



St Colette
Feast day February 7th

Catholic News

MORE THAN 21 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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Bishop speaks out against dehumanising rhetoric about channel refugees

The Lead Catholic Bishop for Migration and Asylum has called for asylum seekers crossing the English Channel to be treated with dignity and spoken out against the dehumanising rhetoric that has characterised debate in recent weeks.

Bishop Paul McAleenan said :

“All people fleeing their homes and seeking to build a better life here should be recognised as human beings and treated with dignity.”

As the focus on refugees now turns towards the English Channel, we should keep in mind that our priority must always be saving lives and playing our part in offering sanctuary to those escaping war or persecution.

Rhetoric and policies that dehumanise or stigmatise people only serve to fuel hostility and harm our society.”

Bishop Paul has previously called for the UK government to go further in assisting asylum seekers during a visit to Calais with his Scottish counterpart in 2017 and following the signing of the Sandhurst Treaty last year.



Inspired by Adoremus



The children at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Matlock spent a morning engaged in workshops that allowed them to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Adoration and the Blessed Sacrament.

See full story and more pictures on page 3



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**MORE THAN 21 YEARS OF
BRINGING THE
NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE
TOGETHER**

The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

**The
Catholic News**

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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

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before 10th of the month

Children must see the faith lived at home, pope tells parents

At Mass in the Sistine Chapel, Pope Francis baptized 27 babies, reminding their parents that the first space in which children learn and witness the faith is at home.

"Yes, when they go to catechism class, they will study the faith well, they will learn catechism," he said. "But before being studied, faith must be transmitted, and this is a job that is up to you."

Preparing to baptize the 27 babies – 15 girls and 12 boys – Francis urged their parents "to transmit the faith by example, by words, by teaching [them] to make the sign of the Cross. This is important."

"The important thing is to transmit the faith with your life of faith: that they see the love of the spouses, that they see the peace of the house, that they see that Jesus is there," he said.

Francis gave the brief, impromptu homily during Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, when there is a tradition of baptizing a group of babies in the Sistine Chapel, a custom started by Pope St. John Paul II.

In his homily, he said that it is the parents' task to pass the faith along to their children, beginning at home, "because faith must always be transmitted 'in dialect': the dialect of the family, the dialect of the house, in the atmosphere of the home."

Asking if he could give a little advice, he went on to urge the couples not to fight in front of their children. He noted that it is perfectly normal for a husband and wife to quarrel but recommended trying to keep arguments out of the view and hearing of their children.



Pope Francis baptizes a baby in the Sistine Chapel Credit: Vatican Media.

"This, I feel, is a piece of advice that will help you pass on the faith," he said.

The pope also commented on the "chorus of tears," that could be heard coming from the over two dozen babies in the chapel and said mothers should not be ashamed to breastfeed if their child is hungry.

"And so, we go forward in this ceremony, in peace, with the awareness that the transmission of the faith is your responsibility," he said.

Following Mass, the pope reflected on the Baptism of Christ before leading the Angelus, noting that before Jesus' baptism in the Jordan river took place, he was "in the midst of the people."

This element of the story "is not only a background of the scene, but is an essential component of the event," he said. "Before plunging into the water, Jesus 'plunges' into the crowd, joins it and fully assumes the human condition, sharing everything except sin."

"In his divine holiness, full of grace and mercy, the Son of God became flesh to take upon himself and take away the sin of the world," he continued.

Explaining that Jesus' baptism marks the start of his public life and mission, Francis noted that the mission of the Church and each person to be "faithful and fruitful," calls for a "grafting" onto the mission of Jesus.

It is a matter of continuously regenerating evangelization and apostolate in prayer, to make a clear Christian witness. Not according to human projects, but according to God's plan and style," he said.

"The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a favourable opportunity to renew with gratitude and conviction the promises of our Baptism, committing ourselves to live daily in harmony with it."

Hannah Brockhaus

FRANKLY SPEAKING

I hope, like myself, the recent Advent and Christmas season will have left readers of this newspaper with some memories we would wish to keep. I fully realise that some will have struggled due to their individual or family circumstances particularly if they have lost a loved one in recent times. My particular memory is a simple one, I was fortunate to be a witness of much kindness and I just hope some of this will continue throughout 2019. A good example of this was to see a neighbour and his wife taking a huge box of gifts for the homeless or less fortunate on Christmas Day.

Kindness must surely lead to other worthy observations and this will sometimes but not always lead to respect for others even if we cannot agree with their opinions. Our country appears to be in political stalemate in these now short weeks before we leave (or not) the European Union on March 29th which is just two days before Mothering Sunday and the start of British Summertime. Writing this article on the day after the feast of the Epiphany it seems fairly likely that our politicians are not going to give much ground to their opponents thus the talk of 'crisis'. In a previous article I wrote comparing the Suez crisis of 1956 to our present situation. We did also face up to a crisis in the so called 'winter of discon-

tent' in 1978/9. Like Suez the later conflict led to a change of Prime Minister.

What is most disturbing about the state of our politics today is the lack of leadership when we need it most. Unlike 1957 and 1979 a change of Prime Minister seems to be a solution which may well fail. Less than 2 percent of our country are members of political parties and yet they will have a massive influence in the next few months. Perhaps some 'Kindness and respect' may just help them but if not then they should agree on some compromise which will put country first and party last.

Whatever the next few months has in store for us it is vital we never forget how important the continent of Europe is to our spiritual heritage. Rome, Lourdes and Fatima have special memories for so many in our country. The great saints who lived in our continental neighbours have influenced so many of our lives and have also brought much consolation when our circumstances face difficult times. These saintly lives were lived with kindness and respect, is it not time some of our MP's did the same!

**Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish
Newark**



Rosmini Centre House of Prayer

January

12 Saturday

William Rees, Novice and Poet

GOD IN MY LIFE:

INVITATION, MISSION,
GRATITUDE

18 Friday Healing Mass

26 Saturday Lectio Divina

February

9 Saturday

Fr. Frank Daly, Founder of

SPANNED GOD IN MY LIFE:

INVITATION, MISSION,
GRATITUDE

15 Friday Healing Mass

19 Tuesday The Importance
of the Bible today - Fr. A. Belsito IC

23 Saturday Lectio Divina

March

9 Saturday

Rev. David Knight,
Lead Chaplain in Lincoln

Hospital Trust

GOD IN MY LIFE:

INVITATION, MISSION,
GRATITUDE

15 Friday Healing Mass

19 Tuesday An Introduction to the
Book of Acts - Fr. A. Belsito IC

23 Saturday LENTEN RETREAT
(Full Day)

30 Saturday Lectio Divina

May

11 Saturday Fr. John McCay,
Prison Chaplain

GOD IN MY LIFE:

INVITATION, MISSION,
GRATITUDE

17 Friday Healing Mass

21 Tuesday An Introduction to the
Book of Ecclesiastes -

Fr. A. Belsito IC

25 Saturday Lectio Divina

June

1 Saturday Opening Up
Celtic Spirituality II -

Fr. Ted Mullen IC

15 Saturday Opening Up
Celtic Spirituality II -

Fr. Ted Mullen IC

29 Saturday Celtic Spirituality
RETREAT DAY (Full Day)

- Fr. Ted Mullen IC

July

19 Friday Healing Mass

27 Saturday Lectio Divina

September

14 Saturday

Rev Seamus O'Looskan,
Senior School Chaplaincy

Leader

GOD IN MY LIFE:

INVITATION, MISSION,
GRATITUDE

17 Tuesday The Letter of St James,
on Christian Practical Wisdom

- Fr. A. Belsito IC

20 Friday Healing Mass

28 Saturday Lectio Divina

October

12 Saturday

Mr. Bryan Spence,
Founder of Carpenters Arm

GOD IN MY LIFE:

INVITATION, MISSION,
GRATITUDE

18 Friday Healing Mass

22 Tuesday Amos, a prophet for our
own times - Fr. A. Belsito IC

26 Saturday Lectio Divina

November

9 Saturday

Margaret Smidowicz, An
Ordinary Person

GOD IN MY LIFE:

INVITATION, MISSION,
GRATITUDE

15 Friday Healing Mass

19 Tuesday Endurance and hope in
the Splendid Book of the Apocalypse

of St John - Fr. A. Belsito IC

30 Saturday Lectio Divina

December

7 Saturday Advent Retreat
(Full Day)

13 Friday Healing Mass

ROSMINI CENTRE, 433 FOSSE WAY, LE7 4SJ

Fr David

Mobile:07748152653 Tel: 01509 813078

djtobinic@gmail.com

The Rosmini Centre is off the A46, half a mile north of Ratcliffe College entrance
on the left, 50 metres before the black and white Speed Camera sign.



Life abundantly

Behind the Church of our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Bulwell, is a small Poor Clare Colettine Community. Recently it grew from four to seventeen. Poor Clares are cloistered contemplatives and the little sisters, as they are often called, are there to pray for the the world, the church - and Nottingham.

St Colette, who reformed the Poor Clares in the fourteenth century, is a very modern saint. She is a friend of those who want to ask God to bless them with a child, she also takes care of expectant mothers and sick children.

In many parts of the world, around her feast day in February, the blessing of Saint Colette is given at Poor Clare houses. When Colette was setting out to renew the Poor Clares, she arrived at a house where a mother in labour was dying. Her prayers helped to save mother and baby. On another occasion, a man rushed to her monastery with an infant who had died at birth. Colette took off her veil and wrapped it around the lifeless child. The father took it to be baptised and the baby recovered her voice wonderfully!

The Poor Clare Colettines will be having a family festival on Saturday, February 9 at a time to be announced in Our Lady's Church. All are welcome to come forward for the blessing which is given with a fragment of Saint Colette's mantle mounted in a modern Poor Clare veil, you do not have to be de-



sirous of a child, or expecting, or sick - or even a member of the Church to come forward for a blessing. God's love is there for all of us!

Poor Clare Colettines, Marian House of the Holy Spirit, Brooklyn Road, Bulwell NG6 9ET.

You might like to visit the little sisters website www.marianhouseoftheholyspirit-pcc.org where you will find lots more about St Colette

Continued from page 1

The children at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Matlock spent a morning engaged in workshops that allowed them to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Adoration and the Blessed Sacrament.

Inspired by the Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool this September, we wanted the children to continue with their learning journey about Adoration. Therefore, we decided to spend a morning allowing the children to explore through a range of activities 'We are the body of Christ and individually members of it' (1 Corinthians 12: 27).

The children learnt about the Monstrance and how the Blessed Sacrament is stored in this. They enjoyed learning a taize chant to welcome the Blessed Sacrament. The children completed a range of activities including poetry, song, drama, a jigsaw and even a game show hosted by Year 6! Then the second workshops included a range of art activities including model building of a class heart, mosaics and hand painting.

We were grateful to Fr David Cain for lead-



ing our workshops and the children thoroughly enjoyed their learning experiences.

Tammy McNamara
Acting Headteacher



St Mary's Academy Encounter Christ alongside their Guardian Angels



During Advent, children, staff and parents celebrated a day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby.

Each class spent time in the Chapel in guided meditation before Our Lord, as they thought about the role that angels played in Jesus' life on earth: announcing His birth, comforting Him during the Temptation, giving strength before His crucifixion, rolling the stone away from the tomb and announcing His resurrection.

and we were encouraged to try to spot our Angel among the throng that announced the birth of our Lord. An Angel's primary purpose is to praise and worship God and His Son and that is our purpose too. Our Guardian Angels guide and protect us and lead us to Jesus. We imagined our Angel sitting beside us as we spent time concentrating on being in the presence of Jesus and deepening our friendship with Him. Some of the children used an outline of an Angel to help them centre their thoughts."

Fran Wickes

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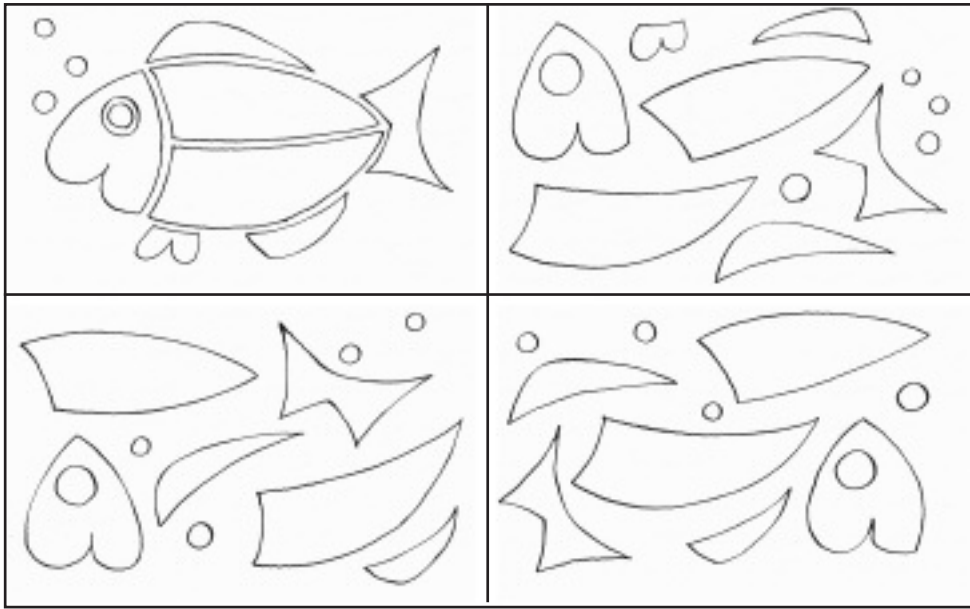
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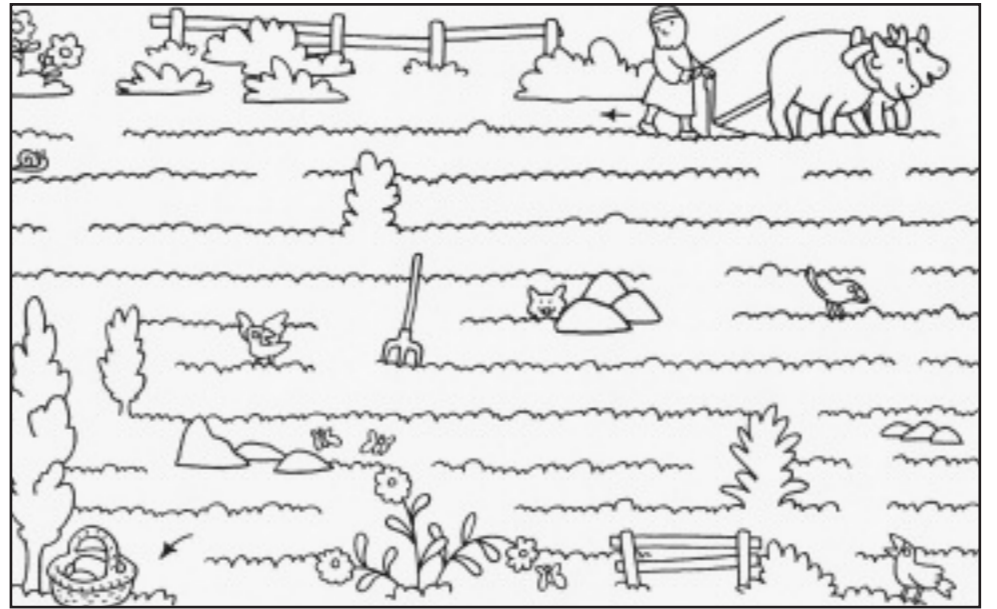
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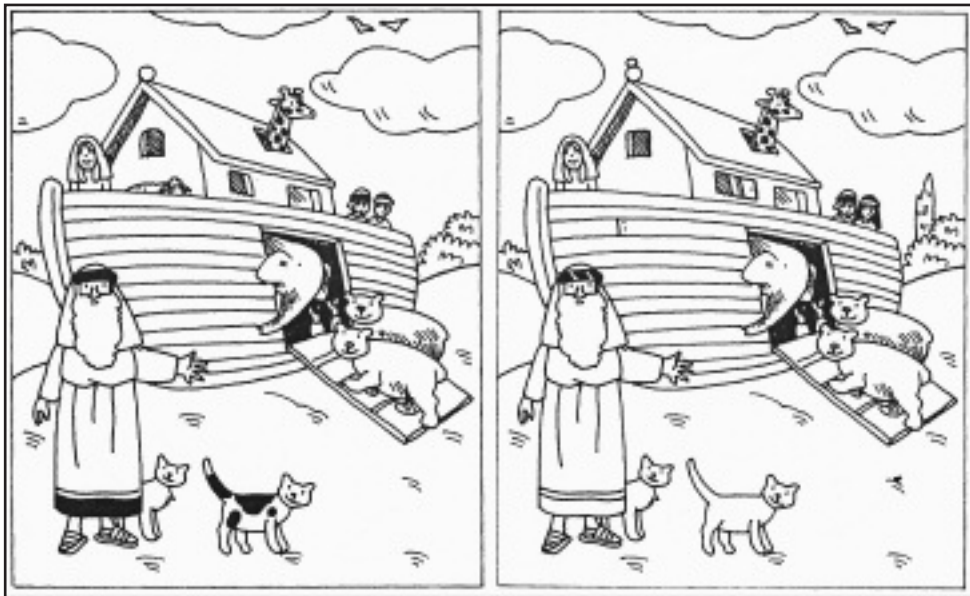
Children's Page



Which box has the right pieces to make the fish?
Read about Jonah and the great fish in *Jonah 1:1-17*



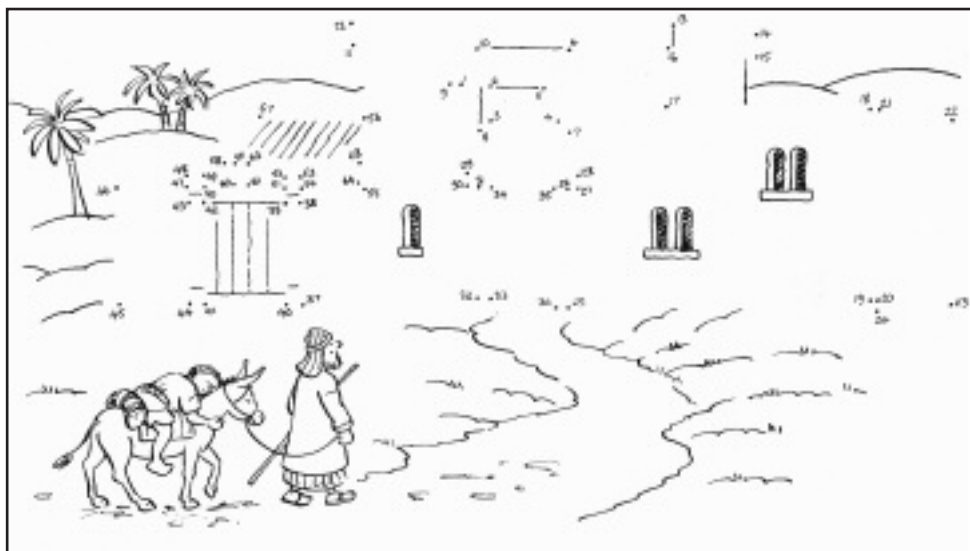
Help the farmer to get to his lunch basket.
Read about the farmer who prepared the ground and sowed seed in *Matthew 13:1-23*.



The boat Noah built was like a floating zoo.
Find ten differences between these pictures.
You can read the story of Noah's ark in *Genesis 6:1 - 9:17*



The baby Moses is hidden among the reeds. Why was Moses put into the water like this?
How many deliberate mistakes can you find? Circle them all.
This story is in *Exodus 2:1-10*



Join up the dots. Where is the good Samaritan taking the injured man?
You can find this story in *Luke 10:25-37*.



Charlie challenges you to find the names of the 4 Gospel Makers:

W	M	N	M	X	K	X
E	J	L	U	K	E	K
H	T	O	L	K	R	W
T	L	D	H	A	F	V
T	C	C	M	N	L	R
A	C	C	M	X	T	Y
M	J	Y	H	K	V	N

JUMBLIES

See if you can re-arrange the following capital letters:

PIN SHAPES

to make one word

AS MANY SUDS

to make two words.

HI! TRY ANTICS

to make one word

When you're ready, turn this page upside down to read the answers.

Happiness; Christianity; Sunday Mass

A three fold mystery

Joseph's home was in Bethlehem. He travelled north to Galilee, probably for work in the new administrative centre being built by the Romans at Sepphoris, a few miles from Nazareth. He and fellow tradesmen would have found lodgings in the local villages, and we guess Joseph lodged at Nazareth.

He and Mary met. They fell in love and became betrothed. It's a familiar story. People travel for work or studies and meet the one with whom they will share life. It happened to Joseph and Mary. We meet them in the gospel as an engaged couple.

God comes into the story. Mary is asked to be the mother of God's son. She accepts. Joseph is overwhelmed. The girl he had hoped to marry has been chosen by God. He, Joseph, must move out of the story.

Matthew tells of Joseph's agonising. If he breaks the engagement officially in court, the proper way, everyone will know the child Mary is carrying is not his. No one will believe the child is the son of God. Mary would be condemned as an adulteress, even stoned to death.

Joseph decides to divorce her informally, simply breaking the engagement (as a man had the power to, but not a woman) and leave Nazareth. He would be despised for deserting Mary and could never return. Matthew tells us that was his decision – as God comes again into the story. Joseph is reassured he may still take Mary as his wife and be father to the child – even to name him. Joseph accepts, as Mary had, and their home is made.

The Romans call a census - not a counting of people but registration of land and property for taxation purposes. Joseph has to return to Bethlehem to ensure his property is not over-taxed or confiscated. He and Mary decide to travel together and the baby will be born in Bethlehem, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Micah – the only prophet who cites Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Messiah.

They travel in good time. It's a long journey, over a hundred miles, and they must walk. Follow their journey on the map at the back of your bible...

South from Nazareth to the border with Samaria, east to the river Jordan (no Jew would travel safely through Samaria), across the Jordan, down the eastern bank as far as opposite Jericho, cross into Judaea and on to Jerusalem and Bethlehem. No sane man would take his wife on such a journey just before she was to give birth. They made the journey comfortably and in good time. What a welcome would have awaited them, young couple, awaiting the first child. They would have stayed in Joseph's own house – the one on the property that the Romans would be taxing. "Whilst they were there the time came for Mary to have her child," says the gospel according to Luke. There is no panic, there is no stable. The family would have surrounded them with love. Luke mentions the family as they listen to the shepherds tell their story of how

and why they have come. The shepherds – who are they? They symbolise the leaders of God's people – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David – all shepherds. Luke is weaving symbolism into his story of the birth of Jesus. He allows the family of Joseph, who witness the birth, to speak with the shepherds of Israel who longed for the birth. This is gospel, beyond story or history. A family scene of a birth is seen through the fulfilling of the faith of a waiting people.

Joseph and Mary stay for a while in Bethlehem (Circumcision, Presentation in the Temple) and then return home to Nazareth, Joseph probably selling the Bethlehem property.

Matthew, too, blends symbolism with the birth, but where Luke sees the shepherds of Israel witnessing the birth of the Messiah, Matthew sees the world coming to acknowledge their saviour – as the final part of the Book of Isaiah saw the world coming to Jerusalem to honour God and bringing gifts of gold and frankincense.

Matthew adds a third gift – myrrh. Myrrh! For a baby! Myrrh is for burial – not a gift for a baby. The gift is symbolic, like the other two. Isaiah had prophesied the world's acknowledging God as king (gold) and God (incense), but Matthew knows the full revelation: not Jerusalem, but Bethlehem; not only God and King but also Saviour – the myrrh. The wise of the world can see in a baby born in Bethlehem their God, their King, their Saviour.

The Wise Men enter the house (there is no stable) and offer their gifts, then return home rejoicing. They have seen the revelation of God's love. They are wiser. The Christmas story seems a simple love and family story of Joseph and Mary seen through the prisms of Mary's grace and Joseph's agonising and woven with symbolism of Israel's longing in Luke and the world's waiting in Matthew. But is it simple?

How do we find words for the three-fold mystery of Mary's virginal conception, the moment of the virgin birth, and her virginal marriage with Joseph – mystery that our Christian brothers and sisters refuse to share with the Catholic Church. Are there words to persuade them?

Some consider the Infancy narratives as myth – story told to convey religious truth, and see them as introductions to the good news preached by Jesus which starts at chapter three in both Matthew and Luke. This is the pattern of the Book of Genesis where the first eleven chapters are myth: 1-3 Creation, man and woman, the first sin; 3-4 Adam and Eve, their family and the people of the Land of Nod; 5-9 Sinfulness, the two stories of the Flood, Noah and his family from whom the human race is descended; 10-11 the Peoples of the earth, and in chapter 12 the history of Israel begins with the call of Abram (Abraham) – just less than two thousand years before Christ or about four thousand years from today.

Fr John Daley

Parish building fund raises £2900

On the 8 December 2018 the annual Secret Santa Children's Party fundraiser took place in the parish centre sparking a tremendous response from the organisers of the event decorating the Grotto (What Child is This?) selling tickets, setting up of gift stalls, offering face painting and hosting various games for the children helped by a Child Entertainer.

A large and delicious selection of hot food, mulled wine, baked puddings and mince pies were made available throughout the afternoon, served by the hardworking elves in the kitchen. To the delight of the children, (and adults) Santa Claus popped in to distribute the parcels.



All funds raised go towards the parish Building Fund.

*Submitted by
The Good Shepherd Church*

Without the generosity of all who contributed towards this event an amount of £2900 would not have been possible, so we say a big thank you to everyone who made this such a delightful and joyful afternoon.



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IT'S TIME TO BECOME A ZERO HERO

Bernard White reports on his journey with
CAFOD to COP24 in Poland



Picture by Rosie Heaton

On 5 December, I put on my woolly vest, scarf and gloves and joined over 30 supporters and staff of CAFOD (the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) on a 24-hour coach journey from London to Katowice in Poland, where the global climate change conference, COP24 (Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Climate Agreements), was taking place.

We travelled to Katowice to march and impress on the COP24 delegates CAFOD's new campaign message that that the increase in global temperature above pre-industrial levels must be restricted to below 1.5 degrees centigrade and, to make this happen, net emissions of greenhouse gasses are to be reduced to zero by 2050. The most significant greenhouse gasses are carbon dioxide, mainly from burning fossil fuels (coal, gas, wood and oil), and methane from cattle and the melting of permafrost in the arctic.

While we were in Katowice we also took part in events organised by CIDSE, an umbrella organisation of Catholic agencies in Europe and North America, which taught us much about climate change, and where we discussed mitigation and adaptation measures so that we could more effectively campaign in the UK on our return.

CAFOD is the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Climate change is undermining the work that CAFOD is doing to relieve poverty and hardship. Our faith requires us to love one another, and we cannot do that by behaving in a way which is harmful to others (as well as ourselves and our descendants). The Bible also tells us that we must cultivate and care for, protect and preserve the planet (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, para 67).



The 423 million people who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change are already living in extreme poverty. That is more than the populations of the USA and the UK combined. Joseph Moeono-Kolio, climate activist in the Pacific told CAFOD:

'Rising sea levels erode our coastlines and homes. Extreme weather keeps destroying our infrastructure. Rising acid levels in the ocean are ruining our coral and fish stocks. I could go on and on.'

A report in October 2018, commissioned by the COP in Paris in 2015, looked at the effects of restricting the increase global temperature above pre-industrial levels to 1.5 degrees centigrade, rather than 2 degrees. The implications are dramatic and devastating for many countries, particularly developing countries, including loss of land, homes, livelihoods and life, and resulting in a much greater movement of people across the world. Most countries at the COP have policies in place which would lead to temperature increases of much more than 2 degrees. Current policies in the UK would reduce net emissions of



greenhouse gasses by just 80 per cent. CAFOD begins a campaign in 2019 to urge the government to reduce net emissions in the UK to zero by 2050. Unless it does so, we will not keep the temperature increase under 1.5 degrees.

I urge everyone to help and to begin by asking your MP to become a Zero Hero and urge Parliament to change the Climate Change Act 2008 to introduce measures for the UK to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/climate



The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no. 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee 9387398. Registered office: Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB.

CAFOD
Just one world

DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM

Justice + peace

COMMISSION

The Justice and Peace Commission warmly welcomes visitors to its meetings.

Whether you have ideas to share or want to pick some up, it would be good to see you. Venues have yet to be organised, but the dates for the rest of 2019 are 14 March, 16 May, 18 July and 19 September.

For more details, contact Paul Bodenham at justice.peace@dioceseofnottingham.uk or call 07470 907656. Please let us know you would like to come a week in advance so that we can send you papers for the meeting's business.

A mind to be merciful



Stop the isolation and start the conversation, urges Martyn Swaby, a Deacon at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Bulwell

I was ordained as a permanent Deacon in May 2013, and for the majority of that time I have been employed by the NHS as a Mental Health Chaplain. The biggest lesson that I have learned during this time is that the greatest hardship that people encounter, both in our hospitals and in our communities is a feeling of isolation. People are desperate for a place where they can feel safe to simply be themselves. In our hospitals they are always being assessed, diagnosed and pigeon holed. In our communities they feel judged and stigmatised.

People can feel isolated in so many ways, be it physical isolation or mental isolation where they are fearful of talking to anyone about the issues they are going through because they feel they will be judged, misunderstood and/or rejected. If I have learned anything over the last five years, it is that the first step to overcoming Isolation, is to accept the person for who they are now, not for who we may believe they can become.

As a result of this on 21 September 2017 I, together with a team of volunteers from my parish, opened up the "Mind to be Merciful Drop-in Café" in our community Hall here in Bulwell. The Café is open every Thursday morning from 9.30am -12.30pm. The purpose of the Café is to provide a safe place for anyone to come and be themselves. To talk about what they want to talk about. All are welcomed, accepted, listened to and treated with understanding, compassion and love. The Café also supports "Harm-

less" a user led organisation that provides a range of services for all people about all aspects of Mental Illness, including self-harm and suicide.

The success of the Café over the first twelve months has far exceeded my wildest hopes and expectations. Footfall numbers coming to the Café has been in excess of 600, with 6 people also going on to see Harmless and receive the expert help and support they need. Also the Café has succeeded on an evangelisation front. Although religion is not in the criteria of the Café two of the people have now enrolled in our RCIA enquiry group. This came about through them feeling loved and part of our community and then wanting to learn more about us and the Catholic faith.

Over the last twelve months, the Café has supported people through difficult times. It has improved people's lives and in our association with Harmless it has saved lives. For those who have come to us the Café has ended the Isolation. Rosemarie, who has attended the Café from day one says, "My life was going nowhere, I was just about existing but not living. The Café has helped me to gain the confidence to live again, it has saved my life".

Patsy who now volunteers at the Cafe says, "The Café is where I feel safe, where I can just be me. It is like my new family whom I love and I know they love me". My dream is to open up more Cafés across the Catholic Church in the Nottingham Diocese anyone interested in supporting me or wanting to know more please feel free to contact me: phone 0115 927 8403 or email martyn.swaby@nottshc.nhs.uk

Love Shone Down



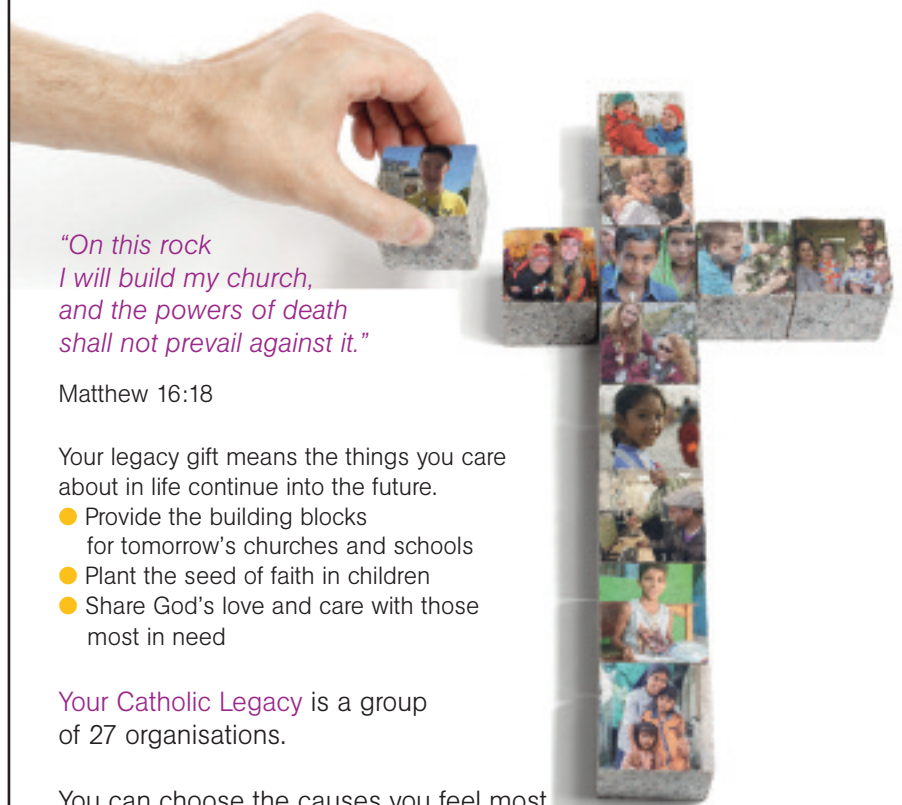
While most of us were relaxing following our Christmas Day celebrations Miss Joe Parker, a teacher at St Georges VA, Derby and a First Holy Communion Catechist was preparing to marry her childhood sweetheart Mr. Richard Scott.

After a long courtship but a very short engagement they married on December 27th at Joe's parish church of St Georges & All Soldier Saints, Derby. It was a wonderful

celebration with lots of family, friends and many of her fellow teachers and staff from her school attending. The music was wonderful and included the carol "When love shone down" a favourite of the bride. Mrs Helen Holmes and Mrs Jenny Lewis, both fellow teachers, lead the music and the Mass was conducted by Canon Alan Burbidge & Fr Peter Peterken. We wish Joe and Richard a blessed and wonderful married life from all at your parish and school.

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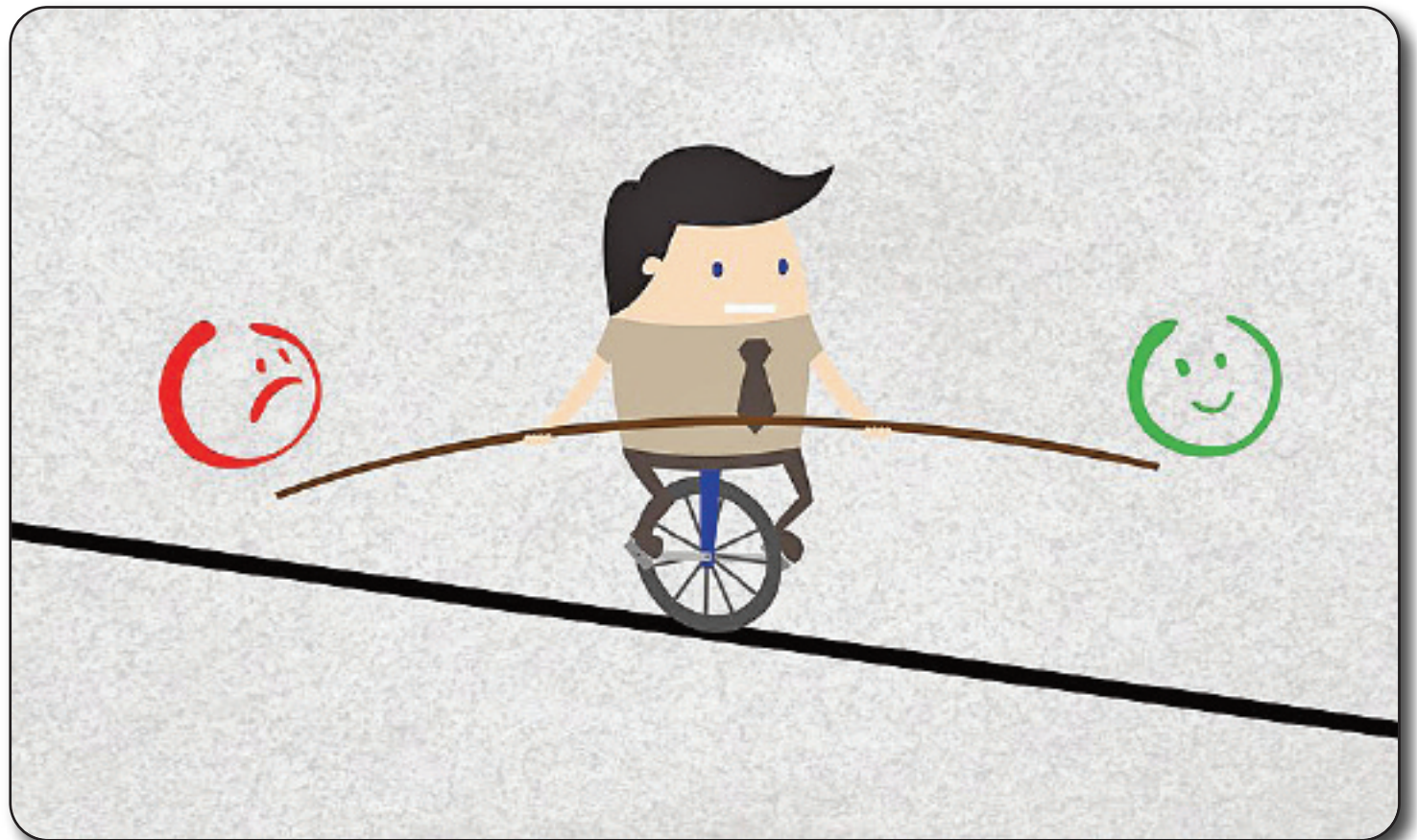
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Balancing Act

By Julia Beacroft



It seems incredible that not only are we now in the new year of 2019 but are already in the second month of it! However, in common with most people I have to admit that I find February somewhat dull, cold and dreary with little to recommend it. The celebration of the Presentation of the Lord at the beginning of the month offers a glimmer of light in these grey days, but after this we are left to await the commencement of the wonderful season of Lent.

Yet whilst consulting my diary for this month, I was yet again struck by the fact that my late father's birthday and the anniversary of my father-in-law's death share the same date. Significantly, one a cause for celebration and the other for remembrance and some sadness. But even in this simple occurrence there is evidence of perfect balance by the Almighty.

So often we hear of grandparents and great-grandparents dying just as the younger generation come into the world. Disappointments and missed opportunities can be followed by new beginnings, life changes and sustainable prospects. Trauma often precedes peace and contentment and of course love is the constant which holds the world in perfect balance. Even our notable church dates demonstrate a melding of sadness and happiness which are held in synchronicity and equilibrium. We celebrate the season of Christmas with great joy as our Lord and Saviour comes into the world, but only a short matter of weeks after this we are already in the penitential season of Lent and preparing for Easter. And of course, during Easter itself we are plunged into gloom as we face the darkness of Good Friday but go on to rejoice at the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

'There is a time for every event under heaven-- A time to give birth and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted. A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing. A time to search and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace.' (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

And so at this rather gloomy time of year we can be assured that we are enlightened by Jesus, the Light of the World, who holds us, our actions, our lives and all of creation in perfect balance.

BRINGING UP BABY BILINGUALLY

There is an unprecedented number of children in our region being brought up using more than one language.

We offer three precautionary yet factual 'tales of the unexpected'

1: Born to Spanish parents living in London, she had been encouraged to embrace the language of Mum and Dad while they in turn did their best, simultaneously and at every opportunity, to develop their daughter's English. The development of this practice meant that all three family members employed a blend of Spanish and English vocabulary. When they switched language they simply switched grammars – all the while using the same vocabular mix.

2: Being brought up bilingually by a native speaker of Russian (Dad) and a native speaker of English (Mum), the two daughters were fed one language or another randomly, choosing from between English

and Russian. The young girls, at a tender age unable to differentiate between the two languages, soon developed their own private language, intelligible only to people who could speak both English and Russian. When they were old enough to go to school, their academic development was hampered because nobody could understand the jumbled language they spoke. They then needed to be de-programmed.

3: The family lived in France. The father was a White Russian. The mother's native language, like that of the house-keeper, was Spanish. When alone with his two sons, when other members of the household were in another room or had gone out, Dad spoke

with his two sons only in Russian. If they were joined at home by Mum, or the housekeeper, Spanish would be the order of the day. Walking out together through the front door, or when French visitors came in, all family members would switch immediately into French. The young boys grew up to be effective trilinguals.

As to the moral of these precautionary yet factual accounts, the received wisdom for bringing up minors bilingually or plurilingually - so that they respect the culture of their birth, yet integrate with that of the community at large - is to determine and hold firm to the strictures of who speaks what language to whom and when.

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International Refugee Trust

Why do we support Syrian refugees?

In this short piece Chief Officer, Steven Smith, explains why International Refugee Trust is helping to rebuild the lives of Syrian refugees in Jordan.

The civil war in Syria has resulted in a refugee situation on a catastrophic scale:

*** 13.5 million Syrians require humanitarian assistance**

*** Of which more than 6 million are internally displaced**

*** More than 5 million have fled the country as refugees (UNOCHA report, 16 Feb 16)**

The vast majority of refugees have fled to neighbouring countries, such as Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, where most live below the poverty line. Unemployment and low wages are the norm. Many rely on less sustainable sources of income, food vouchers, credit or borrowing money, mostly from friends and relatives. Falling into debt is common. For this reason, refugees face difficulties in accessing services and in providing food, housing, healthcare and other basic needs for their families.

To those of us living in peaceful, developed countries, refugees are often viewed with suspicion or aversion – as if it's their fault that they are in their present situation. The truth is that the majority are just people like us.

In their former lives they may have been doctors, lawyers, accountants, factory workers, shopkeepers, office clerks, social workers or farmers. To put their situation in context, one might imagine going on holiday with the family from England to a foreign country, then receiving a phone call, mid-vacation, to say that you can never come home. Ever. Your home has been destroyed and the area taken over by people who will kill you on sight. Now you have to survive, with whatever you have in your suitcases, and whatever savings you may have. If you can access them, and if your bank is still able to operate.

It is people like this that International Refugee Trust is trying to help, through its support of the two 'Italian Hospitals', located at Amman and Karak, in Jordan. Established some 90 years ago to treat the poor and refugees, these hospitals are now facing unprecedented demand. But the staff simply will not give up. As one of the Missionary Sisters said to IRT, 'This is now our new normal.' Surely no cause could be more worthy of our support.

How you can help

Partnering with Churches

International Refugee Trust (IRT) was founded in 1989 by an Irish Missionary Priest, Fr. Kevin Doherty, whose aim was help refugees and displaced persons around the world. To this day we work with a number of religious and non-religious community organisations whose staff are



dedicated to helping the most vulnerable refugees, returnees, displaced persons and those at risk of displacement.

Churches and parish groups across the UK and Ireland have been long time and dedicated supporters of IRT and the Sisters. Without them and their very generous parishioners, we could neither have achieved all we have, nor continue to support the Sisters in their valuable work in South Sudan, Uganda and Jordan.

We and the Sisters are so grateful for the support all the churches and parishioners provide us, both in donations and in their prayers. If you or your Church are interested in supporting IRT and the Sisters in South Sudan, Uganda and Jordan there is a wide variety of ways to help and raise money: in church via your Lenten and Advent appeals as well as by fundraising events such as cake sales, tea parties or bazaars.

In donating your money to IRT, you can trust us to ensure your money is spent on people who need it most, the forgotten and the vulnerable. We can tell you personally where and how your money is making a difference. Every penny of money raised by parishes goes to the project of their choice. Our Chief Executive Steven Smith greatly enjoys visiting our supporters and their churches and can give a short presentation to explain more about IRT and our work.

If you wish to get in touch with us directly please call us on 020 8994 9120 or you can email info@irt.org.uk

Over the years we've received very generous support from many churches and parish groups. We want to say thank you to each everyone and to celebrate some of the vital changes they've made possible.

Please donate generously:
<https://bit.ly/2taQ3rw>

Congratulations to the new members of St Mary's Academy Chaplaincy Team

Shreya, Phoebe, Maisey and Gracie wear their new St Mary's, Derby, Chaplaincy Team badges with pride. The girls regularly attend Prayer Groups and Bible Story Club and will join the other 17 children in the Team in helping to build up the Catholic life of the School. They are all wonderful role models whose faith inspires others."

Fran Wickes



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Pastoral care of Gypsy and Travellers: 2018

The pastoral care of parishioners from the Gypsy and Traveller community is served by Sister Bernadette working with Sister Helen, a small group of volunteers and catechists in the parishes. This work by its nature entails visiting people in their homes, be that on the roadside, on a static site or in houses.

During 2018 led by Sister Bernadette Healy many children and young people have been prepared for the sacraments across our Diocese which culminated in a vibrant mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick in October. In the early part and at the end of the year many of those receiving these sacraments may have done this within their local Parish as a family group or as part of the usual Parish programme; 49 children received First Holy communion and 18 received the sacrament of Confirmation

October heralded the Bishops Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church in Leicester with Bishop Patrick presiding and Father John Joe, Father Joel and Father Jonathon Rose co-celebrating the mass with candidates and their families coming together from across the Diocese. Sacramental preparation of the large group of children and young people for this mass had been undertaken throughout the year, with 7 making their First Holy communion and 35 being Confirmed.

During the latter part of the year travelling families who work abroad in France, Germany and Belgium return to Newark for the month of November / December. During the month of November intensive Sacramental programmes were offered to these families to prepare their children and young people for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the



Newark area of the Diocese. This was very much appreciated by the families as the sacraments are very important to them and particularly with not been able to speak the different languages in Europe.

Whilst sacramental preparation is one aspect of working with the Gypsy and Traveller community other work has also occurred during 2018 be that through; prayer groups within local churches established and run by Travellers, visiting the sick and elderly of this community, supporting the bereaved, providing preparation for baptism and marriage, providing practical support and direction to other services, attending conferences and working with the national chaplain and generally being a welcoming face or point of contact for gypsy and travellers within Parish communities. Significantly the ability to provide presence, being available and listening is important as travellers are often very isolated and lonely; they turn to the Church in need and feel supported.

Travellers have a deep faith and a desire to deepen their relationship with God. They are particularly drawn to the Catholic Renewal Praise and Adoration experience of prayer. They travel to Conventions around the Diocese and further afield on a regular basis and are welcomed in parishes. A monthly Healing of Family Tree Mass in the West Midlands attracts big numbers from the Traveller community as this also provides a social gathering where they meet and chat over a cup of tea. Pilgrimages to Medjugorje, Lourdes and the Youth Festival in Walsingham are impor-

tant places of prayer for them. In deepening their faith and because of the nature of their lifestyle they use social media, as it is able to provide national and international contact; this approach is a powerful way of evangelisation amongst them through Bible Study and Prayer Groups throughout the day.

Travellers are now very much taking on their Leadership roles in the Church through being Eucharistic ministers, leading prayer groups then supporting Food Banks this Christmas with food and toys for children. They also reach out to the homeless in the cities taking sleeping bags, socks, gloves and hats for the cold weather to those who are less fortunate than themselves.

As we start a new year and are encouraged by Bishop Patrick to embrace encounter may I encourage you to consider getting involved? Personally my faith journey has been enriched and strengthened by supporting the Traveller community, I feel they faith and am supported to in my time of need by their prayer and companionship.

Would you be interested to help in supporting with the Pastoral Care and Catechetical Programmes in this ministry? Particularly it would be much appreciated in the Leicester, Derby and Nottingham parts of the Diocese and we can offer training and ongoing support to volunteers. If you would like more information about the ministry please contact bhealy58@gmail.com or call Sister Bernadette on 07783314968

Karen Scott.



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Celebrated the St Ralph Sherwin Feast Day



More than 800 staff from 25 Catholic Voluntary Academies – including 21 in Derbyshire – gathered at the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust’s inaugural Feast Day.

The Trust was formed in September 2018 and is a partnership of Catholic Voluntary Academies in the Diocese of Nottingham.

Trust Lead Lay Chaplain Joe Hopkins opened the day with a liturgy welcoming everyone before sharing some reflections on how working in a Catholic school gave everyone many opportunities to encounter Jesus’ love and how it can shape their lives. The pupils’ response to this was shown in a video of all 25 schools singing ‘Here I am Lord.’

Trust Chief Executive Officer Sean McClafferty addressed the audience.

He said: “Watching that video I just felt a huge sense of pride and I would imagine all of you would have felt the same.

“We are here to celebrate the St Ralph Sherwin Feast Day. To have us gathered here today is about building community through

coming together, discussing together and through celebrating Mass together. Our schools are part of a new community and no school is more important than another.

“Through the Trust schools will receive a level of support and resources that they have never had before along with a level of challenge and scrutiny that they have never had before.

“This is a huge responsibility as it’s 8,000 children we are looking after. Our trust is only 65 days old and we are still growing, learning and developing.”

Mr McClafferty talked about a sponsored walk as part of the St Ralph Sherwin pilgrimage to his birthplace in Rodsley that would take place in June 2019 and announced a two-year partnership with two children’s hospice charities, Rainbows and Bluebell Wood, which will both share in the sponsorship money raised.

Jacqueline Rodden, Foundation Director and Trust Chair, also spoke to the audience. She said: “I’m very passionate about learning. As adults in this Trust our responsibility is immense. We are role models for over

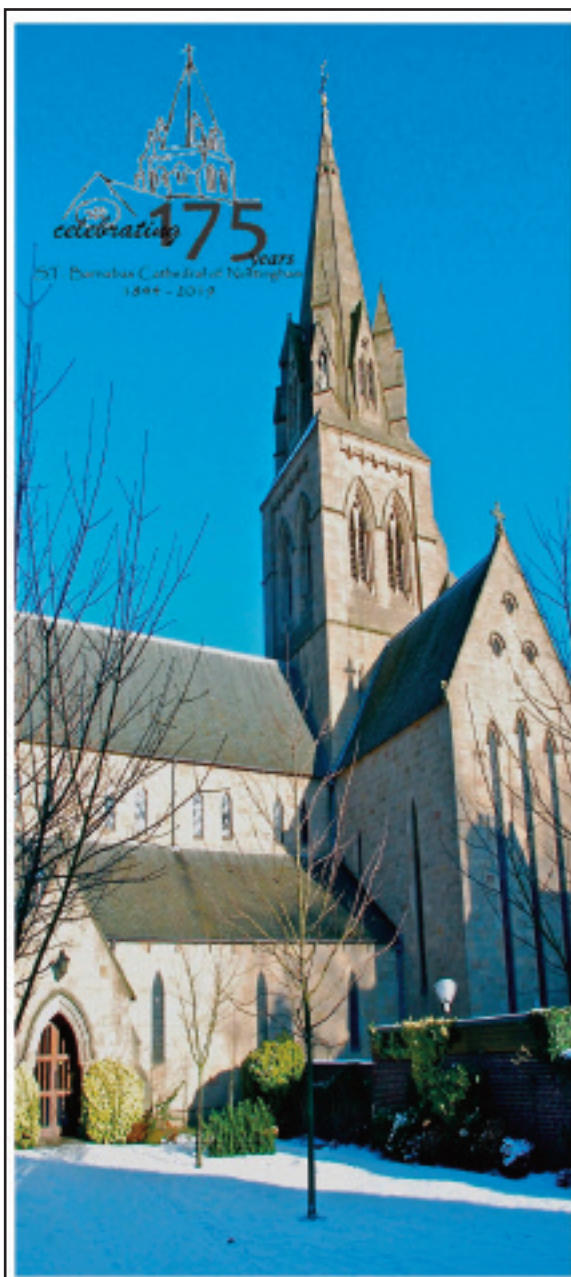


8,000 children who look to us and learn from us all the time. Everybody has a crucial role to play in the formation of our children and young people.”

Motivational speaker Lucie Meyer talked to staff about the importance of physical and mental wellbeing before former students at schools within the Trust spoke on behalf of NDCYS, which provides opportunities for

young people to discover community, come to a friendship with Christ and a deeper awareness of themselves.

Father Adrian Porter, Provincial’s delegate for primary and secondary education and Director of the Jesuit Institute, gave the keynote speech and at the end of the day Mass was celebrated by the Bishop of Nottingham, Patrick McKinney.



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Won an award for its walking buses

A Burton Primary Academy is celebrating after it won an award for its walking buses for pupils and parents.

Holy Rosary Catholic Voluntary Academy, in Winshill, scooped the Modeshift STARS Staffordshire Primary School of the Year Award for its commitment to sustainable travel.

Modeshift STARS is a national awards scheme which recognises schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. Holy Rosary has already achieved the Modeshift STARS bronze and silver award.

Sarah Cunningham, Year One teacher at Holy Rosary who helps to organise the walking buses, said everyone was extremely proud.

She said: "Fellow staff member Karen Everett and I were very proud when they announced us as Staffordshire School of the Year, particularly as we were shortlisted from 1,500 schools down to the final 80 schools. We have many more plans and ideas for the future and we look forward to seeing them come to fruition. Without the wonderful volunteers and support we have received this would not have been possible."

Tim Brogan, Headteacher at Holy Rosary, said: "I'm really pleased with this award. It is another indication of the positive direc-



tion the school is taking, seeking not only to enable our pupils to achieve to their potential, but also maximising the potential of the community as a whole. Our aim is to educate pupils to be road-safe, active and to care for their environment and the local residents by prioritising sustainable travel."

The school set up its first walking bus in March 2017 from Freemasons car park on Ashby Road in Winshill. Staff have also promoted a Park and Stride scheme from the same location, allowing parents to park there and walk the rest of the way with their children.

A new location for a second walking bus was introduced in July 2017 from the Anglesey Arms, in Bearwood Hill Road. The school is currently in the process of organising and training volunteers in order to operate both walking buses five days a week.

A walking bus is a fun, healthy and sustainable way for children to travel to school and involves children and volunteers walking in a group along a set route.

Selected to take part in a prestigious programme



Twenty students at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy are being given a taste of life at university after being selected to take part in a prestigious programme.

Seven Year 12 students and 13 Year 10 students were chosen to be part of the Scholars Programme which is run by an organisation called DANCOP.

DANCOP is the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Collaborative Outreach Programme, a partnership between the local Higher Education providers including universities and colleges.

As part of the Scholars Programme, students receive visits in school from university researchers, PhD tutors teach university-style tutorials to groups of students and students visit two leading universities before completing the programme with a final 2,000 word assignment.

Students have already taken part in a launch trip at Nottingham Trent University, during which they had an academic tutorial with their PhD tutor, took part in an Information, Advice and Guidance session, were given a tour led by a current student.

Aoife Galletly, assistant headteacher at Saint Benedict CVA, said: "As a school, we are delighted to see how the students have grown in confidence in their academic ability and potential. It has been transformative for many of the students."

Charlie Foster Phillips, lead project officer DANCOP Derby Hub, said: "The Scholars Programme provides learners with a small insight into the world of academia and research. This opportunity is a good fit for Saint Benedict pupils as it encourages their already engaged and inquisitive attitudes to learning."

Celebrating our Schools

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SCHOOLS ON THIS PAGE FOR SUPPORTING THE PAPER

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 Headteacher
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