



The Nativity of Christ

Catholic News



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Christmas Edition 2019

20p WHERE SOLD

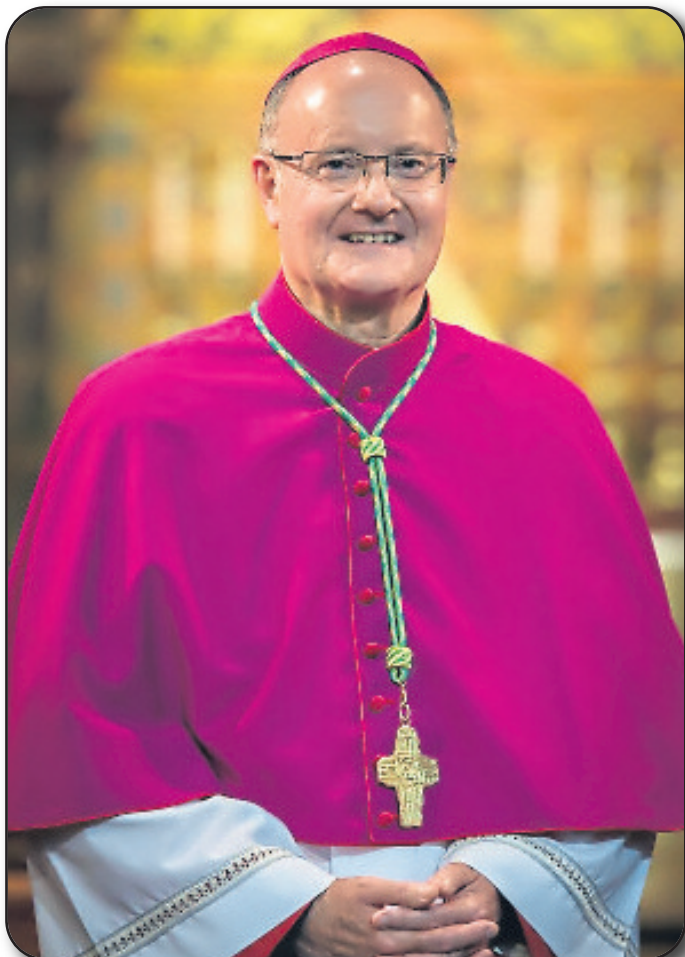
MORE THAN 22 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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A happy and holy Christmas to all our readers

Christmas reflection



Pope Francis has recently written a very lovely Apostolic Letter on the meaning and importance of the Nativity scene. He greatly admires the tradition of preparing a simple crib because it goes back to the time of St Francis who, in the lead up to Christmas 1223, arranged for the first ever crib to be prepared in the little Italian town of Greccio. There were no statues then, it was made up of a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey. The friars and the local people gathered there as the priest celebrated Mass over the manger to show the connection between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist. With the simplicity of that scene St Francis was to carry out his wonderful work of evangelisation.

Pope Francis encourages us to keep this Christmas tradition going in our homes and schools, but also in hospitals, prisons and town centres. Why? Because, as he says, it shows God's tender love, in that the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. In Jesus, God the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side, and one who forgives and frees us from our sins. The figure of Mary, and her response to God's invitation, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me" (Luke 1:38), helps us to reflect on God's call to do his will in our own lives. By Mary's side is St Joseph, the guardian who tirelessly protects his family; he with

Mary are the first teachers of Jesus; he too entrusted himself to God's will. But, when at Christmas, we place in the manger the statue of the infant Jesus, Pope Francis says the nativity scene suddenly comes alive. 'God appears as a child, for us to take in our arms...in this way he wished to reveal the greatness of his love; by smiling and opening his arms to all'. Then, as the Feast of Epiphany approaches, we place there the figures of the three Kings with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. As Pope Francis reminds us, gold honours Jesus' Kingship, incense his divinity, and myrrh his sacred humanity that was to experience death and burial before Resurrection.

This Christmas, I join Pope Francis in praying that, as you gaze individually or with your family upon the crib and read from St Luke's gospel account (Lk 2: 1-20), that nativity scene may awaken joy and wonder in your hearts. May God, who became a child in order to help us to know how close he is to each of us, bless you with a renewed sense of his personal love for you and of your Christian discipleship.

You are in my prayers,

**+Patrick
Rt Rev Patrick McKinney
Bishop of Nottingham**

Installation of canons at the Cathedral



On the 19th of November, at one of the regular meetings of the Cathedral canons, the Bishops installed four new and honorary canons: the Rev. Canon Christopher P. Thomas, the Rev. Canon Michael O'Donaghue, the Rev. Canon Michael Moore, and the Rev. Canon Malachy Brett.
Want to know what the Cathedral Chapter is and what a Canon and a Provost are?
Turn to page 4 and read the article The Chapter Corner



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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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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

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Preparing this article on the first Sunday of Advent is not as easy as in previous years. In quick succession 2019 will depart with a General Election, Christmas Day and New Years Eve. If we could choose just one word to link this trio of dates I would nominate kindness.

Kindness is a true reflection of what sort of person we actually are. So if we reflect on the recent General Election how would our political parties fare? I cannot personally recall too much kindness in recent weeks from our politicians. The election witnessed many promises which really meant a lot of words. Perhaps the political leaders need reminding that kindness is surely incorporated in the belief that actions speak more decisively of them and yes, our country does need action on many fronts.

During the election I lost count of how many of our would be M.P.'s spoke of being 'absolutely clear' or 'completely clear' about their policies and promises. My dictionary defines Nativity as 'Christianity - birth of Jesus Christ'. This simple but powerful definition surely assists the many Christian acts of kindness that are a necessary action particularly at Christmas time when so much reminds us that the needs of our less fortunate neighbours must not be forgotten. Perhaps some will enjoy Christmas Day far better if during Advent the parable of the Good Samaritan has not been forgotten. So if our politi-

The Feast of All Saints is 1st November, of the Holy Souls is 2nd November. What is the difference between a saint and a holy soul? The old answer was: "A saint is in heaven, a holy soul in purgatory." It is the wrong answer now - don't use it. Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, the Catholic Catechism (published 1994, 691 pages) which they put together, in homilies they gave, books they wrote witness to the Church's understanding that there are no places heaven or purgatory or hell. They are "states of being" because all of them are in the presence of God who is everywhere in and by love.

Heaven is being with God, purgatory is being with God and longing for the purifying pain of forgiveness, hell is choosing not to accept God's loving purifying forgiveness. (Would, could, anyone refuse God's forgiveness?)

Our human life is completed in our dying. We all know the moment of that completion. In that final glorious moment (I know it doesn't look glorious, but it is) you have become the person you allowed yourself to become over the years. You always had the possibility of changing, and maybe you did - for better or worse - but in the moment of truth, the moment of dying, you have become you fully.

You come before our loving God, full of the love you have lived, the regrets that you carry, the wrongs you remember, and you see in God the love that was always open to you, hear the name God always had for you, and long to be forgiven. That longing to be forgiven in God's loving gaze is what Pope Benedict called "purgatory or purifying" and we know the pain it will bring us because we know that pain in this life. "I hurt you, and you love me," "How can you forgive me when I have hurt you so much?" "How can I ever forgive myself for what I said, did, to you?" You know the pain, have suffered and caused it. Love is the cause

cal leaders are so certain and absolutely clear that they are right then those who have responsibility should also ensure that all our children know the true Christmas Story and that true Christmas Joy came from the birth of Jesus.

Christmas day is and should always be, a day of kindness for our children. As they open their presents it is the only day in the year when there is a degree of quality but we should always be aware that some children are living in poverty and kindness can be the only way that they can be given a chance in life.

New Years Eve this year must be a time for hope very strongly linked to kindness. The impersonal nature of a digital world can be overcome by real personal effort to spread kindness. This will need real commitment to go the extra mile and talk to our fellow human beings when they need us most.

We must hope that some of our newly elected MP's will learn from the mistakes of recent Parliaments. At least climate change and social care got high profiles in the election, what is now needed is action and kindness.

A peaceful Christmas to all readers.

**Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish
Newark**

Saints and Holy Souls

and brings terrible regret and heartbreaking sorrow.

That's purgatory. Not a place, but seeing ourselves reflected in God's loving gaze. Heaven is being purified, purgatory is longing to be purified. Hell is - what is it?

Dear Lord, forgive us who know no more about our faith than what we learned and vaguely remember from school and pulpit.

Fr. John Daley IC

CAREERS DAY

Huge and sincere thanks to everyone who generously donated their time to share their enthusiasm and expertise with the children today. There is increasing debate about when to start Careers Education and I am proud to say this is the second Careers event Sacred Heart has held. I believe, backed by research, that it is never too early to start pondering future possibilities. It is important the children are exposed to careers they may never have thought of or encountered, if not for this event. After the weekend we will ask the children what they want to be when they grow up and see if the day has stimulated any changes.



Headteacher Lisa Atkins

What a coincidence!

At Mass this morning (Sunday 1st December) there were two young mothers and their new-born babies. Nothing so unusual about this, but read on ...

Baby Zachary and baby Benjamin were born on the same day (30th October); their mothers shared a room in hospital, but did not know each other. Imagine their surprise when they saw each other this morning. Although Benjamin lives in another parish, we hope that he and Zachary will become great friends and that we shall see them at Mass together for many years to come.

Peter Fryer



St Mary's Derby is visited by the SRSCMAT 'Trust Wheel'

(SRSCMAT = St. Ralph Sherwin Multi Academy Trust)



St Mary's Academy in Derby were delighted to receive a visit from the 'Trust Wheel.' The Wheel was first introduced to staff at their 2018 St Ralph Sherwin CMAT Feast Day. Since then it has been travelling all over the Trust's schools and finally made its way to Derby. Each school adds something to the Wheel to represent them, for example a tie, cap, hand prayers, logo etc. St Mary's added one of the hand-held crosses that are given out to Year 6 pupils when they leave. The celebration book that accompanies the Wheel is full of photos and information that each school wants to share with the



other schools in the Trust. St Mary's children were surprised to learn there are three other St Mary's Academies - at Glossop, Marple Bridge and New Mills. They are definitely going to identify themselves as from St Mary's DERBY in future!

The 'Trust Wheel' made a guest appearance at the recent INSET day for all SRSCMAT schools at Chesterfield - it's looking good but remains a work in progress as it still has a few more schools to visit.

Fran Wickes

Over 600 visit Melton Mowbray's Victorian Catholic Church



Melton's historic Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist held its second Christmas Wreath Festival as part of the Melton Christmas Weekend from 29 November to 1 December. The Grade 2 listed church, which has a strong connection with the famous architect A.W.N. Pugin, was open all day every day to welcome visitors from all over the country on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There was a competition for the best home-made wreath with prizes in four dif-

ferent categories. The winning wreaths were displayed along with nearly a hundred other entries using an amazing variety of styles and materials, from Lego to beer bottle tops. There was even one made from a child's toilet seat!

The winners were:
Business or Group

- 1st Companions of St Francis
- 2nd Society for the Protection of Unborn Children Midlands Region
- 3rd Early Years Swallowdale Nursery
- Adult**
- 1st Boothman family
- 2nd Sr. Anthony
- 3rd Frances Levett
- Teen**
- 1st Olivia Lynch
- 2nd Lola Bowes
- Child**
- 1st Nancy Norris
- 2nd Isaac Wotton
- 3rd Aria Dunn



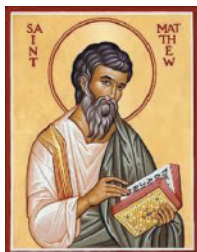
Frances Levett, who helped to organise the festival, said, "We tried this for the first time last year and it was so successful that we decided to make it an annual event. We made some improvements on the method of display this year, and we floodlit the building at night to help people see the beautiful architecture. We were especially delighted that the children from St Francis Primary School were able to open the event by singing carols in the church. It was very moving. The church looked stunning, the wreaths were amazing, and many people remarked on how warm and welcoming it was. This weekend is incredibly busy in our town, with coaches bringing people to see the large Christmas Tree Festival in the Anglican church. The Methodist church runs a Festival of Cribbs, and the Wreath Festival in St. John's is part of our parish missionary effort: joining with the other town centre churches in welcoming people who would perhaps never go in a church otherwise. Unlike the other churches, we do not charge: we want people to be able to enter freely. We were looking for ways to use the church's strategic central location and his-



toric interest in order to attract people, and this has proved ideal. We plan to keep it going, and we've got some new ideas for next year already. We would like to see other parishes and groups in the Diocese joining in and entering a wreath. Just give us a ring or drop us an email."

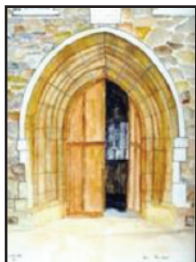
The church received 633 visitors during the Festival. On Saturday there were extra events, including two free performances by talented young cellist Griff Wadkin from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. The church also had a mini Fair in the Museum across the road, with stalls, refreshments and a free Santa Claus.

Parish Priest Fr. Tom McGovern said, "This is my first Christmas in Melton Mowbray, and the first time I have experienced a Wreath Festival. It is a great way to get the parish, the church and the local community working together for everyone's benefit. I was delighted to see people joining in and working so hard. I want everyone to know that they are welcome in our church."



Nottingham Diocese Spirituality Network

YEAR OF THE WORD
Days of Prayer: 2020
18 January 4 April
16 May 10 October



Encounter Jesus and be Missionary Disciples through St Matthew's Gospel

Day starts with coffee at 10:00 and ends with a Liturgy at 3:00pm

18 January - St Peter's Hinkley
29th February - St Mary's Boston

16 May - St Hugh's Lincoln / St Joseph's Matlock
10 October - Our Lady and St Thomas Ilkeston

Ann Neale
Tel. 01623 811141 Mob. 07730 956156 ann@perkeo.co.uk
Or
Angela Fairbrother
Tel. 01332 544146 Mob. 07813 584213
angelafairbrother69@gmail.com

Tea and Coffee provided - Bring a packed lunch



Rosmini Centre House of Prayer

Wishing you all the Joy and Peace of the Birth of Christ this Christmas plus all the Expectations and Grace of Hope for the New Year from Fathers Anthony Meredith, Ted Mullen, Denis Labartette, Philip Sainter, Anthony Furlong, and David Tobin, Brothers Nigel Cave and William Rees.

JANUARY 2020
Friday 3rd, 7 - 9pm
Healing Mass
Saturday 11th, 2 - 4.30pm
Rev. Bill Myers:
"Lead kindly light", Newman's conversion
Saturday 25th, 3 - 4.30pm
Sharing Scripture in my life.

FEBRUARY
Friday 7th 7 - 9pm
Healing Mass
Saturday 8th 2 - 4.30pm
Rev Bill Myers "Praise to the holiest" Newman's struggle
Thursday 13th 7 - 8.30pm
Fr Antonio Belsito IC

The Week of the PASSION AND DEATH of Jesus
Saturday 22nd 3 - 4.30pm
Sharing Scripture on my life

MARCH
Friday 6th 7 - 9pm
Healing Mass
Thursday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th 7.30 - 8.30pm
A Lenten series: Paths to Deeper Prayer
Saturday 14th 2 - 4.30pm
Rev Bill Myers "Firmly I believe and truly"
Newman's vindication
Saturday 21st
Lenten Retreat - Lunch provided
Saturday 28th 3 - 4.30pm
Sharing Scripture in my life

New items: Second Saturdays of the month Sessions on St John Henry Newman by Deacon Bill Myers; Fourth Saturdays 'Sharing Scripture in my life', themes of life in light of the Scriptures, for example - faith, joy, providence, God's Will and so forth; topics can be suggested by the group; Lenten series on deepening prayer: prayer as relationship with God, praying with icons, scripture and Christian Zen.

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.



THE CHAPTER CORNER



The Provost



It's time for the Cathedral Chapter to come out of its corner, so to speak, and start to unravel some of its mystery. We have some of our important pastoral initiatives to share with you, as well. Finally, we hope that this monthly column, launched this month, will provide food for thought and an encouraging word.

So, let's start with some basics: What is the 'Cathedral Chapter'? What is a 'Canon'? And what on earth is a 'Provost'?

Well, to start with the last question first – I am a priest of the Diocese of Nottingham and the Provost of the Cathedral Chapter. I was elected to the Role by the members of the Cathedral Chapter. The Provost chairs the four meetings a year of the Chapter and helps to keep the Chapter on track with its objectives. The Chapter was established on 2nd July 1852 by Bishop Joseph Hendren. Its role has changed over the years with many of its previous activities now conducted by the Bishop's Council, the College of Consultors and the Council of Priests.

The Chapter consists of eleven priests appointed by the Bishop and given the title 'Canon'. They are chosen because of some particular expertise they may have or because of some particular pastoral experience which the Bishop and Chapter members feel would offer a useful contribution to the Chapter deliberations.

The Chapter is a private and confidential forum offering suggestions and advice to the Bishop about the Cathedral and the Diocese. As such, it is a useful, confidential sounding board for the Bishop should he choose to use it in this way. Chapter members have some liturgical roles to fulfil as well. At their quarterly Meetings, they pray the Office of Midday Prayer in the Cathedral Blessed Sacrament Chapel, and celebrate the 1.00 p.m. Cathedral Mass with the Bishop, praying for the intentions of the whole Diocese, with the November Mass offered for the deceased Bishops, Priests and Deacons of the Diocese. At principal liturgical celebrations, they process in together and sit together as a group. There is a special Canonical attire worn occasionally by the Canons – see if you can spot them! They wear a black cassock trimmed with crimson piping and with crimson buttons, the rochet and the tippet of purple trimmed with fur. The rochet is a long, white garment, like a cotta. The tippet is like a shawl with a hood on it.

After their Meetings, the Chapter members share a meal with the Bishop, courtesy of the Cathedral Dean and his staff. Every few years they invite others to join them for a meal to celebrate some significant event – an anniversary or recent ordination, and in this way encourage fellowship amongst the priests.

The Chapter holds the Cathedral in high esteem and are anxious to support the Cathedral in any way they can. So, for example, during the week of the 175th Anniversary celebrations last June, the Chapter hosted an evening Choral Vespers – a celebration which they hope to promote a couple of times each year. During the same week, members of the Chapter were available for Confessions and then preached at the lunch time Masses. Finally, they are in the process of setting up a 'Friends of the Cathedral', inviting sponsorship and membership from around the Diocese. The Friends would support the Cathedral by creative fundraising and social events around the Diocese, and encourage attendance at key events at the Cathedral, both liturgical and social, including the excellent musical/choral events. To conclude, would you like to be involved with the 'Friends' in any way?

Provost Jonathan Cotton
jonathan.cotton@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Bishop Patrick and bishops' coordinators put (inter)faith into action

The Catholic bishops' coordinators on interreligious dialogue, and Bishop Patrick McKinney, the bishop with the brief for interreligious dialogue, came together on 12th and 13th November to share stories of enriching engagement with people from different faiths, discuss ideas for joint action, and, most importantly, to seek the exchange with guests from other faiths. An evening panel on the theme of "Will faith(s) save the world" gave the wider public an opportunity to hear what drives local Leicester activists of faith to work for a better world.

Friendship, storytelling, and shared spiritual experiences, emerged from the coordinators' reports on their work as successful building blocks to meaningful dialogue that fulfil the aim of "uniting people more closely in communion with God and with each other" (Meeting God in Friend and Stranger, 88). This is reflected in a rich variety of interreligious activities throughout the dioceses: e.g. peace walks and pilgrimages for all people of faith, the staging of a play on dialogue, events on protecting the environment, and shared work to provide shelter and food to the vulnerable.

Added ideas for action were very gratefully received from Catriona Robinson and Siriol Davies from the Christian-Muslim Forum, which organises a church-mosque twinning project that brings Christian and Muslim congregations together on shared,

local issues. A presentation by Leicester Citizens' Rev. Keith Hebden showed that community building work is relational and gives a voice to the voiceless – thus fitting in well with the gifts and aims of people of faith.

A sense of calling, and a passion for changing the world for the better, were the themes both of a private dialogue between coordinators, Bishop Patrick McKinney, and guests, and also of the public panel.

Panel participants (from the Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim tradition) found common ground in the importance they placed on learning about the other, in the confidence their faith gives them to ask difficult questions and to campaign for change, and in how closely the love of neighbour and the love of God were related for them. Bishop Patrick McKinney said that "if I neglect the other I neglect Christ – that is our driver."

Yasmin Surti, from the Federation of Muslim organisations, summed up the spirit of the meeting when she said: "we have so much in common, we need to share that, celebrate that, and spread that – spread that message". Faith is not only a motivator, across the religions, to bring about change: faith can also be a motivation to seek friendship across difference, which builds a better world in its own right.

National Inspection Framework

The Bishops' Conference approved the introduction of the National Framework for Inspection of all Catholic schools, colleges and academies. The National Framework for Inspection will be approved and revised from time to time by the Department for Education and Formation. This will include national recruitment, training and accreditation of inspectors. Training and accreditation of existing inspectors will begin in 2020 and the National Framework will have replaced existing diocesan frameworks in all dioceses by September 2021.

Melton Mowbray Parish Gardening Project Wins Top Award

For the past year, volunteers from St. John the Baptist parish and Melton Mowbray museum have been working in partnership with other local groups and businesses, to improve the environment in Thorpe End, especially St. John's gardens. As Thorpe End Bloomers, they entered the Melton in Bloom "It's Your Neighbourhood" scheme, in which they have just been judged on Community Involvement, Environmental Responsibility and Gardening Achievement. The group achieved an overall 74% "Thriving" - the highest of any group in the Melton area. The judges were extremely impressed at the progress which the group had made in such a short time, particularly in transforming the church gardens from a neglected and weedy area into a really beautiful space. This is an initiative of the Friends of St John's charity, aimed at not only enhancing the gardens, but also at enabling the church to be seen supporting and engaging with the wider community. For example, the new wooden planters were made at a nearby workshop for people with learning difficulties. The parish is very proud of this achievement.



The Pilgrim Statue, Our Lady of Fatima Visits Homes

Recently we have introduced a portable statue of the Pilgrim Virgin, Our Lady of Fatima, from the World Apostolate of Fatima to the parishioners of the Good Shepherd Church, Arnold, Nottingham.

It comes with a special blessing to visit parishioner's homes throughout the year. We encourage parishioners to sign a rota sheet to take Our Lady home for a week, to entrust to her loving care all the joys and sorrows and the ups and downs of life, for special intentions as well as to pray for peace in the world. We resolve to prayerfully meditate on the holy Rosary, contemplating the divine mysteries of her Son, as she requested at Fatima so that we may deserve to experience Our Lady's powerful and consoling help in our lives.

The statue is accompanied with a "Book of Intentions" and a "Prayer Booklet" which includes the Holy Rosary and a "Family Consecration to The Sacred Heart of Jesus and The Immaculate Heart of Mary". It was very encouraging to see the immediate uptake of this inspiration by so many families as the weekly slots until Christmas were quickly filled. It is wonderful to see the great love expressed towards our Lady and it is our deep wish that all parishes in the Diocese embrace this ministry amongst their parishioners. If you wish to know more please contact our parish representative Caroline Smith on caroline.smith1272ntlworld.com



St Gregory's annual Christmas Fayre

The St Gregory's annual Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 30th November. Stalls included books, bottles, children's bran tub, toys, fancy goods, children's chocolate tombola, Christmas gifts, tombola stall, repository and our favourite cake stall. Tasty refreshments were available throughout. Santa found time in his busy schedule to pay a visit to the delight of the children. Not only is this occasion the church's major fundrais-



ing event of the year, it is also a lovely social gathering (despite the hard work) both for the local community and for the parish. The magnificent sum of £1,526.29 was raised, thanks in no small part to the generosity of all who supported the event and the raffle whose wonderful prize list is always a major factor. This will principally go to the cover the annual insurance costs to safeguard the church, the house and the hall. The sigh of relief of the Finance Committee chairman could be heard as far away as Quorn!

Peter Fryer



Christmas presents for the homeless

Being asked to spare a toilet roll (a pack was sitting on the back seat of my car) by a resident of the Lincoln YMCA, which provides temporary accommodation for the homeless, provided the inspiration to want to give a Christmas gift to each of the residents. The initiative was taken up by the CWL of St Peter and St Paul RC Church, who collected over one hundred items of clothing, confectionary, toiletries and other gifts, which were generously donated by parishioners.



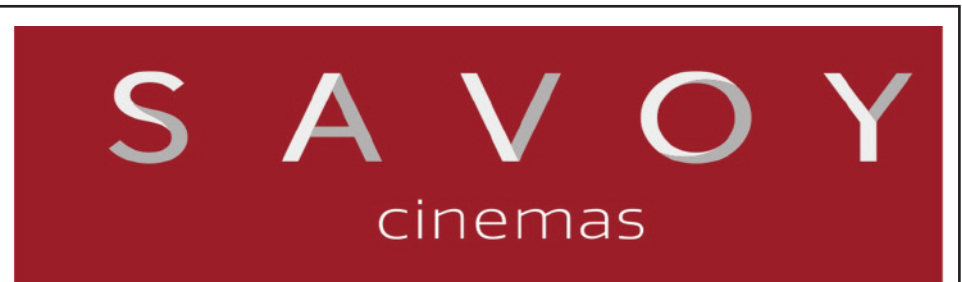
homeless require assistance and care all year round; may God give us the grace and opportunities to do what we can.

Christmas is a special time of giving but the

SSPP, Lincoln

**Statement by Bishop Declan Lang
Chair of the department for International Affairs of the
Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**

As Bishops of the Holy Land Coordination have consistently highlighted, we all have a responsibility to oppose the continued construction of illegal settlements, which not only fuels human rights violations, but imperils any chance of a two-state solution. We stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as it strives for justice and peace amid these increasingly difficult circumstances and look forward to reiterating this support in person during our forthcoming visit to Christian communities in Palestine."



Derby Road, Nottingham, NG7 1QN

SCREENING OF



Wednesday 22 January 2020 at
6.15pm

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WHEN AVAILABLE AT
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
JOHN 40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com OR
MARIE Marie.langford@live.co.uk



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! PLEASE INVITE FAMILY & FRIENDS

Masses at Christmas

There are three celebrations of Mass on Christmas Day.

Christmas Day. The tradition began in the Holy Land with Midnight Mass at Bethlehem, Dawn at Jerusalem and Day at Bethlehem. Rome continues that tradition with Midnight Mass at St. Peter's, Dawn at St. Anastasia's and Day at St. Mary Major's. Parishes may celebrate mass three times

"The Lord's Day" newsletter is printed with permission of the Watermead Apostolate.

The full newsletter can be downloaded free each week from their website <https://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/the-lords-day> where more information on the apostolate is also available.

MIDNIGHT MASS

First Reading Isaiah 9 : 2-7 Chapter 8 has told of the desperation of the people, turning against God and king (especially verses 21 ff.), but in chapter 9 there is new hope. Galilee was conquered in 732 BC (the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali dwelt in Galilee) but is given new hope by the promise of a child who will become king under God's protection. The suffering of Galilee becomes a prophecy and image of the later suffering and conquest of Israel (721 BC) and Jerusalem (587 BC), and the wonderful reassurance of today's reading becomes a promise for the whole nation and people.

Second Reading Titus 2 : 11-14 Titus was a co-worker with Paul and a strong influence in bringing about reconciliation with the Church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 7:6-14). Now he is bishop in Crete and this letter, written by one of Paul's disciples (writing under Paul's name), indicates the honoured position Titus held in the Christian Church. Today's reading rejoices that God has revealed divine love in the person of Jesus, inviting the world to become the people of God.

Gospel Reading Luke 2 : 1-14 Augustus Caesar was emperor 27 BC 14 AD. There is nothing in Roman history to indicate that a universal census was taken during his reign, so the details of

Luke's account of a necessary journey to Bethlehem are puzzling. Respect for Joseph makes us believe that he would not have imposed on Mary an unnecessary and difficult five-day journey. They would have travelled in good time. That Joseph's family in Bethlehem would have rejected a young girl about to give birth to her first child seems impossible. The story is not history - it is Gospel, full of symbolism (e.g. the shepherds symbolise the great shepherd leaders of the Old Testament: Abraham, Moses, David, rejoicing for their people).

DAWN MASS

First Reading Isaiah 62 : 11-12 We are in the final part of the Book of Isaiah, chapters of joy and universal salvation. The Zion hill in Jerusalem, on which the Temple was built, becomes the centre of the world and all peoples are invited to come there to the Lord. Jesus, our Saviour, leads us and we become the Holy People, the Lord's redeemed.

Second Reading Titus 3 : 4-7 We are near the end of the letter. "Paul" has been practical in advice to Titus making careful appointments, guarding the people against false teachers, pointing out the essential ideals by which a Christian community should live, and then comes today's reading about the kindness of God revealed through the

birth of Jesus, our Saviour, and confirmed by the gifts of the Spirit poured out on us. With joy we look forward to eternal life.

Gospel Reading Luke 2 : 15-20 The shepherds, symbolising the great leaders of the Old Testament, hurry to Bethlehem. They "tell everyone" what they had been told in the angels' message - which indicates a large crowd present with Mary, Joseph and the baby. It is what we would expect - family joy and support at the birth of a first child. The people listen with astonishment, but Mary listens with wonder and treasures what she hears. The picture is idyllic, the pain and loneliness of the midnight mass Gospel story now gone. But it is the suffering servant (of the Book of Isaiah) who has been born and Mary's heart, full of wonder, will later be pierced

DAY MASS

First Reading Isaiah 52 : 7-10 Chapter 51 has foretold the salvation of Israel - a conquered people will be set free. The Lord seems to have been in a deep slumber, unaware of the suffering of the people, but awakes in order to console them. Jerusalem must awaken to the dawn of a new promise and prepare for the coming of a saviour. In today's reading he comes, bringing good news, peace and happiness. The world is

saved (v.10) and shares the joy of a redeemed Jerusalem.

Second Reading Hebrews 1 : 1-6 We do not know the author of this letter but we know him to have been a Greek scholar who wrote in a beautiful style. He wrote for Hebrew Christians, longing to show them that Jesus was everything the Scriptures had foretold - the Messiah, a Saviour, King of an eternal kingdom. The prophets foresaw only dimly, but now Christians acknowledge the Messiah as Son of God, the Word of Creation, begotten of the Divine Father, First born Son. The wonder and awe are palpable.

Gospel Reading John 1 : 1-18 John's Gospel was written in the early part of the second century, put together by his disciples. It reflects John's love for Christ and Christ's love for John ("the disciple Jesus loved"). John was Jesus' cousin, and to read today's prologue to the Gospel is to catch the wonder in John that the Jesus he had known from boyhood was truly the Son of God. The ordinariness of Jesus' life is in contrast to the divine revelation he has brought with him, and his casual rejection by the people is because they are not interested in anything outside their everyday concerns. Reverence for John the Baptist (v.15) is evident - and we remember that John was a follower of John the Baptist (John 1:35-59). [apostolate.co.uk/the-lords-day](https://www.apostolate.co.uk/the-lords-day)

Christmas gifts that won't cost the Earth

Go green with World Gifts



In the face of the current climate crisis we all need to make an effort to go green at Christmas. With just a few weeks to go, Becky Such, Cafod World Gifts Coordinator, talks about their virtual gifts and how you can choose ethical Christmas presents.

Christmas is the time for giving and receiving, of sharing good food with the people we love and of showing our gratitude for the year we've had. On the other hand, it inevitably becomes a time of great waste. Most of us end up buying so much food we can't eat it all and a host of gifts remain unopened and unused by the receiver.

Here at CAFOD we have come up with the waste-free answer with our World Gifts! They are life-changing gifts that help people living in poverty across the world, and don't leave your loved one with yet another pair of socks, or some bubble bath when they don't even have a bath.

How to give better gifts this Christmas

Green Christmas gifts



Cafod have a selection of gifts which are particularly green - so for your particularly climate-change-savvy loved ones, have a look at these:

Drought resistant crops

Whether you're buying for the eco-warrior in your life, or you want to go green yourself, World Gifts is the option for you.



Cafod have lots of other gifts based around farming, perfect for going green this year.

Worms wriggling through the soil naturally turns barren land into nourishing compost! This helps families to grow enough food to feed to their families and even sell, without relying on chemical pesticides or fertilisers which can damage the environment and ultimately leave the soil less nourishing than before.

Buy Wonderful worms

A perfect gift for a gardener or lover of creepy crawlies.

Super solar street light



These solar street lights help women, men and children to feel safe as they walk about refugee camps at night. These clean energy lights will help to provide a safe, eco-friendly environment for years to come.

Buy a Super solar street light

This gift is perfect for group fundraising, or as an extra-special something.

Waste, what waste?



In the UK alone, 1 billion cards go in the bin when they could be recycled, and that's just over the Christmas period.

If you do receive a World Gift, we hope you recycle the card! But you can go completely waste-free by choosing the Cafod eCard option. It looks just the same as our printed cards, and is animated to open the card and reveal a case study, explanation of the gift you've chosen and your personalised message inside.

Cards can always be recycled, but an astonishing 227,000 miles of wrapping paper are thrown away each year in the UK - that's from here to the Moon!

Whether you choose one of the gifts here that highlight some of our eco-friendly work, or just choose to buy a charity gift rather than another box of chocolates, you'll be helping to have a waste-free Christmas!

To find the perfect gift go online to <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Parish Meal and Quiz night

On the Feast of Christ Our King, our parish priest, Fr Eddy Jarosz, gave a homily on the Kingdom of God. The same Saturday evening, the parish of St Peter & St Paul, Lincoln, held a social evening. Over one hundred people attended, including parishioners from all three Lincoln Catholic Churches, together with family and friends, which included some of no religious affiliation.

The evening started with a welcome, followed by Fr Eddy saying grace. With the bar open for drinks, a three-course meal was served. The food, which involved a variety of options, was all home cooked by two SSPP parishioners (Therese and Gillian) and was plentiful and complimented by all. With full tummies, we moved onto the door raffle and grand raffle, followed by a thirty question quiz; a couple of trick questions caught many people out and added to the fun. The evening closed with a game to see who could roll a pound coin closest to a bottle of whiskey and tested people's agility and coordination skills. Just over one thousand pounds was raised, with the funds being divided equally between our own parish, St Hugh's Church Tower Fund

and a residential home in Sri Lanka.

More important though than the amount raised, was the foretaste the evening gave us of the Kingdom of God – people drawn together of diverse backgrounds and places, to unite in sharing a feast and enjoying each other's company, supplemented by displays of love, joy, kindness, patience, goodness, generosity and gratitude. Thank you to all those who supported the event, by attendance and/or donation (money or prizes) and to those who helped in the organisation, set up and clear up.

As we celebrate the coming of Christ, Our King, this Christmas Season, let us pray for ourselves, for open hearts that will allow God to enter and bless others through our lives and for all people of the world to be blessed with experiences of His Kingdom here on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Jo



Messages for the Brave

In our parish we are embarking on The Live Simply Award and as part of this it was decided to take part in "Messages for the Brave" initiative through CAFOD. After Mass on a Wednesday during our coffee morning, four Christmas Cards were passed round and messages of support were written and have now been sent off to four brave people and they are:

Jose Batista Afonso from Brazil, who is a land and environmental defender. Nora Nassar from Palestine, who is a head teacher and has to defend her pupils.

Honourable Albert Lokoru Kiyonga from Uganda, who strongly defends the land and labour rights of indigenous people.

Fuerza Mujeres Wayuu from Columbia, who brings to light the deaths, displacements and disappearances of their families as well as violation of the rights of women.

We hope our messages of support will comfort them



and encourage them to continue their good work.

Ann, SSPP Lincoln

Derby Catenians go Cashless!

Strengthening family life through friendship and faith

Derby Catenians have modernised their systems thereby allowing members to pay their dues by the simple method of swiping a card.

Newly appointed Treasurer, Tomasz Bandura of St. Maksymilian Kolbe parish, Derby said "When I introduced the system I knew it would make life easier for both the members and for me. Now, I have more control and fewer problems".

Jeff Green from Holy Family parish Derby and one of the oldest members said "It is good to see that the Catenians are moving with the times".

More information about the Derby branch of the Catenian Association can be obtained from Richard Penna at richard.penna@ntl-world.com



Tomasz Bandura (seated) and Jeff Green

Kevin Hurst Derby Catenians Publicity Officer

National Youth Fun Day at St George's

What a great way to have fun and raise money for NDYCS National Youth Fun Day. On Friday 22nd November, St Georges Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby held a non-uniform day and children and Staff donated £1 each to raise funds the Youth Team at the Briars Youth Centre in Crich. The whole gathered in the assembly hall to begin and end our day with beautiful liturgies with the help of the Briars team through the live link up! With the help of Tom, David



Wells and the rest of the Briars team, the children reflected how the Bible tells us all that we are special and significant. They raised over £300 for such a fantastic cause.

Prayer to St Martin De Porres

Most humble Saint Martin whose burning charity embraces all, but especially those who are sick, afflicted or in need, we implore you for help in our present difficulties and we implore you to obtain for us from God health of soul and body and in particular the favour we now ask

May we, by imitating your charity and humility, find quiet and contentment all our days and cheerful submission to God's holy will in all the trials and difficulties of life.

Saint Martin pray for us That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

O God, who exalts the humble and Who brought St Martin, Your confessor, to the glory of heaven, grant through his merits and intercession that on earth we may imitate his humility as to deserve to be exalted with him in heaven. Through Christ our Lord Amen

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Novena Prayer to the Infant Jesus of Prague for a Special Favour

O dearest Jesus, tenderly loving us, Thy greatest joy is to dwell among us and to bestow Thy blessing upon us! Though I am not worthy that Thou should behold me with love, I feel myself drawn to Thee, O dear Infant Jesus, because Thou dost gladly pardon me and exercise Thine almighty power over me.

So many who turned with confidence to Thee have received graces and had their petitions granted. Behold me: in spirit I kneel before Thy miraculous image on Thine altar in Prague and lay open my heart to Thee, with its prayers, petitions and hopes. Especially the affair of (Name your request) do I enclose in Thy loving Heart. Govern me and do with me and mine according to Thy holy will, for I know that in Thy Divine wisdom and love Thou will ordain everything for the best. Almighty gracious Infant Jesus, do not withdraw Thy hand from us, but protect and bless us forever.

I pray Thee, sweetest Infant, in the name of Thy Blessed Mother Mary, who cared for Thee with such tenderness, and by the great reverence with which St. Joseph carried Thee in his arms, comfort me and grant my petition, that I may bless and thank Thee forever with all my heart. Amen

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New Local Community Ambassador for Mary's Meals

"I would like to have enough food to eat and I would like to be able to go to school one day" This was the response given by a 14 year old Malawian boy called Edward when he was asked about his hopes for the future. The boy's mother was dying of AIDS and his response had a powerful impact on Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow who had asked the question.

He discovered that, whilst primary education was free in Malawi, many children were unable to go to school due to lack of food. Those who did were often unable to concentrate because of hunger. A seed was planted in Magnus' mind and Mary's Meals was born. The aim was to provide a simple meal for each hungry child in a place of education.

From a humble beginning in Malawi in 2002 the charity has grown to now feed over 1,500,000 children every school day at a cost of just £13.90 for each child for a school year. Food is bought locally where possible and cooked by volunteers which keeps the costs low.

When I first heard about this charity I was immediately drawn to it. I knew of Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow and his humanitarian aid work in Bosnia during the war in the 1990s. I also knew of his connection with the Catholic Retreat Centre Craig Lodge in Dalmally in Scotland. I later read his book about Mary's Meals called The Shed that Fed a million Children and was convinced that this was the main charity that I wanted to support financially. One of the things that impressed me was that much of the work of the charity was done by volunteers. Costs were kept very low with no high paid employees or directors. Everyone who works

for Mary's Meals does so with a sense of vocation and purpose. The focus is on feeding the next hungry child and providing them with a way out of poverty through education.

In September this year (2019) I also made a decision to apply to become a volunteer Community Ambassador for the charity. I received training and am hoping to give talks and presentations to schools and organisations about the work of Mary's Meals. Schools are particularly encouraged to take part in something called the Backpack project. This encourages children to donate used, but still usable, school bags filled with basic educational equipment. Through the project our children become aware of the needs of others and learn how they can help by passing on things they no longer use.



If you would like to know more about Mary's Meals and how you can help the website is marysmeals.org.uk

If you would like me to speak or present one of our inspirational films about Mary's Meals at a school or organisation or church group or would like help setting up a Backpack Project please contact me at Marielangford@live.co.uk or on 07948151264



Thank you Altar Servers

Jesus said 'Let the little children come to me, and not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14

We gathered for the Altar Servers Christmas Party in the St Joseph Hall, in the parish centre. As a parish we wished to express our deep thanks to our Altar Servers for the tremendous ministry they fulfil faithfully as a group assisting our parish priest, Fr Philipp, during the liturgy throughout the year. Personally I was struck by how many young servers attended daily Holy Mass during the long summer school break. It was very encouraging to see and a great witness to their faith. During 2019 we have run a structured program of 8 sessions, 2 hrs each, a combination of fun time followed by teaching (led by Deacon John Wakeling) with question and answers. If time allowed we would embark on a quiz challenge which always proved very popular with the group. Regular group attendance was encouraged with the more experienced members taking on the role of mentor for the younger and new members. Adrian Staiano, one of our senior and very experienced server has proved a valuable asset with helping to lead the activities, giving guidance as needed.

Some of the topics covered this year included the Holy Mass, The Eucharist: the real presence of Jesus Christ, the role of Our Lady in the Church, prayer life and the importance of deepening ones personal relationship with Jesus Christ. it was very encouraging to see the positive participation of our members, shooting off questions dur-



ing the sessions showing there is a deep thirst for understanding of the Faith. We also covered the practical aspects of Altar Serving, also identifying all the items used at regular Holy Masses. Our group averages about 16-18 servers, some already have their medals and others working towards receiving their medals; namely 10 new members will be receiving their medals on the feast of St Stephen in December 2019.

We welcome all new recruits with our new program dates for 2020 already published in the parish. If you desire to take part please contact the parish office or pick up an application form from the sacristy and hand it in.

Submitted by Cheryl Broodryk

Christmas Bazaar A Great Success

On Saturday 23 November, the Good Shepherd Church in Woodthorpe hosted its annual Christmas Fair. Despite the rain and the damp conditions, the fair was a tremendous success, raising £9047.95 – the largest sum ever. In a change from previous years, nearly all the stalls were run by parishioners, mainly selling their own crafts on behalf of the church. Examples included handknitted toys, advent posies, pet baubles, cakes, homemade lunches, Asian cuisine and much more. Santa joined in the festivities and gave sweets to all the children

who visited his grotto and the fire service gave their time freely for the community to look around their fire engine and pose for pictures. “We’re absolutely delighted with the amount raised and the success of our prestigious fair,” said Sarah Benedek, who helps co-ordinate the fair. “It really is a team effort with so many of our wonderful community sharing both their time and talents for the same goal. Coupled with the receipt of £3772 in Co-op Community Funding yesterday and it really has been a great weekend for our parish affairs.”



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SVP Christmas Party

Members of the Good Shepherd SVP arrange an annual event in the run up to Christmas when the people they visit during the year are invited to a festive lunch at the Parish Social Centre. Any of the guests who are unable to travel independently are transported to and from the venue. Steps are also taken to establish whether any of the guests have special dietary needs which can be catered for. The SVP liaise with Christ the King Secondary School which provides members of the sixth form who voluntarily give their time to wait on at the event. The meal consists of 4 courses: a starter of melon garnished with orange, main course of roast turkey, stuffing, roast potatoes, pigs in blankets, peas, carrots, sprouts, beans, gravy and cranberry sauce. This is followed by either Christmas pudding and custard or trifle. The final course is mince pie and coffee or tea. Soft drinks or wine is served during the meal. Guests are accompanied by 2 SVP members at each table. Guests have the opportunity to mingle and renew old acquaintances as well as making new friends both before and after the meal. The meal is prepared and cooked on the premises by members of the SVP together with experienced helpers. The hall is prepared in advance of the meal and the tables are laid out with great care to create a very welcoming environment. The guests, numbering 30, are formally welcomed and Canon Philipp says Grace before the meal. When the meal is finished and the tables cleared there is a special appearance by Father Christmas, arriving on an environmentally friendly scooter, who distributes presents and Christmas cards to every guest. There is then the opportunity for guests to express their appreciation to the kitchen staff and the students for all their efforts. The afternoon is then rounded by a short communal Carol Service before guests are then transported back to their homes.

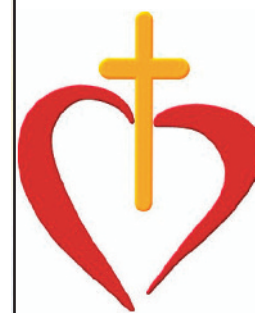
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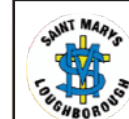
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St Mary's school values the opportunity advertising in the Catholic News gives us, to celebrate our school and Catholic Community. It enables us to reach out to pupils and parents in a wider area.

Do you have a RASH?

Some years ago Pope Francis asked every Catholic parish in the world to make a home for a refugee or asylum-seeking family. A wonderful (realistic?) gesture. We in our parish agreed we would. If everyone gave 50p per week we would comfortably cover the rent of a house for such a family.

I took the idea to our local Council of Churches. They were enthusiastic and agreed to join us. Leicester has an honoured title “City of Sanctuary”, so we sought advice, knowing the practicalities of house-buying and maintenance would be beyond our competence.

One Roof Leicester came to speak to us.

They would be delighted to have our support – but asked if we would include the local homeless in our support. We agreed we wanted to help people find homes and be supported so accepted that request: Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Homeless were our focus – RASH.

Since then St Joseph's parish has a retiring collection every Lord's Day, though observing the diocesan collections, of course, along with the traditional support for CAFOD, Apostleship of the Sea, St Vincent de Paul Society (we have an excellent branch), MISSIO, SPUC, etc. – but all other retiring collections for RASH.

At the recent Diocesan Justice and Peace meeting we learned of the Canaan Trust in Nottingham and its work for homelessness, being reminded how big and varied the problems are. We hope we can link Canaan with One Roof and draw our two cities together in good work.

Would you like to develop a RASH? Contact Canaan Trust (www.canaan-trust.co.uk) and/or St Joseph's, Leicester (www.stjoseph-leicester.btck.co.uk) or Pope Francis, c/o The Vatican, Rome (it's his wonderful idea).

Fr. John Daley IC

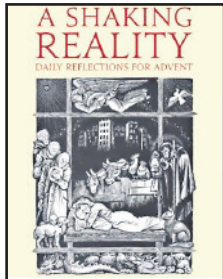
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REVIEWS

A Shaking Reality: Daily Reflections for Advent

Peter B. Price
 Darton, Longman and Todd, 2018
 132 pages
 ISBN: 9780232533507

The inspiration for this challenging set of reflections by a retired bishop came from Father Alfred Delp SJ's Advent diary, written in Plötzensee Prison in Nazi Germany in 1944, just two months before he was hanged. Delp (1907-1945) penned a meditation entitled 'The Shaking Reality of Advent'. In a tiny, three-space space of a cell, with his hands in irons and an uncertain future ahead of him, Delp came to 'a new and different understanding of God's promise of redemption and release'. He described Advent as a time, 'when we all ought to be shaken and brought to a realisation of ourselves'.



of Alfred Delp. As he says: 'Each day in Advent, like the Little Prince, we are invited to move a little closer to the One who has, is, and will come.'

Price introduces people of faith, from Abraham, Elijah, Micah, Esther, Isaiah and Ruth from the Old Testament to John the Baptist in the New, then moves on to today's prophets such as ETTY HILLESUM, the Little Sisters of Jesus and Desmond Tutu. Plus the many nameless prophets of today who cry out from the depth of faith, often in the midst of poverty.

In this Advent time of de-cision, of cutting away, quiet angels who call us to believe enter into the story, as does Mary's song of Magnificat, and the womb-like compassion of God, where God's 'vengeance' is the antithesis of human vengeance. At this beginning of the Church's year, when a child is born for us, we see the power of the irruption of God into our human story. And we are invited to be born again, to re-engage with what is authentic and real, to be signs of resurrection.

This insightful and stirring book will certainly move whoever dares to pick it up and pray slowly through these heart-, mind- and soul-shaking daily Advent reflections.

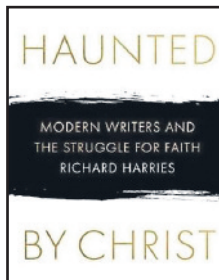
As the author of this book says, most readers will not be constrained by literal chains or pacing in a cell, but rather by living in a post-Christian society, with hands tied by 'self-limitation, relationships, work, and the expectation of others'. And hands that may feel tied and helpless as they face into the world's suffering and injustice.

This helpful book provides a daily space to 'breathe in, breathe out', to discern afresh the God who comes among us. For our Christian God does not float above history and its trauma, but shares intimately in the suffering of the victims and invites us to do the same. Advent is a time of resistance, reclamation, remembrance, redemption and release.

There are 29 daily reflections, which can be used in any year, from the First Sunday of Advent to Christmas Day. Price uses his own lived experience of Advent, whilst taking the reader into the lives of others or their writings, but centred specially on those

Haunted by Christ: Modern Writers and the Struggle for Faith

Richard Harries
 SPCK, 2018
 240 + xvi pages
 ISBN:
 9780281079346



In his introduction to this haunting book, the author states: 'So much of the language we use is recycled cliché, the linguistic sludge of a lazy culture. This is especially true of religious language, which has for many become tired, stale and lifeless.' (pp x-xi) Thus his basic desire is to show how

poets and novelists bring a freshness and sharpness, hinting at the 'ultimately elusive mystery of the divine' (p xi). This he does by considering 19 writers who have touched him deeply over the years.

Eclectic and fascinating in his choice of authors and poets, he reaches in time from Fyodor Dostoevsky to Marilynne Robinson, and lets each artist stretch the reader's imagination and grasp of theology. And he dares to introduce secular mystics like Samuel Beckett, or even to compare the competing myths of C.S. Lewis and Philip Pullman. From universal pessimism in William Golding to grace in failure in Graham Greene, Flannery O'Connor, Shūsako Endō and Evelyn Waugh, Harries indicates how each brings bite and insight into the pull of religion, and documents their struggles with faith.

Each reader will have favourites, from Gerard Manley Hopkins to T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden or R.S. Thomas. Or may prefer light from the Orkneys with Edwin Muir and George Mackay Brown. Or may be attracted by the four female author-poets covered: Robinson, Emily Dickinson, Stevie Smith and Elizabeth Jennings.

Within these tightly written, time-consuming, thought-provoking and often deeply moving pages, there is something for anyone who wishes to broaden their faith horizons. It is a compendium that will merit revisiting often, to squeeze out the rich depths of these wordsmiths of wonder.

The reviewer, Fr Denis Blackledge SJ, is parish priest of St Francis Xavier, Liverpool.

Reviewer: Denis Blackledge SJ

Thousands of pupils receive Bible or copy of St Matthew's Gospel from the Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Education

Almost 5,000 pupils across 84 schools in the Diocese of Nottingham have each received a children's story Bible or a copy of Saint Matthew's Gospel from the Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Education Service (NRCDES).

The gifts have been presented by the NRCDES to Reception and Year 7 pupils at schools in the four multi-academy trusts in the Diocese to mark 2020 being designated 'The God Who Speaks: The Year of the Word' by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Every Reception class pupil has received a children's story Bible and every Year 7 pupil has been given a copy of Saint Matthew's Gospel published by the Bible Society. They were delivered to each school by members of the Nottingham Catholic Diocesan Youth Service.

The children's Bibles have been supplied by the charity 'Bibles for Children' which has also kindly offered to sell Bibles to other pupils at primary schools in the Diocese at a reduced cost of only 50 pence each.

One of the ways in which the NRCDES is



asking schools to mark the Year of the Word is to focus on Lectio Divina – a particular form of prayer and meditation, based on reading a piece of scripture from the Bible, and allowing God to speak through that passage.

Peter Giorgio, Director of Education for the Diocese of Nottingham, said: "We wanted to mark the Year of the Word in a special way and ensure that scripture is prominent in our schools."

Continued on page 11

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Continued from page 10



"We are delighted to be able to give each Reception class pupil a children's story Bible and every Year 7 child a copy of Saint Matthew's Gospel as, from the beginning of Advent, we shall begin the year of Saint Matthew, hearing his Gospel proclaimed each time we come to Sunday Mass.

"We are working with all of our schools, making the Word of God prominent in collective worship and all aspects of school life.

"In Lectio Divina we are asking our schools to focus on one passage from the Bible and work with pupils to really think about what that particular piece of scripture means to them, and how God speaks to them through the words they hear."

Reception pupils at St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, in Derby, were some of the first children to receive their Bibles from Mr

Giorgio.

Headteacher Andrew Monaghan said: "We were delighted to be able to present the Bibles to our Reception class children, as a gift to them from the Diocesan Education Service.

"It was such a special moment to see the children eager to look through their Bibles after they had been presented with them by Mr Giorgio.

"We are sure they will have fun reading the Bible with their families and listening to what God is saying to them. It will assist them to live out the mission Jesus has for all of us to 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

"We, along with the other diocesan schools are very grateful to the NRCDES for this generous gift."



St Mary's Academy Derby enjoy a Pugin Day at the Cathedral

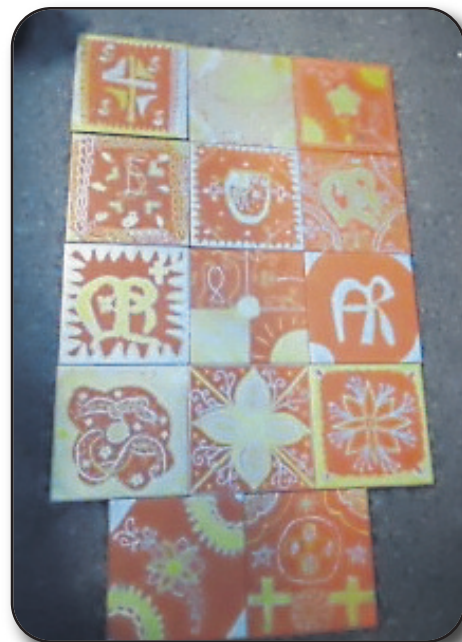
St Barnabas Cathedral, as part of their 175th anniversary celebrations, is offering schools the chance to learn more about the work and legacy of the great neo-gothic architect AWN Pugin. St Mary's Academy's Chaplaincy Team were eager to learn more about the man who also designed their parish church, St Mary's Derby.

The day began with a talk about what an architect does and the principles they need to keep in mind. The children worked in groups to make their own Cathedrals. They then examined objects and photos from the Cathedral and connected them with the Sacraments. A trail inside the Church helped the children appreciate the beauty of the decorative work. They got the chance to design their own gothic tiles - and demonstrated real talent.

The day ended with the School joining in



the celebration of Mass, three of the children were able to be altar servers, a proud moment for them and their teachers.



A DIFFICULT MARRIAGE MOMENT

The young couple married at 18 and 19.

A baby was coming and the families thought it best they should marry. They agreed, and they did love each other. The baby was born and loved, but the marriage failed. They realised they had been too young and would not make a good marriage. They separated sadly, but thinking of the child first, and they remained good friends.

She met someone. They married. The first husband was at the wedding and the new husband gladly agreed with the child-visiting plans, long in place. Such healing. A sad failed marriage, no unfaithfulness, a loved child, a second happy marriage and friendships protected.

He, the first husband, met a Catholic girl and asked her to marry him. They came to see me. We talked. He had been christened as a baby but had never attended church and knew nothing about the Christian faith. I explained the teaching of the Church: because he was baptised his first marriage was a sacramental one and he had thus made a promise for life according to the teaching of the Catholic Church's interpretations of the Gospel.

He stared at me. "Are you telling me I am still married to my former wife who is now happily married to my friend and I am happy for them both? That's nonsense. How can I still be married to someone else's wife when the law of the land ended our marriage and left us free to marry again?"

"It's a mystery of faith," said the Catholic



girl, "and we must accept it." "It is not a mystery," he said, "it's a nonsense. Your Church wants me to break up that happy marriage by claiming to be her real husband. What good would that do? We divorced sadly but stayed good friends. Does your Church want to ruin that? Does it want me to stay unmarried for the rest of my life?"

I explained that the Church would annul the marriage on the grounds of their being immature at 18 and 19. He could hardly believe it. No marriage! But were married - they loved each other and were sincere in their wedding promises. But he agreed to the process. They had to wait for three years. There was a queue. The decision was straight forward but they had to wait their turn.

Around the Church are so many people like this. Pope Francis wants to welcome back those who couldn't/didn't wait. Should he? No, say his opponents, he would be betraying the Gospel which forbids divorce. We pray for God's blessing on our Church thinking and law-making.

Fr, John Daley IC

Christmas & New Year
The Good Shepherd Church, Woodthorpe, Nottingham 2019

Saturday: 21st December.
 Holy Mass at 10.00 am followed by:-
 Sacrament of Confession 10.45 - 11.30 am
 Children's Tree Party 12 noon - Nativity with decoration of the Christmas Tree.
 Adoration & Confession at 5.00 pm - 5.45 pm
 Holy Mass (Vigil of 4th Sunday) 6.00 pm

Sunday: 22nd December.
 Holy Mass at 8.00 am; 10.30 am; 5.30pm
 Christmas Eve: Morning Mass at 9.15 am.

Tuesday: 24th December.
 Vigil Mass at 5.00 pm
 Children's Lantern Mass.
 Mass at Midnight (00.00 am)

Christmas Day:
Wednesday: 25th December
 Holy Mass with Carols at 10.00 am.
 Thursday - Saturday: Holy Mass at 10.00 am.

26th St. Stephen's Day - Servers Renewal.
27th St. John's Day - Blessing of Dinner Wines - Marriage Day Renewal.
28th Holy Innocents Day - Day of Life.
Weekend (28th-29th)
Holy Family - Usual Mass times prevail.
 Vigil 6.00 pm. Day 8.00 am, 10.30 am, 5.30 pm
 Monday /Tuesday. Holy Mass at 10.00 am.

Wednesday 1st January:
Solemnity of Mary; the Mother of God.
 Holy Mass at 10.00 am.
Weekend 4th / 5th Jan.
Solemnity of the Epiphany -
 Blessing of Water, Chalk and Incense for Home Blessing. Usual Weekend Mass times.

LOUGHBOROUGH
St Mary's - 97 Ashby Road

22 December
 4.30pm: Carols by Candlelight
24 December - Christmas Eve
 9.15am: Parish Mass
 6.00pm: Family Christmas Vigil Mass
 11.30pm: Carols

25 December - Christmas Day
 Midnight Mass
 9.00am: Parish Mass
 11.00am: Solemn Mass

26 December - St Stephen's Day
 10.30am: Parish Mass

31 December - New Year's Eve
 9.15am: Parish Mass
 7.00pm: Te Deum & Solemn Benediction

1 January - New Year's Day
 Mary, Mother of God
 10.30am: Solemn Mass

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*Wishing the Catholic News Readers
 A Blessed, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and
 Every Blessing for 2020*

Frs. David and Richard h.d.n.

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Mock interviews held at Saint Benedict CVA to give students a taste of the world of work



More than 25 employers conducted mock job interviews with every Year 11 student at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy.

The one-to-one interview sessions were organised by E4E, an initiative which aims to link employers with youngsters in a bid to create a better understanding about career opportunities and aspirations.

Businesses and organisations attended included HMRC, Derby City Council, Rolls-Royce and the University of Derby.

The students were given verbal feedback and the volunteers completed written feedback for each student.

Holly Dyer, project co-ordinator for E4E, said: "The interview process is quite generic but they are asked to give specific examples to back up their answers. They might be asked what they are most proud of or to tell the interviewer about themselves.

"The interviewer will give them hints and tips. The employers have all been very impressed with the students. They are really confident and polite and very articulate; they've got a real spark and know what they want."



Andrew Lowe, from Marketing Derby, was one of the interviewers. He said: "I've really enjoyed taking part in this session. The students have been extremely positive, confident and their answers to the questions were well thought out. They all seem to have quite clear aspirations and ambitions and they know what they want to do when they finish their studies. I hope this has been a good experience for them which has proved useful."

Lydia Gretton, careers advisor at Saint Benedict CVA, in Duffield Road, said: "We would like to thank all of the employers who kindly gave up their time to support our students and E4E for organising the session.

"A lot of our students will never have experienced an interview before so this is a great opportunity to gain an understanding of the process.

"We had some fantastic feedback from the employers and they were incredibly impressed with our students who gain so much from the interviews.

"Even if they are nervous beforehand the feedback they receive means that they leave feeling much more confident and informed about the interview process."

Returned to his former school to inspire students

The chief executive of Manchester United Foundation returned to his former school to inspire students and deliver valuable advice.

John Shiels is an ex-pupil of Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy but now heads up the foundation, which uses football to engage and inspire young people to build a better life for themselves and unite the communities in which they live.

Students listened to John talk about his life at Saint John Houghton and his career before taking part in a question and answer session with him. He presented prizes for the best questions and also gave away tickets for an upcoming Manchester United match.

John grew up in Sandiacre, attending Saint John Houghton with his five siblings before going into teaching. He then worked for Sir Bobby Charlton Soccer Schools as he wanted to combine teaching with his love of football.

He said: "I absolutely loved Saint John Houghton. I was one of six and we all loved school. It was an amazing place; it was a safe place to come and whatever you wanted to give it would give you back.

"I got involved in everything I could when I was here. I did drama and athletics; I couldn't really go on trips as we didn't have enough money and I never went out of the country until I was 18. So you are much further on than I was when I was your age.

"I'm a very, very positive person and when I'm positive the people around me are positive, they have no choice. I've always thought I'm just going to have a go and I've made lots of mistakes. I made mistakes when I was at school but I've learnt from them. When you are young if you don't make mistakes it means you are not trying hard enough. If everything is comfortable



it's just your body that's growing, your mind and your capability are not growing.

"I have been very fortunate but success isn't about money. You only need so much money to live. A happy and healthy life is more important and to love what you do. If you are doing what you love you will probably be good at it. My hobby was football and I turned it into my career.

"You have to believe in yourself and you have to believe in yourself the most when you are at the bottom. Never, ever stop believing. You've got to dream and dream big."

Acting Headteacher Steve Brogan said that John was a fantastic role model and the students had enjoyed a brilliant day with him.

He said: "It was tremendous to have John in school and for our students to see what is possible through hard work and determination. John is a fantastic role model and when he emailed me earlier in the year, I jumped at the chance to welcome him back into school.

"Aspiration is one of our school values, and John's visit reinforced the fact that with determination, our students can be successful in whatever they choose to do in their lives.

"Students were blown away by the fact that a 'Sandiacre lad' who attended our school, has gone on to be the chief executive at the charity of one of the biggest football clubs in the entire world!"



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)

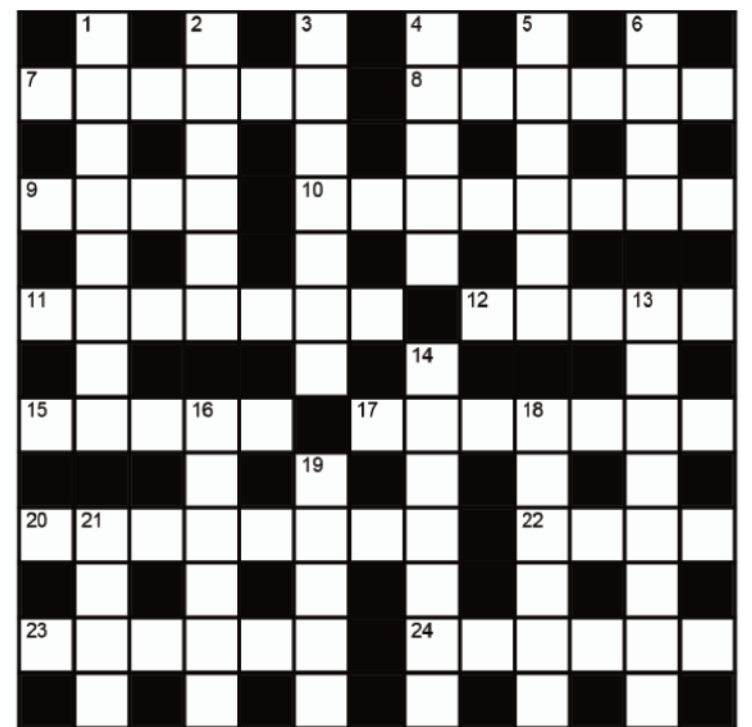
- 21 Gold's next, after dropping half off by Sword Beach's river (4)

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)

QUICK Down

- 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)
- 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 'Vulgate' 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 Abraham, 9 Nave, 10 Abinadab, 11/12 Michael Haydn, 15 Rt Rev, 17 Ramesses, 20 Corned, 22 Shit, 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 Orne