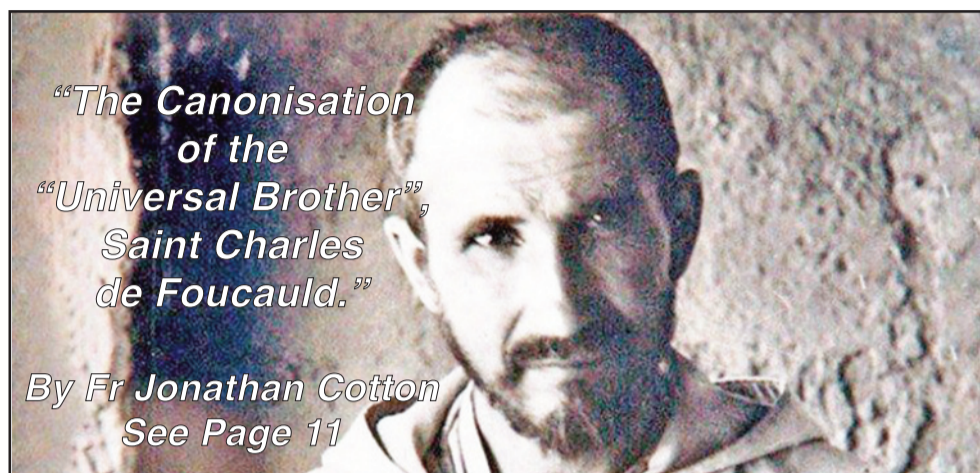
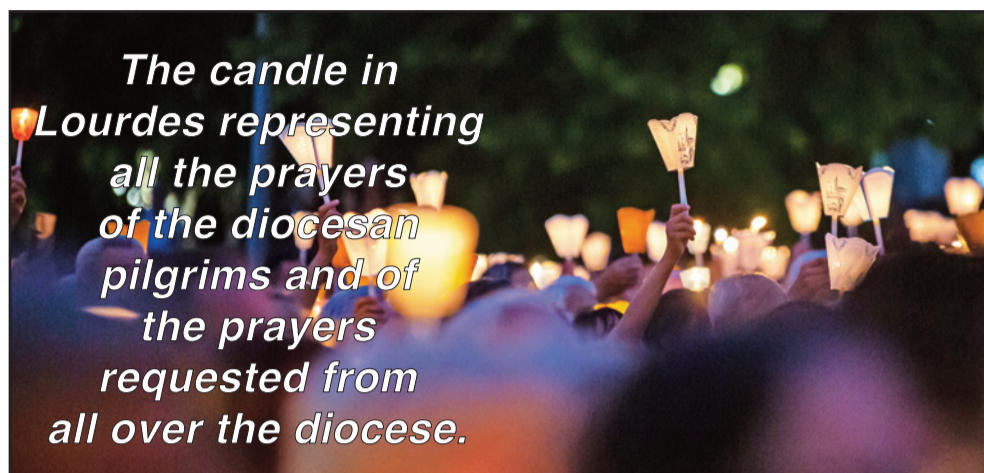




MORE THAN 23 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

Published by Bellcourt Ltd, N2 Blois Meadow Business Centre, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7BN Telephone: 01440 730399 Editor John Clawson. Tel: E-mail johnclwson@icloud.com or david@bellcourtltd.co.uk



St Bernadette Relic Tour 2022

A very special once in a lifetime event

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them.

St Bernadette's Story

St Bernadette was born in 1844 in a small town in France. Bernadette Soubirous was one of eight children born into a very poor family. Although initially unremarkable, Bernadette's life was to inspire generations of people to journey in faith on pilgrimage to Lourdes. Between 11 February and 16 July 1858, Bernadette saw the Virgin Mary eighteen times in a series of Apparitions that took place in cave on the outskirts of Lourdes, a place now known as the Grotto of Massabielle. In the course of these miraculous encounters, Bernadette, then aged just 14,

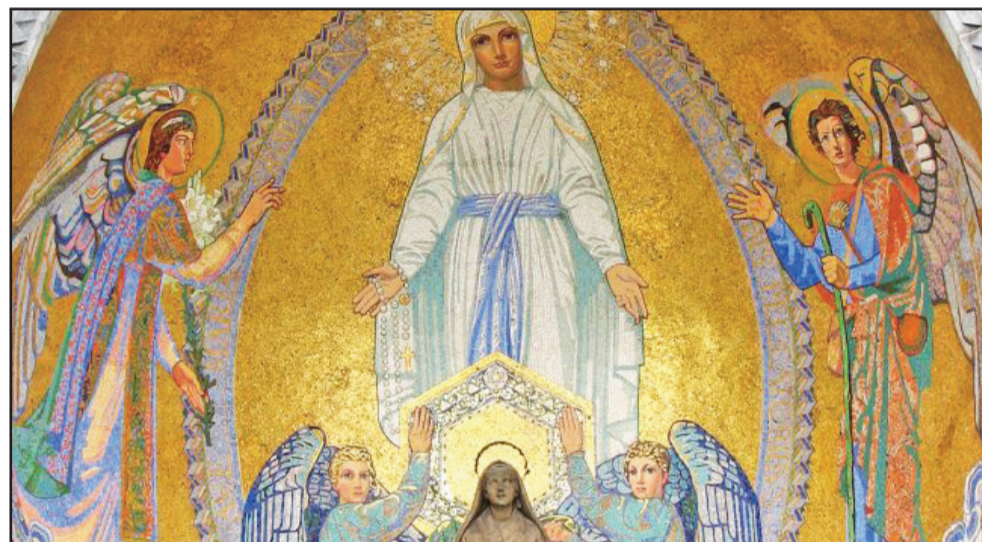
became the friend and confidante of Our Lady, the mother of Jesus.

The Apparitions of Lourdes were authenticated in 1866 by the Bishop of Tarbes. In that same year, Bernadette left Lourdes to live out her religious vocation within the community of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers. She died in 1879, was proclaimed blessed in 1925, and became a saint in 1933.

Registering to attend the Relic Tour this Autumn

The churches and cathedrals hosting St Bernadette's relics have a fixed capacity for visitors. To ensure the comfort and safety of pilgrims, visitors will be asked to register to attend with a dedicated timeslot.

Further details of how to book your place will be shared on our diocesan website in the coming weeks or visit the St Bernadette Relic Tour website for more information: stbernadette.org.uk



Churches in our Nottingham Diocese hosting St Bernadette relics are:

Saint Bernadette, Scunthorpe: Ashby Road, Scunthorpe DN16 2RS
Arrives: 08:00 06/10/2022 - Departs: 17:00 06/10/2022
Cathedral Church of Saint Barnabas: N Circus St, Nottingham NG1 5AE
Arrives: 18:30 06/10/2022 - Departs: 10:30 07/10/2022

2022 Nottingham Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes



To view more photographs courtesy of Joe Martin go to www.flickr.com/photos/diocesefnottingham/52209717046/in/album-72177720300465270/

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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

Catholic News 

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emailed to
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before 10th of the month



SVP – What We Do

In this first of a series of 'chapters' chronicling the history of the SVP in this country, we look at its inception in 1844, eleven years after Frederic Ozanam established the first conference in Paris, and the socio-political context in which it was to work.

History of the Society in England and Wales

The first Conference of the Society in England and Wales.

One of the members of Frédéric's Conference was a young Englishman called George Wigley who planned to set up the Society in England. Frédéric's advice was to contact as many influential people as possible in English public life.

Wigley contacted Frederick Lucas, editor of The Tablet and an influential Catholic. As a result, Lucas published a series of articles entitled "French Charity". The whole series of articles had considerable influence, and a meeting was arranged at the Sablonniere Hotel, Leicester Square, in London.

The Sablonniere Hotel, Leicester Square



The hotel was owned by Mr Pagliano, who attended the meeting with Wigley, Frederick Lucas, George Blount (later to become prominent as a long-serving National President) and eight others. This led to the foundation of a Conference on 12th February 1844. Brother Pagliano became the first

English SVP President. Before 1845 dawned, there were five separate Conferences in London. Five years later in 1849, there were 14 Conferences in England and Wales with a membership of 274 'brothers'.

One of the articles in The Tablet, written by Lucas, described the desperate conditions of the poor in general. He also referred specifically to the apathy of the State towards them, and to the indifference of influential Catholics, expressing the view that they could have done much more:

"Who except the clergy visit the poor? As far as we laity are concerned, the approved plan seems to be to manage all by a secretary, to avoid all dirty work whenever it can be avoided and to labour by a committee. We have already endeavoured to introduce to the favour of our readers a French society for lay persons. We refer to the Society of St Vincent de Paul".

Although Frederick Lucas simply used the word "poor", a new expression had come into use during the 1830s and 1840s. The word "pauper", which meant "the poor who need to turn to others for help".

When Frédéric Ozanam visited The Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in 1851, some SVP brothers arranged for him to visit the London slums where, amongst the teeming poor, lived many of the Irish Catholics. Later he wrote of these visits, aware of how the well-off could be snubbed by polite society if they were foolish enough to help the poor, person-

to-person: "What courage the English brothers need to shake hands with down-and-outs, in an aristocratic land, where contact with the poor is thought to declass and degrade".

Poverty in General

In the early part of the 19th century, large workhouses were built with the resources of a number of smaller areas acting in union – Union Workhouses resulted, and were, generally speaking, forbidding places. Members of families were segregated. Workhouse clothes were provided; meals were often spartan and eaten in total silence; visitors were not allowed, and smoking and drinking alcohol were forbidden. Yet, although it is easy to criticise the workhouse system, it did at least provide shelter, clothing, a regular, if meagre, diet and burial when they died. Outside the workhouse, conditions for the poorest were often appalling.

The workhouse



In 1801 some £4 million had been spent on a population of 900,000. By 1832, the cost had risen to £6 million for a population of 1.5 million. A Royal Commission in 1832 concluded that too much money was being spent on the poor and that the cost was ruining the country. The resulting Poor Law of 1834 was designed to discourage people from claiming relief.

By 1844, when the infant SVP was set up in England, relief was refused to people except in exchange for work. However, those already in work complained that if work was given to the inmates of the workhouse, there was a loss of employment outside. As a result, the only work available to workhouse inmates was stone-breaking or oakum-picking (untwisting thick old ropes to use for waterproofing ships).

Oakum

In the next 'chapter' we will see how the SVP brought practical aid and support to the poor during times of epidemic illness, including the cholera outbreaks.

If you would like more information about the SVP please contact Lance Philpott at lancep@svp.org.uk



FRANKLY SPEAKING



It does seem a long time since the month of August was described as the "silly season". This was the name given by the media because most people of importance were on holiday thus no important news items would develop. If this was ever true it is surely not the reality in 2022.

The escalation of prices in our shops has been increasing all the summer. This simply means those who have less income or savings are being hit the hardest. There are two potential casualties of this which sadly get little noticed or commented on. We have many worthy charities some local and others which may be local but are supporting national or international causes. One extract from the Trussell Trust "Together magazine" summer edition. "Last year food banks in our network provided more than 2.1 million parcels to provide people across the UK." That's 2.1 million too many. The other example is a minority community either not getting support or having to wait for financial assistance. An example of this is the role of unpaid carers

described by one politician as an example of "backlog Britain".

We are told that by mid June the average clearance time for unpaid caring was 31 working days. At this 2022 mid-summer time there were 30,688 awaiting a decision. Go back to November 2020 the average waiting time was 20 working days and the queue was just 17,453. A minority but so was the Good Samaritan.

It is sadly true that a tough Autumn may be in store for many in Britain but the world scene cannot be ignored either. The tragic war in Ukraine is just one example of what is in the in-tray when our politicians return from their holidays. It is so disappointing that the personal behaviours of a few dominated so much air time during the summer. I return to minority issues, Why is it that we have companies in 2022 which lose business because we have a skills shortage? When are our leaders going to link education and training so we have staffing levels to meet the demands of a changing world?

My last observations this August is first of all to thank all those who have opened their hearts and homes to take in Ukrainian refugees.

Parliament did debate homes for Ukraine Child Refugees. One MP did urge the Government to face up to the reality of those who have lost everything in the war and what will happen once their initial 6 months placement is over. This will not be easy with thousands of people on waiting lists for social housing.

So in this month of August there is much to reflect on and we know that after we have done this, we need to have hope. There are so many great feasts to help us in the next few weeks not least the double Marian feasts - the Assumption and the Queenship of Mary and let us never forget The Good Samaritan.

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

Hermits Celebration!



On Saturday 9th July the Elston Hermit Benedictine Father's shared afternoon tea with friends, parishioners, brother Priests and Religious.

The occasion which took place at the Good Shepherd centre Arnold was a triple celebration to celebrate St. Benedict's Day, the anniversary of ordination to the Sacred Priesthood and the hermits 70th birthday both the previous month.



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Appointment of apostolic visitor for the Christian Greek Catholic saint page 5

Parish unveils stained glass window for the saint page 5

The first procession since 1959 and the first taking of a beautiful new canopy made by a parishioner page 9

The assumption of Our blessed Lady feast day celebrated on 15th August

Once in a Lifetime Event

Be part of the St Bernadette Relic Tour this Autumn

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them.

Be part of the St Bernadette Relic Tour this Autumn. In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time.

Letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will undertake a very special pilgrimage, journeying from Lourdes in France to cathedrals and churches across England, Scotland, and Wales.

For many of us, the opportunity to enrich our faith through the experience of pilgrimage has been difficult or impossible over the last two years, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pilgrimage St Bernadette's relics will undertake this Autumn offers us a welcome opportunity to bear active witness to our Faith, journeying with one another across our many communities to encounter God's love and find spiritual, emotional, and psychological healing and renewal.

As we welcome the relics of St Bernadette to the United Kingdom we are also reminded of the special significance of Lourdes as a place of pilgrimage and of love, where people of all ages serve and care for the sick and the most vulnerable in our society.

I would encourage those people who are able to, to consider continuing the journey begun by the relics of St Bernadette this Autumn, joining with people from their parishes and Dioceses to travel on pilgrimage to Lourdes in the weeks and months ahead.

We thank God for the faith of St Bernadette and for the many gifts and graces the relic tour will bring.

Yours devotedly,
Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

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Around our diocese



A really vibrant and joyful celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Mary's Church, Derby. Thanks to Fr Greg and all the clergy, catechists, music group, servers and everyone else involved. Congratulations to the newly confirmed!



Thanks to Fr Richard, catechists, choir, music group, server and all who worked to make the Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Hucknall so joyful. Congratulations to all the newly Confirmed.

A surprise farewell Mass and reception for Sean McClafferty as he steps down as CEO of the St Ralph Sherwin CMAT.

He had only been told he was going to lunch! Sean was presented with the Diocesan St Hugh of Lincoln Award for services to Catholic education in the diocese.



Saint Norbert's Catholic Voluntary Catholic Academy.

Mrs. Franklin led our Gospel Worship sharing God's message of stopping, reflecting and spending time with Jesus in our everyday lives. Can you take time out today with Jesus?



**Gospel Worship
Luke 10:38-42**

Take time to stop and listen to Jesus



A most joyful celebration of Confirmation on a very hot evening! My thanks to Fr Stanley, Deacon Anthony, catechists, music group, organist, servers and congratulations to all the newly confirmed.

+ Bishop Patrick



Feliz Bautismo, Mateo!

Fr Lim Gamsi (@LimGamsi) celebrated the first Baptism from within the Spanish Mass group who meet in Leicester. Their next meeting is Monday 5th September 7PM at St Peter's in Leicester (LE3 0TA) - come along!

It was good to be at Padley for the joint diocesan pilgrimage to meet up with Bishop Ralph and with Bishop John Arnold who preached the homily at the Mass.

+ Bishop Patrick



Divine Renovation Connect Renewal Day



Concert for Ukraine



'Mirage' from Stockport Ukrainian Society

Three parishioners from St. Mary's Church, Marple Bridge, Stockport came together with their good friend, Elaine to form a committee to organise a concert to raise funds for the DEC (Ukraine Emergency Humanitarian Appeal) which includes CAFOD and to raise awareness of the current conflict.

Pauline, Jim and Denise had attended the on line Zoom meeting set up by Paul Bodenham, Leader for Social Action, Diocese of Nottingham which explored ways to help our friends in Ukraine. The idea for the concert originated from that contact.

The concert which took place in Marple Cricket Club was a great success. It started with a tradition Ukrainian song from 'Mirage'

a quartet from the Stockport Ukrainian Society. One of the group also told the audience about the conditions in Ukraine at the present time. Then four local acts took to the stage. They included, The Hayes Sisters, Raintown Seers, Lazlo Baby and Taylor Giocoma. The music ranged from ballads to authentic Irish and Ukrainian music. The concert closed with Taylor Giocoma singing 'Imagine'. It was a poignant ending to a very thoughtful evening.

The concert raised £1,955.73. (Which has now been sent to the DEC). The venue and all the acts came with no costs.

With thanks to all who helped in any way.

Last week, Saturday 2 July, our newly formed pastoral team attended a Divine Renovation day which was hosted in our parish centre at the Good Shepherd Church, Arnold. Divine Renovation team help explore where your parish is now and how they can assist you and your parish begin a journey of transformation.

A number of parish groups attended the event. The day started with an inspirational

talk from Fr Dan Mason who leads a parish in Billericay, Essex. He spoke about how his parish had started to develop to be more missionary. The day also included discussions on how parishes can move forward in terms of the people and the building of the church.

The day overall was very positive with lots of thoughts and ideas to take forward.

Submitted by Adriano Staiano.

The Chapter Corner



Canon Don Bowdren

It is always good to read those comfortable gospel passages where Jesus invites us to share his yoke and to cast our cares on his back, in coming to him who will give rest for our souls.

We seem to need that comfortable reassurance increasingly these days when so many challenges, whether in the economy and the cost of living, or just planning a journey by bus or train, or maybe even posting a letter can be problematic.

But there are many whom we meet from time to time who would seem to have no need of these comfortable words of our Saviour. These are the people who greet me at the checkout with "no worries!", or when getting on an infrequent bus with "no problems!".

Much as I may wish that worries were a thing of the past, or problems non-existent, I still feel I need to present to my Saviour all the tangles of my life and ask him for help. Saint Peter put it another way when

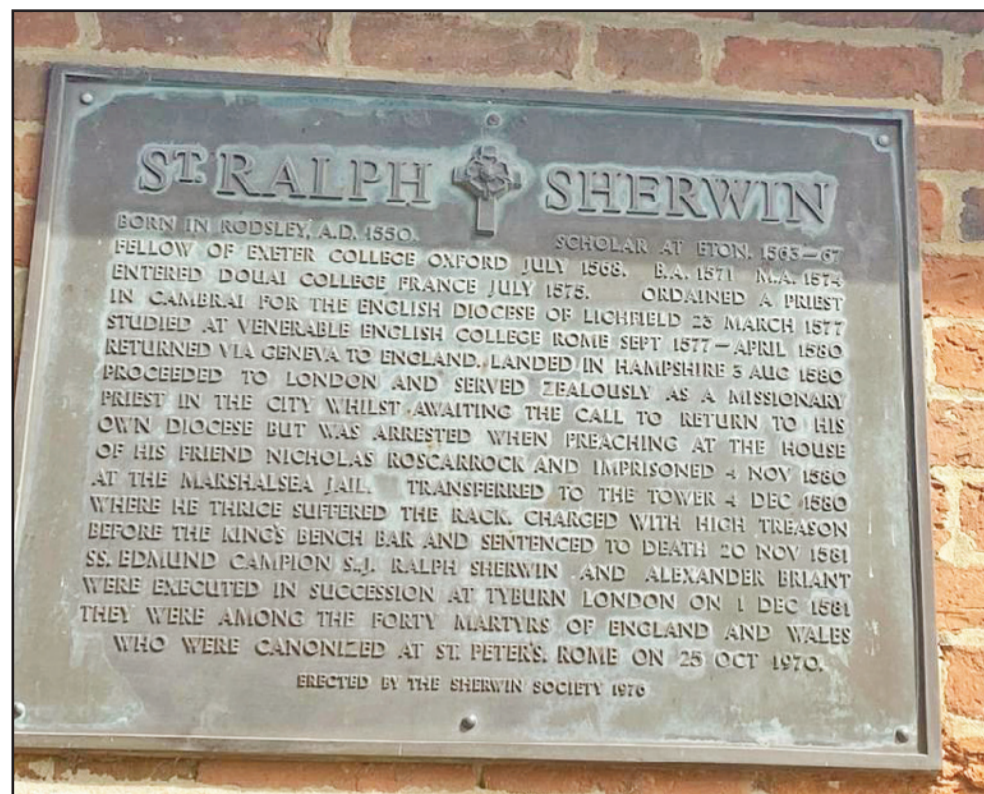
he asked "Lord to whom else should we go?, for you have the message of eternal life".

Of course our beloved Lord doesn't want just to hear of our worries or problems. He wants our company in prayer, in praise and thanksgiving – and maybe even sorrow. Even if our prayers or shot through with the distractions of today's worries or tomorrow's problems, he wants us to rest awhile in his presence. That might be on a balmy beach in the Bahamas or more likely when sinking into a familiar sofa at home after a fretful day.

Or it might be that we find that we are closer to God in a garden than any place else on earth. I'm lucky to have a nice garden but also the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in my church next door.

I hope that during these topsy-turvy days you find a quiet place to unload your problems and untangle your worries in the presence of the one who is meek and gentle in heart.

The Sherwin Society Rodsley Pilgrimage



Sunday 26th June saw the 44th Pilgrimage to Rodsley, a small hamlet between Derby and Ashbourne, in honour of St Ralph Sherwin, who was born and grew up there in the 16th century. For the past 50 years the Sherwin Society has existed to foster interest in St Ralph, with two Masses each year, March 23rd to mark his ordination and December 1st to mark his martyrdom in 1581. However

the highlight of the year has always been the Pilgrimage to Rodsley; to a field close to where St Ralph lived and grew up.

Over the years, the number attending the Masses and pilgrimage has varied depending on weather conditions etc. The Pilgrimage Mass this year was celebrated by Bishop Patrick and was well supported. At the end of

the Mass, Sean McClafferty, the CEO of the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust which runs 25 Catholic schools in Derby and Derbyshire, said the Trust would work with the Sherwin Society to evolve, and make sure these celebrations of St Ralph continue and grow. "Stronger Together" is the motto of the Trust and working with the Society will ensure a bright future.

During the Mass, the Society's retiring President, Tony Bennett, Treasurer, Linda Bennett, and Secretary, Paul Redfearn, were each presented with awards by Bishop Patrick acknowledging 50 years with the Sherwin Society. They are confident that with the support of the Trust the Rodsley Pilgrimage will successfully continue long into the future."



Pope to appoint two women to Dicastery of Bishops

Pope Francis has announced his intention to appoint two women to the Dicastery of Bishops, which is involved in the process of choosing new bishops.

In an interview with Philip Pullella from Reuters, who asked about the appointment of women to positions in the Vatican, Pope Francis said he was open should an opportunity arise. He said: "...two women will be going to the Congregation of Bishops, on the commission to elect bishops. In this way, things open up a little bit."

The Holy Father mentioned that last year he appointed Sister Raffaella Petrini, to the number two position in the Vatican City Governorate, making her the first woman to hold the position.

Pope Francis has appointed more women to key roles usually held by men than any of his predecessors. In January 2020, Pope Francis named Francesca di Giovanni as Undersecretary for the multilateral sector in the Secretariat of State's Section for Relations with States and International Organizations, another first.

Other notable appointments of women by Pope Francis include Sister Nathalie Becquart, a French member of the Xaviere Missionary Sisters, as under-secretary of the Synod of Bishops and Sister Alessandra Smerilli, of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, as Undersecretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Several other women now holding high-level positions in the Vatican, include Barbara

Jatta, the first female director of the Vatican Museums; Nataša Govekar, Director of the Theological-Pastoral Office of the Dicastery for Communication; and Cristiane Murray, deputy director of the Holy See Press Office, all of whom were appointed by the current Pontiff.

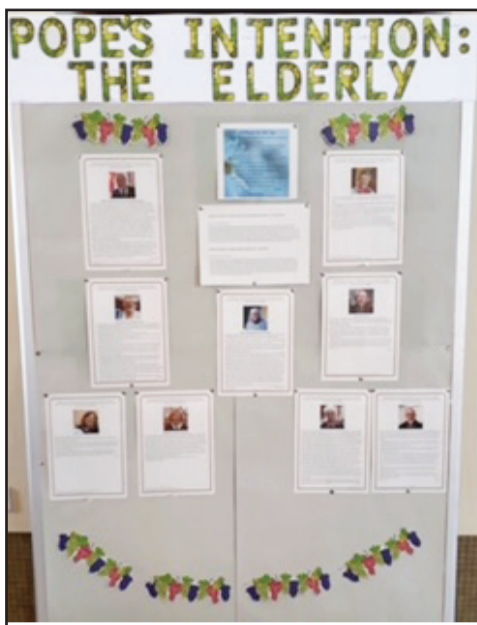
During the interview Pope Francis said that in the future he sees the possibility of lay people being appointed to lead certain Vatican departments such as the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, the Dicastery for Culture and Education, or the Vatican Apostolic Library.

Last month, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, joked that, with the promulgation of the new Constitution on the Curia, he might be the last cleric to lead that dicastery.



Sr Nathalie Becquart

Exhibiting wisdom



Every year the Pope asks the faithful to pray for a specific intention each month and for July 2022 it was: We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

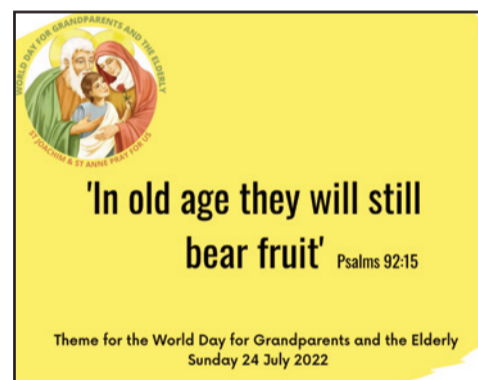
In the parish of St Peter & St Paul Church, Lincoln, approximately forty parishioners of the older generation had been asked to write a faith testimony to create a booklet to give to those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Led by Bishop Patrick, on 25th June, almost forty individuals, mostly youngsters, became adult members of the Church and each was presented with a copy of the booklet. To recognise and celebrate the contribution elders make and to enable the wider parish community to benefit from the testimonies, whilst also encouraging prayer for the Pope's intention (as well as hopefully encouraging conversations amongst parishioners and within families), it was decided to hold an exhibition of the testimonies, for display in the church, during July. Posters were created and shown over the course of the month; interspersed with the posters, were summaries from the Holy Father's recent catechesis on the meaning and value of old age, as well as prayers.

The display also served as a response to the invitation from the Vatican to mark the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which Pope Francis established to be celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne. The pope chose "They shall bear fruit even in old age" from the Book of Psalms (Psalm 92) as the theme for the second world day (July 24, 2022). It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that Christians, of all ages, flourish and bear fruit; for God's people, producing fruit only ceases when life ceases. The appearance of the fruit produced may change with time, but as Pope Francis reminds us, age is not a barrier to playing a vital role in the life of a parish community and indeed, it is a wise and forward looking parish that encourages those advancing in years to remain connected whilst also encouraging younger members to connect and learn from them.

May those who are facing the challenges of old age, declining health and increasing frailty, with the understandable fear they can bring of isolation and abandonment, turn to the Lord and take comfort from Him, trusting He is faithful (Isaiah 46:4 Even to your old age and grey hairs, I am he, I am he who will sustain you.) and discover anew that in God's Kingdom they are forever His precious child and, as a result, receive the grace to be, in their powerlessness, powerful witnesses to God's love, exhibiting wisdom and helping younger generations in the process.

St Joachim and St Anne, pray for us.

Jo



Jubilee party at Alfreton



Maureen and Paul Fuller celebrated their Golden Jubilee of 60 years of marriage at Christ The King Alfreton monthly luncheon recently. As guests of honour they shared their wedding album pictures with all the guests. Both very creative people, Maureen has put her knitting and sewing skills to the fore in the parish for years, even to making the Christmas Bazaar banner. Paul is the parish organist and was instrumental in making the church stained glass window a few years back.

An extraordinary day



This year the parish of St Peter and St Paul Church, Lincoln, had an extra reason to celebrate the Feast of St Peter and St Paul - Canon Geoffrey Hunton's 20th anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood. The day was marked first by morning Mass for students from St Peter and St Paul's Catholic Voluntary Academy, with a parish 'strawberry cream tea' in the afternoon, organised by a ladies group called Circle of

Friends, which over eighty people attended and ended with an evening Mass, followed by a social gathering in the parish centre, where the Canon was presented with a cake made specially for the occasion. A determined effort by all involved! Congratulations Canon Geoffrey and thank you for your vocation, may God bless you and your ministry.

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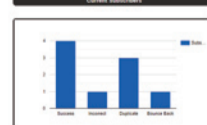
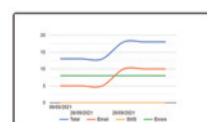
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Led by Fr Anthony Meredith IC
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Monday 29th August 2022

1.15pm Gathering, Rosary & Litany of Our Lady followed by: Talk by Fr Anthony. Break (Sacrament of Reconciliation).
3.45pm Holy Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.
5.30pm Depart.

Please give advance notice of coach parties and concelebrating priests to 07710567183 or email pilgrimsofmary@hotmail.com

"Dear children I rejoice with you and thank you for every sacrifice and prayer which you have offered for my intentions. Little children, do not forget that you are important in my plan of salvation of mankind. Return to God and prayer that the Holy Spirit may work in you and through you. Little children, I am with you also in these days when Satan is fighting for war and hatred. Division is strong and evil is at work in man as never before. Thank you for having responded to my call."
(25 June 2022)

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Brentwood Cathedral listed as Grade II* building

The Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Helen, more affectionately known as Brentwood Cathedral, has been listed at Grade II* by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on the advice of Historic England.

The cathedral consists of a surviving section of a Gothic church, built 1860-61, to the designs of Gilbert R Blount (1819-76) and a dominant classical addition, built 1989-1991, to the designs of Quinlan Terry.

The first Catholic church on the site opened on 20 October 1837 but was soon outgrown by an expanding congregation. In 1861, a second church, dedicated to St Helen, was built, to the designs of Gilbert R Blount, a well-established Catholic architect. The old church remained in use as a school, parish hall and Cathedral Hall. It was listed at Grade II in 1999.

In 1917, the church was made the cathedral of the newly created diocese of Brentwood and was refurbished to reflect its new status. In 1974, a new addition, built to the designs of John Newton, of Burles and Newton, enabled the cathedral to seat 1,000 people.

In the late 1980s, a major anonymous donation allowed for the possibility of rebuilding the cathedral. Bishop Thomas McMahon, Sixth Bishop of Brentwood, commissioned designs from the architect Quinlan Terry. Terry prepared plans for the replacement of the 1974 addition, working on the same footprint, but this time to a classical design.

Bishop McMahon requested a plan with a central altar to allow for maximum congregational participation. Terry's classical designs took inspiration from the early Italian Renaissance fused with the English Baroque of Sir Christopher Wren.

I was a great admirer of the Christopher Wren churches in London and how Wren had adapted each church for the site and space available. In the same way I felt such a style could be adapted for the renewed liturgy of Vatican II and offer a noble simplicity.

Rt Rev Thomas McMahon, Bishop Emeritus of Brentwood

His involvement extended to every detail of the new cathedral as well as to improvements. He designed new gate piers and railings; updated and partially remodelled the original church (the Cathedral Hall); remodelled the cathedral offices with a neo-Georgian entrance bay; and converted and extended the old convent chapel for the choir school, the last of these works being completed in 2001.

Days of Creation

Recurring throughout the design of the internal fittings is the number eight, which signifies the seven days of material creation and the 'eighth day' of the new creation, the order of grace created through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As with the external elevations, Terry designed every detail of the cathedral's interior, even down to



the boards for hymn numbers, the central heating grilles and fire exit signs.

The main space of the church resembles an Italian Renaissance court, framed by an arcade of five bays on the longer north and south sides and three bays on the east and west sides

The rebuilt cathedral was opened on 31 May 1991.

The Right Reverend Thomas McMahon, Bishop Emeritus of Brentwood, said: "My decision to choose a Classical design for Brentwood Cathedral, one of the first cathedrals to be built after the second Vatican Council, was influenced by a number of reasons. There was a long tradition of Church architecture across Europe in this style. I was much influenced by Cardinal Vaughan's decision to build Westminster Cathedral in a different style from Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral so that each would be judged on its own merits. I was a great admirer of the Christopher Wren churches in London and how Wren had adapted each church for the site and space available. In the same way I felt such a style could be adapted for the renewed liturgy of Vatican II and offer a noble simplicity."

"From my time as an assistant priest in Colchester, I became very familiar with the work of Raymond Erith and Quinlan Terry whose practice was close by. By 1985 Quinlan Terry was already considered by many as the leading architect of Classical architecture both in this country and beyond. I feel our extremely good working relationship has been reflected in the actual building and Quinlan Terry has been enormously successful in achieving our vision for the cathedral."

Heritage Minister Nigel Huddleston said: "It is fantastic that the magnificent Brentwood

Cathedral has been listed at Grade II*. The first classical cathedral built in the country since St Paul's, its stunning design deserves this recognition and the listing will help to preserve the Cathedral for generations to come."

Matthew Cooper, Historic England Senior Listing Advisor, said: "This beautifully designed building gives a sense of serenity and calm that we can all appreciate in these challenging times. The cathedral's classical design, unusual in modern churches, is testament to the architectural skill and vision. It is a remarkable achievement."

Fr Martin Boland, Dean of the Cathedral and priest for the Parish of St Mary and St Helen, said: "We are delighted that Brentwood Cathedral has received a Grade II* listing and that Quinlan Terry's unique vision has been recognised. His design combines both tradition and modernity in a striking fashion. The listing also recognises the Catholic community's role in the history of Essex and the Cathedral's place as a sanctuary of hope and prayer for so many people."

Architect Quinlan Terry said: "I'm delighted that Brentwood Cathedral has been listed at Grade II*. When we consider the history of my design which was refused planning permission and only obtained approval following an appeal nearly 40 years ago, we begin to realise that the attitude towards serious classical architecture has now changed considerably."

To me there is no doubt that the credit for this independence of mind and the courage to disagree with powerful prevailing attitudes goes not only to a number of individuals, but particularly to the architects and advisors working at English Heritage and now at Historic England.

New Bishop Chair for the Holy Land Coordination

Bishop Nicholas Hudson, auxiliary Bishop of Westminster and long-term bishop delegate of the Holy Land Coordination, has been named the new chair of the group.

The Holy Land Coordination, made up of bishops from across Europe, North America and South Africa, was set up at the end of the twentieth century at the invitation of the Holy See. The purpose was to visit and support the local Christian communities of the Holy Land.

The Coordination's main remit is often expressed using four Ps: Prayer, Pilgrimage, Pressure and Presence.

The bishops are present every year, and by their presence they hope, above all else, to remind the 'living stones' – the Christians of the Holy Land – that they are not forgotten by their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.



Jerusalem, Israel, Old Town, Walls

Bishop Hudson's predecessor in the role, Bishop Declan Lang, stood down at the end of the May 2022 Coordination.

In an interview given from a rooftop overlooking the holy city of Jerusalem, Bishop Hudson talked about his previous visits to the Holy Land and why he's so passionate about the region and its people.

Transcription

Interviewer: Bishop Nicholas Hudson, standing here with me in this holy city, looking out across Jerusalem, and it's a beautiful view, actually, in a city that means so much to us. You're here as part of the Holy Land Coordination and you've been here half a dozen times or more now. Tell us where your passion comes from for this wonderful place...

Bishop Nicholas Hudson: I think I'll always remember the first pilgrimage I came on when we visited Bethlehem and Jerusalem, and I was deeply, deeply touched by it. It had more of an impact on me than I even expected, really, to be in the places that we don't just associate with, but actually are the places of Jesus's life, Passion, death and Resurrection. And it was deeply powerful.

I remember as well, part of the pilgrimage was going out to a refuge for elderly women where we were made truly welcome. It gave me a sense of something that I began to discover more through the Holy Land Coordination, just how much social outreach Palestinian Christians do – especially for those who are more on the margins of society. Then I was so pleased to be asked to be part of the Holy Land Coordination and began to get a deeper sense of what life is like for Palestinian Christians. When we talk about the Holy Land Coordination, we talk about the three Ps that describe the essence of what it is – prayer, presence and pressure.

Interviewer: Meetings with people making a really big difference in society, those on the

margins, whether it's migrants, asylum seekers, the undocumented, those have no status in this country – these are very important meetings. But it is actually those parish visits, isn't it? Standing alongside people, learning from them and understanding them a little bit more, understanding the pressures on their lives... I found that the most moving aspect, despite the fact that both components are important.

Bishop Hudson: That's very well said. There's something deeply touching, not least the fact that you're aware in some places that the parish communities have become quite small. And when, with respect and gentleness, you talk to the parish priest about it, he'll tell you, well, yes, a lot of families left because they felt they needed to plan for their children's future. But one of the signs of hope that we've seen during this Holy Land Coordination is the number of people, especially young people, who are saying, "whatever happens, we're going to stay". Now, that's a very significant statement for us to be hearing out of Palestine's Christian community, and we're going to have to see to what extent that remains a possibility for them.

The other thing that I find really touching, is when we actually go and pay visits to some of the communities who are being cared for by members of those parish communities. I think a real highlight was when, a few years ago, we were in Bethlehem and we went to visit L'Arche.

L'Arche means the Ark, Noah's Ark, and is a community founded about 60 years ago to welcome people with learning disabilities. There's a centre just behind the Nativity Grotto very, very close to where Jesus was born, in Bethlehem. What I find really impressive about it is that it's a mixed Muslim and Christian community. There in the heart of Bethlehem, they're welcoming Muslim and Christian people with disabilities and really giving them life. The name of this community in Arabic is Ma'an lil-Hayat, which means 'together for life' and that really is part of the essence of what L'Arche is. L'Arche says to someone with learning disabilities, you can stay with us forever.

On another occasion we visited one of the sites which is thought to be the place of the Emmaus story called Abu Ghosh. Emmaus may have actually been in one of three places, but Abu Ghosh is one of the places where the story is revered. And I was so touched that alongside the church was another home where women, many of whom have learning disabilities, are welcomed and, again, they're being valued and given life. We had another experience of going to a refuge for children of migrant workers. So there's a great deal of Christian social outreach taking place and it truly warms one's heart.

Interviewer: It has been said, but it probably bears being said once more, that a lot of the Christian charity projects aren't just for Christians, are they? This is a complicated region in many ways – a beautiful one, but a complicated one. You must be heartened, as a bishop, to see the Christian communities under pressure, providing for way more than just themselves.



Bishop Hudson: I really am, and I think this is certainly a feature of those communities I've mentioned, but it's writ large in the schools, the Christian schools under the care of the Latin Patriarchate, where they are truly open to having Muslims who want to send their children there. One hears from Muslims who do send their children to these schools something similar to what we hear from Muslims who want to send their children to our Catholic schools in England and Wales. That is "we like your values" and implicitly, therefore, "we want those values to communicate themselves and be communicated to our children." So it's writ large, particularly in the schools, yes.

Interviewer: Now, it would be remiss of me not to point out that this is a bustling, busy, chaotic city. We can hear the trams, we hear the noise, we hear the beautiful bells, and, to be honest, the muezzin, the Islamic call to prayer, the Jewish life and culture is imprinted all over the city as well. It is a lovely place, but many people in England and Wales may not be able to come here. It's not easy to come here. What would you say to them in terms of bringing a little bit of these holy lands back to England and Wales?

Bishop Hudson: Well, I'd want to say straight away, that Jerusalem belongs to all of us, and there are 13 Christian denominations in Jerusalem, and it belongs to all Christian men, women and children. But we have to be careful when we say that and how we say that. Because one of the lessons of this Coordination, which has been focusing on Jerusalem the city, as a sacred city, is that we've been sensitised to the fact that we're not the only ones who say "this is our city".

The Jews say "this is our city", the Muslims say "this is our city". I think we've woken up as a group to the reality that this is a Jewish city, this is a Christian city, this is a Muslim city. And that calls for us to be deeply respectful, but it also calls us to witness as Christians in and around this city to our conviction about all that Jesus says in the Gospels about loving your neighbour as yourself, to be respectful to those of other faiths, but also to have a special care for the poor. Christians, both in Jerusalem and around Jerusalem, are exemplary in that regard.

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Our Global Community



EU Churches highlight humanitarian response to Ukraine

The humanitarian response from the European churches to the Ukraine crisis was highlighted by Slovakian Bishop Peter Mihoč at a seminar held on 12 July at the European Parliament in Brussels. He shared insights about challenges faced by local churches in providing support to those fleeing the war in Ukraine, as well as strengthening efforts to build peace in the region.

Bishop Mihoč of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia was representing the Conference of European Churches (CEC) in the seminar hosted by Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, responsible for the implementation of Article 17 Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Representatives of other religious groups were also present.

"The situation in Ukraine is unexpected and horrible," said Bishop Mihoč. He added: "We are trying to respond to the dreadful conditions and serve in the name of love. Openness and closeness, empathy and practical help in the last months have revealed themselves as precious values in Slovakia, regardless of religious affiliation or social class of those we serve. The churches have offered a helping hand to people on a journey escaping the consequences of the atrocities and bloodshed in Ukraine."

Bishop Mihoč comes from a country which has played a vital role in providing humanitarian help to refugees from Ukraine. He shared that his church is located in Prešov, a city close to the Ukrainian border. Around 600,000 refugees recently have crossed these borders from Ukraine to Slovakia.



Church delegates at the seminar

He said: "In the last months, overnight stays per person were provided, and at this moment we already have people staying for long terms, who cannot return because their homes were destroyed. We continue to actively provide for these people free accommodation and food, secure social and health care and we strive to create for them a safe and hospitable living environment."

"As a CEC Member Church, I want to assure you that we the Churches want to be here for

others in these difficult days, especially people from Ukraine. And we believe that with your active support we can continue our humanitarian efforts," added Bishop Mihoč. The seminar was held as part of Article 17, which foresees an open, transparent and regular dialogue between the EU institutions and churches and religious associations or communities. The event featured opening remarks by Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament.

Helping Sri Lanka's Church survive economic crisis

With Sri Lanka's priests and Sisters struggling to survive, a Catholic charity has offered a vital lifeline so that they can continue their essential ministry during the country's state of emergency. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is providing more than £390,000 in vital support for priests and religious who are struggling during Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis.

The package consists of Mass stipends - which provide priests with a basic income - and subsistence aid for catechists, Sisters and other members of religious orders carrying out essential pastoral work.

Bishop Valence Mendis of Kandy, who is also Apostolic Administrator of Chilaw, told ACN that the local Church is struggling to cover its own costs - and finding it hard to relieve the suffering of everyone turning to it for help.

He said: "People can afford virtually nothing. Our priests and religious are badly affected by the crisis."

The country has been hit hard by the rising price of importing crucial goods and mounting debt caused by massive international borrowing made worse by a fall in the price of the Sri Lankan rupee against the US dollar.

Bishop Mendia said: "The economic situation in the country is very serious. Many people are suffering lack of medicine or food. There are very long queues, miles and miles of people trying to buy fuel, gas, powdered milk, sugar, rice, medicine... A number of people have died in these queues while waiting to buy basic goods."

He added: "Many people have lost their jobs, and prices have risen astronomically." With inflation having soared above 54 percent last month, food prices are now 80 percent higher than this time last year.



Bishop Valence Mendis ©ACN

Sri Lanka's financial crisis has been deepened by corruption, lack of fuel, and the loss of tourist income caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

During the pandemic, ACN supported the country's Church with an emergency programme for the dioceses.

Ranil Wickremesinghe - who was made interim president last Friday (15th July) after his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country following protests over the economic crisis - declared a state of emergency last night (17th July).

The state of emergency is designed to tackle social unrest stemming from the growing economic crisis.

Thanks to Maria Lozano

John Newton

Bishops of Eastern Africa start plenary with focus on environment

The Catholic Bishops of Eastern Africa began their plenary assembly in Tanzania last Sunday with an outdoor Mass in a Dar es Salaam stadium and prepared to focus attention on the environment and integral human development.

It was the 20th Plenary Assembly of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA). The principal celebrant at the Mass, attended by thousands of Catholics, was Cardinal John Njue, Archbishop Emeritus of Nairobi, Kenya, and the homily was delivered by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, the Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelisation and representative of Pope Francis at the event.

Then the meeting took place 10-18 July at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre with the theme, 'Environmental Impact on Integral Human Development.'

According to Chairman of AMECEA, Bishop Charles Kasonde of Solwezi in Zambia, the Assembly was to focus on the central message of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. "This is an urgent challenge for the world and the region because environmental degradation and its impact threatens the very existence of humanity that Jesus came to save," said the Zambian Bishop.

Four successive seasons of failed rains and drought have left more than 18 million people desperately short of food in East Africa. Local conflict, combined with skyrocketing food



Bishops from across East Africa took part in the Mass

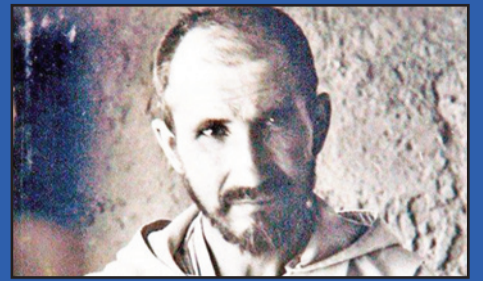
prices caused by the invasion of Ukraine, is making the situation even worse. Churches are tackling the humanitarian situation and supporting communities with emergency food relief, alongside encouraging tree planting and training farmers with new techniques so that they can adapt to the changing weather patterns.

The Chairman of AMECEA applauded the Bishops of Tanzania and lay Catholics for preparing resources for the Plenary. Bishop Kasonde further expressed his gratitude to God that the plenary has finally taken place following the Covid-19 pandemic.

AMECEA is a regional institution of Catholic Bishops in Eastern Africa with nine member countries, namely Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Its secretariat, headed by a Secretary General, is based in Nairobi, Kenya. Djibouti and Somalia are affiliate members.

“The Canonisation of the “Universal Brother”, Saint Charles de Foucauld.”

By Fr Jonathan Cotton
Part Two
Continued from July



The two miracles

What were the two miracles that convinced the Pope that Brother Charles was chosen by God for formal recognition as a Saint?

The first miracle, which led to his Beatification in 2005, cured an Italian woman, Giovanna Citeri Pulici, in 1984 of bone cancer. Her husband, together with his two blood sisters, who were also Religious Sisters, prayed to Brother Charles for his Intercession for Giovanna. It was not until the year 2000 that Giovanna realised that she had been cured. After a Diocesan Enquiry and an extensive study by the Medical Commission, the miracle was recognised in 2004. A Theological Commission then gave a positive report about Brother Charles, leading to his Beatification in 2005.

The second miracle concerns the preservation from apparently life-threatening injury of a young French worker. On November 30th, 2016, the eve of the centenary of Br. Charles's death, Charle [a version of the name Charles], a 21year old carpenter's apprentice working on restoring a chapel in Saumur, fell over 50 feet from the vault onto a bench whose armrest pierced his left side and came out at the back at the base of his rib cage. The seven doctors who attended him later said that a fall like this would normally result in burst organs

and death. But Charle, stood up and looked for help. After an emergency operation he was discharged from hospital eight days later and was back to work after two months with no after affects either physical or psychological. Doctors reported that this incident could not be explained medically.

Various additional extraordinary facts enabled the miracle to be attributed to Brother Charles. First, as Charle began to fall he said that he lay flat, put his head in his hands, and “abandoned myself”. Brother Charles' Prayer of Abandonment is a well known daily prayer of the followers of Brother Charles' spirituality. But, Charle was not baptised and did not know Brother Charles. Secondly, Saumur, a town in West France, is a place imbued with the spirit of Brother Charles. It is where he trained as a soldier [at the same age of our carpenter Charle] and where the neighbouring Church is dedicated to Brother Charles. The following day was Brother Charles' Feast Day and the parish were concluding a Novena to Brother Charles. Within minutes of the accident, Charle's Manager, Francois Asselin, who was a parishioner in the parish of Brother Charles, was on the phone to his wife to ask her to galvanise the parish, and any other members of the Charles de Foucauld spiritual family, to prayer, asking Brother Charles's intercession



The Thanksgiving Mass in St John Lateran Basilica for the Charles de Foucauld Spiritual Family with Cardinal Angelo de Donatis on Monday 16th May 2022

for the healing of the young man Charle. She immediately sent out text messages for prayer. Third, Francois Asselin himself spent the whole night in prayer asking Brother Charles' intercession for the healing of the young apprentice. These key facts enabled the

various Church Enquiries and Commissions to report that a miracle had taken place through the intercession of Brother Charles. The Cardinals and Bishops agreed enabling the Pope to announce the Canonisation.

Book Reviews



The intense, shockingly timely, real account of growing up in Eastern Germany behind the 'Iron Curtain'

Never Mind, Comrade

Claudia Bierschenk
Published by Tangerine Press
Trade Paperback, £12
100-Copy Numbered and Signed Edition, £40
26-Copy Lettered and Signed Edition, £150
ISBN: 9781910691700 (PB),
9781910691717 (HB)
Life Behind the Iron Curtain 1982-89

Once upon a time, there was a small, three-letter-country known as GDR. Claudia Bierschenk spent the first fourteen years of her life there, until it disappeared from all maps of the world overnight. Never Mind, Comrade isn't about how awful life was behind the 'iron curtain' during the 1980s. Yes, we learn of a world ruled by ideology, restrictions, half-truths, superstition, but there is also magic and humour within these pages.



The author skilfully and sensitively conjures up a child's curiosity, not just the clear-eyed innocence of those years, but also how deeply children think and feel about 'adult' concerns. The country that Claudia Bierschenk grew up in no longer exists. Perhaps the strongest message from this book is that if the Berlin Wall can fall, anything is possible.

Now more than ever, as Eastern Europe once again finds itself the focus of great uncertainty, Never Mind, Comrade acts as a reminder that no matter where you live, there are certain collective emotions and questions that all childhoods share, and that even the 'iron curtain', with all its challenges, had the power to bring people together.

Written in parallel with its German edition, Never Mind, Comrade is not a direct translation of Land ohne Verben. Both the German and English language versions have been developed by the author simultaneously, with sections added and removed in the English version, as the author saw fit, for a wider international readership.

In addition to the high-quality trade paperback edition, Tangerine Press are producing a limited number of handbound, hardcover, collectors' editions signed by the author, available direct from the publisher. The limited editions will feature a special artwork by Hans



Ticha, one of the most important contemporary German graphic artists and illustrators.

Praise for the Book

"Fascinating, absurd, tender postcards from the other side of the Iron Curtain. They build into an insightful, moving portrait of an entire lost society and those who survived it." Darran Anderson, author of Imaginary Cities

"A compelling and poetic account of the harsh realities of life behind the Berlin Wall...A testament to Claudia Bierschenk's exceptional skill as a writer, listener and observer. One of my books of the year, so far."

Adelle Stripe,
author of Ten Thousand Apologies

God Made the Dinosaurs combines science and religion to show the variety and wonder of God's creation through time in a beautiful, fully-illustrated book for children aged 7 to 9.

God Made the Dinosaurs

By Caroline Carroll, Michael Carroll
ISBN-13 9780281082964
£12.99

From the diplodocus to pterodactyls, God Made the Dinosaurs is jam-packed with fascinating facts and interesting information about



the creatures that once roamed earth.

This beautifully illustrated book will teach 7- to 9-year-olds all about dinosaurs, from the familiar T-Rex to lesser-known species, highlighting how these and other prehistoric creatures show the wonder of God's creation.

Children will love learning more about their favourite dinosaurs, as well as discovering how we know about these incredible creatures. God Made the Dinosaurs looks at how we've learned from fossils and genetics, and introduces palaeontologists and other scientists who have contributed towards our understanding of God's creation.

Produced in collaboration with the Faraday Institute, and with Jesús Sotés' incredible artwork bringing every page to brightly-coloured life, God Made the Dinosaurs will teach kids how science and religion can work together to teach us about the world that God has created and fill them with awe for the majestic creatures that walked the earth so long ago.

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This article is an extract from Dr Paul Dixon's forthcoming book, *The Road Pilgrim*. Over the coming months we shall be publishing extracts. For more details, email: info@theroadpilgrim.com

The Road Pilgrim

Part Six - Warning Signs



Warning sign—bends:

Bend warning signs sometimes have an additional sign informing of an adverse camber. Adverse camber slopes away from the bend. Unless resisted it 'throws' a vehicle away from the intended direction of travel. A driver on such a bend experiences what appears to be a force drawing him outward from the bend (centrifugal force), yet in reality there is a force keeping him on the intended direction of travel (centripetal force). A person observing the journey from outside the vehicle sees the centripetal force keeping the driver on course.

In the spiritual life, at times of temptation we can experience seemingly nothing other than the lure of evil. Yet, within the struggle against temptation is the force of God keeping us on the correct path. Like the observer outside the vehicle, maybe someone else is best placed to see the centripetal force of God at work in our life when we cannot. All temptation is akin to driving road bends; each puts us at risk of going astray. There are many bends and there are many temptations, some big others small. Ignatius of Loyola, in his fourteenth rule of discernment, refers to the enemy of human nature (the devil) in terms of a military leader

attacking his enemy (i.e. us) at our weakest point. The weak spots in our character are where we are most likely to be 'thrown' off course; they are the adverse cambers of our spiritual life.

God is the centre of rotation around every bend. The more we anchor into our true selves, the more we experience the centripetal love of God. As Ignatius teaches, when we find and follow what we truly want we find and follow what God wants too. How well do you drive the bends on the highway of life?

Warning sign—watercourse:

A roadside watercourse is a reminder that alongside every moment is the stream of life. Finding the positives in every situation captures something of this spiritual awareness. I once came across a roadside watercourse where the water appeared to flow uphill. It was a gravity hill. They are more common than you might think, and they can also give the appearance of such things as balls and even cars freely rolling uphill. Of course, gravity is not being defied; the optical illusion has something to do with false horizon lines in the surrounding landscape. It can easily deceive.

In the Bible, St Paul says 'Satan disguises himself as an angel of light'. (2 Cor. 11:14) Satan is very cunning. To lure people away from the truth he masquerades as goodness, as light. Yet, like gravity hills, what he offers is an illusion. Be warned! Satan (and his demons) create a false horizon and offer a false perspective. God is the only true horizon offering a true perception of reality. In one's search for God, Satan will be present too. If you do not believe this, Satan has you where he wants you. God's love always flows alongside the highway of life, but be careful not to be deceived; discern the spirits.

Warning sign—tunnel:

The next time you drive through a tunnel, spare a thought for those who built it.

Appreciation for their hard work makes one grateful. So often in life, we benefit from the efforts of others. Tunnels are dug in the spiritual life too. This applies within individual lives and within the Church community—especially so during the Synodal process we are engaging in. We come across problems and to make progress we need to dig, sometimes very deep. It may be easier to go around an obstacle or remain on the surface, but avoiding problems and/or living shallowly does not foster love. Like the tunnel builders of times gone past, you too may not live long enough to see the light at the end of all your tunnels. Yet rest assured, your effort and hard work in love are never lost. Those that come after will reap the benefit, like you as you drive through tunnels made by others.



You can use both sets of clues to solve the puzzle: the solutions are the same.

CRYPTIC Across

- 7 Pool, outside Jerusalem, is a store of grain by morning (6)
- 8 Quiet after drink by the river in the Syrian city (6)
- 9 Felix's wife needs a doctor, getting sick in America (8)
- 10 Police officer close to Egypt reportedly finds a Christian sect member (4)
- 11 Pulls apart sick pun? (7)
- 14 Biblical prophetess's name for a Scottish town (5)
- 15 Midlands city cricket captain loses toss in the end (5)
- 17 One's reflective after transposing Yeats into the church (4-3)
- 21 Short recording following the appearance of old poet (4)
- 22 In Persia he, curiously, becomes a Jew (8)
- 24 Dangerous plant genus, dock, making a comeback in the borders of Asia (6)
- 25 Partly responsible, ambushing Canaan town (6)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Stories he tells sending up type of transport (4)
- 2 Road on which social climber turned up displaying ornamental shrub (6)
- 3 A boy king, son of Eliiphaz (6)
- 4 Native American's upset losing ring, one coming from Indonesia (5)
- 5 Clergyman's study down under is being curtailed (6)
- 6 Record at a pub, one New York's supporting, being a January fixture (8)
- 12 'Birth of a Nation's only half on – at six on telly, either side – at Christmas (8)
- 13 Top South Australian carnivore's kind of pouch (3)
- 16 Report Viking retreat in a valley near Jerusalem (6)
- 18 One killed in Susa is a boy found upset within Ionia's bounds (6)

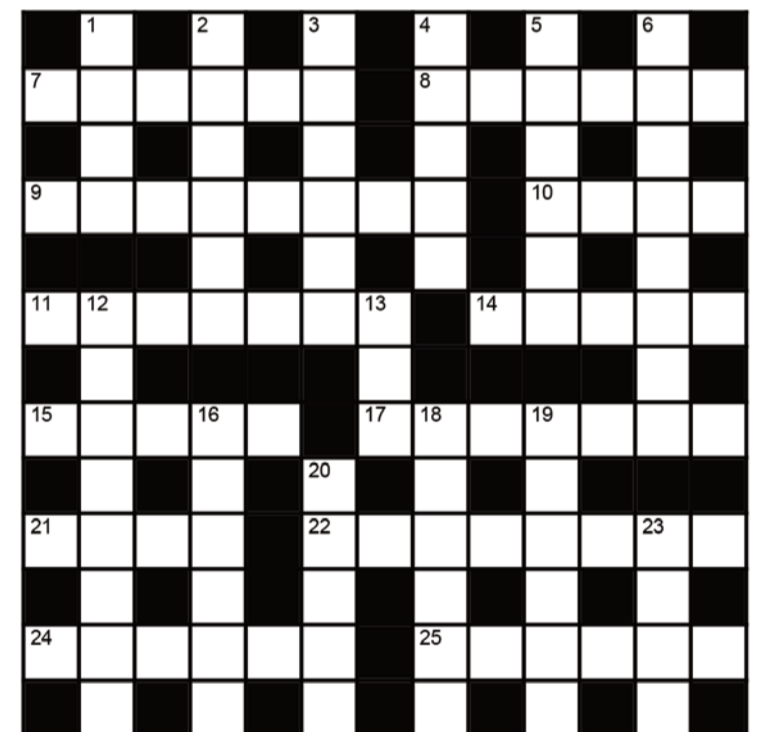
- 19 Guard hurled the first of lances to be commandeered... (6)
- 20 ...Lance earl used to break up joust (5)
- 23 Biblical country's macho overthrow (4)

QUICK Across

- 7 Underground pool; once a major water source for Jerusalem (6)
- 8 Second city of Syria (4)
- 9 Wife of procurator Felix who heard Paul's case (8)
- 10 Member of a Christian sect; one descended from the ancient Egyptians (4)
- 11 Pulls apart; works out (7)
- 14 UN Secretary General 1997-2006; Scottish town (5)
- 15 Add fuel to: keep (a fire) going (5)
- 17 Middle-of-the-road illumination (4-3)
- 21 Roman poet remembered for his elegiac verses on love (43 BC - AD 17) (4)
- 22 Member of a strict sect of Judaism (8)
- 24 Genus of the family commonly known as belladonna or deadly nightshade (6)
- 25 Town of Canaan where Jehu killed Ahaziah (6)

QUICK Down

- 1 Fabricator of the truth; perjurer (4)
- 2 Japanese dwarf trees and shrubs (6)
- 3 Grandson of Esau and son of Eliphaz (6)
- 4 Son of Japheth, father of people who lived in Greece and Asia Minor (5)
- 5 Position of an ordinand on successful completion of training (6)
- 6 Day after Twelfth Night (8)



- 12 Theological doctrine that Jesus Christ had no human father (8)
- 13 Fluid container; bag (3)
- 16 Valley separating Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives (6)
- 18 Notable among the enemies killed by the Jews at Ahasuerus' citadel in Susa (6)
- 19 Protect; ward off (6)
- 20 Assegai, for example (5)
- 23 Biblical country in south-west Asia to the east of the Tigris River (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 7 Siloam, 8 Aleppo, 9 Drusilla, 10 Copt, 11 Unpicks, 14 Annan, 15 Stoke, 17 Cat's-eye, 21 Ovid, 22 Pharisee, 24 Atropa, 25 Ibleam. Down: 1 Liar, 2 Bonsai, 3 Amalek, 4 Javan, 5 Deacon, 6 Ephphany, 12 Nativity, 13 Sac, 16 Kidron, 18 Adalia, 19 Shield, 20 Spear, 23 Elam.