difficulties or illness, the Apostleship of the Sea is able to come to seafarers' aid or assist if they have to go into hospital.

Anne praised parishes for their donations of money, the Apostleship of the Sea's only

source of income, and thanked them for knitting hats and providing warm clothing, Christmas boxes, food and phone cards.

Anne and all the other port chaplains around the country are committed to this work and it was a valuable insight for us to see how much work is needed in this area.

The event closed with a Liturgy centred on Psalm 33, in which God gathers the waters of the oceans and stores up the depths of the sea. We prayed for Anne's work, or mission, and prayed that all of us would see our lives as mission.

\*This meeting was organised by Chair of the Women's Commission, Chris Clarke, who sadly died suddenly a week before it was held. We expressed our gratitude for all the work Chris put into the Women's Commission over the years. The occasion was particularly poignant as it would have been Chris' last

meeting as Chair, with her term of office ending. We held the meeting as a tribute to Chris and began with a short time of prayer in her memory. At the end of the meeting we again remembered Chris' family at this sad time and placed them in God's hands.

**At the AGM that followed, Rita Morris was elected as the next Chair. Pat O'Connor will continue as treasurer, with Rita as secretary for the time being.**

**The next meeting will be on Saturday June 6, when Deacon Vince Purcell will speak about Pope Francis and the Vatican. The meeting will be in York, venue to be arranged.**

**If you are interested in finding out about joining the core group of the Women's Commission, contact Rita Morris on 01642 821579 or email: ritamorris@hotmail.com**

Catherine Rowland



Hull port chaplain Anne McLaren and members of the Diocesan Women's Commission with woolly hats for seafarers knitted by parishioners of SS Leonard and Mary Parish, Malton.

## Women Unite In Prayer

The Union of Catholic Mothers at Middlesbrough's Holy Name of Mary Church hosted this year's international and interdenominational Women's World Day Of Prayer.

The service was attended by a large number of people from the surrounding churches. The day enables us to hear the voices of women from different parts of the world each year, expressing their hopes and concerns and bringing them before the rest of the world in prayer.

The theme this year was "Jesus said to them: Do you know what I have done to you?" This challenged us all to demonstrate our love for others, as Jesus did when he washed the feet of his disciples.

The liturgy was written by the Christian Women from the Bahamas and has been translated into more than 1,000 different languages and dialects.

It's estimated that three million people in 170 countries will have gathered to observe this day of prayer. In the British Isles alone, around 5,000 services have been held. Next year's liturgy will be prepared by the Christian Women from Cuba.

Ann McGeever

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

**2** Confirmations at Ampleforth 5.00 pm  
**3** Confirmations at Ampleforth 10.00 am  
**5** Confirmations at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 7.00 pm  
**7 - 9** Attending Pilgrimage to Avila and Segovia with Permanent Deacons and wives  
**9 - 13** Visitation to Valladolid  
**16/17** Parish Visitation to St Wilfrid's, York All weekend  
**18** Attending Northern Province meeting at Bishop's House, Leeds 10.30 am  
**19** Attending meeting of Ushaw Trustees at Hinsley Hall 10.30 am  
**20** Attending meeting of Diocesan Trustees in Hull 10.30 am  
 Confirmations at Sacred Heart, Middlesbrough 7.00 pm  
**22 - 27** Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes  
**28** Attending Installation of Bishop Richard Moth as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton 11.00 am

**1 Friday**

Dates of events and articles for inclusion in the June issue of Voice must be received by today

**3 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

**5 Tuesday**

**12.45 pm** Tuesday Lunchtime Summer Recital Series at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, with trumpeter Simon Desbrulais accompanied by organist Clive Harries. Admission is free, voluntary donations welcome (suggested minimum donation £3.00). Visit the Cathedral Music website <https://sites.google.com/site/middlesbroughcathedralmusic> 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

**6 Wednesday**

**10.30 am - 3.30 pm** ASCENT Day of Reflection led by Fr Gerard Walsh O'Carroll at English Martyrs Parish Hall, Dalton Terrace, York. Contact: Pauline Ventress, Tel: (01653) 618614 for further details  
**6.30 pm** The Secular Franciscan Order meets every first Wednesday of the month at More House, Heslington, York. Contact: Mrs Lyn Bradbury OFS, Tel: (01904) 470041 for further details  
**6.30 pm** Latin Mass at the Church of St Charles, Jarratt Street, Hull, HU1 3HB

**7 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  
**7.00 pm** 'Not Joining The Dots: Education as Love, Life and Liberty' - Ebor Lecture in York Minster, York, to be delivered by The Very Rev Prof Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford. Visit [www.yorks.ac.uk/eborlectures](http://www.yorks.ac.uk/eborlectures) for

details on how to book online or in writing, or contact the Ebor Lectures Co-ordinator, Tel: (01904) 876474 or E-mail: [eborlectures@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:eborlectures@yorks.ac.uk) for further details

**8 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 St Catherine's Chapel, St Catherine's Convent, Southcoates Lane, Hull. Contact: John, Tel: (01759) 380415 for further details  
**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

**9 Saturday**

Catholic Primary Schools Cup Football Tournament at St Richard's Voluntary Catholic Academy, Marfleet Lane, Hull  
**10.30 am for 11.00 am** 'The Islamic State in Context' - Anthony Storey Memorial Lecture in the Lindsey Suite, Staff House, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RX, to be given by Dr Chris Davidson, Reader in Middle Age Politics in the School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University. All welcome  
**11.00 am - 5.00 pm** Pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace in honour of the Venerable Mary Ward in the year dedicated by Pope Francis to the Consecrated Life. A coach will leave the Bar Convent, York at 10.00 am, arriving back 6.30 pm. Contact: Sr Mary Walmsley at the Bar Convent, York, Tel: (01904) 464946 or E-mail: [marywalmsley.cj@bar-convent.org.uk](mailto:marywalmsley.cj@bar-convent.org.uk) for further details

**10 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  
**2.00 pm** Lourdes Pre-Pilgrimage Mass at Sacred Heart, Hull  
**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](mailto:domfinn@mymission.org.uk) for further details  
**6.00 pm** Mass in the Malayalam language at St Joseph's Church, Marton Road, Middlesbrough. Contact Tel: (01642) 818203 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

**11 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

**11 - 14 Monday - Thursday**

'A Retreat with Saint Benedict' - a retreat led by Fr Terence Richardson. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766889 for further details

**12 Tuesday**

**12.45 pm** Tuesday Lunchtime Summer Recital Series at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, with organist Peter Swift from St Chad's College, Durham. Admission is free, voluntary donations welcome (suggested minimum donation £3.00). Visit the Cathedral

Music website <https://sites.google.com/site/middlesbroughcathedralmusic> for further details

**12.45 pm** Hull and District Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meet at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Hull when they will hold their Annual General Meeting

**2.00 pm - 4.00 pm** ASCENT Group, York West meet 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

**13 Wednesday**

**10.00 am - 4.00 pm** 'Soul Workout' led by Janice Speddings at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details

**10.30 am** The ASCENT Group at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hessele meet after the Morning Mass

**10.30 am** The ASCENT Group at St Leonard and St Mary, Malton will meet

**2.30 pm** Prayer Group (second Wednesday of month) at The John Paul Centre, 55 Grange Road, Middlesbrough. New members welcome

**15 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

**7.30 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](mailto:steve_evans21@tiscali.co.uk) Further details at <http://readingthesumma.blogspot.com/>

**7.30 pm - 9.30 pm** Bible study in the Church Hall, English Martyrs Church, Dalton Terrace, York. Contact: Marek Lichtarowicz, Tel: (01904) 795605 for further details

**15 - 17 Friday - Sunday**

'Treasure with Everything' - a retreat led by Fr Kevin Hayden. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766889 for further details

**16 Saturday**

**7.00 pm** Charity concert by the Malton-based Chanticleer Singers at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. Tickets: £5.00 available from the Cloister Café and from Chanticleer's usual suppliers

**7.30 pm** Sacred Heart Parish Dance (Chris Hooley) at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough. Tickets from Eddie White, Tel: (01642) 860227

**17 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

**2.30 pm** May Procession at St Vincent's RC Church, Queen's Road, Hull, HU5 2QP. Contact: Catherine Holtby, Tel: (01482) 804532 or E-mail: [catherineholtby@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:catherineholtby@yahoo.co.uk) for further details

**3.00 pm** Lourdes Pre-Pilgrimage Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough

**3.00 pm** Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship Mass at St Clare of Assisi, Brookfield, Middlesbrough

**6.00 pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF

**18 Monday**

**7.15 pm** The York Newman Circle holds its AGM at 7.15 pm, followed by a Talk by Rev

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Dominique Minskip entitled 'The Synod on the Family' at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact: Judith or Robert Smeaton, Tel: (01904) 704525 or E-mail: judith.smeaton@btinternet.com for further details

**19 Tuesday**

**12.45 pm** Tuesday Lunchtime Summer Recital Series at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, with classical guitarist Jonathan Richards. Admission is free, voluntary donations welcome (suggested minimum donation £3.00). Visit the Cathedral Music website <https://sites.google.com/site/middlesbroughcathedralmusic> for further details

**5.30 pm - 7.30 pm** 'Renaissance Heroes or Catholic Saints?: The canonization of John Fisher and Thomas More, 1935' - Ushaw Lecture in the Main Lecture Hall, Ushaw College, Durham, to be delivered by Bill Sheils, Professor Emeritus in History (University of York) 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

**21 Thursday**

**10.00 am - 4.00 pm** 'A Well-Watered Garden' led by Rosey Feuall at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details

**24 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

**27 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

**28 Thursday**

**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

**29 Friday**

**7.00 pm** Medjugorje Prayer Group meets at St Catherine's Convent, Southcoates Lane, Hull. Everyone welcome. Contact: Pat, Tel: (01482) 802483 for further details. Please note the new venue

**29 - 31 Friday - Sunday**

'The Gospel of Love' - a retreat led by Fr Kieran Monahan. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766889 for further details

**31 Sunday**

June 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

**6.00 pm** Sung Latin Vespers and Benediction in the traditional form at St Wilfrid's Church, Duncombe Place, York, YO1 7EF

**FIRST WEEK OF JUNE:**

**1 - 3 Monday - Wednesday**

'Finding God in Everything' - a retreat led by Fr Kevin Hayden. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766889 for further details

**2 Tuesday**

**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

**3 Wednesday**

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

**6.30 pm** Latin Mass at the Church of St Charles, Jarratt Street, Hull, HU1 3HB

**4 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

**5 Friday**

Dates of events and articles for inclusion in the July issue of Voice must be received by today

**6 Saturday**

**10.00 am for 10.30 am** York Catholic History Day at the Bar Convent, York. The day will close at approximately 4.30 pm with Mass in the Convent Chapel. Cost: £15.00 (students £7.50) to include admission and coffee/tea but not lunch. Contact: Judith Smeaton, Tel: (01904) 704525 or E-mail: judith.smeaton@btinternet.com for further details

**7 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

**ADVANCE NOTICES:**

**8 June:** 10.30 am - 3.30 pm, 'The Gaze of Love' led by Maggie Jackson at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details

**9 June:** 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm, 'Inevitable Rebels: Catholics, Conformity and Degrees of Rebellion in England, c1530-1745' - Ushaw Lecture in the Main Lecture Hall, Ushaw College, Durham, to be delivered by Dr James Kelly, Durham University. 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 / m.j.p.pound@durham.ac.uk for further details

**13 June:** 7.30 pm, Premiere of 'The Great Charter, The Opera' at Durham Cathedral.

Tickets: £15.00, £10.00 and £8.00 ((£13.00, £8.00 and £6.00 concessions, under 16s free) available from the Gala Theatre Box Office: [www.galadurham.co.uk](http://www.galadurham.co.uk) or Tel: 03000 266600

**20 June:** 7.30 pm, 'The Great Charter, The Opera' at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough. Tickets: £10.00 (£8.00 concessions, under 16s free) available from the Gala Theatre Box Office: [www.galadurham.co.uk](http://www.galadurham.co.uk) or Tel: 03000 266600

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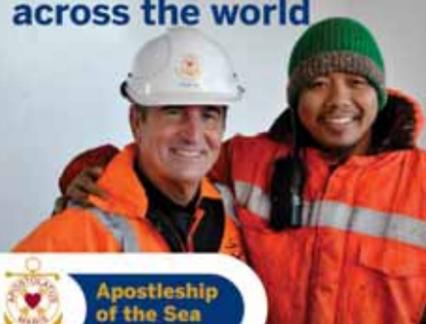
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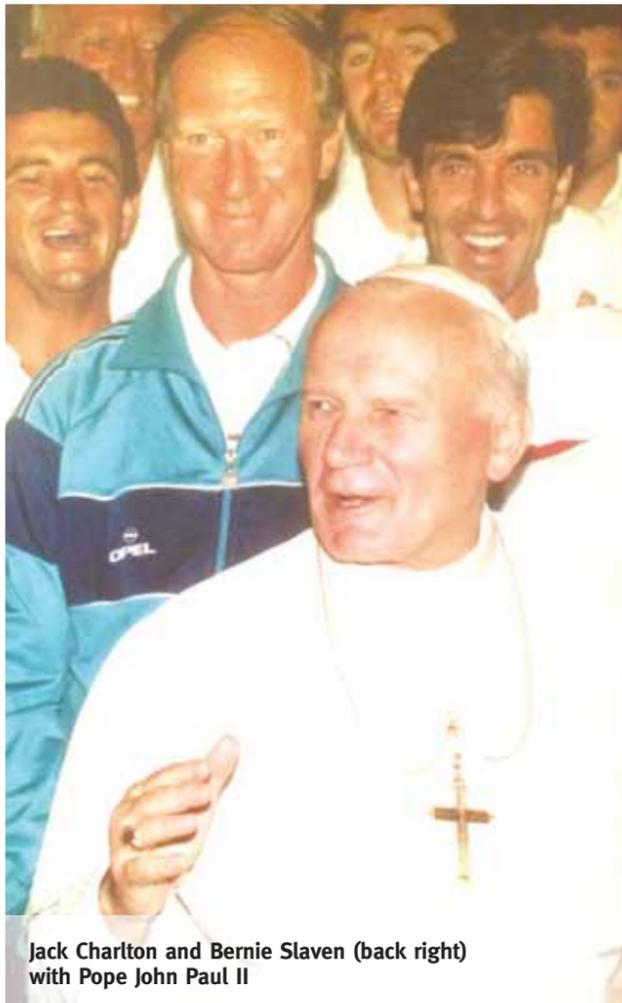
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**CATHOLICS IN SPORT**



Jack Charlton and Bernie Slaven (back right) with Pope John Paul II

# The Day I Will Never Forget!

**As we continue our new feature, MATTHEW BARBER speaks to former Middlesbrough and Republic of Ireland goal machine Bernie Slaven about a day he'll never forget...**

There were always three people who Boro legend Bernie Slaven wanted to meet.

Sadly, Bernie never got chance to shake hands with Nelson Mandela before the South African leader's passing in 2013, and the Smiths' fan is still holding out for the chance to meet music star Morrissey.

But, as he recalls, Bernie was lucky enough to meet the third of his icons.

"I was always drawn to Pope John Paul II," he says. "He really had it all.

"Whenever I saw him on the television or read about him in the newspaper, he was charming and charismatic as well as reverend, and I liked that."

It was during the World Cup of 1990, hosted in Italy, that Bernie had the opportunity of an encounter with the recently-canonised Saint Pope John Paul.

Bernie was part of the Republic of Ireland squad managed by Jack Charlton – another man revered on Teesside – that reached the quarter-finals of the competition.

"We were away for the tournament for about seven weeks in total," says Bernie. "The quarter-finals were in Rome where the Republic faced Italy.

"A host of the lads, and the kitman especially, were staunch Catholics, so when the draw was made we decided to ask Jack if we could get an audience with the Pope. Jack said he'd see what he could do."

To the amazement of Bernie and the rest of the squad, an audience was arranged the very next day.

"The lads were thinking, 'How good is that?'" says Bernie. "Jack had used his influence to get us an audience in the lead-up to the game."

This gesture was all the more impressive and meaningful for

the team, given that Jack was not a Catholic.

"Jack said he didn't see what all the fuss was about, meeting this man," says Bernie. "But Jack is a lovely man and he knew what it would mean to the lads.

"It was something different, away from the football scene that brought the squad together and Jack embraced that and enjoyed it."

Bernie was surprised with just how intimate the reception was.

"We turned up at the Vatican and we weren't just in the crowd, we were right up close, just to the left-hand side of the altar," he says. "After the Pope had spoken, we were invited onto the altar.

"All the world's press were there taking plenty of pictures, and I'd managed to manoeuvre myself to stand right next to him."

And Bernie's encounter would soon be making headlines around the world.

"The following morning I phoned home, and I was told I was on the back of all of the national papers," says Bernie. "I thought that must mean I was on the move from Middlesbrough!

"But it was me, Jack and the Pope – I couldn't believe it! As a Catholic, it was one of the highlights of going to the World Cup."

Bernie, who has recently returned to the Riverside as the regular speaker at the Legends Lounge hospitality room, is thankful for his faith after an illustrious career.

"I still say prayers every day and I used to regularly pray before games, to hopefully do well and stay injury-free.

"To come off a rough council estate in Glasgow, go to the World Cup and end up meeting the Pope – what are the chances of that? But life is full of dreams."

• You can listen to Bernie's post-match Boro radio phone-in on 104.5 CVFM.

## Answers

**Connection question:** 1. Matthew 2. Mary Baker Eddy 3. Sybil 4. Edith Piaf 5. Robert Ludlum. Connection: members of the Crawley family in *Downton Abbey*.

**Thinking cap question:**

Books, spelling, showbiz, words, faces, places, sport, affairs, Britain and history.

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