



MORE THAN 24 YEARS OF BRINGING THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESE TOGETHER

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St Mary's Parish and School, Derby, Celebrate the Month of Mary with a Joint Procession See page 7



Servant of God John Bradburne – Finding God in the humble service of the outcasts. See Page 9

The Sign of the Cross makes us feel God's embrace

The Sign of the Cross reminds us how much God loves us, Pope Francis told pilgrims in St Peter's Square during his Angelus address on Sunday on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.

This simple gesture, that we learn as children, makes us feel God's embrace, that, with His Love and tenderness, envelops us completely, he said.

The Holy Father recalled that the day's Gospel is taken from Jesus' dialogue with Nicodemus, who was a member of the Sanhedrin, "passionate about the mystery of God," who recognized Jesus as "a divine master" and goes to speak to Him at night, in secret. Jesus, the Pope recalled, listened to him, saying that God loved humanity so much that He sent His Son into the world.

"Father and Son," the Pope said, is a familiar image that, if we think about it, disrupts our images of God, which often may seem "a singular, majestic and distant reality." Yet, this concept, of a Father and a Son, he said, "brings us back home."

The Pope said we can think of God through the image of "a family gathered around the table," where life is shared.

"Besides, the table, which is also an altar," he pointed out, "is a symbol with which certain icons depict the Trinity. It is an image that speaks to us of a God of communion."

"But it is not only an image... it is reality! It is reality because the Holy Spirit, the Spirit that the Father poured into our hearts through Jesus, makes us taste, makes us savour God's presence: a presence that is always close, compassionate and tender."

The Holy Spirit does with us what Jesus does with Nicodemus, namely He introduces us to the mystery of new birth and reveals the heart of the Father to us, making us sharers in the very life of God.

"The invitation he extends to us, we might say, is to sit at the table with God to share in His love, which, he noted, is what happens "at every Mass, at the altar, where Jesus offers Himself to the Father and offers Himself for us."

"And do you know how we can remember this? With the simplest gesture, which we learnt as children: the sign of the cross."

Continued on page 2

Confirmation Retreat

It's hard to know where to begin after celebrating a most blessed two day retreat with over 40 young people from our parish.

Firstly, to say a huge thank you to Sister Lucy and Sister Carino for leading our retreat with prayer, knowledge and plenty of fun.

To our catechists - especially Fraser for helping to put everything together to make our focus so engaging and appropriate for young people today. Thank you to you all for giving of your energy and time to guide our young people.

To T and Solomon who came back and spoke so eloquently about their own faith journey. Your honest and reflective testimony is witness to the incredible young men you both are. We are very proud of you both.

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The monthly paper for the
Diocese of Nottingham

Catholic News 

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SVP – What We Do

The SVP and Humility

This month's article from the SVP is a reflection penned by Jon Cornwall, the Director of Membership for the SVP.



C S Lewis in his excellent book the *Screwtape Letters* imagines a conversation between two demons tasked with tempting humanity away from its better nature. Here Uncle Screwtape offers this devious council:

"Let him think of [humility] not as self-forgetfulness but as a certain kind of opinion, namely a low opinion of one's own talents and character... Fix in his mind the idea that humility consists in trying to believe those talents to be less valuable than he believes them to be... By this method thousands of humans have been brought to live out a humility which means that pretty women now believe that they are ugly and clever men are certain that they are really fools whose own beliefs could well be manifest nonsense. Let us raise a generation who do not believe that they can succeed, and let's keep them second guessing, changing their minds constantly as being fixed with one opinion would not be humble. Let them be ashamed of perfection and do all they can to avoid its pursuit."

C S Lewis would elsewhere say that "Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less".

As Vincentians we commit ourselves to a great number of values, being Christ-centred, respectful, generous, accountable and confidential among others. The formation of the Society relies on these virtues and in dignifying the experience of our Beneficiaries it needs a true and real devotion to humility. The best version of humility lived out by the Society views our role as in partnership with God and in devotion to the Poor.

Just as 1 Corinthians 13 gives us a great exposition on what Love is not, perhaps it is worth our own version of what Vincentian Humility also is not.

Humility is not self-deprecating; it does not think less of the person but drives them to think of others first. No, it does not often shout about its idea being better than everyone else's, unless of course your idea is more compassionate and loving. Humility is not an excuse for inaction or inertia but instead moves in partnership with the Holy Spirit which takes control out of our hands and works wonderfully to its own timeline. Humility does not apologise for what we do nor does it downplay our efforts. No, it does not trumpet what we do but equally it does not make a secret of it. Humility stops us from doing everything ourselves and encourages us to rely on shared gifts, of our fellow members, of the Beneficiary themselves and in our shared Christ centredness. Humility welcomes others who do things a slightly different way, Humility encourages us to share the load, especially when it has been 'our job' for a while and humility means that when the external observer sees our efforts, they will not just be impressed but also think to themselves... **'I could do that'**.

If you think 'you could do that' and feel moved to find out more about the SVP please contact Joe Gasan, the Nottingham Central Council Membership Support Office at joeg@svp.org.uk

Thank you to SVP Members reading this who inspire one another daily.

A Message from the Editor

After more than 24 years editing this newspaper I feel it is time to take a step back and retire. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors for their interesting and informative articles over the years. I would also like to thank the many priests and other religious for their kind encouragement and

especially past Bishops James, and Malcolm and our current Bishop Patrick.

Most of all many thanks to you, our loyal readers and our advertisers.

May God bless us all

John Clawson

Wanted Parish Correspondents

The Catholic News is looking for a Parish Correspondent in your parish to send in local news for publication in this newspaper.

All items to be emailed to
cn@cathcom.org
before 10th of the month

FRANKLY SPEAKING



There is little doubt that the prospect of AI meaning Artificial Intelligence has been creeping into our lives this year. The media always likes a good headline particularly if the story will make the news rather than waiting to report actual truth. The kindest reaction came in the claim "AI can support the human race".

Can this be a positive view as new technology continues to change our lives? We constantly hear about a skills shortage, a declining birth rate and an ageing population. The present Government and its predecessors seem to be pushing towards getting more digital transactions if only they would have shown the same enthusiasm for the issues in my previous sentence.

A declining birth rate and our ageing population really are so important they need more space in another article. The skills shortage however comes firmly back to our young people and their education or lack of it. The Government should be more supportive of all our teenagers and not just those who will go to university. The long term economic growth of our country would surely benefit from this. How much the challenge of AI will play in all this remains to be seen.

The issues raised in the previous paragraph affect us all and need not only good leadership but careful scrutiny. At the start of Synod 2021-2023 Roman Catholics had the opportunity to contribute to the challenges of the future. Whilst this is still on-going unlike AI we can examine how the church re-acted to the first

Pentecosts and what we must do in the future.

I am in no way a historian or theologian but the Pentecost Day reading from the Acts of the Apostles does refer to them being "filled with the Holy Spirit". This was like a springboard for the early Church from which we all benefit today.

The Diocese of Nottingham Synod Prayer urges us to "not to stray from the way of truth". The prayer continues for all "who are at work in every place and time" Will AI really "support the human race" like the Church does?

Frank Goulding
Holy Trinity Parish, Newark

The Pope encouraged those present, and following, to, in silence, make the sign of the cross.

"Today, then, we can ask ourselves: do we bear witness to God-as-love? Or has God-as-love become in turn a concept, something we have already heard, that no longer stirs provokes life?"

Pope Francis asked the faithful to question whether their communities bear witness to this. "Do they know how to love? And our family, do we know how to love within our family?" he asked.

The Pope noted that offering love, involves being merciful, keeping the door open, and making our communities a home for all.

"May Mary," the Pope said, before reciting the midday prayer, "help us to live the Church as that home where one loves in a familiar way, to the glory of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."



This little puzzle is to remind you that you are Important and Precious because God loves you.



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Bringing us all together after the Pandemic



St Mary's Church Marple Bridge and the Annunciation Church New Mills came together as one big Parish and celebrated with a delicious 'Afternoon Cream Tea'.

Held in Father John Cairn's Hall, guests were treated to lovely hymns and songs by the children of St Mary's School, New Mills with each guest presented with a puzzle piece and prayer card to remind all that we are all part of God's world and precious.

Whilst eating the scones, cream and jam (from a local baker's supporting our local shops) and drinking from period china, guests were serenaded by Norman Harrison, who had everyone singing along whilst he played his guitar and ukulele.

It was a memorable afternoon and thank you to all the organisers, especially to Sophie Pearce (Parish Social Organiser).

As one person said, "Sophie, you brought smiles to a lot of people today".

Thank you to Father Emmanuel for your support and we hope this will be the first of many Parish social events.



Celebrating Seventieth Anniversary of Ordination



On 7th June Fr Peter Peterken, a Priest of the Ordinariate, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the seventieth anniversary of his ordination as an Anglican Priest and twelve years as a Catholic Priest. To the many friends who gathered with him in the church of St George and All Soldier Saints, Normanton, Derby, he said that the celebration was not about him, but about God, who had shown such gracious mercy in calling him, and placing him in interesting locations, both in town and country here in England, and for a time, as a missionary in British Guiana, to the north of the Amazon forest.

He urged everyone to see their occupation, whatever it might be, doctor or dentist, nurse or craftsman, engineer or carer, as a calling from God, and to do all things for the glory of God.

In this broken and suffering world where there is so much that is downright evil, we are called to be the Good News, and live, like Our Lord, lives of sacrificial love.

Canon Burbidge spoke appreciatively of Fr Peter's ministry and announced a surprise party in the social Centre after Mass.



GAP YEAR OPEN EVENING

Sunday 2nd July 2023
5:00pm-7:00pm

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Around our diocese

Source - Twitter photos



Congratulations to the 35 candidates who were confirmed by Bishop Patrick, on 23rd May 2023, at St Mary of the Annunciation in Loughborough

A most enjoyable weekend visit to the parishes in Narborough and Lutterworth, Leics. I'm grateful for the warm welcome I received from Fr Joel and Deacon Kevin and parishioners, and also for the Sunday lunch hospitality offered by retired priests Frs John Joe and Jim.
Bishop Patrick



Bishop Patrick an invitation to speak on the contribution of Catholicism to the local community at a Festival of Faiths hosted at Notts County Hall and the opportunity to listen to speakers from the Church of England and from other faiths. An excellent initiative which was well supported!



It is awesome to be at The Becket School this morning to thank students for their generosity in their recent Give a Gift project in school.

Over the last half term, students have raised over £3000 to buy World Gifts, thank you so much!



Canon Stephen Dye and Fr Colin Patey celebrating 25 years of priestly ministry are presented with Papal Blessings to mark their Jubilee anniversary of ordination.

Congratulations and Ad multos annos!



Religious Brothers

"You're not a priest. What do you do?" I remember asking a Religious Brother many years ago. When young I had served Mass regularly and could appreciate what priests did but 'brothers' were new to me!

Later I undertook some research into 'Religious brothers' as their vocation continued to intrigue me. In this, I knew they were able, academically well-qualified and pastorally experienced men who answered the call to service in a way which was personal to them.

The vocation of a brother is 'to brother'. They do this through encouraging, listening, sharing and accompanying one's brothers and sisters in Christ as they journey through life. A brother can be a member of different communities such as his religious community, family, friends, workplace, and within the locality he lives in.

A brother's calling to service can be in areas such as education, social work, nursing, manual work, community work, justice and peace, parish work as well as being a member of their community. But first and foremost, he is a brother.

A number of years ago, I spent some time speaking with Br Guy who was a Little Brother of Jesus. They had been founded in 1933 by a small group of men as they felt called to follow the witness of the now St. Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916) who lived alone in the Sahara Desert in Algeria among the Tourareg people. This founding shows "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a grain of wheat, but if it dies it yields a rich harvest" (Jn 12:24).

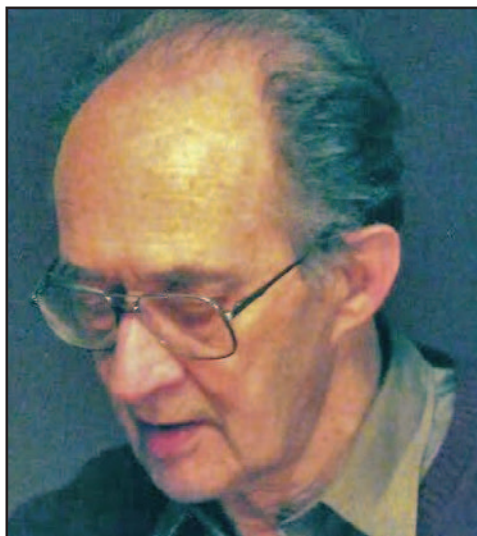
The first Little brother to come to Britain was Br Roger who in 1952 began to establish the brothers' presence in Leeds. Br Guy came from Lyons in 1961 and lived in Leeds in the same house as his neighbours. There were no external signs that the house was occupied by a group of brothers. This was deliberate as the brothers identify with their neighbours. They don't go out to the people from a big house in an affluent area; they live among them.

He shared that the brothers live in places which are deemed to be areas where poverty in its many forms is present. They live the Gospel through sharing in the everyday lives of their neighbours, in their joys and sorrows also in working as others do. Here, they have the vocation of being a presence. Br Ian who lived in Leeds then moved to London told me "The brothers' charism is to be contemplatives in the world."

Little brothers would not undertake any form of church ministry. Br Guy worked in a factory alongside people from the area. He was the union shop-steward so in many ways he was the 'the voice of the voiceless'.

Brother Ian said "the brothers find in ordinary life a meeting place with God as Jesus did". As Charles de Foucauld wrote 'It is only necessary to live among people, sharing the human condition and being present to them in love'. Little brothers see their vocation as 'living the life of Nazareth ... the hidden life of Jesus of Nazareth'.

Br Xavier lived for over thirty years in Leeds with Br Guy. He too experienced the life of locals through both working and experiencing redundancy. This happened to many as industry was changing.



Br Thierry came to Leeds in 1971 where he worked on a building site. In 1973 both he and Br Yvan founded a community in London and soon Br Thierry became involved with the L'arche community where people with disabilities and assistants lived together.



St. Charles de Foucauld

Occasionally a brother may be ordained priest enabling the brothers to celebrate the Eucharist as a community. One of the brothers, Br Ian, had been living in London for many years when he was asked to be ordained. On the morning of his ordination, he was at the local college cleaning offices as he did most days! Although ordained, Br Ian was first and foremost a brother.

In Leeds Br Guy got involved in the local community through volunteering at the Development Education Centre as well as being involved with Justice and Peace. He was a man who shared compassion towards others particularly refugees and asylum seekers. He remained in Leeds until his death in 2013.

Today, there are only one hundred and thirty Little Brothers of Jesus in the world and, sadly, they are no longer in Britain.

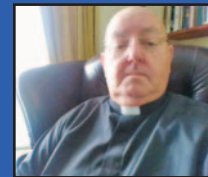
On Vocations Sunday we often hear the bishops and priests asking us to pray that more men answer the call of God to the priesthood and be shepherds of the flock. Yet rarely do I hear 'Let us pray for more men to answer the call of God to be Brothers'.

Pope Francis chose the theme for this year's Vocations Sunday as 'Vocation: Grace and Mission'. He states that 'our common vocation is to give ourselves in love'. People live their baptism in various ways, that is as laity, religious, or ordained as all have a role within, what is called, the 'vocational symphony'. Here, each of us have a contribution to make in living the gospel.

In relation to this, let us hope more men may, like Br Guy, Br Yvan, Br Ian, Br Thierry, and Br Michel did so, discern the call 'to brother' and give themselves in love.

Deacon Michael O'Donnell

From: Elston Hermitage.....

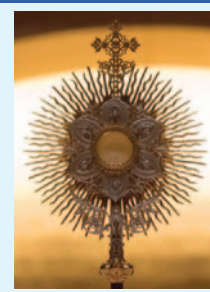


One of the many charisms of living the Benedictine rule is the emphasis it puts on hospitality, and one of the ways that we are to socially react and interact with others is to share our common table.

In our times I am told there are many television programmes such as Master Chef (although not having a television for some thirty years have never seen) and endless magazines about cooking and food which tempt us not to be satisfied with what is placed before us and tempt us to look for greener pastures or for something which will nourish us and sustain us beyond our usual fare. Our palates become bored with which what seems everyday and ordinary. But there is much more to a meal than what satisfies our palates - we have to notice not only what we eat but remember those who both produce and prepare our meals. We are called not only to be consumers of food but people who develop a relationship around a common table.

During the month of June we gathered around another common table to share in the Eucharistic meal on the Feast of Corpus Christi. From this we are able to notice that the person we meet is not just the person we consume. The emphasis however is not solely on the Sacred Host and Chalice we receive at the altar, but

the person we enter into a deeper spiritual and deeper relationship with. This intimate moment of sharing wholly the life of another is not just a physical act but a spiritual encounter.



We are called to become one with Him who shares himself in the simplest gifts of bread and wine which become His Body and Blood. The heart of the Eucharistic celebration is that we become one with Him as he becomes one with us. This sense of communion helps us to live in a different reality. It allows us to discover how God is encountered in every day and in the simplest events of life. And so by seeking God in all things we are able to discover that our ordinary lives can be transformed into being extraordinary and we are able to become a blessing for our world because we become transformed by the very person whom we receive in our Eucharistic lives.

And so each time we receive the precious Body and Blood of Christ - let us thank Jesus for the life He gives us.

**Fr David + h.d.n.
Priest and Hermit**

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The entry of the Lord into Jerusalem

Is There Another Way?

Many have links to the UK or family members already living here but far too often, there are no safe routes open to them

The Lord Bishop for Migration and Refugees, Bishop Paul McManus, has commented on the government's Illegal Migration Bill

"Someone who makes a dangerous journey across the Channel to seek asylum here has a name, a face, and a story

"People are often taken from homes for poverty, conflict, persecution, natural disasters, or other factors that prevent their flourishing. How have links to the UK or family members already living here. Yet, for too often, there are no safe routes open to them

"While we all seek to end dangerous Channel crossings, this new legislation leaves migrants and refugees as a problem to be solved rather than brothers and sisters towards whom we have responsibilities. Establishing more safe routes, and genuinely understanding people's individual circumstances, are essential to making this an occasion we want to see more of in our diocese. Thank you for your generosity and your kindness in offering yourself for prayerhood in the diocese"

Salford Diocese welcomes Fr Peter

The joyful celebration welcomed many guests, including friends and family of Fr Peter

An all celebration Mass Salford Cathedral on Saturday 22nd Feb. Fr Peter, assisted by Fr Michael, welcomed a new priest

Members of the clergy from across the diocese - as well as those from further afield - joined Bishop John for the joyful celebration of Fr Peter's installation

The joyful celebration welcomed many guests, including friends and family of Fr Peter

During the ceremony, Fr Peter was presented to Bishop John by Fr Michael Davies, Rector of St Mary's College, Orkney

Bishop John then delivered a homily, which explored more about the role of priests in our modern-day world

He said: "There's a lovely image that Pope Francis uses. He used it for his own installation. I think it applies equally well for priests too"

Bishop John began: "Mass with words of gratitude to Fr Peter, saying 'Thank you for making this an occasion we want to see more of in our diocese. Thank you for your generosity and your kindness in offering yourself for prayerhood in the diocese'"

Continued on page 8

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Recognising Love



A map in the parish hall showing some of the nationalities within the parish

***“Earth’s crammed
with heaven,
And every common bush
afire with God,
But only he who sees takes
off his shoes;
The rest sit round and
pluck blackberries.”***

— *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

Trinity Sunday has just passed and three separate occasions, in the week prior, raised questions about recognising Love, God.

Towards the end of Saturday morning Adoration, a visitor entered the church and walked down the aisle; in front of the altar he stopped and briefly looked up at the ceiling and around before walking off to join his companion. A smile broke out on my face as I watched the man standing about a metre away from THE King of the Universe yet apparently completely oblivious and imagined the Lord looking upon him with a big smile on His face, full of love for him and knew that man, more often than not, represented me too.

A week earlier a Pentecost Vigil had been held at St Hugh’s Church in Lincoln, organised by members of the Polish community. People of different nationalities had been invited to get involved and the uplifting service that resulted, incorporating exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and lasting about ninety minutes, was conducted in several languages by different parish groups. An international buffet followed in the parish hall. Prompted by the service, I had looked up the word love in different languages and realised the majority of them I would not have recognised as meaning love and it led me to reflect on

how well, or rather, how poorly, I recognise God who is Love, in the many varied guises He adopts. Whilst unable to understand many of the prayers or songs during the service, thankfully the universal language of love, including joy and togetherness, was unmistakable, hopefully a fragrant offering to the Lord, like the incense that rose to the rafters during Benediction.

Between those two events, the Feast of the Visitation was celebrated and a coach, organised by a member of the Polish community, headed to Walsingham on pilgrimage. There, whilst waiting for Mass, I read the meditation for the day in the Magnificat booklet, and was struck by Elizabeth’s recognition of the presence of God within her relative, Mary. A great day was had by all and one cause of joy for many was the Holy Mile procession with the Polish rosary; for me, learning a Polish word that enabled me to join in, was the cherry on the icing.



Walsingham pilgrimage

God is patient, full of love and mercy, understanding of the weaknesses that prevent us from seeing him. He waits before us with longing and if we stand or sit before His gaze, the Holy Spirit leads us to repentance, gradually revealing and removing the fears, prejudices, ideas and opinions that blind us, creating space for Him and only then, through His own eyes, will we see Him and realise who was before our eyes the whole time. Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10).

Whilst asking in prayer, with the intercession of St Elizabeth, for the grace to become more aware of His presence, I pray too, with thanksgiving, that the Lord will look kindly

towards those of us who, for all sorts of reasons, frequently fail to appreciate His presence and instead ‘sit round and pluck blackberries’ or hurry away. May events like the vigil and pilgrimage, as well as regular Eucharistic Adoration, dismantle barriers and open us to the Spirit, helping us to discover God in diversity, grow in love, and increase unity and community within the parish and beyond.

With grateful thanks to all who made the Pentecost Vigil happen and for the opportunity to go on a group pilgrimage. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Jo

Continued from page 1



To our parents/carers and families who encourage and nurture all our young people. Support each other in the friendship of Christ and know we are here for you too as a parish. Help your young people to find where they belong in our parish community.

Finally to Father Philipp, our visiting missionary priest and all of our parish community. Thank you for your



unwavering support of our young people... the future of our church. As always, let’s keep each other in our prayers.

***Good Shepherd Church, Arnold,
Nottingham***

Quiet Day on the wisdom of Julian of Norwich



The Presentation Sisters and Friends of Nano organised a Julian of Norwich retreat day, on Saturday 17 June at the Diocesan Centre in Derby.

Julian of Norwich is thought to be the first woman writer in English with her book, "Revelations of Divine Love." This year marks the 650th anniversary of Revelations of Divine Love and the retreat day was offered as one of the many events to celebrate the life and words of this remarkable woman, whose revelations are as relevant today as they were then.

Led by Denise Treissman, it was an opportunity to explore the words and wisdom of Lady Julian, with time to reflect and share. It also included guided meditation, gentle movement with quotes to take home.

Denise Treissman's life was transformed over thirty years ago through discovering the Julian Shrine in Norwich, meeting the Chaplain of her Shrine, the Reverend Robert Llewelyn, and discovering, through studying 'Revelations of Divine Love' encouragement and inspiration for her life. For the last sixteen years, Denise has been sharing the wisdom of Lady Julian with others around the country.

Celebration for the man who could become England's next Saint

The John Bradburne Memorial Society hosted an event at Buckfast Abbey, South Devon recently to commemorate his 102nd birthday.

John had a special place in his heart for the Abbey, as this was where he converted to Catholicism. The Cause for Beatification for Bradburne is now in full swing and it is possible he could become England's next Saint.



St Mary's Parish and School, Derby, Celebrate the Month of Mary with a Joint Procession



Children from St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby joined with local parishioners to process from School with Marian themed banners and pictures. At the head of the procession was a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima, carried by Mrs Thompson. Fr Gregory and Fr Eustaki joined the children, as each class prayed the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary in the local park. At Church, Mrs Alison Riggott talked to the children about flowers and herbs associated with Mary and the origin of the names. Flowers included Hellebore, Marigolds, Daisies, Roses, Carnations and the Lily. Each class was given a Marigold to take away. Everyone placed a picture of a flower next to the statue of Our Lady as the hymn 'Bring Flowers of the Rarest' was sung. It's lovely to see some of the older traditions returning."



Jubilarians all

A Mass of thanksgiving and lunch with the Jubilarians at Bishop's House. What great experiences of priestly ministry all gathered together today: jubilarians of 60, 50, 40 and 25 years of priesthood.
Bishop Patrick



Our Lady of Fidelity



The church needs religious sisters URGENTLY to bring Christ to others by a life of prayer and service lived in the community of Ignatian spirituality. Daily Mass is the centre of community life. By wearing the religious habit we are witnesses of the consecrated way of life.

If you are willing to risk a little love and would like to find out how, contact Sister Bernadette

Mature vocations considered.
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Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth



Our LACY team have had a great time over 2022/2023 being supported by various parishes in the Leicestershire area. We are always enthusiastic in what we like to achieve through "Faith and Fun" for our young people.

We would love to share with you all that has happened over the past year with LACY.

In **May 2022** we were privileged to be asked to put together an "Away Day" for the Confirmation groups of Oakham and Melton Mowbray. We had a fantastic day sharing the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit through games, reflection and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as well as music and drama. Supported by their Catechists and Fr. Stephen Dye we all felt inspired by the Holy Spirit.

We had the opportunity of organising a coach to go to the Walsingham Diocesan Pilgrimage in **June 2022**. This was shared with young people and their families from Leicester. A great occasion with Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick, a walk along the Holy Mile with prayers offered and Benediction in the Abbey ruins. An enjoyable stop at the chip shop on the way home was a must!

We were approached by the Market Harborough Catenian Circle to enlighten

them as to the work and vision of LACY. We went to one of their meetings in **September 2022** and gave a Power Point presentation on some of the celebrations and occasions we had enjoyed in the past. They were very interested and told us that we would be their charity for the current year. David Baldham, their President, has since been in touch to let us know that they have raised **£900** for LACY to help with all our activities. We are most grateful for their support and know that this money will go a long way to help us when organising coach trips and occasions where bookings of places are required, plus ways and means of publicity. **THANK YOU MARKET HARBOROUGH CATENIAN CIRCLE!**

In **October** LACY supported the St. Thomas More parish coach when attending the Mass which was held at the Cathedral to venerate the relics of St. Bernadette. A friendly trip and lovely to share our Faith with people from different parishes.

Supporting our parish of St. Mary & St. John Bosco we had a small stall at our Parish Christmas Fayre in **November 2022**. This was good fun and a great opportunity to support the parish where LACY had had its original beginnings.



In **March 2023** LACY organised a "Sponsored Walk" around Leicester's Knighton Park to raise money for **Intercare**. A great response was received and the dry weather helped in that many people came to join us on the walk, including some members of our Uniform Groups in Leicester. New and old friends were able to chat and share this together. Afterwards we went on to St. Thomas More Church, Knighton, and had light refreshments. Later Fr. Simon Gillespie came to celebrate an uplifting Holy Mass with us all where young people were involved helping with readings and music. £1,090 was raised for Intercare and we hope this will help with the tremendous work that they do.

We will be celebrating more occasions in the Autumn term and will be inviting our Leicestershire parishes and schools and those parishes and schools beyond to join us in sharing our vision of "Faith and Fun" with young people, their families and friends. Young people are a joy and are the church of today. We love their energy and enthusiasm. **WATCH THIS SPACE**

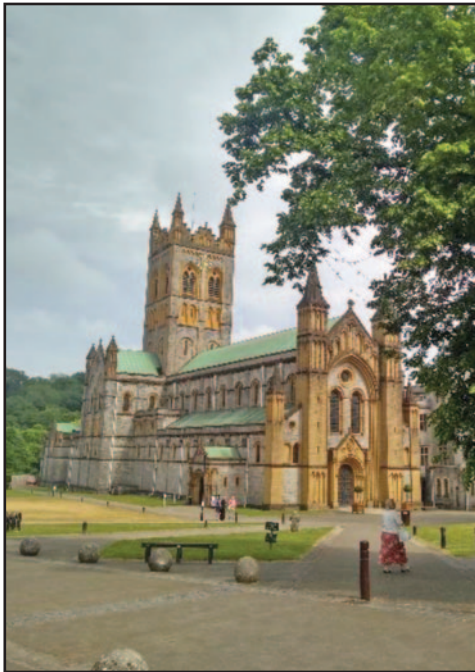


Servant of God

John Bradburne –

Finding God in the humble service of the outcasts.

By Fr Jonathan Cotton



Buckfast Abbey, Devon.

Last month on June 10th, a memorable celebration of the life and impact of the Servant of God John Bradburne was held at Buckfast Abbey in Devon. I was very happy to concelebrate Mass with the monastic community and take part in the afternoon's proceedings. John was related to the 12th Century Bradburne Family of Ashbourne, Derbyshire in our Diocese, where can be found in St Oswald's Church the 15th Century family burial memorial. His cousins were the playwright Terence Rattigan and the last Governor of Rhodesia Christopher Soames.

Who is John Bradburne? After his experience as a Captain during the Second World War serving with the Ghukhas in Asia, John Bradburne was received into full communion with the Catholic Church in 1947 at Buckfast Abbey. He returned from the war an unsettled man. From a comfortable middle-class background, born near Penrith and educated at the Gresham School in Norfolk, the poverty he encountered in India, various bouts of malaria, hiding in the jungle from the Japanese Army and eventually escaping, all must have challenged him. He was unsure of his life's vocation.

Trying various jobs in different parts of the country, even considering marriage, he was often to be found busking with his recorder collecting money for local charities. He loved writing poetry and composing his own songs. His eccentric behaviour earned criticisms such as "crazy poet" or "upper class tramp". But, increasingly he felt called to solitude and the contemplative life. The various monasteries he tried did not work out for him. Becoming a member of the lay Third Order of Franciscans seemed to fulfil part of his vocation. But where, like St Francis of Assisi, could he best live a life of humble, obscure service? It was about this time that John confided three wishes to a Franciscan priest: that he would work with lepers; that he would die a martyr's death; that he would be buried in a Franciscan Habit.

He travelled to the Holy Land, then to Rome, and eventually ended up in Africa when, with a friend, a chance visit to the Mutemwa Leper Settlement in what is now Zimbabwe,

convinced John that he had found his place of vocation. His first wish! He was appointed the Warden of the Settlement and he transformed the lives of the lepers. He saw in them the face of God. They saw in him a friend and their champion. He offered them simple health care with the help of a nearby doctor and nurse. Building a Chapel, he provided the opportunity for daily prayer based on the Franciscan Office and lots of singing and organ playing on his harmonium.

While John preferred the solitary life, he was nevertheless, a joyful and social person. But, he would resolutely defend the dignity and rights of his leper friends. This got him into trouble with some of the hostile local people – hostile towards the lepers – and a conflict of interests with the local Management Committee of the leper Settlement. He was sacked – creeping back at night to carry on his caring work among the lepers. Once the dispute was settled, John was reinstated but a simmering hostility remained. The encroaching civil war of independence added to the tension.

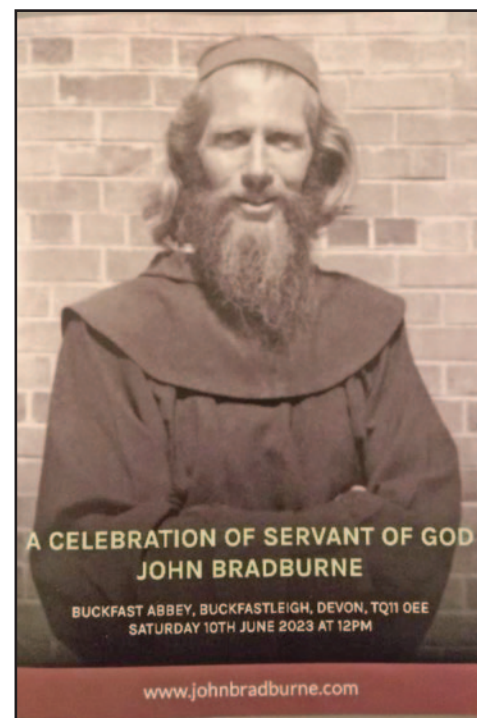
On September 2nd 1979, John was kidnapped by some bandits, perhaps hoping for some ransom money. But the local guerrilla commander ordered John's release, recognising John as a good white man who helped black people. But as John made his way back to Mutemwa with a group of refugees, as dawn broke on September 5th, some of the bandits shot him in the back and killed him. A martyr of charity, his second wish.

Mystical phenomena frightened off the party of refugees from burying his body – unseen heavenly choirs, a white bird hovering protectively over the body, three shafts of light merging into one above the body. The body was recovered the next day by a local Jesuit priest and the funeral was arranged for September 10th in Harare Cathedral to be celebrated by the local Bishop. After three lilies, representing The Holy Trinity [John's particular devotion], were placed on the coffin by a friend, three drops of blood were seen to drip from underneath the coffin. After the funeral, the coffin was opened but no leaking of blood was found but it was noticed that John was not dressed in the Franciscan Habit. This was immediately rectified and the coffin was closed. John's third wish! He was buried in the Jesuit Cemetery nearby, at the Chishawasha Mission, alongside other Religious killed in the civil war.

Immediately, John's intercession was claimed for various favours and miracles received, with his hut and chapel at the Mutemwa Leper Settlement becoming a place of pilgrimage for many thousands of pilgrims every year. John's example is a counter-witness to a materialistic society, who befriends and loves not the influencers and celebrities but the outcasts, whose first love is the community of the Godhead, attracting others to belong with his joyful serving, creative poetry and loud music-making!

You will have to read one of the excellent biographies to find out why bees and eagles are associated with John's protection, how he described his special relationship with Mary

the Mother of Jesus, and why his relationship with the persons of the Holy Trinity is so central to his spirituality, as well as why his commitment to serving the poorest outcasts was his life's vocation, seeing in them his opportunity to serve Christ as described by Jesus in his parable of the sheep and goats. His 6,000 lines of poetry [see www.johnbradburnepoems.com], written throughout his adult life, give intimate insights into his interests and spirituality. Further Reading: John Dove, *Strange Vagabond of God* [Gracewing]; Didier Rance, *John Bradburne – The Vagabond of God*. [DLT]; Fr Gerard Skinner, *John Bradburne – Soldier, Poet, Pilgrim*. [CTS]; Tom Russell, OFM, *John Randal Bradburne, 1921-1979. Servant of God*. [Franciscan Missionary Union.]



Booklet for the Celebration Day.



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Book Reviews



The Beautiful Story of Jesus

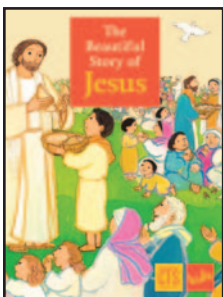
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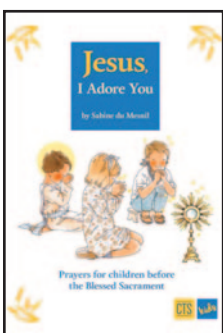
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John Bradburne

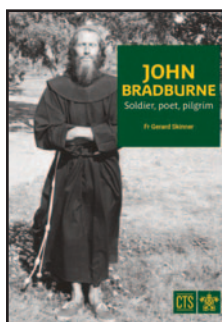
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A Secular Franciscan from Cumbria, Servant of God John Bradburne poured himself out in love for the lepers he served, unwilling to abandon them even to save his life. His legacy offers a striking example of authentic holiness in the modern, conflict-stricken world.



The life of John Bradburne reflects a struggle familiar to many people today: if you want to find God you need to search. Bradburne's search, his life's pilgrimage, took him from his birthplace in Cumbria through India, Malaya, and Burma during his soldiering years, and finally to Africa where he at last found God and his own sacred calling amongst the lepers in Mtemwa, Zimbabwe.

Led by a faith that he often expressed profoundly and poetically, John Bradburne followed the example of Christ, pouring himself out in love of the lepers he served, unwilling to abandon them even to save his own life as the violence of the Zimbabwean struggle for independence closed in around Mtemwa.

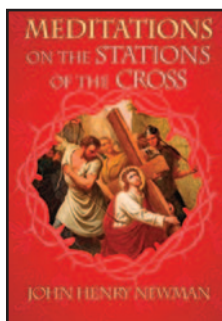
Remembered by those who knew him for his humility, simplicity, joy and friendliness, John Bradburne offers a striking example of authentic holiness in the modern, conflict-stricken world.

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St Barnabas feast day celebration



A wonderful feast day celebration took place at St Barnabas Cathedral on Sunday, 11 June. The weather was glorious which bode well for the delicious barbecue, well supported by a great turn out by parishioners and friends. We thank all those who helped bring it together, supplied the desserts, sorted the raffle, sold tickets and "judged" the puddings (a difficult task for Fr Simon Gillespie). A splendid celebration, may St Barnabas encourage us all!

Cheryl Broodryk

Cathedral Gift Shop



Cathedral Gift Shop of St Barnabas now open Fridays and Sundays from 9am-2pm. Feel free to browse new stock items of which we recently took delivery of wooden cut outs of devotional pictures: Immaculate Heart of Our Lady, Sacred Heart of Jesus etc. Excellent displays to enhance the home or add to your home devotional altar.

Memory Bear collection is expanding generating a lot of interest, new unique designs: the Priest Bear, The St Patrick Bear and Our Lady Bear. Justin Alves available at the shop to discuss your special requests.

If you require further information please contact Cheryl at cbroodryk62@gmail.com or via the Cathedral office.



Our Global Community



Six Yazidi women rescued from IS captivity. Credit: Twitter/@NadiaMuradBasee

Iraq: Six Yazidi girls rescued from IS captivity

CSW

Rescuing trafficked and enslaved Yazidi women and children is an on-going humanitarian campaign

Six Yazidi women were rescued from Islamic State (IS) captivity in Syria and flown back to Erbil, Kurdistan, where they were reunited with their families on 3 June, with the help of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

The women were children and teenagers when they were abducted in 2014 after IS took control of large swathes of land in East and Northeast Iraq, including the Yazidi city of Sinjar. The terrorists killed an estimated 5,000 Yazidi civilians for refusing to convert to Islam; between 400,000 and 500,000 Yazidis were displaced, and 6,000-7,000, predominantly women and children, were taken as slaves. Many of them were sold and

transferred to Syria, and it is estimated that over 2,000 Yazidi women are still missing.

In a statement issued following the rescue of the six women, Yazidi Nobel Prize Laureate Nadia Murad said: "Rescuing trafficked and enslaved Yazidi women and children is an on-going humanitarian campaign and the reunification of these six women with their families, after nearly nine years, gives us hope that more can be found. We will continue to search for the remaining women and children who we know are still missing. In this endeavour, we are asking for help with international partners."

Christian Solidarity Worldwide founder president Mervyn Thomas said: "CSW is pleased to report the release of these six women from captivity. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they recover from the trauma they have been through. We continue to call on the international community to step up efforts to secure the release of all Yazidis who remain in captivity, and to ensure that those responsible for atrocity crimes are brought to justice."

ACN presents call for justice at No 10

ACN

I was shocked to hear about these cruel and barbaric attacks in the parish of St Francis Xavier in Owo

A year to the day following the Pentecost Sunday church massacre in Nigeria, a petition calling for justice was handed in at 10 Downing Street. Fiona Bruce MP, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, received the petition organised by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN-UK).

On 5th June 2022, 41 people were killed and more than 80 were injured when terrorists opened fire and detonated explosives during Mass at St Francis Xavier's Church, Owo, south-west Nigeria. Nobody has been charged in connection with the atrocity which took place in broad daylight in a church packed with witnesses.

Human rights champions and Nigeria experts Baroness Caroline Cox and Lord David Alton of Liverpool yesterday joined ACN National Director Caroline Hull and Head of Press & Public Affairs John Pontifex to hand in the petition.

Lord Alton told ACN: "I was shocked to hear about these cruel and barbaric attacks in the parish of St Francis Xavier in Owo. Things only get worse when the perpetrators are not brought to justice. It is important that we lose no opportunity to keep reminding the world about the price that people are paying for their faith."

Also present at No 10 were Father Matthew Madewa from Ondo Diocese where Owo is

Holy See envoy expresses concern over escalating violence in Holy Land



Archbishop Caccia

Holy See Mission

The Holy See is renewing its financial pledge to UNRWA, dedicated to the care and education of children

Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, recently addressed the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In his remarks, Archbishop Caccia began by conveying the Holy See's support for the work of UNRWA. He expressed concern and regret for the escalation in violence across the State of Israel and the State of Palestine. The violence has threatened the access of

believers, whether Christians, Jews, or Muslims, to Holy Sites in Jerusalem, he said. Archbishop Caccia also echoed the Holy Father's hope for a two-state solution.

Lamenting the stagnant financial situation of UNRWA in which the distribution of essential aid is threatened, Archbishop Caccia said that the Holy See is renewing its financial pledge to UNRWA, dedicated to the care and education of children. He encouraged all States to consider making their own contributions, which he said are a practical reflection of the international community's responsibility to assist the Palestine refugees.



l-r: Fr Dominic Robinson, Fr Matthew Madewa, Fiona Bruce MP, Baroness Caroline Cox, ACN Director Caroline Hull, John Pontifex, Mike Watts

located, ACN (UK) National Ecclesiastical Assistant Father Dominic Robinson from the Church of the Immaculate Conception, London and Mike Watts, a teacher from St Benedict's School, Ealing with Gabrielle, a Year 8 pupil.

Father Madewa told ACN: "We believe something positive will come out of the petition. It is important to raise awareness. The more awareness we can generate, the more likely a positive outcome is. We are hopeful that the new president of Nigeria [Bola Tinubu, sworn in on 29th May] will do more to serve justice and provide security."

Survivors of the Owo attack told ACN that they will continue to feel unsafe until those responsible are brought to justice.

Father Michael Abugan, the parish priest at St Francis Xavier's, said that his congregation remembered the victims at a candlelight procession and memorial Mass on the anniversary. He said, on behalf of the survivors: "I am hoping that the new government will be entirely different from the past administration in its response to security matters. We also believe that the new president will do his best to bring different ethnic groups and religions together."

Edith Stein - a modern saint who teaches us to value every person

This summer, a Catholic organisation that helps and celebrates those who experience disability, is hosting a series of events to introduce people to Edith Stein, the great Judeo-Catholic saint whose life and teachings offer the perfect example of how to value everyone - particularly those with disabilities.

Cristina Gangemi, a disability adviser who is Director of the Kairos Forum, explained to the Bishops' Conference why Edith Stein, also known as St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, provides such a good model for those working in ministry with those with disabilities.

She said: "I started to read about Stein, and I found that she, in her early years, experienced what we would now call being a 'gifted child' in school. She had various experiences of being hypercognitive and metacognitive.

"She had a niece with an intellectual disability, who she loved and who she understood needed to be taught as a creative learner."

She added: "Her anthropology is all about value. She says, 'I see another person, they gaze at me, and I know that I gaze back at another human being whom we have to respect'."

Gangemi relayed a story about a young girl, Julia who lived with Down's syndrome and

could struggle to vocalise thoughts. She shared how Julia, when asked what the word 'holy' meant to her, answered that it was "as if people are beautiful" - which echoes the thinking of Edith Stein.

She said: "Years later, I was reading a book, Stein's thinking on the 'Way to Know God', and she says that we have to translate this down. God is beauty. That beauty is God. That's it.

"When we fill ourselves with God in the Eucharist, in love, in acceptance, in evangelising, in celebrating being people of faith that have so much to give the world, when we fill ourselves with that experience of God, we become beautiful. People are beautiful."

The Kairos Forum is hosting three unique events in July to bring people closer to this inspirational Catholic saint. The first, on Sunday 2 July, is a day of celebration at Aylesford Priory in Kent. It's free of charge, open to all, and is a day of shared pilgrimage - a celebration of creative people who experience disability who will tell Edith Stein's story.

There is also a ground-breaking three-day conference, also at Aylesford Priory, from 4 - 6 July, that celebrates the wisdom of Edith Stein. Titled Dignitas Personae et Amor Dei: The Value of the Human Person and Divine Love; Meeting Edith Stein, the



event promises to be one of the first international events of its kind introducing new areas of study and stories, including issues surrounding disability.

Following St John Henry Newman into Parliament (who can forget Pope Benedict XVI's historic address in Westminster Hall?), Edith Stein will be the focal point of an invitation-only gathering in the House of Lords on 3 July. At the invitation of Baroness Sheila Hollins and facilitated by the Kairos Forum, Steinian scholars Professor Angela Ales Bello and Professor Shahid Mobeen will give reflections to those assembled.

Cristina Gangemi wants as many people as possible to encounter Edith Stein this summer: "Everything she found out when she moved from Judaism to atheism to Christianity - it's a unique perspective. We hope to be able to get people to just meet Edith Stein and love her as much as we all do."

She finished by saying: "Edith Stein was a human being who experienced living in the world, and she understood what valuing the other meant."

For more information please contact Cristina Gangemi: cgangemi.kairos@gmail.com



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

CRYPTIC Across

- 6 Levant traders take one Hispanic hybrid (11)
- 9 Abraham's shortly to go round where Nile breaks, to reach a northern region (7)
- 10 It's Amos' place to enumerate koalas passing through (5)
- 11 Group of graduates with different perspectives? (4)
- 12 Franciscans, for example, regulate ordainers (weeding out the amateur perhaps) (2,6)
- 15 African is, for instance, the unknown factor in the vessel, when turning it about (8)
- 17 Originally from Ziph, orders arrived naming Tanis as another option (4)
- 19 Object of gold Saul connected to sorceress here (2-3)
- 21 He made Paul see granny in the road getting through (7)
- 22 Apostle and Marlowe, both upset (11)

CRYPTIC Down

- 1 Singer in church's son is seen before returning to a place in Brazil (8)
- 2 OT people are in the sea briefly: over a quarter heading south (5)
- 3 Utter ape-like tribe (6)
- 4 Women, religious, organized rites on board (7)
- 5 Numbers giant's dad's an obsessive type: there's no alternative word for it (4)
- 7 Georgia meets attorney in the matter of Nebraska's miraculous sighting there (9)
- 8 RC doctrine John used extremely during Messina trip (9)
- 13 Bible people's style is in the ascendant: it's embracing drugs (8)
- 14 Reuben's people were here draining Arabah, and perhaps seeing their future within? (7)
- 16 Arthurian site above (and below) a French valley (6)

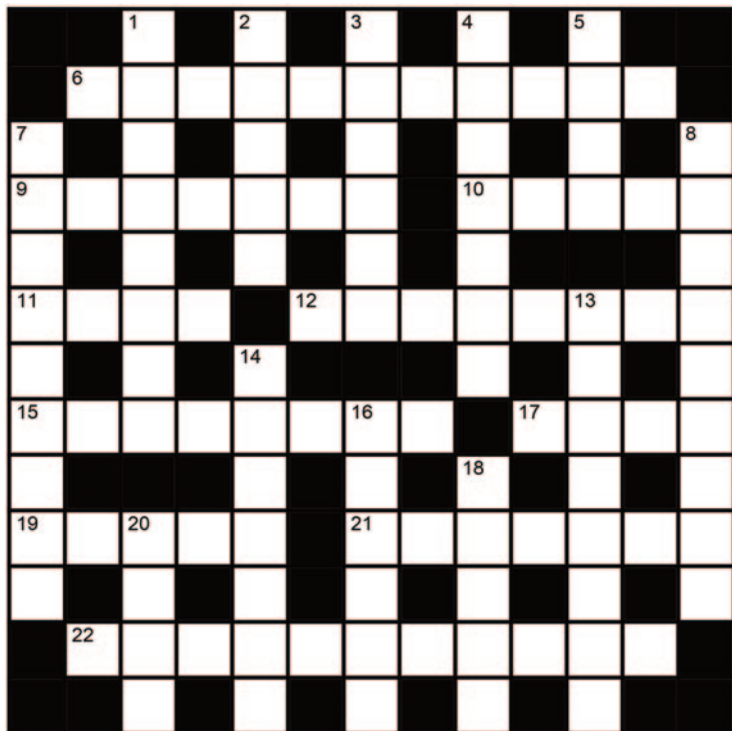
- 18 Detergent (before it's tipped over), is acceptable to priest (5)
- 20 Fellow in OT book has limited English (4)

QUICK Across

- 6 Descendants of Canaanites, great traders using ports like Tyre and Sidon (11)
- 9 NT region NW of Damascus; its name given to a cattle town of the Wild West (7)
- 10 Town south of Bethlehem, home of Amos (5)
- 11 Aramaic word for 'Father', as used by Christ (4)
- 12 Belonging to the clergy (2,6) 15 Mediterranean African (8)
- 17 Alternative name for the ancient 15 town of Tanis (4)
- 19 Place near Mt Tabor where Saul consulted a necromancer (2-3)
- 21 Curer of Paul's blindness in Damascus (7)
- 22 Apostle sometimes identified as Nathanael (11)

QUICK Down

- 1 Chorister (8)
- 2 Persian peoples, descendants of Japheth (5)
- 3 Second son of Jacob and Leah, and his tribe (6)
- 4 ----- of Loreto, perhaps (7)
- 5 Ancestor of a race of giants, mentioned in Joshua and elsewhere (4)
- 7 Inhabitants of the city in which the miracle of the Legion and the swine took place (9)
- 8 RC doctrine where salvation is for those subject to supernatural determinism: the rest are assigned to perdition (9)
- 13 Biblical people descended from Esau, settled in the



- southern Dead Sea area (8)
- 14 Town east of the River Jordan given to Reuben's people (7)
- 16 Legendary last resting place of King Arthur, once associated with Glastonbury Tor (6)
- 18 Priest whose name was used by Handel for George II's coronation anthem (5)
- 20 Senior college fellow; head of the Sacred College (4)

SOLUTION

Across: 6 Phoenicians, 9 Abilene, 10 Tekoa, 11 Abba, 12 In Orders, 15 Egyptian, 17 Zoan, 19 En-Dor, 21 Ananias, 22 Bartholomew Down: 1 Choirboy, 2 Medes, 3 Simeon, 4 Sisters, 5 Anak, 7 Gadarenes, 8 Jansenism, 13 Edomites, 14 Ataroth, 16 Avalon, 18 Zadok, 20 Dean.