



MORE THAN 23 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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**Celebration
Mass with
representatives
of newly
expanded Our
Lady of Lourdes
CMAT -
See page 7**



**The Plunging
Parishioner -
Rachel's Leap
of Faith! -
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UK: Thousands Welcome St Bernadette Relics

Many hundreds of people attended Nottingham Cathedral recently to venerate the relics of St Bernadette associated with the Catholic shrine of Lourdes

The relics of Bernadette Soubirous arrived at the city's Catholic cathedral on October 6th in the early evening.

Bishop Patrick McKinney said "What a wonderful opportunity this visit provides for so many people to come and venerate these relics, and so to draw near to the holiness of this young women of determined faith. Bernadette grew up in extreme poverty with health issues and little in the way of education." He added he hoped the example of her life would encourage people to grow in faith.

The cathedral was full to capacity for Mass and hundreds more waited outside on the cathedral lawn to come in and

venerate. The evening finished with a torch light procession around the adjoining streets.

Having been venerated earlier in the day at St. Bernadette's Scunthorpe and following early Mass on the next day in the cathedral, the relics travelled on to Birmingham diocese.

Gerry Molumby

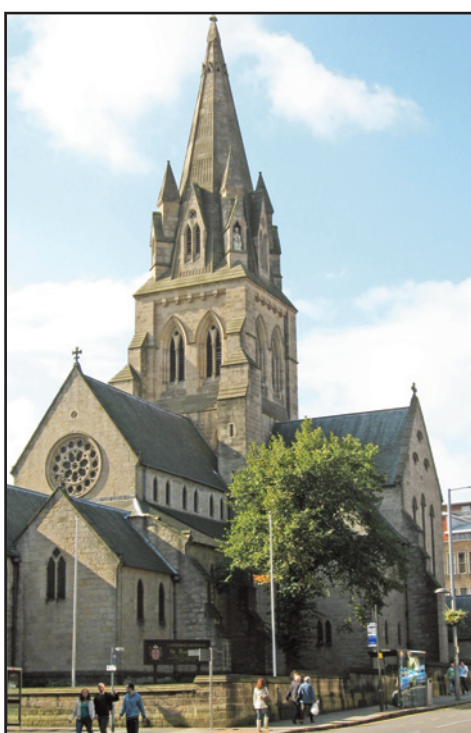


Nottingham Cathedral Wins Substantial Lottery Grant To 'Restore Pugin'

The Trustees of the Catholic Diocese of Nottingham have been awarded a substantial grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to embark on an exciting 'Restoring Pugin' project at Nottingham Cathedral. The total grant awarded for the first phase of development work is £277,558. A potential delivery grant of £524, 858 has also been awarded. Both grants represent 60% of total costs.

Proposed and led by Nottingham Cathedral, the project is a unique partnership with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and Culture Syndicates (a CIC heritage and arts consultancy that offers paid development opportunities to museum sector entrants). Nottingham Cathedral was designed by Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin, one of the key pioneers of the Gothic Revival architectural style in Britain during the early Victorian period.

Continued on page 6



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

The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

Catholic News 

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before 10th of the month

Bishops launch new edition of environment document The Call of Creation

On the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecologists and animals, the Social Justice Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has launched a new edition of its teaching document on the environment – The Call of Creation.

The Call of Creation – 2022

First published two decades ago, in 2002, this new edition is released at the conclusion of the Church's month-long Season of Creation. The document calls for a "profound interior conversion" and for Catholics to "repair our relationship with God's creation" to address the current ecological crisis.

Writing in the foreword, Bishop John Arnold, Lead Bishop for the Environment, and Bishop Richard Moth, Chair of the Social Justice department, say: "We are a people of hope who believe in redemption. We must study the signs of the times and take the action that is needed to repair our relationship with God's creation. As is made clear in The Call of Creation, the exercise of the virtue of solidarity and the promotion of the common good, which are so needed at this time, are the responsibility of each and every individual and institution in society.

Two decades later

Why update and re-release The Call of Creation twenty years after its initial publication? As the Bishops attest, there is a need for urgent action to protect our common home. Around the world, and even in England and Wales where we have seen record temperatures topping 40°C, the signs of the times point to a greater number of severe weather events. No person who wishes



to build a society marked by peace and justice can fail to be concerned by the trends affecting the natural environment today.

Inter-connectedness of creation

Emphasising the inter-connectedness of creation, The Call of Creation points out that respect for life from conception to natural death is part of a Christian environmental agenda. However, the Christian message is one of hope and redemption. The document notes that it is not too late to act, and it takes heart from the actions of other Christian denominations, people of other faiths and people of no faith as we address the

challenges together.

The Call of Creation stresses that each of us has a responsibility to promote the common good and is called to repair our own relationship with the environment. It calls for conversion at all levels. Catholic parishes, schools and universities already contribute to caring for God's creation – but more needs to be done. Governments need to act and must do so on an international scale. The importance of individual action is also stressed: "Individual choices can seem insignificant when faced with major global challenges. But Pope Francis has rightly stated that multiplied individual actions can indeed make a real difference. As individual children of God, it is important that we think carefully about how we use consumer goods and value simplicity in our lives. We should also care for, and nurture, that part of God's creation for which we are particularly responsible. By doing this, collectively, as brothers and sisters in Christ, we can also help to change our culture."

FRANKLY SPEAKING



The massive numbers stood for hours

On Monday September 19th the nation witnessed the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. The massive number of people who stood for hours and the huge television audience indicated what a loss to the nation and the world we had all experienced. No one was left in any doubt that the well reported strength of the late Queen's Christian Faith was her inspiration during her remarkable 70 years reign.

On the morning of that sad historical day I went for an early walk, the empty streets gave me an opportunity to take notice of a row of terraced houses built in 1824. I did become to wonder how the Christian faith had changed in our country since those houses were built. 1824 was just 5 years before Catholic Emancipation. So 148 years after the martyrdom of Saint Oliver Plunket, Roman Catholics could attend Mass with at least some being aware that both Houses of Parliament had voted for

this on St Patrick's Day in 1829. I rely on history for all this information but 148 years after Oliver Plunket was the last to die for the faith after the Reformation one does wonder how Roman Catholics in Britain passed on their faith from one generation to the next during the 18th century.

In 1829 we are told that King George IV was opposed to Catholic Emancipation, it was only the persuasion of two prominent politicians that encouraged him to change his mind and to agree the legislation. The two politicians were the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel better known for their activity at the Battle of Waterloo and the repeal of the Corn Laws.

Nearly 200 years since these events times really have changed. In 1972 the Rector of Newark preached at a church Unity Week Mass and commented that he was the first Anglican to do this in Newark since the

Reformation. Canon Kingsnorth also spoke of the "Scandal of our disunity".

Many readers will have memories of the late Cardinal Basil Hume. Just before his death Queen Elizabeth presented him with the Order of Merit, not only the highest honour, but the Queen's personal gift which is bestowed on individuals of "exceptional distinction."

Many media commentators today are not religious let alone Christians. As they reflected on the life of Queen Elizabeth they just might feel that despite all the changes during her reign she inspired and encouraged in such a special way. We need to do this with all our young people and play our part in the future of their lives.

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish,
Newark

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St Mary's Parish and School Invited to Visit Gaia Exhibition at Derby Cathedral



On 28th September, Parishioners and families from St Mary's, Holy Family, Christ the King parishes and St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby were invited by the Dean of Derby Cathedral, the Very Rev Dr Peter Robinson, to view the incredible artwork Gaia, which is currently touring the country. The installation is an impressive 7 metres in diameter and floats above the nave of the Cathedral. The purpose is to stimulate discussion about our stewardship of the earth. Afterwards there were shared refreshments in the Cathedral cafe and young and old were able to discuss the artwork's impact on them. The intention is for the Catholic and Anglican parishes to come together at Lent to reflect on Laudato Si.

Frances Hazel

Discover the life of Mary Potter in Nottingham

Discover the story of a young woman who in frail health travelled from London to Nottingham alone, with nothing but God in her heart determined to fulfil His plan. She was inspired by God to found a Congregation in the Church whose Mission is to pray, offer compassion and care for the suffering, sick and dying.

The completion of this Mission was a road marked by personal suffering, spiritual anguish, challenges, and opposition and yet, she embraced God's Will with an open heart which brought her joy and peace.

The Mary Potter Heritage Centre was opened in 2010 and many national and international groups have experienced and explored her life and work through artefacts, interactive displays, and quotes from her writings displayed at the Centre.

In 1988 Mary Potter was declared Venerable by St John Paul II and in 1997 her remains were brought from Rome to her final resting place in St. Barnabas Cathedral. As the process of her Canonisation continues, we desire to make her holiness and heroic life widely known especially in our Diocese and continue to pray for her Beatification.



Venerable Mary Potter

Come and visit the Heritage Centre to discover how Mary Potter founded the Little Company of Mary Sisters in Hyson Green, Nottingham and how her legacy has spread across the world.

The Mary Potter Heritage Centre Nottingham

SISTERS OF THE *Little Company of Mary*

Venerable Mary Potter

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The Charism

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The Mission

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Around our diocese



A very special gathering of some of our deacons who minister across the diocese. During Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Leicester, they renewed their ordination promises. Please keep them and all our deacons in your prayers.



"A very prayerful celebration of Confirmation with 12 young people from Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Leicester. Congratulations to each of them and my gratitude to Frs David and Prince, Deacon Seamus, the catechists and organist. Come Holy Spirit! (Bishop Patrick)"



*A new Mission Statement
Children at the Good Shepherd Primary School in Woodthorpe are proud to introduce their new Mission Statement... 'Loving Jesus in all we do'. The children had a great day exploring the different values that they believe help them to show love for Jesus and for one another.*



A joyful celebration of Confirmation with 48 young people and young adults at Sacred Heart Church, Leicester.

The LGBT+ Pastoral Ministry Team

invite you to

Mass for 'Transgender Day of Remembrance'



**Saturday 19th November
2022**

1:15pm

**Holy Cross Dominican Church
45 Wellington Street
Leicester
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lgbt.pastoral@dioceseofnottingham.uk

All are welcome!



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Our Celebration of the Season of Creation

You may have read in the last issue we at St Hugh's parish in Lincoln began our Season of Creation with a blessing from Canon Geoffrey, followed by a reflective walk with times of silence to enable us to appreciate the beauty of God's Creation, to hear Him speak to us in sound, sight and feeling.

On Sunday 11th September, we chose to celebrate our international community with a meal. The Parish Council had agreed to this meal way back in June. As the time drew near, some of us grew a little nervous about how many would come along. Our major hope was that we could all just BE together, enjoy each other's company and share the meal. It had been so long with the Pandemic that we had not been able to do those things in any number.

We had advertised the event really well and Canon Geoffrey had really encouraged it.

We were still nervous. Would it genuinely reflect our international parish community? Would people from all the different countries come along and bring their favourite national dish.

We needn't have worried – on the day the food began to arrive before the 11am Mass and it was from everywhere. We had food from 8 nations; people from 11 nations came to the meal.

We had the pleasure of a Nigerian Missionary Priest Father John visiting from the Vincentian Fathers and so we had Grace from 5 Nations, English, Scottish, Asian, Polish and Nigerian I think that is a first in our experience (many years).

There was some consternation about should it go ahead as we were in the official mourning period for our dear Queen Elizabeth II. After checking with Father Eddy, we were advised that as the Palace had stated that activities could be cancelled or continue as we chose, we thought that it could be a parish celebration of our Queen's deep desire to bring people together from all walks of life and all nations in a spirit of harmony and cooperation.



12 midday arrived and though we had prepared for 45 attending and had everything ready for another 5, we hoped for 50 we had the wonderful, if not somewhat daunting, experience of over 100! People kept arriving! The men in the room just went about putting up more and more tables and chairs and a couple of ladies rallied round with crockery and cutlery and before we knew it all were seated.

We took the opportunity to pray for Her Majesty's soul and to pray for God's blessing on our new King Charles III. We assured everyone that it was quite acceptable to be together celebrating and asked God to bless our own priest as he was on holiday and we were sad he wasn't with us.

After that the food was served, we were convinced we would not have enough; there was even a mention of sending out for Pizzas to supplement the food, but we decided to say a prayer instead and there was enough for some folk to have thirds! – shades of the feeding of the 5,000.

There were amazing desserts and after everyone had been thoroughly well fed we just sat around talking and enjoying just being together. We had the chance to find out the



names of folk that until that moment had been strangers. So from now on at Mass we will all be able to smile and enjoy these newfound friends in our community. A couple that had moved into the Parish in June said a special thank you and how much they had enjoyed it.

It had been a wonderful experience. People I had not met and did not know disappeared into the kitchen and stood for ages washing

up and tidying away. An army of folk, children and parents cleared the tables and put our Parish Hall back together.

Now we look forward to more celebrations and just being our Parish Community. It was a wonderful coming together of our international Catholic family and a great celebration for our Season of Creation. In all our diversity and difference and enjoyment of each other we were able to see God's Glory.

Stations of the Forest



On the third Sunday we at St Peter and St Paul's parish in Lincoln had a Mass with reference to Creation and our Choir sang the beautiful "Livesimply Hymn"

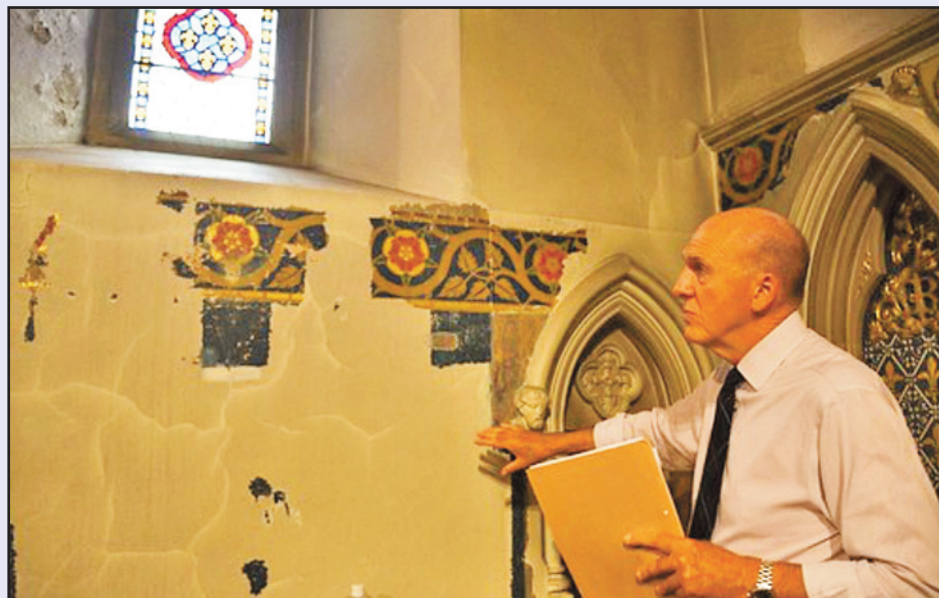
In the meantime one of the Livesimply group found a very moving Novena to St. Francis which some of us said. Throughout our celebrations one of the Parishioners put up a beautiful display calling us to hear the Cry of The Earth, this was changed weekly so there were many ways in which we were able as a Community to be touched by this wonderful season which has become a part of our liturgical life.

On the 4th October the feast of St. Francis, and the closing of the Season of Creation, a

group of us from all three Lincoln Parishes attended Mass at St. Hugh's Church and went up to Lincoln Cathedral to make the "Stations of the Forest". For those of you that have been to the Cathedral you will probably have noticed these iconic stations, which are hand carved in a variety of woods by the Norfolk Artist William Fairbank. They present the way of the cross in a beautiful, simple, artistic, touching and challenging way (If you are ever there do take time to dwell on their beauty). Even though, as we all lived in Lincoln, we were very familiar with them, actually doing the way of the cross as a mini pilgrimage celebrating creation, speaking of justice, challenging us to rethink our responsibility to the beauty of the earth and the way of justice and peace; to share in our responsibility in calling our governments to compassionate governing and providing for the common good of the people. As we progressed through the Stations we became slower in our prayers and with more silence in between the Stations. One of our group said that as we were together the Spirit was able to speak to us in a profound way. It seemed an entirely appropriate way to celebrate the end of the Season of Creation, enabling us to pause from our normal loud, noisy lives and experience God's voice in so many different ways.

Of course the only way to finish was to go and visit the Cathedral Café and enjoy His provision: Soup, Hot Chocolates, Tea and Latte.

Thanks be to God. SSPP, Lincoln



John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury was a champion of the Gothic Revival in England and sponsored the building of the cathedral to the tune of £7000 (2.5 million today). Therefore, you get to have your coat of arms reflected in some of the windows and the tiles.

A.W.N. Pugin's original decorations in Nottingham Cathedral being painstaking revealed

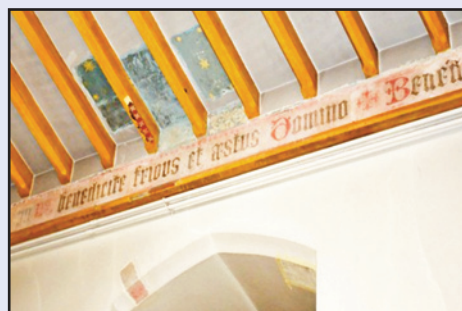
Gerry Molumby

Nottingham Cathedral was built between 1841 and 1844 and at its opening was the largest Roman Catholic church to have been built in England since the Reformation. Originally a parish church, it became a cathedral with the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in 1850. The

architect and designer of its decoration and main furnishings was the celebrated A.W.N. Pugin. An avid admirer of Medieval Gothic style, Pugin brought this to his Nottingham creation, with pointed windows and tower lifting to the heavens. I attended one of the recent Heritage tours led and enthusiastically delivered by parishioner John Edwards.



Reeling back the years. Following National Lottery funding expert restorers have been stripping the paint off part of the walls, ceiling beams to reveal the original multi colourful 'enrichments'. You must but marble at this level of expertise. Whether this will be an overall restoration has yet to be decided.



Continued from page 1

Through his works, publications and close collaboration with the architect Sir Charles Barry in the design of the Houses of Parliament, Pugin brought the Middle Ages to life with all its richness, colour and detail. At the heart of the Nottingham Cathedral project is the restoration of the three chapels at the east end of the building to Pugin's original vision and design. Early investigations of the paintwork by conservators have showed that Pugin's original decorative scheme, sadly covered over with later paint, can be uncovered and brought back to its former glory.

As part of this important and innovation restoration, the Cathedral and its partners are taking the opportunity to encourage and develop conservation skills in the heritage sector and to encourage people from diverse backgrounds to get involved in learning new skills. This grant will create a number of exciting paid and volunteer opportunities for young people in the region, with a focus on diversity

and inclusion. As the project develops, there will be events for the public to learn more about the restoration work and the science of paint analysis and conservation. It is anticipated that the work will put the Cathedral firmly on the heritage map of Nottingham, so that the story of Pugin and the outstanding beauty of his work can become better known to audiences both in the City, and further afield.

Nottingham Cathedral is a Grade II* listed building in the heart of Nottingham City Centre, on the busy Derby Road. It is a vibrant parish community and also 'The Seat' of the Bishop of Nottingham, making it the 'Mother Church' of the Catholic community across much of the East Midlands. The Cathedral welcomes tens of thousands of people each year who visit to experience its peaceful atmosphere as a place of worship and to learn about its fascinating architectural history. It is open every day and in addition to its strong Catholic congregation, it welcomes visitors of all faiths and none.

A warm welcome is given to all who embrace our community both Catholic or non-Catholic

On the 9th October 2022, twenty-one of our Good Shepherd parish ministries gathered in the parish centre to showcase their contributions to maintaining parish life and what it entails (a lot is done behind the scenes) to develop our community, with an awareness to reach out to others who may require support, advice or friendship.

The ministries were diverse ranging from: "The Scrubbers" cleaners, sacramental preparation, outreach (SVP/Knights of St Columba), flower arrangements and Liturgy, to name but a few. A wide welcome is given to all who embrace our community both Catholic or non-Catholic.

Over a hundred parishioners attended and were treated to a lovely brunch as they explored all that goes on "behind the scenes" to enrich our experience as a community.

All who attended gained an appreciation of the effort that goes into developing a sense of belonging and ensuring both the pastoral and religious needs of all are met. Many expressed surprise at just how much does go on in a quiet unassuming manner and we were delighted that some expressed a desire to become involved themselves.

This also presented an opportunity for the different ministries to meet together and realize what a united team they all are.

As an exercise in communication and encouraging people to become a part of the



"team" to strengthen our role in the wider community, it was a great success. Who knows- it may become a regular event in our calendar.

Further details of the various ministries and contact details may be found on our parish website at <https://www.goodshepherd-arnold.org.uk/ministries.php>



Good Shepherd Church MacMillan Coffee Morning



Another year went by and we started to think about this years coffee morning to raise a few pennies for those wonderful MacMillan nurses in their endeavours to support the sick and terminally ill and their families.

We spent Friday getting the hall ready, putting flags and notices outside and numbering over a hundred tombola prizes.

All that now remained was plenty of cake and plenty of visitors

We began our proceedings after the 10am Holy Mass and then waited for the crowds to

arrive. Well we got a nice steady flow of people who came to enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake along with a good chat and of course to part with some of their cash.

By the end of the afternoon we totted up and found we'd made over £500. Thanks to everyone who came and supported us and I'm sure MacMillan will be appreciative of our efforts.

Thanks to all who helped make the event a success, serving tea, coffee and cake to ensure everyone's enjoyment.


by Polly Jarvis



A Mass of Celebration on Feast of St Francis in Holy Trinity Church, Newark, with representatives from the 36 schools of the newly expanded Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT. Statues of the patron saints, Our Lady of Lourdes & St Terese of Lisieux were blessed for each school.



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LECTURES IN NOVEMBER

THURSDAY 10th November at 2.30 pm
“Do we have a spiritual soul? What is it? Is it immortal?” (Fr A Belsito)

THURSDAY 24th November at 2.30 pm
“Is objective, universal Truth possible?” (Fr A Belsito)

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History of the Society in England and Wales - Part 4

As the century progressed the SVP grew and developed its capacity to offer support to those in need in an increasingly broad range of ways. This next 'chapter' sets out examples of how the SVP worked to promote the spiritual, social and moral standards of those in need.

Providing safe homes for young people working away from home

In many early SVP reports we read the work "patronage". This is sometimes described as "patronage of delinquent, orphan and working youths in need of moral, social and financial tutelage".

The Patronage Committee stated as one of its aims: "to shield the children of the poor from corruption when they first go to work, and to instil spiritual values by means of advice and help".

When children needed to work away from home this Patronage Committee found suitable homes for them. Visits were arranged to these youths from among SVP brothers specially appointed by Conference Presidents. Each boy was placed under the individual supervision of a particular brother.

Patronage 'Guilds' were established, through which monthly Communion was assured. It must be remembered that such Guilds were originally created for boys of "essentially good character". They were sometimes called "schoolroom" or "intern" patronages. If boys were of "doubtful character", it was arranged for them to receive frequent and "friendly" visits!

In another Manchester report covering these years, we read a very sad description of SVP funding a "Home for Friendless Young Men" and a Refuge for Destitute Workmen".

"St Vincent's Home for Destitute Boys" was founded in Hammersmith in 1859. In 1873, this became one of the very first Catholic Rescue Society homes.

A notable example of employment and education for boys

Another striking title from these early days is the "Catholic Shoe Black Brigade". Once again, a look at the conditions of child-employment will help us to understand its purpose. In 1847 an Act had limited the work of children in coal-mines by stating that any children between the ages of 9 and 18 could do no more than 9 hours work per day. This regulation was generally disregarded and never really became practice for a further 30 years.

The Catholic Shoe Black Brigade was founded by SVP Conferences in London during the early 1850s. First of all, it ensured employment to about 50 children. It also safeguarded against the loss of their faith. The scheme was approved by the London police, who allocated 50 separate pitches to boys between 9 and 13. According to the SVP annual report, these children were the "poorest of the poor, many from parents who were a harmful influence or who had rejected them since birth".

A schoolroom was organised for these boys, where they learned the 3-Rs and received religious instruction, leading to First Confession and First Holy Communion.

Concern to provide employment

One of Frédéric Ozanam's first works was to secure employment for orphans in the printing works owned by the founder President, Emmanuel Bailly, editor of the Tribune Catholique. This approach to providing employment was replicated in England by the sponsorship of orphans. An Orphan Patronage Committee was established as a special work for the English SVP in 1850. At first, this looked after 50 orphans who had mostly been taken from places officially called "asylums", run by religious orders with either partial or full SVP support. Some orphans were taken from Poor Law Guardians. Brothers paid four shillings (20p) per week for each orphan but received an allowance equivalent to 7½p from the Poor Law Guardians for each orphan taken away from Union Workhouses.

Providing Catholic literature

Frédéric Ozanam had helped to organise lending libraries in both Paris and Lyon. The one in Lyon admitted both workmen and soldiers, many of whom had previously confronted each other during riots, on opposite sides of the barricades. Such an admirable expression of Christian charity, witnessed in the library, was further helped when facilities were extended to include a Workers' leisure centre, to which soldiers were also admitted.

Following this example, the SVP in Bristol founded a lending library in 1849. Five hundred volumes were collected and there were 54 subscribers to the library.

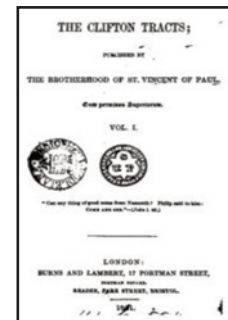
The SVP also helped to found the Universe, when Cardinal Wiseman asked Brothers to produce a cheap newspaper accessible to the poor "through which the truth could be told about war being waged against the Church in Italy by Victor Emmanuel, Cavour and Garibaldi". In 1860, the "penny" Universe went on sale, with Bro. Archibald Dunn as editor. Its foreign correspondent was George Wigley, the former member of Frédéric Ozanam's Conference in Paris, who had done so much in bringing the Society to England. The Universe received much co-operation from the French 'Univers Religieux' and its editor Louis Veuillot. It was this French 'Univers' for which Ozanam had often written. At about the same time the 'Clifton Tracts' were being published by Brothers in Bristol. These were the first such printed pamphlets since the Reformation. They can be seen as a forerunner of the Catholic Truth Society begun later in the century. The purpose of the 'Clifton Tracts' was to tell the truth about Catholic beliefs and practices, and also about the history of the Church.

Concern for the bereaved

Funeral attendance is still one of our regular works, but its origins lay in more than simply praying for souls and comforting the bereaved. Before 1880, the date of the Burial Amendment Act, cemeteries were owned

almost entirely by the Church of England. No Catholic priest was allowed to officiate. When a Catholic died, the burial service was recited at the deceased's home, often by SVP brothers. The coffin was then taken to the cemetery, where the Anglican service was read.

From Jarrow in the North-East came a report of 1882: "Brothers make it a practice to attend funerals of the poor, and they have been able to suppress drunkenness at wakes by reciting



The Clifton Tracts – the forerunner of the CTS – promoted the truth about Catholic beliefs and practices as well as the history of the church.

the Rosary".

Temperance

At about the time of the Jarrow report, we learn of brothers in nearby Felling "helping the clergy of the mission in promoting temperance".

Helping with food and warmth

A report from Hull in 1876 said that during that year brothers distributed among the poor of their parish 132 stones of potatoes, 45 stones of flour, 8½ stones of oatmeal, 80 pounds of sugar, 53 pounds of meat, 22 pounds of bread and various amounts of butter, tea, milk, rice, boots, clothing and carts of coal. 40 cart-loads of coke were delivered during 1878.

Setting up a Bank

In 1872, the Sheffield SVP Conference opened a new branch of the Yorkshire Penny Bank. The modern equivalent is, perhaps, helping to set up a Credit Union.



The Yorkshire Penny Bank (now the Yorkshire Bank) c.1900 on the right of the photograph, on the corner of Fargate and Surrey Street.

Concern for marriage and family life

In Birmingham numerous cases were noted of brothers helping to legalise common-law "marriages". This was one of the early works which Ozanam and other founder-members had undertaken in Paris during the 1830s and, taking their lead from Birmingham, was taken up enthusiastically by conferences around the country.

This article has given a flavour of the diverse and important work of the SVP as it developed to fulfil its mission in the socio-political context of the 19th century. Next month the fifth and final instalment will trace the SVP through the 20th century and up to the present day, looking at it in its current form and considering its future.

If you have enjoyed reading these articles on the history of the SVP and are interested in finding out more, or even joining, please contact Lance Philpott at lancep@svp.org.uk



Each shoe black worked a separate pitch agreed by the police.

The charge was 1d (1/2p) for cleaning. Shoe blacks received 8d for every shilling (5p) earned.

They speak without a sound or word (Psalm 19:3)



Listen to the Voice of Creation was the theme for this year's Season of Creation, which recently came to a close. It invited us, amongst other things, to contemplate God's creation and listen for the voice of each creature declaring His glory. Like the psalmist, St. Augustine directs us towards such contemplation, writing "Creation is the divine page that you must listen to; it is the book of the universe that you must observe. The pages of Scripture can only be read by those who know how to read and write, while everyone, even the illiterate, can read the book of the universe."

To draw attention to this ecumenical event and invite parishioners to ponder what God is saying to them, at St Hugh's Church, Lincoln, a member of the parish flower arranging team was asked to create a floral display based on the logo for this year: the burning bush. With inspiration from former assistant priest, Fr Patrick, the bush was embellished with 'flames'. Changing over the course of September the arrangement attracted interest from congregation and visitors alike.

The previous month, two members of the team, contributed elaborate displays in Lincoln Cathedral, as part of its flower festival 'Vision'. Enjoying the flowers in church each week, seeing the displays, learning of the work involved and witnessing the love and enthusiasm behind it all, it is difficult not to be drawn to consider and appreciate, more and more, the artistry and blessing of flower arranging.

Like the flowers themselves, the flower arranging team in the parish are a quiet presence, working tirelessly and skilfully throughout the year to create arrangements that enhance the building and the liturgy of the Mass (and other services) adding colour,

creativity and beauty and, in so doing, remind all who enter the church that they stand on holy ground. The fruits of their labour help inspire, too, the lifting up of hearts and minds to God in praise and thanksgiving and all involved with flower arranging in the church deserve heartfelt appreciation for the contribution they make to the parish (and wider) community.

The display, in keeping with the theme of the Season of Creation, was also used to focus our attention on the needs of the economically marginalised in our city with a collection, by the parish, of items donated for SSPP food

bank which is run by the local Catholic secondary school and the parish will continue to support the foodbank going forward.

Thanks be to God for His love inspiring all who contributed in any way and for His goodness in giving us flowers. As the challenges of winter approach and the chill and darkness increase, can we keep our hearts from closing, and ask God to stoke the fire within, that we may both continue to listen and respond to the voice of His creation as well as proclaim His goodness?

Jo

Urgent request for your old mobile phones

Catenian Louis van den Berg writes: Matumaini Centre for Children with Disability in Dar es Salam, Tanzania, was founded some ten years ago by the Holy Union Sisters (LSU). With no landline telephones and unreliable postage, a mobile phone is essential for communication, education and money transactions. Some mothers at the Centre even use their phones to play soothing music when their children become disturbed. But most of them have barely enough to live on as it is.

I am therefor asking if you could dig out any old mobiles you, your family or your work colleagues might have to spare and send them to me. Smartphones are obviously favourite, but I am told that any relatively recent mobile will be welcome.

Ideally, could you include chargers and cables?



Photo by Jenny Ueberberg on Unsplash

It is up to you to take out the SIM card and wipe the phone if necessary.

Think of it. That old phone which is languishing in a drawer could literally provide a lifeline for a disabled child and its mother.

For more information please email: louisvdb@me.com

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The Plunging Parishioner - Rachel's Leap of Faith!

On Monday 14 November, with incredible courage Rachel Cousen of St John the Baptist parish in Melton Mowbray will launch herself into space from 14,000 feet in a tandem skydive, freefalling before (hopefully!) her parachute opens to bring her safely to earth. This is the first time she has ever made such an attempt. She will be praying hard on that autumn morning when she surveys the landscape so far below. So why is she doing this? She is doing it to try to raise some of the money needed to make the parish's hopes for a church hall into reality, transforming people's lives. Rachel is taking her own life into her hands for this. Will you take the time and trouble to sponsor her?

The Background

St John's church is one of the oldest Catholic churches still in use in the Nottingham Diocese. Completed in 1842, it saw the first legal Catholic worship in Melton Mowbray after almost 300 years of punishment and persecution. Two years after its completion, in 1844, a church hall was built to the right of the church, so this church from its first design conception was intended to offer a community space; a place where people can love, laugh, pray and grow together. When it was built the neo-Gothic design was beautiful and the church was described as "a gem". Designers and artisans of national renown were involved, including the famous A.W.N. Pugin. The interior is fascinating, encapsulating the entire courageous history of Catholicism in this area, which was kept alive in secret hiding places at great risk. With its church hall standing close against the wall, and a house for the priest on site, the church was home to a vibrant family, delighted to be able to worship publicly again, determined to build their community and offer love and service to their town. This continued well into the 1960s, but sadly by then the buildings had become in need of attention. The beautiful church artwork was overpainted; the house was compulsorily purchased and demolished. The hall had also deteriorated and in 1985 that was demolished too. The church stood alone and forlorn, with no-one living on site, still greatly loved and much used for regular services, but sadly closed to visitors at most other times.

That is now changing! The church artwork has already been restored in the original Victorian style and looks stunning. "Friends of St John's" charity has partnered with the nearby Museum, Morrisons and a workshop for people with learning difficulties to renovate the gardens, in a project which won the top award in the Melton "Its your Neighbourhood" contest. The church is transforming this part of Melton already, and now plans to build a hall which will enable us to grow together as



a community and reach out further with love and care to the people of our town. And not just a hall: a pleasant terrace, a fully equipped kitchen; display facilities, store rooms, offices and smaller meeting areas; full disabled facilities and disabled access; and a two-bedroom priest's flat, ensuring spiritual guidance available, and a welcome presence permanently on site.

Why should I donate?

Rachel says, "For the love of people; for the love of our heritage; for the love of God!"

We need St John's to be more than just a religious museum; more even than a place visited only for occasional services. It was not designed just for that! We need this historic church, which is located in the heart of the town, to be fully at the heart of the community a place which is rooted in the past and which gives a sense of stability and continuity to our lives, but which is also a beacon of faith and love in a world which is searching for those things. At present we have nowhere to do the simplest things, even to offer a cup of tea and a listening ear to someone in need. With this project we will have a hall and fully equipped kitchen. We can offer a wide range of facilities and activities run by the parish, and also have a hall for hire by the wider community. We can leave the church open so that all can experience a place of peace and calm when in need, and benefit from its beauty and heritage. We can improve access for disabled people, and accommodate a larger congregation when needed. We can reach out in love to the poor, the lonely, the marginalised. If you will help us, we can truly say, In this place all are welcome!"

Please sponsor Rachel. You can give online at <https://justgiving.com/campaign/stjohnsmm> or by email at franceslevett@gmail.com. Or by phone at 07790 631635.

Gala celebration of varied culture



So deserving of their own school desks

You are cordially invited to a gala celebration of varied culture in our parish (Christ the King with St. Patrick and St. Brigid, Clay Cross). Saturday November 5th at 19.45 the place to be is in our spacious parish centre. Headlining the night is legendary Irish Comedian Jimmy Cricket, Kellys Heroes will have your feet tapping with their array of Irish ballads, jigs and reels. We will also have displays of Indian and Polish dancing from our parishioners and from Nottingham singer and songwriter Louie Walsh.

Proceeds from the night are being sent to + Bishop John Ryan diocese of Mzuzu to purchase desks for the school in St. Monica parish in his diocese. We will also be sending school stationary, already collected from kind donations.

Fr. Edmund, Parish Priest said "We are so delighted to have made a connection with a fellow catholic parish so far away and now we can furnish as many of our schoolrooms as possible from your night of shared culture. May God Bless and reward your Christian charity."




ALFRETON *presents*

Gala Concert

featuring **Kellys Heroes**




Jimmy Cricket

Saturday November 5th . Christ the King Parish Centre , 104 Nottingham Road DE55 7GL ~ 7.45

(To raise funds to purchase school desks for St. Monica parish school ,diocese of Mzuzu in south-east Africa)



Polish Dancing



Louie Walsh



Indian Dancing

Tickets £10 can be reserved by text 07772471894 , leave your surname and number of tickets and pay on the night

Presented by **Gerry Molumby**




CALLED TO BE SAINTS

An idea came for an initiative called 'A year with the Saints'. Thus it was, thanks to the agreement of the priests, that on All Saints day last year the parishioners of the three Lincoln churches were invited to befriend a Saint for a year and, through a display in each church, learn about twelve modern Saints over the course of twelve months. This is my experience...

Preparing the invitations to go in the newsletters, I had thought to myself I would like anyone except St John Henry Newman. As preparation for the project I had gathered booklets and books about the twelve Saints; I knew very little about this Saint and from the booklet he did not appeal to me (in his picture I thought he looked severe and reading a few pages he seemed dry as a bone). It should not therefore have been a surprise that God would choose him for me, yet it was! When I opened my newsletter and saw his name, my heart first sank with disappointment, then, upon realising that John Henry (as I came to call him) had observed it all, filled with horror as I considered the pain of feeling unwanted and so our relationship began with an apology from me.

Unable to face the booklet, someone suggested I read his work *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*! The title alone struck fear into me and in my mind's eye I saw a door stopper of a book; with my brain effectively in limp mode, I knew I needed something that could be read in bite size chunks and hit upon a book written by him containing fifty short meditations. Being me I decided I would read them seven times through over the year (I managed one reading before the book somehow found its way into the glove compartment of my car, where it sat for several months, first forgotten about and later considered lost - thank you Lord for saving me from myself).

Rather like in every day life, I had good intentions to pray and relate with him, only to fail to follow through. Still I think he exerted an influence, having spent more time at Lincoln Cathedral in the last year than my entire life before, such that I found myself wondering am I destined to follow his path, except in reverse, and convert to the Anglican Church? God (and John Henry) alone knows. Through the year other ideas came to me, such as a fundraising dinner for the local convent, with one of the nuns giving a talk about St Theodore Guerin, who was in their order and one of the twelve Saints chosen, but like with many of my intentions to pray and read, proved too much for me and did not come to pass.

They say a week is a long time in politics and a year proved a long time for creating a monthly display. Gung-ho at the start I created the display for the first six months, though little did I realise that between writing and printing the poster for Blessed Charles de Foucauld a change had occurred which declared him a Saint several months before his official canonisation. Despite the notion to follow up soon with the final six months, five months down the line no display was ready and so I opted to 'buy time' and create what was needed for the next three months, only to discover MS Word no longer worked on my computer! Not up to rectifying it, I sent the information to my sister, who thankfully created the display. As the next deadline loomed and struggling with tiredness, I pondered a premature ending, 'A year with the Saints'



to become 'Nine months with the Saints', after all, would anyone care or notice? One person came to mind, as did Canon Geoffrey's timely homily for his ordination anniversary Mass to the school, on determination. I do not know if anyone has benefitted from the initiative, but for God and for myself I wanted to see it through and found, by grace or by pride, what was needed within me to complete the necessary displays (again with the help of my sister) and discovered this moment of doubt and decision ultimately served to be a point of renewal in my relationship with the Saint.

Through this undertaking I have discovered John Henry is far from dry as a bone and that in terms of relationship we still have a way to go. I have met and got to know a number of other Saints, though again not as well as I had hoped at the outset and my collection of unread books has increased. Perhaps more importantly, I have learnt a lot about my body's frailty as well as many character weaknesses and the importance of knowing (and accepting) one's limitations and showing compassion to oneself as much as to others; also I experienced how important the assistance of others is, in this case especially for encouragement and I am grateful to the individuals who gave it directly and indirectly. Possibly the most important outcome of my experience, though, is a better understanding of what it means to say God's grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9).

From the outset, the year has been one of repeated failure on my part, and I have discovered that is more than okay, I recall a quote I came across during the project by Nelson Mandela who said "I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying." We may never become Saints, but we are all called to be saints; relying on God, let us keep on trying and just as importantly, let us help one another to do so. During the year, an idea 'A year with Mary' surfaced, and whilst I am still praying about it, I know, if it does go ahead, it will be more a case of 'A month with Mary' and a 'rolling contract' (my sister will be pleased to hear it would involve no displays).

Thank you John Henry for coming into my life and for wanting me as a friend, knowing I did not initially want to know you and repeatedly let you down. Thank you for showing me God's faithful love.

Thanks be to God.

Jo

Book Reviews

The Priesthood – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Confraternity of Catholic Clergy,
Fr Richard Whinder

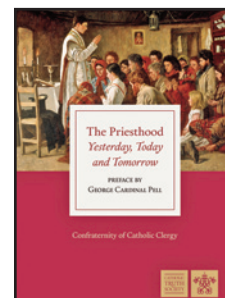
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This book will be read with special interest by priests, but it offers to all Catholics a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of pastoral ministry in the contemporary world.

Meditations on the Stabat Mater

Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP

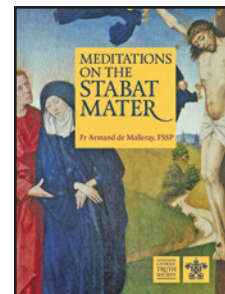
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Join our Blessed Mother at the foot of the Cross of her Son and walk with her on the road from life to death to eternal life, by meditating upon the Stabat Mater line by line.



Stabat mater dolorosa – "The mournful mother was standing". This is the opening line of the extraordinary hymn attributed to the 13th-century Franciscan friar Jacopone da Todi, which is still a popular Lenten devotion.

In this book Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP meditates upon the Stabat Mater line by line. This is a book to help the reader to walk the road from Lent to Passiontide to Easter – and indeed from life to death to eternal life – in the company of the most Blessed and Sorrowful Mother, who stands at the foot of the Cross of her Son.

"If you truly wish to be transformed by Christ, go to the Cross and contemplate his Passion.

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"This beautiful little book, born of prayer, is just what I need, what every Catholic needs, for the fruitful praying of the Stations of the Cross." (Fr John Sayward, Blackfriars Hall, Oxford)

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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 Nine - Breakdowns & Hire Vehicles

Breakdown:

Do you pay attention? Your car speaks to you. It gives clues when it is poorly. It might be something you see, hear or feel. Your body speaks too. Whether physical, psychological, emotional or spiritual, you can reveal when something is amiss by paying attention to yourself.

We ought to know our limitations. Some car faults, such as a blown fuse, we fix ourselves. Other defects, like a blown head gasket, need professional help. Car mechanics can also diagnose faults we cannot. Similarly, on the highway of life, we need trained human mechanics once in a while.

It is advisable to nurse older cars so as not to make unrealistic demands and cause premature breakdowns. The same applies to one's ageing self. One is not the Ferrari one once was, or probably never was. Furthermore, rust is to cars as cancer is to humans. Despite the advancements in the prevention and treatment of both, the mortality of man and machine is a given. As Ash Wednesday reminds us, 'Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return.' Mortal creature, your body is speaking to you. Are you paying attention?

Free recovery, await rescue:

Have you ever broken down in your car? If not, your time will surely come. Imagine breaking down without a mobile phone and with no one to help—you are helpless. You need to get going again but can't fix the problem yourself. You then realise you are within a roadworks area. You notice a sign saying 'Free recovery, await rescue'. 'Thank God for that!' you may well cry, whether or not you believe in God. In life, there are human breakdowns; our wheels stop turning for one reason or another. Yes, God helps those who help themselves, but sometimes asking for help is all we can manage. We may need a spiritual mechanic. Do you know any good ones?

Life is for love. It's that simple. If you've broken down on the highway of life, you've broken down in love. 'We love because he [God] first loved us.' (1 John 4:19) Get that, and you will be happy! If you've broken down on the highway of life, ask yourself two questions: Am I allowing God to love me? How should I respond? Do that, and your spiritual wheels will again start turning. Life's journey from the cradle to the grave is the roadwork of love. 'Free recovery, await rescue.'



Hire Vehicle:

If you've hired a vehicle, you are probably familiar with the inspection before hand-over and at its return. Damage caused means there is a penalty to pay. I once hired a van from a cheap and cheerful hire firm. The owner didn't bother with an inspection at pick-up due to the van's many scratches and dents. It was parked close to a hedge, and the owner said, 'It's got a few marks. There is no need to list them, plus the side you can't see is even worse!'

Driving a hire vehicle is different from driving your own. With the former, you can't do what you like; terms and conditions apply. Yes, you can go where and how you choose, but the

vehicle is not yours. You will eventually need to return it. Similarly, we are hired cars on the highway of life. As the saying goes, 'our lives are not our own.' Life is not to mishandle, but it is to use. Our lives belong to God, and He hires them for love. A post-death inspection awaits our return. Maybe God will be like that owner who hired me a vehicle. As He lovingly looks at us, God says, 'You've got a few marks. There is no need to list them, plus the side you can't see is even worse!'

Whether short or long lease, our lives are bound to get marks along the way, some little, maybe a few whoppers too. Yet, Jesus has paid the hire charge and penalties with God's Human-Hire Enterprise. The terms and conditions are on your heart.



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 5 Achan – he in trouble, being David's musicians' roadie (9)
- 8 Grill fish? (4)
- 9 Live with Gran when occupied by Chinese family's clan leader (3-5)
- 10 God, about Thursday, and late, finally gets to Rebecca's dad (7)
- 11 China setting is quasi-American in part (4)
- 13 Father of the first Israelite king and the first king in south Haran (4)
- 15 Tabernacle he designed out of misplaced zeal, being consumed by 10's god (7)
- 18 False claims queen is involved in Bible's supernatural bits (8)
- 19 Articles going back and forth citing Tobit's wife (4)
- 20 Is a Scottish policeman last month, first to put ten cities in the Book? (9)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Chaldean place found among the chapters is a place to worship (6)
- 2 Given the chance to become talented in goal (7)
- 3 Upright individual with a North Dakota base (2,3)
- 4 20 city of silver toppled by revolutionary modern-day artillery (6)
- 6 Epic Hanoi struggle made the old country (9)
- 7 No point in Ealing lass working for these Jesus People (9)

- 12 Moses' boy is found in stranger's home (7)

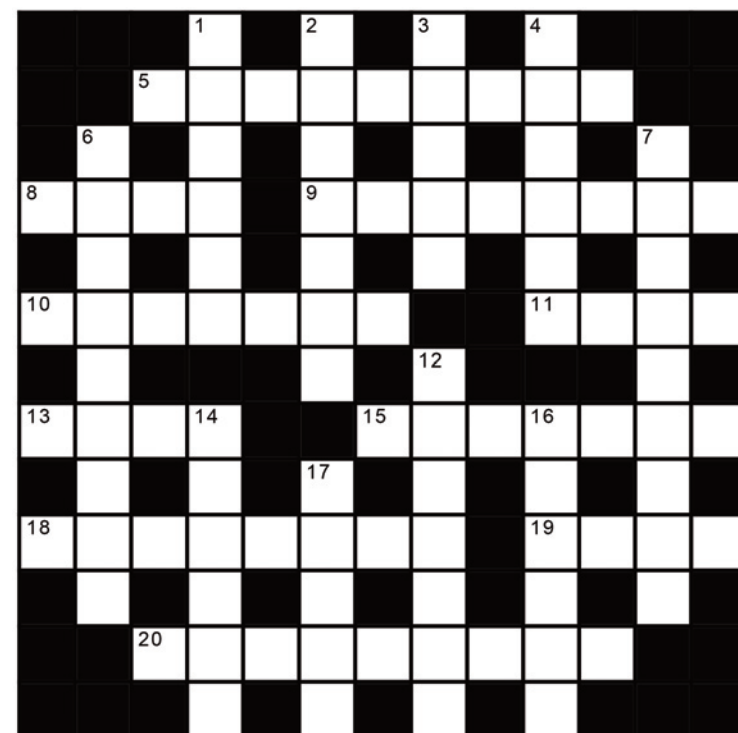
- 14 Lift needed to the north – that's the place to get to! (6)
- 16 Goth in the French style, endlessly wealthy (6)
- 17 Bathsheba's dad, one investing in land bordering on Persia (5)

QUICK Across

- 5 One of David's leading musicians, in charge of transport (9)
- 8 Partially burn; domestic cleaner (4)
- 9 Clan leader in Judah (3-5)
- 10 Father of Rebecca, nephew of Abraham (7)
- 11 Roman province of W Turkey, which included Ephesus (4)
- 13 Mordecai's great-grandfather (4)
- 15 Exodus craftsman and designer (7)
- 18 Spectacular unexplained events, particularly in the NT (8)
- 19 Temple prophet who saw the infant Jesus (4)
- 20 Series of Greek, non-Jewish, towns to the south of the Sea of Galilee (9)

QUICK Down

- 1 Holy site, from the Greek 'kuriakon (doma)' (6)
- 2 Authorized; facilitated (7)
- 3 Without pause or interruption over a considerable period of time (2,3)
- 4 One of the 20, locale of the miracle of Legion and the swine (6)



- 6 Maritime country of ancient times, chief ports Tyre and Sidon (9)
- 7 Compatriots of Jesus (9)
- 12 Son of Moses and Zipporah (7)
- 14 Dwelling place of the blessed; Nirvana equivalent (6)
- 16 Barbaric Visigoth whose army sacked Rome in 410 AD (6)
- 17 Warrior of David and father of Bathsheba (5)

SOLUTION

Across: 5 Chenaniah, 8 Char, 9 Ben-Hanan, 10 Bethuel, 11 Asia, 13 Kish, 15 Bezael, 18 Miracles, 19 Anna, 20 Decapolis. Down: 1 Church, 2 Enabled, 3 On end, 4 Gadara, 6 Phoenicia, 7 Galileans, 12 Gershom, 14 Heaven, 16 Alaric, 17 Eliam.