



Feast of St Stephen
December 26th

Catholic News



MORE THAN 21 YEARS OF BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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A happy and holy Christmas to all our readers

Christmas Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



I am so grateful for this opportunity to wish you and all the people of this diocese a most blessed and joyful Christmas as we celebrate and give thanks for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. I pray that our celebration of Christmas may serve to awaken within each of us, or to deepen still more, an openness to encountering God's love in our lives. May it also inspire and enable us to share that love with others in all sorts of little but potentially significant ways.

Christmas is, for many people, a time to look forward to and to enjoy; a time when families do their best to gather together; a time to exchange presents and eat and drink with loved ones. However, we know that, for increasing numbers of people on their own, Christmas can be a very difficult and particularly lonely time of the year. The films, programmes and adverts all conspire to present this Season as a time when everyone should 'feel' love, happiness and good cheer. There is immense commercial pressure put on all of us to buy this or that so that we will be happy at Christmas. The truth is that many people will be feeling the opposite. Not everyone is able to spend Christmas with loved ones, and the 'empty chair' in the room can serve to remind people acutely of their loss. While some people may prefer to remain on their own at Christmas, because it gives them the 'space' they need to remember separated or deceased loved ones in the manner they choose to do so, others may well appreciate an invitation to join other people for something over this period, whether it's a mince pie, drink and a chat, or a meal. This is of course a sensitive area, because it is so easy to offend or hurt the feelings of others, without intending to do so. None of us likes to feel that people are only being 'nice' because they feel sorry for us. But, very often, the invitation to join others can be a welcome break for many from the loneliness or aloneness they feel at this time of the year.

It is important that we don't equate happiness with joy. Happiness is often only a fleeting feeling, but true joy is a gift of the Christ-Child; it is something lasting, and it has the power to sustain each of us through the most difficult and lonely of times. If you are someone who finds Christmas difficult, then I pray that this Christmas you may experience the joy of knowing just how much you are loved by Christ. May we all encounter the loving face of Christ in those we welcome into our celebrations and in those who reach out to us.

May the Christ-Child fill all your hearts with his love, joy and peace.

+Patrick

**Rt Rev Patrick McKinney
Bishop of Nottingham**

Celebrating the Advent liturgy



Pupils at St Georges School Derby Celebrated their Advent liturgy this year along with Staff, family and parishioners. They were also joined by Joe Hopkins lead Chaplain of St Ralph Sherwin multi Academy Trust.

All pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 took part. It was absolutely amazing. The biblical narrative of Advent liturgy was told through dance, drama and song, with times of silence and reflection to help us all encounter the presence of Christ.

The school Christmas wreath was blessed by Parish Priest, Canon Alan who reflected on Christ being the light of the world and his humble birth. It's was a perfect start to the season of Advent for us all.

Following the assembly Chaplain Joe Hopkins led an Advent retreat day for the school with interactive actives and workshops.

Continued on page 12

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The monthly paper for the Diocese of Nottingham

The Catholic News

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Wanted - Parish Correspondents

The Catholic News is looking for a Parish Correspondent in your parish to send in local news for publication in this newspaper. All items to be emailed to johnclwson@icloud.com before 10th of the month

CAFOD top five charity gifts for Christmas

Our top five Christmas World Gifts make perfect stocking fillers or Secret Santa gifts.

These bestsellers have been approved by CAFOD supporters so that you can give a popular present with confidence this Christmas! You could also make a BIG difference by choosing to fundraise towards a larger charity gift with your parish or school.

Top five charity gifts for Christmas

1) Water for a family for £33

Water for a family is the perfect gift this Christmas. It's hard to imagine life without a supply of clean, fresh water. But sadly many families face this reality. So give a family the life-changing gift of water this Christmas! This simple-sounding Water for a family World Gift does so much. A supply of water for drinking, cooking and cleaning helps protect families from disease and means they don't have to spend hours walking to collect water.



2) Teach someone to read for £10

Our longstanding bestseller is perfect for children, teachers and with your kind donations Melissa was able to attend school and transform her life. Reading is a skill that stays with a child for life, giving them a better chance of getting a job when they leave school. Melissa was living on the streets in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, rife with violence



and high poverty rates, with money raised from this gift we were able to fund her through school. When you buy our Teach someone to read World Gift gift, you can help someone like Melissa to learn to read and look to the future with a smile.

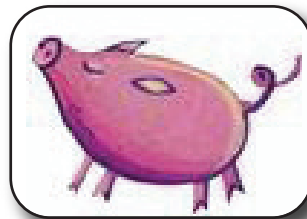
3) Healthy mum and baby for £30

Our Healthy Mum and baby gift is a bestseller and the perfect gift for Christmas. As we think of Mary and Joseph's long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem at Christmas we recall the birth of baby Jesus in the stable. In rural communities healthcare can be many miles away, which can be life-threatening for new mothers and their babies. Buy the Healthy mum and baby World Gift and give babies a healthy start in life.



4) The pig that provides for £65

Our pig that provides a brighter future for a family is an ideal Christmas gift. Go the whole hog and buy this alternative Christmas ham! The pig that provides World Gift is an unusual charity gift that provides opportunity to families in poverty. Pigs can be fed on scraps, are an important food source for families in need, plus the money made from breeding and selling pigs can allow parents to send their children to school. Hamtastic!



5) Medical outreach team for £300

Reach out to remote communities in the developing world this Christmas by fundraising for a World Gift. Hold some fundraising events in your parish, school or community this Christmas to buy a Medical outreach team for a remote community. A mobile health team is essential to provide emergency care to patients who cannot travel to a health clinic.



We've some great fundraising resources on the CAFOD website: Use our Christmas card poster to write your season's greetings to each other and save the money you would have spent on cards! There are many more festive fundraising ideas to try in our A-Z. Help transform the lives of communities and families living in poverty and buy your World Gifts today

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House of Prayer

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William Rees, Novice and Poet
GOD IN MY LIFE:
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18 Friday

Healing Mass

26 Saturday

Lectio Divina

February

9 Saturday

Fr. Frank Daly, Founder of
SPANNED GOD IN MY LIFE:
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15 Friday

Healing Mass

19 Tuesday

The Importance of the Bible today -

Fr. A. Belsito IC

23 Saturday

Lectio Divina

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~ Tuesday Scripture talks: 7-8.30pm

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~ Full-day retreats: Start at 10am and include Mass, meditation, prayers, the Sacrament of

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FRANKLY SPEAKING

There is little doubt that the true Christmas story never changes. The message generated by the Holy Family always remains the same. The world around us has and is continuing to move in many directions and whilst Christmas is a time of joy and hope surely we should this year devote some spiritual devotions to praying for peace in the areas of the world where it is most needed. This should incorporate the future for our own young children who are as precious to us as I hope we were to our own parents thus linking us to the Holy Family.

If we try to analyse the difficult problems of the world at the end of 2018 it is not only peace or the lack of it that should trouble us.

Poverty is never far away for many families- not least in our own country. Britain played a part in establishing the United Nations so we can hardly ignore the recent report from Professor Philip Alston on behalf of the UN. I am no expert on the definition of poverty but the government's flagship welfare policy known as Universal Credit has run into many problems not least with deserving instances having no money to live with for the first five weeks. Professor Alston clearly was also unhappy with the policy of restricting benefits to a family's first two children. Readers will no doubt form their own opinions on this.

As we approach the New Year of 2019 so many other issues are also facing our country which can be identified as principal problems. When you read this article we should be aware of the "Green Paper" on the future of social care for central and local government. Will this really reverse the cash crisis in our care homes? How many jobs will be lost to technology not least in the retail industry due to on line shopping? I make no reference to Brexit as we have surely heard enough of this and much more is to come, I could mention other social issues but would like to end this article in a positive way with some good news.

In November we were able to read that Religious primary schools had achieved better test results than other state and private schools and the revelation that they accounted for almost a half of the top 500 state primaries included 25 Catholic schools. The reaction of the opponents of Faith Schools was not surprising - we have heard it all before. Our young children will have participated in Nativity plays recently, they do know the true Christmas story and we should all ensure the message it brings will be taken into 2019.

A peaceful Christmas to all readers.

Frank Goulding
 Holy Trinity Parish
 Newark

Christmas present for a missionary

Fr Barry Cairns recalls one of the most delightful Christmas presents he ever received.

In the mission parish of Katase in Yokohama diocese where I was stationed, we had a special catechumenate class for couples where the wife was baptised, but the husband was not yet baptised.

Six couples came faithfully to the evening classes I could sense a growing enthusiasm in five of the men, but one man, Tanaka-san, seemed quiet and worried.

It so happened that at that time I was building a Christmas crib. I had asked an architect parishioner to draw a plan for me. He said, "I have drawn plans for houses and even a church, but never a stable!"

I followed his plan but I was behind schedule. Then Tanaka-san saw my struggling efforts and shyly said, "Can I help you?" I was delighted. He proved himself to be a natural handyman. We worked together off and on for three weeks and had the frame ready for the First Sunday of Advent.

My aim was to create an atmosphere of expectation for Christ's birth by having the crib frame at the church entrance on the first Sunday, the bamboo roof on the second, straw on the third, Mary, Joseph and an empty manger on the fourth Sunday of Advent. The infant Jesus was solemnly placed in his manger at Christmas midnight Mass by a kimono-clad young girl.

But back to Tanaka-san. He was born on the island of Shikoku with a long tradition of Buddhism and respect and prayer for ancestors. In a class in early December I had quoted our Japanese bishops telling us that the commandment 'Love your father and your mother' means also that after death we

pray for our ancestors.

Baptism does not cancel this if they belonged to another faith. The cloud of worry seemed to lift from Tanaka-san.

In the week before Christmas Mrs Tanaka said to me, "Let's go for coffee this week." At coffee she told me, "My husband wants to say something to you."

I can still vividly recall my reaction! I knew his deep family Buddhist background and so I expected a polite negative to his baptism with the others in the class. But Tanaka-san said, and his voice echoes in my heart as I write this, "Father, am I good enough for baptism?"

I choked with happiness. This was the most beautiful Christmas present I had ever received. It came alive again at the Easter vigil baptisms of six stalwart men, backed by their faith-filled wives.

Since then, over the years, Tanaka-san and I have together done a few other carpentry projects in the church and rectory – also quite a few coffees! He and his wife are a happy, praying couple. Sharing their faith with their children, grandchildren and friends.

Fr Barry Cairns was born in New Zealand in 1931. After studying to be a Columban missionary in Australia, he went to Japan in 1955 after ordination. After eleven years in parish work in Japan, he spent the next 13 years on the staff of the Columban seminary in Sydney before he returned to Japan in 1983. At 86 years of age he still serves in a small parish in Yokohama City.



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Floral beauty draws a good crowd!

Inspired by Rebecca Newell, the Good Shepherd Church florist, a Flower Demonstration took place on Saturday 17 November in the parish hall. Over 100 tickets were sold for the event which included a raffle ticket and light refreshments with hot drinks. Rebecca delivered a relaxed but very professional and informative demonstration of four displays, a large table Advent Candle wreath and a light up door wreath. All items drew huge compliments from the attentive audience, as Rebecca shared some tricks of the trade and made it all look so easy! The afternoon was enhanced with festive nibbles, Christmas mince pies, stollen, sandwiches and delicious homemade cakes and



biscuits. What did come to light is not only are our flower ladies wonderful flower arrangers, they can also bake! With great support from parishioners and friends a total of £660 was raised towards our parish Christmas Flowers. A special thanks to Catie Vessey who played the piano for us. A stall was also available to purchase packs of Advent Candles, flower diaries and packs of flower cards. All the beautiful arrangements were raffled off and some very fortunate ladies went home very happy indeed!



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What an Evening!

In the Spring of this year my friend Peggy mentioned the Mary's Meals Backpack Project. It appealed to me as a supporter of Mary's Meals because it seemed to be something I could do very easily. We each bought two children's backpacks and went about filling them with all the items a child might need at school. Mary's Meals website listed everything very clearly so it was a straightforward process.



Having done that a weekend was booked in and a few of us raised money for Mary's Meals at the coffee morning after each Mass. At the same time we displayed the four backpacks we had completed, together with the list of contents and showed the DVD by Mary's Meals entitled 'Child 31'. We said that if anyone was interested they might consider giving pencils, rulers, rubbers etc.

We couldn't quite believe what happened as a result of that coffee morning. It all took on a life of its own; we sent 30 backpacks off in May and I thought that was wonderful but that would be it! Little did we realise that the parishioners would just take it to heart and eventually a further 65 backpacks were completed. One lady had been in Skegness for a day and noticed that £8 backpacks had

been reduced to £1, came back and told us and two more ladies went rushing back the next day and bought the 30 that were available! Others provided all the contents including school items plus shorts and T-shirts for children aged 4-12.

On Tuesday 27th November we had a thank you evening with cheese and coffee in the Parish Hall with a speaker from Mary's Meals and another film called 'Generation Hope'. This made very clear just what a meal in school could achieve and with a backpack the children can have all their own equipment, a set of clothes and flip-flops! The idea of a coffee morning last May produced so much more. On Thursday 29th November all the sacks were collected. The driver of the Van collecting them didn't know what it was all about but was soon informed. He thought it was amazing and allowed us to take his photo with bags and van!

Patricia, St Peter & St Paul's, Lincoln

Diocesan team heads to Poland to call for action on climate change



Three Catholic campaigners Christina, Tom and Paul from our diocese travelled with CAFOD to the recent crucial UN summit on climate change. CAFOD selected and took a group of 30 volunteers from up and down the country with a variety of ages and backgrounds to Katowice in Poland for the 24th Conference of the Parties on climate change. Christina, Tom and Paul each explain why climate change is so important to them.

Christina Mottram, from St Margaret Mary's parish in Evington, Leicester, is a chaplain at Leicester Hospitals, and also works part-time for the Anglican Diocese of Leicester's social responsibility team. She studied Chemistry, and wants the facts about climate change to be more widely known. Christina's been a CAFOD volunteer for many years, and is currently an Area Co-ordinator for parishes in Leicester. She helped her daughter Hannah launch CAFOD's 'Power to Be' campaign in summer 2017.

Tom Beall is CAFOD's Community Volunteer Co-ordinator for the diocese, and belongs to Holy Trinity Parish in Newark. Two things got him involved in climate change. He works at Southwell Workhouse for the National Trust, an organisation with a long history of awareness-raising on climate change and is part of the Climate Coalition of which CAFOD is a part. He was also inspired by friends who took part in CAFOD's Step into the Gap programme. "I want to help make a difference", he says. "We need to take care of the climate for future generations, our world is forever and for everyone. Doing nothing is not an option: we have to find ways to live simply so that others may simply live."

Paul Bodenham attends St Anne's in Radcliffe-on-Trent. He's the diocesan Justice and Peace Commission's Fieldworker, working across Nottingham diocese to help Catholics and their parishes put faith into action.

Continued on page 8

Enterprising Women in Ethiopia

I have just returned from an inspiring two week stay in Ethiopia. I went with my sister Veronica. We are members of St Ralph Sherwin in Derby. We were joined by Fr Mike Fitzsimons, Parish Priest at St. Wilfrid's, Widnes. Michael and I first visited Ethiopia as CAFOD volunteers in 2005 and 2006. It has been ten years since either of us last visited.

Family, friends and parishioners helped raise money to support a women's livelihood project, managed by the Daughter's of Charity. They are based at St Vincent's House in Mekelle, the Tigray Region, in the Northern Highlands near Eritrea. We visited projects in Mekelle, Maichew to the south, and the hot, semi-desert, remote mountain region in the Northern Afar Region, towards the Danakil Depression.

As CAFOD volunteers we were keen to learn more about water projects and the impact of climate change on the pastoralists and agriculturalists in the region. We know that prolonged droughts and changing weather patterns have made life almost impossible. Failed crops and chronic water shortages have been devastating, making survival so hard. As we drove around the region we could see the damage done to the crops by several days of unseasonal rain. It's harvest time and all the work is done by hand so it takes weeks to complete the work.

Thanks to the Daughters of Charity and staff at Adigrat Diocese, who have successfully managed CAFOD projects for years, supported by CARITAS International, we were able to see signs of hope and lives changed for the better. These Non Government Organisations (NGOs) are doing some excellent work, offering a helping hand to those living in very difficult circumstances.

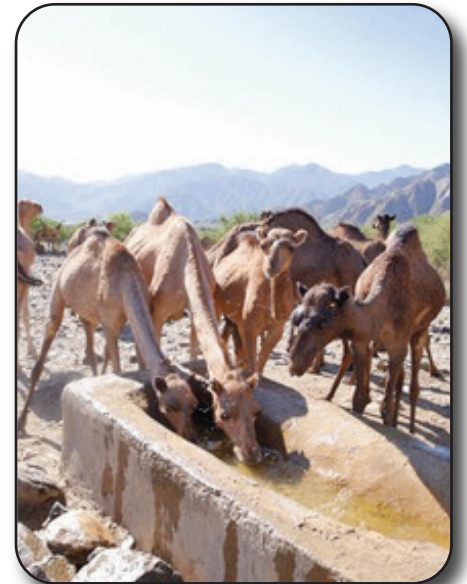
In Maichew, we were given a guided tour of two markets and visited several women who were receiving training in income generation and business skills. They receive a small loan, start-up livestock and feed, for some chickens and guidance on how to make animal pens from scrap material and how to care for their animals.

Not only have they made a success of caring for chickens but some have formed a small cooperative and diversified buying sheep. Eggs are a source of food for the family and they sell well in the neighbourhood. Some of the sheep are about to have lambs.

Some of the women are living with challenging disabilities and illnesses but relish the opportunity to care for their families.

We met women selling bananas, spices, oranges and guavas. All fresh local produce. With income generated they have set up small shops selling charcoal, toiletries and other items. Some are managing to save a little Ethiopian Birr, for further investment. They have far exceeded expectation and their growing expertise will be drawn on when the next group of women receive project funding to start training.

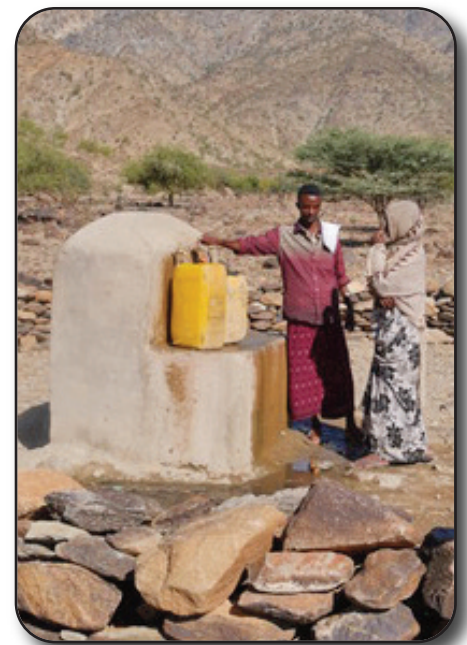
Conor Molloy, the Country Representative in Ethiopia, for the Joint Office Cafod, Trocaire & Sciaf (CTS) set up our visits to water projects. We made two long journeys, into very remote mountain regions, along narrow bumpy cliff edges. Stunning landscape for travellers but harsh conditions for pastoralists trying to keep their animals alive. Some have given up, sold



their animals and drifted in search of alternative ways to earn a living. We stopped in the middle of nowhere. It was mid-morning and we walked around the desolate area in the intense heat. In the distance we saw camels and small goats making their way towards us and a small group of people walking alongside.

They were not coming to greet us. We had been fortunate to arrive just in time for the water guard to turn on the taps. The camels stretched their long necks and drank water as the goats nestled in amongst them to quench their thirst. A few metres away we could hear the trickle of water from taps, as family members queued to fill their water cans. Separate areas for animals and people reduce the risk of contamination and sickness. We walked on to see the bore hole, reserve water tank and solar panels with back-up generator to operate a network of community taps.

It has been a collaborative project in that water engineers have taken advice from pastoralists and enlisted the help of local government to do some chlorination and maintenance work. Once the community can rebuild their livelihoods they pay towards the water supply.



This facility means that women and children no longer have to make perilous journeys at night, scaling the steep mountainside in search of a source of water. Also, children can go to school and people benefit from safe drinking water. We certainly drank our fair share of water on the journey.

Anna Bourke

The Good Shepherd Christmas Fair

On Saturday 24 November, over 1000 people gathered in the Good Shepherd Church Hall, Arnold, to celebrate its annual Christmas Fair. A huge success, the event had a wonderful community vibe. Kick starting the morning, the church was joined by Notts Fire and Rescue, who spent time with the children and parents, enabling them to sit in the fire engine and chat to the firemen. The fair attracted local residents, children from neighbouring schools as well as the local congregation and families from the Good Shepherd school. Over £8,955.87 (an increase of £1,573.48 (21.3%) on last year's figure) was raised towards the parish building fund, which will help pay for urgent re-

pairs to the church. When asked the secret of this success, the organiser, Sarah Benedek, commented: "It's all down to teamwork. There is so much talent in our community and when you ask these wonderful people to take on the responsibility for a stall and fundraising, they have all stepped up to the mark and exceeded expectations". The event was marketed widely using school networks, social media and the parish newsletter and website, which has led to strong attendance figures. The quality of donations was also high, with over £600 raised in advance from selling some of the bric-a-brac using sites such as eBay and Marketplace.



Remembering our loved ones



Holy Trinity Parish Church, Newark, was illuminated by a great many candles each lit in memory of a loved one at the recent Bereavement Mass on 19th November.

A Memorial Stole, which is made from fabric provided in memory of a deceased family member or friend and donated by parishioners, was on display. The stole was started 2 years ago and new donations of fabric are added to each year.

The Mass was an opportunity for quiet contemplation and many found it a great comfort.

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Pastoral visit by Cardinal

The Syro Malabar Eparchy (Diocese) was established in October 9, 2016, two years back. Cardinal George was the principal celebrant at this event and for the episcopal ordination of Bishop Joseph Srampickal, the first bishop. This is the first visit by our Cardinal to England to observe the diocese and its progress. He does this as the part of his duty as the supreme head of the Syro Malabar Church. The British Syro-Malabar diocese is growing steadily and it now forms mission centers in different places. Previously there were 173 Holy Mass centres within a 25 mile radius, these form as mission centres named as Mission Centers. The British diocese has restructured into 75 Missions Centres and their inaugurations will be taking place during the pastoral visit of Cardinal in different places. These mission centers eventually will change into Syro-Malabar parishes when it meets the requirements of a parish. Hopefully not too far in the distant future.

Cardinal George started his visit on 23

November from Scotland and made his way to England. It will be completed by 9th of December. During the visit the Cardinal will visit the Apostolic, Nuncio, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, other bishops of the different dioceses.

We had a wonderful celebration at Good Shepherd Church, Arnold, where the Cardinal declared 2 missions with Fr. Biju Joseph Kunnackattu as its mission director. St. Gabriel Mission, Derby includes people from Derby and Burton-on-Trent. St. John's Mission includes people from Nottingham, Mansfield, Clay Cross and Worksop. The Mission Centres will celebrate regular Holy Masses during the weekends. For St. John's Mission in Nottingham this will take place at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Lenton Boulevard. St. John's mission will take place at St. Gabriel Derby, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Derby.

Along with Cardinal George Alencherry, Bishop Patrick McKinney, Bishop of Not-



tingham, Bishop Joseph Srampickal, Bishop of Syro Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain, Fr. Sajimon Malayilputhenpurayil, Vicar General of Great Britain Diocese, Canon Antony Dollan, Fr. Wilfred Pereppadan, Fr. George Thomas Chelackal, Fr. Fanswa Pathil, Fr. Biju Joseph Kunnackattu, Mission Director were Concelebrants with Cardinal. People from Nottingham, Mansfield, Scunthorpe, Boston, Clay Cross, Worksop, Burton on Trent and Derby were present to

witness the historical declaration.

The gathering was further enhanced by the laying on of wonderful Indian cuisine in the parish centre. The excitement and joy was very evident as families and friends shared this evening together marking this important occasion in such a lovely communal manner.

Submitted by Fr Biju Joseph



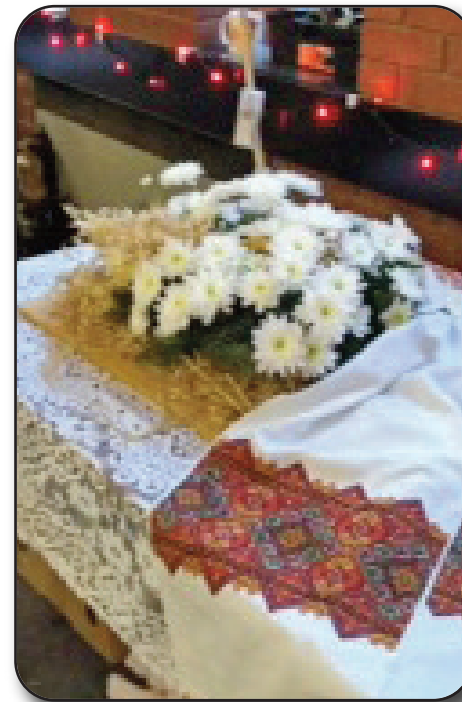
Floral journey at St Barnabas Cathedral

A large eager audience gathered at St Barnabas Cathedral Hall in November where florist and flower arranger Maria Kirk, took people on a floral journey through her memories of the season. Being of Polish and Ukrainian descent Maria explained through flowers and stories the traditions of her home, making people laugh with her many tales, but also bringing a touch of melancholy as people remembered their own childhood. The arrangements included a tradition Christmas eve table complete with empty place setting, and even a visit by St Nicholas with his scaled down crozier and mitre, accompanied by an Angel and the little devil carrying the books with everyone's names.

The finale was an arrangement through a window with white roses surrounding a statue of the baby Jesus, and lit with lots of candles. This was a tribute to Father Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber, the writer and composer of the carol Silent Night, which is 200 years old this year, and as Maria told

the story of the carol and its writer, and took the audience through the Silent Night Trail in Austria, which she has done many times, the audience were given special handmade bookmarks to commemorate the event. As the candles were lit, a peal of bells was heard, these were the actual bells ringing on Christmas Eve in Obendorf where the carol was first sung followed by a recording of the choir in the Obendorf Church singing Silent Night. A single poppy was placed among the flowers, as an act of remembrance, as Silent Night was the first carol to be sung in the trenches, during the Christmas Eve cease fire of the First world war.

The Audience gave a standing ovation, and after viewing the arrangements sat down to a beautifully prepared afternoon tea. There were also lots of crafts available for purchase, and the arrangements were raffled, the whole event raised £500 for the Cathedral restoration fund.



St Mary's Academy's Chaplaincy Team visit Mercy Care Centre



The Chaplaincy Team from St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby had a lovely visit with their neighbours at the Mercy Care Centre. It was an opportunity for those on the opposite ends of the age spectrum to meet together socially. They chatted about their lives, did crafts, played dominoes and other games, before sharing refreshments. The children and residents both benefitted from the chance to get to know each other better and hope for many more get-togethers in the future.

Fran Wickes



Christmas Mass Times at Our Lady of Victories
 Halam Road, Southwell, Notts NG25 0AD
Monday 24th
 St Anthony's
 5.30pm Carols and First Mass of Christmas at 6pm
Our Lady of Victories
 10.30pm Carols and Midnight Mass at 11pm
Tuesday 25th
Our Lady' of Victories
 9.00am Christmas Day

Christmas Masses at: The Divine Infant of Prague and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Bulwell
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour:
 Christmas Eve - 4.30 p.m. Mass
 11.30 p.m. Carols followed by Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day – 10.15 a.m. Mass
Infant of Prague:
 Christmas Eve – 6.30 p.m. Mass
 Christmas Day – 10.15 a.m. Mass

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Mary's, Bridge Gate
 Friday 21st December
 8.00am Bridge Gate Convent Mass
 12 Noon- 12.50pm Confessions, Exposition & 1.00pm Mass
Saturday 22nd December
 11.00am- 11.50am Confessions, Exposition & 12 Noon Mass
Sunday 23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent
 9.00am, & 11.00am & 6.30pm Mass
Christmas Eve
 11.00am-1.00pm Confessions
 6.00pm Carols & 6.30pm First Mass Christmas
 11.45pm Carols, followed by 12am Midnight Mass for the Nativity of Our Lord
Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day
 9.00am & 11.00am Mass
 NO EVENING MASS
Holy Family, Blenheim Avenue
 Friday 21st December
 9.00am Service of Word & Communion
Sunday 23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent
 9.30am Mass
Christmas Eve
 9.00am Service of Word & Communion
Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day
 9.30am Mass
 NO EVENING MASS
Christ of the King Parish, Mackworth, Mass
 Saturday 22nd December
 5.30pm Vigil Mass 4th Sunday of Advent
 Christmas Eve 5.00pm First Mass of Christmas

LOUGHBOROUGH
St Mary's - 97 Ashby Road

Sun 23 December
 4.30pm: Carols by Candlelight
Mon 24 December - Christmas Eve
 9.15am: Parish Mass
 6.00pm: Family Christmas Vigil Mass
 Midnight Mass preceded by carols at 11.30pm
Mon 25 December - Christmas Day
 9.00am: Parish Mass
 11.00am: Solemn Mass
Tues 26 December - St Stephen's Day
 10.30am: Parish Mass
Mon 30 December - New Year's Eve
 9.15am: Parish Mass
 7.00pm: Te Deum & Solemn Benediction
Tues 1 January - New Year's Day
 10.30am: Solemn Mass

Christmas Celebrations at the Church of the Good Shepherd Woodthorpe Nottingham

Mass times for weekends
 (These begin on the First Sunday of Advent - 2nd December)
 Saturday Vigil at 6.00 pm and Sundays at 8.00 am, 10.30 am and Sunday evening at 5.30 pm.
Children's Tree Party
 Saturday 22nd December at 12 noon (Decorating the Christmas Tree with a nativity preparation.)
Monday 24th December 2018
 at 5.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (Folk Group)
 11.30pm Carols followed by 12midnight Midnight Mass (Full Choir)
Tuesday 25th December 2018
 at 10.00am Christmas Day Holy Mass with Carols
 11.30am Christmas Day Holy Mass with Carols

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DELTA MAESTRO

Remembrance Day

The CWL and parishioners worked hard providing hundreds of knitted poppies and children made paper poppies taken from war poems



and made up into the flowers. The resultant display made a wonderful sight and was set off by new artworks of large poppy canvasses. It was sad to see it dismantled and put away. A remembrance day to remember.

Brian, St Peter and St Paul, Lincoln

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Thoughts from Elston Hermitage...

As this Christmas edition of Catholic News is available to us no doubt we shall be making the last minute preparations for the great solemnity of the Incarnation of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ - a great solemnity which we shall have been preparing for many weeks and shortly after Christmas day many of us will be remarking 'how quickly Christmas has gone'. But of course the celebrations continue within our liturgy for some weeks and none less so than on the Solemnity of the Epiphany on January 6th - this great solemnity should be as hopeful and relevant to our lives as those of the other stories that surround the birth of Jesus. At the heart of its familiar story we find astrologers from the east arrive at Bethlehem inquiring of the location of the new born king of the Jews-they had observed his star rising and had come to do him homage. The account of this wonderful solemnity in St Matthew gospel, if we read carefully, does not call the astrologers kings, neither does he give them names, neither does he report where they came from, in fact neither does he specify the number of them. We traditionally assume that there were three because of their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh which were presented to the Christ child. Matthew strips away as it were the romantic layers of the story, maybe his purpose is that so it can be better understood and maybe a pur-

pose that points back to us and the need to fill the emptiness that so often exists within our lives. The magi - non believers in the eyes of Israel - possess something unique something that was seldom appreciated by the leaders of Israel - they possess the humility and the openness of mind and heart to seek and welcome Jesus. Their following of the star is a journey much like ours, a journey of faith, a constant search for meaning, for purpose, for the things of God. The remarkable thing is that they were not deterred on that journey even as they encountered people and events along the way that had the potential of distracting them and preventing them from achieving their journeys goal.

I often think that their search for the Christ child mirrors our own life long search for God, for compassion, justice, peace and forgiveness. we ourselves having encountered Jesus in our lives may, like the wise men give homage to God and without reserve our lives will be changed, but first we need to realise our own faith encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. The Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said " being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person -Jesus Christ - who gives new horizon and a decisive direction to our lives ", he went on to say " faith is above all a personal,



intimate encounter with Jesus, an experience of his closeness, his friendship and his love ".

The Magi, surely then remind us that as Christians - who like the Magi search for Jesus , our lives are incomplete until we have fully experienced this encounter. The solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord has much to offer us on our journey of faith. In Bethlehem, the magi found the fulfillment of all that they were seeking in their lives, so will we, if we engage our journey of faith honestly -if we acknowledge our need for God's merciful presence in our lives, in a living encounter and relationship with the Christ child.

Wishing you a Happy and Peaceful 2019

Fr. David + h.d.n.
 Priest and Hermit
 Diocese of Nottingham.

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Continued from page 4

For Paul it was a rude awakening to climate change. In 2000 his house was damaged during a storm which led to some of the worst flooding the UK has ever seen. He decided he had to look into climate change. "The more I learnt", he says, "the more I discovered it was a moral and spiritual crisis, as well as a political and technological one, which humanity was completely unprepared to tackle. One way or another climate change will change everything. We need to pull together to build solidarity between nations and between generations."

He set about trying to help create a faith-based movement to lead a change of heart in our society. He is a trustee of Green Christian, which connects Christianity and the Green movement, and helped to establish Operation Noah, a Christian charity which campaigns on climate change.

They give below a brief summary to the Catholic News about their experiences and what took place on the trip.

We arrived in London at Romero House all packed and prepared for the 24 hour coach

journey to Krakow In Poland. Safely arriving in Poland there was an opportunity to explore the beautiful city of Krakow and visit the local Christmas market finishing with Mass at the hotel, before starting to create banners for the climate march organised on the Saturday. Up early the following morning, the group traveled to the Kino Kosmos Cinema for a day organised by CIDSE, which was an inspiring day packed with receiving a policy update and a workshop with climate tracker on how Conference of the party's work. After lunch we had the opportunity to meet six different local civil society organisations and find what they do, helping us to think about the simple changes we can make in our own lives, before being invited to watch the primer of "Energy to Change" a film created by CIDSE with the help of its partners to show the how developing country's are using renewable energy's to live.

Saturday morning the group started with mass before traveling to Katowice to participate in a climate march along with CIDSE group, which also included a flash mob of over 3000 people who took part in the march with organisations from all over the world. The evening concluded with a Inter-

cultural party hosted by CIDSE giving us the opportunity to meet new people and to make new friends with people that work with CIDSE.

Sunday was another exciting action packed day with the group traveling to the cathedral in Katowice to meet up with CIDSE to welcome the walking pilgrims who had walked from Rome. After Holy mass we given the opportunity to meet with the Archbishop of Katowice who give us a inspirational talk.

Monday, sadly the final day of this life changing experience, we started with mass in the morning before travelling to Katowice for the final time. Before the final morning with CIDSE. Starting with a spiritual moment lead by FEC from Portugal. We then spent the morning reflecting on the past few days and taking our final photos, before embarking on the 18 hours coach journey home.

If anyone would like to find out more. Please email Tom Beall at tbeall@cafod.org.uk

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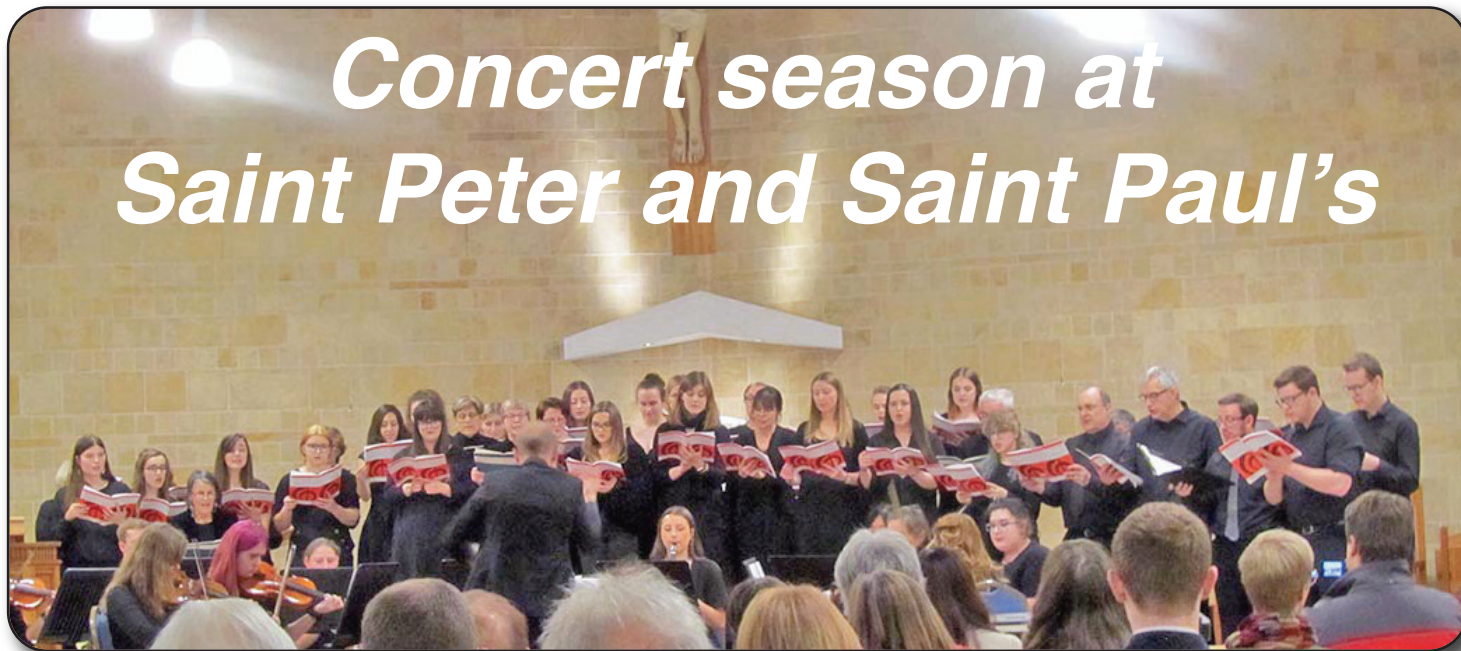
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Concert season at Saint Peter and Saint Paul's



Last Friday saw the last in a series of concerts hosted by SSPP. Over the last two months we have been privileged to provide a venue for a wide variety of performers, commencing with the String and Woodwind Quartet 'Silverwood'. These talented musicians were followed by the acclaimed soprano Angela Simkin, who gave an impressive performance enjoyed by all present. We then welcomed Colin Walsh from Lincoln Cathedral who coaxed amazing sounds from the impressive Nigel Pipe Organ, installed three years ago having been rehomed from Sedburgh.

In October - for the second year running - we hosted the St Petersburg Resurrection Choir who treated us to a programme of sacred music and traditional Russian folk songs. Our own Deanery Choir then gave a Remembrance themed concert raising funds for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal against a stunning backdrop of poppies knitted by parishioners over the preceding year to celebrate the Centenary of the end of WW1. The culmination of the concert season was Friday's visit from the Lincoln University Chamber Choir and Orchestra. Over forty five musicians and singers gave a spine tingling performance of

Faure's Requiem. The quality of sound was superb, utilising the church's excellent natural acoustics. Whilst the group included both staff and students, it was particularly moving to see how many young people were involved with the event. We certainly hope that many of them will be back with us again next year!

Our thanks to all the performers and those who facilitated the events in any way, from ticket sellers to refreshment servers - we are blessed with a wonderful team!

Alison, St Peter & St Paul's, Lincoln

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Two weeks helping to improve education

Teachers from two Catholic secondary schools in Derbyshire spent two weeks helping to improve education for children in South Africa.

Joan McCarthy, headteacher at Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy, returned to South Africa with Mellon Educate after her first trip with the charity last year.

She was joined by Fiona Molumby, Religious Studies teacher at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby.

Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Molumby worked in Usasazo High School, supporting teachers and finding out more about the country's education system.

Mrs Molumby said the experience would stay with her forever.

She said: "The whole trip is very hard to describe, it's difficult to put into words.

"The teaching day was long, from 8am until 3pm but teachers are on their feet the whole time with only a 20-minute break and there are about 50 children in one class. The benches in the classrooms are so uncomfortable and there's nothing on the walls, none of the children's work. We gave them posters and pencils and they were so grateful.

"We tried to help by giving the teachers new strategies because when we were there the children would spend their lessons copying from a chalkboard. There were 1,400 children in the whole school and 38 staff.

"What struck me though was how the children wanted to do well, they were just so lovely and keen to learn. They took such pride in their appearance, their shirts were pristine and their shoes were so shiny. They have very little but they are so proud of what they do have. They know that if they can get to university they will do well but there are so many barriers."

Mrs McCarthy said she was impressed with the attitude of the students at Usasazo High School.

She said: "We worked with the staff and the leadership team at the school on lesson styles and how to manage 55 students in one class. The children are very keen to learn but the staff simply don't have enough resources.

"We wanted to help them teach the children about resilience, in the townships there are big problems with gangs, it's quite volatile although we didn't experience any problems.

"We worked with seven head teachers looking at how they can work together, share resources and the sorts of issues that they face.

"Education really is a choice of life and death but South Africa is full of hope.



"I think when I talk to my students about the trip it's important that they understand the value of education and what life is like for people in developing countries. You don't know what poverty is until you really see it."

Mrs Molumby and Mrs McCarthy are already planning next year's trip to South Africa with Mellon Educate and the charity is keen for more volunteers to join them.

With support from 25,000 volunteers, Mellon Educate has built houses for 125,000 homeless people in South Africa's poorest townships and the charity has pledged to provide better education for more than 100,000 African children.

To find out more information visit the Mellon Educate website www.melloneducate.com/

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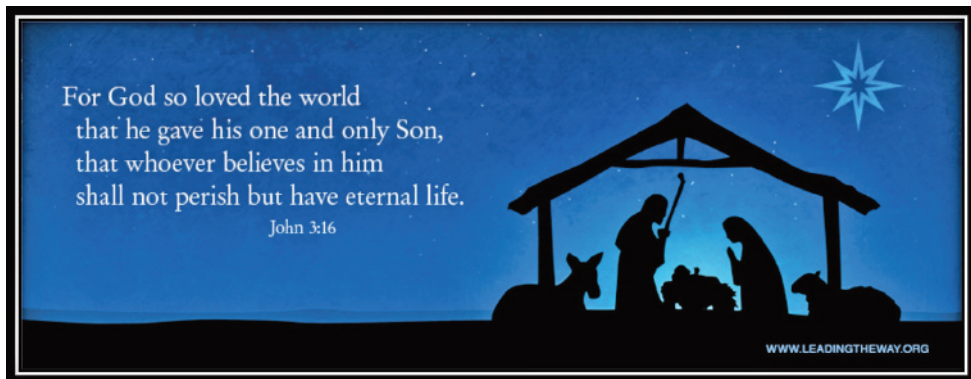
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Do we really know the Christmas story

A look at the Biblical events that have inspired the Christmas holiday. Do you know what hails from tradition vs. what is found in the Biblical account?

1. Which Gospel(s) speak of the events surrounding Christ's birth?
2. How many magi visit Christ after his birth, according to the Bible?
3. Where is Christ when the magi come to visit Him?
4. The magi ask Herod where Christ is to be born. Herod summons his priests and scribes, who know the location of the birth because of the prophecy of this man.
5. In a dream, an angel tells Joseph to name his child Jesus, for it was prophesied that a virgin would give birth and call her son Emmanuel. What does Emmanuel mean?
6. Herod's slaughter of the children two and under, according to Matthew, fulfils a prophecy uttered by what man?
7. How much younger was Jesus than his cousin John the Baptist?
8. Who speaks words to the pregnant Mary that have become a part of the Catholic Church's "Hail Mary"?
9. Where do we find "the magnificat"?
10. Christ was laid in a manger. What is a manger?

Mrs Karan O'Connor @ St Georges Derby

Answers

1. Matthew and Luke

Matthew alone includes the story of the magi, as told in chapter two of his Gospel. Luke alone includes the details of the birth of Christ's cousin, John the Baptist, and of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth during her own pregnancy. Mark begins in medias res, with Christ's ministry, and John does too, after first describing Christ as being with God in the beginning

2. An undisclosed number

Christian tradition has numbered the magi at three, probably because three gifts were given (gold, frankincense, and myrrh.) Tradition has even given names to the wise men-- Melchior, Kaspar, and Baltazar. However, the Bible itself does not disclose the number of magi who visited Christ.

3. In a house

Though our traditional manger scenes usually place the magi at the manger, they did not, in fact, visit Christ until he was a "young child" and came to him in a house. (See Matthew 2:11.)

4 Micah

See Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:6.

5. The correct answer was God with us

See Matthew 1:23.

6. Jeremiah

See Jeremiah 31:15.

7. Six months

See Luke 1:36. John's mother was Elizabeth, whom Mary visited while she was pregnant with Christ.

8. Elizabeth

When Elizabeth sees Mary, she says, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!" (Luke 1:42). Part of the Hail Mary also comes from Gabriel's greeting to Mary: "Hail, thou that art highly favoured; the Lord is with thee" (Luke 1:28).

9. Luke

This is the name given to Mary's spontaneous praise, which begins, "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior." (See Luke 1:46-55).

10. A feeding trough

Many non-biblical traditions have Christ being born in a cave, perhaps because animals may have been kept safe in a covering hewn out from rock. Animals may also have, in many cases, been kept on the first floor of a house. A manger is a feeding trough for animals, which Mary used as a

Christmas Pud crumble

A great way to use that uneaten Pud. Your tummy won't rumble after this lovely Christmas pud crumble

- Ingredients**
 60g (2oz) butter
 100g (3 1/2oz) plain flour
 150-200g (5-7oz) leftover Christmas Pudding
 1 large cooking apple
 2 ripe pears
 2 rounded tbsp cranberry sauce
 2tbsp Demerara sugar
 Custard or cream, to serve
 Buttered ovenproof dish
 Set the oven to gas mark 4 or 180°C. Rub butter into the flour to breadcrumb stage, then crumble in the Christmas Pudding to make the topping.
 Peel, core and thickly slice the apple and pears. Put half the fruit in the dish. Add 1tbsp cranberry sauce, then add the rest of the fruit and sauce, along with 1tbsp of the sugar.
 Spoon the topping over the fruit and sprinkle with the rest of the sugar. Put the dish on a baking



sheet and bake for 40 mins. If not browned to your liking, turn up the heat to gas mark 6 or 200°C and bake for another 5-10 mins. Serve hot or cold with custard or cream. Have a wonderful & Blessed Christmas

Karan O'Connor Parish Reporter

Get your copy of Just Now, the diocesan Justice and Peace magazine

Winter 2018 edition: 'Encountering Christ at the margins'

The Nottingham Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission produces a regular free magazine, Just Now. The latest issue focuses on 'Encountering Christ at the margins', with contributions featuring Catholics in action:

- * With seafarers in Immingham
- * Supporting people with mental illness in Bulwell
- * As Street Pastors in Nottingham
- * At the first Livesimply parish in the diocese.

The Autumn edition featured news from Derby, Leicester, Loughborough, Buxton and new resources on peace education and household debt.

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Students at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy took part in lessons themed around World War One and Remembrance Day

For one morning, nearly all lessons across the school were linked to the centenary of the end of World War One.

The idea for the initiative came from History teacher Adam Tomlinson and teachers were also asked to contribute ideas for their own lessons.

In PE, students took part in military fitness, in Maths they examined code-breaking, in Science they studied Mustard Gas and Spanish Flu, in English they studied Wilfred Owen's poems, in Art they recreated an Angie Lewin painting, in Food Tech they made Anzac biscuits and in Design Technology they looked at planes and tanks.

Mr Tomlinson said: "The idea came as it's 100 years since the end of WW1. We always have the two minutes of silence for Remembrance Day but I felt that pupils needed to connect with WW1: what it was like, what happened in the war,

especially with this being such a crucial year and potentially the last year major celebrations will be held. We co-ordinated a program cross curriculum. For example English could cover poetry from WW1, Religious Studies discussing the moral and ethics of war and History focused on Women in WW1.

"During form time throughout the week Thought for the Day emphasised the importance of Remembrance, the History of Poppy appeal and what kind of support they provide. On the Friday we were inspired by Earl Gray's quote on how the lights are going out and they wouldn't see them lit again. At form time, to represent the darkness of war being replaced by the light of peace, we lit a candle and prayed for each other, our nation and our world.

"The lessons were fantastic! Teachers really got into the spirit of the morning and all subjects embraced the challenge with excellent imagination. Pupils were still talking about the lessons after lunch and following days."

Kevin Gritton, head teacher at Saint Benedict CVA, in Duffield Road, Derby, said: "It was a wonderful morning and great to see the whole school coming together to mark such an important occasion. Thanks to Mr Tomlinson for organising and to the staff who came up with the ideas for their lessons."



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

- 7 Judge disheartened Vatican scholar (6)
- 8 Jordan valley where a local chap finds a leader among Hittites (6)
- 9 Part of the church is in a Dublin avenue (4)
- 10 Jack has a nasty turn at home earlier – he's put in charge of the Ark (8)
- 11/12 Chilean had my workings: he's a composer of masses (7,5)
- 15 Bishop shortly is to run against boy – or not (2,3)
- 17 Flock's built-in bearings are leading one along the Nile (7)
- 20 Female's first out: instead is about to spin on ice, being a gymnastic type (8)
- 22 Muslim one imprisoned Persian leader contracted (4)
- 23 To infuse divine grace, nation must change (6)
- 24 Biblical canon police popularized? (3,3)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Receive a boost after a hitch? (3,1,4)
- 2 Carreras, with Egyptian leader seen in the wings, is one that worked there (6)
- 3 Old Hindu city almost turned to a god of war (7)
- 4 Language of the masses, or the elite? (5)
- 5 Jews are besieged here, which is through Christmas, a danger (6)
- 6 Bubbly Spanish-American states? (4)
- 13 Gershwin passes on English bit of the Requiem (4,4)
- 14 Communists at summit, many angry over international support Tibetans seek (7)

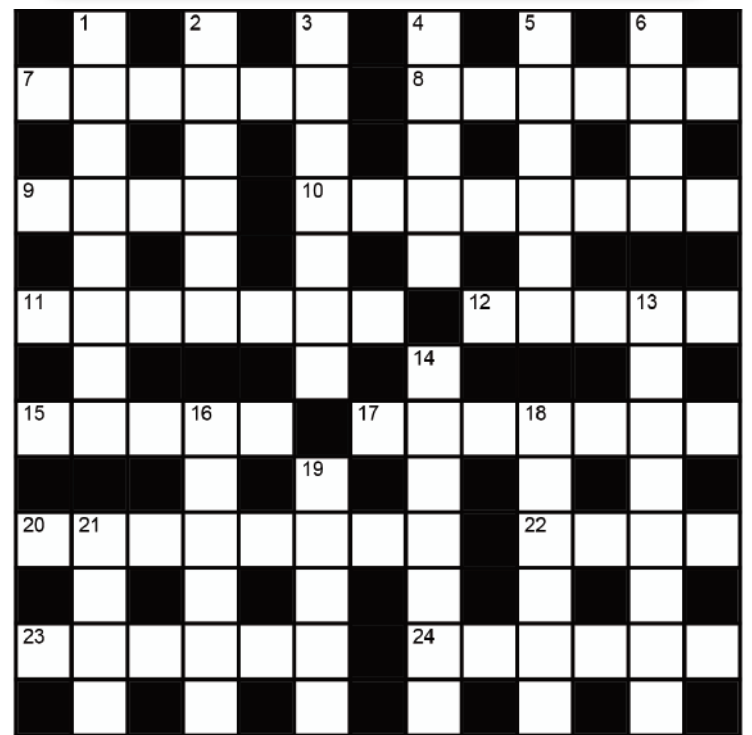
- 16 Serpent turned a little girl white (6)
- 18 Religious celebration oriental found pointless (6)
- 19 Paul's epistles, perhaps, as sent today? (5)
- 21 Gold's next, after dropping half off by Sword Beach's river (4)

QUICK Across

- 7 Christian scholar; saint and Doctor of the Church (347-420) (6)
- 8 In OT the name often used for the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea (6)
- 9 Main part or body of a church (4)
- 10 Man in whose house the Ark was temporarily stored (8)
- 11/12 Composer whose Requiem in C minor was played at his more famous brother's funeral in 1809 (7,5)
- 15 Bish? (2,3)
- 17 Any of twelve Egyptian kings between 1315 and 1090 BC (variant spelling) (7)
- 20 Nadia -----: multiple Olympic champion, 1976-80 (8)
- 22 One of the two main branches of Islam (4)
- 23 Consecrate (6)
- 24 God's instruction on moral, social and spiritual behaviour laid out in the Pentateuch (3,3)

QUICK Down

- 1 Receive a boon; raise the spirits (3,1,4)
- 2 Eleventh son of Jacob (6)
- 3 Former name of the holy Hindu city, Varanasi, on the Ganges (either spelling) (7)
- 4 'Vulgata' language of 7 (5)
- 5 Ancient mountaintop fortress where the Romans besieged the Jews for a year in 72-73 AD (6)
- 6 Spanish fizz (4)



- 13 First words of a medieval 4 hymn describing the Last Judgment (4,4)
- 14 Chinese communists, acolytes of the thoughts published in the 'Little Red Book' (7)
- 16 Highly poisonous snake family which includes the cobra (6)
- 18 Oldest and most important Christian feast (6)
- 19 Passages from the Bible and other religious works used as subjects of sermons (5)
- 21 River of Normandy which flows through Caen (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 7 Jerome, 8 Arabah, 9 Nave, 10 Abinadab, 11/12 Michael Haydn, 15 Rt Rev, 17 Ramesses, 20 Comaneci, 22 Shia, 23 Anoint, 24 The Law. Down: 1 Get a lift, 2 Joseph, 3 Benares/Benaras, 4 Latin, 5 Masada, 6 Cava, 13 Dies Irae, 14 Maoists, 16 Elapid, 18 Easter, 19 Texts, 21 Orme.

Continued from page 1

The school Christmas wreath was blessed by Parish Priest, Canon Alan who reflected on Christ being the light of the world and his humble birth. It's was a perfect start to the season of Advent for us all.

Following the assembly Chaplain Joe Hopkins led an Advent retreat day for the school with interactive actives and workshops.

Mrs Beth Webster, Lead RE Coordinator said " Today, we came together as a school

community to begin our preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus . We are all called to rejoice in the Lord and our Advent liturgy today reflected that. Each class was given the opportunity to tell the story through any medium they chose and the pupils led throughout in deciding and developing their own ideas, it truly has been a wonderful Advent Liturgy and shows the knowledge and talent of all our pupils, it also shows how their knowledge is translated in to "heart application". It was evident to all our pupils have a great understanding of their faith as it shone through each one of them"



SVP Christmas Dinner



Thank you to our incredible SVP team, their helpers and the young people of Christ The King Chaplaincy Team led by Joe McKay who put on a wonderful Christmas Dinner on 1 Dec for over 50 parishioners and friends of our parish. The generous giving of their time helped to make this such a special day for some of our most vulnerable parishioners. Beautiful food, company, singing and of course the obligatory visit from Santa, rounded off the afternoon perfectly. Thank you to all the behind the scene organisers, the industrious kitchen staff, servers and also those who organised lift clubs to and fro from the church making attendance possible. God bless you all.

Submitted by The Good Shepherd Church, Arnold.

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