

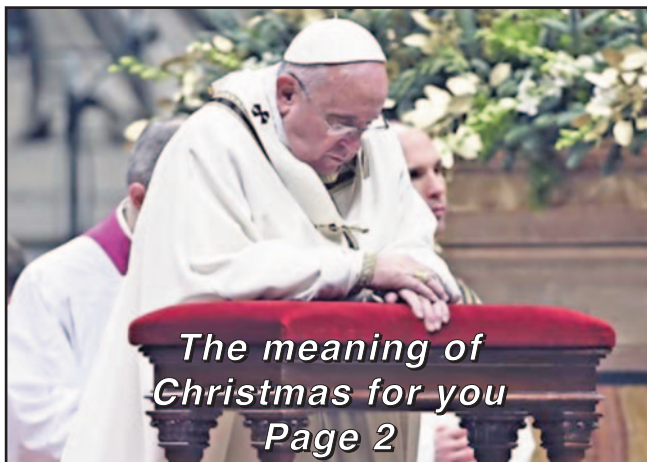


MORE THAN 24 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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The Editor and staff of The Catholic News wish all our readers and advertisers a very Holy and Happy Christmas and New Year.



*The meaning of Christmas for you
Page 2*



*Jimmy Cricket at Christ the King in Alferton
Page 3*



*Anti-bullying Ambassadors
Page 9*

Christmas Message from Bishop Patrick

A Time to Reflect

I wish all readers of 'Catholic News' a very peaceful, joyful and reflective Christmas! I really do!

The relentless commercial build up to Christmas in the shops and online, against the harsh financial challenges facing everyone this year, began so many months ago. I feel sure that, by the time Christmas Day arrives this year, so many people will be left feeling exhausted and facing debts. I pray that will not be true of you in these very challenging times. The truth is that we all need a little time over Christmas, time to reflect quietly and gratefully upon this wonderful Feast, before we're all expected to leave Christmas behind and move on with our

lives. Christmas is an invitation to reflect with Christ Jesus upon the past year, our joys and sorrows, our blessings and challenges. It's a grace-filled time to seek the guidance of, and to listen carefully to, the Holy Spirit of God at work within our hearts. God speaks to us at all times, but with particular power during the Season of Christmas when we celebrate and thank God for His gift to us of His son, Jesus, the Word of God made flesh: 'This is my Son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.' (Matthew 17:5) To listen, to be open and responsive to Jesus, requires a little effort on our part. It calls for attentiveness and some silence; not just external silence but the more important inner silence. I would

encourage you to look upon Christmas 2022 as an invitation to create a small zone of silence within yourself where the voice of God, a 'still small voice' (I Kings 19:13) can be heard.

The celebration of the birth of Jesus, Our Lord and Master, the One whom we try to serve in our daily lives and who is the Saviour of the world, cannot be disposed of in a single day! This is why the Church gives us Christmastide, a time which continues up to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Sunday following the Feast of the Epiphany.

*Continued on
page 6*



The Plunging Parishioner – Rachel's Leap of Faith

Rachel Cousen, a parishioner of St. John's church in Melton Mowbray, has flung herself out of an aeroplane flying at 14,000 feet over the Vale of Belvoir, in a tandem skydive. 50-year-old Rachel had no previous experience of skydiving or parachuting: this was her first attempt. Why did she do it? It was not a mid-life crisis; Rachel was trying to raise sponsorship to enable the building of a hall next to the beautiful neo-Gothic church of St. John the Baptist in Melton town centre. Rachel's daredevil feat illustrates the care and love of the Melton parishioners for their parish church, and their determination to restore the hall which was built just after the church in 1844, but which was sadly demolished in the early 1980s.

One of the oldest churches in the diocese, St. John's has been described as "a gem". 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.

Continued on page 7



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The monthly paper for the
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Catholic News 

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to send in local news for publication in
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emailed to

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Pope Francis on.....

The meaning of Christmas for you

‘God’s Christmas
wish isn’t buying-
frenzy and feast,
but gift of self’

Pope Francis has said many things about
Christmas. We have selected a few quotes for
you to ponder:

‘If Christmas ends up as just a beautiful
traditional holiday where everything revolves
around us and not him, it will be a lost
opportunity.’

‘Christmas will not be authentic if people get
caught up in a frenzy of shopping, presents
and meals, all while ignoring the poor and
forgetting who the celebration is really all
about.’

‘God’s Christmas wish isn’t buying-frenzy and
feast, but gift of self’

‘Jesus is good, Jesus is tender, Jesus is
humble. This is the real Christmas!’

‘May you feel wonder when you gather in your
homes in prayer before the Nativity, gazing at
Baby Jesus.’

‘Just as Mary was called to welcome and bring
the Christ-child into the world, people today



are also called to welcome the Gospel and so
that it can “become flesh” and come into the
world in people’s actual lives.’

‘Christmas is preferring the silent voice of
God to the noisiness of consumerism. If we

can be silent in front of the crib, Christmas
will be a surprise even for us, not something
seen before.

‘We will celebrate Christmas well, if, like
Joseph, we will give space to silence; if, like
Mary, we say ‘here I am’ to God; if, like Jesus,
we will be close to those who are alone; if, like
the shepherds, we will leave our enclosures to
be with Jesus.’

‘Christmas is the payback of humility over
arrogance, of simplicity over abundance, of
silence over hubbub, of prayer over ‘my time,’
of God over my ego.’

‘Every one of us has, hidden in our heart, the
capacity to be surprised. May we be surprised
by Jesus this Christmas.’

FRANKLY SPEAKING



The Joy and expectation of Christmas is
much needed this year. On a number of
occasions in 2022 I have met friends or
acquaintances who have told me that they
have stopped reading or listening to news
bulletins because of constant bad or sad
reports of tragic or negative items.

Whilst some of this is due to editors or
journalists trying to make the news instead
of reporting new developments we do all
need cheering up this Christmas with one
important proviso - That is to “stand up for
our values”. That last quotation came from
a comment this Advent from a Government
Minister speaking of the many comments
regarding Qatar being the venue for the
football World Cup. I could not help
contrasting that political statement with the
sparse attendance in the House of
Commons when the persecution of
Christians was debated just a year ago.

Secular thinkers usually keep quiet at
Christmas and perhaps this year is the time to
show that the Nativity and our Christian Faith
is why we are celebrating Christmas.

One area of serious concern this year is the
need for food banks in our country. We often
pray for those in greatest need and this
Christmas it looks like one in six festive meals
will incorporate items from the local food bank.
Let us never stop saying just how active
Christians are in assisting these valuable social
services serving nurses, children and those
over 65 amongst many others.

My local Co-op has a car park attached to the
store. A few years ago on Christmas morning
the area was a useful venue for children
playing in full safety.

That Christmas the sheer joy of those children
was not only special but it did occur to me that

perhaps this was the only morning in the
year that they were all equal in life whatever
their social background. If only that could
be said all year round.

We should not forget that some who have
lost loved ones this will be a hard time
particularly if they have seen a child suffer.
It is now 33 years since the Cardinal Hume
Centre was opened in Central London for
young homeless people, it now has a 39
room facility. When the late Cardinal first
opened an eleven room hostel it showed
his concern for young people. We should all
follow his example to any young person in
distress this Christmas. Let us also
remember his words “Each person matters:
No human life is redundant”.
A Peaceful Christmas to all readers.

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

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A Fundraising Evening from Christ the King Parish Hall in Alfretton, Starring Jimmy Cricket

Parish of Mzuzu in Malawi Africa are in process of purchasing twenty two new desks for their primary schools, thanks to joint fundraising between Christ the King parish Alfretton and St. Benedict School Derby. The Alfretton event was a Gala Concert headlined by legendary Irish Comedian Jimmy Cricket. Also on the bill was a display of Indian Dancing and Polish Singing reflecting the diversity of the parishioners. A donation from Saint Benedict CVA Derby from car parking for the Darley Park Concert back in August combined in allowing us purchase, at £60 each for two students, these twenty two desks. Tipperary

native +Bishop John Ryan told the Irish Post " what a difference your fundraising has made to our school and young people . Malawi is a poor part of the world and we have to self fund all the infrastructure in our schools. These desks and the school stationery you are sending out will be very well appreciated"

The concert was filmed by Manchester based producer and director of Irish in the UK tv Martin and Annette Logan and you can watch it back on Irish In the UK » Episodes (theirishintheuktv.com)



Very popular folk band Kellys Heroes get the dancers on their feet



Gifts of school stationery and football shirts heading to Malawi



Graceful Indian Dancing



Local landlord of The Victoria Nick and his daughter Connie with Jimmy Cricket

Pupils serve up a hearty lunch



The November monthly lunch club in the Parish Centre, Alfretton, Derbyshire, had some extra help recently when pupils from Christ the King School came along to assist in the distribution of lunch and pudding. This was part of their social action module being carried out at school. Some pupils entertained with dancing and a number of the pupils played Bingo for the first time!.

Gerry Molumby, Alfretton

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Around our diocese



An interesting, informative and exciting evening had by guests, local dignitaries and Cathedral 'Friends' who gathered recently to explore the recently uncovered Pugin artwork.

A church loft view of the 89 newly Confirmed young people at St Philip Neri Church, Mansfield. Prayers and congratulations to them all.



A fantastic Mass this morning to celebrate the feast of Christ the King. It was lovely to see so many children from school leading us in serving, scripture, prayer, reflection and song. You really are the future builder's of God's Kingdom. (Bishop Patrick)



A great celebration with Mass of the Solemnity of Christ the King and Youth Sunday at Nottingham Cathedral followed by a lovely gathering in the pub. (Bishop Patrick)



Our community has again answered the call of those in need. We have made up 49 shoe boxes that will go to children in Ukraine and Romania. We hope that our gifts will brighten up their Christmas Day and they will know that we care. Thank you Sacred Heart Carlton



Cakes after a most joyful Mass to celebrate the induction of Fr John as Parish Priest of the Catholic Community of the Annunciation Rushcliffe and to welcome Fr Liam as Assistant Priest.

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Ever Ancient, Ever New



For the Feast of St Hugh, St Hugh's Church, in Lincoln, started celebrations early with an afternoon tea on Sunday 13th November. Attended by over 70 people, including many students from the local universities, with its customary quiz, raffle and bingo, a good time was had by all. An opportunity to walk off all the cake eaten presented itself a few days later. The Lincoln parishes had been invited to walk in unity to pray for their needs and those of the Diocese at this time of challenge and change, asking for the intercession of St Hugh, and thus, on the eve of the Feast of St Hugh of Lincoln, a small group of parishioners, together with Fr Jarosz, parish priest of St Hugh's, completed a ten mile pilgrimage walk from a nearby village to St Hugh's Church.

After converging at Lincoln central bus station, we took a bus to the village of Bardney and then returned via the Water Rail Way. The Water Rail Way was completed in late 2008, and links Lincoln and Boston. It comprises 20 miles of former railway land and a further 13 miles on country lanes. The route of disused railway was previously part of the Lincoln to Boston branch line of the Great Northern Railway, which opened on 11 August 1858 and closed to passengers in 1954 (closure to freight followed in 1971). The path, which runs alongside the River Witham and is clearly marked, was named in a competition. The name reflects both its previous purpose as a railway line and its abundant bird life, including a rarely sighted

bird that has been spotted along this path called the Water Rail. The route also features a sculpture trail commissioned by Sustrans, a charity that serves as custodians of the National Cycle Network, a UK-wide network of traffic-free paths. The artworks were inspired by the works of the Lincolnshire born poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson as well as by the local environment. Fortunate with the weather, we enjoyed the expansive countryside, spied many different birds (including many swans, a reminder of St Hugh perhaps) and encountered some of the interesting sculptures along the way. After stopping at a pub for lunch, the day, enjoyed by all, ended in front of the banner of St Hugh in the church with prayer.

Whilst the afternoon tea is representative of tradition (and social activities in the parish such as this are increasingly under threat), the Water Rail Way, by comparison, is an example of change and how it can create new opportunities, as well as make a positive contribution to future generations. Hopefully both can find a place and provide inspiration for the Diocesan journey ahead. St Hugh experienced (and initiated) many changes during his life, some more welcome than others. As a patron of our Diocese, may he inspire and intercede for all parishes facing challenges, change and uncertainty.

St Hugh of Lincoln, pray for us.

Jo

Continued from page 1

It's why people used to speak of the 'twelve days of Christmas' up to the Epiphany, and used to celebrate them as such. This Christmas is a good time to do so again and to explore the variety and richness of these days. For example, the Feasts of St Stephen and the Holy Innocents introduce the notion of martyrdom into our Christmas celebrations. We're not allowed to linger too long at the crib and are reminded that we are called to follow Christ in our daily lives, which so often includes misunderstanding, opposition, and even persecution and martyrdom for some Christians in parts of our world.

The Feast of St John the beloved disciple, in the middle of these Feasts, reminds us also of the heart-to-heart relationship that Christ is always inviting us into; to share

with Him what's on our hearts and to draw ever closer to the abundant love He has in His heart for each of us. It is that intimate relationship that will enable us to put our faith into action this Christmastide by sharing God's love with those around us, particularly those who may be struggling most, in practical actions of love, kindness and care. I am deeply heartened by the many parish and school initiatives of 'warm spaces' foodbanks, clothing recycling, etc., in response to the cost of living crisis. We know we cannot truly love God, made flesh in Jesus, if we are not showing love for our neighbour.

I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful, joyful and reflective Christmas Season.

**+Patrick
Bishop of the
Diocese of Nottingham**

Good Shepherd Christmas Fair raises a staggering £8732 despite economic downturn

On Saturday 26 November 2022, 10.30am to 2.30pm, the Good Shepherd parish centre once again opened its doors to the wider community to celebrate its annual Christmas Fair. Despite the grim economic outlook, the fair was a huge success, raising £8,732.

"Where to begin – our hearts are bursting with gratitude and pride. Before the fair started, there was an expectation that the current economic climate would have a negative impact on our fundraising but the whole team was committed to keeping prices low to ensure more of our community could participate in all we do. It paid off as the visitors came in their droves, resulting in such an awesome fundraising total" says Sarah Benedek, organiser of the fair.

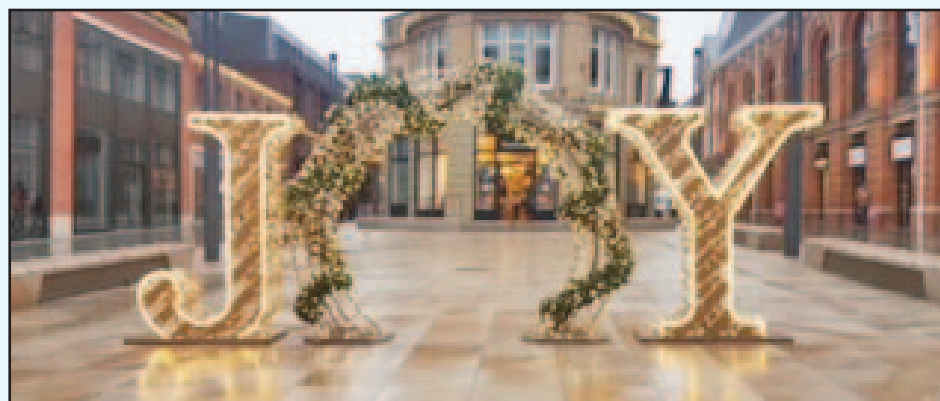
One of the biggest draws for the community was the FREE Santa's grotto, which saw lots of families participating. "We had so many enquiries in advance, asking us if we were sure the grotto was free, as they couldn't quite believe it. We've always had and are committed to keeping our grotto free for all to visit, which ensures all children can see Santa in the run up to Christmas, regardless of household wealth," continues Sarah Benedek.



Another exciting feature for visitors was the fire engine and police car, which were available throughout the day in the church car park for families to explore.

"Thank you to everyone who attended and supported us and thank you to the volunteers who made it happen. Thank you also to everyone who donated their time, raffle and tombola prizes for our event which helped us to keep our costs down. We salute you all. Today has been a good day," she concludes.

**Submitted on behalf of the
Good Shepherd Church, Nottingham**



FILLED WITH JOY

Advent is a season filled with joy and a lovely start to it came on 29th November at St Hugh's Church in Lincoln when Deacon John Wilford celebrated the 25th anniversary of his Permanent Diaconate. Starting with a Mass, the celebrations then continued with a buffet in the parish hall, where a blessing, from Pope Francis for Deacon John, was on display. Congratulations Deacon John and God bless you and your ministry.

Jo



The clergy of St Hugh's Church

Parish Quiz Night A Winner!

*Well here we are again for the
Good Shepherd Quiz Night*



Arrived just after 7 for a 7.30 start. Tables were all set with lovely snacks for starters. Continental meats, cheese, pickles, dips and biscuits. People were busy in the kitchen preparing for the main course and ensuring all went smoothly. Others were serving drinks, running the tombola stall and our quiz masters were waiting and eager to get going. Eventually everyone settled, the room was full as everyone enjoyed their starter and then the quiz began. The theme was "Christmas" and we started with a picture round followed by two lots of ten questions.

Then the main course: stew with dumplings or vegetable bake. Both looked wonderful. I had the vegetable bake which was superb.

On then to two more rounds of quiz before pudding. Choice of three puddings which were again lovely with plenty for seconds, finishing off with cheese and biscuits.

The night went off with a bang once again. All helpers worked very hard to make the evening a huge success but special thanks must go to Fr. Philipp's sister who cooked all the food behind the scenes leading up to the evening. Only two words: 'Brilliant and thank you'

Having been now to a few of these evenings I have the same thought, 'If anyone can tell me where else I might go to have good fun, good company and a three course meal for £6.50 then I'd like to know about it.'

*Submitted on behalf of Polly Jarvis,
Good Shepherd Church, Arnold.*



Cathedral Lunches

The regular First Friday lunches at the Nottingham Cathedral took on a Christmas feel expanding on its regular stalls offering Irish coffees, festive refreshments and an impressive tombola stall. Our regular parishioners and a few new visitors visited us in the Cathedral hall following Holy Mass, enjoyed a meal with friends while browsing the stalls. Heartfelt thanks to our kitchen staff and organisers who made this all possible. A sum of £650 was raised in support of Cathedral Maintenance. First Friday Lunches has been a long tradition at the Cathedral taking place over many years, a great meeting place for family and friends, low key but friendly and supportive for those seeking some company while sharing a choice of refreshments.

*Submitted on behalf of the
St Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham*



Continued from page 1

When it was built, with its 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. As Rachel's Leap of Faith shows, today's parishioners are no less courageous than their ancestors and just as determined to serve their community.

Rachel looked calm and collected as she prepared to launch herself into space. Afterwards she said, "I have a little ear pain, but otherwise I'm fine. It was absolutely amazing; it felt great! And I have raised over £1,400 so far, which is brilliant. Thanks so much to everyone who has sponsored and supported me."

If Rachel's courage has inspired you to give, the fund is still open for donations online at <https://justgiving.com/campaign/stjohnsmm>

Football friendship raises £1150 for Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund

Newark's Holy Trinity church football team continued their charity fundraising this year by taking on the team from Royal Mail Newark for the third Jason Ginnelly Memorial Fund event – raising a total of £1150 for PCRF.

Jason, who worked as a postman at Royal Mail Newark, died in 2017 aged just 42. He was actively involved with Holy Trinity R.C. Church football team both as a player and manager and his family, friends, team mates and work colleagues pay tribute to him through an annual football match fundraiser with the football team from Royal Mail.

When a former colleague of Jason's from Royal Mail Newark, Andy Gibson, died suddenly of pancreatic cancer last year, the teams decided it was fitting to fundraise for a charity which was relevant to him. They chose to donate the money to Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, because research into this cancer is significantly underfunded, and to raise awareness of this disease.

The match, which was won by the Royal Mail team 5- 3, was played at the YMCA Sports Facility in Newark and was followed by a barbeque and raffle at the Holy Trinity Community and Partnership centre. Andy Gibson's two sons Charlie and Brad – both players for Royal Mail Newark in honour of their dad and ended up on the winning side!

Maggie Blanks, CEO of Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund said: "Pancreatic cancer receives less than 2% of national funding for cancer research, so every penny our



**Friends Jason Ginnelly and
Andy Gibson**

supporters raise makes a real difference. This is a fantastic amount to raise and a lovely tribute to both Jason and Andy. I'm sure both men would have been really proud to see how much was raised to help others. We're very grateful to everyone involved. The money will be put to great use, funding world class research by experts all over the UK to find ways to detect the disease earlier and develop new treatments."



**Marc Harvey – Holy Trinity 1st Team
Manager, Rev Canon Michael
O'Donoghue – Chairman of Holy
Trinity Football Club, Bobby Briggs-
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Manager and Dean Gent Captain of the
Royal Mail winning side**

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SVP – What We Do

The SVP in 2022

On behalf of the SVP may I wish you a happy and prosperous 2023. It has been an interesting year for SVP members and their conferences. The early part of the year saw members emerge from their pandemic lockdown which had limited activity to offer support to those in need. As the year progressed events both local and beyond were happening that would shape the focus and direction the SVP would be taking.

The Invasion of Ukraine triggered a flood of refugees with some arriving in this country. The SVP's response was to get involved in a number of ways, including the provision of hosted accommodation, fundraising and the use of a special support fund for Ukrainian families to purchase food, clothing and other useful items whilst they settled into life in England. Members have provided transport to enable our Ukrainian guests to get out and about to meet up with fellow countrymen; they have organised activities and events to help welcome and integrate them into the community; additionally refugees have been supported to overcome administration obstacle whilst dealing with associated bureaucracy.

Meanwhile the regular business of befriending, reaching out to those in need in

the community and just being there for people has carried on. Conferences all over the diocese in the four districts of Derby, Nottingham, Leicestershire and North Lincolnshire have been increasingly active in their communities, always seeking to help in whatever way they can.

The SVP runs a camp at Mablethorpe and whilst it is undergoing a full renovation it was 'open for business' this summer as groups of children from around the diocese were welcomed to experience a residential treat.

As the year progressed it was becoming increasingly obvious that an economic tsunami was approaching. The war in Ukraine was having a massive impact on prices, which began to rise at an alarming rate. Fuel, food and general living costs were all predicted to rise exponentially, potentially leaving many families in dire straits. The concept of 'heating or eating' became a cry to arms for the SVP who responded in typical Vincentian manner.

Fundraising has taken place at both a national and local level so that conferences have resources at their disposal to combat fuel and food poverty, provide practical and emotional support to those in need and be a welcoming society to whoever needs them. Requests for

help have never been higher and the SVP strives to respond to each and every request.

The SVP has been integral in either organising or facilitating warm spaces where the community come along to enjoy friendship, company, entertainment, refreshment and warmth during the winter months.

Looking ahead to 2023 the SVP will continue to rise to the challenge of finding and supporting those in need. Befriending, support for refugees and warm spaces will still be a focus but the lesson learned from 2022 is that the future is unpredictable. Guided by the Holy Spirit the SVP will respond to any challenge that comes its way.

If you would like to know more about the SVP, would like to become a member or are interested in starting a conference in your parish please contact Lance Philpott at lancep@svp.org.uk



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Papal Nuncio to Great Britain appointed prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches

He was first appointed as an official to what was then called the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, in 1985

Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, until now Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, as prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches. He succeeds Cardinal Leonardo Sandri as prefect.

Archbishop Gugerotti studied Eastern Languages and Sacred Liturgy and was a professor of Patristics, Eastern Liturgy at the Institute of Ecumenical Studies in Verona from 1981 to 1985.

He was first appointed as an official to what was then called the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, in 1985. Twelve years later, in 1997, he became its Undersecretary.

He has also taught at the Pontifical Oriental Institute. Pope Francis named Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti as Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain on Saturday, 4 July 2020.

Arriving during the Covid-19 pandemic, he served for just over two years. Please pray for Archbishop Gugerotti as he prepares to serve the Roman Curia in this important role.



Home-Grown Youth Minister becomes youngest member of Derbyshire County Council

Born and raised in the Amber Valley, Derbyshire's newest County Councillor is someone many of us know!

Joel Bryan, 23, was born and raised in the Amber Valley, regularly attending Mass with his Grandma Brenda, taking part in retreats and conferences at every opportunity. Having finished college, Joel decided to spend a year volunteering with Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service as a member of the team at The Briars in Crich.

As part of the team, Joel dedicated 10 months to leading small groups, games and prayers for thousands of young people from schools and parishes from across the Diocese of Nottingham.

Now, on a slightly different path, Joel is the newly elected County Councillor for Long Eaton. To the naked eye, the two paths seem quite different, though Joel points out an interesting similarity: "My purpose whilst working at The Briars and now working for the people of Long Eaton actually have a lot



Joel attending the Young Adults' Group at Nottingham Cathedral, November 2022

in common; it is - and was - my hope that each person can simply live their life to the full (John 10:10), realising their true potential. For this to happen, their needs should be met - whether those be spiritual needs, physical needs, environmental needs,

or another kind - it's a pleasure and an honour to play a part in facilitating them." Then adding, "I think it's really important to have more Catholics in local government, fighting for social justice and constantly asking God for guidance"

Pupils at St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby have signed up to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Children in Years 3 to 6 were given the opportunity to volunteer for the new roles and they were asked to write a letter to Headteacher, Tim Brogan, saying why they should be selected.

The pupils who were chosen went on a one-day anti-bullying training session, run by The Diana Award, at Trent College in Long Eaton. Children from a number of schools worked together and acquired vital skills to enable them to raise awareness of bullying and bullying behaviour, change the attitudes and behaviours in their school, by building their skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and off.

The training looked at bullying in different situations, including face-to-face and online. At the end of the day, pupils made an action plan of how to approach bullying issues that may arise in their schools and committed to their roles as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Pupils from St Alban's CVA who took part in the training led a liturgy in their school highlighting the different forms of bullying. Lincoln and Neala, both 9 years old, are Anti-Bullying Ambassadors at St Alban's, in Chaddesden.

Neala said: "I wanted to be an ambassador so that I could help spread the message about stopping bullying. So far we've had a couple of meetings and come up with an action plan. During anti-bullying week we are going to have Odd Sock Day and we are working on a poem which each class will contribute to."

Lincoln said: "I thought it would be good to be an ambassador because I wanted to help others and make a difference."



Mr Brogan said: "We are a really loving community and I'm really proud of the commitment of our pupils to get involved in leading others. We have a number of groups in our school and over 100 pupils applied to be anti-bullying ambassadors, showing the drive to establish an even more positive and safe environment for all."

"I have been really impressed with the quality of training from the Diana Award and would advise all schools to set up an ambassador programme, in order to significantly reduce the chances of bullying happening in school and the wider community."

The Diana Award's free Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme, which is available to schools across the UK, sees trainers working with students and other young people to change the attitude surrounding bullying.

The programme has a strong peer-to-peer focus, with trainers giving young people the skills and confidence to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to tackle bullying in their schools, long after the training has finished.

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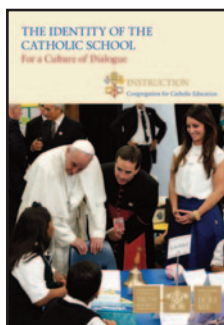
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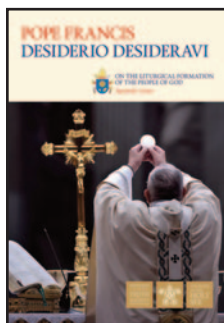
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In this Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis shares some reflections on the liturgy for all Catholics after his Motu Proprio Traditiones custodes. Focusing on tensions present around the celebration of the liturgy, he calls on Catholics to accept the liturgical reform borne out of Sacrosanctum Concilium, and

reaffirms that "The liturgical books promulgated by Saint Paul VI and Saint John Paul II ... are the unique expression of the lex orandi [the law of what is prayed] of the Roman Rite."

Calling for a "serious and dynamic liturgical formation" beyond the academic environment, Pope Francis criticises "a heightened personalism of the celebrating style which at times expresses a poorly concealed mania to be the centre of attention", and reminds clergy, faithful and the consecrated alike that "[t]he action of the celebration is the place in which, by means of memorial, the Paschal Mystery is made present so that the baptized, through their participation, can experience it in their own lives. Without this understanding, the celebration easily falls into a preoccupation with the exterior (more or less refined) or into a concern only for rubrics (more or less rigid)."

"With this letter I simply want to invite the whole Church to rediscover, to safeguard, and to live the truth and power of the Christian celebration. I want the beauty of the Christian celebration and its necessary consequences for the life of the Church not to be spoiled by a superficial and foreshortened understanding of its value or, worse yet, by its being exploited in service of some ideological vision, no matter what the hue."

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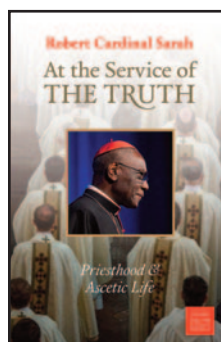
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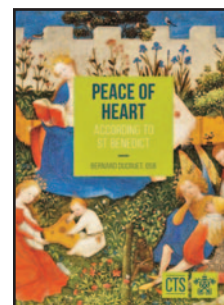
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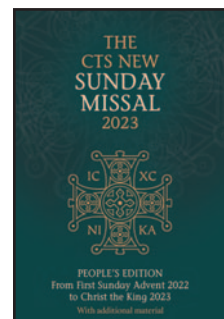
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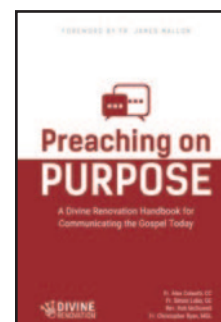
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Divine Renovation's latest title, Preaching on Purpose, gives Catholic clergy a step-by-step handbook in developing homilies tailored for the New Evangelisation.



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Citing Pope Francis, the Archbishop says, "The authors enthusiastically urge us all to preach in a way which 'awakens the soul...and does not put it to sleep.' All those entrusted with this sacred task will read it avidly."

The book is co-authored by four experienced preachers who wish to share with a wider audience the principles of preaching needed to enable mission, evangelisation, and parish renewal:

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- Rev. Rob McDowell: Wesleyan pastor and Divine Renovation leadership coach
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Did you think leprosy was a thing of the past?



Dal Bahadur Pariyar, a man whose eyes, hands, face and feet are disabled or affected by leprosy, Lamatara Leprosy Community, Nepal

For centuries, leprosy has plagued poverty-stricken communities across the globe. No one knew how it was transmitted and there was no known cure.

Even a few decades ago, more than five million people every year were still suffering severe disabilities and their lives were being destroyed physically, emotionally and socially.

But leprosy is curable

Multidrug therapy has been available since the 1990s and around 16 million people have been cured of the disease since then. Yet more than 200,000 new cases of leprosy are still being reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) every year. Millions more people may have the disease but are yet to be diagnosed.

Early detection can stop leprosy in its tracks

For 127 years, St Francis Leprosy Guild has been working to end leprosy and now, as we approach World Leprosy Day on 29 January 2023, we truly believe a leprosy-free world is within sight. Our TRACE operating strategy, which stands for Training, Research, Active Case-Finding, Care and Emergency response, is designed to help stamp out leprosy for good.



Today, we need your support to train local healthcare workers who can visit hard-to-reach communities where leprosy is endemic in order to screen and treat people for the disease. By giving £30 today to support regular monitoring, early detection and immediate treatment – before the disease takes hold – you can help to prevent terrible and avoidable suffering.



A leprosy-free world is now within sight

St Francis Leprosy Guild supports around 40 leprosy centres across Asia, Africa and Brazil. Your gift of £30 today can help this essential work continue. Together, let's seize the opportunity to end leprosy once and for all.

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A Christmas flap!

By Julia Beacroft

THE TRADITIONAL TURKEY roast dinner seems to be synonymous with Christmas and I've certainly had my fair share of cooking them.

Yet strangely many of us seem to be overwhelmed, worried or downright stressed at the prospect of tackling the festive big bird each year. Questions over whether we have the right sized roasting tin, the correct width baking foil and even more importantly, how long the bird will take to cook in the oven, causes many cooks to scratch their heads and ponder each year. And problems so easily arise as well... A friend of mine invited some elderly guests who had no families of their own for the Christmas meal, but nearly had a heart attack himself when he dropped the roasting tin, complete with half-cooked turkey on to his kitchen floor!

FOOL PROOF PLAN

On another occasion, my kitchen came close to resembling an abattoir, when I tried to implement what I believed to be a fool proof plan to make sure that the turkey was cooked to perfection. Or so I thought... As a family of six we were in possession of a large slow cooker. Therefore the perfect solution to the timing debacle was to put the turkey in to slow cook overnight on a low setting. Ideal! Unfortunately however, the slow cooker was large – but clearly not large enough. Denuded of first it's wings and then its legs in a

desperate bid to fit it in, my late father was heard to murmur sympathetically, “Poor little so-and- so! What have they done to you?!”

SHARING OUR LIVES

Of course, turkey dinners for Christmas are rooted in history, originally being introduced into this country circa 1500's and with King Henry VIII being the first British monarch to enjoy the bird at Christmas. Yet this year I am planning a change of menu. On Christmas Day when my large and extended family gather together, we are having 'shared plate' buffet style Christmas fayre. Why? Well, obviously if you're a roast turkey and vegetable fan this wouldn't necessarily appeal to you, but there are definitely some advantages. The idea of coming together, bringing and sharing, is fundamentally rooted in Christianity. Hospitality and sharing our food, which has been produced by man in co-operation with God, means that we are also sharing our lives. And it seems to me that sharing our lives with each other and with the Lord is the very essence of the season of Christmas.

THE ESSENTIAL HEART

The 'bring and share' initiative is not necessarily synonymous with Christmas dinner, but it is certainly synonymous with Christianity as we share the food and the workload! And this unique and novel way of



having the Christmas meal means that all those involved can go to Mass on Christmas morning without having to worry or get in a flap about over or under cooking the seasonal turkey. Christmas Day is the celebration of the

Lord's birth. This is the essential heart of the celebration of Christmas. Without the Lord, there would be no Christmas. Without turkey... we could manage perfectly.



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 5 Sports two letters from Paul (11)
- 7 Log all chocolate that's eaten around Christmas? (4)
- 8 Naive can, strangely to medieval Schoolmen, be an influence (8)
- 9 Building that appeals for Indian ruler to 'go back in time' in retrospective (7)
- 11 This kind of hell hole's diabolical (5)
- 13 Levi's sister's anger initially follows row with husband (5)
- 14 Golden premier of chap being inducted into a mysterious religion (7)
- 16 Note a retrogressive toilet's showy façade: a parable that highlights greed (4,4)
- 17 ' No union, no strike' letters initially given to women with habits (4)
- 18 Bernstein, or alternative name for the Premonstratensians (11)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 He composed a tune ultimately the navy embraced (4)
- 2 Key number among Poles eroded benefice's income (7)
- 3 Some in macho Irish group getting vocal when together (5)
- 4 Horse old Persian tracks to a town fortified by Rehoboam (8)
- 5 Means of executing Rugby's capacity to bind individual's attachment to one across? (11)
- 6 Solomon's greatest hit? Perhaps not... (4,2,5)
- 10 ...Eucharistic Prayer heard in Athens maybe a rap Noah composed (8)
- 12 Abbot's story is written up following Rector's recording outside (7)

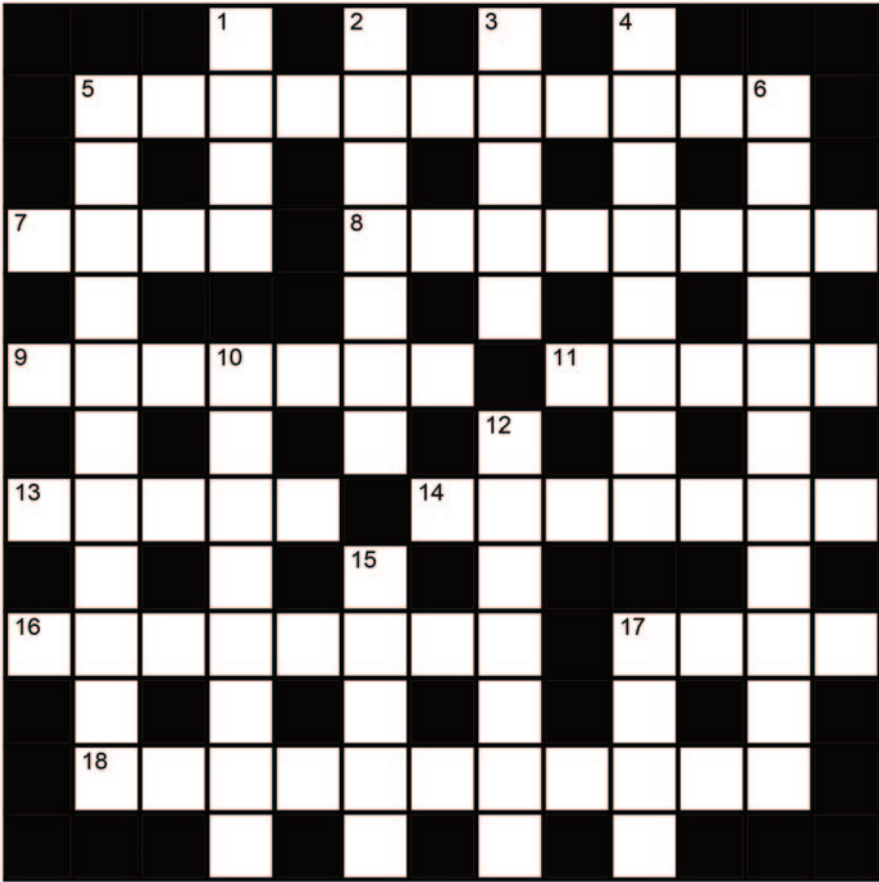
- 15 She was unfaithful to OT chap; married an all-round raver (5)
- 17 All over English meet with French negativity, which produces zilch (4)

QUICK Across

- 5 Either of two books of the NT (11)
- 7 Archaic term for Christmas from a 12-day heathen festival (4)
- 8 Muslim philosopher who influenced the medieval Schoolmen... (8)
- 9 ...and a pillar of Islam? (7)
- 11 Word appearing in the OT meaning the underworld or place for departed souls (5)
- 13 Daughter of Jacob and Leah (5)
- 14 Ancient Greek set of religious beliefs associated with Hades (7) 16 A ---- ----: parable appearing in Luke (4,4)
- 17 Females who have taken their final vows (4)
- 18 Alternative name for members of the Premonstratensian Order (11)

QUICK Down

- 1 Composer of two oratorios, but more famously Rule Britannia (4)
- 2 First year's revenue of an ecclesiastical benefice, passed to the Crown in 1535 and abolished in 1926 (7)
- 3 Part of a church containing the seats of the clergy (5)
- 4 Town fortified by Rehoboam for which Micah prophesied disaster (8)



- 5 Means of Christ's death as recorded by all four evangelists (11)
- 6 OT anthology of love poems, alternatively called 'Canticles' in some Bibles (4,2,5)
- 10 Word in the Eastern Church which equates to the Eucharistic Prayer (8)
- 12 High-ranking ecclesiastic (7) 15 Hosea's unfaithful wife (5)
- 17 The last of the 'Little Hours' of the Divine Office (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 5 Corinthians, 7 Yule, 8 Avicenna, 9 Minaret, 11 Sheol, 13 Dinah, 14 Orphism, 16 Rich fool, 17 Nuns, 18 Norbertines. Down: 1 Arne, 2 Annates, 3 Choir, 4 Maresnah, 5 Crucifixion, 6 Song of Songs, 10 Anaphora, 12 Prelate, 15 Gomer, 17 None.