

Bishop's Column

Holy Door – Holy Year Part II:

So the Holy Year and the Holy Door are a means offered to each of us so that we can open the doors of our hearts, of our lives to God's mercy, "the bridge between God and ourselves which brings us the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness." But we can't keep this mercy, this gift of the Holy Year, to ourselves. There is a special hymn written for the Holy Year in which we repeat over and again the motto or theme of the year – *Misericordes sicut Pater* – Merciful like the Father. And that is what we also have to learn to be – merciful like the Father. We have to be heralds of mercy, bringing the Father's Mercy, Jesus, to all our brothers and sisters, and bringing our brothers and sisters to the Father's Mercy. During this Holy Year we should take every opportunity to do these two things, to bring others to Jesus and bring Jesus to others.

Opening the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception last year, the Holy Father noted that it was the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second Vatican Council. He reminded us that the Council was not only important for the teaching it gave us in the various documents, but that it was important in its very essence. He said that the Council was: "A genuine encounter between the Church and the men and women of our time. An encounter marked by the power of the Spirit, who impelled the Church to emerge from the shallows which for years had kept her self-enclosed so as to set out once again, with enthusiasm, on her missionary journey. It was the resumption of a journey of encountering people where they live: in their cities and homes, in their workplaces. Wherever there are people, the Church is called to reach out to them and to bring the joy of the Gospel, and the mercy and forgiveness of God."

So we can conclude that the Holy Year, the Holy Door are not just for my good, your spiritual good and the good of all the Church, but the Door is literally open to all so that they can encounter, meet Jesus who is the Mercy of the Father. We also have to be guides who lead others to the Door. We, as Church, have to go out into the market places, the workplaces, the cities, the homes where people are; we are to be catalysts, facilitators, the bridge, the means, so that all may know that this is a time of mercy and forgiveness, an opportunity for all to grow in freedom and peace and come to know the mystery of God's love. So as the Door is opened to allow us to journey into this Holy Year, we go inviting others to join us, that, having experienced the mercy of the Father, we might become merciful like the Father.

Yours in blessed hope,

What's Inside

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Faith In Action Goes National

An award scheme written by the MYMission Team, teachers and chaplaincy co-ordinators from our diocese has gone national. FATHER PAUL FARRER tells us more..

Over the past two years we have been working with colleagues in youth ministry from all over the country to produce a resource that would serve not only our own diocese but could also be used by others.

The scheme, for young people to work on in their school and parish communities, has now been published in Great Britain and Ireland by St Pauls Books.

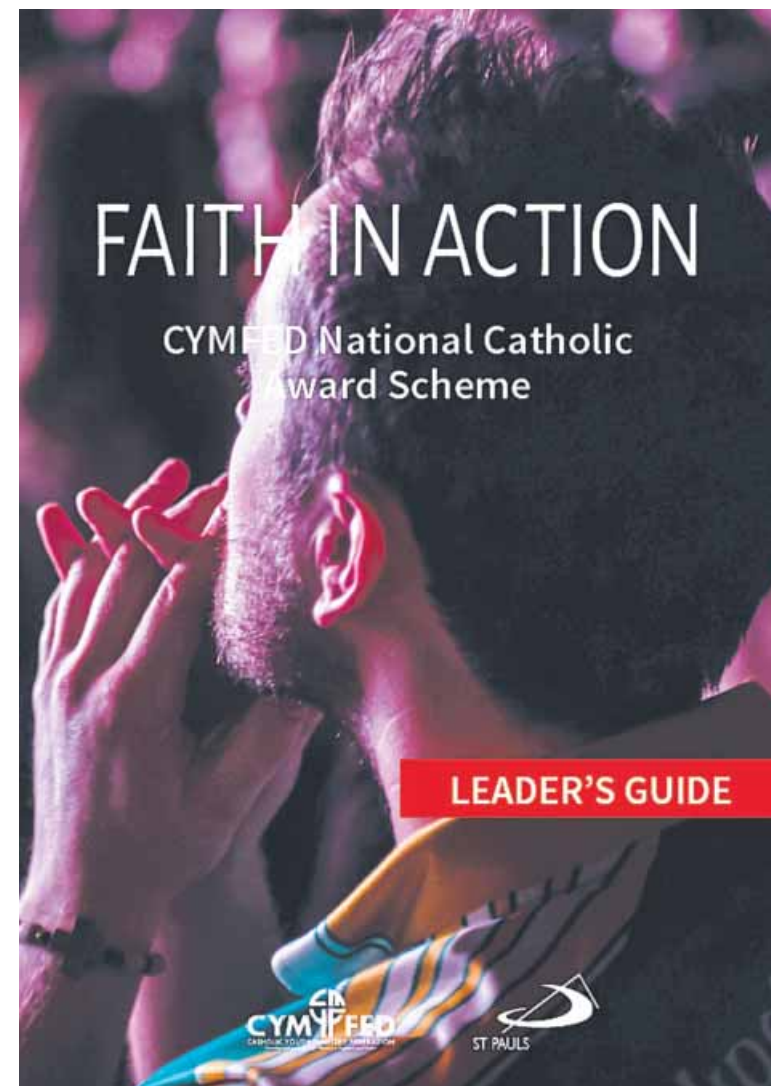
Endorsed by CAFOD, HCPT and a whole host of dioceses, the scheme has been adopted by CYMFed (The Catholic Youth Ministry Federation) as a national resource.

Huge thanks go to the Knights of St Columba, who have supported the project nationally, as well as all of the authors who have worked tirelessly to get the texts together. We are also indebted to the young people and adults who trialled the material for us.

We are delighted the scheme has been endorsed by a number of bishops. Here's what Bishop Terry says about it...

"I would like young people to come to know Christ Jesus who will lead us in truth to the joy of the Gospel. This award scheme will enable so many of our young people to grow in discipleship and experience their faith as a lived reality, ever more moving from mind and heart into deed."

Copies of the scheme are available from St Pauls Bookshop in York. Email frpaul@mymission.org.uk to find out more about running the scheme in your parish. Schools will have their own training days with the material in April.



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NEWS

Reflections For Holy Week

Middlesbrough Diocesan Women's Commission share the following prayers for Holy Week on themes including Love, Compassion and Healing...

Begin each prayer Sit in stillness for a few minutes then repeat a few times "Be still and know that I am God".

End each prayer "Thank you, O God, for this time with me. Help me to know you are with me during the rest of the day."

Palm Sunday *Christ's Kingship* (Luke 19: 28-40)

The crowd heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel."

What kind of a King is Jesus? The people shouted for him but Jesus' kingship is not about an earthly kingdom but about reaching out to those who are poor and on the margins. It is about forgiveness and healing. We think of the needs of our world and ask for the generosity to imitate Jesus' love and compassion.

Monday *Faithfully he brings true justice* (Isaiah 42: 3)

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as the light of nations, 'to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.' (Isaiah 42: 6-7)

Just as the Jewish people were called to justice, so are we in our own times. The need is just as urgent. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the plight of so many people needing our help and support – those seeking asylum, people living in poverty and recently, new parents suffering because of the impact of the latest health scare, Ziko, on their newborn babies. Think for a few moments on how you are already reaching out to others, or how you can, in some small way, support people in your area who are being treated unjustly. "Think big, act local!" may help us focus and not feel so overwhelmed.

Tuesday of Holy Week *Hope and Trust* (Psalm 71: 1-6)

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, my trust, O Lord, since my youth. My hope has always been in you.

Let us repeat these words a few times and think about what hope and trust mean in our own lives and in our relationship with God. Let us thank God for the good things in our lives. If we feel people have let us down, or we have let others down, let us place these situations in God's hands. We pray for all those in difficult situations across the world who are without hope and have no one to trust.

Wednesday *Compassion*

Each morning he wakens me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. (Isaiah 50:4-5)
For a few moments think about the times in your life when you have been shown

compassion by others. It may have been during a serious physical or mental illness, or after the loss of a loved one.

Just as you were shown compassion, ask God to open your eyes to the needs of others – at the times when, through you, they need to experience the compassionate heart of God.

Maundy Thursday *Serving One Another* (John 13: 1-15)

...he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing.

Jesus washed the feet of his companions. Peter remonstrated that he should be the one washing Jesus' feet. Go over the scene in your mind. Whose feet do we wash either physically or metaphorically? Who do we allow to wash our feet? Who do we serve? Look around you during the day and see if you can find examples of people caring for each other.

Good Friday *Trusting during the darkness*

As for me, I trust in you, Lord. I say, "You are my God. My life is in your hands, Deliver me from the hands of those who hate me. (Psalm 31)

Good Friday is a day for quietness and for spending time reflecting on the passion and death of Jesus.

We know when all seemed lost, Jesus placed himself in God's hands. In the darkness of his passion and death, he trusted. We all have dark periods in our lives when it's easy to lose

sight of God's love for us. In the quietness of this day, perhaps we can reflect on the love God has for us. If we have the courage to place our trust in the one who cares for us, then during our darkest moments we will be safe.

Holy Saturday *Staying in the darkness*

Easter eggs must wait until tomorrow but mostly the world acts as if Easter is already here. We know how much we need Christ's shining light, which we celebrate tomorrow, but for now, for a short time can we stay in the darkness? What is Christ saying to us?

Easter Sunday *I have seen the Lord* (John 20:1-18)

Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Early on Easter morning, Mary goes to the tomb. She finds it empty and she meets Jesus in the garden. When he speaks her name, she recognises him. He tells her to go and tell the disciples that he is risen. She announces to them, "I have seen the Lord". Go over this scene and see what God is saying to you.

Middlesbrough Diocesan Women's Commission's next meeting is at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom St, York, on Saturday March 12 at 10am for 10.30am. There will be reflections on Holy Week from 10.30am to 11.30am and the AGM from 11.45am to 12.15pm. All are welcome.

The Courage Of Canon Bluett

The inspirational story of a priest's incredible bravery under enemy fire during World War 2 has been unearthed after a mystery photograph was published in a recent *Catholic Voice*.

The photo was sent in by Bernard France and showed a procession taking place in Hull.

Jo Brown, from the Blessed Nicholas Postgate Parish, Redcar, believes the priest on the left-hand side is Canon Patrick Bluett, who served at St Mary's in Hull before the outbreak of hostilities and later as a curate at St Francis in Middlesbrough and parish priest at St Anne's, Ugthorpe, St Peter's, South Bank, St Andrew's, Teesville – which he established in 1962 – St

Mary's, Market Weighton and St Aelred's, York. Jo, who remembers Canon Bluett from her childhood, had researched the story of his wartime courage after a chance conversation with her brother-in-law, Michael McNicholas, and Canon Eddie Gubbins.

"Michael mentioned that he thought a parish priest of St Peter's and St Andrew's, Canon Bluett, won the Military Cross," she says. "Knowing I was interested in family history, Michael asked me to see if I could find out more."

Jo was not only able to confirm the story but also found the original citation in the military

archives explaining why he was being recommended for the honour.

It reads: *On November 24 1943, the 2nd Battalion The Royal Scots Fusiliers had one Coy forward in Alfedena, the remainder of the Bn being on the high ground to the south of the town. When Father Bluett heard that there were some casualties in the town who could not be evacuated until dark, he decided to visit the coy at once. The way to the coy was down a forward slope across the open; after he had gone a short distance the enemy shelled and machine gunned his route. Undeterred by the enemy fire he made his way to the coy and administered to the casualties such comfort as he was able and then returned over the same route in daylight. His action and disregard of danger had a most invigorating effect on the coy and greatly assisted in sustaining its high morale during the period for which it was isolated.*

Known as Paddy, Canon Bluett was born in Clarina, County Limerick, on St Patrick's Day 1908. He trained for the priesthood in Tipperary and was ordained in 1933.

In 1941 he was commissioned in the Royal Army Chaplain's Department, before being attached to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Scots Fusiliers in Italy in 1943. On May 4 1944 he was awarded the Military Cross.

Alfedena is north east of Monte Cassino and Jo says the action Canon Bluett experienced was in the vicinity of the Gustav Line, suggesting he may have been involved in the Monte Cassino campaign. He also served in Madagascar, India, Iraq, Persia, Egypt, Syria, Sicily and Palestine.



Canon Bluett continued as Chaplain to the Forces 3rd Class until 1951 and was in the Territorial Army from 1948 to 1963, retiring with the rank of Major. He died aged 83 in Florida, USA, where he had been assisting his nephew, Father Anthony Bluett, with his pastoral duties. Father Anthony was one of five brothers who were priests.

In an obituary published in the diocesan yearbook, Monsignor Seamus Kilbane wrote: "Canon Bluett was held in very high regard by priests and people alike. He never hesitated to speak his mind and his occasional brash or blunt approach always concealed an overly sensitive, concerned and generous nature."

Canon Bluett's funeral took place in Kilmallock, County Limerick, on March 26 1991.

*Many thanks to diocesan archivist David Smallwood for his assistance with this article.



Father Bluett celebrating his Silver Jubilee as a priest in 1958

A Revolution At St Mary's

Students at St Mary's College in Hull are holding a series of events in response to Pope Francis' call for a "revolution of tenderness" during the current Year of Mercy.

Year 7 will give drink to the thirsty by aiming to raise £750 through their sponsored Walk for Water to buy a well through CAFOD gifts.

Year 8 will feed the hungry by donating tins of soup, beans and spaghetti to St Charles Drop In Centre.

Year 9 will clothe the naked by donating clothes to a local charity, Hull Help for Refugees.

Year 10 will visit the sick by fundraising for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Year 11 will bury the dead by donating to the CAFOD Legacy campaign.

The sixth form will harbour the homeless by taking part in our Sleep Out event on Friday March 11 at St Charles Church, raising money for the Emmaus Project.

Staff will visit the imprisoned by donating to Amnesty International.

The events have been coordinated by the Chaplaincy team, led by Hannah Leech. CAFOD has offered the school Lent resources to further the work.

Bishop Blesses New Classroom



Bishop Terry visited St Mary's Primary School in Richmond to bless the new Year 6 classroom.

Pupils welcomed Bishop Terry and helped lead the ceremony with a reading and prayers. The Bishop then led the children into their new room and blessed it with holy water.

The children were delighted to be able to show off their new classroom, which features an interactive TV and a covered veranda area. They were joined by governors and parents, who were proudly shown round the new facilities by the pupils.

Head teacher Jill Collins said: "The children have been so patient over the last term, having to use the main hall as their classroom. But they are so excited to move into their new room.

"It's great to be able to have the

class attached to the main building so the children don't have to go outside to get into the temporary classroom unit."

Bishop Terry said: "It's been lovely to see the children so enthusiastic about their new facilities and it's a joy to be able to bless them and their future studies in the new classroom. It is such a positive addition to the school."

The school has been using a temporary classroom unit for a number of years and pupils had to go outside the main building to access their classroom.

The new facilities also include a dedicated teachers' room for planning and preparation work and a new meeting room which can also be used for cooking activities and, hopefully, after school care.

Mini Vinnies Aim For Caring Future

St Wilfrid's in York is the latest primary school in our diocese to announce the formation of a Mini Vinnies group. Eleven children were commissioned by Brother Henry CongOrat at a full school assembly.

Their first task was to send cards to housebound parishioners in the four feeder parishes. They aim to involve the whole school in caring for each other and those less fortunate than themselves.

Kath Campbell,
Mini Vinnie Co-ordinator



Mini Vinnies after receiving their certificates from Brother Henry

St Aelred's Day Celebration Of Friendship

Because St Aelred is remembered for his great kindness and friendship, we celebrated his feast day by inviting the parish community and our friends from Woolnough House, a local residential care home.

Our children often visit the home and take part in musical activities there, so we thought this time we would invite them to our school for a grand tea party followed by a sing-along.

Parents, parishioners and Woolnough House residents came along to join in the fun. The children brought in delicious cakes, which were served with tea and coffee by members of the parish Union of Catholic Mothers and our own Chaplaincy Team.

It was a lovely afternoon. Father Bill said that if St Aelred had been there, he would have loved it.

Debbie Feehan,
Head of School, St Aelred's RC Primary School, York



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SCHOOLS

Saint Of The Month: St Patrick - March 17

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Patrick was born in Britain, but as a young boy he was captured by Irish pirates. They took him back to Ireland and sold him into slavery. Patrick looked after his master's sheep and spent much of his time in prayer. After six years he escaped, and after many adventures, he returned home. Patrick trained as a priest before going back to Ireland, where he taught the people about God. He used the three-leafed shamrock to teach them about the Blessed Trinity. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.

Choirs Sing At Ripon Cathedral

The boys' and girls' choirs of St Martin's Ampleforth Prep School sang *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* at Evensong in Ripon Cathedral. The choirs consists of 25 children aged from nine to 13 and perform at St Martin's Ampleforth and at Ampleforth College and Abbey.

*Doctor David Moses will take over as head of St Martin's Ampleforth, the College's preparatory school, in September 2016, replacing Mark O'Donnell.

PIRATES CAPTURED SLAVERY SHEEP PRAYER ESCAPED	SHAMROCK IRELAND TEACH PEOPLE TRINITY PATRON
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Ged's Quick Quiz

With TV quiz champion Ged Askins

Connection questions

1. In the capital city of which Spanish province can you find the Alhambra Palace?
2. "Badges? We don't need no stinkin' badges!" is a classic line from which film?
3. Jan Ackerman was the lead guitarist with which 70s Dutch group whose biggest hits were *Sylvia* and *Hocus Pocus*?
4. Which Italian island resort did Gracie Fields retire to?
5. Which ski resort hosted the 1956 Winter Olympics?

Thinking cap question

Excluding *Sanditon* (unfinished) and *Lady Susan* (epistolary), name the six novels written by Jane Austen.

Caritas Diocesan Journey Event

KATHY WARRICK, a member of Caritas Diocese of Middlesbrough and Middlesbrough Central Council President of the St Vincent de Paul Society, reports on the Caritas Diocesan Journey Event in London...

Dr Phil McCarthy, of CSAN, gave a short presentation on Catholic Social Teaching building blocks around six themes, Human Dignity, Community and Participation, Care for Creation, Dignity in Work, Peace and Reconciliation and Solidarity. Delegates from Portsmouth, Westminster, Liverpool and Cardiff shared their challenges and achievements and best practice.

Miriam Pikaar, from Caritas Europa, explained the Caritas Europa mapping exercise, which is bringing together international good work. Data is input to enable reports for funding purposes, lobbying and influencing the common good.

Edward De Quay and Phoebe Jackson, of Caritas Westminster, gave a presentation on "Love in Action", an engagement programme designed to introduce parishes, youth groups and schools to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. A website and good quality resources are to be launched and made available to parishes and schools.

Caritas Social Action Network is the official agency of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales for domestic social action and a family of social action charities. The Caritas network works for the most vulnerable people of society across England and Wales, providing support for families and children, the elderly, the homeless, refugees, the disabled, and prisoners.

The national CSAN team, based in London, works to strengthen and facilitate the network, conduct policy and advocacy work and use its 'voice' at a national level. CSAN is a member of Caritas Internationalis, within the Caritas Europa group. Visit <http://www.csan.org.uk> for more information.

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Please send stories and photos of what's been happening in your school to catholicvoice@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk – we'd love to hear from you!

SCHOOLS

Candles Blessed At Academy Mass

Candles were blessed to be taken back to each of the schools in St Hilda's Voluntary Academy Trust after Mass at the Cathedral.

The celebration was organised by Helen Lickess, deputy head of St Augustine's Primary School, Coulby Newham, and the principal celebrant was Canon John Loughlin.

More than 650 students, teachers, governors and many others attended, including representatives from each of the 11 schools in the Academy.

"Mass was celebrated to bring together children from each of the schools belonging to St Hilda's Academy, with representatives from every school given a special job to do," explained Helen.

"Schools were asked to design a candle dedicated to St Hilda, which was then brought to the Cathedral to be blessed by Canon Loughlin. A child from each school then chose a candle to take back to their school."

Canon Loughlin also blessed the artwork which was produced by children from each of our schools, supported by the art department from Trinity Catholic College. The work was designed by the children to represent St Hilda's motto, "Growing and learning as a Christian community in the light of Christ".



Children from St Hilda's Voluntary Academy Trust in procession – Photo by Les Clark



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CAFOD NEWS

CAFOD's Lenten WASH Appeal

CAFOD's focus for this Lenten season is "Turn on the taps for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene" (WASH). Water is vital for

sustaining all life on earth. As Catholics we believe it is a freely given gift of God. We can access it at will, simply by turning on a



CAFOD partners have repaired the pump at Gutti's school so the children now have access to safe, clean water

tap. But this is not true for everyone.

Much of CAFOD's work has focused on securing access to clean, safe drinking water and there has been some improvement in recent years. Our 2012 Thirst for Change campaign encouraged G8 leaders to make water and sanitation a top priority and make firm political and financial commitments to end a crisis that leaves 650m people without drinking water and 2.3bn without safe sanitation. The appeal raised £9.2m.

This year's Lenten appeal once again focuses on the life-saving gift of water and we have successfully secured UK Aid matching donations up to £3.5m. This shows the government's commitment towards the integrity of CAFOD's work with local partners that are working together to create more sustainable and empowered communities.

This will allow us to effectively double the work we had planned. The funds raised through UK Aid will go directly to support water programmes in Uganda, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These programmes will cost almost £4m and we are hoping £3.5m will come from the government. The £3.5m from our supporters will be used to provide the shortfall and go towards our general development programmes, many of which have a core water element.

Our gender adviser Tanja Haque recently shared her knowledge of how important it is to ensure women and girls have safe access to water and sanitation facilities. She told us...

- One in ten people – 650m – don't have access to safe water
- 2.3bn don't have access to adequate sanitation – that is a third of the world's population
- 315,000 children die every year from diarrhoea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation – that's more than 900 children per day
- Half the people admitted to hospital in developing countries are suffering from diseases caused by poor water, sanitation and hygiene
- Women and girls suffer most and are forced to walk long distances to collect dirty water, wasting their time and energy. This means they miss out on an education, lack the opportunity to make a living, and have little chance to change things. They are also more likely to get sick with water-related diseases
- Lack of water, sanitation and hygiene costs African countries more in lost GDP than the entire continent receives in aid

WASH focuses on social and health benefits. It aims to improve access to clean, safe drinking water and improve sanitation facilities and hygiene practices. Where there is a lack of safe water and sanitation, children suffer most. Their health, wellbeing and education are all affected. Hygiene promotion is the most cost-effective health intervention, according to the World Bank.

Often children spend so much time collecting water they are unable to attend school, or too tired to concentrate when they get there. Girls often stop attending school when they start menstruating, as they have do not have access to toilets or a private place to change.

Water: The purest form of water is groundwater and is the first preference. Partners may use boreholes, capped springs, hand pumps or solar-powered pumps to access this water, depending on the level of

the water table. Sometimes groundwater may be polluted or there is not enough to meet the community's needs. In this case partners would look to rainwater, the second purest form of water. Rainwater needs to be captured and stored, either in small dams or by rainwater harvesting. It will often need treatment before use.

In the village of Singila, in Northern Uganda, a borehole established in 2000 quickly fell into disrepair. Three years ago, CAFOD partner Caritas Moroto began working with the community to bring back safe and clean drinking water. A Water Management Committee was formed from community members. It has established a savings scheme for villagers to contribute towards the maintenance of the pump, buildings and latrines.

Sanitation: Access to toilets and the systems around toilets that keep them clean is often overlooked, perhaps because it isn't very glamorous. When people don't have access to toilets they go outdoors, enabling bacteria to enter the water and causing life-threatening illnesses such as cholera and diarrhoea. Women also face the threat of sexual violence when they are forced to use fields as a toilet. Since 2013 CAFOD, working through its partners, has supported 165,815 people to access sanitation.

Hygiene: Hand-washing can reduce diarrhoeal diseases by 40%. CAFOD works with partners to share messages on good hygiene practices with communities. This can come through a variety of media including puppet shows, radio discussions, school programmes, posters and house to house instructions from public health workers. CAFOD working through its partners has supported 318,943 people to benefit from hygiene projects.

A New Appeal

We want to increase the scale of our work in Uganda to reach 42,000 people with water, sanitation and hygiene. Our partners will work with government, administrative, parish and sub-county levels to make sure spare parts are available under three hours away. Water management committees will be trained in finances to ensure that they save so they can fix breakdowns straight away. To improve efficiency, each water point will be upgraded with either a hand pump or a solar motorised system and will be overseen by a water management committee comprised of men and women. The project will also work on sanitation and hygiene.

In his recent encyclical, Pope Francis says: "Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights...Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity."

Thank you for everything you do to support our work – I hope you are proud of all it's helping to achieve!

You can donate to CAFOD during Lent either online at <http://cafod.org.uk/lent> or by texting **Lent16 £5** to 70070 to donate £5. Cheques made payable to CAFOD Lent 2016 Appeal can be sent to CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. Donations received at CAFOD up to May 9 will qualify for matched funding.

Carol Cross,
Community Participation Coordinator

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Big Sing Liturgy Thing – XL



This year's Big Sing was even bigger than last year's hugely successful event which filled the Cathedral.

January 2016 saw the MYMission Team and CJM Music come together again to pack both the Cathedral in Middlesbrough and St Richard's School in Hull.

Around 1,400 young people gathered together over two days to worship and pray in a way

they will never forget. Using years of experience, CJM put together a day of music and catechesis which ended with an hour-long act of worship led by the young people themselves. The MYMission Team host the days and make sure everything happens as is supposed to.

Unsurprisingly, the theme this year was the Year of Mercy. The young people prayed, read

scripture together and were led in new church music by Rend Collective and the hugely popular Matt Redman, among others.

This year, schools from all over the diocese joined together and as we left both celebrations we were asked if there could be another one or two in York and Scarborough next year. Watch this space!

Good Luck Jithu!

For the third year in a row, the MYMission Team hosted a student for the priesthood for a month-long pastoral placement this January.

Jithu James from the Diocese of Northampton was placed with us by the staff at the Royal English College of St Alban, Valladolid, Spain, where he studies.

The idea of pastoral placements is to give future priests a broad experience of the life of the Church. Obviously, we show students what youth ministry is all about, how it is founded on solid theological ground and how we work hard to ensure that we speak to young people in an accessible way.

Jithu himself is a young adult celebrating his 20th birthday just after his time with us ended. Originally from Kerala, Jithu brought to the team a new cultural experience. Although nervous at first, he threw himself into two school missions, one in St Mary's, Grangetown and the other in St Bede's, Stockton.

Early on in his placement he had a chance meeting with Father Michael Keogh, who told him not to be nervous. "Remember, you are the message!" he said.

Jithu certainly allowed his personal faith to shine through and it was impressive to see. He was at ease with young people and they were pleased to meet him and ask him questions about his life in seminary.

As he left he said: "I am really grateful to you all for having me, we have shared some special moments. I was able to experience an astounding month, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

"You have taught me very much about the life of a priest and helped me discover myself more. Thank you for empowering me and encouraging me in everything. Please keep me in your prayers."

Indeed we will, Jithu. We pray for him and our own seminarians, Richard, Steven and Peter, who have all just finished first semester exams in Rome.

Inspirational Day For Youth Leaders

MYMission was delighted to organise the CYMFed Adult Youth Leaders' Congress in London in February.

Four hundred leaders and catechists from all across England and Wales joined together for an inspirational day led by Bishop Ralph Heskett, Bishop for Youth, and Father Andrew Small OMI, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Society in the United States.

Taking "Faith and Mercy" as a theme, the day challenged all present to grow young leaders in the Church.

"Mercy is God's ID card," said Father Andrew, as he asked the Church to become truly merciful in all its actions. During his speech, he spoke about the need to be able to "take the rough with the smooth" as an important tool for those who work for mercy.

"It is a hard road to tread and it is getting harder, but the world needs all the merciful people it can get."

The afternoon saw the national launch of the Faith in Action award scheme, written by the MYMission Team and teachers and chaplains from this diocese (see front page).



Father Paul Farrer with speaker Father Andrew Small

Mercy And Forgiveness

The coming together of Lent and the Year of Mercy underlines the fact that it would be impossible to celebrate this great season of repentance and forgiveness without reference to mercy. In fact it could be argued that mercy and forgiveness are essentially the same thing, or at least that one requires the other.

Mercy is defined as *compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within our power to punish or harm*. Forgiveness itself is defined as *no longer feeling anger or resentment toward someone for an offence, or flaw, or mistake*.

The use of the word “power” in that definition of mercy is interesting in that it suggests that it is a personal decision whether we punish or whether we exercise mercy – both are within our power. However, we are reminded of Pilate’s conversation with Our Lord shortly before his crucifixion. When Jesus remained silent in the face of Pilate’s questions he said: “Surely you know I have the power to release you and I have the power to crucify you?” to which Jesus replied: “You would have no power over me if it had not been given you from above.”

The central principle of the Year of Mercy is, as Pope Francis has said, that we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. We are, in that sense, *empowered by God to be merciful, following his example*. How can we refuse when we have the opportunity to exercise mercy or to forgive

when God doesn’t refuse whenever we seek mercy and forgiveness from him? We might also remember Our Lord’s parable in St Matthew’s gospel (18 v 21-35) about the unforgiving servant, not to mention our daily petition to God to forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Pope Francis has invited us to reflect on the “mercy parables” which are also parables about forgiveness, and in particular, perhaps, the lost sheep, and the prodigal son.

We are very familiar with these two stories and how they illustrate the concept of forgiveness, but do we recognise as clearly the parallel concept of mercy? The shepherd in one and the father in the other would have been quite justified in meting out punishment – the shepherd beating the sheep to teach it a lesson (or not even going in search of it in the first place), and the father refusing to welcome home his son who had come home because he had nothing left to live on having squandered his birthright. But no. The shepherd has mercy on the sheep even though it has no concept of why it has been rescued. He doesn’t even make it walk, but picks it up and carries it back to the flock on his shoulders. Jesus leaves us to pick out from the story how merciful forgiveness works. And the father exercises mercy toward his son even in looking for him to return and in welcoming him home when he does despite what has gone before. The hope is that he has learned his lesson, and that

lesson is taught more surely by mercy and forgiveness than by punishment.

In those instances, what Jesus is talking about is unconditional forgiveness¹. It doesn’t excuse what has happened or the mistakes that have been made, but it makes allowances for them. “Earthenware vessels...”, “There but for the grace of God...” and so on. When God forgives us, scripture says, he casts our sins behind his back (Is 38 v 17), removing them further than the east is from the west (Ps 103 v 12) – they are forgiven and forgotten as far as he is concerned. Isn’t that exactly the definition of forgiveness we mentioned earlier: *no longer feeling anger or resentment toward someone for an offence, or flaw, or mistake*? But forgiving someone so completely has to involve mercy, again by definition: *compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within our power to punish or harm*.

Whilst we have all experienced being unconditionally forgiven by God, it can be very difficult for us to forgive someone who has grievously offended us and has said they are sorry, without something lingering in us that remains to be convinced. We do a disservice to ourselves if we try to handle such a situation on our own because we can be our own worst enemy. We need to bring that unresolved feeling to God in prayer and by turning to scripture (for example those mercy parables) and asking for the grace to discover both mercy and unconditional forgiveness within ourselves.

What, then, about those situations that sadly exist where a person finds it impossible to forgive? I think it brings us back to the concept of “earthenware vessels” and the reality that we are only human and with the best will in the world sometimes find ourselves struggling with aspects of our human-ness. Again we need to have recourse to prayer and to the word of God in scripture, but we must also remember that God knows all about everything and the best we may be able to do for the time being is to leave things in his hands in the hope that he can help resolve them – and especially how we feel and why. Until that begins to happen, maybe we have to satisfy ourselves with at least having the desire to forgive. I was recently watching one of the many versions of Charles Dickens’ *David Copperfield* on the television. There was a scene in which his one-time schoolmate, Steerforth, was about to embark on a series of life choices that, speaking in the future, Copperfield knew would bring unspeakable sorrow to so many people. “I hope God will forgive him,” he said “because know I can’t.” Sometimes that’s the best we can do, but hopefully at some point in time we will discover mercy and it will lead to forgiveness.

So now to Lent which, of course, is a penitential season, a time when we are encouraged to find ways of perhaps increasing our spiritual activities (so doing something positive rather than just giving things up), but also looking for ways to express our repentance for past sins and the sufferings they have caused Our Lord by acts of penance and self-denial. This doesn’t mean that we have doubts over past sins being forgiven, but rather that we hope to learn from past mistakes and try to ensure, with the help of God’s grace, that we are doing all we can to



avoid the situations and the faults and failings that have been occasions of sin for us.

This awareness also invites us to reflect on the experience of being forgiven. Whether we see ourselves as wandering sheep or prodigal sons or daughters, what was the experience of God’s mercy, what did it feel like to be forgiven sins that were, perhaps, most concerning to us? When and how did that moment of self-accusation turn to one of reconciliation and healing? We have all come before God, in particular in the sacrament of reconciliation, and in one way or another heard Our Lord’s words from the gospel: “Go in peace, your faith has made you whole”. Now we have to exercise that same mercy and forgiveness in our dealings with others.

What mercy calls for is compassion and understanding, recognising our own shortcomings in the imperfections and mistakes of others. Yes we have it within our “power” to punish, to make them pay for what they have said or done, but we choose not to because that’s how God has dealt with us AND because it’s how he will deal with them and we surely wouldn’t dare require more of them than he does. If there is any accountability required, we leave that to God knowing that, even while unconditionally forgiven, we too will one day have to give an account of ourselves.

And what forgiveness calls for is unconditional acceptance, no anger, no harbouring grudges, no judging, and relationships being restored to how they were before – or better. The image is of homecoming, the sheep unconditionally restored to the flock and the son to his father. Both are positive situations that offer the hope of lessons learned and better choices being made.

We are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us as Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves – Pope Francis

Father Neil McNicholas

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FOOTNOTE:

¹The only “condition” is that we are truly sorry for our sins and have a very real desire and intention to avoid them in the future and to do better with the help of God’s grace.

Put Your Best Fellowship Foot Forward!

Members, helpers, families and friends of Middlesbrough Catholic Fellowship will put their best foot forward in a sponsored walk on Easter Monday (March 28).

They will gather at the Porthole Cafe entrance of Albert Park at 1.30pm before walking through Linthorpe to the Holy Name of Mary Church Hall. Supporters will join them in the church hall afterwards for refreshments and to join in with some games to win some chocolate.

"It's a lovely afternoon and a great chance to get a bit of exercise and raise some money for a local charity," said organiser Theresa Flaherty.

"We're always looking for new helpers and this is a great opportunity to meet our members and other helpers if you were considering getting involved with the Fellowship. Hopefully it will be a sunny day and we'll meet lots of new and old friends!"

The Holy Name Hall is also where the Fellowship meets each Saturday from 10am to noon and you would be very welcome to come along and see what the Fellowship is all about.

For more information about the Fellowship, please contact
 Stephen Mulholland: 07960453946
 Theresa Flaherty: 07876135309
 Emma Russell: 07595485927



Smiles on last year's Fellowship walk

Bishop Interviewed On Vatican Radio



Vatican Radio listeners in our diocese heard a familiar voice when Bishop Terry was interviewed about the Year of Mercy.

Bishop Terry praised Pope Francis for extending the jubilee celebrations beyond Rome and to the local Church.

He told reporter Lydia O'Kane that it wasn't possible for everyone to make the pilgrimage to St Peter's Basilica.

For this reason, the Jubilee Indulgence can be obtained by passing through Holy Doors throughout the world as a sign of deep desire for true conversion.

The moment should also be linked to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy, a profession of faith and prayer for the Pope and his intentions.

Special provisions are also in place to enable those who cannot make a pilgrimage, including the sick and elderly, to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.

"We live in a world that finds mercy quite difficult to handle," Bishop Terry told Vatican Radio. "Mercy is seen as a weakness. Jesus tells us that we have to learn to be merciful as the Father is merciful, which you know is the watchword of the Holy Year."

Bishop Terry said he intends to visit every prison in our diocese during the Year of Mercy. You can listen to Vatican Radio online at en.radiovaticana.va

- Holy Doors are located at the Cathedral, St Wilfrid, York, St Laurence Abbey, Ampleforth, St Peter, Scarborough and St Charles, Hull.

Youth Ministry Is Newman Theme

Father Paul Farrer, from our diocesan youth mission team MYMission, is the guest speaker at Cleveland Newman Circle's meeting on Wednesday March 16. The title of the talk is *Called to a Noble Adventure – Youth Ministry in the Church today*.

The meeting takes place at St Mary's Cathedral hall in Middlesbrough (TS8 0TW) at 7.45pm, with coffee and tea from 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more details please email tpj.egerton@virgin.net or call (01642) 645732.

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NEWS

Safeguarding And The Catholic Church

All allegations of abuse reported to the Church in England and Wales are immediately passed on to the police. The Church works closely and cooperatively with the statutory authorities as these allegations are investigated. Following this investigation, which follows UK law, the Church conducts its own internal investigation, following Canon law.

The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission. There is no place in the Church, or indeed society, for abuse, a grievous crime which can affect people for their entire lives.

Victims come first. This has not always been the case. The Church deeply regrets all instances of sexual abuse and the abuse of minors and vulnerable adults, and accepts that grave mistakes were made in the past.

Historical Inquiry

After years of addressing these issues, the Church is looking forward to assisting the historical inquiry into child abuse, led by Justice Lowell Goddard, in any way possible and learning from its findings and recommendations.

As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI told English and Welsh Bishops during his UK visit in September 2010: "Your growing awareness of the extent of child abuse in society, its devastating effects, and the need to provide proper victim support should serve as an incentive to share the lessons you have learned with the wider community."

Today, the safeguarding of children and the vulnerable is a Church priority from the top down, and there will be no place to hide for offenders.

Pope Francis

In December 2013, Pope Francis, who has declared there should be "zero tolerance" of abuse, established a Vatican commission on the protection of minors. Last year, the Holy Father said he wants to encourage and promote the Church's commitment to protection and care "at every level — episcopal conferences, dioceses, institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life — to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the protection of minors and vulnerable adults and to respond to their needs with fairness and mercy".

The remarks reflected a considerable journey for the Catholic Church in England and Wales when it comes to safeguarding.

Background

In September 2000, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, then Archbishop of Westminster, requested that Lord Nolan independently investigate abuse allegations. A year later, the 23 dioceses accepted all 83 recommendations of the Nolan report. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, then Archbishop of Birmingham, was appointed chair of the report's implementation team, which established the Catholic Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults [COPCA].

In July 2007, a further review by Baroness Julia Cumberlege — "Safeguarding with Confidence" — found that some 79 of Lord Nolan's recommendations had been addressed, with 55,000 Criminal Records Bureau disclosures completed on clergy and other staff from 2003-2006, and more than 85% of the 2,400 Catholic parishes in England and Wales appointing local child protection representatives.

Current Structures — NCSC / CSAS

Following the Cumberlege report, the Church established two bodies. First, the independent National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC), which is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Church's safeguarding policy for children and vulnerable adults, and for monitoring compliance.

The NCSC directs the work of a second unit set up in the wake of Cumberlege, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS), which was established to implement improvement in practice.

CSAS has in recent years completed safeguarding audits of all dioceses in England and Wales, overseen by the NCSC. Last year's annual report of the NCSC approved the setting up of a Survivors Advisory Panel to help inform the work of the NCSC and the safeguarding policies and practices within the Church. It also found that now over 95% of parishes in England and Wales have at least one safeguarding representative.

Today, the Church has a robust selection procedure for candidates to the priesthood and their training includes child and adult protection. Meanwhile, the Church encourages victims of abuse to come forward and supports them to do so.

Christopher Pearson, NCSC Chair, says: "The harm, damage and impact of abuse on victims and their family is immense. That is why we want victims and survivors to be at the heart of what we do as a Safeguarding Commission. Can we say it can never happen again? No, but we can say the likelihood is less than it was, and that by encouraging people to report abuse, it makes it easier to do so."

Looking ahead, a working party on pastoral support for survivors is proposing a model of support for victims and survivors to be implemented across all dioceses and Religious Communities.

Sister Lyndsay Spindelow, the Religious Vice Chair of the NCSC, emphasises a "One Church" approach. "More people today are

probably aware of the NCSC," Sister Lyndsay says. "Religious are well represented on NCSC and the Conference of Religious also has its own support and communication structures to assist the Congregational Leaders to keep up to date with safeguarding requirements and developments. In the past year or so, together with CSAS, there has been great emphasis on strengthening and developing a One Church approach to Safeguarding."

CSAS director Colette Limbrick adds: "The Church's approach to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk has developed considerably since the publication of the Nolan Report in 2001. Safeguarding structures at national and local levels work to ensure that as safe an environment as possible is created for children and adults taking part in the life of the Church. However, there is no room for complacency and we must continue to improve; in particular we must ensure that the needs of the victims and survivors of abuse always come first and that we provide a more sensitive and pastoral response which truly places the needs of victim or survivor at the heart of our work."

Bishop Marcus Stock, the Vice Chair of the NCSC, says: "Given the experiences of the Church and its considerable and important work in this area, we look forward to working with Justice Goddard in her inquiry."

“LITURGIES FOR LENT” around the Diocese

St Charles Borromeo, Hull
WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 7.00 PM

“WELCOME THE STRANGER”

Celebrant: Canon Michael Loughlin
Preaching: Fr Damian Cassidy

St Peter's, Scarborough
WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 7.00 PM

“HEAL THE SICK”

Celebrant: Fr William Massie
Preaching: Deacon Vincent Purcell

St Wilfrid's, York
WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 7.00 PM

“FORGIVE OFFENCES”

Celebrant: Canon Alan Sheridan
Preaching: Fr Peter Keeling

St Mary's Cathedral
WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 7.00 PM
“BEAR PATIENTLY WITH THOSE WHO ARE ILL”
Celebrant: Bishop Terence Patrick Draney

Dispelling The Evangelisation Myths

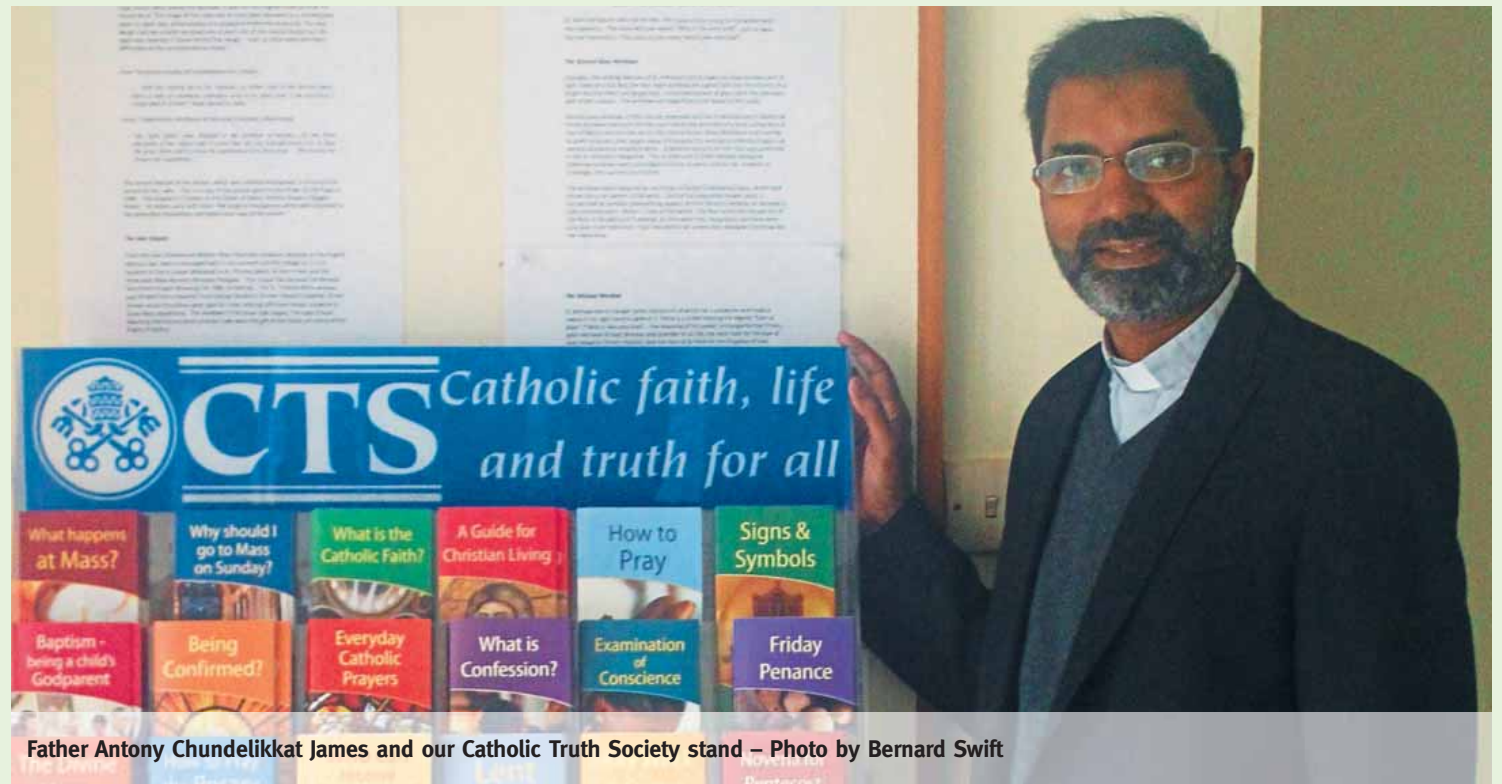
Is evangelisation something only priests and missionaries do?

In last month's *Voice*, I suggested that one of the most common myths about evangelisation is that the word belongs more to the Protestant tradition than to the Catholic one. This time I'd like to explore another myth that I often encounter in my work – that the Church's duty to evangelise should be left to clergy and people in religious life.

I think we can detect traces of this myth in the language that is often used to describe those who are about to be ordained. We sometimes say that they are "going into the Church" in much the same way as we might say that someone was "going into medicine" or "going into the army."

The sacrament of Holy Orders is, of course, by no means a career choice in that sort of way. If anyone "goes into the Church" in any sense at all, then it is by being baptised rather than by being ordained. And because we are all baptised, we all also share in the responsibility of the Church to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ.

In fact, the Church teaches that lay people have a very particular share of this responsibility. The documents of the Second Vatican Council remind us that through baptism and confirmation all Christians are commissioned to this apostolate by the Lord. The Council fathers went on to say that lay people are called in a special way to make the Church present in



Father Antony Chundelikkat James and our Catholic Truth Society stand – Photo by Bernard Swift

those everyday places that priests and religious would find hard to reach – the workplace, for example, or the local neighbourhood.

Even if we had an abundance of priests and missionaries, there would be no escaping the fact that we all share the duty of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. After all, we know

that the word "Mass" and the word "mission" share a common root. This means that when we come to Mass, we also receive our mission – to be sent, that is, to announce the Gospel of the Lord to everyone we meet in the everyday situations of our lives and work.

In the accompanying article, Sheila Swift, one of

the team members from St Anthony and Our Lady of Mercy in Hull, gives us an excellent example of this kind of "neighbourhood evangelisation" in their use of the Parish Evangelisation Fund.

Deacon Vince Purcell, Diocesan Adviser for Adult Formation and Evangelisation

What A Gift!

Thoughts have already turned to our Easter evangelisation after the success of our Christmas campaign.

A letter about the Parish Evangelisation Fund arrived when we were considering the best way to inform our local neighbourhood about our Advent and Christmas services.

A group of three parishioners agreed to put together an application for a grant. By that time, I half expected all the money to have been already allocated but to my surprise St Anthony's was the first parish to apply – why was no one else taking advantage of this fund?

In no time at all the money had been transferred into our

account and we were able to make good use of it. A local printer was offering 1,000 A5 full-colour flyers for £40 and a donation of £20 from a parishioner enabled these to become double-sided. This meant that as well as information about what was happening in the parish at Christmas, we were also able to include more about our community and what we do.

A list of all the roads in the parish was produced and parishioners were asked to deliver flyers in their own street. The leaflets were also available for visitors who attended the three carol concerts held in St Anthony's – at Holderness Rotary Club and New Park Singers and for the students living in the halls of residence beside the church. There was also a very good attendance at our 6.30 pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve.

More of the grant has been spent on a Catholic Truth Society

display stand stocked with leaflets about our faith. This is now in our large church porch, where people often gather before sacramental celebrations and funerals and the leaflets are proving to be popular with Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

The rest of our grant is earmarked for an Easter flyer and a "trypraying" banner. This is part of the "trypraying" campaign across Hull and East Riding to start in March and comes with 50 free booklets intended for non-churchgoers. So far, 48 churches in the area have signed up to this campaign.

At a time when most parishes are experiencing some financial difficulties, thanks to the Parish Evangelisation Fund and the parish posties, we have been given a real opportunity for mission!

Sheila Swift

Diamond Celebrations In Hull

Congratulations to Hull couple Dorothy Barbara and Stanley Tuthill MBE, who celebrate their Diamond Wedding on Tuesday March 29.

The couple, who have four children, 12 grandchildren and ten great grandchildren, were married by the late Father Liam Noonan at St Patrick's Church, Spring Street, Hull, on March 29 1956.

"With the closure of St Patrick's Church, both my Mum and Dad went back to St Charles Borromeo where they first met as teenagers, under the watchful eyes of Canon Knowles, who ran and organised a social Sunday evening dance," said the couple's daughter, Elaine Louise Lee.

"Our family are very proud of the life they have led, both as parents, Catholics and their partnership in marriage."

Mr Tuthill was awarded the MBE in the 1998 New Year Honours for services to the Federation of Master Builders and to training in the building industry.



"May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance" (Letter of St Jude, verse 2)

The National Shrine of Saint Jude, Apostle and Martyr, is served by the Carmelite friars at Faversham, Kent. It is open all year.

Since its foundation in 1955, the Shrine has distributed a quarterly newsletter called **Carmelite News**. Carmelite News is a letter from the Prior Provincial updating readers on the work of the Shrine and the Carmelites in Britain. It also includes a number of reflections and novena prayers.

If you would like to receive a copy of our free newsletter, please send your contact details to: **Carmelite Friars, P.O. Box 140, Kent, ME20 7SJ, newsletter@stjudeshrine.org.uk, or call 01795 539 214**



LOURDES

Generous Response To Our Blanket Challenge

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone from all over the diocese who has taken up the blanket challenge, writes Head Handmaid CHRIS TILLOTSON.

Parishes, families and friends have come together to craft beautiful blankets for our supported pilgrims – we've even received a blanket from Our Lady and St Gerard's in Preston!

A couple from the parish picked up a copy of the *Voice* while they were on a weekend break in York and took the challenge back to their parish. The result is a beautiful blanket crafted for Middlesbrough Diocesan pilgrims – and there are more on their

way!

I'm sure each and every one of them will be very much appreciated by our supported pilgrims and it's also proved a worthwhile experience for our knitters.

It's been really heartwarming to see both the quantity and quality of the blankets received, but even more so to see the way folk have come together to craft them.

Here's SYLVIA HORNBYS account of how the challenge was taken up in St Mary and St Romuald Parish in Yarm...



Sew Generous!

A few weeks ago I decided to take up Chris Tillotson's request in the *Voice* for parishes to knit blankets for the Lourdes pilgrimage. Now I did fear that perhaps I might have to press-gang parishioners into helping with the project but if I couldn't, then I could knit one completely myself.

I need not have worried, however, as people gladly offered to knit squares with leftover wool they had or to buy some new wool, so we were soon up and running. By New Year we had almost completed five blankets and

still the knitted squares kept coming in.

Many positive things have come out of the venture, with knitters saying how relaxing and therapeutic it had been just sitting quietly knitting or while watching television.

One of our ladies has completed a whole blanket by knitting squares while sitting in a hospital waiting room each day for seven weeks as her husband had radiotherapy treatment. It became her way of saying thank you that he was improving and she was so pleased that the blanket would be going to Lourdes.

We had people knitting squares and

crocheting, with others helping sew them together. We used what odd balls of double-knitting wool we all had spare and some people gave us the money to buy more wool.

In all, six blankets were completed and we enjoyed the process very much. I can thoroughly recommend this worthwhile project. It's been a joy and a pleasure to make these lovely blankets.

We were asked to attach a label to each blanket giving the name of the parish so it could be remembered at the grotto. The best thing, however, is knowing they will be put to good use keeping Supported Pilgrims warm in Lourdes.

Come To Our Monthly Mass!

All members of our Lourdes family, including past and present Supported Pilgrims, are invited to our Monthly Lourdes Masses and to share a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits and a chance for a chat with old and new friends. Our forthcoming Lourdes Masses will be...

Sunday March 13, 9.30am: Sacred Heart Church, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough

Saturday April 30, 3pm: Trinity Catholic College, Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough

If you would like to be informed of future Lourdes Masses and events by email, please send your email address to john.brown160@ntlworld.com. To be kept informed by text message, text **sendlourdesinfo** to John Brown on 07871958412. In both cases, please state your name and whether you are a current helper (doctor, nurse, handmaid, brancardier, musician, support or youth) or a new enquirer.

Forthcoming Diary Dates

Saturday April 30, 10am: Day of Formation, Trinity Catholic College, Middlesbrough

Sunday May 8, noon: All Helpers Meeting, Hull

Sunday May 8, 2pm: Pre-Pilgrimage Mass, Sacred Heart, Hull

Sunday May 8, 3pm: Meet the Supported Pilgrims, Hull

Saturday May 14: Music Day, Middlesbrough

Thursday May 19, 7.30pm: Brancardiers Meeting, St Francis Social Club, Middlesbrough

Sunday May 22, 2pm: All Helpers Meeting, Cathedral

Sunday May 22, 3.30pm: Meet the Supported Pilgrims, Cathedral

Sunday May 22, 5pm: Pre-Pilgrimage Mass, Cathedral

Calling All Registered Nurses!

We are recruiting registered nurses to volunteer to join us on the pilgrimage to Lourdes this year.

Could you give up a week of your time to travel to France with us from May 27 to June 3? Do you want to make a difference and work alongside other nurses in the Accueil? Do you know a nurse who might be interested?

We'd love to hear from you! Contact Head Nurse Jean Cornfoot and Deputy Head Nurse Stephen McKenna at stemck@btinternet.com or by calling 07792254939.

New Chaplain Appointed

Father Pat Keogh, of St Hilda's Parish in Whitby, has been appointed by Bishop Terry as the new Chaplain to the Supported Pilgrims for the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage with immediate effect. Father Pat has been appointed in succession to Father John Bane who we thank for his work and commitment in previous pilgrimages.

JOE WALSH TOURS PILGRIMAGES

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Lourdes Helpers' Formation Day

All Lourdes helpers from across the diocese are asked to attend the Formation Day at Trinity Catholic College, Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough on Saturday April 30.

The day will include sessions to prepare ourselves spiritually for the pilgrimage and the mandatory lifting and handling training to enable helpers to work in Lourdes.

Registration is from 10am for a 10.30am start, with Mass at 3pm to be shared with our Supported Pilgrims, and time after Mass for a chat and a tea, coffee and biscuits. We also have a pre-registration booking by visiting www.eventbrite.co.uk and searching for Lourdes Day of Formation 2016. Please also let your head of department know you will be attending.

MIDDLESBROUGH DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Day of Formation

Saturday 30th April 2016 | 10am - 4pm

Trinity Catholic College, Middlesbrough

Please register your attendance on Eventbrite website:
www.eventbrite.co.uk
Search: Lourdes Day of Formation 2016

Please also contact your relevant
Head of Department to confirm your attendance

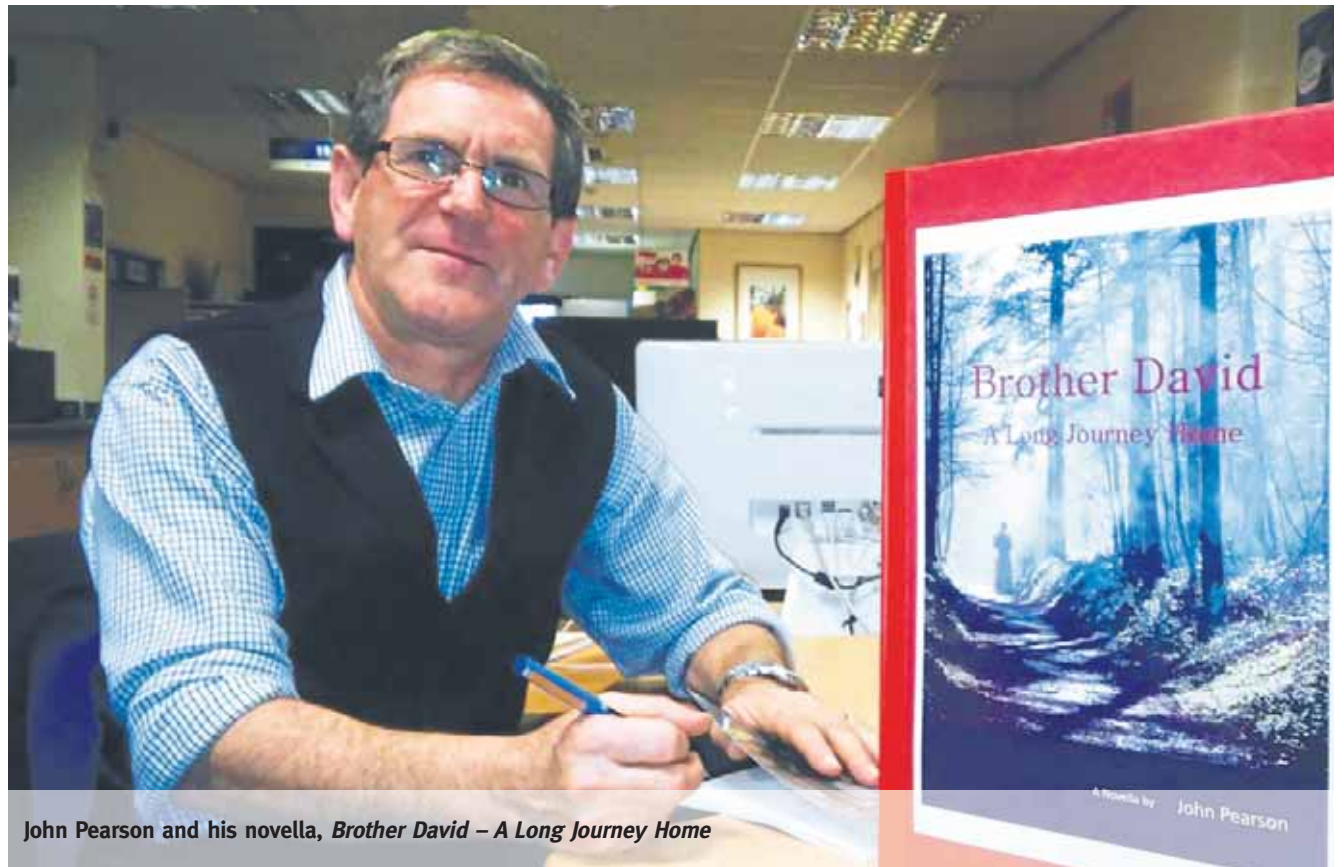
Book Review: Brother David

John Pearson, who works at Doorways youth project in Saltburn, recently published a novella called *Brother David – A Long Journey Home*. A natural storyteller firmly rooted in his faith, family history and North Yorkshire origins, John's first novella is beautifully written and evokes a strong sense of place and people. He manages to combine elements of magical realism with the everyday world in describing a life's journey, which has an unexpected twist at the end.

Those who admire the writing of John Stewart Collis will find echoes here of his sense of earth and nature, together with his visionary qualities. There is a lot of John in the character of Brother David, as it is set around John's familiar territory of Ugthorpe and Glaisdale. There is a mystery and some magic, as you would expect in a good read – however, this magic resides in each one of us, if we dare to believe. Nicely illustrated, it leaves one wishing for more. Perhaps this will be the start of a series of works – one hopes so.

Dan O'Hara

Brother David is available directly from John, from The Book Corner in Saltburn and via Amazon in both paperback and Kindle versions.



John Pearson and his novella, *Brother David – A Long Journey Home*

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BISHOP TERENCE PATRICK DRAINEY ENGAGEMENTS FOR MARCH 2016

- 3 Celebrates Mass at the John Paul Centre, Middlesbrough in thanksgiving for the Ministry of the CSsR 12.10 pm**
- 4 Celebrates Station Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 12 noon**
- 5 Attends one day conference in Leeds: 'A Poor Church for the Poor?' 10.30 am**
- 6-11 Attends Roman Seminaries visitation**
- 15 Attends meeting of the Northern Province, Bishop's House, Leeds 10.30 am**
- 16 Attends meeting of Diocesan Trustee Board at the Curial Office, Middlesbrough 10.30 am Celebrates Lenten Liturgy on theme of 'Bear patiently with those who do us ill' at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 7.00 pm**
- 17 Attends meeting of Ushaw Trustees at Hinsley Hall 10.30 am**
- 17-18 Attends Northern Church Leaders Retreat at Hinsley Hall from 1.00 pm**
- 20 Celebrates Mass of Palm Sunday at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 10.00 am**
- 21 Attends meeting of CSAN - Review Group in London 10.00 am**
- 22 Celebrates the Mass of Christ at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 12 noon**
- 24 Celebrates Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 7.00 pm**
- 25 Celebrates Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough 3.00 pm**
- 26 Celebrates the Solemn Easter Vigil 8.00 pm**
- 27 Celebrates Mass of Easter Day 10.00 am**

1 Tuesday

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm 'I led them with Cords of Human Kindness' led by Jill Solich 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

2 Wednesday

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

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

7.00 pm 'Heal the Sick' at St Peter's, Scarborough, one of the 'Liturgies for Lent' around the Diocese. Celebrant: Fr William Massie, Preaching: Deacon Vince Purcell

3 Thursday

7.00 pm - 9.30 pm 'Exploring Prayer' led by Lenore Hill, Jill Solich, Sue Tite, Sr Agnese CJ and Sr Cecilia CJ at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details

4 Friday

7.45 am - 9.00 pm '24 Hours for the Lord' - Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough. Confessions will be paused at 11.45 am and will resume again after the Midday Mass

10.00 am - 5.00 pm '24 Hours for the Lord' - Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Charles Borromeo, Hull

10.00 am - 5.00 pm '24 Hours for the Lord' - Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Peter's, Scarborough

12 noon Lenten Station Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, led by Bishop Terence Patrick Drainey, to be followed by a 'Lenten Lunch' in the Cathedral Hall. Stations of the Cross from 11.15 am. All welcome

7.00 pm First Friday Life Prayer Group meets at St Anthony's Parish Church, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact Frances, Tel: (01482) 574486 for further details

Evening (time tbc) The Our Lady's/English Martyrs, York, Lent Bible Study Group will meet. Contact: Lukasz Druzic, Tel: 07540 981429 for further details including timing and venue

5 Saturday

7.30 am - 9.00 pm '24 Hours for the Lord' - Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough. Confessions will be paused at 9.15 am and begin again at 9.45 am. Confessions will pause again at 6.15 pm and resume after the 6.30 pm Mass

10.00 am - 3.00 pm '24 Hours for the Lord' - Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Wilfrid's, York

10.00 am - 5.00 pm '24 Hours for the Lord' - Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Charles Borromeo, Hull

10.00 am - 5.00 pm '24 Hours for the Lord' - Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Peter's, Scarborough

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

6.00 pm '24 Hours for the Lord' - Mass for the Year of Mercy at St Wilfrid's, York which will be followed by a vigil of prayer led by the young people

6 Sunday

11.00 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 Adults' Mass for young adults aged 18-30 followed by a simple meal at The Chapel, Mission House, St Thomas More, Kirkham Row, Beechwood, Middlesbrough, TS4 3EE. Contact Tel: (01642) 529102 or 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

7 Monday

10.00 am - 4.00 pm 'Art and the Lived Gospel' led by Gero McLoughlin SJ at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details

8 Tuesday

12.45 pm Hull and District Catholic Women's Luncheon Club meet at the Kingston Theatre Hotel, Hull when Michael Wood will speak about 'Proclamations for all occasions'

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm LIFE ASCENDING 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

9 Wednesday

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

10.30 am The LIFE ASCENDING 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

5.30 pm - 7.00 pm British Catholics and the British monarchy from 1689 to 2012' - Ushaw Lecture in the Exhibition Lecture Theatre, Ushaw College, Durham, to be delivered by Prof Philip Williamson, Durham University, part of the Ushaw Lecture Series organised by the Durham University's Centre for Catholic Studies. The event is preceded by a Mass of Thanksgiving in St Cuthbert's Chapel at 5.00 pm with

a pre-seminar drinks reception offered from 5.30 pm, lecture commences at 6.00 pm. All lectures are free but you must register for your free ticket. Contact: Dr Marcus Pound, Tel: 0191 334 1656 or E-mail: m.j.p.pound@durham.ac.uk for further details

7.00 pm 'Forgive Offences' at St Wilfrid's, York, one of the 'Liturgies for Lent' around the Diocese. Celebrant: Canon Alan Sheridan, Preaching: Fr Peter Keeling

10 Thursday

10.00 am - 12.30 pm 'Dementia Friendly Churches training' - free dementia training accredited and led by the Alzheimer's Society, part of Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough, to be held at The Trinity Centre, North Ormesby, Middlesbrough, TS3 6LD. Advance booking essential as places are limited. Contact Tel: 07446 908451 or E-mail: together@trinitycentre.org for further information or to book a place

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm 'What makes the Fourth Gospel feel "different?" - How does Jesus teach?' led by Sr Patricia Harriss CJ at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details

7.00 pm - 9.30 pm 'Exploring Prayer' led by Lenore Hill, Jill Solich, Sue Tite, Sr Agnese CJ and Sr Cecilia CJ at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details

11 Friday

12 noon Lenten Station Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, led by Mgr Gerard Dasey, to be followed by a 'Lenten Lunch' in the Cathedral Hall. Stations of the Cross from 11.15 am. All welcome

7.00 pm - 8.30 pm Divine Mercy Prayer Group meets at St Anthony's Parish Church, Beverley Road, 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

Evening (time tbc) The Our Lady's/English Martyrs, York, Lent Bible Study Group will meet. Contact: Lukasz Druzic, Tel: 07540 981429 for further details including timing and venue

12 Saturday

10.00 am for 10.30 am The Middlesbrough Diocesan Women's Commission meets at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. There will be reflections on Holy Week from 10.30 am to 11.30 am and the Annual General Meeting will follow from 11.45 am to 12.15 pm. All are welcome

13 Sunday

9.30 am Monthly Lourdes Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough

11.00 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 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

14 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

14 - 18 Monday - Friday

'The Atonement: It's Meaning in Christian Thought' led by Fr Andrew McCaffrey. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766486/766889 for further details

15 Tuesday

'A Quiet Day at Ampleforth' led by Fr Kevin Hayden. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766486/766889 for further details

7.00 pm - 9.30 pm 'Dementia Friendly Churches training' - free dementia training accredited and led by the Alzheimer's Society, part of Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough, to be held at The Trinity Centre, North Ormesby, Middlesbrough, TS3 6LD. Advance booking essential as places are limited. Contact Tel:

07446 908451 or E-mail: together@trinitycentre.org for further information or to book a place

16 Wednesday

7.00 pm 'Bear patiently with those who are ill' at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, one of the 'Liturgies for Lent' around the Diocese. Celebrant: Bishop Terence Patrick Drainey

7.00 pm 'The Possibilities and Problems of Peace on Earth: The United Nations, International Law and National Interests' - Ebor Lecture in York St John University, York, to be delivered by Professor Nigel Biggar, Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology, Christ Church, Oxford. Visit 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 for further details

7.00 pm The Knights of St Columba, Hull Council 45, meet at St Charles Borromeo Church, Jarratt Street, Hull

7.30 pm for 7.45 pm The Cleveland Newman Circle presents a Talk by Fr Paul Farrer of the Diocesan Youth Mission Team MYMission entitled 'Called to a Noble Adventure: The challenges of youth ministry today' in the Cathedral Hall, St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough. Coffee/tea from 7.30 pm. Contact Tel: (01642) 645732 or E-mail: tpj.egerton@virgin.net for further details. All are welcome

17 Thursday

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm 'What makes the Fourth Gospel feel "different?" - Jesus in St John' led by Sr Patricia Harriss CJ at St Bede's Pastoral Centre, Blossom Street, York. Contact Tel: (01904) 464900 for further details

7.30 pm Sacred Heart Parish Dance (Sean Kelly) at the Erimus Club, Cumberland Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 6JB. Admission by ticket only, available from Eddie White, Tel: (01642) 860227

18 Friday

12 noon Lenten Station Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, led by Fr Paul Farrer, to be followed by a 'Lenten Lunch' in the Cathedral Hall. Stations of the Cross from 11.15 am. All welcome

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/>

Evening (time tbc) The Our Lady's/English Martyrs, York, Lent Bible Study Group will meet. Contact: Lukasz Druzic, Tel: 07540 981429 for further details including timing and venue

18 - 20 Friday - Sunday

'Passion and Death of the Lord' led by Fr Henry Wansbrough. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766486/766889 for further details

20 Sunday

April issue of Catholic Voice available - please note the change of publication date for this issue

11.00 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 St Gabriel, Ormesby, Middlesbrough

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

We would recommend those wishing to attend events during Holy Week and Easter check with the relevant organiser or parish to see if they are proceeding

21 Monday

7.30 pm The York Newman Circle presents a Talk by Ben Rich, York Liberal Jewish Community, entitled 'The Passover and the role of story telling in Judaism' at The Bar Convent, Blossom Street, York. Contact: Judith Smeaton, Tel: (01904) 704525 or E-mail: judith.smeaton@btinternet.com for further details

22 Tuesday

12 noon Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough. All welcome

23 Wednesday

7.00 pm Reconciliation Service at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough. All welcome

24 - 28 Thursday - Monday

'The Easter Triduum: a Celebration of Easter at Ampleforth' - join the Ampleforth Community for Easter Conferences and the celebration of the Triduum liturgies. Early booking is recommended. There is no fixed charge for the Triduum Retreat, but all donations which may help to defray costs would be gratefully received. For enquires and further information, please e-mail: easter@ampleforth.org.uk

27 Sunday

11.00 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

30 Wednesday

12.45 pm - 3.00 pm LIFE ASCENDING Group, York Central meets at St Wilfrid's, York in the Upper Room after the 12.10 pm Mass

31 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

FIRST WEEK OF APRIL:

1 Friday

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

7.00 pm First Friday Life Prayer Group meets at St Anthony's Parish Church, Beverley Road, Hull. Contact Frances, Tel: (01482) 574486 for further details

1 - 3 Friday - Sunday

'Living the Gospel' led by Fr Kieran Monahan. Contact the Hospitality Office, Ampleforth Abbey, Tel: (01439) 766486/766889 for further details

2 Saturday

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

3 Sunday

11.00 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

1.00 pm - 4.00 pm Divine Mercy Sunday at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley.

Confessions available, 3.00 pm: Holy Mass. All welcome. Contact: St Mary's Cathedral, Tel: (01642) 597750 or visit www.ladychapel.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

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ADVANCE NOTICES:

4 April: 1.30 pm, The Annunciation at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley. 1.30 pm: Rosary, 2.00 pm: Mass. All welcome. Contact: St Mary's Cathedral, Tel: (01642) 597750 or visit www.ladychapel.org.uk for further details

9 April: 11.30 am, The Catholic Women's League Diocesan Annual General Meeting will be held at Holy Cross, Cottingham. Mass will be at 11.30 am. The National President will be attending

17 April: 4.00 pm, Young Adults' Mass for young adults aged 18-30 followed by a simple meal at The Chapel, Mission House, St Thomas More, Kirkham Row, Beechwood, Middlesbrough, TS4 3EE. Contact Tel: (01642) 529102 or E-mail: domfinn@mymission.org.uk for further details

30 April: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Lourdes Helpers' Day of Formation at Trinity Catholic College, Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough. Concludes with Mass at 3.00 pm to be shared with the Supported Pilgrims

MADONNA HOUSE PASTORAL CENTRE

The Madonna House Community is one of the new ecclesial communities in the Church, founded by Catherine de Hueck Doherty. We are an international community made up of about 200 laymen, laywomen and priests who take permanent promises of poverty, chastity and obedience.

We are a Pastoral Centre of hospitality and prayer, and you are more than welcome to join us for our daily prayers, a cup of tea, a retreat, counsel, our various talks, ecumenical services. Advisable to telephone first.

The Pastoral Centre is in Thorpe Lane, Robin Hood's Bay, North Yorkshire.

Contact: Tel: (01947) 880169 or e-mail: madonnahouserhb@gmail.com

ST BEDE'S PASTORAL CENTRE

Mondays

7.30 pm City Prayer Group

Wednesdays

7.30 pm - 9.00 pm Christian Meditation

St Bede's Pastoral Centre closes for Easter on 19 March and re-opens on 4 April

The Pastoral Centre is in Blossom Street, York. Contact: Tel: (01904) 464900 or e-mail: admin@stbedes.org.uk

Copy Deadline

Copy and photographs for inclusion in the Catholic Voice should be sent to: The Editor, Middlesbrough Diocesan Catholic Voice, Curial Offices, 50a The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QT. Tel (01642) 850505, E-mail catholicvoice@dioceseofmiddlesbrough.co.uk

by Friday April 1 2016 for the May issue

(the copy deadline for the April issue was Friday February 26 2016)

The April 2016 issue of the Catholic Voice will be available in the parishes on Sunday March 20 2016 (please note the earlier date)

JOHN PAUL CENTRE

200+ CLUB DRAW

Date of Draw - 8th February 2016

£100	Winning No	152
£60	Winning No	110
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Next Meeting and Monthly Draw

Monday 7th March 2016

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NEWS

A Special Appeal For Easter

Voice readers may remember the Baghdad Appeal, which was kindly supported by both Bishop John and Bishop Terry. We raised money for vital paediatric oncology drugs for Baghdad Central Training Hospital for Children during the dreadful years of war.

We were able to achieve a great deal thanks to your generosity and the support of Ampleforth Abbey, the Foreign Office, Ministry of Defence, the Royal Air Force and Army Medical Regiments.

The generosity of *Voice* readers is fondly remembered by medical staff at the hospital

but the situation remains critical, with the country now in the grip of civil war. The hospital still provides wonderful support for vulnerable children, at great risk to medical teams. More than 2,000 doctors have been killed in Iraq and 10,000 medical staff have also been killed. A ten-foot wall and ditch are being constructed around the northern and north-western approaches to the city to prevent militant attacks. Treating children and all patients under a siege situation must be intolerable.

Despite all the problems, the hospital receives

support from some significant hospitals who, in their own history, have coped with appalling circumstances. These include hospitals in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The doctors are extremely resourceful and courageous but occasionally cannot carry out vital treatment for want of special equipment.

Dr Jaffar Al-Ghaban urgently needs a special piece of equipment that is best purchased in Britain, a centrifuge Cytospin4 used to help in the diagnosis and treatment of leukaemia. The previous machine is now inoperable and the replacement would cost £10,000. Could you

help this Lent by sending an Easter offering by way of a donation towards the cost of a new machine? Donations made payable to "Diocese of Middlesbrough Baghdad Appeal" would make a real difference. Your donation can be gift aided.

Dr Jaffar has asked me to pass on his best wishes and prayers and to say: "God bless you and keep you safe from terrorism and civil conflict."

Thank you.

John Hinman, Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley



Dr Jaffar Al-Ghaban pictured with John Hinman during a visit to England five years ago

Please send donations to: Baghdad Appeal, Curial Office, Diocese of Middlesbrough, 50a The Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QT

Answers

Connection question

1. Granada 2. *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*
3. Focus 4. Capri 5. Cortina D'Ampezzo

Connection: Ford motor cars

Thinking cap question

Emma, Mansfield Park, Northanger Abbey, Persuasion, Pride and Prejudice and Sense and Sensibility

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