

O Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God and our most
gentle Queen and Mother; look
down in mercy upon England
thy "Dowry" and upon us all
who greatly hope and trust in
thee.



UCM News

The
Newspaper
of the Union
of Catholic
Mothers

www.theucm.co.uk

Summer 2020



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From Rome**

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Thomas Becket's
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Over 500,000 people take part in Rededication Of England through Live Streaming on Sunday 29 March

At noon on Sunday 29 March, over 500,000 people took part through live streaming in the rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary, with many more doing it at home at other times of the day.

Following a 2017 decision by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, 29 March was fixed as the date to rededicate England as the Dowry of Mary. The original plan was for the rededication to take place in all cathedrals and churches but the lockdown imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic made that impossible as all churches were closed. Instead, a rededication ceremony was livestreamed from the Walsingham shrine in Norfolk and people could connect to it to carry out their own personal dedication from home.

The number of people trying to connect to the livestream made the Walsingham site crash and soon after also the churchservices.tv site also crashed. Viewers were asked to switch to YouTube to watch the rededication there. Throughout the day the ceremony was repeated by bishops in their cathedrals and priests in their churches, but without congregations. In addition, individual households made the rededication in their house.

Before the Coronavirus, communities were encouraged to sign up to the rededication map on the official website, and 299 churches, schools and organisations signed up, including all cathedrals. As the coronavirus made it impossible to gather in these places, an individual sign up was made possible so that the rededication could be celebrated at home and 2057 individual sign ups were made. A map of these can be found in www.behold2020.com.

In a message sent prior to the ceremony Pope Francis said that he "prays that the act of rededication will inspire all to persevere in the urgent task of sharing the joy of the Gospel with the men and women of our times. As they strive to bear witness to the beauty of our Catholic faith, to promote unity between Christians and to proffer the merciful love of Jesus to the poorest of our brothers and sisters," he encourages them "to draw wisdom and strength from the example and intercession of the country's many confessors and martyrs."

In his homily after the rededication ceremony, Mgr. John Armitage, rector of the Walsingham shrine, said, "When our bishops decided three years ago to undertake this rededication, they could never have foreseen the extent of our need at this time. Today we undertake this dedication in the "eye of the storm". We have long pondered and treasured the words of Pope Leo XIII to an earlier generation of Bishops "When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England" in the hour of our need Our Blessed Mother has indeed returned to England!"

Cardinal Nichols, said on Twitter, "Today is the day we rededicate ourselves to Our Blessed Lady. This act of dedication asks of us to make a gift of ourselves to her. We ask for her protection, her mantle of love cast over us and our nations," and uploaded a video of himself performing the rededication at home.

For more information, the text of the rededication, the map of some of the rededication sites etc, see www.behold2020.com, or contact Jack Valero: press@behold2020.com.



Mgr John Armitage

The Dowry Painting



By Amanda de Pulford

This painting was blessed by Pope Francis on 12th February 2020 in Rome before returning home to Walsingham for The Re-dedication of England as Our Lady's Dowry.

After The Re-dedication, The Dowry painting will begin a journey to every Catholic parish in the country, never to return to Walsingham.

The Universe Group have agreed to print copies of the painting and send them to every parish in the country.



Pope Francis blesses The Dowry Painting in Rome.

Hello everyone, I hope you are all keeping safe and well. At the beginning of 2020, I thought after Brexit and Megxit we would be home and dry but obviously that wasn't the case. We are living in very strange times and it seems to be proving more difficult for some than others. I'm sure none of us have ever celebrated the Easter Triduum in quite the way we have this year. In spite of everything I hope you could celebrate the gift of the Risen Lord again in our lives and can continue to enjoy the Easter season.

As I sit trying to compile this edition of UCM News, I am very aware that most of the foundations stopped meeting sometime in March or maybe even February for those who meet monthly. For that reason, I'm sure you will all appreciate that the content in this edition will be different than any which has gone before. In fact, at this point I have no idea what will be in! I received a few articles and pictures before we were advised to stop meetings and am now relying heavily on the National Committee to be creative.

I apologise in advance if you have read

some of the articles in here as they will be from other Catholic sources which you may have already seen.

Whilst it has been hard to be apart from some of our loved ones, we are so fortunate to live in this digital age. There are so many ways to keep in contact and from what I can see and have heard we have all embraced the technology which has enabled us to use WhatsApp, Facetime, Facebook, Skype, Zoom, email, telephone etc. Who said we're too old to learn? I know some foundations, including my own, have set up a WhatsApp group and it's good to be able to keep in touch and support each other during these days.

How have you been spending 'lockdown'? Have you learned any new skills during this time of isolation and social distancing? Do write in and let us know. I know my ironing has never been so up to date, I have consumed gallons of tea and feel I am knitting for England. I'm sure the charity shops will be inundated with donations now they can reopen.

It has been a great comfort for many of us to be able to see and hear Mass each day

from many different churches around the country and indeed the world. One of my favourites has been Walsingham, and the rededication ceremony at the end of March was beautiful. It is very sad for The UCM that we can't be there this year in July to celebrate our 75th anniversary of pilgrimage to this beautiful, peaceful and meaningful shrine to Our Lady, however, this will take place next year on Tuesday 6th July 2021. Meanwhile, Maureen Smith (past Walsingham Co-ordinator), has arranged a Novena of Masses for all UCM members with Mgr. John Armitage from 1st to 9th July 2020. Thank you, Maureen, from everyone. Mass is livestreamed daily at 12 noon on the Walsingham website.

It is with regret that the National Committee have decided to cancel all National events for this year. The re-arranged dates for 2021 are: - Study 15th-17th March; Council 10th-12th May. The National President's Pilgrimage will also take place in 2021 at a similar time of year. The dates for this will be announced later. The October meeting is yet to be arranged.

One of the major considerations is the

need for new officers. As you are aware, the National Media Officer has been unwell for a while now and so has reluctantly decided to resign. We have also to inform you the National Secretary is resigning at the next AGM due to health issues. I'm sure you would all wish to join me in wishing them a speedy return to good health and thanking them for their vital contribution to our organisation. Please read the vacancies section on page 8 and give them your serious consideration. The Diocesan Officers have copies of the job descriptions for all these positions. Of course, feel free to contact any of the National Officers for any clarification, advice or help.

www.theucm.co.uk The UCM website is now up and running. Your constructive comments are most welcome by the National Committee via the newspaper email address.

In the meantime, keep safe and keep in touch with each other. Hope to see you all again very soon. Love and prayers

**Val Ward
Acting Editor**

LEEDS

Traffic Light Hats

Here is a photo of a few of the baby "traffic light" hats that our members have been knitting. We had 82 in total which I will post to Doncaster Infirmary. I have also included an attachment which explains better than I could what the local hospitals need, it has been circulated to our members. Until we resume

meetings, our members are praying the UCM prayer, praying for an end to the virus and praying for sick relative and friends at 7pm on Thursdays.

**Margaret Waterworth
St Joseph's Foundation Huddersfield**



Lenten Lunch In Huddersfield

Holy Redeemer Foundation in Huddersfield hosted a Lenten Lunch for Parishioners. UCM members made all the soups and 2 Parishioners made delicious home baked bread. All profits were donated to CAFOD.

**Eve Milling
UCM Secretary**



A Special Award for Mary

A longstanding member of UCM, Mary Gillmartin, has been a Chaplaincy visitor at Bradford Royal Infirmary for 21 years. In December 2019 Mary was nominated for the "Volunteer of the Year Award", She was nominated for 'always being passionate about her role, always having a smile on her face, being sincere and making a real difference to patients and staff'. Ten volunteers were nominated for the top prize and after a tough job, Mary was crowned "Volunteer of the Year 2019". Mary served as Study Officer from 1984 – 1989 and as Leeds Diocesan President from 1989 – 1992 and is now a valued private member.

**Eileen Goodwin
Leeds Media Officer**



SKILLS GAINED OVER A LIFETIME OF CHURCHGOING

- 1 Switching on the urn at the correct time.
- 2 Not forgetting to bring the milk.
- 3 Knowing how many tea bags are needed in the large teapot.
- 4 Pouring a reasonable cup of tea.
- 5 Dealing with spillages in a calm manner.
- 6 Remembering how many scoops to put in the coffee pot.
- 7 Being able to locate the teaspoon drawer under pressure.
- 8 Grasping basic serving hatch etiquette.
- 9 Folding the coffee tables without injury.
- 10 Washing up 14 cups and saucers in a minute.

Editor's comment: - What about the biscuits?



FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dear Members

This is proving a strange beginning to my last year in office as the National President sitting in an armchair watching Mass and the Easter Services on television. At the moment sitting here looking out over the garden I have started to think of the places I have visited. How often do we go to a meeting in a different part of the country and we just attend the meeting and then return home? One such place is the Hayes Centre at Swanwick. It is a place full of history. During the Second World War it was a concentration camp for German and Italian prisoners. One of those prisoners was Franz von Werra, a legendary escapee, his tunnelling out of The Hayes is featured in the classic 1950s war movie "The One That Got Away". The tunnel dug by the POWs calling themselves

'Swanwick Excavations inc' is still intact and ran into the countryside. They were all captured. One of the POWs came back to The Hayes 50 years later on a visit. At the beginning of March, I was a guest of UCM Wales. Their council was held in a hotel in Hereford another city full of history. The famous Mappa Mundi is on display in the cathedral; it is one of the world's unique medieval treasures and it is believed it was made around the year of 1300. Also, in the Cathedral is the Chained Library which is the largest surviving chained library in the world and contains about 1,500 books dating from around 800AD to the early nineteenth century. I hope you and your families are keeping well. Take care.

**Margaret McDonald,
National President**

Coronavirus in Sierra Leone: "We refuse to be overwhelmed by the odds stacked against us."

By CAFOD's Head of Media, Nana Anto-Awuakye

I met Fatmata in 2015, at the peak of Sierra Leone's Ebola outbreak. She is an extraordinary woman that I have never forgotten.

Fatmata worked with the Dignified Burial Team – a group of brave, local volunteers. I remember the poignancy of their roll call each morning. Each volunteer replied as their name was read aloud: "I am here."

Fatmata had a five-year-old daughter at the time. Following her shift with the burial team, she headed home. Fatmata sat with her daughter on the steps outside their house, hugging her between her knees and plaiting her hair. All day long Fatmata removed the bodies of Ebola victims from their family homes. During this dangerous work her face was stern and serious. But now, with her daughter in her knee embrace, Fatmata's face lit up. She was beaming and beautiful. I was amazed at how she coped.

"Caritas takes care of us," she told me. "We follow the guidelines and my faith in God keeps me strong. God is by my side so I can serve my country."

The coronavirus pandemic has unleashed a global crisis on an unprecedented scale. There's no getting away from this catastrophic language, especially when we discuss the effects of coronavirus on the developing world. These are countries already coping with fragile health systems – countries with thousands of refugees in makeshift camps, cities already destroyed by war, and communities already crippled with hunger.

But I have seen the Church, local experts and CAFOD country teams, all pull together to achieve the seemingly impossible – to defeat Ebola. And I know that the same can happen with coronavirus.

The cornerstone of our successful work in fighting Ebola in Sierra Leone was to bring on board leaders from across the local community – of all faiths and traditions – and provide hygiene training. These leaders had the trust of their respective communities. They could go where others could not, to share what they had learnt.

The last thing Sierra Leone needs after rebuilding communities post Ebola is COVID-19. But there's no escaping it. It has arrived. The good news is that people like Fatmata are already using the things they have learnt from dealing with Ebola. The lessons with community leaders are proving invaluable.

I spoke to Kayode, CAFOD's Country Representative in Sierra Leone. He talked about CAFOD's work teaching hygiene best practice to influential community leaders, as well as plans to highlight their voices on TV and radio so their trusted knowledge can reach as many people as possible.

"These are worrying and challenging times, but we refuse to be overwhelmed by the odds stacked against us.

"We are already affected by the spread and impact of coronavirus, and we are responding to and reaching out to communities that need guidance and advice on how to keep safe."

"CAFOD supporters never fail to walk alongside us in our times of greatest need. Their prayers and donations keep hope alive and propel us to do all we can to protect communities from this global pandemic.

"We thank you from deep within our hearts, for all that you do."

For more information on CAFOD's response to the coronavirus pandemic, visit cafod.org.uk/coronavirus



Fatmata and her daughter outside their home, Sierra Leone, 2015

NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Angels

Angels of Hope

Last Christmas Denise Hamilton from St. Francis Shefford found a tiny knitted angel in her village with a message of hope attached to it. It was from one of the local churches who had put them in public places for people to find. She brought one to our meeting and Liz Maden who had also found one, downloaded the pattern. During our lockdown

they have been a real Godsend as we are all making them and keeping our spirits up now and we will have lots by Christmas. We shared it on the UCM Facebook and many of our UCM sisters are knitting them too. Lots of churches have put free patterns on the internet. So, we can all keep busy while we are grounded.

**Jenny Hyde
Northampton**

Lots of Special Birthdays

St. Mary's foundation in Dunstable have a lot of special birthday celebrations this year. Seven of our members celebrate 80th birthday's in the last year and future few months. Many of these being very active members over the years and still turn up to the fortnightly meetings with enthusiasm and ideas come rain or shine. We are planning a fashion show in May for the whole parish, ladies of course!!! We have done them in the past lots of planning involved and team spirit involved. We have a company attending who specialize in fashion shows. We have to provide half of the models and clothes modelled and more are sold afterwards all high street brands up to

50% off. We get a percentage of profits on the night of sales. Lots of planning and advertising and selling of tickets posters to be put up around town. This is a charity night for a mental health charity especially in favour of our young people of today whom many seem to suffer. We will report the results of our event in the future Mother Paper. Hoping and praying for a great successful night in our social centre and a thank you in anticipation to our ladies all young in spirit for their involvement and hard work.

**Ann Lewis-Drew
Study Officer St. Mary's Dunstable**

**If you would like to advertise please contact
Charlotte Rosbrooke on 07932 248225
or email charlotter@cathcom.org**

Congratulations

65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

June and Bernard STEER, Holy Spirit Foundation, West Bridgford, Nottingham Diocese



June and Bernard Steer

DIAMOND WEDDING

Norma and Louis O'DONNELL, St. Edward's Foundation, Kettering, Northampton Diocese
Pauline and Michael MIDDLETON, Foundation President, St. Vincent's Foundation, Hallam Diocese



Pauline And Michael MIDDLETON

GOLDEN WEDDING

Sue and Eddie MACREASH, St Anne's Foundation, Rock Ferry, Shrewsbury Diocese



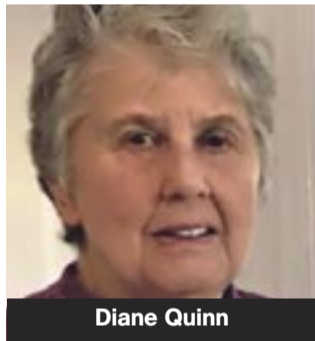
Jean Longley

95th BIRTHDAY

Eileen WALSH, St. Edward's Foundation, Kettering, Northampton Diocese
Jean LONGLEY, Merstham Foundation, Arundel & Brighton Diocese

80th BIRTHDAY

Cathy AITKEN, St. Marys Foundation, Dunstable, Northampton Diocese
Diane QUINN, St. Colman's Foundation, Cosham, Portsmouth Diocese
Delia FOX, Past Diocesan President and Secretary, Hallam Diocese
Leish DAVIS, St. Joseph's Foundation, St. Neots, East Anglia Diocese
Veronica O'NEILL, Our Lady & St. Walstan's Foundation, East Anglia Diocese



Diane Quinn

CAFOD: COP26 postponed, but climate targets must be met



The COP26 UN climate change conference due to take place in Glasgow in November has been postponed because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Dates for a rescheduled conference in 2021, hosted in Glasgow by the UK in partnership with Italy, will be set out in due course following further discussion with parties.

Neil Thorns, Director of Advocacy at Catholic aid agency CAFOD, said: "We have to do all we can to minimise the spread of the coronavirus and protect the most vulnerable people in the UK and worldwide.

"That inevitably means that preparations for the COP will be thrown off-course for the time being, but postponing the COP doesn't

mean the steps to tackle the climate crisis can be delayed. The Paris Agreement requires countries to submit new climate targets in 2020 - whether the COP is held or not - so governments still can and must put their plans in place to cut emissions.

"We need to use the additional time to ensure the COP is a forum for making decisions which will rebuild our economies in a way that protects the world's poorest people. Governments have pledged extraordinary amounts of money to prevent economic disasters from this pandemic, but that money must not be used to finance future environmental destruction."

Independent Catholic News

NCLA - The National Council for Lay Associations

The National Council for Lay Associations is a consultative body to the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales. The NCLA aims to respond to requests from the Bishops Conference and to bring matters of concern to the attention of the laity and act as a forum for discussion and networking among lay organisations.

Representatives from 23 lay apostolic member associations, representatives from nine liaison organisations, an Episcopal Advisor, a Chaplain, five officers and three lay advisors, form the council.

This Council convenes twice a year at Wistaston Hall, the OMI Retreat Centre in Crewe, over a two-day conference during the first weekends of February and October. It is customary to have a speaker at the February meeting and it concludes with the AGM.

Ideas, insights and experiences are shared on major issues of national concern, raised by the diverse network of organisations or by the Bishops' Conference. These conferences are followed by regional meetings in the north, midlands and south, so that a summary and recommendation can be compiled for the Bishops' Conference as one of its consultative bodies.

Included in the membership are Catholic Men's Society of Great Britain; Life Ascending; CATSC (Catholic Association of Teachers in Schools and Colleges); Catholic Women's League; Christian Life Community; Knights of Saint Columba; SVP; UCM; CAFOD; Catholic Union; NBCW; NJPN; Polish Pastoral Council with PICA (Polish Institute for Catholic Action), to name just a few.

Each year a full report, garnered from the individual organisations reports, is prepared and distributed to all the Bishops in England and Wales so keeping them informed of the work and

commitment of the Lay Associations in the country.

The Council fosters co-operation between member associations to strengthen their apostolate, is a member of the European Forum of National Laity Committees and has links with the Dicastery for Laity the Family and Life.

The European Forum of National Lay Committees (ELF) is a not-for-profit association gathering national lay committees and councils in Europe recognised by their Bishops' conference. The Forum was founded in 1965 encouraged by statements of the Second Vatican Council on the concept of the laity in the church. ELF is a platform dedicated to promote collaboration and exchange between its members and contributes to raising awareness about the mission of the Church in the world and its pastoral work. It aims to support and help develop the Christian vocation in Europe. The ELF does not defend any one model of lay Christian vocation but recognises the diversity of lay pastoral work incarnating the European motto "unity in diversity".

ELF's principles include

- openness and respect on Christian values;
- a willingness to learn from all members;
- providing opportunities for expressing various points of view;
- providing channels for participation, exchange, mutual support and contact.

A European Study Conference is held every two years and a meeting of the European Committee in the intervening years.

The Study Day for 2020 was to have been held in June, however due to the pandemic it has been postponed until June 2021.

Val Ward
UCM Representative to NCLA

Catholic Women Praying Together

Annual Mass 11.30am
Wednesday 4th November 2020

Praying for our Young People

Church of the Immaculate Conception
114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH



Our celebrant is the Right Reverend John Sherrington
of the Archdiocese of Westminster
Music by the choir of John Fisher School, Purley

All welcome

After Mass there will be a buffet lunch in the church hall.
Tickets for lunch are £25 each and must be booked in advance.

Call 07721 857 810 or e-mail: catholicwpt@gmail.com

Website: : <http://catholicwomenprayingtogether.ukchurches.co>

Cheques payable to Catholic Women Praying Together

Organised by: Association of Catholic Women, Catholic Women's League, Ladies Ordinariate Group, Life Ascending, The Union of Catholic Mothers



For thousands of years leprosy has been the scourge of poverty-stricken communities across the world and, sadly, it still exists in many countries today. The disease frequently leads to severe, life-changing disabilities and those who suffer from it are often excluded by their community, and struggle to fend for themselves.

124 years dedicated to the relief of suffering

St Francis Leprosy Guild has been dedicated to the relief of suffering caused by leprosy



for more than a century, during which time many religious sisters, brothers and priests have made it their life's vocation to care for those with the disease. Today we are determined to build on their legacy and seize our opportunity to help beat leprosy once and for all.

A leprosy-free world is finally within sight

Just a few decades ago, more than five million people were being diagnosed with leprosy every year, their lives destroyed physically, emotionally and socially by the disease. Today, this number has reduced significantly but remains stubbornly at over 200,000 new cases annually, worldwide. St Francis Leprosy Guild is committed to achieving a leprosy-free world and we genuinely believe that it is now within sight, if only people like you are prepared to help.

Early detection can stop leprosy in its tracks

Leprosy is curable and since the World Health Organisation made multi-drug treatments freely available 16 million people have been cured of the disease. New cases of leprosy tend to

be concentrated in isolated communities where people are still living in dire poverty and have little or no access to healthcare. If leprosy is to be stamped out for good, your support is needed to train local healthcare workers who can reach out to these communities. By supporting early detection and treatment - before the disease takes hold - you can help to prevent untold suffering.



If you are able to send a donation of just £30 today, you will help us support around 30 inspirational partners, such as the Bombay Leprosy Project. This is training local healthcare volunteers to work both in the slums of Mumbai and surrounding rural areas, so they can monitor people for early symptoms and provide prompt medication.

Help to beat leprosy for good

St Francis Leprosy Guild and its partners are working with remote and marginalised communities across Asia, Africa and South America. Please send £30 today using the form below or donate online at www.justgiving.com/stfrancisleprosyguild. Together, let's seize the opportunity to create a leprosy-free world and help put an end to people's suffering at last.

Donate at www.justgiving.com/stfrancisleprosyguild

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms First Name _____ Surname _____ Address _____ Postcode _____ Email _____ Telephone _____	Here is my gift of: £30 <input type="checkbox"/> £60 <input type="checkbox"/> £100 <input type="checkbox"/> Other £ <input type="text"/> DA2023 By Cheque/Postal Order/CAF Voucher (to St Francis Leprosy Guild) Visa/MasterCard/Amex/Maestro (delete as appropriate) Card no. _____ Issue no. (Maestro only) _____ Expiry date ____/____/____ Issue date ____/____/____ Security code ____ _____ (3 digits on the back of your card, 4 on front of Amex) Name on card _____ Date ____/____/____ Please return this form with your gift to: St Francis Leprosy Guild, 73 St Charles Square, London W10 6EJ.	THANK YOU!
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Registered Charity Number 1188749

This appeal has been made possible thanks to a supporter's kind legacy

PORTSMOUTH

St. James & St. William of York UCM, Reading

At the end of July 2019 St. James' Foundation in Reading had the pleasure of enrolling four new members during Mass. Father John O'Shea officiated and blessed the badges. Valerie and Marina joined this year, Maria has been a member for a few years and Melly joined in 2018. This was a lovely ceremony followed by a celebration in the Dominic Baerberi Room at St. James' with Father John as our guest of honour.

**Angela Brech,
Secretary**



L to R Fr John, Marina Ranjan, Maria Lloyd, Valerie Wollowiec and Melly Noronha

UCM reaches out across the miles!

A chance internet search by a former Parishioner of St. Colmans, Cosham has led to a regular exchange of emails with UCM news and her news. Colleen Coleman lives in Australia. Colleen and her parents emigrated to Australia in the late nineteen fifties. Colleen's mother was in the UCM before she emigrated. Colleen was married in St. Colmans and found an article about St. Colmans celebrating its 85th anniversary accidentally. She sent an email to our Presbytery and the Secretary passed it on to the UCM as she mentioned us. She lives in Townsville, Australia which suffered flood damage very badly last year. One of her close friend's husband was helping his son repair his house after the storms and cut his leg whilst standing in the flood water. This led to infection and he was very poorly and was not expected to survive. Colleen emailed me and asked for more prayers as their rosaries were wearing out as they were being used so much. We sent her a rosary in a case and a handmade card saying we would pray for him and his wife. He is, miraculously, recovering albeit slowly and is well on the way to recovery. His wife sent me a lovely email thanking us for our Prayers. Thankfully they have not been affected by the terrible fires. So, the UCM Cosham is now known in Townsville. Never underestimate the power of Prayer or the UCM.

**Pauline Kaznowski
President, Cosham Foundation**

First Steps 2 School Peru

First Steps 2 School Peru is a British charity whose purpose is to alleviate some of the effects of poverty in children of under 6 years of age. It provides education, care, and a great deal of love through its day nursery where your children will learn various activities for early years stimulation, delivered in an entertaining way. And in this way, you can have a break or find a part time job to improve your economic situation, with the certainty that your children are in good hands.

[Importance of stimulation]

It develops language skills in the early years.

It develops the child's physical abilities.

It promotes the desire to learn and explore.

It gives new ways of relating to the world around.

ALL WELCOME!!!

**Dorothy Pople
Portsmouth Diocese**

Apology

First steps2 school Peru. This charity is nothing to do with Dawn Stars Nursery NGO as was reported in the October 2019 edition of UCM News. Apologies for any confusion. On the right is a reprint of the correct original article received. Editor.



Our supporters are offering a lifeline to young carers, parents who have lost their jobs, families fleeing domestic violence and households self-isolating with seriously ill family members. **Please donate now to help vulnerable children and families through this crisis.**

I would like to give (please tick) £15 £25 £50 £100 Other £

giftaid it Please send me information about gift aiding my donation and/or setting up a standing order

I enclose a cheque/PO/CAF voucher made payable to the Catholic Children's Society

I would like to donate by debit/credit card

Type of card (please circle): Visa/ Mastercard/ CAF/ Maestro/ Delta/ AMEX

Card number

Issue number Security number Exp. Date -

Title: First Name: Last Name:

Home Address:

..... Postcode:

Signature: Date: / /

Please send your donation to: The Catholic Children's Society, 73 St Charles Square, London, W10 6EJ. We will retain your information in accordance with privacy and data protection laws.

W: www.cathchild.org.uk E: info@cathchild.org.uk T: 020 8969 5305 Registered Charity No. 210920



L to R Lorne Fry, President of Fareham Foundation, Diana Rogers & Pauline Williams, Treasurer with Otis in the front

A Visit From Otis

On a wild & windy evening in February, Fareham UCM had a very interesting talk & demonstration by Bernard & Diana Rogers on Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. Otis, their hearing dog, has changed Diana's life. Diana is deaf - Otis helps Diana to stop feeling isolated and alone. He has restored her confidence and independence by becoming her ears, and her best friend too!

Hearing Dogs is a charity which trains clever hearing dogs to transform deaf people's lives. They train dogs to alert deaf people to important and life-saving sounds they would otherwise miss - sounds that many people take for granted like the doorbell, alarm clock and even danger signals like the fire alarm. Being aware of these - thanks to a hearing dog - makes a real difference to deaf people's lives, and can even save them. Bernard demonstrated to us how Otis does this for Diana.



Submitting copy for next issue

The deadline for articles and photos for the next edition of the UCM News is Monday 24th August 2020

Please send copy to catholic.mother@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you

(GDPR) General Data Protection Regulation

Anyone sending photos to be published in The Catholic Mother newspaper, it is your responsibility to make sure you get permission from all in the photos.

LETTER FROM ROME

A little background to the letter:-

My father left school at 14 years of age and started work as a warehouse boy for the local Co-operative store, continuing his education at night school. His parents couldn't afford for him to go to the grammar school but he was a bright boy and always thirsty for knowledge and was determined to better himself. He had a background in first aid, having served in the Red Cross and so in 1940 he was called up to serve in The Royal Army Medical Corps as part of front line casualty clearing .

He was brought up as a Methodist and had no knowledge at that time of our Roman Catholic faith.

He wrote this letter to my mother on the 21st June 1944. Obviously I have edited the letter but thought what a wonderful description he gave of his visit to Rome, little knowing that in the 21st century his family would be converts. I hope others find it moving also.

Kate Moss National Secretary

My own dearest one

"It is an amazing thing to find oneself in the middle of a city and then to find a barrier in front of a huge church, with guards and notices to the effect that behind here is neutral territory and no one with arms is allowed in. For the first time in over 4 years I found myself in a country which has not been at war. Across a huge square (actually St Peter's Square is circular) we see the really magnificent church of St Peter which is 90 feet longer than St Pauls.

To the right of the square, under a balcony, I noticed a door through which many troops were entering a side building. Naturally I enquired and was told that, today, the pope was giving an audience to the men representing the 8th army, so I just fell in with the others and entered the door, passing two of the Pope's private bodyguard, the Swiss Guards, dressed in old fashioned blue uniform and looking as if they had come out of a 14th century picture.

Along this corridor, up a huge flight of stairs

we crowded until at the top I saw the emblazoning of the Pope's Court of Arms, the Crossed Keys. Here we passed through a door in single file, each man being presented with a medallion in an official envelope and a photo of the old boy himself. In this room there were huge paintings of Christian significance and we passed through into a smaller room which was the ante room to a huge audience chamber.

In the audience chamber was a passage, down the centre, made of mosaic tiles and edged with a wooden palisade about 3 feet 6 inches high. This led from a door at one end to a throne at the other, which was richly decorated and brightly floodlit.

The room itself was so big that, although there were over 2000 present we were not more than 4 or 5 deep along the passage, and I was lucky enough to be right on the barrier end about 15 yards away from the throne.

Naturally I expected a long wait and was delighted to be told by an army RC padre that The Holy Father will be in at 12-30 - just half an hour to wait. In this half hour all sorts of personages hurried up to the throne and back again and they wore marvellous costumes, the most impressive of all being a man in crimson red robes in velvet.

At 12-30 prompt, the entrance of his highness was greeted by cheering and clapping as the procession started at the door, to slowly wind its way to the throne. In front was a man in black livery with knee britches. I was told he was in what is called 'court dress'. After him were 4 Swiss Guards with halberd and swords and wearing a uniform of the style the Spaniards of Queen Elizabeth's time wore, but in two inch red and yellow stripes. Following these were the six papal knights of the order of St Columbus, in uniform, with drawn sabres and each wearing a chestful of medals in addition to the insignia of the order. Their uniform was black and each man of the escort is an office. Then came the litter with eight men in dark red livery carrying it and the Pope himself seated on top, wearing just plain white robes and

skull cap and on his right hand the famous Papal Ring. Behind his litter were an equal number of guards again.

As he was carried to his throne he was giving his blessing to all, and smiling in a really delightful way as if he was genuinely touched at the rousing reception.

At the throne, he was lowered to the ground and walked up to the seat on which he seated himself. Then in contrasting silence to the cheering crowd, he addressed the people in English. He wished us all a speedy and safe return to our homes and said his prayers were for all both here and the loved ones left at home. After this he invited all to receive his benediction, which he gave, kneeling himself and all of us doing likewise. After this he walked down from the throne and several of the greater personalities were allowed to kiss his ring.

The procession reformed and to the accompaniment of the Papal Hymn he was

slowly carried back, while men stretched out to touch him and to receive his blessing again. I was so near the front that I just had to stretch out my hand and much to my amazement, not only was touched by him, but actually touched his ring myself.

And so I wended my way out again to look round St Peter's which is so big and rich. I should imagine millions of pounds were spent on it and the treasures inside are just priceless.

At the entrance I bought a little crucifix which has inside it a piece of stone from the catacombs where the ancient Christians hid from persecution. It is a good souvenir but no means as valuable as the medallion with the Papal crest in gold which I am sending herewith.

The Pope himself blessed this and so I am sending it to you my dearest one

..."



Brenda and Roy Bleackley

Philippines: Buying Preda dried mangos saves and heals abused children

The great success of the Preda child rescue and healing program is that so many girls aged from 5 to 17 overcome with courage the trauma of abuse and exploitation and go on afterwards to have successful happy lives. When you buy Preda mangos you help them.

Each one is a success story. A hundred children every year have been saved and healed since 1996. The abuse they suffered is a shocking tragedy and crime but they recover thanks to the intensive but effective healing they receive in the affirming and encouraging family environment at the Preda Home for Girls in Olongapo.

There are as many as 45 girls at any given time in the home and 107 over twelve months. They are reintegrated after about a year to a safe family or relatives and Preda then provides aftercare services and they continue to fight their court case against their trafficker or abuser. Many succeed. In 2019, with the support of the Preda legal office, there were 20 convictions. Most abusers and traffickers were given life in prison where they will abuse no more children.

Everyone knows it is a challenge to bring



Shay Cullen with Fair Trade produce

up a family - even of a few children - nowadays. At Preda, we care for 45 girls at any given time and an additional 40 boys 10 to 15 years of age rescued from inhuman and

cruel detention centres. Preda spends at least €230 or £195 a month per child. We are always striving to see they continue to get the best unique care and service from the

56 professional Preda staff.

A great way to give continuous support to the Preda children is by buying and promoting the sale of the Preda dried mangos. They are available in Dunnes Stores, Tescos, Waitrose and other supermarkets in the UK and online at www.forestfeast.com, our true friend and supporter

All proceeds of Preda sales go to support the homes for children. Give gifts of Preda dried mango to yourself and to your children, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. It is the healthy delicious snack, naturally sweet and without preservative, chemicals or artificial colouring. You are helping everybody when you do. You help the farmers prosper and they can send their children to school because of Preda Fair trade. Email me at shaycullen@gmail.com and tell me where you found the Preda dried mangos and how you liked them so that I can share the news on www.preda.org. There is more about Preda fair trade dried mangos at www.predafairtrade.net.

Shay Cullen has been a Columban missionary in the Philippines since 1969.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED – Persecuted and Forgotten

The countdown to Christianity's disappearance in parts of the Middle East is ticking ever louder – and can only be stopped if the international community acts now – according to a new report launched in the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, 23rd October.

The 2019 Persecuted and Forgotten? report, produced by Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), warns of Christianity vanishing from towns and cities in the region, as – despite the defeat of Daesh (ISIS) – the impact of genocide has led to haemorrhaging numbers of the faithful.

There were 1.5 million Christians in Iraq before 2003 but by mid-2019, that number had fallen to well below 150,000 and perhaps even less than 120,000 – a decline

of up to 90 percent within a generation.

In Syria Christian numbers have fallen by two thirds since the conflict began in 2011.

The ACN report notes that the international community has shown unprecedented concern about the persecution of the region's Christians, but failed to provide the aid required to ensure its survival during that period covered by the report (2017-19).

Persecuted and Forgotten? found that "Governments in the West and the UN failed to offer Christians in countries such as Iraq and Syria the emergency help they needed, as genocide got underway."

The report warns that the Church in the region could vanish if radical Islamists were to mount another attack on vulnerable communities – a threat highlighted by reports

of jihadists escaping prison, as a result of this month's renewed violence in north-east Syria.

The Persecuted and Forgotten? report concludes: "Were there to be another Daesh-style assault on the faithful, it could result in the Church's disappearance.

"However, if security can be guaranteed there is every indication that Christianity could survive in Nineveh and Erbil."

Persecuted and Forgotten? also found that the persecution of Christians has worsened the most in South and East Asia – noting that, in 2018, 477 anti-Christian incidents were reported in India.

In the same region, 300 people died – and more than 500 were injured – in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday 2019 when jihadists bombed sites including three churches.

In a number of African countries Christians were threatened by Islamists seeking to eliminate the Church – either by use of force or by dishonest means, including bribing people to convert.

In Nigeria's north and the 'Middle Belt' regions, militants continued a reign of terror against Christians and Muslims alike – 3,731 Christians were reportedly killed in 2018.

While in other parts of the African continent, the main threat to Christians came from the state – over a 12-month period, more than 70 churches were attacked in Sudan's Nuba Mountains with 32 burnt down.

Source: Aid to the Church in Need website
John Newton

Vacancies

NATIONAL VACANCIES

In order for The Union of Catholic Mothers to progress, we need members to put their names forward for National Office. Everyone brings their own unique and special gifts to these roles, so will you seriously consider giving some of your time to enable us to continue? Thank you.

ALL NATIONAL OFFICERS

- Attend National Committee Meetings
- Attend National Council & Annual General Meeting and Diocesan Officers Meeting
- Attendance at the Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham is appreciated
- Attends adhoc meetings as required

National Vice President

**2 posts – shared responsibilities
Elected office – closing date 30th September 2020**

- Looks after the Mass travel kit in the role of sacristan
- Compile rota for inviting each diocese in turn to prepare the liturgy for National Meetings
- Compile the intercessions for Walsingham
- Co-ordinate the Daily Mass Scheme
- Attend Justice and Peace Conference
- Attend the Catholic Union meetings and Craigmyle Lecture
- Attend the National Council of Women Conference
- Organise the National Study Conference

National Media Officer

Appointed Office – closing date 30th September 2020

- Attends Catholic Diocesan Editor's Forum - yearly
- Compiles 'UCM News' newspaper 3 times a year and liaises with the publisher
- Facebook Administrator
- Website Liaison
- Closely observes Media Watch and reports to members
- Advises the Media of UCM events that are to take place.
- Must have access to a computer and possess good computer skills.
- Is the link with Diocesan Media officers and organises Training Days for these officers.
- Has responsibility for updating the list of Foundation contacts and liaising with the National Treasurer.

National Welfare Officer

Appointed Office – closing date 30th September 2020

- Co-ordinate the work carried out nationally
- Liaise with the Diocesan Welfare Officers and provide information, support and help
- Attend meetings of CARITAS Social Action Network and housing justice
- Closely observe The UCM Health & Safety Recommendations and Safe-Guarding Policy
- Observe affairs relating to human welfare
- Organises training day as required

National Public Service Officer

Appointed Office – closing date 30th September 2020

The work of the PSO can mainly be done from home via the internet and involves updating the National Committee on the following issues:-

- Education in our Catholic Schools
- Marriage and Family Life
- Pro Life issues
- Housing Justice
- Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales

National Secretary

Elected office – closing date 30th September 2020

- Is one of the three trustees of The Union of Catholic Mothers; the other two trustees are the National President and the National Treasurer. The three trustee officers work closely as a team regarding all matters relating to The U.C.M., attending Trustee meetings as required
- Needs to have a thorough knowledge of the Constitution of The UCM
- Needs to have an overview of the tasks and remit of all members of the National Committee
- Compiles the Agendas for all meetings and then compiles the Minutes. Compiles the Annual Report and the National Officers reports
- Monitor emails and actions if necessary
- Perform the secretarial duties associated with the role of National Secretary.
- Facebook Administrator
- The National Secretary should be available to give advice at all times

All nomination/recommendation must be proposed by their home diocese, seconded by another diocese and sent together with a copy of the candidate's CV by 30th September 2020

To the National Secretary: Kate Moss

For more detailed information in relation to any of the advertised posts or just to discuss please contact the National Secretary

UK-wide events to mark 850th anniversary of St Thomas Becket's martyrdom

Source: British Museum

A year-long programme of events marking the 850th anniversary of one of the most shocking crimes in European history, the murder of Saint Thomas Becket, have been unveiled today. 'Becket2020' will see venues in London, Canterbury and beyond host a range of events across the year to commemorate his murder - a moment which changed the course of history.

The programme includes performances, pageants, talks, film screenings and religious services, and culminates in the first-ever major UK exhibition to explore Becket's life, death and legacy which will open at the British Museum in October.

St Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered on 29 December 1170 - 849 years ago. He was killed in Canterbury Cathedral by four knights with close ties to his former friend King Henry II, as eye-witnesses looked on. Becket was quickly canonised a saint by the Pope and his shrine at Canterbury became a major centre of European pilgrimage before being destroyed on the orders of Henry VIII in the early years of the English Reformation. In both the Roman Catholic and Anglican Church he is recognised as a saint and a martyr.

In 2020, Canterbury will be the centre of activity celebrating Becket. A major new production of T S Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* will be performed for the first time in Canterbury Cathedral in October and is a joint initiative with The Marlowe Theatre. The

Cathedral will also host a special choral evensong service to commemorate Becket's martyrdom on the 29 December 2020.

Elsewhere in the city, other highlights include Saint Thomas Becket - World Celebrity Healer at The Beaney, a community creative project focusing on mental and physical health and wellbeing in the context of Becket's fame. In July, Canterbury's fifth annual Medieval Pageant and Trail will take place, and this year commemorates Henry II's pilgrimage to Canterbury to perform penance for his association with the murder of Becket. London, the city of Becket's birth, will also host a range of important events. Thomas Becket (title tbc) at the British Museum will be the first time Becket's life, death and legacy has been explored in a major exhibition in the UK. Opening in October, it will showcase an incredible array of over 100 objects associated with Becket, including manuscripts, jewellery, sculpture, stained glass and paintings, and will feature artefacts from the Museum's collection as well as important loans from the UK and around the world. It will present Becket's tumultuous journey: from London-merchant's son to Archbishop; and from a revered saint in death, to a 'traitor' in the eyes of Henry VIII, over 350 years later. Highlights include a number of beautiful sacred reliquaries which once contained precious relics of Thomas Becket. These were taken across Continental Europe and speak to the profound international spread of his cult.

Also, in the capital, The Museum of London will display a selection of their extraordinary collection of pilgrim badges. For over 300 years, Londoners flocked to Becket's shrine in Canterbury often returning with a badge as a keepsake. The Museum of London will use examples to illustrate Becket's extraordinary life and his connections to the capital. Visitors will be encouraged to undertake their own mini-pilgrimage through the museum's Medieval London Gallery from 14 February to October 2020. In June, the Becket Pageant for London will be a landmark community project centred around a new 70-minute stage-work and set against the iconic backdrop of medieval Guildhall Yard. The event will seek to re-imagine the only known Becket pageant, performed in London in 1519, and will be a playful musical entertainment for a modern audience. His Grace The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury, will preach at Southwark Cathedral in December 2020, in commemoration of Thomas Becket's final sermon which took place at the same site shortly before his death. The Cathedral will also host an art installation by artist Michelle Rumney during Lent. Naomi Speakman, co-curator of Thomas Becket at the British Museum, said: "the story of Thomas Becket's life, death and legacy has all the hallmarks of a Game of Thrones plot. There's drama, fame, royalty, power, envy, retribution, and ultimately a brutal murder that shocked Europe. These events had



repercussions that have echoed out through time, and we're delighted to be telling this important story for the first time in a major exhibition."

Thomas Becket (title tbc) is at the British Museum from 15 October 2020 until 14 February 2021.

Independent Catholic News
29th December 2019

St Thomas Becket

Martyr and archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas a Becket was born in Cheapside, London, on 21st December (which was the feast of St Thomas the Apostle) around 1120, the son of a prosperous London merchant, Gilbert Beket and his wife Matilda.

The young Thomas was sent as a student to Merton Priory and later attended a grammar school in London, possibly St Paul's Cathedral school. After his father suffered some business problems Thomas had to leave school and begin to earn a living as a clerk. He first worked in the business of a relative, then later acquired a position in the household of Theobald of Bec, the Archbishop of Canterbury. His work took him on several missions to Rome and he became a deacon.

Thomas's talents were noticed by King

Henry II, who made him his chancellor. The two soon became close friends. When Theobald died in 1161, Henry made him Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas took this new role very seriously and changed from being a pleasure-loving courtier into a serious, simply-dressed cleric.

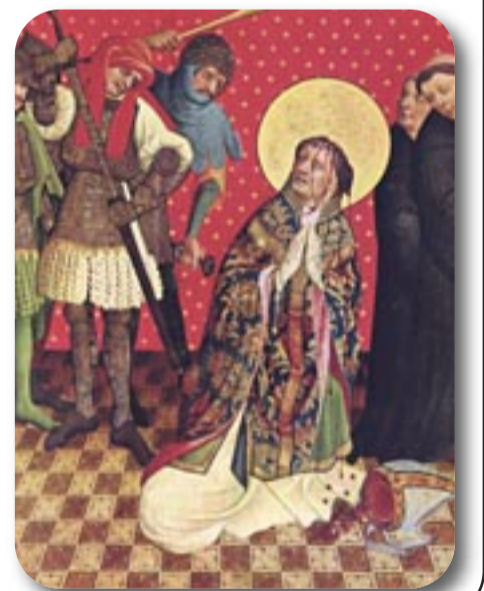
The king and the archbishop's friendship came under strain when it became clear that Thomas would now defend the church in its disagreements with the king. In 1164, realising the extent of Henry's displeasure, Thomas fled into exile in France, and remained there in a monastery until 1170. In June that year he returned to Canterbury.

On this day in 1170, four of the king's knights rode to Canterbury, entered the Cathedral and killed Thomas as he knelt in front of the altar. Thomas was venerated as a martyr immediately after his death and

was canonized in 1173. In that year the king made a public penance at the shrine of the saint. The four knights who had fled to the north of England after killing Thomas, went to Rome to ask forgiveness from the Pope.

The shrine of St Thomas a Becket in Canterbury Cathedral became one of the most important destinations for pilgrims in England for the next 360 years, until it was destroyed during the Reformation - in the time of another King Henry and another St Thomas.

Many churches and schools around the world have been named after St Thomas. His life story has been the subject of several novels, poems and dramas - most recently TS Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* and Jean Anouilh's play *Becket*, which was made into a film starring Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole.



Shrewsbury Cathedral bell named after England's newest saint 'John Henry'

The newly-restored bell of Shrewsbury Cathedral has been named 'John Henry' after England's newest saint.

The Rt Rev Mark Davies, Bishop of Shrewsbury, dedicated the bell to St John Henry Newman, who was canonised by Pope Francis last October, partly because it was first installed in the same decade that the Victorian cardinal preached his famous sermon on "the second spring" of English Catholicism.

Bishop Davies said: "I was asked to give a name to our Cathedral bell that is about to be rededicated and return to its place high above town and Cathedral. "I thought of England's newest saint, John Henry Newman, and so named it 'John Henry'.

"Cardinal Newman knew this Cathedral of Shrewsbury and had announced a second springtime for the Church in our land in the 1850s - the same decade when our Cathedral bell first sounded."

Bishop Davies added: "May this bell continue to sound a call to prayer and mission for the great renewal of Christianity in our

land."

The bell has not rung out for several decades after wear and tear stopped it from swinging and rendered its iron clapper immovable. But after a month-long project, the bell has been repaired, cleaned and restored and it is also refitted with an advanced automated ringing system. It will be blessed by Bishop Davies in a ceremony in the Cathedral on Saturday March 14 before it is installed above the building.

Bishop Davies is keen for the bell to be in place by March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, so that it can be chimed to mark the Angelus. Bishop Davies has asked the Catholics of the Diocese to say the prayer daily ahead of the rededication of England and the 'Dowry of Mary' on Sunday March 29, and had sent out Angelus prayer cards to all parishes.

Simon Caldwell



Bishop Mark with 'John Henry'

Pope's Homilies And Prayers Available To Download

The Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See is making available a free downloadable book entitled 'Strong in the Face of Tribulation' containing a collection of Pope Francis's prayers, intercessions and homilies as "a sure support in time of trial".

Andrea Torielli, editorial director of the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication said the book is "A little help offered to all, so as to know how to discern and experience God's closeness and tenderness in pain, in suffering, in solitude and in fear."

Strong in the Face of Tribulation is available for download free of charge on the website of the Vatican's publishing house, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, in PDF format. It is currently available in English, Italian, Spanish and French.

The cover of the book carries an image of the Archangel Michael who "protects the Church against evil and supports us in this difficult trial, so that this evil may not prejudice our trust in the Father and the solidarity among us," writes Torielli. Rather, these trying times should become an "opportunity to look at what is truly essential for our lives and to share the love received from God among all," especially with those who are most in need.

Strong in the Face of Tribulation contains three sections. In the first, prayers, rituals and supplications for difficult times inspired by Christian tradition can be found. It includes, blessings for the sick, prayers for liberation from evil, and other texts that originate from

various ecclesial contexts and historical eras.

The second section is dedicated to the indications given by the Church on how people can continue to live out a sacramental life even though coronavirus precautionary measures do not permit their physical participation in them. It focuses on elements that foster spiritual communion with the Church, and how to obtain forgiveness from sin despite the impossibility of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The final part is a collection of Pope Francis's words to the ecclesial community in these times of trial. It contains all of his homilies from Mass at Casa Santa Marta, and the texts of the Sunday Angelus discourses, beginning from 9 March.

The digital copy of the book will be updated several times a week in the light of new developments and the "rediscovery" of other treasures of the Church's tradition. It can therefore be downloaded several times to keep abreast of new additions.

To download Strong in the Face of Tribulation in English: www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/forti-nella-tribolazione/pdf/eng/strong-in-tribulation.-20042020.pdf

To download the Way of the Cross led by Pope Francis on Good Friday in St Peter's Square, 2020: www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/via-crucis/pdf/the-way-of-the-cross.pdf

Edited by the Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See

STRONG IN THE FACE OF TRIBULATION



The Church in Communion:
A Sure Support in Time of Trial

LIBRERIA
EDITRICE
VATICANA

Updated: 14th of April 2020

The Laudato si' inspired 'green' British Embassy

British Ambassador to the Holy See, Sally Axworthy, tells us what makes their embassy 'green', and how Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato si' inspired this - as the world prepares to celebrate 5 years since its publication.

By Francesca Merlo

The British Embassy to the Holy See has had "many sources of inspiration" and we have been "working hard to make our operations greener", says Sally Axworthy, British Ambassador to the Holy See. "In *Laudato si'*, the Holy Father calls on us all to act, taking personal and corporate responsibility to protect our planet", she says. At the same time, "the Foreign and Commonwealth office is equally committed, with an ambitious programme to become a responsible green, global operation". The British Embassy has in fact implemented their #BeyondPlastic campaign, which aims to get rid of all single use plastics, says the Ambassador. "We have, for example, asked our main food supplier to stop sending us food packaged in plastic", she says.

So what does the British Embassy do to be more 'green'?

"We are using homemade cleaning materials where possible - vinegar for windows, and baking soda and lemon juice for general cleaning, going back to our grandmothers' know-how. We have also introduced organic, biodegradable detergents. When we were still hosting events, we were serving more vegetarian menus made with local produce, reducing our demand for meat and our carbon miles. In the office we have compostable coffee pods, recycled paper and pens made of paper", says the Ambassador.

The British Embassy also uses "100% green energy and has an electric car", adds Ambassador Axworthy. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has "made it possible for embassies like ours to buy electric vehicles and install charging points: 30 other UK missions around the world have replaced their official cars with all-electric or hybrid vehicles". The team at the British Embassy to the Holy See "have driven the agenda with creative ideas and personal commitment", adds the Ambassador and "we continue to be ambitious, setting ourselves the target of reducing paper consumption by 50% this year".

The importance of Laudato Si'

Sunday 24 May marks the 5th anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis's second encyclical "*Laudato si'*".

"*Laudato si'*" was an important contribution to the global debate at a key moment", says Ambassador Axworthy. The encyclical, came out just a few months ahead of the Paris meeting, COP21. "It undoubtedly raised ambition for the Paris Agreement", says Ambassador Axworthy. "It reminded us that faith leaders can chart the path to the kind of future that we want and need".

5 years on

According to Ambassador Axworthy, "five years on there has been a shift in public attitudes". She says this has been "driven partly by *Laudato si'*", but also by climate change campaigners, and by the effects of climate change that we are all seeing as temperatures rise and our weather becomes less predictable".

Next year, the UK and Italy will co-host the UN Climate Change Conference COP26, postponed from this autumn, she says. "The UK Presidency is committed to taking a

collaborative, inclusive and all-of-society approach to COP26, encouraging real-world action from business, civil society, cities and the science community". Ambassador Axworthy says that "building on the science-led approach and decisive action that we have seen in response to coronavirus, we hope that COP26 will galvanise action to limit the world's temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius".

She concludes by saying that "the leadership of Pope Francis and other faith leaders will again be essential to achieving that aim" and expresses her delight "that between now and then we will be celebrating a year of *Laudato si'* events, keeping the focus firmly on the environment".

Finally, Ambassador Axworthy writes that as an Embassy, the British Embassy to the Holy See "will continue to work at the local and the global levels to secure a more sustainable future for our planet and for the next generation".

**Vatican News
23 May 2020**

Cardinal Nichols Homily for Corpus Christi

**Source: Archbishops House
Given at the Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, 14th June 2020, in Westminster Cathedral and broadcast on BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship.**

These last three months have been a very testing time. Whatever words we use: 'lock down', 'social distancing', 'self-isolation', they all point to pressure on our relationships. This is a time in which all our relationships are being tested.

In some circumstances, we may be seeing too much of each other. For others, it is the absence, the impossibility of seeing each other that is so stressful. In both situations we have had to face new challenges and find new ways of sustaining each other and our love and friendship.

So too with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

For most people this has been a time of fashioning new patterns of prayer and relationship with the Lord, or, better, recapturing some old treasures. Even so, it has been impossible to come into the church, into his sacramental presence, for our praise and prayer, for our comfort and

consolation. This we feel very keenly on the Feast of Corpus Christi.

It has also been impossible to receive him in Holy Communion in the celebration of the Mass. Such a long Eucharistic fast. For many this time of absence has made our hearts grow in longing. How much we long to come together to receive again the life in Christ of which the Gospel speaks.

'Anyone who does eat my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.'

That person 'lives in me and I in him,' says Jesus.

'Whoever eats me will draw life from me,' he tells us.

Tomorrow our churches may open again, for our private, individual prayer. Again we can come into this sacramental presence of the Lord, in the sacred space of the church. Again we can kneel before him and open our hearts to him, knowing his loving gaze and merciful embrace.

This is such a moment of grace, not only for us individually, but also, I believe, for our society. The wide open doors of a church are a reminder that there is more to life than the

haste of a busy day, and even the loving circle of family or friends. They draw us in, so as to remember that all our days are passed in the presence of God. To be aware of that presence enriches our lives, restores stability in our souls, engenders compassion for those most in need, lifts us up when our failure weighs heavily upon our hearts.

The Eucharist is the fullness of that presence of the Lord. So we long to celebrate Mass again, the gift which is the focus of this great Feast. We long for the day on which we can gather together again around the altar and take part, directly and physically, in that celebration. Remember the words of St Augustine: 'See on the altar the sacrament of who you are and of what you are to become.'

In the Eucharist, then, we learn again what it is to be truly human, what it is that makes us great, what it is that gives us hope. We learn again that Jesus is our Way, our Truth and, as he promises so clearly today, our Life. Yes, we have benefited from all the advantages of the internet to share in the Mass as best we can. But there is so much

more.

In these days there is much talk of recreating our society in a 'new normal'. No going back to the old ways, we say. Many demonstrating on our streets want new ways, an end to an ingrained prejudice against Black members of our society which they experience over many years. That is a crucial challenge. New growth needs good soil and good roots. The deepest source of our renewal lies in all that is given to us in Christ Jesus: the forgiveness of our sins, the witness of a life poured out for others, the promise of fidelity unto death and, yes, into life everlasting.

As we celebrate this great Feast, we pray to our loving Father that his blessing, given with ultimate power in the death and resurrection of his Son, may flow across our society. Today we rejoice that, in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Son is for ever with us in this most Wonderful of all Sacraments, the Sacrament of his most Holy Body and his Most Precious Blood. Amen.

CLIFTON DIOCESE STUDY DAY

UCM Clifton Diocese held its Annual Study Day on Wednesday 2 October 2019 at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Bristol. The Little Sisters of the Poor have welcomed us for our Study Day for many years.

We were welcomed by our Diocesan President, Monica Ovel. This was followed by a passionate talk by Paul Williams from the Clifton Refugees Sponsorship Scheme (CRSS) an initiative set up under the auspices of Clifton Diocese to help a Refugee family.

In 2013 Pope Francis dedicated his first trip outside Rome to migrants and refugees by visiting them in the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa, one of the main points of entry into Europe for poor and desperate refugees and migrants from North Africa who risk their lives to cross the Mediterranean in overcrowded and unsafe vessels and small boats. The Pope's visit took place after news that Refugees had drowned in the waters close to the island. Many of us will never forget the photograph of a father carrying his dead child out of the water and along the beach. In 2018 Pope Francis celebrated Holy Mass in Rome's St. Peter's Basilica to commemorate the 5th anniversary of his visit to Lampedusa.

In 2015, despite pro-refugee protests across the country, Britain pledged to receive 20,000 refugees over 5 years. In 2016, the

Home Office introduced the Community Sponsorship Scheme (CSS) inspired by Canada's Private Sponsors programme. Under this pioneering scheme, communities organise themselves to take on all the responsibilities of resettling refugees. From housing to safeguarding, from benefits to schools, and always taking into account the bonds of friendship that are essential to a resettled refugee as any new member of a community.

In July 2019 the CRSS successfully obtained sponsorship status through a rigorous appraisal system and they have now been allocated a refugee family by the Home Office. The Home Office/UNHCR will be responsible for all medical and security checks and travel arrangements. For their part in Bristol, the CRSS will be responsible for welcoming, housing, making friends with and integrating the family into the local community. This family from the city of Homs in Syria is made up of Mum, Dad and two boys, aged 13 and 11 years of age. Homs was one most badly bomb damaged cities in the war. The family are Sunni Muslim and have been living in a Refugee camp in Jordan for seven years. The family will be living in a house in the Bristol area. They will be supported in every way for two years. Volunteers are being recruited to help the family in many ways: Interpreters, language teachers, administrators etc. Initially they

will be supported 24/7. The family arrived at Exeter airport on 9 October 2019. We have subsequently heard that on arrival, the family were tired but exhilarated and so pleased to be in the UK. The youngest child looked around outside the terminal building, breathed deeply and said 'Biritanya!' (Britain!). The CRSS were expected to raise a minimum of £9000 to support the family. In fact, they decided themselves they would set the target of £18,000 and they have raised £23,000 so far (as at October 2019).

Paul opened the talk by asking members to reflect upon a picture of four Syrian children with the caption '11 million Syrians displaced by violence'. In the background some very moving Muslim music was gently played. We reflected on this one picture for at least five minutes. It was amazing to find what thoughts we were left with. The four children were about 5/6 years old and had beautiful brown eyes and were all smiling. The caption was very hard hitting. Discussion followed to seek members' reactions. The fact that the children were smiling is an indication that they are just children and do not deserve to be caught up in this horrific war. We were asked to read a statement in which were listed many sentences about negative attitudes to refugees. We were then asked to read from the bottom to the top of this statement and amazingly it completely overturned the negatives to the positives.

This moving talk by Paul Williams motivated us to think about fund raising for this charity. The charity has adopted the Lebanese St. Charbel who unites Christians and Muslims, as their Patron Saint.

In the afternoon session we looked at the 3rd Apostolic Exhortation 'GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE' of Holy Father Pope Francis subtitled 'On the call to Holiness in Today's World.' We were posed with questions based on four chapters of the document. In Chapter One, we were asked to think about the Saints who had encouraged and accompany us and some thoughtful discussion ensued as did a question in Chapter Two about being persecuted or ridiculed or judged for your faith.

The Study Day closed with thanks to Andrea Cavell and Veronica Cottle for their work on the afternoon session and for the organisation of the whole day.

Footnote: In January 2020, I have had news that one of our foundations in Clifton Diocese, St. Dominic's, Dursley, has adopted the Clifton Refugee Sponsorship Scheme as their charitable project and money raised will contribute towards the development of current and future refugee families living in Bristol.

**Charmaine Furlong,
Media Officer, Clifton Diocese**

New Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham



The Rt Rev Mgr. Canon Philip Moger is to become the next Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk. He will take up his new responsibilities in September 2020.

Mgr. Moger's appointment follows the end of the five-year term of office of the current Rector of the Shrine, the Rt Rev Mgr. John Armitage.

Mgr. Moger is a priest of the Diocese of Leeds and is currently the parish priest of St John Mary Vianney in Leeds.

The Bishop of Leeds, the Right Reverend Marcus Stock has sent a message to the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Leeds announcing this appointment.

In the message Bishop Stock says:

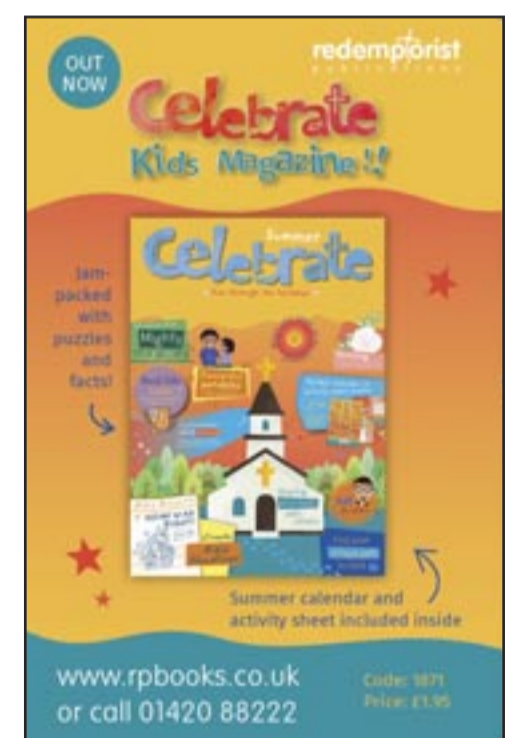
"As Mgr. Moger's bishop, I am reluctant to see him leave us to minister outside of this diocese, albeit for a limited term of office; as a member of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales though, I am delighted that we have a priest of such talent and ability leading one of the Catholic Church's important national institutions.

"I know that Mgr. Moger will be sorry to leave the parish of St John Mary Vianney in Leeds, only a year after having taken up appointment there last summer. I know too that he will miss living nearby to you, the clergy, religious and lay faithful of our diocese, during the course of these next few years. However, Mgr. Moger can be confident that he will take up his new appointment with the assurance of our prayers, affection, friendship and support.

"Please pray for Mgr. Moger as he continues to provide the pastoral leadership and spiritual care for his current parish until the summer, and as he prepares for this important national ministry."

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World Day of Prayer

As always, this year's World Day of Prayer took place on the first Friday in March, 6th March 2020

Each year the service is written by a different country. This year the service had been prepared by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe and the chosen theme was "Rise! Take your Mat and Walk"

As we participated in this service we were made aware that we were part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, beginning as the sun rose over Samoa and ending some 36 hours later, back in the Pacific as the sun set over American Samoa; with over 120 countries and islands joining in.

The women of Zimbabwe encouraged us to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years and shared these challenges and the hopes they have for the future.

As we heard their stories, the challenge for them and for us is that we will constantly seek love, peace and reconciliation.

A letter from the Women of Zimbabwe.

Friends, in the path of justice, let us reflect and place before God our stories for the world. Our people are diverse and have a long history. From the Great Zimbabwe Empire to today there are many stories to tell. We have fought for independence from

colonial power and for the formation of a national government led by leaders supported by the majority of the population. However, we have faced political violence during the past national elections. Efforts to bring all sides into a process of truth and reconciliation are taking longer than most people hoped. The traumas imposed by the armed conflict are still affecting Zimbabwean society.

They told us that despite the many bad things about their country, they value their community-based culture and closely knit families. There are laws now to protect women against gender-based violence and awareness and lobbying for gender equality. Despite this it is still the women who look after children with special needs and disabilities by themselves. Access to schools for autistic children is very limited and many families are led by children who have lost their parents to HIV and AIDS.

The miracle in the Bible is symbolised by the mat. The mat being the place the man lies down with his excuses, even though he is searching for healing. After the encounter with Jesus, the mat becomes a reminder of his healing. Jesus continues to empower us through the transformation that God is offering: to rise and take up our mat, whatever that may be for us, and walk. When



we are reconciled, we can truly love, and when we can truly love, we are able to walk towards peace.

So, "Rise! Take your mat and walk"
Walk away from sin, walk away from

injustice, walk away from violence, walk away from hatred.

Kate Moss
National Secretary

World Day of Prayer, Zimbabwe

The host country for the 2020 World Day of Prayer was Zimbabwe.

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action", and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in close fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. Every year, worship services focuses on a different country and a specific theme. World Day of Prayer National/Regional Committees of that country prepare the order of worship on these themes to be used on the next World Day of Prayer.

The hosts this year were Zimbabwe and the theme was 'Take up your Mat and Walk' based on Jesus' encounter with a person who, although positioned for healing, had not acted upon the opportunity given

(John 5:2-9a). Jesus asked – "Do you want to be made well?"

The country of Zimbabwe continues its search for peace during its political transition. The change of government, that occurred when the WDP materials were written, continues to bring Zimbabwe to the frontline of the media. The economy crashed together with the dreams of many. However, in all moments, WDP women, churches and ecumenical organisations have not lost hope.

"Rise! Take up your Mat and Walk", said Jesus and our sisters from Zimbabwe are taking Jesus' encounter to be a call to act in love for peace and reconciliation.

The Women's World Day of Prayer started in the USA in 1887, as Mary Ellen Fairchild James, wife of Darwin Rush James from Brooklyn, New York, called for a day of prayer for home missions, and Methodist women called for a week of prayer and self-denial for foreign missions.

Two years later, two Baptists called together a Day of Prayer for World Mission. The Day of Prayer initiated by these to women expanded to Canada in 1922m then to the British Isles in the 1930s. The movements focus on ecumenism and reconciliation led to growth after World War II.

Since 1927 the March day is known as Women's World Day of Prayer.

Catholic Women were allowed to join the movement after the Second Vatican Council, beginning in 1967, and united what had been their May day of prayer with the March Women's World Day of Prayer in 1969.

Through the World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged to become aware of the other countries and cultures and no longer live in isolation.

They are also encouraged to take up the burdens of other people, and to sympathise with the problems of other countries and cultures and pray with and for them. They are further encouraged to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society. The World Day of Prayer aims to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

Nearer to home ladies from the UCM Foundation of St. Joseph's, Warrington, in the

Archdiocese of Liverpool, attended a joint service with parishioners from the local Anglican, Methodist and Jirah fellowship churches. Margaret Kelly, President, together with Joan Povey, attended a preliminary meeting in January and St. Joseph's provided a selection of Zimbabwean fruits, vegetables and flowers as accurately as they could and six ladies took part in the actual service itself.

Maria Bruns, Archdiocesan Deputy President and Madelaine McDonald, Media Officer, attended and took part in WDP Service at St. Mary's, Woolton, together with Foundation members and ladies from other local churches.

St. Anne's Foundation joined members from Cottage Lane Mission for a service, whilst St. Jerome's Foundation celebrated WDP at St. Luke's C.E. Church in Formby.

Our Lady's in Lydiate together with ladies from St. Gregory's Foundation held a joint service although the turnout wasn't as good as expected due to the corona virus and people already starting to isolate themselves.

Leeds Diocese hosted the WDP at St. Benedict's and were joined by the local Churches together group. Members of the

UCM took part in the service and provided the refreshments afterwards.

Three Foundations in Salford Diocese took part in the WDP. Iris Riley, President of St. Mary & St. Philip Neri in Radcliffe, is the co-ordinator for and who joined the Churches Together groups, Guardian Angel's, Bury, attended a service at Walmsley Parish Church with ladies from other local parishes, and Margaret Dilger, President, read the lesson. Christine Singleton and ladies from St. Ann's, Stretford, joined a Churches Together Service in Davyhulme

Finally, the hosts for the 2021 World Day of Prayer is Vanuatu part of a small group of Nations in the Pacific. The people of Vanuatu, a country with a population of around 300,000 people, desperately need our prayers

Having been struck by Cyclone Harold in April this year and winds of 145 m.p.h. it was a category 5 storm. Furthermore, like many countries of the world, it also has the corona virus.

Maureen Woodward
National Vice President

A Message from the Chairperson

National Committee for England and Wales and Northern Ireland

"And so, the Day of Prayer is over...."

So, does this mean we can forget about the WDP until we begin preparing for the next year? Of course not.

It is a 365-day movement and prayer is even more vital than normal at this time as I write, it is one of the most powerful tools we have in the global fight against Covid 19.

Please continue to pray for the people of Zimbabwe. Please pray too for our Prayer Partners in Albania: even at the best of times, Albania is a poor country. It is still struggling from the effects of the earthquake in November last year and many families are still living in tents.

May God be with us all"

Elizabeth

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The A to Z of Interfaith Relations

A personal paper from Celia Blackden, Inter Faith, Churches Together in England

All people are loved by God and Christ died for all. All are on what might be called the Holy Journey of life. We have confidence in God's plan for all humanity and for creation - "Blessed are those who put their trust in God" - as Psalm 2:12 says, and we know that "All things work together for good for those who love God" (Rm 8:28). This includes us and people of other faiths.

Better together is an essential motto for Christians involved in interreligious dialogue. We have much to share both of the difficulties and sufferings and of the joys and fruits of inter faith relations. We can draw strength from one another to work for greater harmony and understanding and to resist sectarianism and discrimination in all its forms.

Christian unity and the ecumenical movement are vital for inter faith relations. We have had the experience of division and reciprocal persecution that other faith communities experience too. We can witness to our journey towards reconciliation and the healing of memories. Without the testimony of mutual love and forgiveness, our Christian message is empty.

Dialogue is more than ever a sign of the times. For Christians it means dialogue within our own tradition, with other Christian traditions, with people of other religions and with people of good will who may not have a formal faith. "Peace on earth to people of good will" (Lk 2:14).

Equality - believing in and respecting the equal dignity and worth of every human person helps create a more equal and just society. Hatred, violence and war in the world derive more from profound economic, social and political inequalities and injustices than from religions or religious teachings.

Friendship with people of other faiths arises out of our friendship with God and with one another in the Christian family of traditions. Friendship underpins effective work together for the common good.

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them" (1 Jn 4:16). The theology of inter faith relations is based on God who is love and who's loving and saving mercy reaches out to all people of all times and places. This paper is available from www.cte.org.uk/features. Personal papers may, or may not; represent the policy of Churches Together in England.

Humility is one of the most important Christian virtues. Truly knowing our own nothingness and God's everything is a good basis for healthy relationships with others. God can use this to reach out to others. As the song goes: "Like the pipe the shepherd plays, let nothing of myself remain in me, so that empty in your hands you can play your music through me."

Initiative! Taking the first step towards others is to reflect the kind of love God has for humankind: "God sent his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him" (1 Jn 4:9). It is very limiting to wait for others to take the first step. Taking the initiative will often bring good results. This principle also helps groups to be open to others and not become cliques.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. We do not know all the ways and means by which Jesus reaches out to each person on their journey through life, or even at the moment of death. What is certain is that all have the opportunity to say their 'yes' to him at some point. Let's pray that when people encounter us, they encounter genuine witness to Jesus in our life, and when appropriate in our words as well.

Knowledge is something we acquire every day of our lives. Learning about other faith traditions and hearing from them is necessary. Ignorance is a real danger because we can be manipulated and conditioned by misinformation, distortion of the facts, caricatures and stereotypes.

Love is the one thing that is necessary (Lk 10:42). We believe in the love that is in God and which the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts, helping us to be more like Jesus. St Paul's words on love can guide us on our way (1 Cor. 13:1-13).

Marriage between persons of different faith is on the increase and we need to do our part to help couples grow in their understanding of one another and in the dialogue needed for family life. The Inter Faith Marriage Network is significant in this regard.

Nature, ecology and care for the environment unites people of all faiths and none. The work done locally by faith communities together in caring for the natural or built environment is sure to grow. In addition to many Christian groups the Alliance of Religions and Conservation helps faith communities build environmental programmes based on their own core beliefs, teachings and practices.

Opportunities to create encounters among people of different faiths, or between different social, ethnic and religious groups in our villages, towns and cities, are invaluable and necessary. Manchester City Council set up a myth-busting opportunity for local people so that stereotypes and judgements about "people taking our jobs and homes" were overcome by a presentation of what was actually true in that place. We need more opportunities for meeting and understanding across the biggest social and cultural divides.

Peace is possible if we have peace in our own hearts and are at peace with God and build up peace with one another. We must not be discouraged by the wars, discrimination. This paper is available from www.cte.org.uk/features. Personal papers may, or may not; represent the policy of Churches Together in England.

cruelty in the world. The Gospel equips us and requires us to be peacemakers. Very small steps can make a very big difference like the person in a Latin American country who was going to leave a bomb on a bus but decided against it after a conversation with someone who gave him hope.

Questions are okay! We don't have to have all the knowledge; no one has it. Asking our neighbours of other faiths about themselves or their faith is one of the best ways of growing in our understanding of other religions. It is good for our humility and helps us to help others.

Rules are important, but we need to know how to interpret them in the light of Scripture. We can respect the customs and rules of other religious traditions without betraying our own understanding. We are free to say where we differ, but do it with love. The most important rule is the Golden Rule shared by all religions. "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Lk 6:31)

Solidarity with people of other faiths, arising out of our shared humanity and faith based values, can achieve an enormous amount of good in the world. That can and does come about through local help to families in need, collaboration amongst agencies responding to natural disasters and wars, and the drive to meet Millennium Development Goals.

Truth and the search for truth, individually and collectively, is not an obstacle to interreligious dialogue but the basis for it. There are many truths we share in common with people of other religions despite all that is said to the contrary. We are made genuinely free and happy by putting into practice the truth we find in Jesus and in Scripture, such as being poor in spirit, gentle, merciful, seeking justice, being peacemakers (see Mt 5:3-10). With this freedom we can encounter any kind of difference and overcome many barriers.

Unity in diversity is a reality that Christians can major on. It calls to mind the Trinitarian roots of our faith and the imprint of the Trinity in creation and in our relationships. We are all called to a life of mutual exchange, fellowship, communion, reciprocity. This is part of our Christian DNA and can translate into the capacity to encounter those very different from ourselves, having confidence in God's love.

Vices and virtues: Although not much talked about they are definitely still around and can be recognised by all. Our brothers and sisters of other faiths also have writings and teachings that help believers to experience that patience overcomes anger, generosity counteracts avarice, purity combats lust, kindness mitigates envy, hard work is more rewarding than sloth, moderation healthier than gluttony, humility vanquishes pride.

Who's who? For Christians the relationship with the Jewish people naturally comes first and although some historical and present-day circumstances are very painful it is for that very reason that building relationships amongst us is most important. There are many other religious traditions in this country including Baha'i, Buddhist, Jain, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Zoroastrian. There are different strands within these religions and other groups such as Pagans. This paper is available from www.cte.org.uk/features. Personal papers may, or may not; represent the policy of Churches Together in England. new religious movements about which information is available from INFORM. The Inter Faith Network for the UK plays a significant role in inter faith relations nationally.

Xmas: Christmas and other festivals are important to us, and to our neighbours of other faiths who recognise that this is a Christian country. All faith communities want to protect the festivals and to resist secularising influences which seek to obliterate them and to downgrade Christianity as well as other religions.

You are important and your contribution is necessary! All that we do can influence others even in ways we are not aware of. As the saying goes "A smile costs nothing and gives much". Small gestures can be more important than days of conferences. You will be able to see the effect of the good you do in building up friendships with people of other faiths in your workplace, local shops or street.

ZZ Z! Let's "stay awake" as Scripture says, knowing that the Lord wants to use us to build a harmonious society. As a Christian leader in interfaith dialogue said: "Believers are prophets of hope... They know that, gifted by God with a heart and intelligence... they can, with his help, change the course of history... to make of humanity an authentic family of which each one of us is a member."

Celia Blackden

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BIRMINGHAM



As the President of Kidderminster Foundation, I just wanted to tell you how proud I am of our ladies here. With the majority of them self-isolating and being in the vulnerable community they have embraced technology as a way to help stay in touch. I created a WhatsApp group, where we exchange messages, pictures and useful links to prayers and you tube links for features from Rome etc. Also, another one of our ladies Elaine Yates, has created zoom meetings, where some of the ladies who have access to computers and devices, could connect. It was lovely to see each other and pray together.

Miriam Cunliffe, Kidderminster UCM

Syrian Christians: Leaders in hope

Christians in Syria are an example for the whole Church of how to keep hope in a time of life-changing crisis - according to a senior priest who is working with parish communities all over the country.

Speaking to Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), Maronite priest Father Charbel Eid Rizkallah said the courage of Syrian Christians during the civil war has been inspiring.

He said: "These Syrian Christians are, in fact, an example for the entire Church...Life continues in Syrian cities amid situations that we can hardly imagine. Little children go to school, Christian shopkeepers open every morning and hope."

Fr Charbel is leading a procession around the dioceses of Syria of an icon, Our Lady of Sorrows, Consoler of the Syrian People, blessed by Pope Francis and commissioned by ACN as part of its 'Console my people' campaign.

He said: "The actions around the icon and

their responses lead me to believe that they indeed receive consolation in their souls. They are very happy to hear the Pope's frequent appeals to the entire Church to pray for them."

He added: "Quite soon, I realised that the communities were looking at us with intense hope in their eyes, with a question more like 'tell us how to live now.'"

Fr Charbel said that, despite the acute difficulties in Syria, young people have engaged with the idea of Christian leadership and shown great faith.

He said: "With the help of the Jesuits in Homs and other villages around, we set up a seminar called 'Christians and Leadership for Peace'. This consists of a lecture for teenagers and young adults in particular. To our surprise, [although] it was in the evening and it was cold, large groups of youth started to fill up the rooms. They asked so many practical questions about how to actually live according to the faith in their daily life that I

was asked to come back."

Fr Charbel called for an end to Western government economic sanctions against the Syrian regime.

In a message to ACN friends and supporters, he said: "Use all the contacts and opportunities you have to stop the embargo, which is making everything so expensive inside Syria, and this includes finding a solution to Lebanon's financial situation."

"Action from outside is necessary before the problem becomes bigger than Lebanon and Syria. Prayers, yes, are needed, but so is political action vis-à-vis those responsible for the financial and political crises that are making things even harder for the victims of the war."

Syria is a priority country for ACN and since 2011 the charity has supported 900 projects, including medicine, rent money for housing, and repairs to homes and churches.

Independent Catholic News



Fr Charbel Eid Rizkallah with icon of Our Lady of Sorrows

History of the Dioceses

When Catholics in England were deprived of the normal episcopal hierarchy, their general pastoral care was entrusted at first to a priest with the title of archpriest (in effect an apostolic prefect), and then, from 1623 to 1688, to one or more apostolic vicars, bishops of titular sees governing not in their own names, as diocesan bishops do, but provisionally in the name of the Pope. At first there was a single vicar for the whole kingdom, later their number was increased to four, assigned respectively to the London District, the Midland District, the Northern District, and the Western District. The number of vicariates was doubled in 1840, becoming eight: the apostolic vicariates of the London district, the Western, Eastern, and Central districts, and the districts of Wales, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the North.

The legal situation of Catholics in England and Wales was altered for the better by the Catholic Relief Act 1829, and English Catholics, who before had been reduced to a few tens of thousands, received in the 19th century thousands of converts from Anglicanism and millions of Irish Catholic immigrants, so that Catholics came to form some 10% of the general population of England and a considerably higher proportion of church-goers. In response to petitions presented by local clergy and laity, Pope Pius IX issued the bull *Universalis Ecclesiae* restoring the normal diocesan hierarchy. The reasons stated in the

bull are: "Considering the actual condition of Catholicism in England, reflecting on the considerable number of the Catholics, a number every day augmenting, and remarking how from day to day the obstacles become removed which chiefly opposed the propagation of the Catholic religion, We perceived that the time had arrived for restoring in England the ordinary form of ecclesiastical government, as freely constituted in other nations, where no particular cause necessitates the ministry of Vicars Apostolic." [3] The London district became the metropolitan Diocese of WESTMINSTER and the diocese of SOUTHWARK; the Northern district became the diocese of HEXHAM; that of Yorkshire became the diocese of BEVERLEY; the district of Lancashire became the dioceses of LIVERPOOL and SALFORD; the Welsh district (which included neighbouring English territory) became the two dioceses of MENEVIA and NEWPORT and

SHREWSBURY; the Western district became the dioceses of CLIFTON and PLYMOUTH; the Central district became the dioceses of NOTTINGHAM and BIRMINGHAM; and the Eastern district became the diocese of NORTHAMPTON. Thus, the restored hierarchy consisted of one metropolitan archbishop and twelve suffragan bishops.

The sees thus assigned to the new Catholic diocesan bishops of England did not correspond to the pre-Reformation dioceses, and were instead newly erected ones. Thus, there was not to be a Catholic Archbishop of Canterbury. Instead, the DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER was created with its own archbishop. The Archbishop of Westminster was likewise not declared Primate of All England. However, he and his successors see themselves as successors to the Catholic Archbishops of Canterbury. Accordingly, the heraldic arms of Westminster, featuring the pallium, is similar to that of Canterbury, with Westminster claiming to have better right to display the pallium, which is no longer granted to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The bull *Universalis Ecclesiae* did not indicate the reason for choosing to erect new dioceses rather than to restore the old. The main factor is likely to have been the law enacted under King George IV in 1829 which "forbade the use of the old titles, except by the clergy of the Protestant Church by law established". [7] In 1861 the name of the Hexham diocese was changed to HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE. In 1878 Beverley was divided into the two new dioceses, that of LEEDS and that of MIDDLESBROUGH, the original diocese becoming extinct. The Diocese of PORTSMOUTH was formed in 1882 by the division of the Diocese of SOUTHWARK into the Dioceses of Southwark and Portsmouth. In 1895 the Diocese of Newport and Menevia was divided into the Diocese of NEWPORT (later becoming, in 1916, the Archdiocese of CARDIFF) and that of MENEVIA.

Thus, the metropolitan Diocese of Westminster came to have fifteen suffragan sees, the largest number in the world. [19] Accordingly, by the Apostolic Letter *Si qua est* of 28 October 1911, Pope Pius X erected the new provinces of BIRMINGHAM and LIVERPOOL, making these two dioceses metropolitan archdioceses. There remained under Westminster the suffragan sees of Northampton, Nottingham, Portsmouth, and Southwark; to Birmingham were assigned

those of Clifton, Newport, Plymouth, Shrewsbury, and Menevia; and to Liverpool, Hexham and Newcastle, Leeds, Middlesbrough, and Salford.

In 1895, boundaries were redrawn, and the territory covering, Glamorgan, Monmouthshire and Herefordshire, was named the Diocese of Newport.

Finally, in 1916, without further adjustment of boundaries, the territory was raised to the status of an archdiocese, and given the title ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF. The Episcopal Seat is now located in Cardiff, at St David's Cathedral. It had for many years been felt that a division was necessary, but there had always been the fear of causing disunion

thereby, especially if, as in pre-Reformation times, the division would be between north and south. This was obviated by ignoring the precedent of York and Canterbury, and arranging for three instead of two provinces. Under the new Apostolic Constitution, the Archbishop of Westminster was granted the right to "be permanent chairman of the meetings of the Bishops of all England and Wales, and for this reason it will be for him to summon these meetings and to preside over them, according to the rules in force in Italy and elsewhere." He ranks over the other two archbishops.

Source: - Wikipedia



Catholic Dioceses of Great Britain

OBITUARIES

Jean LANE, former Treasurer of St. James, St. James & St. William of York Foundation, Reading, Portsmouth Diocese

Bernadette TURNER, President, Holy Spirit Foundation, West Bridgford, Nottingham Diocese

Lillian RIGLEY, Holy Spirit Foundation, West Bridgford, Nottingham Diocese

Rita BRADBURY, Holy Spirit Foundation, West Bridgford, Nottingham Diocese

Father Tim BURKE, Spiritual Advisor to UCM Birmingham Archdiocese

Mary TUNLEY, Past National Vice President, Corpus Christie Foundation, Birmingham Archdiocese

Dennis TUNLEY, husband of Mary (above), Corpus Christie Foundation, Birmingham Archdiocese

Rosemary BUTCHER, Treasurer Tolworth Foundation, Southwark Archdiocese

Margaret HENDERSON, St Joseph's Foundation, Reddish, Salford Diocese

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

Your memories linger, Your smile that cared, Your listening ear Your goodness shared. In God's deepest love. In God's gentlest care This is my prayer.

Archbishop Peter Smith RIP

Archbishop Peter Smith, Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark, died peacefully at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Chelsea, just before midnight on Friday, 6 March.

In a letter to the clergy of the Archdiocese, Archbishop John Wilson wrote:

"Archbishop Peter had received the sacraments and prayers of the Church and was visited in hospital by family and friends. I was able to visit him earlier that evening and he was also visited by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster.

"Archbishop Peter's illness progressed very quickly following his diagnosis of cancer just a few weeks ago. He was a much loved brother, uncle, and friend; a priest of the Archdiocese of Southwark, Rector of St John's Seminary, Womersley, Bishop of East Anglia, Archbishop of Cardiff and Archbishop of Southwark until his retirement in July 2019. While Archbishop of Southwark, he also served from 2014-2015 as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

"Our gift to Archbishop Peter now is to pray for the repose of his soul, and to remember prayerfully his family, friends and loved ones at their time of loss.

"In a ministry that spanned almost fifty years, Archbishop Peter made an outstanding contribution to the Catholic Church across three dioceses, and nationally through his

service on the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

"Most importantly, he was a disciple who witnessed to Christ with straightforward, splendid faith and radiant joy. Together with the other dioceses in which Archbishop Peter served, we mourn him with enormous affection and deep gratitude for all he gave so willingly and selflessly to so many people.

"We are grateful for the care Archbishop Peter received from the staff at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

"We now entrust our friend and brother to the Lord whom he served with such faithfulness, generosity and gentleness. May Archbishop Peter rest in peace and rise in glory."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference said:

"I learn, with great sadness, of the death of Archbishop Peter Smith. I ask everyone to pray for the repose of his soul and for the consolation of his family and the people and priests of the dioceses he served.

"Archbishop Peter devoted his life entirely and unwaveringly to the service of the Lord in His Church. Peter served as bishop in three dioceses. There are, then, many who will remember him personally and treasure those memories.

"He was a fine leader in the Bishops' Conference, acting as Vice-President for many years and leading our efforts in



matters of social policy. He was a steadfast and effective opponent of all measures in favour of assisted dying. We owe him deep gratitude for his unflinching leadership.

"Peter's warmth of character and strong personality will be sorely missed, not least by me.

"May he rest in peace and rise in glory."

Obituaries

Father Tim Burke

'One of Britain's oldest priests, Tipp man Fr Tim Burke passes away' was the headline on Tipperary Live 21 April 2020. 'Ordained in 1948, after studying for the priesthood at St Patrick's seminary in Thurles- which is now Mary Immaculate College St Patrick's Campus- and at Oscott College in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Fr Tim served in Stoke-on-Trent, Coventry and Old Hill before becoming parish priest at the Holy Cross Church in West Bromwich in 1968. He remained at this parish until his retirement in 2017, aged 93, prior to which The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) confirmed that he was the oldest church member still in ministry across England and Wales. Upon his retirement, he moved to the Robert Harvey House nursing home in Birmingham, where he passed away peacefully.' Here in the Birmingham Diocese we also remember him with affection and esteem for his role as our spiritual advisor for many years. The Catholic Mother had an article honouring Father Tim on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Back in Tipperary it would seem that Father Tim was equally honoured for his devotion to the sport of hurling. 'A huge fan of the Tipperary hurling team, Fr Tim also attended the most consecutive All-Ireland hurling finals of any GAA fan, having attended every year in Croke Park since 1940 until 2017 - a remarkable record.' The Birmingham Archdiocese of UCM will miss him.

Past National Vice President - Mary Tunley

Many UCM members in the Birmingham Diocese were anticipating saying farewell to Mary Tunley, a dearly loved member, on March 26th, Mary had passed away after a few month's illness on 22 February, aged 89. Sadly, her husband Dennis passed away five days later on 27 February. They were to be buried together. Unfortunately, Covid19 intervened and their requiem mass at Corpus Christi, Ashmore Park, Wolverhampton had to take place behind closed doors. Close family were allowed to attend the burial. Some of us were able to take part in the Mass as it was streamed live.

Maureen Smith had prepared a eulogy on behalf of the UCM. We think members would like to read what she was intending to say.

"Mary was a member of The Union of Catholic Mothers for almost 60 years. She was a founder member of The Union of Catholic

Mothers here at Corpus Christi Church and remained a loyal member until her death.

During this time, she held many offices within The Union Catholic Mothers - President of the Archdiocese of Birmingham; President of the Wolverhampton Section; President here at Corpus Christi - for far too many years to recall.

Following her role as President of the Archdiocese, Mary was elected as National Vice President during which time Birmingham was so proud to have such a dedicated lady leading us all.

After serving her 3 years as National Vice President, Mary was still not finished - she took on the role of Study Day Officer for Birmingham - a role which lasted for a further 6 years and a role which suited her so well. Her study days were always so interesting, so well structured, so informative and so enjoyable.

She attended our annual National Council many times and fully participated in all events. She loved dancing and was always first to be out on the dance floor at our entertainment evenings.

Mary was always an inspiration to all members at every level and always so willing to help everyone.

The Union of Catholic Mothers hold an annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham which Mary attended along with members from the Archdiocese of Birmingham and all over England for many, many years. As you know Mary had great devotion to Our Lady and this was one of the highlights of her year. It is always a very long day but Mary was determined to attend and to enable her to do this during the last 2 years she was accompanied by her daughter Ann.

Our patron is St Margaret Clitherow and many years ago a joint nationwide Mass was held between the UCM and the CWL. This was so successful that Mary, together with others, instigated this to become an annual joint Mass for the Archdiocese of Birmingham. This was held for many years in St Chad's Cathedral until 2 years ago when sadly the CWL were no longer able to participate due to falling numbers. This was a great disappointment to Mary.

In later years, when Mary could no longer attend meetings in Birmingham, a few close friends would meet for lunch in the Wolverhampton area. It was so good to catch up. Our last 'get-together' was extra special as after lunch we were invited back to Mary's home where we enjoyed tea and a great selection of cakes served in beautiful china cups and plates - we all thought we'd had tea NOT with Mary Tunley, but with Mary Berry! How Mary laughed at that idea!

All through Mary's long life was Dennis - her rock - her soul mate - her best friend. There were three particularly special things in Mary's life:

her faith - a deep and lasting rapport with God and his church;

her family - Dennis, Ann, Maria and Jayne, her grandchildren and great grandchildren and extended family-how she loved them all;

the UCM and all her friends - we were so privileged to know her.

Mary had great respect for the clergy and the church and was awarded the Bene Merenti medal for her services to the Church - how proud she was to wear it.

Together in life and, now, together in death, grant Mary and Dennis eternal rest and comfort their loving family. You will both be missed so much but remembered forever."



Safeguarding Within The UCM



- a. Policy
- b. Code of Practice
- c. Code of Conduct

What is Safeguarding?

It is Promoting good and safe practice in all activities involving children, young people, and adults at risk within the UCM.

Policy:

It is now a legal requirement for people in particular roles working with children, young people and adults at risk to have a DBS Disclosure. This is a free of charge service for Voluntary workers.

The UCM is involved in a wide variety of work with children, young people and adults and it is our policy position that these who are eligible for a DBS Disclosure, have one before undertaking any pastoral activity in the name of UCM.

Within UCM we already have the custom of going out in pairs, (if at all possible) be it travelling, visiting the housebound, elderly, ill, taking people to Mass, or shopping, etc. This is a long standing safeguarding custom that must be adhered to. When it cannot take place a "Risk Assessment" should be made to give an informed view as to whether it is appropriate for the activity to go ahead.

Code of Practice:

All members who visit homes, to work with children or adults at risk are obliged to be DBS checked. Two may go together if one is DBS checked and the other has already applied for it.

If a member has a DBS Disclosure for exactly the same type of work in a different role, this Disclosure will suffice for work in the name of UCM once it has been seen and approved by the Diocesan Welfare Officer.

New members will automatically have to be informed at Foundation level of the need to be DBS certified and requested to have it done if this has not previously been the case.

This will require looking at in each of our 18 Diocese individually. It could/should become the duty of the Diocesan Welfare Officer, who will be familiar with her Foundations and their welfare activities to oversee this at Diocesan level.

DBS checking is carried out in all our Parishes by the "Parish Safeguarding Representative" who will set up and assist with the process which takes between 3 to 6 weeks. The Parish Priest needs to be informed of these applications. The outcome/response will be sent to the individual who will be expected to show their Disclosure Certificate to the Foundation President/Welfare Officer if one in place before commencing this role. The Diocesan Safeguarding Office in each Diocese will be informed by the DSB if the Disclosure is "blemished". If this is the case, the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator will contact the Diocesan Welfare Officer to discuss the concern and provide advice as to whether the applicant should be appointed to the role. The applicant will be spoken with as part of the process. The Diocesan Welfare Officer will need evidence to confirm that

individual DBS's have been successfully carried out at Foundation level on members involved in welfare work.

Code of Conduct:

Members must ensure no unreasonable requests are made of them, and that you do not accept expensive gifts or money. Small offerings of thanks can be accepted e.g. flowers or chocolates but you should always tell the Foundation Welfare Officer if you have been offered or given a gift. Drivers must be fully qualified and car insurance fully paid. Should money for petrol be offered and accepted a list should be kept of its occurrence and value. The Diocesan Welfare Officer must be informed and will keep a record of it in case there is a need to provide evidence to others of any financial gifts at a later date.

Should a complaint be made about a member's conduct, this should be discussed with the Parish Safeguarding Representative who will refer safeguarding matters to the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator for consideration as to what action should be taken.

A suggested method of facilitating the process within each Diocese: At Foundation level: The Welfare Officer or in the absence of one, the Parish Priest would/should ensure all their members are DBS checked and see that new members are informed and carry it out if not previously checked. She will need to see proof of successful DBSs. She then notifies the Diocesan Welfare Officer that all the members of her

Foundation who need to be have been checked and that she has seen the successful replies.

The Diocesan Welfare Officer will notify the National Welfare Officer that all her Foundations have completed their DBS checks.

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is the link between the Parish and Diocese therefore acts on behalf the UCM in that parish.

Additional information for our assistance: Parish Safeguarding Representative:

The Parish Safeguarding Representative has special responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people and adults at risk within the parish. The Parish Safeguarding Representative is the link between the parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Office and as such is in regular contact with the Co-Coordinator and Administrator. The Parish Safeguarding Representative attends training sessions and has a sound knowledge of the policies and procedures and also who to contact. The Parish Safeguarding Representative has the responsibility of facilitating the Disclosure Procedure at parish level and ensuring that everybody who is required to go through the procedure does so.

MIDDLESBROUGH

Middlesbrough Day Retreat

The Study Day Retreat which was hosted at St. Aelred's on Saturday 1st of February started with Concelebrated Mass at 10.00am. The homily given by Dom Leo Maidlow Davis of Downside Abbey, Somerset, on the Beatitudes from St. Matthew's Gospel which had been chosen as the Gospel for the Mass. The theme of the day was Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exultate (Rejoice and be Glad) and on St. Matthew's Gospel. After Mass, Dom Leo led the first activity of the day, Plenary Presentation focussing on Gaudete et Exultate, Chapters 2 & 5. Following a Question & Answer session Dom Leo gave a brief narration of St. Benedict's life. Following lunch, the afternoon session started with everyone being divided into groups and devoted to Lectio Divina. Reading, meditation, sharing reflections, silent prayer, contemplation & prayers were keeping with the call by the Church and Pope Francis to dedicate 2020 to the word of God. The day, which was extremely well supported from across the York Parishes, York University, Middlesbrough Diocese, Wetherby & Leeds, had been organised by the Middlesbrough Diocese Union of Catholic Mothers who welcomed everyone to the retreat. The day provided a beautiful opportunity for participants to take time out to interact with scripture at a deeply personal level and come together to share in prayer. The day ended with characteristic Yorkshire Hospitality of tea/coffee and cakes.



Rose Cartledge, (Study Day Officer) Dom Leo Maidlow Davis and York University Students

Something Lovely

A Poem which was written in 1869 by Kathleen O'Meare after a plague had devastated the population of Ireland. This was given to our Diocesan President Jean Rigg, by a Head Teacher. Jean shared it around the members of The UCM Middlesbrough Diocese.

Something Lovely

And people stayed at home
And read books and listened
And rested and exercised
And made art and played
And were still
And listened more deeply
Someone Meditated
Someone prayed

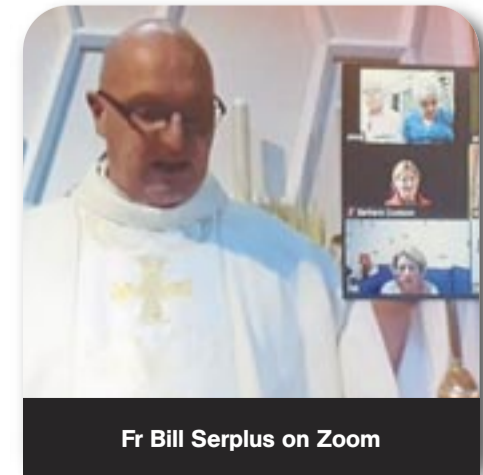
Someone danced
Some met their own shadow
And people started to think differently
And people healed
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, mindless and heartless
The earth began to heal
And when the danger ended
And people found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And they made choices
And dreamed visions
And created a new way to live
And heal the earth fully
Just as they had been healed

Fr Bill Zooms In!!!

When we heard of the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic, the closure of our Churches and the impending lockdown of most of the population, we were dismayed. In our parish of St. Aelred in York this meant among many other things that the 60th Anniversary celebrations of our Union of Catholic Mothers Foundation, planned for April, would have to be indefinitely postponed. Our Annual Walsingham Pilgrimage, marking its 75th Anniversary this summer, was cancelled and all our Parish Easter Celebrations and Receptions into the Church as well as our First Communions would not be taking place as planned. Things looked bleak and some of us feared that once the pattern of the liturgy and our parish organisations routines were broken it might be very hard to get everything up and running again. We need not have been so fearful. Within days a Zoom group was set up with our parish Priest, Father Bill Serplus as administrator, and this, in conjunction with a What'sApp group to convey messages meant that within a few days those of us with access to smart phones, tablets or laptops could not only see and hear the Mass, but we could join in with the responses, do readings and even provide music. Within less than a fortnight we went from an on line congregation of three to a full celebration of the Easter Triduum, minus some details like the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday evening, and a wonderful celebration of the Vigil Mass on Saturday night with candles, congregational responses, full participation in readings and music provided by our talented individual musicians on Cornet, Piano, Guitar, Harmonica and Accordion, to say nothing of appropriate illustrations of the Holy Week events and hymn sheets to sing along to. It really seemed like a miracle. This use of I.T. has been a great bonus and we

are so grateful to Father Bill for his talented leadership. We have all been on a very steep 'learning curve' and there have been some hilarious moments, but the experience, coupled with the WhatsApp group has proved invaluable for keeping us in touch with one another and passing on news of those who cannot access the technology but who can be kept informed by other means. Family members from other parts of the country have been able to join us virtually and this has been a great joy for those who have not been able to see each other as usual. One thing is certain, after the lockdown ends, we must not neglect to do our best to keep up the use of these methods to help the housebound and to expand our ability to keep in touch. Watching the Pope's Message at Easter was a sombre reminder of our situation, but also a challenge to which we can respond with joy. Yesterday we had a Mass for the UCM including the intentions of the daily Mass Scheme intentions and the UCM prayers.

**Sarah Shiels
Diocesan Secretary**



Fr Bill Serplus on Zoom