

# Hallam News



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# Welcome Back!



**+ DO NOT LEAVE THIS IN THE CHURCH**  
once you have picked up this paper please take it with you



## Hallam News

### CONTACTS & DETAILS

Hallam News is a monthly newspaper for Catholics in the Diocese of Hallam  
It is published by Bellcourt Ltd

#### AIMS

To build community in the Hallam Diocese by sharing stories relating to Catholic life around the Diocese.  
To encourage readers to get more involved in - or start - projects and initiatives in the local area.  
To provide thought-provoking articles to help readers deepen their Faith.

#### GET INVOLVED

We need your help!

Articles: We need your local articles - we can only include what we get. So if you have an article or just a photo with a short description - please send it in.  
Ideas: We need your ideas for the paper and we need your ideas in the paper. If you have any thoughts on what we should include - or if you are thinking about starting a new initiative - get in touch - we'd love to support it!  
Readers: If you can encourage other readers in your parish please do so.  
Advertising: We rely on advertising - if you know of anyone that would benefit from promoting their business, event or anything else to parishioners throughout the Hallam Area, do let us know.

#### SUBMITTING EDITORIAL

To send in editorial or to get in touch please contact us at:  
Hallam News - Bellcourt Ltd  
N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre  
Steeple Bumpstead  
Haverhill, Suffolk  
CB9 7BN  
[hallamnews@cathcom.org](mailto:hallamnews@cathcom.org)  
01440 730399

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#### DATES

Hallam News goes to parishes on the last full weekend of the month. It is printed around the middle of the month - so if you would like to advertise or send in editorial please do it as early as possible.

## DEAR READER

A HUGE welcome back to all of you and to the paper. The fact that we are all back again is a sign of hope in what has been a difficult time for all of us and we are delighted!

Obviously, we hope you enjoy the October edition. But we also hope that if there is someone that you have noticed isn't back at Church please put this paper through their door once you have

finished with it. It would be a great way to let people know the church is open and everyone is welcome!

As parish life starts to return to normal, perhaps now is a time to think afresh about how we are a part of that. Are we someone that just turns up, or are we someone that could be a part of making everything happen? The last 18 months have been a time of huge change, the

next few months will be too. Perhaps now is a good time to look at our lives afresh and decide which areas of our lives we will put the most time and effort into.

The last year has been difficult for all of us and your parish. Now's the time to help. Help with your time, help with financial support, but above all, help with your prayer!



We need your news! It's as simple as that! We want the paper to be challenging, catechetical and evangelistic - but we also want it to bring our Catholic community together. So we need your news, your articles and your ideas.

If you have a parish event, idea, program or group - why not try writing about it? We would love to know. It can be a full article or just a few lines. The paper is only as good as the articles we are sent. So that's where you come in. We won't always be

able to include everything in the paper but we will try our best.

We need your parish news, your school news, your articles, your thoughts and your prayers!

## NEXT MONTH:

News you may have missed from the last 18 months. Send us your news and your stories from the past 18 months!

#### EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

**1) Think of the readers:** If you are writing about an event, think about the readers that don't know anything about it. Outline what happened, but focus on why people go, why it is important to them, or some teaching that was given. Make sure readers learn something from your

article - they don't just want to know who was there and what snacks were available!  
**2) Keep it brief:** Make sure you make your point - but keep it brief and punchy.  
**3) Pictures:** Send pictures as they are - even if they are very big to email. Don't reduce them in size or put them inside a Word document. They look fine on the screen but terrible in the paper!

#### LEGAL INFORMATION

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# Catholic Multi Academy Trusts Changes ahead in Diocesan Schools

## Letter from Bishop Ralph

### Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Our Catholic schools are a vital part of the Diocese of Hallam's mission. Our schools are crucial to the life of the Diocese in announcing the Gospel to the world and are able to do this in ways that parishes alone cannot. They are places where everyone is valued as a child of God, where every individual is enabled to mature towards their full growth in Christ and achieve their full potential. They teach a holistic understanding of the human person and society in which all are included so that humanity can flourish. Our schools enable each pupil to develop their God-given gifts in order to engage in building a better society which is characterised by justice, truth and love.

Our schools are central to fulfilling our mission, and to our parish communities. They actively promote social cohesion, engendering a sense of belonging for all.

After a great deal of work, and examination by the Diocesan Trustees, I have come to believe that the long term

future of our schools and Catholic education in the Diocese is best served by all diocesan schools becoming equal partners in a Catholic multi-academy trust (MAT). It is my intention, therefore, that as outlined last year we now move to establish two new multi-academy trusts within the Diocese with all Diocesan schools and academies, including all remaining voluntary aided schools, becoming part of one of them. A Catholic Multi-Academy Trust model throughout the Diocese will mean that no individual school will be left isolated or vulnerable in this rapidly changing educational environment. The new Trusts will enable our schools to work even more closely together in a spirit of mutual support, cooperation and respect. There will be greater opportunities for career progression and the development of future leaders for our Catholic schools. As financial austerity becomes more of a reality for many schools, these Trusts will be in a position to take advantage of economies of scale and to procure services on behalf of our schools enabling all to benefit from increased efficiencies.



With my prayers and blessing to you all.

Yours in Christ the Redeemer

+ Ralph Herriott CBE

Bishop of Hallam

## Latest News

St Francis and St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trusts have now been registered at Companies House with their Directors and Members. Recruitment has begun for various roles within the Trusts. Many people in the team are in place already and a Steering Group comprising of Governors, Diocesan Clergy and staff, and other advisors are meeting regularly to plan for the future. To keep up to date with the latest developments please go to [www.hallam-diocese.com/schools-home/mat-development/](http://www.hallam-diocese.com/schools-home/mat-development/)

### Facts and Figures

**47 schools in the Diocese of Hallam, 19 are Voluntary Aided, 28 are Academies of these 23 are Single Academy Trusts.**

**We support 16,700 children and young people in our schools, 3,400 are from the most deprived backgrounds, 2,000 have special educational needs or disabilities and 2800 have English as an additional language.**

## Welcoming Refugees in Hallam



Five parishes in the Diocese of Hallam are actively involved in a project, to welcome a refugee family to Sheffield, and to support them through their first two years in their new home. This project was initiated in our diocese and supported by Bishop Ralph. A group has been set up to manage the project and has been meeting for three months to develop their application to the Home Office.

They will be needing help. At the moment they would love to hear from anyone who could help us to set up a presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. And as they progress, they are likely to need help from people with many different skills. To know more about this project or to become involved, please contact Eva Kaltenthaler ([ekaltenthaler@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:ekaltenthaler@hallam-diocese.com)).

## Around the Diocese

### First Holy Communion, Ss Joseph & Charles Borromeo

Congratulations to the children from the Class of 2020 at Ss Joseph & Charles Borromeo, Sheffield, who celebrated their long-awaited First Holy Communion this weekend and we thank our catechists for their work in preparing them. Many thanks to all those who have helped support them, especially in prayer.



We would love to see a picture of the day in the Hallam News!!!

### Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies in Hallam

Sessions start this month for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS), a nationally accredited course about the Catholic faith. The first module, on the Old Testament, with Monsignor John Ryan, begins on 3rd October 2021 for three Saturday mornings, 3rd, 9th, 16th October from 9-12.30 at Hallam Pastoral Centre (in person, socially distanced).



Although the closing date for this course has already passed, modules on New Testament, Church, Christology, Sacraments and other special interest topics will be offered later in the year.

For more information please contact: [formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com)

### HCPT Barnsley 2022

HCPT Barnsley, part of the children's charity HCPT, is planning on returning to Lourdes at Easter 2022. We're looking for volunteers to travel, including a nurse, and nominations for deserving children to have an amazing week away. If you're interested in becoming more involved please contact Kate Hutchinson on 07881228225. Thank you for your continued support!



**Send us your news  
[hallamnews@cathcom.org](mailto:hallamnews@cathcom.org)**



# Confession: The "Sacrament of Joy"



Confession is a "sacrament of joy", indeed a "feast", in Heaven and on earth. On Tuesday, September 14, in the stadium of Košice, it was as if Pope Francis were looking into the eyes of each of the young people who had come to welcome him, in order to invite them to live the sacrament of penance in a new way. And what the Pope said to them was comforting, not only for those present, but for anyone who followed that meeting on television or on the internet, and even those who simply read the papal address.

It is not the sacrament, scarcely frequented these days, that is changing. What the Pope proposes is a completely different outlook on confession, different from the experience of so many Christians and different from a certain historical legacy. First of all, the Pope indicated that within the sacrament lies "the remedy" for the moments in life when we are down. And to the question of a young lady, Petra, who asked him how her peers could "overcome the obstacles on the path to God's mercy", he responded with another question: "If I ask you: what do you think about when you go to confession? I am almost certain of the answer: sins. But are sins really the focus of confession? Does God want you to approach Him by thinking about you, your sins, or about Him?" The Christian way, Pope Francis had said two days earlier in Budapest, begins with taking a step backward, with removing oneself from the center to make room for God. This same criterion, this same outlook, applied to confession, can provoke a smaller or greater Copernican revolution in the life of each person: I am no longer at the center of the sacrament of penance, humiliated with my list of sins — perhaps always the same ones — to be told with difficulty to the priest. At the center is the encounter with God who welcomes, embraces, forgives, raises up. "One does not go to confession," the Pope explained to the young people, "as chastised people who must humble themselves, but as children who run to receive the Father's embrace. And the Father lifts us up in every situation, He forgives

our every sin. Hear this well: God always forgives! Do you understand? God always forgives!" One is not going to a judge to settle accounts, but "to Jesus who loves me and heals me". Pope Francis advised priests to "feel" in God's place: "Let them feel themselves to be in the place of God the Father who always forgives and embraces and welcomes. Let us give God first place in confession. If God, if He, is the protagonist, everything becomes beautiful, and confessing becomes the Sacrament of Joy. Yes, of joy: not of fear and judgment, but of joy". The new outlook on the sacrament of penance proposed by the Pope, therefore, asks us not to remain prisoners of shame for our sins — shame which "is a good thing" — but to overcome it, because "God is never ashamed of you. He loves you right there, where you are ashamed of yourself. And He loves you, always". To those who still cannot forgive themselves, believing that not even God can do it "because I will always fall into the same sins", Pope Francis says, "When does God take offence? When you go to ask Him for forgiveness? No, never. God suffers when we think He can't forgive us, because it is like telling Him, 'You are weak in love!' Instead, God rejoices in forgiving us, every time. When He raises us up, He believes in us as He did the first time, He does not get discouraged. We are the ones who are discouraged, He is not. He does not see sinners to label, but children to love. He does not see people who have erred, but beloved children; wounded, perhaps; and then He has even more compassion and tenderness. And every time we confess — never forget this — there is a celebration in Heaven. May it be the same on earth!" From shame to celebration, from humiliation to joy. This does not come from Pope Francis, but from the Gospel, where we read of the father who anxiously awaits his sinful son, constantly scanning the horizon, and even before the son has time to humble himself by meticulously detailing all his faults, he embraces him, lifts him up and celebrates with him and for him.

**WORLD  
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SUNDAY**  
2021



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# For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission



A two-year 'synodal' process is taking place in the Catholic Church from October 2021 that culminates in the final Synod Gathering of Bishops in Rome in October 2023. The overall theme is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission".

## Introduction

The title of the 2023 Synod of Bishops is For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission. For the first time, the Synod Office in Rome has produced a comprehensive process which encompasses the stated aim of the Holy Father that the Church in today's world should have a vision of missionary communion orientated to evangelisation.

The process begins in the Particular (or Local) Church and then moves to the level of the Bishops' Conference. From there, discernment takes place in the Regional Area – for England and Wales, it would be steered by the European Council of Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) – before moving to the Universal Church with the final Synod Gathering of Bishops in 2023, sub et cum Petro.

## Origins

The process reflects the teaching of the Second Vatican Council in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium. In this Council Document, the universality of the People of God is affirmed and by their anointing in the Holy Spirit, the universal body is "incapable of being at fault in belief." A presupposition for this important statement is a formation of the people in a lived experience of faith, foreshadowed in the Old Testament especially in the Exodus, from which the life of the Gospel is lived by those united to Christ in his new covenant.

The sacrament of Baptism offers entry into the life of faith and love. The Eucharistic liturgy is the pre-eminent place that the Christian community gathers to celebrate this faith and love. So, the People of God celebrate this life of faith and love in the context of the Scriptures and the Eucharist. Thereby their faith in the Word of God and in the Tradition of the Church, through the Scriptures and the teaching office of the Church, is affirmed and nurtured. Faith is nourished through the hearing of the Word and the sharing of the Body of the Lord. Through these actions, the members of the Church enter into communion with him and all each other.

## The importance of the Bishop

From this universal people, the Bishops are chosen and consecrated and have an attention to the whole flock but, in particular, to the Church to which they have been appointed. Their ministry is one of "pastors, masters of teaching, priests of sacred worship, ministers of government." Theirs is the charism of discernment as they are the "authentic guardians, interpreters and witnesses to the faith of the whole Church."

Therefore, the Bishops have a key role in listening to the people of God in their particular Church, and under the power of the Holy Spirit, to hear and discern what is being said of that Church. "In virtue of this catholicity, each part contributes its own gifts to other parts and to the entire church, so the whole and each of the parts are strengthened by the common sharing of all things and by the common effort to achieve fullness in unity." Each local Church is a fundamental part of the Universal Church, so what happens in each local Church contributes to the whole. It is the first link in the communion of faith shared with the other churches

and cemented in the unity of the local Church around the Bishop. The diversity of the local Churches and their context brings different gifts to the whole, which contribute to it. This is key to understanding this synodal pathway.

## All-Many-One

The synod process is one of "journeying together" towards Christ – the Way, the Truth and the Life – who calls his people into a unity of purpose and mutual listening between people and pastors.

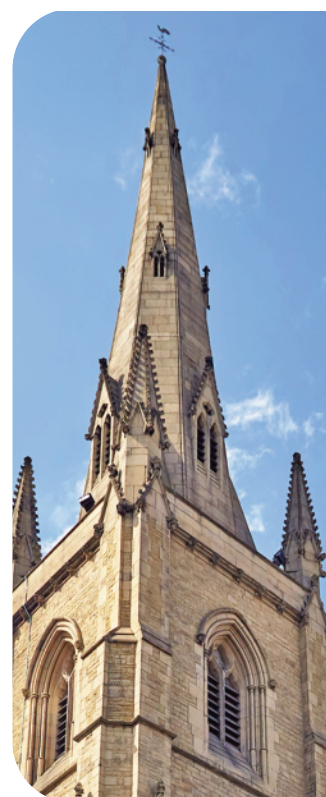
This journeying arrives at the Synod of Bishops gathering itself, which is presided over by the Bishop of Rome, who is called to speak as "pastor and teacher of all Christians" as the supreme witness to the fides totius Ecclesiae.

The Bishops are linked to the Bishop of Rome through the bond of episcopal communion and at the same time, are

subject to him as head of the College of Bishops. The process therefore can be considered as an exercise of listening all-many-one; that is, the voice of the people of God in the particular church (all), must be heard, listened to and discerned by their Bishops as the authentic pastors (many), who then gather with the Successor of Peter (one) who acts as a point of unity for the Universal Church.

The ultimate discernment is for the Pope who will offer a Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation based on what is presented to him throughout the process of mutual listening, in which the fruits of this discernment are published in a manner that reflects the life of the Church as always changing within its own context in the world, yet ever faithful to that which it has received.

**For some background information about Synods please see page 7.**



## Hallam Diocese Phase of the Synod

**On Sunday 17th October, 4.30pm at St Marie's Cathedral, the Bishop will open the diocesan phase of the Synod on Synodality. All are warmly encouraged to attend.**



# Scripture Focus

By Fr Jeremy Corley



## What is life all about?

In these last two years, the COVID pandemic has brought turmoil to our lives. At the moment we thank God that the infection rate has begun to decline in most places because of the vaccines. This pandemic has had varying effects on us. Some people have felt great pressure from the isolation caused by the lockdown, while others have discovered a new sense of freedom. When social gatherings were restricted, some found they had more time for reflection. At times like this, we may ask the big questions: What is life all about? What are human beings for?

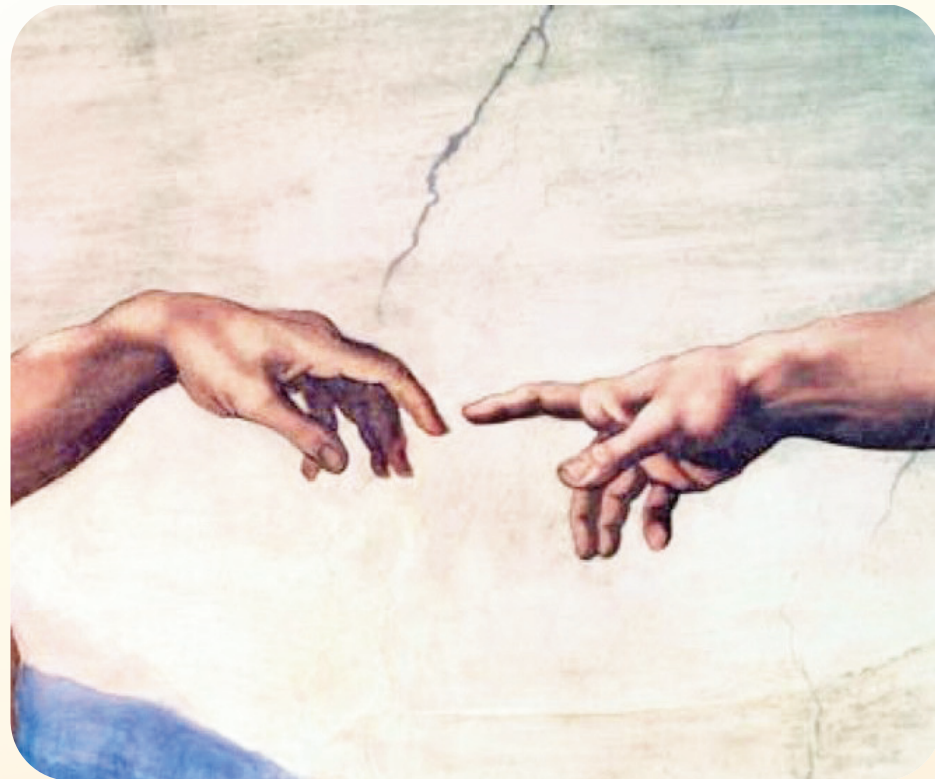
For ancient answers in the light of faith, we can turn to the Genesis creation stories. Scripture offers this description of the creation of the first human being: "The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Gen 2:7). This verse offers rich food for thought.

God is the Creator of our physical and spiritual being. Because we are formed from the dust of the ground, we belong to planet earth, the common home we share with all creatures. To be sure, the human species is unique among living creatures. Nevertheless as inhabitants of the earth we still share the same

planet with these other creatures. We are also reminded that just as we come from the earth, at the end of our life-span we will return to the earth: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gen 3:19).

But we human beings are more than just artfully shaped dust, because God has breathed into us the breath of life. Each human being has his or her own spiritual value. Each of us has our own dignity as a person, made in the image and likeness of God. We are more than just collections of particles. Unique among the animals, we have the power of complex speech and thought. We are also given the endowments of liberty and responsibility. We are an amazing mystery, even if our lives are also marked by fragility, perishability and ultimately death.

Being made in God's image, we are entrusted with dominion over creation (Gen 1:26). If we have some share in God's dominion over other creatures, we are called to exercise our power like God. Instead of ruthlessly exploiting and destroying creation, this mandate means caring for creatures and nurturing them, as a dog owner cares for his or her pet animal. We are becoming more aware now that this mandate ex-



tends to caring for the entire planet, which is under severe environmental threat.

These reflections are partly based on the opening pages of a report by a group of 20 specialists from the Pontifical Biblical Commission. Their findings appear in a recently published book: What Is Man? A Journey Through Biblical Anthropology.

<https://www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk/titles/2318-9781913657147-what-is-man>

For an online introduction to the book by Sister Nuria Calduch-Benages, see the website of "What Good News": <https://www.whatgoodnews.org/study-days-1/2021/3/20/what-is-man-a-journey-through-biblical-anthropology>

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# Prayer Corner

Denis Blackledge SJ

## Heart of Thanks

Loving Lord,  
one of the simplest words in our language is 'thank you'.  
It puts each one of us immediately on the receiving end  
of giftedness, and shows each of us is able to respond  
graciously and gracefully  
with my whole self-uttering  
'I... thank.... you'.

Loving Lord,  
behind each little act of thanks each day  
there lies the great act of thanksgiving, the Eucharist,  
the most profound and most mysterious Christian act of  
worship.  
'Eucharist' simply means 'Thanksgiving'.  
At the heart of all our 'thank you's'  
is the thank you for the gift of a God become human for  
each of us.  
At the heart of all our 'thank you's'  
is the thank you for the gift of a human God who is bread  
and bled for each of us.

At the heart of all our 'thank you's'  
is the thank you Jesus who is taken, blessed, broken  
and given for each of us.

Loving Lord,  
help each one of us never to lessen the meaning of  
'thank you'.  
Enrich us with a growing awareness of the specialness  
of this word  
which taps into the roots of our very being alive  
on the receiving end of a God who delights to give and  
who delights  
to teach us all individually and as a community to  
become eucharistic -  
a people with thank you on our lips, yes, but on our  
hearts and minds first of all.

Loving Lord,  
never let us take for granted any of your gifts each day.  
Person-gifts, first of all, then all those gifts we so often

take for granted as your creatures.  
Help us to cherish all your gifts, in whatever way they  
come to us each day.  
Sometimes it's so hard to see difficulties as really gifted  
opportunities  
for a greater growing into your own gift of human  
thankfulness, Jesus.  
Sometimes we don't like the complete package of  
thanksgiving -  
It literally does take each one of us.  
It literally does bless each one of us.  
It literally does break each one of us.  
It literally does give each one of us  
back in loving availability to you  
through our sisters and brothers.

Loving Lord,  
thank you.  
Amen.

THANK YOU

definition /,defɪˈnɪʃən/  
tion of the meaning  
dictionary definition 2  
*CSW looks at the word "Synod"*

### Roots

The word synod comes from the  
Greek: σύνοδος (sinoðos) meaning  
"assembly" or "meeting" and is  
analogous with the Latin word  
concilium meaning "council".  
Originally, synods were meetings of  
bishops.

### Meaning

A synod is a council of a church,  
usually convened to decide an issue  
of doctrine, administration or  
application.

While the words "synod" and  
"council" usually refer to a transitory  
meeting, the term "Synod of  
Bishops" or "Synod of the Bishops",  
is also applied to a permanent body  
established in 1965 as an advisory  
body of the pope. It holds assemblies  
at which bishops and religious  
superiors, vote on proposals  
(propositiones) to present for the  
pope's consideration, and which in  
practice the pope uses as the basis  
of "post-synodal apostolic  
exhortations" on the themes  
discussed. While an assembly of the  
Synod of Bishops thus expresses its  
collective wishes, it does not issue  
decrees, unless in certain cases the  
pope authorizes it to do so, and even  
then an assembly's decision requires

ratification by the pope. The pope  
serves as president of an assembly  
or appoints the president, determines  
the agenda, and summons,  
suspends, and dissolves the  
assembly.

### Modern Catholic synod themes

X "The Bishop: Servant of the Gospel  
of JESUS CHRIST for the hope of the  
world" 1998  
XI "The Eucharist: Source and  
Summit of the Life and Mission of the  
Church 2005  
XII "The Word of God in the Life and  
Mission of the Church" 2008  
XIII "New Evangelisation for the  
Transmission of the Christian Faith"  
2012  
XIII Extraordinary General "The  
Pastoral Challenges of the Family in  
the Context of Evangelisation" 2014  
XIV Instrumentum Laboris - "The  
vocation and the mission of the  
family in the Church and in the  
contemporary world" 2015  
XV "Young people, the faith, and  
vocational discernment" 2018  
XVI "For a Synodal Church:  
Communion, Participation and  
Mission" 2021

For more information about the  
current Synod see page 5



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# Brush Strokes

By Fr Tom Grufferty



## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, (virtual)

I have led several pilgrimages to the Holy Land. I have also done two private visits and by far the journeys with other people had the greater spiritual impact. I was very impressed on my first trip when an elderly pilgrim struggled to kiss the ground on arriving in Israel. He had tears in his eyes as he said, "I never thought this would happen to me". From that moment I was convinced that pilgrimages to the Holy Land were worth all the effort. Because of lockdown we were unable to travel but I thought we should do a virtual pilgrimage. I contacted several pilgrims who had been with me on real pilgrimages. I was blown away by the enthusiastic response with all those I contacted who were also willing to help with the presentations. With the help of a friend for many years, Jacky Chong, we set about putting flesh and bones on the dream.

We outlined all the places we wanted to visit, and Jacky immediately drew up scripture references associated with each site.

This was a great start because we could focus on the scriptural foundations of

all the holy places. We opted for a nine-day journey, all without passports, Israeli Shekels or indeed the preferred currency, the American Dollar. I had no problem in getting nine people to present the sessions. I supplied the scripture reference as outlined above, as well as images with fundamental information on the holy site. The internet is full of rich resources, not all of them Catholic.

We started on September 6th. We meet every Monday at 7:30 pm and we finish on November 1st. We have had pilgrims from Canada, California, New Zealand, Mauritius and all over the UK and Ireland.

Outline of each session: -

1. Scripture Reading for the specific place.
2. Verbal introduction with visuals.
3. Feedback from fellow pilgrims. This is a crucial part of the pilgrimage because every pilgrim sees something different. It is also important to listen to what other people experience especially if they have been to Israel for real.
4. Prayer or short Liturgy. We renewed

our baptismal promises at the place of the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, and couples renewed their marriage vows we had a special Blessing for our significant others at Cana.

5. Spontaneous Prayer. In many ways this is the most important part of the whole exercise because we are giving people the opportunity to prayerfully articulate their internal spiritual feelings. I was surprised several times on how quickly people were able to interiorise an image, a scripture verse

or something the presenter said.

6. Scripture Reading.

7. Pilgrim Prayer.

8. Pilgrim Blessing.

Each session lasts about 40 minutes. It is hosted by the Lay Community of Saint Benedict with technical expertise by Peter Agius and Jacky Chong.

<http://www.lcsb.uk/pilgrimage>  
If you click on this site, you can join us for all remaining sessions or watch the video presentations of all the sessions from the start.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land without Passports

With Fr. Tom Grufferty and others  
September 6<sup>th</sup> --- November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021  
Mondays at 7:30 pm



# REVIEWS

## The Messenger Advent Booklet 2021

*Reflections on the Weekday  
Readings*  
**Donal Neary SJ**  
Messenger Publications,  
pbk, 46 pages, 2021, £4.50

*Advent and Christmas  
2021-2022*  
**Sacred Space**  
Messenger Publications,  
pbk, 101 pages, £4.50

*Hearers of the Word  
Praying and Exploring the  
Readings*  
**Advent and Christmas Year**  
**C Kieran J O'Mahony OSA**  
Messenger Publications, pbk,  
230 pages, 2021, £18.95



Sacred Space has been online since 1999, and a print copy has now also been available for the past few years. The best of these three volumes, if you wish to have a pocket prayer guide to Advent and Christmas, is the Sacred Space one, which will give you a daily scripture reading and its usual pointers for personal prayer. You will be taken into the awareness of being always in God's presence, you will face into the living word, have a chat with the loving Lord, and bring your time of prayer to a simple end. It gives you every day, from the First Sunday of Advent until 8th January. It also adds a delightful Advent Retreat, with five stimulating sessions that are bang up to date with what is happening in our world right now. It is awesome value in every sense.

## QUOTES

### Words to live by...

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."

*Jesus*

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."

*Pope Francis*

"Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until they speak."

*Steven Wright*

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

*Nelson Mandela*

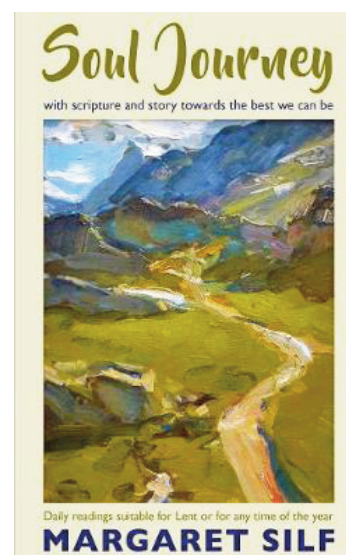
"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on."

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Donal Neary's wee volume is centred on the theme of "waiting", and covers only the weekdays of Advent. Again, the helps to prayer are rooted in the experience of everyday life. For those who wish to go far more thoroughly into the scripture readings for the Sundays and Feast Days, from the First Sunday of Advent until the Second Sunday of Year C, Kieran O'Mahony's book may already be a well-trodden path, as this is his seventh volume in his series, which has already covered Years A and B. This is a deep and scholarly piece of work, which provides plenty of material for study, prayer and reflection. The book concludes with a chapter on "The Table of Faith", based on Jesus' own practice of table-fellowship in Luke's gospel. Using the image of four table legs, he speaks of the reflected life; community of faith; understanding our faith; and practical faith in our world. He concludes with an exhaustive biblical index of quotes.

## SOUL JOURNEY

*With scripture and stories  
towards the best we can be*  
*Daily readings suitable for Lent  
or for any time  
of the Year*  
**Margaret Silf DLT,**  
Pbk, 176 pages, 2020, £12.99



Margaret Silf has a way with words: she is deeply simple and simply deep. No wonder she has a dozen books to her name – all published by DLT. She has an eye for detail, and delightful way of telling stories. And she writes from her own lived experience as a mother and grandmother.

The cover picture of the book - Mountain Path, Italian Alps by Ulrich Gleiter - is an image of the spiritual journey, climbing up a beautiful mountain. From a distance it looks easy, but the actual trek is harder than it first appears, and there will be struggles on the way to the top. The author takes the reader-prayer along the soul's climb with the guide who calls himself the Way, Jesus himself.

Whilst the book is set out daily from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, it may be used at any time of the year. Beginning with Setting Out, she moves through Invitations, Signposts, Obstacles, Fresh Springs, Rocky Crags, Endings and Beginnings, and Looking Back. Each week she provides a Sabbath Pause, going over the previous week's prayer. The scripture is very well chosen – and taken from the recently published Revised New Jerusalem Bible – and each day is backed up by a catchy story. A brief four-page Supplement offers three eminently practical ways of praying: Lectio Divina – the prayer of the listening heart; Entering into the Gospel in imaginative prayer; and Reviewing the day with God.

This is a particularly useful tool not just for the special 2020 Year of the Word, but for anyone who would grow in her or his relationship with Jesus on their life-long pilgrimage. Another winner from the author!

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— GENEVIEVE

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# INTRODUCING... PENGUINO AND THE RAIN

"BORED!" shouted Penguino.

Professor Pingus, Penguino's teacher glared at him and said "Why do you have to be so impatient? Why can't you think of something to do?"

Penguino looked grumpy, "But it's raining...and it's breaktime! I want to go outside and play pingball! What's the point of rain anyway? It is soooooo wet! Why did God create water? We don't need it - we've got snow and ice which is much more fun!"

Professor Pingus was so stunned by the comment he stood there in silence. Even Frostie, Penguino's best friend, was startled by the slightly ignorant comment as he stared at his friend with a look on his face that said, "SERIOUSLY? Did you actually just say that?"

Eventually Professor Pingus blurted out, "Penguino! You do know that snow and ice is made of water?" Penguino looked from side to side. Having taken in this new bit of information he hesitantly said "Yes! Everyone knows that!"

## "THE 3 STATES OF WATER"

said Professor Pingus triumphantly.

## "WATER, ICE and STEAM"



Penguino, thought "STEAM???" Penguins don't see a lot of steam in the Antarctic - but he looked around the room, assessed the situation and decided it was best not to ask what steam was!



"When water gets cold it turns to ice", Pingus continued until he was interrupted by Frostie... "At 0 degrees Celsius, Sir". Penguino gave him a grumpy look, feeling his friend had made him look slightly more stupid!

Pingus had seen that a number of the little penguins in the class looked confused when he mentioned steam. "And when you heat water it turns to steam, which is a bit like a cloud."

"At 100 degrees Celsius, Sir!"

And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water."

So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning —the second day.

"Thank you Frostie", Pingus said with a look of surprise. The professor turned back to Penguino, "So why do you hate water so much Penguino?" The little penguin thought for a moment and said, "well ice is so much better, without it we couldn't play pingball" - which is a bit like football but it's played on ice and there is a lot more sliding involved. "We are allowed to play on the ice - but we're too young to go into the sea because its 'DANGEROUS'!" He said it in a way that gave the impression that his mum had told him this a million times. "AND we are stuck in this room BORED because its raining!"

"What about all the good things about water?" Pingus said, leaving a pause to let the little penguin think. "Do you remember the last time you were thirsty and you insisted on licking some ice instead of drinking water. I suspect you didn't like ice that day - and you would have said so if you hadn't had a lump of ice frozen to your tongue! And how did we remove it...warm water!" Penguino looked slight embarrassed and irritated at the same time. Which was made worse when Flo, Sue and Sparkes started shaking with laughter.



"When you think about it," Pingus said, "it's amazing how water, steam and ice are so different when they are made up of the same thing."

"Like God, Sir!" this time Penguino turned to Frostie gratefully thinking he'd taken the pressure off by saying possibly the stupidest thing he'd ever heard!

"EXCELLENT FROSTIE!" Pingus exclaimed whilst Penguino's jaw dropped, "have I missed something?" he thought. Frostie's victory slide across the floor didn't help the situation!

Frostie continued, "well you have God the Father, Jesus who is God the Son, and you have God the Holy Spirit. We see them all as being very different, however, all 3 are made of the same thing."

Penguino was just wondering whether his friendship with Frostie had dragged on long enough, when it occurred to him "actually that's pretty clever!" Unusually for him he sat there for a few minutes in silence. Suddenly the idea of God being 3 people but 1 God seemed to be slightly easier to understand.

He also figured that he couldn't really wish that God hadn't created water when he loves ice so much! "I guess it is quite useful to understand things" he thought to himself as he turned to his best friend and said "WHATEVER!!"





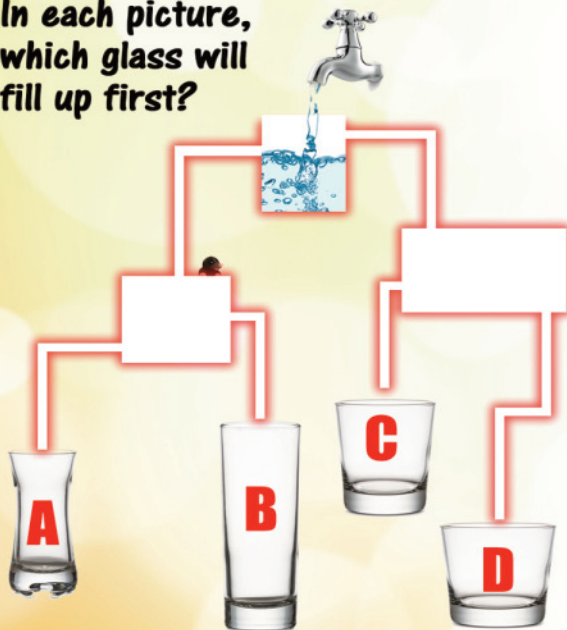
# Puzzles

## FREE Septimus!

Help Septimus find his way out for the tunnel...

## Just Add Water

In each picture, which glass will fill up first?



## Fill the bottles

Use the bottles below to measure out amounts of water exactly!



### Simple:

1. How do you measure 6 Litres of Water?
2. How do you give someone 3 Litres of Water?

### Medium

Bottle A is full, the other bottles are empty:

1. How do you give someone 4 Litres of water?
2. How do you give someone 0.75 Litres of water?

### Crazy Hard:

Again, Bottle A is full, the other bottles are empty:

1. How do you give someone 2.25L of water?
2. How do you get a total of 4.5L of water in Bottles B, C and D?
3. How do you get 4.5L in Bottle A?

## Answers



Which glass will fill first in each picture?  
A D B

**Easy:**  
1. Bottle A is 5 litres, and Bottle D is 1 litre - so the 2 bottles together are 6 litres.  
2. Bottle B is 2 litres and Bottle D is 1 litre - so together they are 3 litres.

**Medium:**  
1. Use the water in Bottle A to fill up bottle D - when bottle C is full - you will have taken out 1 litre from Bottle A so you have 4 litres left.  
2. Fill up Bottle C from Bottle A. Then fill Bottle D from Bottle C. Bottle C had 1.75L in it and you poured out 1L by filling Bottle D. So you are left with 0.75L in Bottle C.

**Crazy Hard:**  
1. Fill up Bottle B. Pour the water in Bottle B into Bottle C until it's full. You will be left with 0.25L which you can pour into Bottle D. Refill Bottle B and give someone Bottle B and Bottle D - 2.25L.  
2. Fill up Bottle C and pour it into Bottle B - so Bottle B contains 1.75L. Fill Bottle D - 1.75L + 1.75L + 1L = 4.5L.  
3. Fill up Bottle B. Pour the water in Bottle B into Bottle D. Now fill Bottle A. Then refill Bottle B and empty it into Bottle A. Finally empty the 0.5L from Bottle D into Bottle A and you will have 4.5L in Bottle A.





You can use both sets of clues to solve the puzzle: the solutions are the same.  
So, if you want to try the CRYPTIC puzzle, for instance, but are unsure, use the QUICK clues to help you work out the solution.

Similarly, if you try the QUICK clues, use the CRYPTIC clues to help you prove the solution

**CRYPTIC Across**

- 1 Like a Middle Eastern country, one of the past (7) 5  
Apostle with him out is going to die (5)  
8 Written word puts crier in a tizz (9)  
9 Part of the chair to reinforce (3)  
10 Way a desert country contracted for plant opening (5)  
12 One tucking into pineapple's an eye opener for Paul? (7)  
13 Conflicting reports one may have heard of 25, perhaps? (6)  
14 Figures car check-ups should be inclusive (6)  
16 Old coal town's right to get Japanese firm to attract a large number in (7) 19 King of Ammon's sounding surprised to meet one with a habit (5)  
21 NASA's concern – in short, it may have a blinking light (3)  
22 Rig Madras constructed for carnival... (5,4)  
24 ...is handy to re-use for masses, he wrote (5)  
25 Xerxes and Themistocles scrap here for sausages (7)

**CRYPTIC Down**

- 1 Port of Mysia from which Paul sailed when seeing mayday (5)  
2 Rhode Island's return address (3)  
3 Rachel's sister's taken up hip-hop to promote a Renaissance Man (7)  
4 Polish invasion of an unoccupied Antarctica island (5)  
5 Gratitude indicated after pastry Madonna caught (while having a tot) on her lap (5) 6 Piece of jazz, it reaches Number One contrary to custom (9)  
7 Flock's inner bearing, one to follow by the Nile (7)  
11 Ring flea-pit about Thor, shortly to be seen on date that smacks of 6 (9) 13 Branch out with gold into the London market (7)  
15 Judge's hot-line's been tampered with (7)  
17 Monster doctor discovers during study (5)

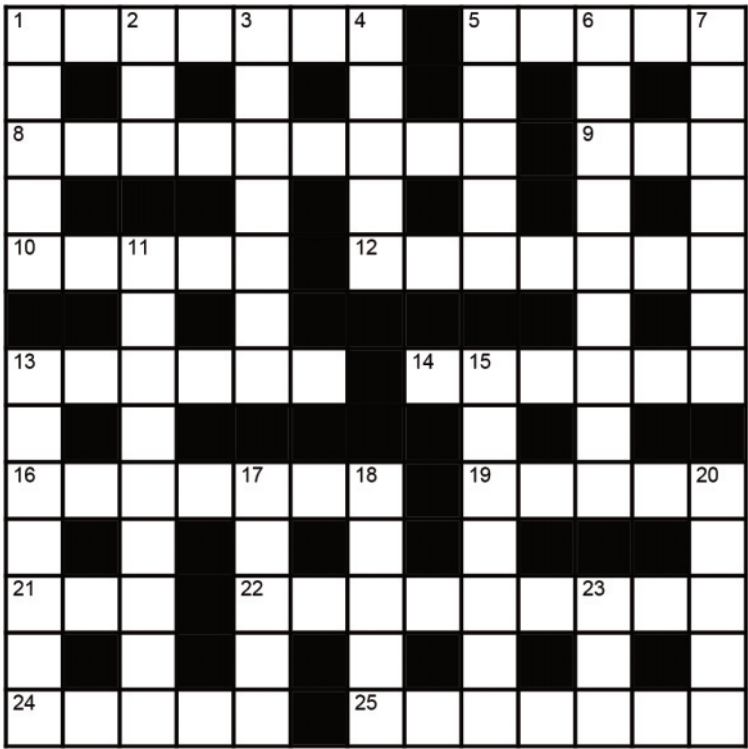
- 18 Anathema, frostiness, covering cuts made in the 70s? (5)  
20 Time for loch to accommodate animal dwellings (5)  
23 Suspect in Germany the cull from a bunch of crows is upsetting (3)

**QUICK Across**

- 1 Biblical country, now part of N Iraq (7)  
5 Apostle entrusted with the 'keys of the Kingdom of Heaven' (5) 8 Religious writing, especially the Holy Bible (9)  
9 Ready for 13 (3)  
10 Mouth-like opening in certain animals: plant pore (5) 12 Curer of Paul's blindness in Damascus (7)  
13 Struggle (6)  
14 Themes (6)  
16 S Wales valley(s) whose steam coal fuelled Britain's navy a century ago (7) 19 King of Ammon, son of Nahash (5)  
21 Roswell sighting? (3)  
22 Fat Tuesday (5,4)  
24 Composer brothers (Franz) Josef and Michael (5)  
25 Sea 13 between the Greeks and Persians, 480 BC (7)

**QUICK Down**

- 1 Mysian port from which Paul sailed to Jerusalem for the last time (5)  
2 Rod Stewart, for one (3)  
3 In Tobit, one of seven archangels (7)  
4 Caribbean island, independent from the Netherlands Antilles since 1986 (5) 5 Representation of the Virgin Mary mourning over the dead body of Jesus (5) 6 Convention [1] (9)  
7 Any of twelve kings of ancient Egypt between 1315 and



- 1090 BC (7)  
11 Convention [2] (9)  
13 English town that forms the constituency of a member of parliament (7)  
15 One of the first Israelite judges who stopped his people worshipping Baal (7) 17 Ghoul; evil being (5)  
18 70s hairstyles (5)  
20 Makes a home (5)  
23 Liquor distilled from fermented molasses (3)

**SOLUTION**

Across: 1 Assyria, 5 Peter, 8 Scripture, 9 Arm, 10 Stoma, 12 Ananias, 13 Battle, 14 Motifs, 16 Rhondda, 19 Hannu, 21 UFO, 22 Mardi Gras, 24 Haydn, 25 Salamis.  
Down: 1 Assos, 2 Sir, 3 Raphael, 4 Aruba, 5 Pietà, 6 Tradition, 7 Rameses, 11 Orthodoxy, 13 Borough, 15 Othniel, 17 Demon, 18 Afros, 20 Nests, 23 Rum.

**Facts, Figures and False News**

**Which fact below is untrue?**

- More Human Twins are being born now than ever before.
- The world wastes about 1 billion metric tons of food each year.
- The moon has moonquakes.
- The highest recorded level of smoking among men in Great Britain was 82% in 1948. For women, it peaked at 45% in the mid 1960.
- 45.4% of the world population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- 6.27 billion doses have been administered globally, and 27.97 million are now administered each day.
- Only 2.3% of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose.
- Owing to the injections of cash by governments around the world during the pandemic, there is now £15 trillion more in the world than there was 17 months ago.
- The first person charged with Speeding was going at 20mph

The first person to be charged with speeding was Walter Arnold of the English village of Paddock Wood, Kent. On Jan. 28, 1896, Arnold was spotted going four times the speed limit in his 19th-century Benz—given the speed limit was only 2mph, that meant he was only going 8mph. The constable had to chase him down on his bicycle, issuing a ticket for £4 7s.

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